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MISCELLANEOUS.

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HOBB'S LONDON LOCK FACTORY.

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The celebrated lock-picker, Mr. Hobbs, says the *Scientific Artizan*, who astonished our English friends during the Great Exhibition in 1851, by picking Chubb's and all other celebrated London locks, has found it a profitable business, we understand, to carry on the manufacture of American locks in London, where he has resided for the past 8 years. He has a large factory in operation, and has introduced machinery for making various parts of locks which have heretofore been made by hand. This has given him great advantage over those who pursue the old jog-trot hand labor system. In introducing his machinery for this purpose, Hobbs had to proceed very cautiously, so as not to raise the ire of the dusky operatives; he therefore inclosed his factory, and got all his machinery in order before he commenced operations, and then he went along like a streak of American lightning. His locks have acquired a high reputation, and he appears to be on the high road to fortune.

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WATERPROOF STUFFS.

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The following process has just been published, for rendering clothes and all kinds of stuffs water-proof:—Take of gelatine and soap 1 lb. each, dissolve them together in 30 quarts of boiling water, and add by degrees 1½ lbs. of alum; then continue the ebullition for another quarter of an hour. When the milky liquid thus obtained has cooled to the temperature of 212 degrees Fahrenheit, the stuff is dipped in and allowed to soak well. It is then taken out and left to dry, after which it is carefully washed and mangled. The process is explained as follows:—When the gelatine and soap are brought into contact with alum, the sulphuric acid contained in the latter converts the soda contained in the soap into sulphate of soda; the animal acids of the soap are thus set at liberty, and form with the gelatine a kind of jelly which is insoluble in cold water, and therefore renders the stuffs water-proof. This, however, is only the case with soap made with tallow.