

Harbor, but does not account for their absence from the remainder of the Bay where clear salt water is found. No doubt the low temperature of the water in the summer months, making the conditions for their young so unfavorable, is to be thanked for our comparative immunity from them.

Such being the relation of *Teredo* to man's interests, it is not surprising that great attention and much experiment have been given by practical as well as scientific men to methods of circumventing them. The most carefully conducted and systematic experiments on record are those described by Dr. Von Baumhauer in the first of the works mentioned below. It obviously does not come within the scope, as it certainly is not allowed by the limits of a paper of this character, to describe at length the experiments or the mode of application of the latter. Those practically interested are referred to the three papers below, that by Dr. Von Baumhauer, the very excellent one by Mr. Murphy, and that by J. W. Putnam, which, though it contains some errors of natural history, appears to be sound and complete from a practical standpoint. All of these are easily accessible.

The Commission, of which Dr. Von Baumhauer was a member, experimented with all means proposed to them by inventors and others. Eight different methods of coating wood were tried, including mineral paints, varnishes, poisonous substances, etc., but none of them proved of any value. They tried six methods of impregnating wood with different substances, including some of the very poisonous salts of copper, iron and lead, only one of which proved efficient. The successful one was oil of creosote — a coal-tar product.

This method proved successful when good oil was used, and to-day it is acknowledged by engineers that the only efficacious way to preserve timber permanently from the attacks of the *Teredo* is to thoroughly impregnate it with creosote. The process must be thorough, for partially filled timbers will be destroyed. The mechanics of the process of impregnation are described in the paper by J. W. Putnam, referred to below. It consists in forcing the oil under great pressure into the previously prepared wood. Woods of loose