

Castings subjected to steam pressure—Twenty pounds of copper, one and one-half pounds of tin, one pound of lead, and one pound of zinc.

Pumps and pump chambers—Eight pounds of copper and one pound of tin; to every 100 pounds of this mixture add one and one-half pounds of lead and one and one-half pounds of zinc.

Piston packing rings—Sixteen pounds of copper, two and one-quarter pounds of tin; to every 100 pounds of this mixture add one pound of zinc and one pound of lead.

#### THE NEW FRENCH TELEPHONE LEGISLATION.

The *Journal Officiel* has just published two decrees relative to telephonic communications. The first has for its object the fixing of the rate of payment for telephonic conversations on the urban and interurban lines, when they are not subject to the *régime* of subscription. The following is the text of the first decree:—Article 1.—The amount to be paid on entering a public telephone cabin to obtain communication with an urban line is fixed at 50 c. at Paris, and at 25 c. in all the other towns of France. Article 2.—The elementary amount to be paid for an interurban telephone conversation is fixed at 50 c. per 100 kilometres or fraction of 100 kilometres of distance between the points joined by the telephone line. The distance is calculated according to the real route of each line. Article 3.—For the application of the amounts above indicated the normal duration of the conversation is fixed at five minutes. This duration may be reduced to three minutes on lines, and under determined conditions by Ministerial warrant. If the needs of the service require it, a conversation may not be prolonged beyond the double duration of its normal duration. Article 4.—All dispositions contrary to the present decrees are abrogated, save those of the decree of December 28th, 1886, fixing the amount to be collected for telephonic communications exchanged between Paris and Brussels. Article 5.—The amounts fixed above will be applicable on and from November 1st.

It may be mentioned that, according to anterior decrees, the amount to be paid was fixed at 1 franc between Paris and Reims, Paris and Havre, Paris and Rouen, and Paris and Lille, which are all more than 100 kilometres distant. The amount payable for communications exchanged over the Paris-Brussels line (340 kilometres) was fixed at three francs, that for communications between Paris and Lyons (531 kilometres) was fixed at 2 francs, and that for communications between Paris and Marseilles (880 kilometres) at three francs.

The object of the second decree is to authorize and regulate the telephonic translation of telegrams. It runs as follows: Article 1.—The subscribers to the urban telephone lines may send and receive telegrams by the line by which they are connected with those lines. The transmission of these telegrams is carried out gratuitously, with the exception hereafter noted; but it is subordinated to the prior deposit of a sum destined to guarantee the payment of the telegraphic amount. In towns having a subterranean line, the subscriber who proposes to make use of the foregoing disposition has to deposit annually, and in advance, a sum of 50 francs. Article 2.—Localities other than the principal places of a canton may be joined to a telegraph office by means of a telephone wire. This wire, and the telephone office which serve it, are established with the participation of the communes interested. The part to be contributed by these communes to the expenses of the first establishment is fixed at 100 francs per kilometre of new line to be constructed or at 50 francs per kilometre of wire to be

established on already existing supports, and at 300 francs for the apparatus and installation of the telephone post. Article 3.—In localities possessing a postal receipt office, the telephone service is confided to the receiver. In all the others, the manager of the telephone offices and his deputy are nominated by the *maire* after having been agreed to by the departmental director. They may be replaced on the demand of the Administration. They benefit on the transmission of telegrams by the same allowances as the managers of municipal telegraph offices. They take the same professional oath. Article 4.—Every person may send and receive telegrams by a municipal telephone line. The transmission of these telegrams is carried out gratuitously, but it is subordinated to the payment of the telegraphic amount. The payment of this amount is affected by the manager of the telephone office. If this manager be not at the same time a postal receiver, his receipts and his expenses are included in the accounts of the telegraph office with which it communicates. Article 5.—Every telegram intended to be distributed by a municipal telephone office is subject of the expenses of special messenger, unless the municipality may have made arrangements for gratuitous distribution. Article 6.—A telegram may only be telephoned, either by an urban line or by a municipal line, if it be written in French, in clear language, and if its text does not exceed 50 words.

Hitherto, this distribution has been effected gratuitously on the State lines; but the General Telephone Company only authorised it on its lines on payment of a premium on the subscription of fifty francs. Now that the State works directly all the urban lines, it suppresses this duality of régime. Still, one exception has been admitted, as has been seen. It has reference to towns which have a subterranean line. Its object is to prevent crowding in places where the space reserved for the wires is limited by the canalisation, the line of which they must follow.

#### PAINS IN THE HEAD DURING THE GROWING PERIOD.

It is a matter of common occurrence that young people of both sexes are compelled to interrupt their attendance at school on account of a cephalopathy that the author terms *cephalalgia of the growing period*. It commonly occurs between the ages of twelve and eighteen years, is accompanied by dizziness and *malaise* and is excited by any intellectual effort, sometimes even by the reading of an entertaining book. Its location is mainly in the temples, but it also involves the hairy scalp from the orbits to the mastoid processes, or even the entire head.

The patient is at times irritable, easily excited, or inclined to sadness and to spells of weeping. They are wont to complain that they cannot do as their comrades do. It is a mistaken idea to treat such persons as malingerers, and to attempt compulsory means, which cannot possibly yield good results.

Together with the phenomena mentioned are also to be seen anomalies of refraction and accommodation, as myopia, hypermetropia, and astigmatism, and in fact, diseases of the eyes in general. Proper glasses or other appropriate treatment will often lead to a rapid recovery, but such is not always the case.

Additional means of treatment should be complete cessation from intellectual effort, change of air, and appropriate medication.—*Rev. mens. des Mal. de l'E.; Arch. of Ped.*

#### "EVERY MAN HIS OWN ASSAYER."

EDITORS PRESS:—At your request I have investigated the powder recently advertised by Prof. Herman, under the heading of "Every Man His Own Assayer," and the professor