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New Water Meter.

Liberal supplies of water in cities are blessings which cannot be too highly appreciated. To prevent waste, however, the necessity of some method of recording the quantity used in each household or establishment, is very much felt, and various methods have been adopted for effecting this result. None, however, measure with absolute mathematical perfection, some are quite expensive, and nearly all have stuffing boxes, packing, or the like, rendering them more or less liable to get out of order.

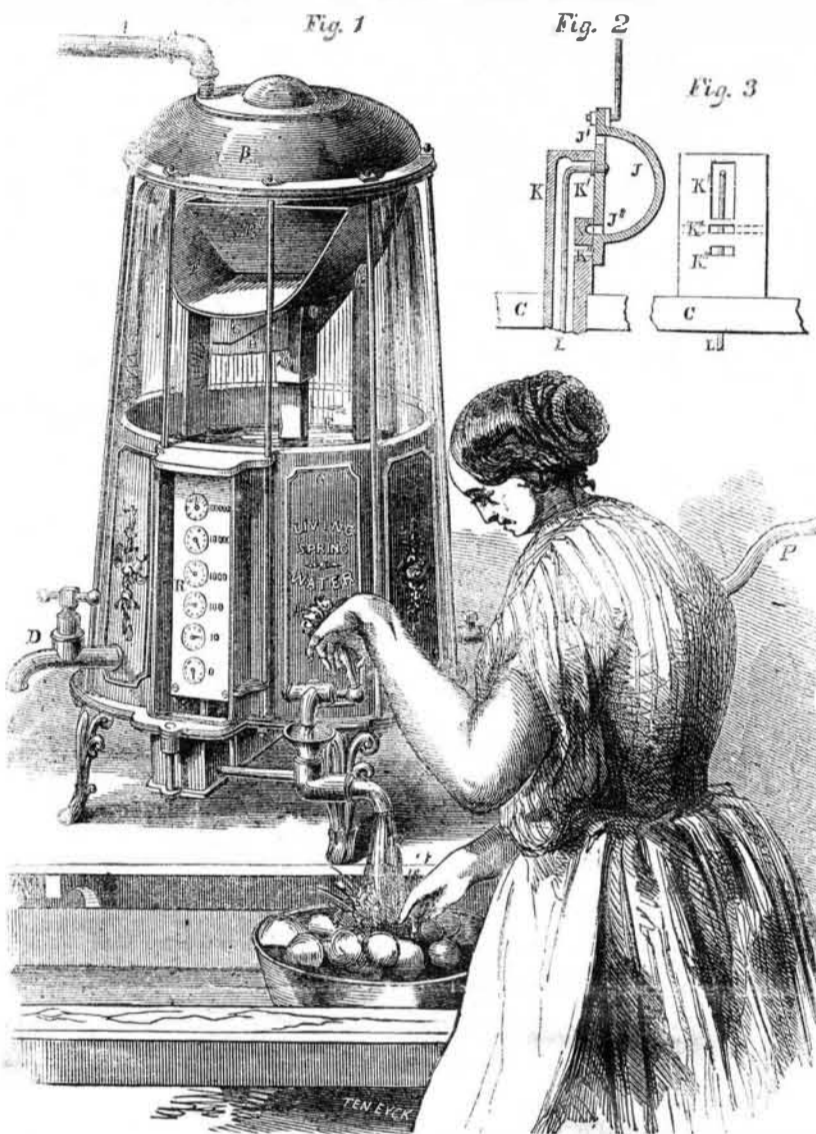
The meter represented in the accompanying engravings—an apparatus recently invented by James Cochrane, of this city—is so arranged as to require no packed parts, to work practically independent of friction, and to afford a means of measuring with great accuracy whether the flow be rapid or extremely slow. It has been constructed in various sizes, and is already in successful use in several portions of this city.

The water is received in a rocking cup, divided in two compartments. When tilted to one side, the partition induces the water to accumulate in the upper side until its gravity is sufficient to tilt the cup and discharge the quantity thus measured and weighed, and induce its accumulation on the opposite side. So far, this is an old device, but to allow the apparatus to work under a head and without diminishing the pressure of the water, the case or vessel in which the whole is enclosed, is partially filled with compressed air; and to prevent the loss of this compressed air by its escape through the pores of the metal, or its absorption by the water, provision is made for discharging, at each movement of the rocking cup, a small quantity of water from the lower part of the case, and for receiving in its place an equal volume of air from the outside, which is allowed to rise through the water, as represented.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the whole, the upper portion being of glass, to allow a view of the interior, while figures 2 and 3 represent sections, on a larger scale, of the device for supplying air. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of the whole, as ordinarily constructed of cast iron.

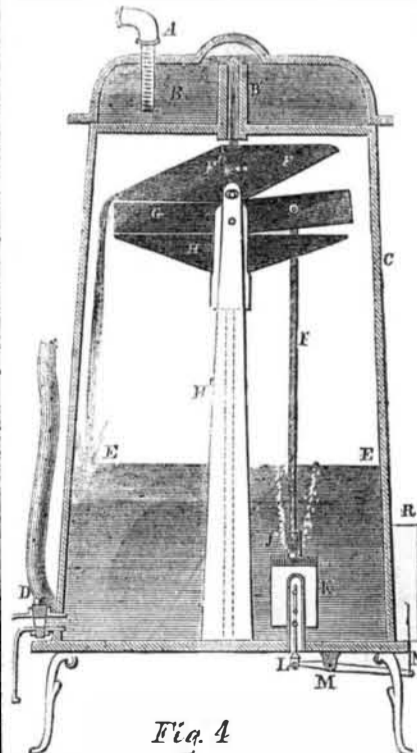
A is the pipe which supplies the water, and B a receiving and retarding vessel bolted upon the top of the main case, C. This vessel serves as a kind of air chamber, and allows the water to fall gently into the cup below. D is a cock, through which the water is discharged, and E E is the surface of the water within; it being understood that the air above E is at the density required to equal the pressure due to the head of water. This density is acquired in the first instance, simply by the rise of the surface, E E, which thus compresses it. F is the rocking cup, and F the partition therein.

COCHRANE'S WATER METER.



The cup being supported on suitable bearings, its pivot is free to roll horizontally, to a slight extent, and thus to make the resistance a rolling rather than a sliding friction. G is a lever, mounted in the same frame with F, and immediately below it. It is slightly bent, as described, and immediately below it is a cross bar, H, which regulates the extent to which either end of the lever, G, may be depressed. The center of gravity of the rocking cup, F, is at the point indicated by the star in Fig. 4, and its motion with the vibration of F, is a curve, as represented by the short dotted line. The center of gravity is thus lower at either extremity of its motion than at the middle of its vibration; and, in short, by well known laws, the cup inclines with a certain uniform degree of force, to remain at either extreme of its motion. The water received from B through the tube represented, accumulates on one side of F' until its gravity is sufficient to overcome this tendency, when the cup rapidly tilts, and discharging its load on that side, commences to receive an equal amount on the other. There is no resistance to the commencement of this rocking motion, except the gravity of the cup, F, and the rolling friction of the support, but towards the close of its motion it strikes the elevated end of the lever, G, and depresses it. The devices for recording the strokes, and also for receiving the air, are worked from this lever, G, by the aid of the rod, I; and both these operations, though necessarily communicating with the exterior of the case, are performed without the aid of a stuffing-box of any kind.

The tight joint required at the point where the motion is carried out through the case, is obtained by the use of a kind of miniature



slide valve, held to its seat by the pressure of the fluid within. A hollow projection, K, extends upward from the bottom into the interior of the case, A. Its interior communicates

freely with the atmosphere, and its exterior is plane on one side and perforated, as represented in Fig. 2, the perforations being covered by the small slide valve, J. This slide valve is connected by the rod, I, to the lever G, and consequently moves vertically on the plane surface of K, at each movement of the latter.

The indicating mechanism is on the exterior of the case. It is similar to that ordinarily employed on gas meters and the like, and carries several indexes, which work on the face of corresponding dials, as represented by R, in Fig. 1. A ratchet wheel on the lowest and quickest shaft is operated by a pawl, which latter is connected to the work inside through the rod, L, which stands loosely enclosed in the interior of K, and is connected firmly to the slide valve, J, at the point, K', Fig. 2. This connection avoids the necessity for a stuffing box.

When the valve, J, is in its lowest position, the water in its interior escapes through the aperture, K'', and air from the interior of K flows in through the aperture, J, to supply its place. Now when, by the means described, the valve, J, is raised to its highest position (that represented in the figures) the air freely escapes from the interior of J through the cavity, J', and water finds access through side openings, imperfectly represented by dots, so as to flow in through J''. At each movement of G, therefore, the indicating apparatus, R, shows that water has been discharged from the cup, F, and also allows a quantity of air to rise in bubbles through the water, as shown in Fig. 4.

The various pipes and cocks connected to the base of the case, C, serve to draw water therefrom in the usual manner. They may discharge it directly at the cock from which it is seen flowing, or may lead it in the pipes represented to any distance, and the whole apparatus serves as an air chamber to regulate the motion of the water.

The device for receiving air is made a little larger than necessary, in order to ensure a sufficient supply of that fluid within the case. Under ordinary circumstances, no harm can arise from a too great accumulation of air, as the aperture K'' which obstructs the water being higher than either of the other outlets, it simply follows that if the water surface becomes too low, small quantities of air instead of water are discharged through the cavity of the slide valve, J, and as the density of the air escaping is greater than that introduced, the effect of this device is to reduce rather than increase the quantum of air in the case, C; thus there is no possibility of too much air accumulating, except under unusual circumstances. In case the pressure in the street main should be suddenly diminished, in consequence of the bursting of a pipe, or of an extraordinary quantity being drawn out in case of a fire in the vicinity, the air enclosed in C, by expanding, might force its way backward into the main. To avoid this, the reservoir, B, is arranged, as represented, so that it will receive and contain any air which might thus be displaced, and hold it ready for discharge into the case C again, so soon as the pressure is restored. The inventor is ready to guarantee that these meters will operate perfectly without any attention for seven years, and it is presumed that they will endure for a much longer period without any derangement. This invention was patented March 24, 1857.

For further information, address the inventor and patentee, at his residence, No. 8 Tenth street, near Sixth avenue, New York.

