

combined influence of heat and pressure is the cause of the novel properties, the later rising as high as twenty atmospheres.

Velocities.

The velocity of a ship is from 8 to 14 miles an hour; of a race-horse, from 20 to 30 miles; of a bird, from 50 to 60 miles; of the clouds, in a violent hurricane, 80 to 100 miles; of sound 823 miles; of a cannon ball, as found by experiment, from 600 to 1,000 miles; of the earth round the sun, 68,000 miles, or more than a hundred times quicker than a cannon ball; of light, about 800,000,000 miles—passing from the sun to the earth, 95,000,000 miles, in about eight minutes—or 3 million times swifter than a cannon ball; while the exceeding velocity of the thoughts of the human mind is beyond all possible estimate.

Curing Green Hides.

A great many butchers, wool dealers, &c., are purchasers of the hides off the beef in the country towns and we often get from them inquiries as to the proper and most profitable method of curing the hide and preparing it for the market. A great many butchers do not use proper care in this branch, and the consequence is that the hides will not pass city inspection, owing entirely to the ignorance or carelessness of the person who prepared them for the market. The proper way to salt hides is to lay them out flat, flesh side up, and form a nearly square bed, say 12 x 15 feet, folding in the edges so as to make them as nearly solid as possible. Split the ear in the cords that run up the ear in each one so as to make them lay out flat. Sprinkle the hide with two or three shovels full of coarse salt, as the size may require—say for a 60 to 80 pound hide, from 10 to 15 pounds of salt. At any rate cover the hide well, as it need not be wasted; then let them lie in this from 15 to 20 days, after which take them up, shake the salt out, and use it again.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter*.

Beton Agglomeré.

M. Coignet's *beton Agglomeré* is a mixture of sand and hydraulic lime thoroughly worked together by machinery, and in its then plastic state moulded into any desired form. It has been extensively employed in and about Paris for several years past, and we believe that one of the station-houses on the St. Germain's line of railway is entirely formed of it, the whole building being a monolith. About twenty miles of the sewers in Paris have been made of it, and it is largely employed for building works and ornaments. Mr. Bazalgette and Mr. Grant, of the Main Drainage Works, are now experimenting with it, with a view to its use here, and the architect of St. Thomas's Hospital has given directions to make a few arches of it.—*London Paper*.

"Drying" Linseed Oil.

A quick process for getting drying linseed oil is given by Dr. Dullo. He boils the raw oil for two hours with binoyd of manganese and hydrochloric acid, and so gets a rapidly-drying oil in very much less time than by the processes generally employed.

Removing Ammonia from Gas.

Mr. Bowditch states that clay removes ammonia from gas as perfectly as acids and metallic salts do. It has also a remarkable power of acting upon certain sulphureted compounds in gas, so as to render them removable. The foul clay is worth 21s. per ton as manure, and costs the companies very little.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

Every Man his own Measure-maker.

The *American Artisan*, copies from an Eastern paper, the following rules, by which every one who can saw and nail boards, can make his own measures:—

A *barrel* contains 10,752 cubic inches. A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide and 28 inches deep—that is, on the inside—will hold just a barrel.

Half-barrel. Make a box for this, 24 inches by 16, and 14 inches deep. This will contain 5,376 cubic inches, or just half a barrel.

A *bushel* contains 2,150 4-10 cubic inches. A bushel box will be 16 inches by 16 8-10 inches square, and 8 inches deep.

Half-bushel. A box twelve inches long by 11 1-10 inches wide and 8 inches deep, will hold half a bushel.

Peck. A box 8 inches by 8 4-10 inches square, and 8 inches deep, contains a peck.

Half-peck. A box 8 by 8 inches square, and 4 1-10 inches deep, or 268 cubic inches.

Half-gallon. In this there are 134 4-10 cubic inches. A box 7 by 4 inches and 4 8-10 inches deep contains just that quantity.

Quart. A box 4 by 4 inches square, and 4 2-10 inches deep.

To preserve Polish on Steel or iron.

Pure paraffine is a good preservative for the polished surface of iron and steel. The paraffine should be warmed, rubbed on, and then wiped off with a woollen rag. It will not change the color, whether bright or blue, and will protect the surface better than any varnish.

Statistical Information.

London Milk Supply.

The monthly supply of milk from the country into London is 508,000 gallons. The western counties contribute 140,000 gallons; the eastern counties transmit 125,000 gallons; the northern counties 95,000; Hants and Berks, 55,000; and from other districts the daily supply is augmented by 18,500 gallons. Kent and Sussex are the lowest contributing counties; and at the present daily averages 6,604,000 gallons of milk are annually brought from the country to London; and this is increased by metropolitan dairymen to an extent of another third, and is retailed out to about 260,000 customers. The aggregate supply of milk consigned to London is the produce of 20,000 cows in the country. The wholesale prices charged are at an average of 2s. per barn gallon (eight quarts); and the value of milk brought to London for