

the young workman to build a rail so that it will assume a handsome appearance when set in place. There are eleven distinct styles of stairs shown, but the same principle that governs the making of the simplest rail, governs the construction of the most difficult, so, having once mastered the simple problems in this system, progress in the art will become easy, and a little study and practice will enable the workman to construct a rail for the most tortuous stairway.

A knowledge of geometry is not required in the study of this system, but it would aid the workman materially if he possessed a knowledge of that science, and where possible he should avail himself of acquiring as much knowledge of geometry as possible, not only for the study of handrailing but nearly every branch of the building trade.

The progressive lessons given herewith will, I am sure, be of great assistance to stair-builders already engaged in the business and to the young aspiring mechanic, anxious to master every branch of his trade and to penetrate all its mysteries. This system will open a hitherto sealed book, especially to the young man whose knowledge of geometry may be rather limited. There will be no labyrinthic network of lines to torment and confuse the student, nothing but what is absolutely necessary to obtain the face moulds and bevels for marking and working the wreaths. The figures from I to II show flights of stairs of various shapes and forms, and cover all the examples the workman will ever likely be called upon to build. At any rate, if he should have to construct a form of stairs not shown in these examples, the knowledge gained by a study of these presented will enable him