On June 30, 1911, the total stocks of sulphur in Sicily were 527,965 tons, against 586,878 tons at the same date in 1910. The exports of sulphur during the first half-year of 1911 amounted to 287,410 tons, against 240,919 during the first six months of 1910, an increase of 46,491 tons.

SALT PRODUCTION, 1910.

The United States produced 30,305,656 barrels of salt in 1910, valued at \$7,900,344, according to the U. S. Geological Survey. This was an increase of 198,010 barrels over the production of 1909 but a decrease in value amounting to \$443,487. The six leading producers of salt in 1910 were New York, Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, Louisiana, and California. Nearly 99 per cent. of the salt consumed in the country was obtained from domestic sources, the United States having long been independent of foreign production.

PLATINUM PRODUCTION, 1910.

The entire production of crude platinum from placer mines in the United States for last year, as well as for 1909, came from the States of California and Oregon. This production in 1910, according to Waldemar Lindgren, of the United States Geological Survey, was 390 troy ounces, valued at \$9,507, a decrease of 282 ounces and \$3,296 compared with the figures for 1909.

INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY AND ENGINEERING EXHIBITION.

An International Machinery and Engineering Exhibition will be held at Olympia, London, from October 4 to 26, 1912, inclusive. This Exhibition is organized by the Machine, Tool and Engineering Association (Ltd.), and the Exhibition offices are at 104 High Holborn, London, W. C.

The projectors of the Exhibition state that it is their purpose to secure, if possible, so comprehensive a display that it will be really representative of the engineering trades throughout the world.

MODIFICATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF NICKEL BY THE ETHER METHOD.

Owing to the length of time necessary for the determination of nickel in iron and steel by the usual ether method which involves solution in nitric acid and several evaporations to dryness and baking prior to the ether separation, I have been working toward a shorter method. This has been found by using hydrogen peroxide as an oxidizing agent in place of nitric acid. By this change in method, determinations can be made in one-fourth the time and with just as consistent accuracy.

Method.—Dissolve one gram of the sample in a mixture of 20 cc. of hydrochloric acid and 5 cc. of water using a 200 cc. beaker. Cover with a watch glass and heat until solution is effected. When the sample is dissolved cool the solution a little, add 20 cc. hydrogen peroxide (washing the sides of the beaker and watch glass) and boil to a small bulk, about 10 to 15 cc. Cool and make ether separation in the usual way.

The nickel is determined volumetrically in the usual way making the solution ammoniacal and titrating with potassium cyanide using silver nitrate and potassium iodide as an indicator.

CARPENTER STEEL COMPANY,
READING, PA.,

October 12, 1911.

JOHN P. THOMPSON.

GENERAL NOTES.

Dr. Cushman announces the organization and equipment of a Division of Roads and Pavements under the supervision of Mr. Prévost Hubbard, for the past seven years with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, as chief chemist of the Office of Public Roads.

The Division of Roads and Pavements has been assigned adequate quarters in the Institute's new building, which has just been completed, and will consist of two well equipped laboratories—one for physical work in connection with cements, mortars, concrete block, brick, etc., and the other for chemical analysis and investigations of all types of bituminous and other road and paving materials. The equipment consists of the latest approved apparatus, and special apparatus will be added as occasion demands.

Besides the routine examination, inspection, and specification of road and paving materials which will be undertaken by this Division, the Institute particularly solicits correspondence relative to problems connected with the road material industries, in regard to improvements of materials and processes, and the utilization of waste and by-products.

Ground was broken last week for the Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory of Harvard University. This building, designed for research in physical and inorganic chemistry, will cost when completed about \$72,000. It was given and endowed by Dr. Morris Loeb, Mr. James Loeb and many other friends of Dr. Gibbs and the University.

Mr. Arthur H. Blanchard, M. Am. Soc. C. E., consulting highway engineer, formerly of Providence, R. I., announces the removal of his office and laboratory to Broadway and 117th Street, New York City.

Sugar beets in Canada from the 12,000 acres this