

## NOTE.

*Standard Pig Iron Samples.*—The Committee appointed by the American Foundrymen's Association to prepare and distribute standard samples of pig iron drillings, reports that it is now able to distribute a range of samples that will meet the approval and indorsement of managers and chemists employed in the iron industry.

The standardized samples now ready for distribution cover the following determinations :

Silicon, one each of a low, medium and high range of cast iron.

Sulphur, one each of a low, medium and high range of cast iron.

Manganese, one each of a low, medium and high range of cast iron.

Phosphorus, one each of a low, medium and high range of cast iron.

Total carbon, one determination.

Graphite, one determination.

Titanium, three determinations.

In all, seventeen determinations made on four (4) samples.

The samples are designated as A, B, C, and D. Sample A, which has been ground to pass a 40-mesh sieve, gives one total carbon and one graphite. Sample B gives a low silicon, a medium sulphur, a low manganese, a phosphorus which is within the Bessemer limit, and a titanium. This has been passed through a 20-mesh sieve. Sample C gives a medium silicon, high sulphur, medium manganese, medium phosphorus, and a titanium. This has also passed a 20-mesh sieve. Sample D gives a high silicon, low sulphur, high manganese, high phosphorus, and a titanium, and has passed through a 40-mesh sieve.

The drillings were obtained from castings made after the plan described by Mr. West in his paper before the Pittsburg Foundrymen's Association, June, 1898. The drillings were prepared under the supervision of Prof. C. H. Benjamin, and the standardizing under that of Prof. A. W. Smith, both of the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland. The chemists engaged in standardizing the four samples were Messrs. Booth, Garrett, and Blair, Philadelphia ; Prof. A. W. Smith, Cremer and Bick-

nell, Cleveland, O., and Andrew S. McCreath, Harrisburg, Pa.

These samples may be obtained of Thos. D. West, chairman, Sharpsville, Pa. E. H.

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### NOTICE.

The regular monthly meetings of the New York Section will be held in the Chemical Lecture Room of the College of the City of New York, 17 Lexington Avenue, at 8.15 P.M. on the following dates: January 13; February 9; March 9; April 7; May 5; June 9. All chemists who may be visiting New York on the dates named are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

WM. MCMURTRIE.

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### NEW BOOKS.

SOAPS. A practical manual of the manufacture of domestic, toilet, and other soaps. BY GEORGE H. HURST, F.C.S. London: Scott, Greenwood & Co.; New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. Price, \$5.00.

Nearly half this book is devoted to the raw materials used in the manufacture of soap. This part is very comprehensive, containing even a chapter on water as a soap material; at the same time no space is given to technically useless descriptions of those fats and oils, which are but rarely used in soap manufacture, while the position of the commoner fats in the scale of usefulness is clearly stated.

Considering the admirable arrangement of this part of the work, it is to be regretted that it is not more accurate, especially in the chemistry of the fats, for though the author has inserted abundant simple formulas and equations, many passages show that the material has been hastily compiled from the various works on this subject; for instance, with a little thought the author would have avoided the erroneous statement made on page 117 that the proportion of solid fatty acids in tallow is *increased* by the addition of cottonseed-oil stearin. Again, lard is said to contain thirty-five to forty per cent. of stearin with small quantities of palmitin, while actually, as a more careful search into the literature of this subject would have shown, the palmitin in lard is largely in excess of the stearin. Such errors are common in works on this subject, but it is time that they were weeded out.