SCIENCE

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LEATHER LINK BELTING.

THE first impression on seeing a piece of linked belting such as we show illustrations of in this week's *Science* is that the inventor has gone far astray to make a complicated arrangement to take the place of the simple band of leather we are all so familiar with as used in transmitting power. It is only a few years since such belts were first introduced into this country, and till recently they have been looked on as more novel than useful. But as now made they are said to have proved their capabilities of doing all that the old solid belts would, and more. Their great flexibility is one of the strong points in their favor, as they can adjust themselves to almost any angle, so that they can be used in positions where the shafts are out of line with each other, and the belt needs to be twisted.

In the centre of the belt, as shown in Fig. 1, is a series of twisted links. These enable the belt to bend transversely, so that it can adjust itself to the rounded face of a pulley. Figs. 2 and 3 show the contacts of the older form of linked belting, and of that with this so-called American joint, on a curved faced pulley.

The last illustration given (Fig. 4) shows the belting as used in driving a dynamo, the slack side of the belt being on top. In this way the amount of contact with the pulleys is considerably increased and the slip correspondingly diminished. At one time it was supposed that this new belting would give the best results with slow-running machinery; but the actual tests, it is claimed, show it to be well adapted to the fast work called for in driving dynamos.

It will be readily seen that the making of an endless belt is a matter of passing rivets through the links at the point of union, and that such a belt can be made longer or shorter with but little difficulty.

It has thus resulted that a most eccentric invention has apparently found its place among those that make modern machinery more effective.

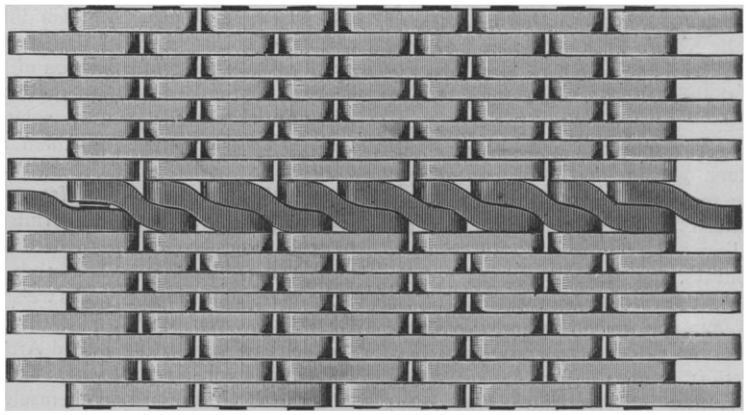

FIG. 1.

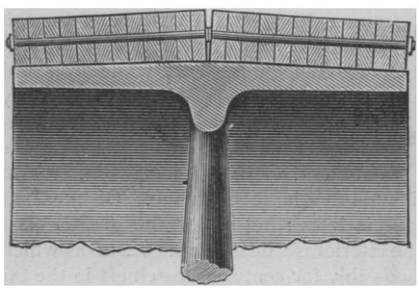

FIG. 2.

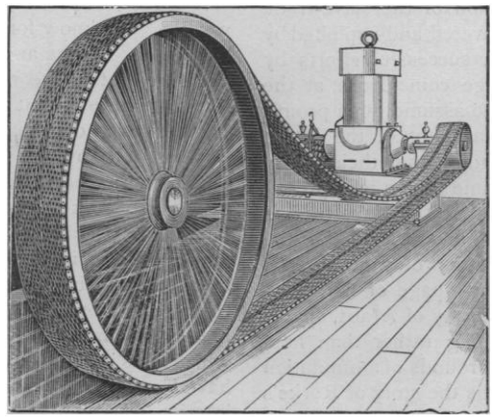

FIG. 4.

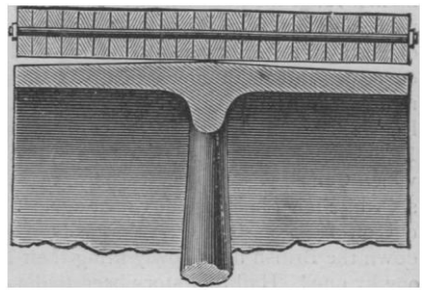

FIG. 3.

LINKED LEATHER BELTING.