

INFLUENCE OF COLOUR ON HEALTH.

The influence of colour on health is not understood as it should be by the general public. A writer recently called attention to the impropriety of employing large masses of depressing and cold French grey on the walls of school rooms and other public buildings, protesting that this colour exerts a baneful influence on the mind, and that it is not cheaper or neater, or more cleanly than half a dozen other tints that might be used. And such a circumstance would be impossible if the public were educated to the right use of colour. French grey is a mixture of white, Prussian blue and vermilion, or of white, lampblack and Indian red, all in certain proportions, but with the cold blue or black predominant. Blue possesses in the greatest degree, the quality technically called coldness in colouring, and it communicates this property variously to all colours with which it is compounded. Orange is the complimentary of the cold blue, and represents the maximum of the heat attained by the gradually ascending series of warm colours. Midway between the cold blue and hot orange the medium is found at purple yellow and yellowish-green. Having ascertained what are cold and what hot colours, it is easy enough to arrange suitable colourings for the interiors of buildings of any kind. A room done in warm or hot colours always possesses a cheerful, inviting appearance. Done in cool or cold colours it seems cold and uninviting. And not only seems so, but is so, as has been demonstrated by experiment. As great a difference as four degrees of violet and red by passing the prismatic colours slowly and gradually before a finely graduated thermometer at the bulb.

In hot weather cool colours are useful. Then soft and delicate shades of green and greys in which blue or green predominate are the most grateful to the eye. Such colours are restful, and to the normal eye especially agreeable. But public places and buildings sheltering patients suffering from various mental or physical diseases should use such colours at all seasons as especially fit the nature of the patient's ailment. Where it is well to excite the imagination the reds will be found useful; for the hypochondriacal, yellow is good, while for the convalescing and those suffering from certain maladies, where it is desirable that the mind should be soothed and rested, the blues in various tints may be used.

REMARKABLE FEAT IN BUILDING MOVING.

A very remarkable feat in building moving was recently performed at Jamaica Station, on the Providence division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, when the large factory of the Sturtevant Blower Works was moved four hundred feet without stopping work in the building. An interesting part of this work, to the electrical interests in particular, is the fact that the work in the three-story building was carried on during

the entire time while the building was being moved, except on the lower floor, which being laid on the ground, necessitated the removing of all the tools from that floor, the second story, in which a part of the smaller steel plate blowers are made and tested, and the upper story, in which blast wheels and other blower appurtenances are built, were kept running all the time during the moving process.

An electric motor of about twenty horse power was located in the second floor of the building, and belted to main line of shaft.

On this floor was erected a reel of wire, one end being connected to the motor, and the other end to the generator set in the engine room, and as the building was moved the wire was unreel, and in this way an electric current was furnished for the driving of the motor at all times during the moving of the building. The building is one hundred and seventy-five feet long, fifty feet wide and three stories high, with brick walls twenty inches thick at the first floor and sixteen inches thick at the second floor, with a heavily timbered and monitor roof, and is one of the largest and heaviest buildings ever moved in New England. The speed in moving was at the rate of about sixty feet per day.

It is believed that this is the first instance of any building being moved while the work was carried on in it at the same time. Especially interesting is the fact that the building is so large and heavy, and was so successfully moved under the conditions that would not have been possible except by means of electricity.—*New Ideas.*

EGYPTIAN BRICKS.

Egyptian bricks were generally crude, mixed with straw and dried in the sun, says Architecture and Building. Kiln burnt bricks were occasionally used in foundations, quays, the raised terraces on which the towns were built, or in any situation where they would be exposed to frequent contact with water. The crude bricks were about 15 inches in length, 7 inches in breadth, and a little more than 5 inches in thickness; this simple material was found to be peculiarly suitable to that dry, hot climate, where rain scarcely ever falls, and were further recommended by the ease and rapidity with which they could be made. The brick fields afforded abundant occupation for numerous laborers, and the demand was so great and the trade so profitable that the Egyptian Government took it into their own hands and considerably increased the revenue by this monopoly. In order to prevent unau-

thorized persons from engaging in this manufacture, a seal containing the name of the king or some other privileged person was stamped upon the bricks before they were dried; numerous bricks thus stamped, have been found at Thebes and elsewhere. According to Vitruvius, crude bricks should only be manufactured in spring or autumn, in order that they may dry slowly; those which are made in the heat of summer speedily dry outside, while the inside remains moist; the brick thus becomes defective and easily gives way. He further observes that bricks ought to have been dried five years before they can be considered fit for use, and that their having been so should be certified by a magistrate. If these rules originated with the ancient Egyptians, it is probable that the stamp before mentioned may also have been a warrant of the solidity of the bricks.

USEFUL HINTS.

American pine when green weighs forty four pounds twelve ounces to the cubic foot. When seasoned, its weight is reduced to thirty pounds eleven ounces.

A cubic foot of the best English oak when green weighs seventy-one pounds ten ounces. When seasoned, the wood is reduced to forty three pounds eight ounces.

TRANSVERSE STRENGTH OF BRICKS.—The value of knowing the transverse (as distinct from the compressive) strength of bricks was never better exemplified than at the present time, says the British Clayworker. The drought of the past summer has led to considerable "settlement" in houses in various parts of the country, especially those built on soil clay. The result of the unequal strains produced by this movement has naturally tended to form large cracks in the walls, and these do not always follow along the mortar joints, but frequently pass through the bricks. It is often stated that no practical results accrue from knowing the strength of a brick. In proof of this we are told that the strain that is brought about by the weight of the superstructure of an immense building like that of St. Peter's at Rome, for example, is not sufficient to crack any but the very poorest class of brick; the inference is that, for ordinary buildings, practically any kind of brick will do, so far as its "crushing weight" is concerned. But though this is perfectly correct so far as actual compressive strength goes, it will not hold good for transverse strength. Hardly any results have been published on the latter; our knowledge is sadly wanting in that respect.

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