

FINISH OF OAK.

A correspondent of the Building News says:—During my long experience I have had largely to deal with first-class oak work, both ecclesiastical and domestic. I have always found oiling unsatisfactory except for large flat horizontal surfaces, where the oil will lie evenly, and so that plenty of friction can be obtained very frequently. French polishing is altogether out of the question—it is unsatisfactory at first and does not improve with age.

Where dust is very prevalent it is desirable to wax the surface with beeswax and turpentine, this should be very thin—just sufficient to fill up the pores of the wood, and little, if any, left on the surface), brushed well in and then well rubbed and polished with clean white cloths, taking care to clean out all wax, etc., from mitts, quirks, etc.

The most satisfactory way of finishing in my opinion is as follows:—Never attempt to do it either cheaply or in dusty places. If wainscot is used it should be the best quality Crown Riga; no other quality of oak has the same richness of colour and tone; it requires perfect seasoning in an atmosphere free from smoke, and to be worked by skillful joiners used in this class of wood only. All mouldings and ornamental work should be worked on the solid—none should be permitted to be planted—as nothing has a worse effect than framings to be of one color and grain with mouldings and ornaments of another; the wood should be carefully selected to harmonize in color and be free from dark streaks and other defects; the work left entirely from the plane and not touched with sand-paper, having nothing put upon its surface, but left in its natural tint; then it will soon tone down to a beautiful color and will improve with age.

All one-sided work, such as framing on walls, should have two or three coats of red-lead paint before fixing, to stop the porosity of the wood, otherwise the grains of the wood will soon get choked with dust and spoil the color of the wood. No sprig, nail, or screw-holes to be seen on the wood. All work should be screw-

slotted on grounds or specially made irons, for the purpose of secret fixing.

FORCE OF THE WIND

On the 30th of October, at the first meeting for the Session of the City of London College Science Society, Professor Henry Adams, M. I. C. E., one of the vice-presidents, read a paper on "The Force of the Wind." After reviewing a number of the recorded experiments on wind pressure, he tabulated the results upon a common basis to show that within certain limits the intensity of the pressure increased with the area of the receiving surface; but over large areas the maximum was not reached in practise, owing to the wind moving in concentrated gusts. An account was given of the pressure said to have been reached in various historical gales and extracts from various standard works as to the proper pressure to be estimated for in designing structures. In conclusion he suggested

that, although 56 lbs. per square foot might be looked upon as the standard, this should be modified according to the circumstances of the case—viz., with the height from ground level, the unsupported width, and the angle of incidence. The pressures, according to the tables submitted, varied from 16 lbs. at ground level, to 80 lbs. at a height of 200 ft., and in the latter case from 80 lbs. at a width of 10 ft. to 40 lbs. at a width of 1,000 ft., while the multiplier for angle varied from .45 at 5° to 1.00 at 60° to 90°.

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