

# EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS ON SUBJECTS OF CURRENT INTEREST

cement, it is not generally understood that the addition of a small quantity of gypsum (plaster of paris) hastens the setting of some brands but retards that of others.—ROBERT GRIMSHAW, Leonia, N. J. —

## Vacuum.

According to an item in THE TIMES, Mr. Billner has discovered a new kind of vacuum—one that exerts pressure on the space containing it. According to the Billner process, if a vacuum were made in the top of a can of peaches, the peaches would be compressed, at the same time that the juice was sucked out. In connection with hastening the drying, or setting time of hydraulic