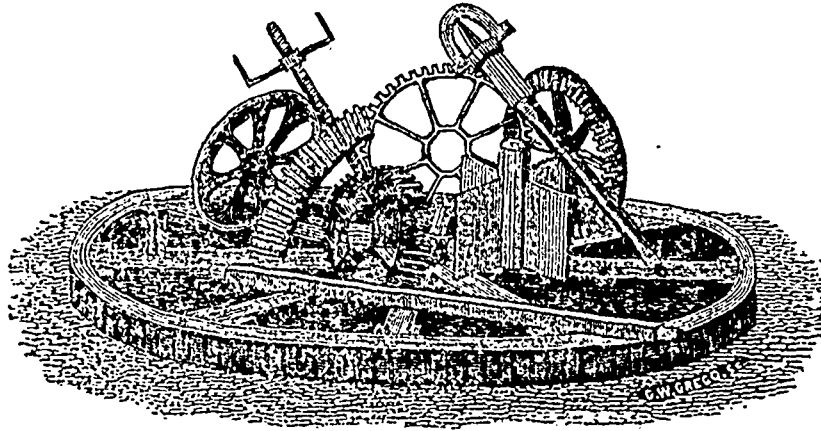


## MECHANICS.



There are few of our readers who will not need some information in this department of our magazine. We therefore deem it our duty to bring before them the most useful and instructive matter each month our resources can afford.

To every farmer a knowledge of the art of constructing his field gates, his fences, his sheds, and even his barns and cow houses, in the most substantial manner, with a view, at the same time, to both economy of time and materials, such information, it is needless to say, must prove invaluable. We say again, as far as we can go to give this necessary instruction we will. And as there are numbers of our readers who possess information on this subject, and as there are, also, many of an inventive turn of mind, who will be constantly introducing new methods and devices—to all such we will address ourselves, seeking at their hands a communication of their ideas, that they may through the agency of our little periodical experience the pleasure of adding to the comforts and conveniences of their fellow creatures.

Let no man be deterred by the feeling of his inability from want of sufficient education. No, we do not seek the exclusive correspondence of the wealthy and well informed. We seek the humble ideas of the poor, industrious, and practical man. To such we promise our attention. Let them explain their ideas as they best can, and we will put them in form for the public eye. Every man should bear in mind that the roughest stone conceals the diamond, and that the greatest inventions of our day, as well as of past times, have in five cases out of six been produced by the humbler classes of society.

But we would not be understood to seek by this reasoning the wild theories of unpractical brains. Certainly not. Our object is to obtain plain, practicable information, and such hints and suggestions as may be beneficial to the two great classes of our supporters, viz.: the farmers and mechanics.

All such articles as shall require diagrams to illustrate them, shall have fair play given them in that respect.

Without intruding more on the patience of our readers, we will proceed to lay before them such information as we hope may prove acceptable.

## CHEAP ROOFING.

Let your joists be so slight as to be merely sufficient to bear a person's weight on them:

Over these nail boards grooved and fitting into each other like a floor; these also need be no thicker than to support a person's weight. Get a quantity of coarse brown or wrapping paper, and cut it into strips of about two inches broad. Take a quantity of tar boiled with a little slaked lime; do over the joints of your boards with the tar, and on this lay your strips of paper. And lastly, do over the paper with a coating of the tar. Next get a caldron as large as you can find; provide yourself with river or sea sand, and a quantity of slaked lime quite dry. Light a fire under your caldron, and pour into it a portion of tar. Take next a riddle or coarse sieve, and as your tar heats riddle into it about equal proportions of lime and sand, stirring it till it boils. Provide yourself with flat instruments like tailors' geese, with long wooden handles, and heat them almost red hot. When you have made your tar thick enough, and brought it to the boiling point, put a quantity of it into a small iron pot, with which, and one of your heated irons, mount on the roof. Pour out a quantity of the boiling tar on the roof, and spread it flat with the hot iron to about the thickness of one-fourth of an inch or more. You cannot make your tar too thick provided you can spread it with your iron.

## WOOD PRESERVED FROM DAMP.

Two coats of the following: twelve pounds of rosin beaten in a mortar, to which add three pounds of sulphur, and twelve pints of whale oil. Melt them over a fire, stirring them during melting. Ochre reduced to an impalpable powder, by triturating it with oil, must then be combined, in the proportion necessary to give either a darker or a lighter color to the material. First coat must be put on very lightly, having been previously treated. The second coat may be laid on in two or three days afterwards, and a third at an equal interval if required.

## WHITE PAINT.

To make a good and very economical white paint, we would recommend the following to our readers. We have already tried it ourselves, and found it to succeed admirably. Take two quarts of skim milk, of fresh slaked lime eight ounces, six ounces of Linseed oil, two ounces of white Burgundy pitch, three pounds of Spanish white. The lime must be slaked in water, exposed to the air, mixed in about a quarter of the milk. The oil in which the pitch is previously dis-

solved must be added, a little at a time, then the rest of the milk, and afterwards the Spanish white. This quantity is sufficient for twenty-seven square yards, giving two coats, and the expense does not exceed ten pence.

## ANOTHER RECIPE.

White paint may also be made by an equal quantity of lime, fresh slaked, and curds of whey. Use as little water as possible. Blend both lime and curds together well, and lay on the paint thus made with a brush. This white paint is a dead color, but can be very highly polished with a linen rag. It gives no smell, is easily cleaned by washing with soap and water, and is extremely durable.

The foregoing recipes will be found not only practicable, but highly useful; and like all recipes will require care in their formation and patient attention to bring them to bear to the full extent of their utility. And here we would remark that we have known it to be the case too often, that very useful recipes have been condemned merely on the evidence of some impatient person who would not allow time or sufficient attention to what he, in his over-heated imagination, dreamed of extravagant results from. We must allow that some writers on the value of their own discoveries laud them a great deal too much; and this, we may add, we know from sad experience to be true, having ourselves more than once tried seemingly excellent recipes, which were so plausibly given and so warmly applauded for their utility, that we feel not ashamed at owning to our being fooled into trying them, and after toil and trouble finding ourselves the dupes of some wild theorist. Having, therefore, a fellow feeling for others, we have come to the determination in our periodical to recommend only such as we have positively tried.

## CHURNING.

The Dutch have a plan in operation among them by which there is a great economy of time and labor in churning. It is this:—there is a long pole of ash made fast to the wall or some joist on the ceiling, and midway along this ash pole or lath there is a cross piece made fast. The churns are placed in a line under this cross piece, and their dashes made fast by the tops to it. A person then catches the long ash pole or lath by the end, and works up and down; thus