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JANI ARY 18, 191

OUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

ROOFING-CEMENT FLOORS.

material to use on a dairy barn which I intend to build next summer, and would

be pleased if you would answer the fol-

1. Which would be the best invest-

ment, as regards durability, galvanized

steel shingles at \$5 per square; galvanized corrugated iron at \$4 per square, or No. 1 cedar shingles at \$3 per

square? Have you any conclusive in-

formation regarding the durability of galvanized corrugated iron roofing ? Do

you think that the warm air ascending

from the stable would tend to make it rust? Do you think that a roof of this material would last as long as two good

shingle roofs, and would it be lightning-

proof if well grounded at the four cor-

ners? Would copper grounding wires

be necessary, or would ordinary galvanized wire do just as well? Would a

shingle roof be as lightning-proof as a

galvanized roof, if six or seven gal-

vanized wires were twisted together and

run from the peak of roof to moist

ground in two or three places? Last week I was in a new barn roofed with

corrugated iron, and the ribs and plates

were dripping so from condensed mois-

ture that the barn floor was all wet.

It was a warm day, and the feed chutes

were all open. Was this condition neces-

sary ? Could it be prevented if large

ventilators went up from the stable to

the roof, and the feed chutes were kept

closed ? Would liming cedar shingles

add to their durability? If it would,

which would be the better way to apply

apply with a broom after roof is finished,

or to soak the shingles in lime water in a large tank before laying them ? If

lime water is good for this, what proportions of lime and water should be mixed to make it most effective?

To mix the lime and water and

lowing queries in your valuable paper:

I am undecided as to the best roofing

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2. Which would make the better stable floor, fine gravel and sand mixed six parts gravel to one of cement, without putty coat, or to use coarse gravel ten parts to one of cement, and put on halfinch putty coat of sand and cement on top ? Which would require more cement ? E. G. M.

There are points in favor of each. The metal roofing material has the advantage of being lightning - proof if provided with ground connection. It is also not liable to be fired by sparks from chimneys or threshing engines. As to the durability of the metal roofs, we have no conclusive information as to how long they will last. Some have been on a considerable number of years and are still good. Much depends upon the laying of the roof, especially with the metal roofing. There might be some moisture collect on the roof, but with a thorough system of ventilation there would be little danger of this being harmful. It is very improbable that a metal roof would last as long as firstclass cedar-shingle roofs. It is, however, difficult to get first-class cedar now, and roofs made from most shingles of the present day cut, will probably not last as long as the roofs formerly made of this material, even when sawn. First-class cedar makes a very suitable barn roof. Galvanized wire would do just as well as copper for lightning rods, provided it were looked after from time to time, and replaced when it became rusty. We are not familiar with the practice of liming shingles. It is doubtful whether it would have any appreciable affect on the durability of roof. If done, the better method would be to dip them before laying. Dipping in paint or white lead is sometimes done with good results. 2. The coarse gravel ten to one of with a putty coat on top, would be : · hetter. One-half inch is hardly eno for putty coat. An inch is bet-This would also require a little ment than the other method.

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