BRICKLAYING.

As a rule a bricklayer, with a laborer to keep him supplied with materials, will in common house walls, lay on an average about 1,200 bricks in eight hours. In better class work, such as facing a front of a building, from 800 to 1,000 brick, properly laid, may be taken as a good day's work; for street front, where there are arches to cut and gauge, from 500 to 800, and on very fine work, where there are a number of angles, off-sets and skew-backs to be fitted to, a man will not be able to lay more than from 150 to 300 brick per day. In plain, massive engineering work a man would average about 1,800 brick per day. In making estimates for brick work the size and quality of the building should be considered.

FELLING OLD CHIMNEYS.

Of the method of felling old chimney stacks by burning out inserted props, devised by James Smith, of Rochdale, Eng., the Scientific American say: In felling a chimney the stack is first thoroughly examined and careful notes made as to its height, weight and condition. A survey of the surroundings is then made to ascertain which is the best direction in which to overthrow the structure, and so long as the available area which is to receive the mass is a little more than than the length and breadth of the stack, it is sufficient. Having determined upon the direction of the fall and the available area to receive the stack, an incision is made in the center of the chimney at a height of 5 or 6 feet from the ground, facing the direction in which it is to fall, and corresponding cuts are made on each of the sides. As the bricks are removed, an underpinning of 6"x6" timber is inserted, the work being carried on until about two-thirds of the base of the stack has been so treated. By this time the stack usually is listing over slightly in the direction in which it is to fall, the list being an indication that the chimney is resting almost entirely upon the underpinning. At the same time on the reverse side of the chimney there will appear a slight crack in the masonry. The underpinning is carried on until this fracture appears, for unless the greater part of the structure rests upon the supporting posts, the direction of the fall can by no means be predicted with certainty. The gap made in the base of this stack must be of sufficient width to cause the structure to drop and telescope when falling. If only a narrow gap were made, the stack would simply pivot on its base and come down intact, measuring its length on the ground; but as it is desired to concentrate the debris, a sufficient gap is made at the base to insure that as the stack leans to its fall it will drop a few feet vertically en mass, the jar thus given to it causing the mass to crumble upon itself. As soon as the underpinning is complete, a fire of highly inflammable combustibles is built and the props are thoroughly saturated with oil and covered with pitch and tar. On the occasion of the felling of a stack at Preston, which was 250 feet in height and weighed over 3,500 tons, there was consumed in burning out the underpinning 6½ tons of coal, 4 tons of pitch, 40 sacks of shavings, 108 gallons of tar and 126 gallons of paraffin. The burning of the props has to be most carefully watched since it is necessary that they all collapse at the same time to insure that the chimney will fall in the desired direction.

CLEANING HARDWOOD FLOORS.

Floors that have been finished in shellac should be kept clean by thoroughly brushing off the dust with a soft hair or feather brush, or by wiping with a cloth of soft texture. If the cloth is slightly moist the dust will adhere to it more readily, but wipe with a dry cloth afterward. If any dirt that will not wipe off with a moist cloth should be deposited on the floor, wash it off thoroughly with clean (not hot) water, using soap if necessary, which also cleanse off with water as quickly as possible and wipe dry.

When the face of the floor begins to look worn and shabby, after cleansing off the dirt and wiping dry, if water has been used, rub the surface all over nicely with a mixture two-thirds turpentine and one-third raw linseed oil. To do this saturate a soft cloth of any kind with the mixture, wring it out half dry and rub the floor with it evenly. Do not use the oil so freely as to leave it standing on the surface to catch dust. To prevent this wipe off a clean, dry cloth. After the shellac is worn down to the surface of the wood sandpaper it all over evenly with a No. 1 sandpaper and give it another coat of shellac, after which continue to keep as before.

Floors finished in plain oil only should be kept in the same manner as above, more soap and water being required, and more frequent rubbing with the mixture of turpentine and linseed oil spoken of above.

Waxed floors can be cleansed by washing off thoroughly with turpentine and benzine, after which they can be rewaxed if desired.

Floors finished in "hard oil" should be kept like floors finished with shellac.

A maple floor for a kitchen that has not been finished in wax or oil is best taken care of by being scrubbed or rubbed with any of the scouring preparations now in the market for that purpose.—National Builder.