

Cure for Damp Walls.

What owner of a suburban villa can say that he has never experienced the disagreeableness of dampness in his snug retreat? No matter how well drained the site of the house may be, nor how careful the foundations have been covered with asphalt, there is sure to appear, in some place or other, that atrocious plague spot on our comforts, "a little damp;" and when once it shows itself, it is difficult to drive away. We hail, therefore, with great pleasure a discovery which, to use a hackneyed phrase, will prove "a real blessing to mothers," leaving fathers out of view entirely. A correspondent of the Builder thus announces the discovery:-- "We would direct the attention of your readers to a waterproofing solution, the most effective that we have yet met with. The manufacturers term it 'petrifying liquid.' It is made from a very curious species of silica lately discovered in Wales, in the basin of an extinct volcano, and which now forms the bed of a small lake. This deposit we saw referred to in the Engineering a week or two back. It is silica of the richest quality, containing, when dry, over 90 per cent. of that mineral, and calcined to an impalpable powder, and snow-white. The Silicate Paint Company of Liverpool, who have this deposit in their hands, use it as a base for their paints instead of lead, and a most beautiful glossy paint it makes, setting extremely hard; but the waterproofing solution is invaluable to builders or owners of property that is subject to damp. We have used this 'petrifying liquid' constantly for the last eighteen months, in its transparent and colored state, and it does not matter whether the damp is driven in from the outside through the absorbency of the stone, brick, &c., or arises from the ground. We have found this solution to completely effect a cure, and at a very cheap rate. We have also applied it to newly-plastered walls, and papered on them immediately afterwards, and no sign of damp have we yet perceived.

It appears that this silica, being in such an extremely fine state of division, by this chemical liquid is conveyed into the pores of the stone, plaster, or brick, and combines with any moisture that is already in the wall, when exposure to the atmosphere for a few hours causes it to petrify and return to a flint again. Plaster or brick that has perished it hardens in really a wonderful manner. In this country we have more than our share of moisture, and we have found the 'petrifying liquid' the only permanent cure for dampness. --Scottish Farmer

The Debts of the World.

It is not a very easy matter to discover the actual indebtedness of either Europe or the world; but it is possible to give an approximate estimate of the total liabilities of Continental nations. There are seven European nations which owe upwards of £100,000,000 each. They are:--

Table with 2 columns: Country and Debt Amount. Includes Great Britain (£790,000,000), France (748,000,000), Italy (360,000,000), Russia (355,000,000), Austria (306,000,000), Spain (261,000,000), Turkey (124,000,000).

£2,744,000,000

The debt of the German Empire amounts to a little over £35,000,000. The different States composing it, however, owe in the aggregate about £173,000,000. The liabilities of the Empire may, therefore, be probably placed at about £208,000,000. The debts of the eight most heavily encumbered European countries may in this way be raised to about £3,152,000,000! There are six other countries in Europe which owe their creditors more than £10,000,000, but less than £100,000,000. They are--Holland, Portugal, Belgium, Greece, Roumania, Denmark. These six countries add £214,000,000 to our previous total, and raise the national liabilities of Europe to £3,366,000,000. --Full Mail Gazette.

A little girl who had great kindness of heart for all the animal creation, saw a hen preparing to gather her chickens under her sheltering wings, and shouted earnestly; "O! don't sit down on those beautiful little birds, you great, ugly, old rooster!"

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