

the bottom. A peculiar species is chosen, which spins a strong web; and the animals commence at the bottom, eating and spinning their way up to the top, carefully avoiding every part touched by the oil, but devouring every other part of the paste. The extreme lightness of these veils, combined with some strength, is truly surprising. One of them measuring twenty-six and a half inches by seventeen inches, weighed only 1.51 grains, a degree of lightness which will appear more strongly by contrast with other fabrics. One square yard of the substance of which these veils are made weighs four grains and one-third, whilst one square yard of silk gauze weighs one hundred and thirty-seven grains, and one square yard of the finest patent net weighs two hundred and sixty-two grains and a half.

Convenient method of Gauging.

The time and labour consumed in gauging casks partly filled, has led to an improvement which, by the simplest means, obviates a considerable inconvenience, and enables any person to read off, on a scale, the number of gallons contained in any vessel as readily as he does the degrees of heat indicated by his thermometer. A small stop-cock is inserted near the bottom of the cask, which it connects with a glass tube of narrow bore fixed to a scale on the side of the cask, and rising a little above its top. The plug of the cock must be turned into three positions: in the first it cuts off all communication with the cask: in the second, it opens a communication between the cask and the glass tube: and in the third, it cuts off the connexion between the cask and the tube, and opens a communication between the tube and any vessel held beneath the cock to receive its contents. The scale of the tube is graduated by opening the communication between the cask and the tube, and pouring into the cask a gallon of water. A line is then drawn on the scale opposite the place in the tube to which the water rises. The operation is repeated, and at each successive gallon a new line is drawn. Thus the scale being formed by actual measurement,* both the proprietor and the excise officer see, on inspection, the contents of each cask, and the tedious process of gauging is altogether dispensed with. Other advantages accrue from this simple contrivance in the great economy of time which it introduces in making mixtures of different spirits, in taking stock, and in receiving spirits from the distiller.

Diamonds for Cutting Glass.

The art of using the diamond for cutting glass has undergone, within a few years, a very important improvement. A glazier's appren-

* This contrivance is due to Mr. Henneky, of High Holborn, in whose establishment it is in constant employment.