

NEW FIREPROOF PAPER.

A new and apparently fireproof paper is now made of ninety-five parts of asbestos fibr of the best quality, washed in a solution of permanganate of calcium, and then treated with sulphuric acid. After the fibre has been thus treated, five parts of ground wood pulp are added, and the entire mass is placed in an agitating box, with some lime water and borax. After a thorough mixing, the material flows out into an endless wire cloth, whence it enters the usual paper-making machinery. Paper produced in this way will, it is said, resist even the direct influence of a flame, and may be placed in a white heat with impunity. This invention is another small contribution to the diminution of fire risks.

WEIGHT OF MORTAR.

The average weight of one bushel of mortar is about 132 pounds, and of sand 120 pounds. The standard weight of one bushel of lime is 80 pounds. The standard weight of one bushel of hair is 80 pounds. When good mortar is dry it weighs 110 lbs. per cubic foot. A barrel of Rosendale cement weighs about 300 pounds, while a barrel of A No. 1 Portland cement never weighs less than 400 pounds. Mortar weighs 62½ pounds per cubic foot, and loose earth 95 pounds; and when pounded into place, 124 pounds per cubic foot; clay weighs about 135 pounds per cubic foot, and common brick average 125 pounds, while pressed brick may run up to 190 pounds.

USEFUL HINTS.

Experiments have proved that green oak posts will last longer in the ground than those from the same variety of seasoned timber.

Wash-basins in bed-rooms are dangerous, as sewer gas is subtle and will sometimes circumvent all plans and precautions against it. If they are very much desired there can be a small catch basin to receive their waste alone. They should not be connected with the main drain, sewer or cess-pool.

An imitation marble finish may be made

on plastering by streaking the fresh hard-finish coat with fine wavy lines of lamp-black with a paint-brush just before troweling. The troweling will blend the streaks of black, making them resemble the seams of marble. When well done the work has a fine appearance.

TO PREVENT DRY ROT.—To prevent dry rot in floors that are near to the ground it is a good idea to fill up the spaces between the joists to within three or four inches of the floor. This will prevent the cinders or the soil coming in contact with the floor. Floors laid in this way have stood the test of a dozen years. Upon examination they were in almost as good condition as when they were laid. If a circulation of air can be obtained it is well to do so. Floors are better with air than without it. However, if the floors

were laid directly in contact with the ashes it would not rot as readily as though the ashes were not present.

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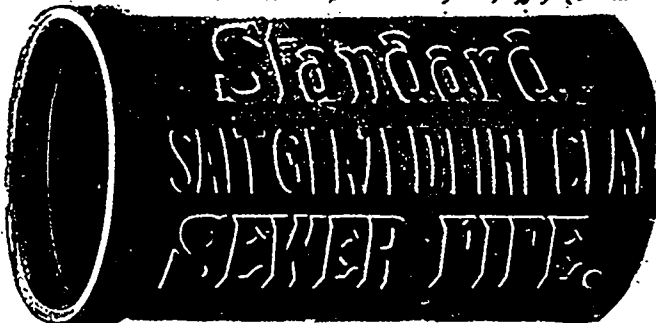
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