

built, with pressure of 100 lbs. to the inch? A. The data sent are rather incomplete, but you will find rules by which you can calculate the answers to your questions on p. 225, vol. 33.

(34) S. D. C. asks: What is the complete formula for finding the radius of the earth at any place, when the force of gravity at that place, and at the equator, and the equatorial radius, are given? A. La Place's formula for the radius, at the latitude L , is: radius in feet = $20886226 \times (1 + 0.0016742 \times \cos. 2L)$. As we understand the premises in your other query, we do not think they are correct.

(35) W. S. says: 1. I am building a model horizontal engine $1\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches, and wish to make a boiler for it capable of 65 lbs. pressure. What should be the size and the number of flues? A. You can make flues 1 inch in diameter, or less. 2. What would be the best speed to run it at, in order to get the most power? A. From 400 to 850 revolutions per minute.

(36) J. N. W. asks: How much suction power has a fan 2 feet in diameter, with four wings, 8 by 14 inches, revolving 2,000 times in a minute? The induction orifice is 1 x 24 inches. How many lbs. pressure can I produce at the orifice? A. If you wish more pressure than 1 lb. per square inch, it will be advisable to use some other form of blower.

(37) J. F. & G. W. M. says: There are two tanks for water located 900 feet apart. Each holds about 15,000 gallons. The bottom of one is 11 feet above level of ground and the tank itself is 14 feet high, making 25 feet from top of tank to level of ground. A pipe runs from this tank down into the ground, to sufficient depth to prevent freezing, and thence along on a level, 900 feet, to the other tank. The bottom of the last-named tank is 3 feet above top of the first-named tank, or 28 feet from level of ground. What size of pipe must I use to empty the water of the second tank into the first tank in 12 hours? What size of pipe will it take to do the same in 24 hours? A. To discharge the second tank into the first in 12 hours will require a pipe of 2 inches diameter, and in 24 hours $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter. The bends in the pipe should be easy, and no contraction of size, by valves or otherwise, should be allowed.

(38) W. J. M. asks: Do steam heating pipes consume the oxygen of the air, or is a degree of heat greater than that of pipes heated by steam necessary before the consumption of oxygen begins? Why is it that in an office, if doors or ventilators be closed for a few minutes only, the air becomes very oppressive and stupefying, while the temperature is yet not very high, and not as high as could be borne without any discomfort in a well ventilated room? Would a ventilating shaft, constructed so as to draw from a register in the floor, be of any benefit, or would the air, at the height of a man's hand, remain undisturbed and oppressive? A. Air when heated expands and becomes less capable of supporting animal life, because of the limited quantity of oxygen it then contains in a given volume. The breathing of persons engaged in a sedentary employment is slow, and a dense air would afford greater aliment to the blood in their case. There is no reason to believe that steam pipes, when heated, consume the oxygen of the air to a greater extent than other heating surfaces. But there is, without doubt, a minute quantity of moisture driven from the pipes by the internal pressure, which soon renders the air humid, and this has the effect of making breathing more difficult. It is easily inferred from this that supplying fresh air brings no remedy, unless the strong dense air thus admitted is preserved in this state, without being rarefied by the heated pipes. By gradually accustoming yourself to a lower temperature, some relief may be found, or by adopting the plan of the open fireplace, you may be able the more effectually to preserve the air of your room in its natural state, neither too dry nor too humid for easy respiration.

(39) A. B. asks: What are gold and silver alloyed with at the United States mints? A. The gold coinage is $\frac{9}{10}$ pure gold and $\frac{1}{10}$ alloy. The alloy consists of $\frac{1}{10}$ silver and $\frac{1}{10}$ copper. The silver coinage also contains $\frac{1}{10}$ alloy, which is copper only.

(40) J. McT. says, in reply to M. G. P., who asks if meerschaum pipes, after they have been used a time, are not subjected to some process to bring out the color: I have seen meerschaum and imitation meerschaum pipes colored by the following process: Fill the pipe and smoke down about one third, or to the height to which you wish to color. Leave the remainder of the tobacco in the pipe, and do not empty it or disturb it for several weeks, or until the desired color is obtained. When smoking, put fresh tobacco on the top, and smoke to the same level.

(41) E. McD. asks: 1. What quantity of oil of vitriol should be used to the gallon of water, for sprinkling guano for artificial manure? A. Dilute the strong acid with about 30 parts of water. 2. Is it necessary to distribute the dilute liquid throughout the body of material, or merely sprinkle the surface? If the latter, how deep should the layer be? A. Spread the guano into a layer about 3 inches in depth, and sprinkle; then put together again. 3. What quantity of the dilute liquid would be required for 100 bushels? A. This depends upon the amount of ammonia or its volatile salts which are contained in the guano. If it contains 6 per cent, it will require about 32 pints of the acid solution, about 2 gallons to the ton. 4. Would superheated or dry steam do as a dryer? A. Heated air would be more suitable. 5. Would it be advisable to make the deposit perfectly dry, or to allow a small percentage of moisture to remain? A. You cannot hope to expel all the moisture; and it is better not. 6. If the natural state of the deposit is 50 per cent water and 6 per cent ammonia, would not the evaporation of the water double the percentage of ammonia? Yes. 7. After the deposit is dried, could it not be put up in bags and shipped without fear of deterioration? A. If not exposed to the weather or very moist air, it will not absorb moisture after drying to any extent if tightly packed in strong bags.

(42) M. B. says: Given two lamps, one with a round and the other with a flat wick, the same number of threads in each, and everything else equal, is

there any difference in the amount of light? If so which gives the most? A. There will be a difference in favor of the round wick if properly adjusted; but it will consume more oil.

(43) H. C. asks: Is there a way of softening rams' horns so as to be able to mould them? A. There is no practicable method whereby this may be accomplished.

(44) E. E. C. asks: What acids are most destructive to steel dies? A. Nitric, muriatic, and sulphuric acids attack and dissolve the metal most rapidly. Nitric, or a mixture of nitric and muriatic acids (*aqua regia*), are the proper solvents.

(45) T. H. S. says: 1. I am using a liquid made of 1 lb. sal soda and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. lime to 1 gallon of water, which, when boiled, comes out as a lye. Of this liquid I use 2 or 3 spoonful for washing of a boiler of clothes of the capacity of 8 or 10 gallons, with plenty of water. Will the liquid be injurious to the fabrics? A. Under the conditions, the washing fluid will not injure the fabric to any extent. The fluid may be made stronger by boiling with excess of lime and carbonate of soda (sal soda). 2. I use chloride of lime in a liquid state for bleaching the cloth, letting the cloth remain in the rinsing water for an hour or more. Will the chloride water be injurious to the cloth? Please give a formula to make the chloride water of the proper strength. A. Pass the cloth first through a very dilute bath of sulphuric acid, and immediately through a bath of bleaching powder (chloride or hypochlorite of lime), made by dissolving the powder in 24 parts of cold water, and hang in a close room with as much exposure to bright sunlight as possible. When properly bleached, wash well in water and dry.

(46) C. H. B. asks: How can a sword blade be frosted? A. Clean and polish the metal, flow it quickly with dilute nitric acid; and, when the proper point is reached, wash well in running water.

(47) V. S. A. asks: 1. What will soften brushes after they are used in varnish or French dryer? A. Steep the brushes for 24 hours in good benzole, and then, if necessary, purify by washing them with soap and warm water. 2. How can I preserve photograph proofs? A. Wash them well in cold running water, dry, and keep in a dark place. Or, after washing, fix them by immersing for a few minutes in a strong solution of hyposulphite of soda in water and wash or soak in a copious supply of cold water for 10 to 12 hours.

(48) A. P. asks: Can you furnish me a recipe to make a solution for setting the color of crayon drawings? A. Use a dilute aqueous solution of gum arabic in water, with the addition of a very little oil of cloves.

(49) A. R. asks: What can I use to repair a glass bath, that will resist nitrate of silver in strong solution? A. Warm the fractured edges of the glass uniformly, and join with fused gutta percha. The edges should be pressed firmly together and allowed to remain in the clamp for an hour, or until perfectly cool.

(50) C. asks: Will you give a chemical analysis of ox blood? A. In 100 parts of ox blood corpuscles there are: Water 68.8, solids 31.2. The solids are: Hematin (with iron) 16.75, globulin and cell membrane 28.22, fat 0.231, extractive matter 0.260, mineral substances (without iron) 0.812. The minerals are: Chlorine 0.1686, sulphuric acid 0.0068, phosphoric acid 0.1184, potassium 0.3328, sodium 0.1052, oxygen 0.0667, calcic phosphate 0.0114, magnesian phosphate 0.0073. These blood corpuscles are suspended in a liquid containing, in 100 parts: Water 90.23, fibrin 0.405, albumen 7.884, fat 0.172, extractive matter 0.394, mineral substances 8.55.

(51) C. F. M. asks: Is there anything that will give raw hide a fine finish and at the same time be waterproof? A. Steep them in a strong, hot decoction of sumac, alum, and logwood, and dress with a mixture of beeswax, soap, oil, and ivory-black.

(52) P. S. K. W. asks: How may paper be prepared so that linseed oil will not soak into it and that the paper will remain flexible? A. Pass the paper rapidly through strong sulphuric acid and wash quickly with a copious supply of water. After drying, pass through an aqueous solution of dextrin, and then between smooth rollers heated to 600° Fah. The rollers should be under a very considerable pressure.

(53) C. B. W. asks: 1. Is it true, as a general thing, that dress goods, wall papers, etc., in which a green color predominates, are poisonous? A. No. Scheele's green (arsenite of copper), because of its brilliant hue, is often used as a pigment in painting and in designs on wall papers, but not so frequently on dress goods. 2. Is it necessary to use poisonous matters to make a green color? A. No. Fabrics which have been dyed with some of the aniline colors have, at times, produced poisonous effects, especially where they have been permitted to remain for any length of time in direct contact with the moist cuticle; but not otherwise. 3. Whence came the idea that all green dyes are poisonous? A. Cases of poisoning from Paris or Schweinfurt green, verdigris, and like compounds containing copper or arsenic (the prevailing color of which is green) have been so numerous that all similarly colored pigments, dyes, etc., have gradually come to be considered with more or less of distrust by the uninformed.

(54) J. A. W. asks: Is there an acid or chemical which will corrode paper postage stamps, but will not corrode gum arabic? A. No.

(55) G. W. S. asks: How can I make a loaf of bread which, after a year or so, I can lay my hand on and squeeze it down, and it will rise up again the same as when fresh baked? A. If the bread is not intended for food, such a loaf may be made from flour in the ordinary way, but with the addition of a little sulphate of copper (a very minute quantity only), glycerin, and a strong aqueous solution of salicylic acid.

(56) W. W. asks: What is the best covering for headed haystacks, portable, durable, waterproof, vermin-proof, and cheap? A. Try the following: Take any coarse fabric, steep it for a few hours in a strong aqueous solution of alum, dry, and coat the upper surface with a thin covering of tar.

(57) G. R. asks: 1. Will a soft metal, like copper, lead, or zinc, hold heat longer than a harder metal like cast or wrought iron of equal weight and the same shape? A. The loss of heat does not depend so much upon the hardness of the metal as upon its conductivity and the condition of its surface. If the surfaces of the metal be bright and polished, it retains its heat much longer than if it be dark and rough; or, in other words, the less rapidly will it part with its heat by radiation. The poorer the heat conductivity of the metal, the longer it will retain its heat, other conditions being the same. The conductivity of silver being 100, that of copper is 73.6, zinc 19.9, tin 14.5, steel 12.0, iron 11.9, lead 8.5. The time required to cool a large mass of hot metal is proportionately great compared with that required to reduce the temperature of a smaller mass the same number of thermometric degrees. 2. Will glass retain heat as long as soft or hard metals? A. Yes.

(58) C. A. B. says: I have eight or ten pieces of sponge rubber bought about two years ago; it was then very good and would clean paper very nicely. It is now hard, and slides over the paper without cleaning it. Can it be restored, so that it may clean paper as well as ever? A. No. The hardening is due to oxidation. The quality cannot be restored.

(59) O. H. N. asks: Is there any way of cleaning sulphur off horses' hoofs? When I weld the toe calk on, the sulphur gets under the toe calk, and I cannot weld it. A. Use common carbonate of potash or soda.

(60) H. & M. say: We wish to test the quality of different lots of coal oil sent from refineries. Could you give us a mode of doing this? A. Inexpensive instruments for this purpose are sold by dealers in thermometers, hygrometers, chemical utensils, etc. All that is necessary for ordinary purposes is to determine the specific gravity and point of ignition. The former is accomplished by means of an instrument resembling a hydrometer, and the latter by heating a small quantity of the oil in which the bulb of a thermometer is immersed to indicate the temperature, and a small ignited taper, held close to the surface of the oil, ignites the same when the temperature has risen sufficiently.

(61) M. N. asks: Is there any metal or composition which would stand the same usage as a cane, and could be moulded hollow? A. Steel or bronze would answer the purpose, if we understand you aright.

(62) C. B. P. asks: How can I platinize the silver plate of a Smee battery? A. Dip the plate in a strong solution of chloride of platinum, and expose it for a short time to the action of a stream of hydrogen or coal gas. 2. How can I prepare sulphur for making casts of coins, etc.? A. Fuse the sulphur and heat it to the point of sublimation, and while in this condition throw it into cold water.

(63) A. J. S. says: I have a lot of emery wheels that have been almost covered with japan dryer. What will remove the japan without injuring the wheels? A. Remove all you can by mechanical means, and then treat the parts with strong oil of vitriol (sulphuric acid) for a few minutes; then wash well, but quickly, in a stream of water. Repeat this treatment if necessary, and rub well with sawdust. The acid should not be permitted to remain for any length of time in contact with the stone, as it will injure it.

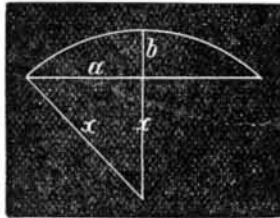
(64) C. W. C. asks: How can I keep lemons for 6 months or more? A. Packing them in salt and keeping in a cool place is one of the best methods; but even this will not always suffice.

(65) C. H. J. says: Some specimens of limestone rock were excavated from a quarry. The specimens taken out during the spring and summer, which were allowed to season, answered admirably, but those taken from the quarry during or just previous to a cold snap cracked by the action of frost. Can you suggest means by which these stones may be tested, other than by subjecting them to extreme cold? A. The cause of the cracking of the stone may have been the molecular energy of freezing water contained within cavities in the rock; but it is more probable that the rupture was due to the relaxation of strain to which the blocks had been subjected while in the quarry. Splitting up of blocks from this cause is by no means infrequent in some quarries. If the breaking is attributable to the action of frost, there is no other means than those you mention for testing the stone. If it is due to the unequal strain upon the block, the splitting cannot be avoided.

(66) M. asks: Can you give me a recipe for making concentrated starch? A. We do not know of any preparation by this name.

(67) G. S. says: I have some specimens of copper ore that are covered with verdigris. What shall I use to take it off? A. If it is really verdigris, a little dilute sulphuric or hydrochloric acid will remove it.

(68) C. V. W. says: Some of your correspondents ask for a method of finding the radius of a circle when the chord and versed sine are given. I give them a very simple formula based upon the well known property of the right angled triangle. Where $a = \frac{1}{2}$ chord, $b =$ height or versed sine, and $x =$ radius, $a^2 + (x - b)^2 = x^2 = \frac{a^2 + b^2}{2b} = x$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ chord² + height²



(69) J. H. M. says: I am running saws of 8 inches diameter, and smaller. I wish to know at what to run them in order to make the smoothest work? A. Nine thousand feet per minute, that is nearly two miles per minute, for the rim of a circular saw to travel, may be laid down as a rule. For example: a saw 12 inches in diameter, 3 feet around the rim, 3,000 revolutions; 24 inches in diameter, or 6 feet around the rim, 1,500 revolutions; 3 feet in diameter, or 9 feet around the rim, 1,000 revolutions; 4 feet in diameter, or 12 feet around the rim, 750 revolutions; 5 feet in diameter, or 15 feet around the rim, 600 revolutions. Of course it is understood that the rim of the saw will run a little faster than

this reckoning on account of the circumference being more than three times as large as the diameter. Shingle and some other saws, either riveted to a cast iron collar or very thick at the center and thin at the rim, may be run with safety at a greater speed.—J. E. E., of Pa.

(70) D. B. says: I notice an article stating that Dr. Siemens had succeeded in producing permanent magnets capable of suspending 20 times their own weight, by mixing with steel a small proportion of tungsten. Can this be so? A. Yes, so far as we know; small artificial magnets have been made to sustain one hundred times their own weight.

(71) C. W. C. says: If a telegraph wire passes over a building, or in close proximity to it, does it endanger it during a thunderstorm? A. No. So far as it has any influence, it acts as a protector.

(72) J. W. T. asks: Is there any electric battery that will heat and keep a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wire red hot or nearly so? A. The question is very indefinite, as everything depends upon the length and material of which the wire is composed. Probably a Bunsen cell could be made sufficiently large to heat a short length of platinum of that diameter.

(73) V. W. S. asks: If a dwelling is surrounded by trees, from 10 to 25 feet higher than the ridge or the chimney tops, and within one or two rods distance from the house, are not these trees some protection against lightning? And if not, would not conductors in the trees answer a better purpose than is secured by the usual mode of attachment to the building? A. Properly constructed rods on the building are much better in every respect.

(74) T. B. A. says: What size of wire do I want to make an induction coil, to be used to heat platinum wire? A. Use a Grove or Bunsen battery. Either is better than a coil.

(75) A. A. W. says: I have a book that gives a rule for finding the safe working pressure of any boiler, but I cannot work it satisfactorily. The rule is: Multiply the thickness of iron by 0.56 or 0.70, according as the boiler is single or double riveted, multiply this product by 10,000 (safe load), then divide this last product by the internal radius less the thickness of iron. The quotient will be the safe working pressure in lbs. per square inch. A. Calling C a coefficient 0.56 or 0.70, as the case may be; T, thickness of boiler in fractions per inch; R, internal radius of boiler in inches; L, safe load in lbs. per square inch. Working pressure = $\frac{C \times T \times L}{R}$

(76) J. P. asks: How can I make old copper and brass coins stick to a board without using tacks? A. Melt together in a suitable vessel equal parts of pitch or asphalt and gutta percha. Apply hot. Clean the coin with a little dilute nitric acid or oil of vitriol.

(77) J. Z. R. says: I inclose a small piece of carpet. I want to dye it some other color. Which will be the best? A. As the carpet already contains so many dark colors, it would be impossible to dye it any color but black, without first having bleached it; and this, in the present instance, is impracticable. My kitchen ceiling blisters and scales off. It has been whitewashed sometimes with lime and sometimes with whiting. What shall I do with it? A. This is very probably due to dampness, in which case the best plan is to clean and paint the walls.

I want to make a photo background. What is the best color to use? A. Any of the aniline colors may be used for this purpose; you can purchase them, already prepared and with instructions for use, of any druggist. Any oil paint may be rendered flexible, when dry, by rubbing it up with a little soap and glycerin over a fire.

(78) A. S. C. asks: 1. What amount of carbolic acid is used in a lb. of carbolic soap? A. Samples of these soaps, that we have examined, contained about three per cent of the crude phenol in combination as a soda salt. 2. How is it mixed? A. In the coarser varieties of these soaps, the phenol is added directly to the lye during the latter part of the saponification; but in these cases the acid is very incompletely distributed through the body of the soap. A complete and uniform dissemination of the phenol may be obtained by dissolving soap and carbolate in hot spirits of wine or wood naphtha, and evaporating the solution to dryness.

(79) B. F. W. says: Joshua Rose says, in relation to sawing staves for cylinder or pipe patterns: "It will save time to resaw the pieces to give them the required level, which may be done by canting the saw table." A better practice is to cant the table before sawing at all, and then the staves will be of the right shape, with a saving of nearly two thirds of the sawing and considerable timber.

(80) C. H. says: We have in our possession an old-fashioned range; and whenever we draw hot water the water has the appearance of milk, but after standing a few minutes it regains its regular color. We have been advised not to use the water. A. This is due to the precipitation of the lime contained in the water. Lime is less soluble in hot than in cold water. It is not generally advisable to use water from the hot faucet for culinary purposes, as it may contain poisonous copper and lead salts.

(81) J. A. K. says: 1. I use oxalic acid for preparing pale leather boot work (a teaspoonful of oxalic acid in a pint of water). The mixture sometimes becomes a brownish color. Do you know of any kind of acid which would do instead of oxalic? A. Try moistening the leather first with oxalic acid, as usual, and then with a strong solution of chloride of lime (hypochlorite of lime) in cold water. 2. Do you know of anything to put in ink to give a good gloss? A. Use an alcoholic solution of wax.

(82) J. W. P. asks: What will remove stains of tannic acid from linen and other fabrics? A. Wash well with a little soda, moisten with very dilute sulphuric acid, and then with a strong solution of bleaching powder (chloride of lime) and expose for an hour to bright sunlight. Then wash well in water.

(83) X. Y. Z. asks: Can the skins of birds be tanned with the feathers on? A. Yes, but not without discoloring the feathers.

