

CONSTRUCTIVE CARPENTRY

The diagrams shown on the opposite column will be obvious to the student in architecture. The method of connecting the tie beams to the wall either by circular plates outside of the wall, or by S's or by plates or bolts inserted inside the stone or brick-work so as not to be observable outside, are shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

FIG. 1.

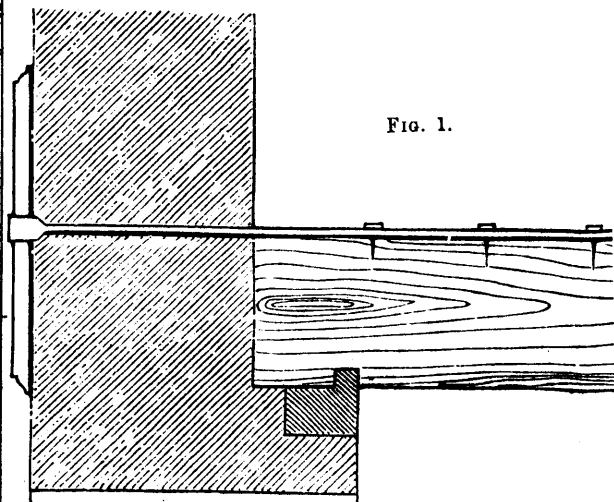


FIG. 2.

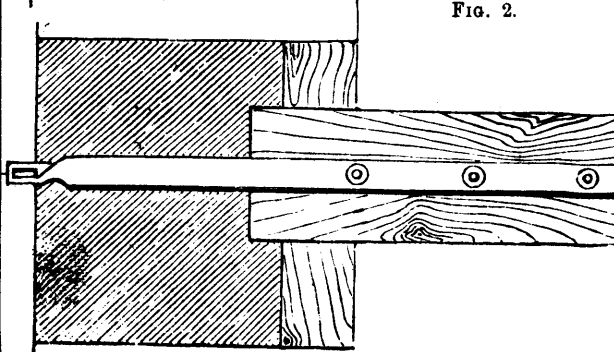


FIG. 3.

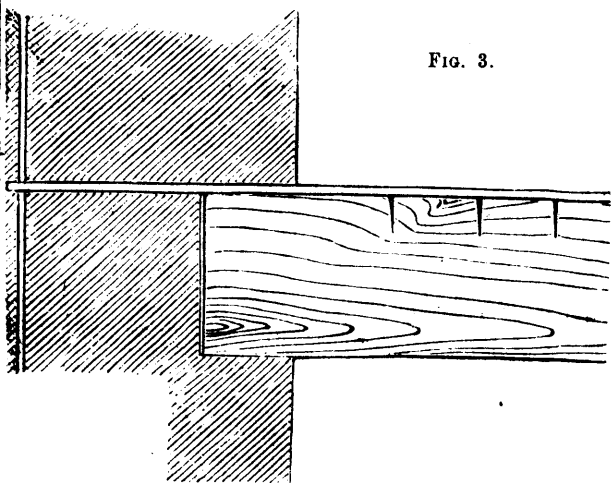
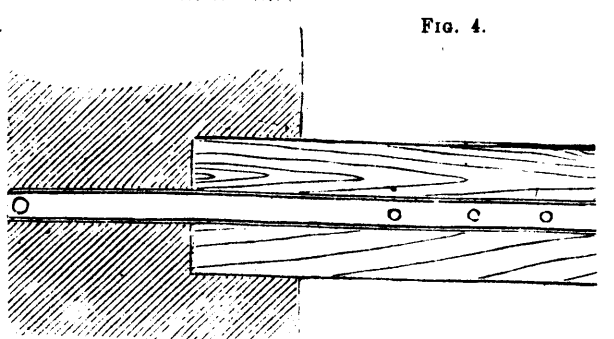


FIG. 4.



AMERICAN OYSTERS.

Can any one who has tasted American oysters say if the following is true? I cut it from the *Scientific American*, which is an out-and-out believer in everything American;—"It is a well-known fact that the edible oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) attains its full growth and proper flavor only in the waters of the American coast; and that its representative in Great Britain, owing perhaps to some trouble in its 'environments,' has dwindled down to a minute coppery-flavored bivalve, which affords to the evolutionist a melancholy example of 'reversion,' and to the American gastronome an object of aversion. It is no wonder, then, that when one of our American oysters is seen for the first time by an inhabitant of the British Isles, it should call forth expressions of great surprise."

The "native," a "minute coppery-flavored bivalve!" Good gracious, has this gentleman ever tasted a real "native," which costs, nowadays, 3d. in the City, while his wonderful "blue points" can be had 14 for a shilling, done up in a bag? According to Lieutenant Brock, the Chesapeake oyster is sometimes 15 in. long and 3½ in. wide, large enough, goodness knows. But he also says that he has eaten oysters from the most celebrated localities, and always found them somewhat insipid in taste, "a marked characteristic of the species" (American). As a matter of fact, the oyster from Virginia is found in the fossil state in the neighbourhood of Bordeaux, so that American oysters have not yet been developed. Blue points may be better in the States than they are here, but I can't imagine any one preferring them to "natives." I believe American oysters are excellent when cooked, but as the real epicure eats them, they cannot compare with our natives or the bivalves of Anachon. Will any of your readers resident in the States tell us if either of the three American species, Virginiana, Borealis, or Canadensis, is equal in flavor to our native or even our common oyster, which some years ago was sold at about two a penny? The "canned oysters" sent here are, in my experience, tough morsels, fit only for the stew-pan, and a good deal of it they require. I have not ventured on "blue points," though I like the Anglo-Portuguese; but if they are so much superior to our "minute coppery-flavored bivalves," it's really a wonder they sell them at a third the price.—HEMATOPUS.

PEAT MADE INTO CEMENT.

One of the most novel manufactures proposed abroad is that of Mr. J. C. Russell, of London, who makes cement of peat. The peat as cut from the bog is first dried by any suitable means, and broken up or pulped with nearly its own weight of gas tar. The peat or tan, as the case may be, is put into a kettle, and may, if desired, be well mixed with a sufficient quantity of cocoanut fibre or oakum, or cotton waste, or small twigs, or leather, or bulrushes, or grasses, or any of these together, or any material of a fibrous nature to give the product sufficient tenacity. The mixture is then mixed with either a combination of gas tar, pitch, Stockholm tar, Trinidad pitch, naphtha, benzole, spirit of turpentine, quicklime, hydraulic lime, chalk, pezzoulan, well washed or sifted sharp sand, flint glass in fine powder, any aluminous, calcareous, or silicious minerals or mixtures—Portland or hydraulic cement, iron filings or borings, slag, or scoria. The whole mass is well stirred, and heated by means of super-heated steam or otherwise until the materials which are capable of being softened or melted by a low heat that will not destroy the peat or tan, are melted or softened enough to enable the different materials used to become thoroughly mixed together, and the whole mass is finally raised to a temperature of at least 400° Fahrenheit. When used for paving purposes the material is removed from the receptacle in its heated state, and spread over the prepared surface or foundation of the road or other place, and consolidated by means of hot beaters or pressures until it is thoroughly set and even. In making drain pipes, the material in a hot state is transferred to suitable molds or to a drain pipe-making machine, and the pipes are made in the usual way of making earthenware pipes or otherwise.