

inches or, if necessary, the whole bed is changed. When the water itself before filtering is excessively turbid as occurs at certain seasons, Ferrous Sulphate is added. This unites with the detritus and by its excess of specific gravity bears it down.

The more careful work in the laboratories of the plant consists in making bacteriological and chemical tests. Slides of bacteria are placed in culture media and incubated by electricity. The colon bacillus is the one to be most feared since, if present, to every hundred colon bacilli there is sure to be on an average two typhoid bacilli. This colon bacillus is easily discernible in the culture tube as it forms a set of bubbles in the top of the tube, but to make sure a plate is made, stained, and tested with the microscope. The principal chemical test is that made for ammonia by the Kjeldahl Method.

The water, purified by the method outlined above, is now pumped to the distributing station a few blocks away and from this time it is a matter of municipal control for, though the National Government takes care of purifying the water, the city must provide for its distribution.

Thus the forty million gallons of water consumed by the Washingtonians in a single day is transformed from a state of turbidity to crystal clearness and is given gratis to the city with the single admonition—drink!

S. K.

