The first water company supplying the major portion of the settlement was the Northampton Water Co. (later changed to Allentown Water Co.), which began operations in 1831. The source of supply was Crystal Spring (also known as Worman Spring and Silver Spring) located at the foot of the limestone bluff close to Little Lehigh Creek almost a mile above its junction with the Lehigh River. This spring has a reported average daily flow of 4,000,000 gallons.

In 1869 the city purchased the water company. Crystal Spring furnished the entire supply until 1898, when the City Council purchased the Schantz Spring about 4 miles west of the city. This spring has a rated average flow of 8,000,000 gallons daily. When necessary, an additional supply of water can be obtained from Little Lehigh Creek.

Inasmuch as all the water comes from the limestone region, it is hard and also liable to contamination, but is treated and carefully watched. The two springs are the result of emergence of large underground streams. The water falling on the surface readily finds its way into the cavernous limestones and establishes major streams and tributaries similar in many respects to surface stream drainage.

Many curious explanations have been offered to account for the large volume of water of Schantz Spring. The following quotation is typical:

In this marvelous spring, which is supposed to be connected by a subterranean channel with Lake Erie, the water pours from an opening three feet in diameter and apparently bottomless. (Hauser, 1906.)

It is scarcely necessary to say that such a belief is groundless and does not merit the presentation of evidence in disproof.

Bethlehem. Inasmuch as the major portion of Bethlehem lies in Northampton County and its water supplies have been discussed in the volume devoted to that county, it is inadvisable to repeat the descriptions.

West Bethlehem and Fountain Hill lie within Lehigh County, but are supplied with water by the municipally-owned Bethlehem Water Co. At present, part of the water supply comes from wells and from Lehigh River near the pumping plant, which is located west of the city and within Lehigh County. Before the appearance of this volume it is expected that all of Bethlehem and most of Fountain Hill will be supplied with water from Wild Creek, north of Kittatinny (Blue) Mountain.

For many years certain residences in Fountain Hill were supplied with spring water from the lower slopes of the gneiss hills or from the fault that brings the gneiss in contact with the limestone.

In 1866 Tinsley Jeter built a small reservoir to collect the water from several springs near the old Bishopthorpe school. Pipes were laid to supply residents as far as Union Station. In 1872 Dr. G. B. Linderman formed the Cold Spring Water Co. to collect water in a similar way from springs on property which he owned. Several homes on Delaware Avenue and Huron Street were supplied.

Catasauqua. The water supply of Catasauqua is furnished by the municipally-owned water plant with the exception of North Cata-