

NEW ALMOUSHOUSES IN ST. LEONARD'S, SPORDITCH.—According to the newspapers, the first stone of new almshouses in Brunswick-street, Hackney-road, for twenty poor women of the parish of St. Leonard, Sporditch, has been laid. A sufficient sum has now been obtained by voluntary subscriptions to enable the committee to enter into a contract with Mr. John Wood, of Shaftesbury-street, to erect and roof the houses, build a wall, and place the iron railings thereon, for a thousand guineas: to finish the houses, fit for residence, however, a further sum of about two hundred and fifty pounds will be required. The building is to be constructed on a square, with two fronts, in a mixed style of architecture, combining the Elizabethan and Stuart, and surrounded by a verandah. Each inmate is to have a living-room, a sleeping-room, and scullery. Mr. Knightley is the architect.

MAGNETO-ELECTRIC AND ELECTRO-MAGNETIC APPARATUS.—Mr. W. Millward, of Birmingham has lately specified a patent, which consists—1. Of an improved method of charging or magnetising iron and steel bars to be used as permanent magnets or electro-magnets.—2. Of certain new forms of electro-magnetic machines. The first branch of the improvements is carried into effect by the employment of an electro-magnet formed by a current of electricity produced from a magneto-electric machine, instead of that generated in a voltaic battery; and such an electro-magnet, it is said, may be very advantageously used for magnetising large bars of steel, or for producing very powerful magnets. Any of the known forms of magneto-electric machines will serve thus to convert a bar of steel into an electro-magnet, but the patentee prefers to use one composed of four, eight, or any other number of permanent magnets, having double the number of armatures, and coiled with strong wire of about 60 feet in length.—Mr. F. S. Beatty, of Dublin, advertises an "electro-magnetic engine as a source of mechanical power, to supersede the use of steam as a prime mover," and expresses his desire to treat with capitalists in order to form a company, to be called "The British Electric Power Company."—M. Aristedes Dumont, engineer of the Ponts et Chaussées, has made some experiments with electro-magnetic engines, for the Paris Academy of Sciences. He concludes from these experiments that although electro-magnetism cannot compete with steam, small power machines might be usefully turned to account in many trades, and for numerous mechanical operations where moderate forces only are required.

RUSSIAN USE OF DOOR-LOCKS.—"But he laid particular emphasis on the brass door-latches, which in Armenian houses are somewhat unheard of. With these door-latches and locks a comical story is connected. The Prince became acquainted with the use of them at Tiflis, bought a dozen, and ordered some to be fixed on the doors of the "European saloon." The servants of the house, ignorant of the real intent of the singular machines, believed that the Prince had ordered them for musical purposes; for every time they were turned a roaring sound followed in the wide, empty room. It happened, then, that in the absence of the master of the house, several concerts were arranged by the domestic personnel, with the assistance of the brass door-latches. An old blind Tartar had to sing, and the cook, who was considered an authority in such matters, played the brass door-latches. The Prince only discovered the musical tendencies of his household when three locks and latches were broken. 'So difficult is it,' said he, concluding a very copious narration of the affair,—'so difficult is it to introduce into this country European civilization. But I do not perplex myself on that account, and have brought with me half-a-dozen new door-locks from Tiflis.'—*Bodenstedt's Morning-Land.*

NEW CHURCH IN WATERLOO-ROAD.—A new church in Waterloo-road, nearly opposite the Victoria Theatre, has been erected for a congregation formerly in Robinson's school-room, close by. It is built of Kentish rag stone, in the Gothic style, with a small steeple, containing a bell.

ROB'S COMBINATION PAVING.—Mr. Freeman Roe has patented a new mode of constructing roads, the object of which is to give greater stability, and to diminish the expense. He proposes to substitute for the present bed of concrete now generally laid for the support of the granite, permanent wooden sleepers, supporting a covered way of the same material, and forming the segment of a circle, and upon this to rest the granite block. When it is necessary to open the road for laying down or mending pipes or other purposes, the woodwork in that part, it is stated, is easily removed, and as easily replaced in the same position as it was previous to its being disturbed. The advantages claimed are, that it is cheaper than the present mode of paving; will better preserve uniformity of surface; and will mitigate the noise in the streets.

PULHAM'S TERRA COTTA. In Class 27 of the Great Exhibition, seems a very good material, and deserves notice. The maker has added, at the west end, several fresh specimens since we gave our general review of the works in this class. In a statement which Mr. Pulham has put forth, it appears that a piece of his terra cotta, broken by Mr. Bellhouse's hydraulic press, required a pressure equal to the enormous force of 460 tons on the foot cube. The application of terra cotta to the construction of fire-proof staircases ought to have attention.

FALL OF A CORNICHE AT PIMLICO.—Four men were killed on Friday last by the fall of an exterior cornice newly erected on a building of five stories and nearly 80 feet in length, forming three houses in course of erection near Vauxhall-bridge, by Mr. Grigg, builder. The whole of the cornice fell in one piece, carrying the whole of the stage with it, and snapping the scaffold-poles, precipitating the workmen to the ground.

PROPERTY RATED TO THE POOR.—Some interesting information is given in a return recently issued respecting property assessed to the relief of the poor in the several parishes of the metropolis in the rate collected in June last. The value was 9,760,200*l.*, which was made up in the following manner, showing the value of the property in the several districts:—In Hammer-smith the rateable value of the property in four parishes was 139,547*l.* In Chelsea, three parishes, 394,594*l.* In Paddington, two parishes, 395,987*l.* In Marylebone, two parishes, 906,160*l.* In Westminster, twenty-two parishes and extra parochial places, 1,810,814*l.* In St. Pancras, two parishes, 704,517*l.* In Holborn, nineteen parishes and extra parochial places, 985,399*l.* In Shoreditch, nine parishes, 691,670*l.* In Spitalfields, six parishes, 419,852*l.* In the Tower Hamlets, thirteen parishes, 223,474*l.* In Limehouse, five parishes, 263,641*l.* In the City of London, 105 parishes, 877,766*l.* In Battersea, twelve parishes, 231,132*l.* In Lambeth, five parishes, 559,856*l.* In Camberwell, four parishes, 369,230*l.* In Southwark, nine parishes, 477,596*l.*; and in Greenwich, six parishes, 315,561*l.*, making the grand total of 9,760,200*l.*—*Times.*

THE VALUE OF THE THERMOMETER has been shown very strikingly at the Great Exhibition. Mr. Bennett, of Chesapeake, has fixed there twenty of his standard thermometers in different parts of the building, and by diligently recording and communicating each day the varieties of temperature, enabled the Executive to adopt such measures to ensure comfortable breathing as the circumstances demanded. Mr. Bennett has not let the opportunity slip to bring himself into notice by this matter, and deserves for his energy whatever advantage may accrue to him.

MARSH-LAND BRIDGES.—In your paper of the past week you mention a little invention of mine, which you designate "cattle bridges;" but this is not the proper title or purpose of the bridge: I call it the "marsh-land bridge," and its worth consists in preventing cattle and sheep from passing over it, as in the case of a common bridge, whilst it affords the farmer and his men free range from field to field, over many hundred acres, at small expense. The mode of making them, as already stated by you, is correct.—*NATHANIEL MATHEW.*

BRICKMAKING EXTRAORDINARY.—A correspondent states that twelve moulders employed by Messrs. Herold and Rutter, in a field near Urbridge, have made the enormous quantity of 10,875,000 bricks during the season of twenty-two weeks just ended. This quantity will give an average of 906,025 bricks for each moulder. One moulder made 1,046,000, and another made 1,023,000.

IRON TRADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE.—It is stated, in the *Birmingham Gazette*, that the most expensive descriptions of iron, for Birmingham orders, are being delivered there at 8*l.* per ton, and the lowest at about five guineas net. A report has been very general that an advance of 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton on pig iron has been established, but we are assured both by buyers and sellers that it is without foundation.

MANCHESTER IS TO BE A CITY.—We believe we may announce that, at the private meeting of the council on Wednesday last, it was determined that Manchester should be a city, and the mayor was authorised to take the requisite steps for making application for the grant of her Majesty's Royal letters patent, authorising and declaring that henceforth the incorporated borough and town of Manchester should take the name, style, or title of "the City of Manchester." We understand that the mayor has already made the requisite formal application, and that in a short time we may legally and correctly congratulate our "fellow-citizens" on the civic dignity conferred upon Manchester.—*Manchester Guardian.*

TENDERS

For works to Newington Workhouse. Quantities supplied. Mr. H. Jarvis, Architect.

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|---------------|--------|----|---|
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| Myerton | 2,270 | 0 | 0 |
| Paulin | 2,150 | 0 | 0 |
| Meyer | 6,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Tarrent | 1,900 | 0 | 0 |
| Cresley | 1,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Davis | 4,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Brown | 4,250 | 0 | 0 |
| Taylor | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Copper | 4,750 | 0 | 0 |
| Carler | 4,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Kodkin | 8,650 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Cooper | 4,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Kyder | 4,400 | 0 | 0 |
| Waters | 3,875 | 0 | 0 |
| Gills and Co. | 6,375 | 13 | 0 |
| Walker | 4,250 | 0 | 0 |
| Tumble | 4,115 | 0 | 0 |

TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Pinner,"—Can any of our subscribers inform us when please were first issued?
 "J. R."—Chichester (Thanks), "G. J. P."—W. V. T.
 "J. B. W."—Mr. B. "A Brick," "P. P. O. W."
 "T. B. W."—D. H. "A Leaseholder" (adjoining owner should pay for the wall. Apply to an architect), "W. J. B."—we have already admitted a reply. "E. P. K."—J. D. "E. C. K."—T. "One who works for his living" (not pressed enough for such a charge), "A Constant Reader," "E. L."
 "Books and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.
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 THE FORTY-ANNIVERSARY DINNER, to be held at the London Tavern, on WEDNESDAY, October 29, 1863.
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