

simply collected in cups from incisions made in the bark. To coagulate the milky juice and convert it into rubber fit for exportation, the juice of a vine called *achuca* is mixed with it, and so powerful is its action that five or six minutes is sufficient to produce coagulation. The Brazilian method slightly differs. The juice is first collected in clay bowls; it is then smeared over various shaped moulds, made also in clay and taking the form of bottles, balls, spindles, etc. Successive coats are laid on, each one having previously been allowed to thoroughly dry, either in the sun or the smoke of a fire, which blackens it. When a sufficient thickness is obtained the clay is washed out, leaving the India rubber ready for exportation. The trees yield twenty or thirty gallons of juice, and when we consider that each gallon will produce two pounds of market India rubber, the harvest is not so bad. Other trees producing caoutchouc are *Siphonia brasiliensis*, *S. lutea*, and *S. brevifolia*.

(6589) S. W. C. says: Can you give me some data for calculations relative to air? A. 1. To find the quantity of nitrogen by volume corresponding to 1 volume of oxygen, multiply by 3.770992. 2. To find the quantity of oxygen by volume corresponding to 1 volume of nitrogen, multiply by 0.265182. 3. To find the quantity of nitrogen by weight corresponding to 1 part by weight of oxygen, multiply by 3.313032. 4. To find the quantity of oxygen by weight corresponding to 1 part by weight of nitrogen, multiply by 0.301839. 5. To find the quantity of nitrogen by volume corresponding to 1 part by weight of oxygen, multiply by 2.636541. 6. To find the quantity of oxygen by volume corresponding to 1 part by weight of nitrogen, multiply by 0.2730071. 7. To find the quantity of nitrogen by weight corresponding to 1 part by volume of oxygen, multiply by 3.6629154. 8. To find the quantity of oxygen by weight corresponding to 1 part by volume of nitrogen, multiply by 0.3792848.

(6590) C. T. V. asks: 1. Why is electrical apparatus protected from lightning by lightning arresters? A. To convey away the lightning so as to prevent injury to the apparatus and the operators. 2. How to find the horse power of steam engines. A. Multiply the area of the piston in inches by the pressure of steam per square inch, then multiply this product by the speed of the piston in feet per minute and divide by 33,000. This leaves friction out of the account. 3. How to determine the proper size of fuses for electric light wires. A. As fuse wires made by different makers melt at different temperatures, an actual test of each kind of metal or alloy is required for the different diameters and lengths. Some use pure tin, others tin and lead. 4. Is it necessary for the neutral wire of a three-wire circuit to be equal to the capacity of the two outside wires combined? Why? A. No current goes by the neutral wire, unless there is a difference in the number of lamps on opposite sides thereof. In this case the neutral wire takes the difference in the current, and this only. For this reason this wire may be much smaller than the outside conductors.

TO INVENTORS.

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