

RECENT BRITISH PUBLICATIONS.

Armstrong, Robt., Construction and Management of Steam Boilers, 5th ed. 12 mo....	0	1	6	<i>Virtue.</i>
Bemrose, Jun., Wm., Manual of Wood Carving, 3rd ed. cr. 4to	0	5	0	<i>Bemrose.</i>
Bourne, John, Catechism of the Steam Engine, new ed. fcap. 8vo.....	0	9	0	<i>Longmans.</i>
“ “ Recent improvements in the Steam Engine, fcap. 8vo.	0	3	6	<i>Longmans.</i>
Dixon, Thomas, Millwright's and Engineer's Ready Reckoner, post 8vo.....	0	3	0	<i>Spon.</i>
Fadley, George, Study of Science and its undue neglect.....	0	2	0	<i>Willis & Soth.</i>
Gibbs, Wm., Decorative Alphabets for the Chisel, Brush, &c., 4to.	0	7	6	<i>Houlston.</i>
Mansfield, C. B., Theory of Salts: the Constitution of Chem. Compounds, cr. 8vo. ...	0	14	0	<i>McMillan.</i>
Marett, P. P., Yachts and Yacht Building, new issue, 8vo.....	0	6	0	<i>Spon.</i>
Odling, Wm., Practical Chemistry for Medical Students, post 8vo.....	0	7	6	<i>Longmans.</i>
Reid, Geo., Tables of Exchange of Sterling Money and of Dollars, 2d ed. 8vo.....	0	10	6	<i>Richardson.</i>
Taylor's System of Stenography, revised by J. H. Cooke, new ed. 12mo.....	0	3	0	<i>Simpkin.</i>
Templeton's Millwright's and Engineer's Pocket Companion, 14th ed. 12mo ...	0	5	0	“
“ Engineer's Common-place Book, 6th ed. 12mo.....	0	5	0	“
White, J. B., Linen and Linen Yarn Trades' Ready Reckoner, 8vo.....	1	0	0	<i>E. Wilson.</i>
Wine Merchant, The, or the Art of making Wine, 12mo.....	0	4	0	<i>Loftus.</i>

Correspondence.

CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the Board of Arts Journal.

SIR,—In the Brantford firm's reply to the criticism on the article published in your Journal laudatory of their manufactures, &c., they point out a discrepancy in that criticism which may be corrected. The idea intended to be conveyed was simply this: that I did not believe they had all the mechanical talent of the country in their establishment; that many other mechanics in the country, though not given to puffing, could do all that this firm *can* do, and probably more.

With your permission I may have a few remarks to make shortly on their reply, though not in any unkind spirit towards this firm more than others that show themselves to be “*par excellence*” in the mighty art.

It is a disagreeable duty sometimes to undertake such criticism, but it is necessary in order to protect and encourage that unobtrusive class of men, who, though of good ability, from their modesty or diffidence, shrink from coming in contact with those who proclaim such wonderful improvements.

Z.

Selected Articles.

THE RAW MATERIAL OF THE LINEN TRADE.

BY PROFESSOR HODGES, M D., F.C.S., QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.

The first portion of this paper relates more particularly to the cultivation and management of the plant, which scarcely comes within the scope of this journal; the following, on the structure and chemical composition of the stem of the plant, and

its preparation for the spinner, will be found both valuable and instructive:—

“About the end of July, or early in August, when the seed has been sown about the middle of April, the flax plant may be expected to have attained that degree of maturity, which is regarded as affording the fibre in the most suitable condition for textile purposes. In Belgium, as we have stated, the flax is generally pulled in a greener state than in this country, as the object is to obtain the most delicate qualities of fibre; but the Irish growers find that the amount of loss in managing the soft and tender straw renders it more profitable to allow the plants to become more mature, before attempting their removal. We have already described the simple operations adopted in removing the crop. It might be expected that at this stage the business of the farmer properly terminated. Such is the case in many continental countries. In Belgium the crop is purchased by factors, who relieve the grower from all the trouble of further management, and undertake the various operations required to prepare the fibre for the spinner. If this system could be adopted in this country, it would tend in no small degree to facilitate the extended cultivation of the crop, especially in those new districts in the south and west of Ireland, in which efforts have lately been made to encourage the farmers to introduce it.

In Ireland, however, at the present time, the flax-grower also prepares the fibre for the market. When the crop has been pulled, the usual method adopted, where the farmer has learned to value the seed, is to proceed at once to remove the seed capsules or *bolls*. This is effected by drawing the straw through an implement called “a ripple,” which consists of a number of tapering angular bars of iron, each 18 inches long, fixed to a block of wood. These bars are placed three-sixteenths of an inch apart at the bottom, and at the top are about half an inch asunder. This row of iron teeth is screwed to a plank nine feet long, and is usually supported on two stools. The bolls are received upon a winnowing cloth placed under, and afterwards dried first by exposure to the sun, and finally to the heat of a kiln at a temperature not exceeding 70°. As the ripping proceeds, the straw deprived of the bolls is made up into small bundles, and secured by ties formed of rushes, which have pre-