

danger, he recommends that authority be given to the building department of the city to compel owners of buildings over six stories in height to provide their own fire-fighting apparatus in the form of interior standpipes and the necessary hose and other equipments.

No reliance can be placed, he holds, on the so-called fire-proof construction of walls and floors, since this has been over and over proved fallacious.

W.

MAIZE OIL—A VALUABLE PRODUCT FROM THE INDIAN CORN.

The following information from a recent Government publication may pave the way for the establishment of a profitable industry:

"In the manufacture of starch and glucose, and in some varieties of maize meal, the germ, which contains the larger percentage of oil, is extracted. From this germ a valuable oil is expressed, while the residue forms a food material as valuable in every respect as that derived by the expression of the oil from ordinary oily seeds. Maize oil is easily purified, and forms a light, amber-colored, perfectly transparent liquid, without rancidity and of a pleasant taste. It has been used to some extent as a salad oil, and doubtless will in the future be very greatly employed for that purpose. It can also be used for lubricating delicate machinery, has fine burning properties, and can be used as a lamp oil. The coarser and less pure oil makes a valuable soap. In general, it may be said that maize oil has a commercial value, gallon for gallon, quite equal to the oil derived from cotton seeds."

W.

THE FUTURE OF ACETYLENE AS AN ILLUMINATING AGENT.

In a thoughtful editorial on this subject, the *Electrical World* advances the following views upon the role which acetylene may be expected to play as an illuminant in competition with gas and electricity:

"As a competitor in the illuminating field acetylene will probably be a greater rival of illuminating gas than of electric current, and it is possible that its success will be of more benefit than harm to the latter. It is the old story over again of one rival stimulating another in competition, and by means of improved service and reduced cost increasing the demand by an amount greater than its own supply. Illuminating gas, electric lighting and acetylene all have their own individual advantages which, to a certain extent, outline certain fields of application of each in which the others cannot compete. For vehicle lighting, including train lighting, and for gas distribution where but a small percentage is used for fuel, acetylene will probably show advantages over other forms of gas; while for combined heating and lighting service from one system, illuminating gas cannot be met by either acetylene or electric current, but for isolated plant service, theatre lighting and all cases where ease of control from a distance or convenience of ignition or adaptability to special decorative effects, are of any importance, the electric current has the advantage. It cannot be met by its competitors in the qualities of safety, neatness, cleanliness, convenience and elegance."

W.