

## The Fire Engineers' Convention.

The national fire engineers' convention in session at St. Louis last week discussed numerous propositions to secure the efficiency of the fire departments of our large cities. Among other things the use of stand pipes in buildings was a subject of recommendation. Stand pipes are iron pipes of about the dimensions of the ordinary hose used at fires, and reaching from the bottom to the top of a building and connected with the water supply of the city. Hose may be attached to them at any floor, and any room of the whole building flooded in a short time. That these stand pipes are a very excellent auxiliary to a fire department is evident from the fact that insurance companies reduce rates 5 per cent. where such appliances are provided. The representatives of large cities like Cincinnati, Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and Chicago favored the erection of these pipes. In New York there are a large number of stores in which the pipes have been put up, and are sometimes connected with steam pumps. They have frequently been found of use, when the length of hose was sufficiently great, in putting out incipient fires. A committee of the convention recommend that stand pipes be erected in all large buildings and warehouses. The expense is not great, and the reduction in insurance premiums would pay for their erection in a short time. Among the other recommendations of the convention committees are:

1. That the engines should be kept always in such order that they can be manned and be efficient at a moment's notice.

2. That chiefs should have supreme control of their men. This control is necessary to secure thorough discipline and insure the greatest efficiency of the departments.

3. That standing ladders should be erected on all public buildings, large manufactories, hotels, etc.

4. That iron shutters should come into general use on warehouses, factories, etc.; and that shutters above the first story should be provided with fastenings accessible from the outside, in order that firemen might open them speedily.

5. That in all cities with a population of 250,000 inhabitants and upwards, the mains should not be less than 22 inches in diameter. Chicago is not the only city in which the mains are too small. The committee of the convention on water supply reported that the supply of water in almost every city is inadequate.

6. That in the mercantile portions of cities battlement walls of brick or other fireproof material should be constructed at least five feet above the roof, with hose openings twenty-five feet apart and three feet above the roof.

7. That there should be to every three engines one truck with six to ten ladders.

8. That relief engines are a necessity, and should always be kept in order.

9. That cities should forbid the erection of buildings of such height that their roofs are out of the reach of the fire apparatus.

10. That only competent machinists should be employed as engineers of steam fire engines.

11. That paid fire departments be organized in all cities and towns.

Besides these recommendations of committees, the convention adopted a resolution commending to local governments the enactment of ordinances providing that in the purchase of hose the quality should be the best, and that the lowest bidder should be ignored.—*Washington Star*, Oct. 14.

## Fall House Cleaning.

The New York Times gives the following hints as to how to make fall house cleaning easy. It says:

We must not have all the carpets taken up at once, and the whole house in an uproar, but only devote two days in a week to the operation, or, if more desirable, only one. For instance, take Thursday as the cleaning day, and commence with the attic. Sweep it thoroughly, first brushing down all its walls, and destroying all of the spiders' and wasps' nests that can be found. Wash the windows with weak tea, having saved all the leaves used during the week, and then boiled them for half an hour. This liquid will cleanse glass and varnished

paint far better than soap-suds, as it gives them a very bright appearance. If rats and mice lurk in the attic, scatter copperas all about the corners of it, and put dishes of it filled up with water about the room. Copperas is the very best disinfectant for bath-rooms and all places that require to be kept pure, and it will also keep away all kinds of vermin. If cellars are infested with rats and mice, a liberal coat of lime wash, made yellow with copperas or sulphate of iron, will expel the disagreeable intruders, besides making the air of the cellar very pure. If the attic is cleaned one day, the next day can be given to two or more chambers, and if the nails are drawn from the carpets the night previous it expedites the work the next morning. Before the windows are washed the walls should be brushed down with a feather duster, or with a piece of white cotton cloth pinned tightly over the broom, and then it must be used carefully to sweep down every part of the wall. Let the dust subside a little, then scatter torn-up slips of wet paper or tea leaves over the floor and sweep it up, and mop it with a dampened mop. Do not let the floor become quite wet, as it takes pine boards some time to become dry. Wash the mirrors, varnished furniture, paint, and windows with the weak tea, applied as warm as possible. Use a flannel cloth for furniture and paint and newspapers for mirrors and windows, rubbing them dry with dry papers. Papers give a brightness to glass that cloth can never bestow. With a flannel wrung out in the tea wipe off the gas fixtures, chandeliers, and fancy brackets, etc., then rub them dry with chamoise-skin. Take the coarsest of white thread and draw it through the opening in the gas-burners, to remove any particles of dust that have lodged therein while they were not used. If you have two pairs of hands at work, one can wash windows while the other cleans paint, etc. A small stick wrapped in a cloth is of great assistance in cleaning the corners of windows. The spirits of ammonia is also a good cleansing medium, and a tablespoonful to a two-quart pail of weak tea or warm suds is a good proportion to use. It will take spots out of the marble slabs and mantels, and from carpets and furniture coverings. If you do not take up your carpet, you will need to have a piece of oil-cloth or druggist to lay before the windows and doors as you wash them, to keep the drops from it. When the room is as clean as hands can make it, bring in a two-quart pail of warm water in which you have dissolved two table-spoonfuls of powdered alum; wring out a piece of flannel in it and wipe over each breadth of carpet, rubbing down the way the nap runs. Wring out

the cloth every few moments, as it takes up much soil, and when the water becomes dingy prepare some more. The alum will brighten the colors of green, red, yellow and brown, but be sure to wring the cloth so dry it will not wet, but only dampen, the carpet. When it is clean you will be surprised to see how much it is brightened. Leave the windows all open until it is perfectly dry.

## Branch's Diamond Stone Saw.

This wonderful invention, elaborated in the brain of our celebrated manufacturer of circular saws, J. W. Branch, Esq., is the result of much study, numerous experiments and untiring determination that was not to be baffled by obstacles of any kind. It has been run before (but never in public), and our readers have already been afforded a clear and concise description of the principle, which during this week was publicly and most emphatically demonstrated. The hitherto insuperable difficulty has been to so attach the small diamond points in the teeth of a circular saw, as to entirely preclude their detachment. By a very ingenious method the inventor has accomplished this great end, and during this week the originator has operated two saws upon all kinds of material, with the greatest ease and efficiency. To say that the display received attention could not convey an idea of the interest taken in the "Stone Monarch." The building was besieged whenever the saws were put in motion, and towards the close of the week, when in thorough working order, and

with an abundance of power, the difficulties were entirely obviated, the enthusiasm reached its culminating point and Mr. Branch received quite an ovation from those who have been almost as anxiously as he awaiting its complete and permanent triumph. Since we last saw it, complete arrangements involving the necessary facilities for work have been perfected, and in place of the hybrid machine, we found at the Fair a saw and machine and carriage that were without faults. Every device that could be used has been placed on or about the machine. There is an improved bed-plate and carriage for holding the stone and feeding it to the saw. The feed has been gauged with such exactitude that the operator can feed from three-fourths inch to thirty-six inches per minute, and allows instantaneous reduction to the speed desired. The bed plate is furnished with head-blocks of peculiar construction, with which to hold the stone firmly in its place while being sawed. The devices for holding the stone are new and powerful, and can be handled with great convenience and precision. There are no loose pulleys. The belts are always ready for action yet never changed in their position; the simple movement of a lever instantly loosening the belts and stopping the revolution of the saw. The saws in use at the Fair were beauties, two in number and armed one with twelve, and the other with thirty diamonds. Under the experienced management of Mr. Squires, Mr. Branch's superintendent of the machinery, and the supervision of Mr. Branch, a great number of successful tests were made, cutting sandstone, Tripoli, fire brick, limestone and granite like so many logs. Perfectly true in operation, adapted to the work which is now so cumbersome and laborious, the introduction of these saws marks the beginning of a new order of things, the triumphal continuation of which will be attended with an utter revolution in the stone cutting and building industries. From its incipency to the complete success which the invention has now attained, too much praise can not be awarded to Mr. A. Schulte, the manager of Mr. Branch's Works, for the care and attention bestowed upon its development.—*St. Louis paper*.

A LAWYER IN TEARS.—Strange as the phenomenon may be, it is a fact that the heart which pleads at the bar—even the Chicago bar—is sometimes a very tender heart and one that is capable of being overcome with emotion at the words of others. Yesterday Judge Jameson told Mr. Alexander, an attorney of excellent standing among his associates, who was pleading for a change of venue in a pending suit, that the affidavit in support of the motion was gross perjury, and that the lawyer who advised its preparation was guilty of complicity in perjury. These stunning words had a stunning effect on the rebuked lawyer, who forthwith burst into weeping and fell senseless to the floor. After Mr. Alexander had been carried from the court-room, the Judge expressed regret that he had spoken so pointedly to a man who has ever borne so good a reputation. This peculiar case probably has its parallels in court history, but hardly in Chicago.—*Chicago Journal*.

A CHRISTIAN SECT GOING OVER TO JUDAISM.—From Temesvar, Hungary, comes the report that an entire sect, formerly Christians, has determined to embrace Judaism. The Sabbatarians have thus far confessed Christianity, believing in the Messiahship of Jesus of Nazareth, but celebrated the Jewish sabbath as the Lord's day. They also observed other precepts found in the old dispensation. They abstained from eating the flesh of animals designated as unclean, and commemorated the day of atonement. They had to carry on the practice of ceremonies that are Jewish in great secrecy, in order to escape persecution. They now propose to become fully identified with Judaism. A delegation representing one congregation of thirty-four families has arrived at Temesvar to ask admission to the Jewish fold, and to obtain the means to build synagogues, purchase Torahs, and to establish such institutions as are deemed requisite to carry out their object fully. The Sabbatarians are agriculturists, and spread over several villages and townships in Transylvania.—*Jewish Times*.

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S. S. BARTON, Administrators. W. E. JONES, Administrators. Paragonah, Oct. 19th, 1874. w29

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