

Driven Wells—How the Water Power of our Pumps on the Shawangunk Kill Might be Used.

The article in last night's *Aura*, relative to driven wells as a source of water supply, was read with no little interest by the people in this village, and it was the generally expressed opinion that if the plan proposed by Col. Green was practical, and any considerable quantity of water could be obtained by it, it would afford Middletown a cheap and speedy solution of the greatest problem that now confronts it. It was also generally thought that the village could well afford to have the necessary preliminary experiments made without delay, especially since the commissioners have resorted to so many doubtful expedients with a view to increasing the supply of water that the village has at its command.

The only objection that we heard to the system of supply by driven wells was the fact that to put the pumps, engines and boilers in position and to house them properly would necessitate the expenditure of a very considerable sum of money, while to keep the engines would involve a large and steady expenditure for fuel. This objection could, however, be very easily disposed of by utilizing property and materials now in possession of the village, provided, however, that the wooden pipes between Mombagen Lake and the Shawangunk Kill are in sound enough condition to stand the passage of water under the heavy pressure necessary to throw it into the lake.

Instead of adopting the suggestion of Col. Green, that wells be driven at some point convenient to the railroad and to the largest mains, the wells might be driven in the neighborhood of the pump house at the Shawangunk Kill. The village has a powerful force pump already in position there and owns a water power sufficient to run the pump at almost every season of the year. Instead of taking water from the Kill it might be taken from the gang of wells and forced by the pumps through the wooden pipes into Mombagen Lake and thence distributed to consumers. If thought advisable an engine might be provided to drive the pump in case of low water or breakage.

There may be difficulties in the way of this plan but it seems to us that if the pipes are in anything like fair condition and if any such supply of water can be obtained from gangs of wells, as Col. Green claims there can be, that the village has a way out of all its troubles with regard to water at once cheap and feasible, and what is better still one that can be made use of within a very short space of time.