

Correspondence.

MEASURING AND SURVEYING.

Sir,—I have had the satisfaction of being a reader of your excellent magazine from the commencement, and express the hope that my friends and self may long enjoy this privilege. While much valuable information is contained within its pages for all classes, there is one class or profession whom it might (along with others) probably aid a little more—I refer to measurers in particular. On your recommendation, I procured a copy of the "Student's Guide to Measuring Artificers' Work;" it is a very good publication, but being limited in size, it could not contain all the student would require. Perhaps you would be kind enough to throw out hints now and then upon the different modes of measuring and surveying. You are aware that each town has its own peculiar mode, and that between the English and the Scotch there is a material difference. I have had the opinion of many among the measurers here, that through your magazine essential service might be conferred in this way to the numerous professions connected with artificers' work, as well as to themselves; and they join with me in requesting that you will turn your attention to the proposition at some convenient season.

I remain, your obedient servant,
Glasgow, 9th Sept., 1843. J. D.

[The very reasonable and properly-argued request of J. D. shall have our best attention. It would forward our purpose a good deal, and perhaps be most effectual, if some of our talented brethren in the provinces would take the London "Builders' Price Book" in hand, and favour us with notes on the discrepancies or differences that occur in relation to their practice.—En.]

Sir,—Allow me to suggest, that it would further the interests of your contributors very considerably, if either they or you would favour the public with their "local habitation and their names." Now I last week had the good fortune to meet with a number of your valuable periodical, and straightway requested my bookseller to procure for me every number which has been published; I find them on my table this afternoon; and am more than repaid on opening them, especially by Designs for an Elizabethan Ceiling, and a Wardrobe of the same style; I then naturally looked for the address of the artist, but *non est inventus*. "What is the price or estimate?" is the next question, and here again are we left to imagination. Now all this is very tantalizing; why not, therefore, place the address of the artists under the designs? for they are such as would do credit to the most experienced of the profession. Again, the Designs for Timber Buildings are excellent; though, were I to recommend them to a friend, his first query would be, "But what will it cost?"

May I then request to be obliged by the address of the "Young Architect," who furnished you with the Design for a Timber House in No. 10, the 15th of April, and with that of your "young friend A. B.," who designed the Elizabethan Ceiling, in No. 9, April 8th; and the Wardrobe, in No. 19, April 12th? Waiting your reply,

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

September 11th, 1843.

[We trust it will not be taking an unbecoming liberty with the foregoing letter, the giving it this publicity. We withhold the name and address, although it would have added much to the weight of the circumstance; but we eagerly seize it as an occasion to confirm us and our contributors in the purpose we have pursued and which is therein adverted to. Of course we have taken care to reply to the inquiry, as became us; and we sincerely hope it may lead to the well-merited advantage of the parties referred to; this is, after all, but the setting in of the tide which the honest, the talented, and the confiding will sail by through THE BUILDER to a haven of prosperity and reward.—Ed.]

COOKING-STOVES AND FIRE-GRATES.

Sir,—As suitable domestic arrangements constitute one of the principal parts in the fitting up a large house, especially the cooking-kitchen, I beg to inform your subscribers, through the medium of THE BUILDER, that the best, most effectual, and most economical cooking apparatus I believe now in use, is one invented by Messrs Longden and Son, of Sheffield. I have had the pleasure of seeing one recently fixed and tried, to cook for about one hundred persons, which gives the most perfect satisfaction.

A description of it may not be uninteresting. The opening for the range is 6 feet 6 inches wide, 5 feet 6 inches high, and 3 feet 4 inches back. This is occupied by an oven for meat, 24 inches X 22 inches X 28 inches; a small ditto for pastry, 24 X 14 X 21; the opening for roasting by jack is 32 inches wide, at back of which is a wrought-iron boiler to hold 55 gallons of water, with safety-valve, alarm-pipe, &c. This boiler supplies kitchen and scullery with hot water. The steam from this also supplies steam-closet and hot-closet, which occupies a similar opening to the above, the whole beautifully filled with shelves, doors, and every other requisite. A dining-up table is also supplied with steam from the same boiler. There is also a copper bath boiler fixed between the ovens and iron boiler, which supplies a bath with hot water at least 40 feet distance and 20 feet high.

The whole are in full operation with a fire not more than 12 inches wide, 12 inches high, and 7 inches deep. The whole is very simple, and not the least danger attending it.

I think, Sir, with the same quantity of fuel, there is not any other in operation calculated to do near as much work.

If you think this worthy a place in THE BUILDER, you will oblige your obedient servant,

J. P. H.

Richmond, September 6th, 1843.

[We can, of our own knowledge, bear testimony in corroboration of the above.—Ed.]

MONUMENTAL BRASSES.

Sir,—I see by the newspapers that a paper is now manufactured for the express purpose of rubbing in, or taking impressions from "antique brass" and other such matters. You will find that the great objection in using paper for such purposes is, that it is liable to tear, and also to crease, and therefore not very well adapted for showing to persons; a much better article, in every way, is *commun calico*, as it is much more easily procured, and is never liable to tear, and, moreover, can be packed up in less space.

As some of your readers may be ignorant of this useful but simple invention, I may as well add, that it is effected by stretching the calico tightly over the monumental brass (or, for experiment, over the back of a book) and then rubbing the paper with common *heel-ball*, which is to be bought at every cobbler's stall in the kingdom.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ANTIQUARIAN.

London, September 11th, 1843.

SMALL STREET HOUSES.

Sir,—Upon looking over my last number of THE BUILDER, I find an article upon small street houses, in which it is stated that the Building Act limits the ground to be covered (by that class of houses in which working men usually reside) to 550 feet, which is incorrect, as the present Act only permits the poorer classes to use 350 feet for a full-sized fourth-rate house, and this, I am inclined to think, from the general tenor of the article your correspondent is fully acquainted with, and that it is a mistake of the press, not of the pen. However, my object is to point out to those who may have the framing, &c. of the Intended new Building Act, the inconvenience experienced by those who are obliged to live in such cramped-up habitations. It is well known to builders, that in order to obtain the greatest possible amount of ground-rent, the ground landlord pinches the frontage of such houses to 15 feet, so that by deducting the half party walls, the staircase, staircase partition, and chimney breasts, there remains about 7 feet 3 in clear width in the back rooms, rendering it quite impossible to place the bedstead across the room without (which frequently happens) setting fire to the bedding, because the foot of the bedstead comes within about 9 inches of the fire-place, and when placed end-ways in the room, the bedstead is seen from the outside of the house occupying about one-third of the width of the window, and even then being considerably nearer the fire than is consistent with safety. To obviate these inconveniences, it is only necessary to give an additional hundred feet supl. upon the ground-plan, making the frontage about 18 feet instead of 15, and the depth about 25 feet instead of 23 feet 4 inches. I would also suggest that the present thickness of walls be retained in the new Act, as I feel satisfied that if the upright joints of the brick-work be well filled with mortar instead of the common practice of merely filling the outside part of the joint, no fire will be likely to penetrate through, and every person must know, that if the builder is put to something like thirty pounds' expense for extra thickness of walls, the interest of that sum must be paid by the occupier, who is at the present time but ill able to pay the present rents. Another serious and uncalled for addition to the present rents will take place if we are to be compelled to use all

stock bricks inside and out; the object of keeping down damp may be obtained by using stocks up to the springing of the fire-place, say about 4 or 5 feet high, and particularly if a course or two of slate be introduced in the lower course.

Fearful of intruding too much upon your columns, I leave you to use as you please the second communication of yours. Sir, with my best wishes.

CHARLES NEWNHAM.

1, Walcot-square, Lambeth, Sept. 4, 1843.

WOOD PAVING.

Sir,—As an humble advocate for any thing tending to public improvements, permit me to state what I feel to be undeniable; that the adoption of wood-paving instead of granite or M'Adam's is an inestimable advantage to the public. I regret, however, to find that the value of it is much deteriorated by the constant use of water-carts, which is not only instrumental in its premature decay, but also the principal cause of the "slipperiness" complained of in those localities where it is otherwise successfully used.

Permit me to observe that there exists no necessity for watering wood-paving, as the dust created therefrom is so inconsiderable, that if sweeping-machines were used early in the morning, the watering would be rendered useless. Our parochial authorities appear to be willing slaves to habit and preconceived notions, watering the streets for custom's sake, whilst a host of poor animals are suffering daily from such prejudices. I have no doubt but that Sir Peter Laurie would have been as warmly devoted in the cause of wood-paving as he has been in strenuously opposing its use, had it not been constantly found in a wet and greasy state. I beg to suggest that this paramount objection can easily be overcome by simply keeping the streets dry and clean in the manner which I point out.

Sir, I remain your obliged humble servant.

THOMAS REX.

15, Winchester-row, New-road, Sept. 5, 1843.

Sir,—A correspondent wishes to know how to varnish drawings, &c. I beg leave to inform him that I have successfully used the following method:—Dissolve isinglass in a little water, and size the drawings with it two or three times, allowing it to get thoroughly dry between each coating, then in a warm room varnish it with white hard varnish, using a fine soft brush.

C. NEWNHAM.

NEW PATENTS SEALED IN ENGLAND.

SIX MONTHS FOR ENROLMENT.

William Davey, of Bath, slate-merchant, for certain improvements in covering the ridges and hips of roofs of buildings with slate and other materials.—Sealed July 31.

Chariton James Wollaston, of Welling, in the county of Kent, gentleman, for improvements in machinery for cutting marble and stone.—Sealed Aug. 1.

Peter Borrie, of Princes-square, Saint George's in the East, engineer, and Mayer Henry, of Crutched Friars, merchant, for certain improvements in steam-engines, boilers, and propelling machinery.—Sealed August 3.

Frederick Steiner, of Hyndburn Cottage, Lancaster, Turkey-red dyer, for a new manufacture of a certain colouring matter, commonly called Garancine,—being a communication.—Sealed Aug. 8.

James Home, of Regent's Park, esquire, for improvements in the manufacture of horse-shoes.—Sealed Aug. 8.

Charles Bourjot, of Coleman-street, London, merchant, for improvements in apparatus for obtaining the profile of various forms of figures.—being a communication.—Sealed Aug. 8.

Richard Archibald Brooman, of 166, Fleet-street, gentleman, for the manufacture of paper, cordage, matting, and other textile fabrics, from certain vegetable matters not heretofore made use of for that purpose; as also for the application of the said materials to the stuffing of cushions and mattresses.—Sealed Aug. 10.

John Wood, of Parkfield, Chester, merchant, for certain improvements in machinery or apparatus for affording additional or artificial buoyancy to sea-going and other vessels, or for lessening their draught of water; and which said improvements are also applicable to raising vessels or other heavy bodies, and for securing or supporting the same.—Sealed Aug. 14.

Archibald Horn, of Aldersgate-street, zinc-worker, for improvements in the construction of shutters for windows, and for other purposes.—Sealed Aug. 15.

George Bennetts, of Gunnis Lake, Cornwall, civil-engineer, for improvements in steam-engines