that some process of filtration, or at least subsidation, would be necessary.

The city has little faith in the filtration system, and does not wish to undergo the great expense unless it should obtain better results than those reached by some of our other larger cities where this system has been adopted. It is also claimed that the reservoirs act as settling basins.

Providence consumes only about thirty gallons per capita per day, while Boston is not satisfied with three times that amount. Mr. Weston claims that this great saving is due to the extensive use of house meters. Perhaps if Boston would adopt the use of meters, at least district meters, the city might be saved from the many contentions which have arisen with surrounding towns. Mr. Weston is soon to publish a complete work on the Providence water works.

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Mechanical Wood Carving.

Mr. EDITOR,—Thinking that a few notes about a new mechanical process of wood carving might interest some of your readers, I made some inquiries concerning it.

The process has been in operation for some time, by which designs are stamped upon wood by means of hydraulic pressure on dies applied to the end of the grain. The results of this process are unsatisfactory,—the size of the pieces being very limited and the end of the grain taking a different finish from the rest of the work. In the present process, the design is "carved" on the surface of wood so prepared that the fibre is not injured by the pressure on it.

With some difficulty I gained admission to the works in which the operation is carried on. As the proprietors are unwilling for details to be known, I give a mere outline of the process.

The wood is first heated for thirty hours; it is then treated with a preparation, which, without staining, renders it capable of receiving the design without injury to the fibre. It is then reheated for twelve hours, when it is ready for the operation. The designs are cut on cylinders made of a peculiar preparation resembling bell metal; these cylinders vary in diameter according to the length of the design. The prepared wood is passed between the cut roll, which is heated, and a plain one, being at the same time subjected to considerable pressure, applied by means of a foot-lever. The gentleman who accompanied me through the establishment assured me that the prepared wood had no tendency to return to its original form.

The depth of the designs do not generally exceed an eighth of an inch; they can, however, be made three sixteenths. The carvings thus made are very numerous, and, at a short distance, cannot be distinguished from hand-carving. Many of them are pretty. The surface carved may be flat, convex, concave, or at any angle; the width and thickness being limited only by the size of the machine. Panels of various sizes can also be made. The process works equally well with any wood, one kind requiring more pressure than another. The machine and various preparations used are covered by patents under the control of the New England Decorating Machine Company, to whose kindness I am indebted for most of my information.

This invention will probably reduce the cost to less than one tenth of that paid for hand-work of this class.

The work made is as yet chiefly mouldings for the interior decoration of houses and cars; ornaments for furniture, and such work as embossed picture frames, book covers, etc., may also be made by this process.

A diner-out, who has had more than his share of the wine, is carefully feeling his way home at night, when he unfortunately stumbles against the circular railing which surrounds a statue. After having gone around it seven times, the hopelessness of his situation flashes upon him with vividness, and he sinks down upon the pavement outside with a despairing shriek. "The scoundrels; they shut me in here!" — Ex.