

As we are on the eve of having a bountiful supply of pure water from the Great Falls of the Potomac, the following article, from a Rochester paper, may not be without importance to our fellow-citizens:

Water Pipes.—The report recently submitted to our Water Works Company discusses, to a considerable extent, the comparative utility and wholesomeness of different kinds of pipe used in conducting water for culinary and other purposes. The scientific men who made the report, agree in recommending a species of cement pipe, which they regard as less costly than iron, and unobjectionable on the score of causing unhealthy minerals to mingle with the water passing through them. Many families use lead pipes for bringing water into their dwellings from mains and fountain heads. These are regarded as deleterious. Dr. Jackson, of Boston, a distinguished chemist, supports the theory that corrosion is caused by the constant passage of water through lead pipes, and sensible portions of lead become dissolved and suspended in the fluid. Observation upon the lead pipes used to convey the Cochituate water has convinced him of this. He says:

“By actual trial I find there is no cessation in this corrosion, and that the water, from the time when it first began to flow through lead to the present day, contains sensible portions of lead dissolved and suspended in it. When the water has stood over night in the lead aqueduct pipe, the portion of lead dissolved in the water is considerable; and every discreet housekeeper, who is obliged to use lead aqueduct pipe, will do well always to draw off the contents of the pipe in the morning, before saving any water to use in cooking or in drinking. In this way the evil may be diminished, and much danger avoided.”

He recommends the use of block-tin pipes instead of lead. As we may, in no long time to come, be supplied with lake water in our dwellings, the subject possesses a local interest.