

A NEW PARK FOR NEW YORK.

Great interest is shown by the public in the bill that is now pending in the legislature of the State of New York for the conversion of the reservoir on Fifth Avenue between 40th and 42d streets into a hanging garden. The bill for covering over the water receptacles has already passed the House and is awaiting the approval of the Senate, but it seems doubtful whether the bill will ever pass, owing to the determined opposition that has been offered by many prominent citizens, and by property owners in the neighborhood. It is claimed by those who oppose the plan that in case the reservoir were covered over, the water would become polluted and stagnant, and the general health of the city would be seriously affected. This argument is met by the claim that on the contrary the covering would protect the water from the dust, dirt, soot, and the impurities in the air of a great city.

The method to be employed in constructing the superstructure is shown in one of the views, and in the others are shown how the garden could be made to appear attractive without an enormous expense to the city. The present reservoir covers nearly four acres, and as it is located in the very heart of the city, such an addition would add materially to the attractiveness of Bryant Park that adjoins it, and would prove a great benefit to the public. In the proposed plan the erection of anything in the nature of a concert hall, restaurant, or in fact a building of any description has been carefully avoided, as it is believed that anything of this nature would be a great injury to the neighborhood and to the park itself. What the public want is fresh air, more parks, and plenty of breathing spaces, and this is not to be attained if the few vacant spaces that remain are permitted to be filled with unsightly pavilions or lofty buildings. In case the authorities, after a careful examination into the sanitary and hygienic conditions that affect the case, should conclude that the plan is feasible.

Beer Drinking in the United States.

The following extract, which appeared in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of April 19, 1879, has been so frequently inquired for by various correspondents that we again reproduce it:

For some years past a decided inclination has been apparent all over the country to give up the use of whisky and other strong alcohols, using as a substitute beer and bitters and other compounds. This is evidently founded on the idea that beer is not harmful and contains a large amount of nutriment; also that

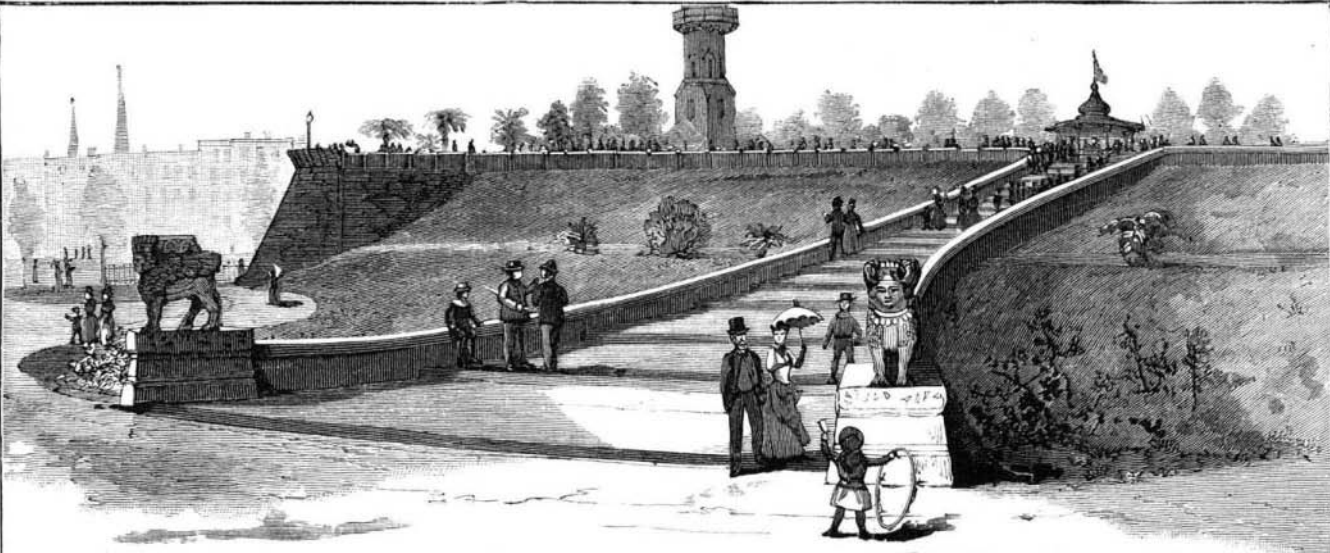
in appearance the beer drinker may be the picture of health, but in reality he is almost incapable of resisting disease. A slight injury, severe cold, or shock to the body or mind will commonly provoke acute disease ending fatally. Compared with inebriates who use different forms of alcohol, he is more incurable, and more generally diseased. The constant use of beer every day gives the system no time for recuperation, but steadily lowers the vital forces. It is our observation that beer drinking in this country produces the very lowest forms of inebriety, closely allied to criminal insanity. The

most dangerous class of tramps and ruffians in our large cities are beer drinkers. It is asserted by competent authority that the evils of heredity are more positive in this class than from alcoholics. If these facts are well founded, the recourse to beer as a substitute for alcohol merely increases the danger and fatality.

In bitters we have a drink which can never become general; but its chief danger will be in strengthening the disordered cravings, which later will develop a positive disease. Public sentiment and legislation should comprehend that all forms of alcohol are more or less dangerous when used steadily, and all persons who use them in this way should come under sanitary and legislative control.—*Quarterly Journal of Inebriety.*

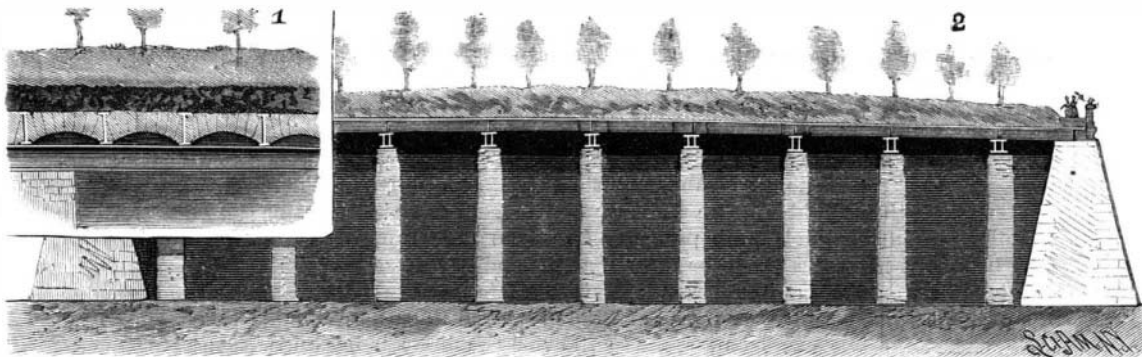
Cheaper Electric Meters Wanted.

While it cannot be very long before electric meters will be considered a necessity in every central station from which incandescent lights are supplied, *Modern Light and Heat* does not believe that it will be until some meters are made in a less complicated and expensive manner. We cannot, adds the editor, understand why so much time, energy, and money should be spent on meters which, when ready for the market, are too complicated for the every-day treatment to which meters are liable to be subjected, and too expensive for either customer or central

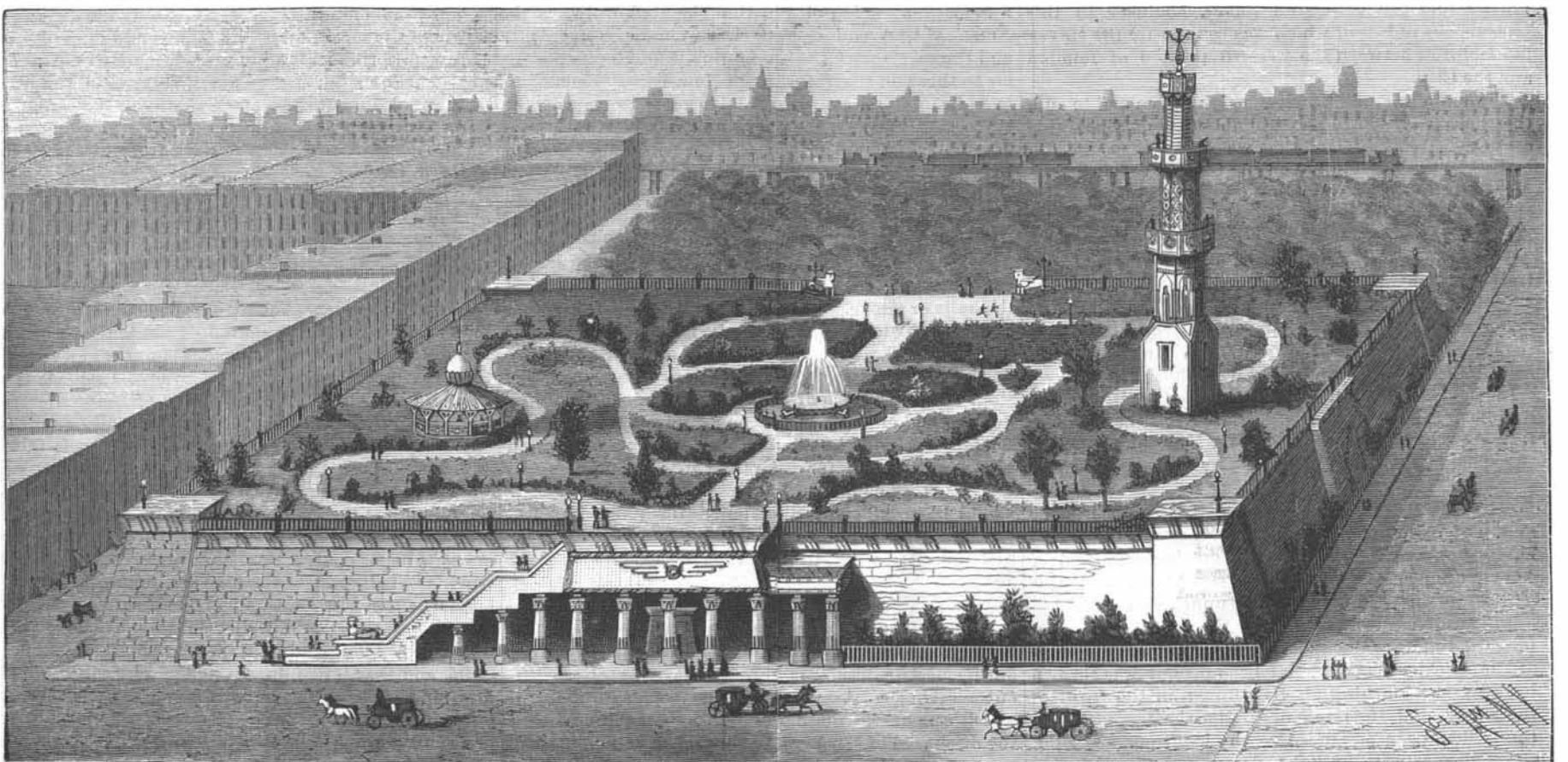


TERRACES AND INCLINED PATHWAY TO RESERVOIR GARDEN.

bitters may have some medicinal qualities, which will neutralize the alcohol it conceals, etc. These theories are without confirmation in the observations of physicians and chemists where either has been used for any length of time. The constant use of beer is found to produce a species of degeneration of all the organism, profound and deceptive. Fatty deposits, diminishing circulation, conditions of congestion, and perversion of functional activities, local inflammations of both the



METHOD OF BUILDING SUPERSTRUCTURE.



PLAN FOR CONVERSION OF FIFTH AVENUE RESERVOIR INTO A PUBLIC GARDEN.

it is to be hoped that this will be borne in mind, and that the area will be devoted exclusively to the uses of a park, which from the beauty of its situation and from the novelty of its plan would prove a boon to the public, an attraction to visitors, and a pride to the city.

liver and kidneys, are constantly present. Intellectually, a stupor amounting to almost paralysis arrests the reason, precipitating all the higher faculties into a mere animalism—sensual, selfish, sluggish, varied only with paroxysms of anger that are senseless and brutal;

station to buy. The meter which is to come into most general use is the one combining accuracy and simplicity, for no manager will buy them unless they possess the former feature, and the greater the simplicity the less cost to user, and consequent greater adoption.