

used in Europe or America, this instrument is employed in measuring it, and a strong evidence of its truthfulness may be found in the fact, that Crossley still continues to be the same manufacturer of meters in Great Britain, where the use of gas has become so extensive, as to hold out the highest rewards to whoever could invent a better machine to supersede the old one.

In this country too, where a better meter than Crosley's would be a fortune to the inventor, the ingenuity of the country, though constantly directed to that object, has as yet been unable to devise a more correct mode of measurement. Experience on both sides of the Atlantic has fully proved the general accuracy of the gas meter, and I beg leave to recall to the recollection of the committee, the mode by which that point was shown to be established at their recent visit to the gas works.

If there is fraud any where, which could militate against the interests of the consumers, it must proceed from some intentional act of the manufacturer. But there is no conceivable motive for perpetrating a fraud on their part, because by raising the price of gas—which they have a right to do—they could increase their profits honestly. It could make no difference to the manufacturer, nor to the consumer, if 40 feet of gas was charged at \$30 per hundred, or 30 feet at \$40. The only effect then, which the appointment of an inspector would have, would be to increase the cost of gas, for the cost of inspection would necessarily be added to the other expenses, since the profits are already too small to admit of further diminution, having never exceeded 7 per cent., and averaging less than 6 per cent.

That the consumers do not need, and but few of them have ever asked, the interposition of the Legislature or of the Councils to protect their interests, may be safely inferred from the fact, that the quantity of gas made daily can be, and is accurately ascertained by the measurement of the gasometers in which it is stored, quite as readily as the contents of any other cylindrical vessel can be computed, without any reference to the machinery of the meter. Now, if the meters throughout the city, registered more gas than passed through them, the sum of their registers would show a larger quantity of gas than the gasometers at the works had contained. This however is not the case; on the contrary, the meters throughout the city register 16 per cent. less than the gasometers are known to have held, which is the amount of gas actually made and not paid for. This too is the experience of all other gas companies, after meters have been some time in use; for as they become old, it frequently happens from various causes, that gas passes through them without being registered, and is consequently used without being paid for. Some of these causes, it will be recollected by the committee, were pointed out to them at their late visit.

I have already alluded to the rate of profit on the manufacture of gas, which, it is acknowledged on all hands, is sufficiently low; nor can it be materially increased, for instead of possessing a mo-