

would have seemed just at hand. Many of these bodies have fallen to the earth, and may be seen in our museums.

(9788) L. E. S. asks: 1. Increase in distance requires finer wire, or a greater number of ohms resistance, in the telegraphic relay. Why is this? A. A greater distance requires a finer wire on a telegraphic relay in order to secure a greater number of turns of wire in the same space, so that the magnetizing power of the current may be as great as possible. The increase in the number of turns of wire is more important than the increase of resistance due to the finer wire. 2. Why is the glass front in the search light divided into vertical strips of glass? A. The glass in the front of a search light is divided into strips to reduce the loss if a crack is made by the heat. These need not be vertical. 3. A telegraphic cable crossing the ocean is broken. The broken place is some distance from shore. How can the distance from shore to the end of the broken cable be ascertained? What instrument is used? A. The distance to a break in a cable is determined by measuring the resistance of the cable to the break, at which point the wires are grounded, and hence have no resistance. Since the resistance per mile is already known, it is easy to calculate the distance to the break by dividing the measured resistance to the break by the resistance per mile. 4. What is the greatest number of volts that have been passed through the human body without harm? A. Volts are not passed anywhere in an electric circuit. Volts are the pressure which makes the amperes flow, and amperes do the harm to the person who receives the current. If the current has a high voltage, the shock is more severe. Men have received shocks from circuits with 2,500 volts on them without special harm, and again men have been killed when the voltage is only 500. The effect depends upon something more important than volts; that is, upon the resistance of the man who receives the shock. This is affected by the moisture or dryness of his skin and clothing, and to an extent perhaps upon his nervous condition. It depends also upon the time which the current acts upon the man. This answer relates to commercial circuits and heavy currents. When the current is that of an induction coil or high-tension transformer, such as Mr. Tesla used in his famous experiments, a million or more volts seem to be without any perceptible effect. A man may hold an incandescent lamp bulb in his hand, and the sparks fly for a long distance through the air to the lamp and light it to full candle power, while he feels nothing of the current which is passing through him. Your question then does not admit of a categorical answer.

(9789) C. P. P. asks: Will you kindly answer the following question through the column of notes and queries in your valuable paper: Which succeeds the other, day or night? A. In our calendar the day begins at midnight and the morning precedes the afternoon. The answer to your question, however, is, day succeeds night and night succeeds day in ceaseless round.

(9790) H. M. asks: 1. Could not the core of an induction coil be made longer and the secondary coil be placed beside the primary coil and not over it, and thus save considerable length of wire, and also number of turns of wire in secondary? A. Induction coils have been made with almost every possible relation of the various parts, with the result that it is a general agreement of experimenters that the usual mode of arranging is the best. The secondary coil is sometimes placed by the side of the primary in the transforming of alternating currents for lighting, but then the core is especially designed to save the lines of force. In coils for giving sparks the core should not be unnecessarily long, since the object is to secure as sudden a demagnetization of the core as possible. You would better conform to the proportions of coils as given in the best books. Take Norrie's "Induction Coils," for a guide. We can furnish it for \$1. 2. Do the outer coils of the secondary add as much strength to the coil as do the turns of wire wound nearest the core? A. The outer turns of secondary wire have not the same value in producing current as do the turns near the primary. The mode of securing a small-sized secondary is to use the finest possible wire. No. 36 to 40 is employed. 3. How is the magnetic resistance of a piece of iron calculated? If I know the ampere turns how may I know the strength of the magnet? A. The magnetic resistance, or reluctance, as it is called, is equal to the length of the circuit divided by the product of the permeability by the area of cross section of the iron. The tractive power of a magnet in pounds is found by the formula,

$$TC \cdot M \cdot \sqrt{A}$$

Pounds = $\frac{2661 L}{\dots}$

in which TC is the ampere turns, M is the permeability, A is the area of cross section of poles, and L is the mean length of magnetic circuit. 4. What voltage will a five-bar telephone generator furnish? A. The ordinary telephone generator will give from 65 to 75 volts. What a five-bar generator gives we are not able to say. 5. Why is it that a generator requires more power to turn its armature when delivering heavy current than when on open circuit? A. The generator requires more power to drive its armature when it is delivering current because it is then doing work. An engine running free does not require much

power, but when heavy machinery is connected to it, it requires much steam to drive it. 6. Can you give me the formula for constructing a tangent galvanometer so that certain degrees deflection will equal certain value of current? A. A deflection of a certain number of degrees always represents the same current in a given tangent galvanometer. You do not require any special formula to determine the current for any deflection. Use the ordinary formula for the tangent galvanometer, and substitute the natural tangents for tangent a in the formula. Calculate the corresponding current in each case. Form a table of these currents for each angle, and keep it for reference. You will then save the trouble and labor of making the calculation for each reading; we mail you a copy of our SUPPLEMENT Catalogue, in which you will find mention of articles on the construction of galvanometers.

(9791) F. C. B. asks for a padding paste. A. Glue, 4 pounds; glycerine, 2 pounds; linseed oil, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound; sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound; aniline dye, g. s. The glue is softened by soaking it in a little cold water, then dissolved together with the sugar in the glycerine by aid of heat over a water bath. To this the dye is added, after which the oil is well stirred in. It is used hot. Another composition of a somewhat similar nature is prepared as follows: Glue, 1 pound; glycerine, 4 ounces; glucose sirup, about 1 ounce; tannin, 48 grains. Give the compositions an hour or more in which to dry or set before cutting or handling the pads.

(9792) A. G. H. asks how to restore crape. A. Black crape may be freshened and made to look almost equal to new if treated in the following way: Lay over the ironing table a piece of black cambric or cloth of any kind, and pin the piece of crape smoothly through to the blanket, stretching it out to its original size. Write another piece of black cambric out of water and lay it over the crape, patting it down with the palm of the hand. Now take hot flatirons and pass them over the wet cloth, letting them just touch the cloth, but allowing no pressure to come upon the crape. When the cloth has become dry from the heat of the iron remove it, but let the crape remain pinned down until all the moisture has evaporated and it is perfectly dry. The crape will now feel and look like new. A long veil can be renovated in this way, making sure that the part redressed comes under the edge of the wet cloth.

(9793) F. J. H. asks how to make koumyss. A. Fresh milk, 12 ounces; water, 4 ounces; brown sugar, $2\frac{1}{2}$ drachms; compressed yeast, 24 grains; milk sugar, 3 drachms. Dissolve the milk sugar in the water, add to the milk, rub the yeast and brown sugar down in a mortar with a little of the mixture, then strain into the other portion. Strong bottles are very essential, champagne bottles being frequently used, and the corks should fit very tightly; in fact, it is almost necessary to use a bottling machine for the purpose, and once the cork is properly fixed it should be wired down. Many failures have resulted because the corks did not fit properly, the result being that the carbonic gas escaped as formed and left a worthless preparation. It is further necessary to keep the preparation at a moderate temperature, and to insure the article being properly finished, the bottles are to be gently shaken each day for about ten minutes to prevent the clotting of casein. It is as well to take the precaution of rolling a cloth around the bottle during the shaking process, as the amount of gas generated is great, and should the bottom be of thin glass or contain a flaw it may give way. Some few days elapse before the fermentation passes into the acid stage, and when this has taken place the preparation is much thicker. It is now in the proper condition to be used.—Pharmaceutical Era.

(9794) J. H. P. asks how to paste labels on cork. A. Gum tragacanth, 1 ounce; gum arabic, 4 ounces. Dissolve in water, 1 pint; strain, and add thymol, 14 grains, suspended in glycerine, 4 ounces; finally add water to make 2 pints. (2) Rye flour, 4 ounces; water, 1 pint; nitric acid, 1 drachm; carbolic acid, 10 minims; oil of cloves, 10 minims; glycerine, 1 ounce. Mix the flour and water, strain through cheese cloth, and add the nitric acid. Apply heat until suitably thickened, and add the other ingredients when cooling. This paste is suitable for almost any kind of labels, and it will adhere to almost anything.

(9795) F. J. C. says: Please give me a formula for library paste. A. A good white library paste may be made by any of the following processes: 1. Water, 1 quart; alum, $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce. Dissolve and add enough flour to bring to the consistency of cream, and then bring it to a boil, stirring all the time. 2. Starch, 2 drachms; sugar, 1 ounce; acacia, 2 drachms; water, sufficient. Dissolve the gum, add the sugar, and boil until the starch is cooked. 3. Rice starch, 1 ounce; gelatin, 3 drachms; water, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint. Heat with constant stirring, until the milky liquid becomes thick and glassy, when the paste is ready for use. Any of these pastes may be preserved by adding a little oil of cloves, or carbolic acid, salicylic acid, or formaldehyde.

(9796) W. B. K. asks for information concerning vanilla extract. The National Drug-gist, of St. Louis, has published the following formulas for preparing three grades of vanilla essences, translated from the Zeitschrift für Kohlen-saure Industrie: I. Vanillin, 20 parts; absolute alcohol, 600 parts; water, 450 parts.

Dissolve the vanillin in the alcohol and add the water. II. Musk, 1 part; potassium carbonate, 1 part; vanilla beans, 60 parts; boiling water, 240 parts; alcohol, 720 parts. Mix the vanilla, cut fine, the musk and potassium salt, and pour over them the boiling water. Let them stand until quite cold, then add the alcohol and set aside for 14 days. Finally strain, express, and filter the percolate. III. Vanilla in fine bits, 250 parts; alcohol, 2,500 parts; water, 1,500 parts. Mix the alcohol and water and pour one-third of the mixture over the cut beans. Put into a vessel with a tight cover, place in the water bath and keep for one hour at 60 deg. C. Pour off the liquid and set aside. To the residue in the vessel add one-half of the remaining alcohol and water, and treat in the same manner. Repeat the operation with the remainder of the liquid. Remove the vanilla to an extraction apparatus, pack and extract with 250 parts of alcohol and water mixed in the proportion indicated above. Mix the results of the three infusions, filter, and wash the filter with the result of the percolation, allowing the percolate to run through and mingle with the original filtrate. To prepare a sirup with either of these essences, mix 15 parts of the essence, 8 parts of caramel solution, and 4,500 parts of the sirup, in which 15 parts of gelatin have been previously dissolved by the aid of gentle heat.

(9797) E. G. asks: I would like to receive information on the following subject through the columns of your paper. Does it make any difference how the contact is broken on a jump spark coil, that is, will it make any difference in the secondary spark? A. The mechanism for breaking contact in the primary coil does not make much difference to the spark, provided the break is made suddenly.

(9798) C. L. T. asks for a formula for Japanner's gold size. A. Gum animi and asphaltum, each 1 ounce; red lead, yellow litharge and amber, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. Reduce to a fine powder, mix and put them with a pound of linseed oil into a pipkin, and boil gently, constantly stirring until thoroughly incorporated. Continue the boiling until it becomes as thick as tar, as it cools. Strain through flannel, and keep for use, carefully stopped up. When wanted, grind with as much vermilion as will give it an opaqueness, and dilute sufficiently with oil of turpentine to work freely with a pencil. Or, take linseed oil, 1 pound; gum animi, 4 ounces. Boil the oil, and add gradually the gum animi finely powdered, until dissolved. Let the mixture boil to the consistence of tar on cooling, then strain while warm through a coarse cloth for use. Previous to being used, it must be mixed with vermilion and oil of turpentine, as above. This size may be used on almost any substance, and no preparation of the work is necessary, beyond having an even and perfectly clean surface. To use the size, put a proper quantity prepared as above into a saucer. Then spread it with a brush over the surface to be gilded, or draw with it, by means of a pencil, the designs intended, carefully avoiding to touch any other parts. Let it remain until fit to receive the gold, which is to be determined in the same manner as in oil gilding, by the finger. Then go over the work with a soft camel's hair pencil. The whole being covered, it must be left to dry, and then the loose powder lightly brushed off. When gold leaf is used, the method of sizing is the same, but the operation requires more nicety. There are various sorts of gold powders—pure gold powder, Dutch, mosaic, etc., any of which can be procured at the artists' color shops ready for use. When the whole has been gilt, any parts uncovered may be repaired by wetting with a camel's hair pencil, and covering the part with gold, avoiding, as much as possible, touching the perfect gilding, as it frequently causes it to turn black.

(9799) A. L. B. asks how newspaper pictures can be transferred. A. Prepare a liquid by dissolving $1\frac{1}{2}$ drachms common yellow soap in 1 pint of hot water, adding, when nearly cold, $3\frac{1}{4}$ fluid ounces spirits turpentine, and shaking thoroughly together. This fluid is applied liberally to the surface of the printed matter with a soft brush or sponge (being careful not to smear the ink, which soon becomes softened) and allowed to soak for a few minutes; then well damp the plain paper on which the transfer is to be made, place it upon the engraving and subject the whole to moderate pressure for about one minute. On separating them a reversed transfer will be found on the paper.

(9800) J. B. C. asks for a benzine varnish and polish. A. Various kinds of resin can be carefully melted, according to the variety of the varnish or polish to be produced, in hermetically closed kettles under addition of boracic acid, and after cooling, moistened with methylic alcohol. The liquid gums thus treated are completely soluble in benzine. The following gums enter into use: White or yellow shellac, sandarac, mastic, Manila gum lac, stick lac, etc., either alone or mixed together, according to whether the polish and varnish is to be light colored, yellow, or red, dull, or transparent. The percentage of boracic acid, gum, and methylic alcohol varies according to the quality of the resins employed and the destination of the varnish and polish, but in no case must the quantity of boracic acid exceed 5 per cent of the resin quantity employed, and the proportion of methylic alcohol should not, even in case the hardest and most scarcely fusible gums are employed, make up more than the weight of the resin amounts

to. The contents of solid substances in the varnishes should not be less than 15 per cent and not less than 8 per cent in the polishes. According to the inventor, the benzine varnishes can not only entirely take the place of the spirit lacquers and polishes, but even afford the advantage of facilitating and accelerating the work, on account of the quicker evaporation of the benzine.

(9801) C. L. asks for a formula for red paint used on magnets. A. The "paint" used on magnets is usually non-conducting shellac varnish, carrying cinnabar. Try the following formula: Cinnabar, pulverized, 3 parts; Venice turpentine, 2 parts; shellac, pale, 1 part; alcohol, 95 per cent, sufficient. Melt turpentine and shellac, remove from fire, let cool down to about 140 deg. F., and add 10 parts of the alcohol. Rub up the cinnabar with sufficient alcohol to mix a paste, and add it to the melted mixture. Put on a water bath for a few minutes, and stir continuously, until a smooth, homogeneous fluid is obtained. Remove from fire, and stir until cold. Preserve in well-stoppered vials, and when desired for use return to the water bath, and heat until the liquid can be applied with a brush. The magnet should be warmed before applying.

NEW BOOKS, ETC.

DER EISEN-BETON UND SEINE ANWENDUNG IM BAUWESEN. Von Paul Christophe. Berlin, 1905. Verlag: Tonindustrie Zeitung. 916 illustrations. Pp. 575. Full morocco levant. Crown 8vo. Price, \$8.50.

Although originally published in 1902, it cannot be denied that the work before us is a most exhaustive and valuable contribution to a subject of ever-growing importance. Mr. Christophe's work is divided into five parts, in the chapters of each of which an enormous amount of material, which he was able to gather in his capacity of engineer, has been admirably distributed. In the first part, general principles and methods of construction are discussed. In the second, methods of application are treated. In the third, the preparation of material is discussed. The fourth division is devoted to theoretical considerations, and the fifth is a thorough review of the advantages and disadvantages of reinforced concrete.

MODERN ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION. By Henry C. Horstman and Victor H. Tousley. Chicago: Frederick J. Drake & Co., 1905. 16mo.; pp. 345. Price, \$1.50.

This work is intended as a reliable and practical guide to the beginner in electrical construction. The rules of the National Electrical Code adopted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters are contained in full and are used as a text with proper explanatory matter interspersed. The book is thoroughly practical and is well illustrated.

THE OUTLOOK OF NATURE. By L. H. Bailey. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905. 8vo.; pp. 296. Price, \$1.25.

The contents of this volume consist of four lectures delivered last January at the Colonial Theater, Boston, as a part of the University course, under the auspices of the educational committee of the Twentieth Century Club. The lectures are on the following subjects: "The Realm of the commonplace"; "City and Country"; "The School of the Future," and "Evolution: A Quest of Truth."

THE SANITATION OF A COUNTRY HOUSE. By Dr. Harvey B. Bashore. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1905. 12mo.; pp. 102. Price, \$1.

This small volume contains many useful hints on the proper sanitation and beautifying of a country place. Its author has had a great deal of experience in his capacity of inspector for the State Board of Pennsylvania. Not only is the subject of sanitation and proper sanitary arrangements of a country house and its surroundings gone into, but the book also describes the proper method of constructing a sanitary camp. The book is very completely illustrated by some fifteen half-tone plates. We recommend it most heartily to all dwellers in the country.

PLANE AND SPHERICAL TRIGONOMETRY. By P. A. Lambert and H. A. Foering. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1905. 12mo.; pp. 104. Price, 60 cents.

The authors believe that this textbook will develop in the student the ability to think out and apply the relations between the trigonometric functions. Tables of the functions are not included in the book, as the authors consider it better that the student should use separate tables. The whole work is so arranged that it encourages the student to use his reasoning powers, not merely to memorize.

FARMER'S CYCLOPEDIA OF AGRICULTURE. By Earley Vernon Wilcox, Ph.D., and Clarence Beaman Smith, M.S. New York: Orange Judd Company, 1904. Small 4to.; pp. 619, 477 illustrations. Price, \$3.50.

Believing that a digest of the results—for it is results that the farmer is after—obtained by farmers and experimenters is greatly needed, the authors undertook the publication of this work. The volume contains a large amount of valuable information which has been culled from the farming papers, the Bulletins of the Ameri-

