

into hot water. Too many precautions cannot be used in the thawing of explosives for, during that operation, the nitro-glycerine is very sensitive and consequently more liable than usual to explode. The best means is to have a small special building for thawing dynamite or to use the small thawers supplied by the manufacturers of explosives. In no case should the explosive be exposed to a temperature higher than 90° F.

The objection to directly exposing the cartridges to the sun's rays or to heat is that the nitroglycerine or the other nitrates which these explosives contain may then undergo decomposition which would change the effect of the explosion. On the other hand, as above stated, nitroglycerine in thawing is very sensitive and any too prompt rise in the temperature might be disastrous.

STORING EXPLOSIVES

The storing of explosive is another thing which should never be neglected; as far as possible explosives should be kept away from heat, dampness, fire, electric discharge of any kind, projectiles and thieves.

It is important therefore to have for the purpose a building protected against weather changes and it should be fire-proof, perfectly ventilated and located in a well chosen spot from which all vegetation or refuges of any kind liable to spread fire should be removed. The building should be partly underground and covered with materials proof against projectiles. Lightning rods should be erected at different points around the building. The structure should be kept scrupulously clean, by removing the dust and sweeping every day; the dust collected by the broom should be thrown into the water or conveyed to some safe spot. If it be noticed that the floor has been stained by the nitro-glycerine leaking from the cartridges, the stains should be rubbed with dry saw dust and then washed with a solution of sulphide of sodium in wood alcohol ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb of the sulphide to $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of wood alcohol). To prevent the leaking of the nitro-glycerine, care should be taken to store the cartridges by placing them in a box in which they may lie horizontally. A box of dynamite should never be opened in the magazine and the first cartridges to hand should be always used. Before making any repairs to the store, the explosives should be first removed from it. Under no consideration should the detonators be placed in the magazine; they should be put in another safe place. Conspicuous placards, bearing in large print the words "Explosives—Danger" should be placed on the four walls of the building.

ACCIDENTS TO WORKMEN

In open workings, which are not more than 200 to 300 feet deep or less, the ascent and descent of the workmen should be effected by means of ladders