TABLE I.—*Showing the Nature and Amount of the Chief Changes effected between December, 1896, and December, 1901.*

—		For the year 1895.	In December, 1901.
Supply	Number of houses supplied	79,644	87,937
	Percentage of houses on constant supply ...	70	100
	Estimated population	584,506	650,734
Reservoirs, subsiding and storage for unfiltered water...	Available capacity in gallons	117,500,000	397,500,000
Filters	Number of beds...	—	18
	Area in acres ...	15	22½

In spite of the alterations and improvements which have been effected the water supplied by the West Middlesex Company compares unfavourably with that distributed by the New River Company and the Kent Company. This fact will be seen readily by a study of Table II. which shows the results of analysis of the water supplied by these companies during every month of the year 1901 and during the month of January, 1902. It is much to be regretted that a larger number of complete analyses are not available, but the constant superiority of the water supplied by the deep wells of the Kent Company is beyond doubt.

TABLE II.—*Showing the Results of Analysis expressed in Parts per 100,000 of Organic Carbon and of Organic Nitrogen in the Water supplied by the West Middlesex Waterworks Company, the New River Company, and the Kent Company in each Month of the Year 1901 and in the Month of January, 1902. (Compiled from the Reports of the Results of Analysis made by Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., on behalf of the Local Government Board.)*

Year and month.	Organic carbon, expressed in parts per 100,000.			Organic nitrogen, expressed in parts per 100,000.		
	West Middlesex Company.	New River Company.	Kent Company.	West Middlesex Company.	New River Company.	Kent Company.
1901.						
January	0·222	0·070	0·039	0·029	0·010	0·008
February	0·254	0·073	0·044	0·030	0·012	0·010
March	0·238	0·141	0·043	0·024	0·013	0·010
April	0·227	0·124	0·043	0·021	0·012	0·008
May	0·200	0·081	0·042	0·021	0·013	0·006
June	0·144	0·068	0·036	0·017	0·009	0·007
July	0·124	0·062	0·058	0·012	0·010	0·012
August	0·121	0·049	0·038	0·017	0·007	0·005
September	0·136	0·115	0·037	0·015	0·013	0·009
October	0·132	0·046	0·058	0·019	0·010	0·007
November	0·146	0·070	0·055	0·017	0·009	0·009
December	0·130	0·093	0·048	0·013	0·009	0·006
1902.						
January	0·214	0·077	0·059	0·023	0·008	0·006

At the present time, however, the customers of the West Middlesex Company are in many respects at a great advantage compared with those of some of the other companies. The water rents charged are not high. The arrangements for the distribution of water are superior to those of many of the other businesses. The shareholders of the company now receive their full dividends and any increase in the profits of the company becomes practically the property of the water consumers. For their protection, therefore, all that they require is control over the company's financial affairs. This was advocated by Lord Avebury before the Llandaff Commission.

A question which the water consumers should be allowed

to decide is whether their profits should be spent in improvements or for the lessening of the water rent. If they were wise they would prefer the former course.

Looking Back.¹

FROM
THE LANCET, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1824.

Extraordinary Case of Loss of the faculty of Speech, successfully treated by FREDERICK BASSET, Esq. *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.*

To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—On Thursday the 5th of this month² I was requested to see a young lady, eighteen years of age, and a full plethoric habit of body, who had lost her voice in June last; upon enquiry I found, that at that time, from excessive grief and anxiety, she had had a paralytic stroke, which deprived her for some hours of the use of her right side; a medical gentleman was sent for, who attended her for some time, and restored to her the use of her limbs, but not of the organs of speech. She was then removed into the country, where also she was regularly attended by a professional man, and Dr. BABINGTON, there also saw her, and decided the case to be a complete paralysis of the tongue, and I believe was the one who advised galvanism, which was several times performed by Mr. LABANMA of Southampton Street, without producing any beneficial effect. It was some time subsequent to this that I saw the patient, and upon examination found Dr. BABINGTON's opinion of the disease perfectly correct, and that the paralysis extended to the muscles of the larynx. The tongue was drawn to the posterior part of the mouth, appeared very white, and with a very feeble circulation through it, quite insensible to the prick of a needle, and perfectly immovable.

I ordered a mustard poultice to be applied to her throat every night, to inhale the steam arising from boiling water, having some flour of mustard in it*; to take one pill composed of extract. colocynth. c. gr. v. & hyd. submur. gr. j. every other night, and to gargle the throat and mouth with the following mixture, five or six times a day:

R Infus. sinapis, ℥ viij.
Tinctur. capsici
— Myrrhæ aa ℥ j. ft. gargar.

She began this treatment on the day following (Friday) and I saw her again on the Monday after. She was the same, except the tongue looked a little more vascular. I altered the gargle as regards the infus. sinapis to the infus. armoraciæ compos.* and desired her to continue the same plan with this exception. On the next Thursday I again visited her, when I found the tongue much more red, and appeared to have every now and then a tremulous motion. I ordered her to continue as before, and on the following Monday, when I called, was both surprised and delighted to be accofted by her with "Good morning to you." Upon requesting to know when and how this change took place, I was informed that on the morning after I saw her, she awoke and found her tongue hanging out of her mouth, upon rubbing it she felt it give her pain, and upon attempting to speak, found she was capable of doing so nearly as well as before the attack.

This young lady is now perfectly well, and articulates better than ever, having lost an impediment which had existed from her infancy.

FREDERICK BASSET.

* Four or five times in the course of the day.

* I forgot to mention I ordered her some lozenges, made as subscribed, and to dissolve four or five in her mouth in the course of the day—

R Pulv. capsici. ʒ iij.
Zingiberis ʒ ij.
G. Acaciæ ʒ ij.
Sacchari ʒ i et
Esprit de Rose ʒ j.
fiant Troches lx.

¹ It will be noted that the day of publication is now changed from Sunday to Saturday.—ED. L.
² Probably Thursday, March 4th, 1824.