Preserving Wood by Lime-water.

Sir,—Some years ago I called the attention of the readers of your instructive periodical to Sir Charles Stewart Menteith's (of Closeburn, Dumfriesshire) simple unpatented method of preserving timber; I think it so valuable a process, that it cannot be too often published. It is as follows: after cutting the timber to the size it will be wanted, it is steeped in a pond of lime and water for a fortnight, or more or less time, according to the size of the wood. Sir Charles has now some farm buildings on his estate, the timber in the roofs of which is the common young Scotch fir, but having undergone the lime-water process, it is as sound (after a lapse of forty years) as the day it was put up; the same timber, under ordinary circumstances, and in similar situations, would rot in from three to seven years. The carpenters find, in working the wood thus treated, that the edges of their plane-irons soon become dull; on examination, it is found that the acid contained in the wood is crystallized by combining with the alkali of the lime.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR TREVELYAN.
Mech. Mag.

D'Harcourt's Patent Artificial Granite Blocks.

The attention of a meeting of the Institute of Civil Engineers having been called to M. D'Harcourt's artificial granite for railway blocks, and other purposes, Mr. Rastrick remarked that he had, about a month ago, laid down blocks of the Scotch Asphalte, two feet square, on a portion of the Southampton Railway. The sleeper was put in while the block was formed. It was usual to bore holes and to fix the chairs by bolts; he had wished to ascertain how far the blocks would stand the driving in of the bolts, without any boring; they bore this without any apparent injury, and he thought these blocks, weighing about 3 3-4 cwt., would answer the purpose better than blocks of other materials.

Ibid.

*Mechanics' Register.**Daguerre's Photography.*

A few days since M. Daguerre exhibited, in one of the rooms attached to the Chamber of Deputies, several specimens of the products of the Daguerreotype. Among them were views of three streets of the capital, the interior of M. Daguerre's atelier, and a group of busts in the collection of the Louvre. The deputies who examined them, and who continued to crowd the room throughout the day, were particularly struck with the marvellous minuteness of detail which these views, and especially those of the streets, exhibited. In one, representing the Pont Marie, all the minutest indentations and divisions of the ground, or the building, the goods lying on the wharf, even the small stones under the water at the edge of the stream, and the different degrees of transparency given to the water, were all shown with the most incredible accuracy. The use of a magnifying glass revealed an infinity of other details quite undistinguishable by the naked eye, and more particularly in the foliage of trees. The antique busts are said to have been rendered by this method with very great beauty