

# THE ENGINEERS' LIBRARY

Supplement to THE CANADIAN ENGINEER.

62 Church St., Toronto, Ont.

## CONTENTS OF ENGINEERS' LIBRARY.

Use of a Scrap Book .....	XVII
Book Reviews .....	XVII
Publications Received .....	XVIII
Catalogues Received .....	XIX

## THE USE OF A SCRAP BOOK.

At this time, when there is so much literature on technical subjects produced, it is difficult for the engineer to arrange and file information on various subjects without over-stacking his library. To attempt to provide shelf-room for the magazines and technical articles which the engineer glances over would be a burden. Almost every magazine has an illustration, a half-column article or a drawing which he considers of enough interest to save. Even certain sections of text books and catalogues are very valuable as subjects for reference.

For the systematic arranging and careful consideration of the hundred and one odds and ends that the engineer values we know of nothing better than a loose-leaf scrap book. Here the engineer may take care of the scraps which he has clipped from many sources and arrange them in some systematic order and index and cross-index so that he will have the necessary information close at hand for ready reference. The ordinary scrap book quickly gets out of date, and is usually discarded after a short trial. The attempt to keep it in sections fails, and the indexing becomes vexatious and cumbersome. With the loose-leaf scrap book pages may be inserted or removed at pleasure, and, as the information changes or improves on any one subject, the scrap book can be revised without interfering with the other sections.

Such a scrap book will become quickly the text book, the hand book and a small encyclopædia all in one, and will prove one of the most useful publications found in the engineer's office.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

**"Concrete Wall Forms."**—By A. A. Houghton; published by the Norman W. Henley Publishing Co., New York. A treatise of 60 pages 5 x 7. Price 50c.

This book is the first of a series of treatises by the same author on concrete construction. In this treatise the matter of bracing wall forms and centering and general procedure of wall construction is gone into. A simple method is given of determining what the width of the footing course should be, in order to distribute the load evenly over the foundation. Also the matter of estimating the tensile strength and the shearing strength, or ability to withstand the shearing stress, is dealt with in a practical manner. Useful and practical clamps for forms are discussed and diagrams of the same are shown. Several pages are devoted to the explanation of the manufacture and use of an automatic wall-clamp. The matter of clamp adjustment and operation of forms is a feature to be noted. Some pages of the book are devoted

to the construction features which aid in the secure placing of floor-joists, doors, window frames, and all parts of a building, which would depend for firmness upon their concrete wall supports. The general molding processes connected with wall construction and cheap wall construction, as well as fireproof, damp-proof and dust-proof wall construction, are treated with in this book. Some interesting information on the joining of two sections of wall together and in connection with this the acid treatment of old concrete surfaces preparatory to bonding, is well described. Some half-a-dozen descriptive diagrams of retaining walls with information attached concludes the book.

**"Concrete Floors and Sidewalks."**—A. A. Houghton's series of short treatises upon concrete construction is a book of 60 pages containing much valuable information on the construction of concrete floors and sidewalks. In the opening pages of this book the fundamental principles which underlie all concrete floor and sidewalk construction, that deserves the name, are outlined, and the reasons for unsatisfactory work are shown and advice given so that such results may be avoided. General directions with regard to forms, materials for concrete and mixing of concrete, also figure largely in a portion of the book, and drawings of the various tools for laying of concrete. Ornamental concrete work for flooring purposes is treated with in the last twenty pages of the book and the molds for diamond, hexagonal, and other shape blocks are described. Some hints about reinforcements for floors and walks are given in these last few pages.

**Dustman's Book of Plans** (and Building Construction for General Contractors and Home Builders). Published by Charles C. Thompson Company, Chicago. Size 13 x 9; pp. 240; price \$2.00.

This book aims to instruct the builder, carpenter, and anyone who desires to construct houses. The book acquaints the reader at the start with the fact that plans drawn by an architect are the only means of binding a contractor and are the best guide to carrying on satisfactory work. Mr. Thompson claims to have a very thoroughly systematized method of furnishing plans and for doing architectural designs at the utmost speed and at a minimum cost. The first few pages of the book are devoted to a treatment of this scheme and to general suggestions, as to the requirements of a comfortably arranged home, as to size of rooms and novelties which add to convenience. Following some floor plans and other sectional plans, a treatment of practical geometrical problems is given such as confront the builder and carpenter: as, for example, a simple method of constructing an ellipse, finding the area of an octagon bay window and similar instructive problems. These are given in a most simple and clear manner so that they may be easily understood by anyone. These lead up to more difficult problems in building construction; stair work is gone into quite extensively and a useful table for determining treads and risers is appended, besides a list of terms relative to stair construction. The same procedure is carried through dealing with the construction of window frames, store fronts, brick work, window frames for brick walls and general construction. A page is devoted to each of these subjects, containing in some cases a dozen practical problems, illustrated by a plate of figures 12 x 8 directly opposite and facing and having its figure plainly and distinctively