

Rub the surface gently first with a clean pad of fine cotton wool, and afterward with a similar pad covered over with cotton velvet which has been charged with fine rouge. The surface will under this treatment acquire a polish of great brilliancy, quite free from any scratches.

(43) S. W. F.—The best that can be done with rusty planished iron (we suppose that you mean Russia iron) is to carefully scrape the rusty spots and polish the sheet with plumbago wet with a little sour beer or vinegar in the same manner as you would polish a stove. Any treatment with acid will take off all the planished surface.

(44) F. E. P. asks: What would be the probable result of the explosion of a cartridge sunk in clay or stiff soil 3½ feet below the surface—the probable depth and size at the top of the excavation? A. Dynamite acts in clay much in the same manner as in rock that is uniformly compact or not stratified. It blows out a pot shaped hole when well tamped. It is not economical in shallow holes, as it is apt to blow out a conical hole, taking out less material than in stone blasting. We have but little experience with clay blasting, but have heard that deep holes 5 or 6 feet are the most economical in effect. We would advise trying gun powder.

(45) Z. B. F.—Laps are not always thicker than other parts of belting, but they are stiffer, and together with the copper rivets cause quick running belts over small pulleys to produce uneven motion where the running parts are light, as spindles in cotton and silk machinery; but in wood and iron working machinery the difference is scarcely noticed.

(46) A. C. D. writes: We often see small statues, etc., in store windows that are bronzed, and the cavities of them filled with a green, blue, black, blackish red, etc. Can you tell me how this is done? Is it possible to lacquer over this work without spoiling it with the lacquer brush? A. In order to accomplish your desires, it will be necessary to purchase the so-called gold paint. It is best to buy it rather than attempt to make it. As generally sold in the market, the preparation consists of a solid metallic powder, which can be procured of some sixteen different tints or colors. It is mixed, according to the directions sold with the package, with the liquid preparation, and applied with a brush. The article coated or painted can on drying be finished by further application of a coat of furniture varnish.

(47) N. G. asks where the amianthus or asbestos is found in the United States. A. Asbestos is an exceedingly common mineral. It is mined in Rabun and Fulton Counties, Ga., in Northern Georgia, Western N. C. and S. C., Staten Island, Long Island, various localities in New York State, Maryland, Northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. It is also found in Colorado and in California. There are several hundred localities from which it can be obtained.

(48) G. W. C., of Selma, Ala., writes, referring to former inquiry of B. J. B., that it is as safe there to cement cisterns right on the clay as any foundation which could be made, saying: "Our fire department here is supplied by cisterns entirely, the majority of them being cemented directly on to the clay sides, and in one case where there was no clay, nothing but sand, directly on to this. We have one cemented on to clay which is 100 feet long, 10 feet wide, by 9 feet deep, which has been in use for 6 years, and has not cost one cent for repairs except a new cover, which is of wood; it is good for as many more years. The sides of these cisterns are dug sloping, which always causes an outward pressure. These cisterns are not theoretical, on paper, but are in practical use daily with us." A. It is perfectly safe to cut cisterns in the indurated clays of the Tertiary in Alabama, even without cementing. These clays are nearly as hard as rock. We have seen cisterns from 30 to 40 feet deep, and as many in diameter, on the clay ridge west from Selma, where cistern water is their only choice.

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AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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