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PROF. NORTON INVENTS.

(Continued from page 1.)

In getting out of the ground and preparing for market the longer fibres there has been hitherto large waste and a great accumulation of short fibre, so that the "dumps" as they are called, from the asbestos mines extend over great areas and have become a great nuisance and expense.

This condition of things came to the attention of Prof. C. L. Norton of the Physical Department of the Institute while attempting to make a fireproof substitute for wood and he succeeded in making from this very short or refuse asbestos a substance which has been called "asbestos wood."

It possesses the properties of wood to a certain extent, for instance, in that it may be sawed, planed and drilled with the same tools and with the same speed with which hard wood can be worked, and since it is very largely asbestos, it has been given the name "asbestos wood."

As to its physical properties, it is gray in color, weighs from fifty to seventy-five per cent more than the softer woods but not much more than oak and about one-half as much as slate, the weight of an inch board 12 x 12 inches being about eight pounds.

Its fibre strength under transverse loads is about three-fifths that of white pine, but the "asbestos wood" having no knots or shakes and having also the same strength in both directions, there being no grain, has for many purposes quite as effective a strength as ordinary wood.

When exposed to high temperatures it does not burn but loses a portion of its strength. It warps slightly if unequally heated until temperature well above red heat is reached. At these high temperatures its strength becomes markedly less.

At present the material is being made and sold in sheets 36 x 48 inches and in thickness varying from 1-4 to 2-12 inches. Doors, window frames, sheathing, floors and similar portions of structures have been made successfully of the "asbestos wood" which is nailed and screwed and painted or varnished, if one so wishes, just like ordinary wood.

The "asbestos wood" being somewhat absorbent of moisture does not serve well as an electrical insulator unless it be further treated with an insulating medium. As a result of such treat-

ment, there is made what is known as Ebony and Oak "asbestos wood." These are used as substitutes for slate and marble and are capable of withstanding high voltages as, for instance, those one-half to an inch in thickness will not break down at voltages less than fifty or seventy-five thousand volts.

It seems to be resistant to the action of water. Its insulation resistance is distinctly above that of slate even when dry and equal to the blue Vermont marble which is so much used for electrical purposes. The Ebony and Oak are much stronger than the plain "asbestos wood," are harder to work and are heavier and are more expensive than the plain wood, but are easier to work than slate or marble.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS DINE.

(Continued from page 1.)

The men present were W. M. Pettigell, A. E. Shippee, E. E. Wells, Bradley Dewey, Carl A. Gram, C. L. Campbell, H. F. Paine, L. R. Soule, L. R. Forrest, Clark S. Robinson, W. C. Kerr, J. J. Elbert, R. E. Blankenbuehler, L. B. Beers, W. W. King, C. H. Pope, J. N. Stephenson.

NOTICES.

1910.—Sophomore Baseball Meeting in 26 Rogers, Friday at 1.00 P. M.

MINING ENGINEERS.—Meeting of the Mining Engineering Society Friday at 4 in 2 Rogers.

TRACK TEAM.—Candidates for the track team will find the Field open every afternoon.

THE TECH.—The Board of Editors of The Tech will meet in 30 Rogers today at 1 P. M.

Y. M. C. A.—Rev. P. R. Frothingham will address tomorrow's meeting at 1.30 P. M. in Trinity Church Library.

1911.—Meeting at Armory today at 1.45 P. M. to discuss second assessment, football, and baseball.

PENN. CLUB.—The Pennsylvania Club will meet at the Union tomorrow at 6.30 P. M. All Pennsylvania men whether members or not are invited to attend.

The Technology Review

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
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OF TECHNOLOGY

AND
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The Review aims to develop closer relations among Institute men and to stimulate their interest in the work of the College. It is in no sense an engineering magazine, but deals broadly with the problems of Technological Education and the responsibilities of the professional man.

THE REVIEW is published during January, April, July, and October. Communications should be addressed to The TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, 83 Newbury St., Boston.

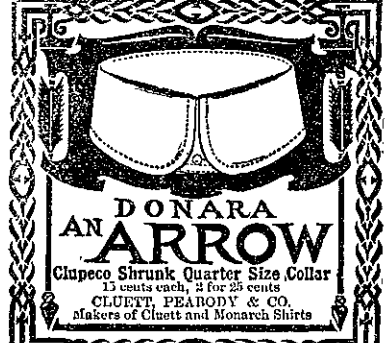
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