

What has been with some justification described as one of the finest building sites of the United Kingdom—the central area of the site of the old George's Dock at the Liverpool Pierhead—has been sold to Messrs. William Cubbitt and Co., London. The area is 7150 square yards, and the price is £85,000—equivalent to £11 18s. 1d. per square yard—and the purchasers promise to spend over £300,000 on a building. The land was purchased by the corporation from the Mersey Docks Board, which erected its magnificent dock offices on one side, while the other side is to be occupied by the headquarters of the Royal Liverpool Friendly Society.

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An ingenious machine has been invented by means of which sound can be visualised. All sound comes from air vibrations, which radiate from the centre of a circle, just as when a stone is thrown into a still pond the water vibrates into little waves. The air waves of sound are, however, invisible, and though they can be measured they cannot be seen. By using a small flame and rapidly rotating mirrors, Mr. Brewer Brown, the inventor, is able to show a continuous picture of the vibrations caused by the human voice, which vary, of course, according to the note sounded. It is very difficult for a person to hear whether his own voice is sounding a correct note, but by means of Mr. Brown's machine he can see for himself.

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It is clear that tubercle bacilli can hardly enter by inhalation through a healthy nose, but can readily gain admittance when an individual breathes through the open mouth. The view that mouth-breathing predisposes to phthisis, and that the normal nose is a valuable protection, is becoming widely accepted, and is borne out by the large proportion of cases of nasal obstruction to be found among consumptive patients. Additional support is afforded by the fact that patients with atrophic rhinitis, whose noses have lost their filtering function, are decidedly liable to phthisis.

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The extent of China's coalfields has been put at 400,000 square miles—more than seventy times the aggregate extent of all the coalfields of Britain.

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Glass brushes are used by artists who decorate china. They are made of glass fibres so thin that they seem like spun silk.

A German not long ago invented a horseshoe of paper, prepared by saturating with oil, turpentine, and other ingredients. Thin layers of such paper are glued to the hoof till the requisite thickness is attained. The shoes thus made are said to be durable and impenetrable by moisture.

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The Tartars are supposed to have, as a nation, the most powerful voices in the world. The Germans possess the lowest voices of any civilised people.

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A needle machine turns out 1,500,000 needles a week.

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In Northern Siberia the ground is frozen to a depth of 600 feet.

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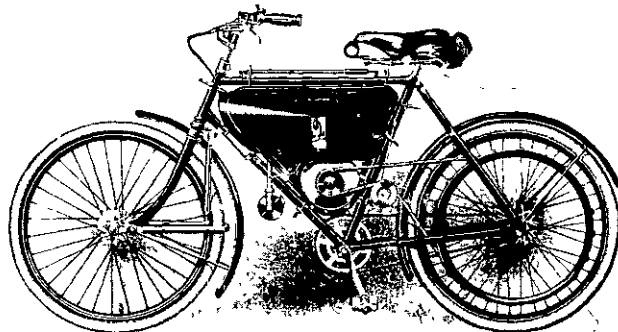
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