

The economic results obtained in this manufacture do not appear to have been promising, and much money has been lost at least at several of the plants so far erected.

*Peat Wood.*—Methods for the manufacture of peat wood have been invented in Germany, and of these the process employed by J. Hemmerling of Dresden is best known.

By this process, the wet peat (preferably a mixture of sphagnum moss and more humified peat) is mixed with hydrated lime and aluminium sulphate. The resulting mass, during some 15 seconds, is pressed between steel plates under a high pressure, (some 600 atmospheres). Most of the water is expelled during the pressing, and the peat blocks can afterwards be handled. These blocks are then laid on shelves in a drying chamber where a normal temperature of about 18° Centigrade is kept. After eight days the blocks are hard and can be worked like wood. Such peat wood blocks have been used instead of wood or stone on some streets in Dresden, and as it is practically fire-proof its suitability for building purposes has also been advocated.