

the fire clay being left out in the weather, that will not do any harm as in order to be used you have to mix it in with water, but you do not treat a fire brick in the same manner. It is, of course, preferable to keep it under cover, if you keep it in the weather you would have to regrid it; that is not as nice as handling a dry clay itself. Have I answered you?

Mr. Baldwin,—

Yes.

Mr. Brundrett,—

I don't think you quite understood Mr. Baldwin's question in reference to mica-schist.

Mr. Woodison,—

I understand, Mr. Baldwin, that you would like to have my views on the use of mica-schist for filling in cavities in preference to fire clay.

Mr. Baldwin,—

Yes sir.

Mr. Woodison,—

In preference to mica-schist ground you would have to use some clay to hold it in. The clay will dry and crack, and very frequently fall out as you have experienced a number of times, thus losing the benefit of your mica-schist.

Mr. Baldwin,—

You did not quite answer me. Can you tell by the look of a brick whether it is good, bad or indifferent. Quite recently I built a furnace for our foreman blacksmith, not a cupola, and I built it with hard burnt brick. In a few days he complained about them running, and he was sure that it was caused by putting in too much fire clay in the joints. When repaired with soft brick it turned out much better. I asked the foreman the cause of this and he could not tell, so I was just wondering whether we could tell by the look of a brick whether it was good, bad or indifferent.

Mr. Woodison,—

If of course you have found a brick which was giving you satisfactory results for your furnace and that brick was not