

I write this because the remarks of your correspondent are calculated to convey a wrong impression, and not because I am entirely in accord with the line taken by the Dennys. They were cautious in their preliminary work on tube-mills; their verdict was amply justified by results. They did a good deal of preliminary work with filter-presses; there, too, their decision seems justified by results. Whether they displayed the same caution in building two new plants depending on solution of the gold by what we may term 'mortar-box contact' would be a much more debatable subject except for the fact that it appears they provided additional plant for the purpose, but the use of which was not found in practice to be necessary, and I have been advised—not from any source connected with the Messrs. Denny—that Mr. Albu has strongly objected to the expenditure of the money on this precautionary measure, though the vats have been converted to other use.

It looks, therefore, not merely as if Messrs. Denny have proved their case to the hilt, but that indeed this same system has been adopted in practically all the latest American plants and in a number of those in other territories. To my mind a serious matter against the new system is the difficulty of copper-plate amalgamation. In Australia, pans are successfully used for the purpose, and I have no doubt that other suitable methods will be devised in plenty—possibly by the use of some special alloy for amalgamating plates—now that the need of special effort in this direction is known; but I cannot believe that a method of extracting all the gold in the slime at practically no expense for plant (as far as the solution of gold is concerned) will be lightly abandoned by the industry (I do not refer here to South African practice only) merely because of a faulty or ineffective method of obtaining preliminary assay-values. The saving in cost of equipment alone is a factor compelling most serious attention.

In conclusion, I am not prepared to admit that the Messrs. Denny have yet made out their case in favor of all-sliming. If the words "finer grinding" are substituted for "all-sliming" there would be general agreement with them, but personally I am of opinion that it is still the most satisfactory and economical method in general practice—with exceptions—to percolate in vats, without expense for power or handling, all the sand suitable for percolation in vats, the remaining pulp receiving the