

THE FAITHFUL METER.

It Indicates the Amount of Escaping Gas in the City Hall.

At last the leak in the city hall gas bill has been found, and the fault is placed with the slipshod manner in which the fixtures have been put in. The gas bills for the lighting of the city hall have been more than proverbially enormous, and the board of public works has been trying to find out where the cause lies. For the past month the bill for lighting the city hall was \$293.56. This bill was objected to by the board, and one of the representatives of the gas company was called before the board to explain away its magnitude. He said emphatically that the meter showed that that amount of gas had gone through it and had been presumably consumed. The auditing committee of the council refused to audit the bill, but the gas company offered to rebate \$34 of the bill if the remainder was paid in ten days. The bill went back to the board and was approved.

At the meeting of the board yesterday J. P. Cunningham, inspector of plumbing, submitted a communication in which he said that the fixtures had been put up in such a manner that they allowed the gas to escape. The amount of the leakage was found to be 744 cubic feet every day, or 23,000 feet a month. In dollars and cents this leakage cost the city \$34 per month. The leakage was ascertained in the following way: The regular meter of the company was taken off and another meter substituted. The gas supply was then cut off at the fixtures, but instead of the meter showing that no gas was escaping, it registered a consumption of 744 feet per day. In other words, when there was no gas turned on, the city nevertheless had to pay for 744 feet of gas every day of the month. Not even Sunday was excepted. As remorseless as death and taxes the supply of gas still continued, and the city kept on paying for 744 feet of gas which was not used.

The matter was referred to Superintendent of Buildings Guinotte.