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This work, from the time of the appearance of the first edition, in 1877, has been looked upon with decided favor by large numbers of users of leather belting, as being eminently practical and covering a wide range of practice. It has numerous illustrations of approved and actual methods of arranging main driving and quarter-twist belts, with rules for calculating the size and driving power of belts, and directions for their care and management. The author also presents liberal quotations covering the views and experience of the best known engineers and managers of machinery, collected through a long series of years.

WOOLEN AND WORSTED CLOTH MANUFACTURE. By Roberts Beaumont. New York: John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 390. Price \$2.50.

This book is designed to be a practical treatise for all persons employed in the manipulation of textile fabrics. It treats of the physical structure and clothing properties of the raw materials used in the production of woollen and worsted fabrics, the making of yarns and their preparation for weaving, the manipulation of the loom, designing and coloring, and the operations to which the cloth is submitted after weaving. The author is a lecturer and demonstrator in the textile industries department of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, England, and therefore brings to his task a knowledge of the technical details in one of the foremost manufacturing districts in this specialty in the world.

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HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information, and not for publication. **References** to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. **Inquiries** not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all, either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn. **Special Written Information** on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration. **Scientific American Supplements** referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each. **Books** referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price. **Minerals** sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(1) C. H. writes: I have just completed a small motor, made after the instructions given in your valuable paper, but on a smaller scale. I made the magnets one-half the width and thickness as the one you described, put the same number of layers and convolutions, and wound the magnets with No. 20 covered wire. I applied it to the wires from a dynamo, and found it to work excellently. This is my first attempt at such work. Would you please give me the dimensions of a motor, such as the size of field magnet, length of armature core, size of wire, and the number of convolutions and layers to be wound on each, so that I could make a motor with power enough to propel a small row boat about 18 feet long? A. We are pleased that you have succeeded so well in making your motor. We shall in the near future publish a description of a larger electric motor adapted to your wants.

(2) J. J. E. writes: I have built a dynamo according to description given in *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT*, No. 161, and it works beautifully both as a dynamo and a motor. As a motor it runs with a small current, and where I run it and magnetized the field magnets, they put the current from 4 arc lamps as used on the streets, and it ran with uncontrollable speed without heating at all. The first few turns of the drive wheel generates a current. I have made an arc lamp 18 inches by 6 inches, 3/4 inch carbons. Can you give me an idea how I can make some electric magnet that will cause the upper carbon to be raised about 3/4 inch when the current is turned on, so as to make an arc? A. An axial magnet formed of a few turns of wire heavy enough to carry the entire current, and provided with a hollow cylindrical core or armature, carrying clutch adapted to engage the carbon or the carbon supporting rod, will probably answer your purpose.

(3) W. C. S. asks: 1. Will the motor used as a dynamo, wound with 16 and 20 wire, develop as much current as the one in *SUPPLEMENT*, No. 161, when driven by a half horse power engine? A. Yes. 2. Can the so-called burglar alarm wire wound with two layers of cotton, costing 40 cents a pound, do in place of regular magnet wire to wind it? A. No. The insulation is too thick. 3. Would a better commutator, like that of the eight light dynamo recently described in *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN*, increase its efficiency as a dynamo? A. It would undoubtedly be a better commutator to use, but it would not be in accordance with the spirit of the article, which calls for a commutator

made with few tools. Such a commutator would not increase its efficiency.

(4) H. H. W. asks: Will increasing the amount of wire on the field magnet increase the lighting capacity in number of lamps from dynamo, in No. 600 of the *SUPPLEMENT*? A. You can increase the capacity of the machine by adding two layers of two parallel No. 18 wire each, or two layers of No. 12, which is the equivalent of two No. 18 wires, and, by increasing the size of the wire on the armature from 20 to 19, and increasing the speed about 25 percent. This modification will enable you to run about 12 lamps, but at a corresponding increase in the expenditure of power.

(5) H. A. Z. asks: If an armature can be made to fit in the field magnets of dynamo described in *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT*, No. 161, that will give a stronger current in volts than 63, can it be made on same principle as the eight light dynamo armature, and what size wire and number of coils? If soft iron wire or washers would be best for core? A. We cannot advise you to make a drum armature for your small dynamo. You can increase the voltage by reducing the size of the wire upon the armature and field magnet. The reduction of one or two sizes in the wires will make a marked difference in the results.

(6) D. T. G. writes: I anticipate using the hand power dynamo for a motor, in a canoe. If I wind it as directed in the article on making a drum armature for it, for motor, how much battery power will it take to run it? A. The hand power machine described in *SUPPLEMENT*, No. 161, will answer very well as a motor without any alteration, except possibly the reduction of the amount of wire upon the field magnet to about one half its present quantity. A drum armature of a diameter suitable for this machine we think would not be as efficient as an H armature.

(7) J. O'D. writes: I am trying to make the simple electric motor. I would like to know if the copper wire as used in the telephone will do? A. The wire used in the telephone is too fine for the motor. 2. I would like to know the size of the vulcanite. A. The vulcanite is 2 1/2 inches in diameter and 3/4 of an inch thick. It need not be exactly of this size. Consult *SUPPLEMENT*, No. 641.

(8) C. K. S. asks if the simple electric motor described in your issue of March 17 would be capable of running a small dynamo of same dimensions, and if this dynamo would be capable of sustaining two 16 candle power 40 volts incandescent lamps. A. The motor is incapable of running a dynamo of sufficient size to sustain two 16 candle power lamps; better use the current employed in driving your motor for running your lamp.

(9) W. T. asks: Can we decompose water by a dynamo-electric machine, and how? What quantities in cubic feet of H and O per hour can two horse power engine with a dynamo in favorable circumstances produce? A. Yes. By using iron terminals and immersing them, not touching, in a vessel of caustic soda, oxygen and hydrogen will be evolved, one gas from each pole. It is an expensive way of working. A 2 horse power engine will give about 5 cubic inches of hydrogen and half as much oxygen per second.

(10) M. F. D. asks: Is Fordham a part of New York City? A. Yes.

(11) H. M. P. writes: We have constructed the electric motor, following as near as possible the instructions given in your paper. Being unable to get 12 coils on the armature, we wound it with 8 coils No. 16. The commutator is made of a brass tube 1 inch long and 1 inch diameter, divided in 8 sections. The battery consists of eight 1 gallon earthenware jars, each jar having 1 plate of zinc and 2 plates of gas carbon cut roughly in shape, and separated from the zinc plates by vertical strips of wood nailed to a horizontal strip that supports the zincs. This battery runs the motor for two or three hours, but does not give power enough for any work. The motor attains a high speed when in the circuit of a small dynamo. How can we increase the efficiency of the motor so that it will run a lathe? Is it necessary to make a new solution every time we use the motor? You say to connect the coils 2 inches parallel. What is meant by this? In taking twice the dimensions of motor, should there be 24 coils on the armature? Is the power of motor increased by adding to the number of coils? How can I mould plates for a battery from gas carbon? A. You would probably secure better results if you were to connect your battery for "quantity," that is, connect all the zincs together for one pole of the battery, and all the carbon plates together for the other pole. It was a mistake to reduce the number of coils—better increase the number than reduce it. To connect coils in parallel is to connect corresponding ends of the coils together, so that the current will pass through both at once, instead of passing through one after the other. If you double the diameter of your armature, you should use 24 or more coils. The power of a motor will be increased by adding to the number of coils, but there must be a corresponding increase in the current. You cannot readily make your own battery plates. You will find it far cheaper and better to purchase them. You will, however, find in recent answers to queries full directions for making battery carbons.

(12) E. C. B. asks: 1. Should the armature touch the field magnet in the electric motor described in *SUPPLEMENT*, No. 641? A. No. 2. How can I make the vulcanized fiber disk for the motor? A. You will have to purchase the vulcanized fiber from a dealer in electrical supplies. A disk of hard rubber will answer the same purpose. 3. Would it be practicable to use a storage battery and dynamo run by windmill to run the motor? A. The power of a windmill is too unsteady to run a dynamo direct for charging storage batteries. 4. How could I make the dynamo and storage battery? A. For information on dynamos consult *SUPPLEMENT*, No. 600. For information on storage batteries, consult *SUPPLEMENT*, Nos. 346, 416, and 842. 5. How is adhesive tape made, and where can I procure it? A. Adhesive tape is made by covering cotton tape with a varnish formed by dissolving pure rubber in benzole or turpentine, and adding a very small percentage of a fixed oil to prevent it from drying hard.

6. Where can I procure loadstone? A. From any dealer in physical machines or apparatus. 7. How can I temper a steel spring? A. Heat the spring to a cherry red, plunge it in oil; hold the spring over an open fire and heat it evenly from end to end until the oil blazes. A great deal of practice is required to properly temper a spring. In the first place, to secure a proper spring temper, good spring steel is required. The steel must be uniformly heated to a cherry red, and care must be taken to not overheat it. 8. Does an engine take any heat out of steam except what is due to expansion? A. A great deal of heat is lost by conduction through the walls of the cylinder. 9. What is the best form for an account book for a mechanic working by the day? A. Consult any work on bookkeeping. 10. Where can I get rules for figuring on a building? A. Consult "Building Table and Estimate Book," by Brown. Price \$1.50. "Builders' Guide and Estimators' Price Book," by Hodgson. Price \$2. Or "Architects' and Builders' Pocket Companion and Price Book," by Vodge. Price \$1.50. Which we can supply.

(13) F. McF. asks: 1. Would a motor made one-half the size of one described in March 17 number be strong enough to work one sewing machine? A. If made one-half the size (linear), it would have but one-quarter the power of the machine as described. We think it advisable to adhere to the present proportions except in the matter of winding the armature. You might fill up the sections of the armature ring with No. 20 wire, about six layers deep. 2. Will four bichromate batteries be sufficient? A. Yes. 3. Is field magnet wound with same kind and size of wire as armature? A. The size of the wire on the field magnet may remain the same. 4. The brushes are connected up by means of flexible cords. Please explain. A. The connections of the brushes are clearly shown in the drawings. The flexible cords are used to permit of turning the disk which carries the brushes.

(14) G. I. K. asks for the calorific powers of natural gas and coal gas. A. Natural gas varies greatly in its composition. A fair tabulation would give per 1000 cubic feet:

Natural gas.....650,000 foot pounds.
Coal gas.....450,000 to 500,000 " "

Water gas is about the same as coal gas. 1 foot pound=766 2/3 pounds avoirdupois of water heated 1 degree Fah.

(15) A. K. asks: What substance in the form of a varnish or paint, or similar covering material, will resist the action of hydrofluoric acid? A. Melted beeswax or paraffin may be used as a resistant varnish, or solution of gutta percha in bisulphide of carbon.

(16) J. W. I. asks for something to put on posts to keep them from rotting in the ground. We have nothing but spruce and some cottonwood, and find the spruce posts will only stand three or four years, when they rot off at the ground. A. Creosote oil is an effectual preservative. Make a small shallow tank into which pour one or two barrels. Place the ends of the posts in the tank, as many as convenient. Allow them to remain a few hours, then drain off excess of oil and lay by ready for setting. If the posts are of such size that you can burn the portion going into the ground, before creosoting, so as to make on them a coating of charcoal, that is a good protection.

(17) J. T. asks (1) how to make a fire bed in a forge that will not crack and get loose. A. Make the fire bed of your forge of pulverized fire brick, which can be done with a hammer. Mix with just enough common clay and water to make the mass stick together, ram the bed slightly with a stick or hammer, let it dry, and build a slow fire at first. 2. What is the best way to temper small flat springs, such as main springs in guns, etc.? A. Small springs as for gun locks should be dipped in salt water edgewise, so that the water will flow through the bend. Use as low a heat as will allow of hardening. Much depends upon the quality of steel used as to heat required. To draw temper, dip the spring in lard oil or linseed oil, and heat over the fire until the oil takes fire, then dip in oil.

(18) Mrs. F. P. writes, concerning how to keep jelly from moulding. Grease a soft paper with butter, and place it very carefully on the top of your jelly, buttered side up, and do not leave the least air bubble visible, placing the paper close to the side of the cup all round, then paste another good paper, not too stiff, over the top of cup; you will find your jelly afterward as good as when first put up.

(19) H. A. S.—Kerosene and petroleum are used in burners for cooking purposes, and in a small way for generating steam without the steam jet. Steam pressure of 3 or more pounds pressure is needed to make any reliable flame for steaming a boiler. It has been tried without pressure on burners to boilers for house heating, but all such devices have been failures from the fact that they cannot be trusted and are therefore a source of danger. We do not know enough of the particular burner you mention to venture an opinion.

(20) F. W. J. asks: 1. Will the lines of vision of a man standing on the equator and a man standing in the temperate zone, both looking in a westerly direction, be converging, diverging, or parallel lines? And if so, why? A. They will be parallel. All horizontal lines at right angles with a meridian are parallel for every degree of latitude. The reason is a geometrical one, derived from the axiom that a meridian of the earth is in a geometrical plane, and all lines at right angles to a plane are parallel. This has no relation to the dip of the horizon, which will make all lines converge from a meridian or other circle.

(21) L. C. N. asks how to enliven the cushions on a billiard table. A. The cushions of billiard tables are usually made of rubber, vulcanized; when they become hard by age and use, there is nothing that can be done but renewal.

(22) P. C. C. asks (1) a receipt for making chloroform liniment. A. Take 1 ounce each chloroform, ether, spirit of camphor, and laudanum, and 3/4 ounce tincture of Cayenne pepper. 2. How to make a blood purifier. Mix 3/4 ounce sulphate of manganese with 1 pint of water. Take a wineglassful three times a day.

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