formed, and has commenced the manufacture of the article at Harrisburg, Pa.

Facts for the Ladies.-Miss S. A. Davis, Berlin, N. Y., has used Wheeler & Wilson's Lock-Stitch Sewing Machine 17 years in collar making supported herself and an invalid mother, whom she also tended, and has saved over \$2,000; she has been a constant worker by foot power and not sick a day. See the new improvements and Woods' Lock-Stitch Ripper.

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I We present nerewith a series of inquiries embracing a purious of sources of greater or less general interest. The questions are simple, it is true, but we prefer to elicit practical answers from our readers.

1.—OCEAN CABLES.—I would like to know if the Atlantic cable lays on the bottom of the ocean? Or if it is only part of the down, what keeps it there?-H. F. H.

2.-LARD IN TIN CANS.-Is lard injured by being stored in bright tin cans? If so, what is the chemical action which causes the injury?

3.—Plaster Casts from Dead Bodies.—I wish to know how to take a plaster of Paris cast of a tumor on a face, so as to represen the face and the tumor? What will give to the plaster a glossy finish? I can take a very good cast, but fail to get as good a finish as I have seen. J. A. D. Jr.

4.—PAINT FOR IRON.—Can any one inform me if there is any substance that can be applied easily, say with a brush or otherwise, in a thin coat to iron, that will stand heat to redness without melting, peeling off, or cracking ?-E. J.

5.—CEMENT FOR LETTERS ON GLASS.—How are the gilt letters put on glass signs, so as to have the polished appearance that all such gilt letters do? The painters here do not know how to do it, although one of them is a subscriber to the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.-J. F.

6.—Separation of Oils.—By mistake one bairel raw linseedolland one barrel West Virginia lubricating oil got mixed in our oil tank. Is there any means of separating the two oils?--R. K.

7.—DIMENSIONS OF BELT.—Can any one of your readers inform me what width of belt I require to convey one, two, or three horse power?-W. J. S.

8.-WEEVIL.-What will prevent the weevil getting into Indian corn? What will exterminate it from a lot of corn, shelied and in bags? How long will the corn keep safe from getting musty, when stored in open casks or common grain bags in piles, the bags standing on end on

9.—GOLD SOLUTION.—Will the gold solution to be applied by brush, mentioned in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, Vol. XXVI. page 280, adhere on the plating of buggy dash rims or harness mounting, as on iron or steel not so plated? If so, how long will it retain its brilliancy? Will it not soon come off? How are the mountings of harness plated with gold or silver? Must a battery be necessarily used in such plating, whether white or golden? -J. B.

10.—Test for Zinc.—What is the best test for zinc in wells where galvanized pipes are used? What per cent or how many grains in a gallon of water is sufficient to injure health?-J. B.

11.—SLACK COAL AND SAW DUST.—At our saw mill, coal is used under the boiler; and upon exposure to weather, it slacks and, unavoidably, we have much coal dust, and of course we have much saw dust to spare. Is there any way to utilize them, and so reduce the cost of our fuel? A way that would not be very expensive-all the machinery and parts of the process being of home manufacture-is needed .- J. F. T

12.—METAL LINING IN CAST IRON VESSELS.—How can I prevent the lining metal in cast iron boxes from becoming loose? After they have run some time, the lining becomes loose, and I have to refill them. Would tinning the boxes prevent the metal from getting loose? It so, what would be the best process to tin boxes that are cast on the frame so that they cannot be removed. The lining metal used is Babbitt's metal, minus the antimony. -W. A.

## *<u>Eusiness</u>* and Lersonal.

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title of the Rubber Graphite Paint Company has been Old Furniture Factory for Sale. A. B., care Jones Scale Millstone Dressing Diamond Machine—Simple, effective, du Works, Binghamton, N. Y.

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Wood Cutting by Electricity—Communications on this subject can be addressed to the patentee, G. Robinson, Box 2622, Post Office, New York

Write for Chemicals, Crude Materials, and Drugs for Manufacturers' use, to L. & J. W. Feuchtwanger, 55 Cedar Street, New York. Steel Castings to pattern, strong and tough. Can be forged and tempered. Address Collins & Co., 212 Wat., a treat, New York.

The Waters Perfect Steam Engine Governor is manufactured by he Haskins Machine Co., Fitchburgh, Mass.

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Boyntom's Lightning Saws. The genuine \$500 challenge. Will cut five times as fast as an ax. A 6 foot cross out and buck saw, \$6. E. M. Boynton, 80 Beckman Street, New York, Sole Proprietor,

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rable. For description of the above see Scientific American, Nov. 27th 1869. Also, Glazier's Diamonds John Dickinson, 64 Nassau st., N. Y.

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## Accent American and Loreign Latents.

Urder this heading we shall publish weekly notes of some of the more prominent home and foreign patents.

MEDICAL COMPOUND.-John Frechette, of Chicago, Ill.-This invention furnishes an improved medical compound or tonic bitters for invigorating the system when reduced or weakened by sickness. In preparing the compound are taken one pound of orange peel, three quarters of a pound of calamus, one quarter of a pound of ginger, one quarter of a pound of bayberry bark, and four lemons. These ingredients are ground and put into two rallons of pure spirits, diluted to not less than seventy-five per cent of spirits. The compound is allowed to stand for thirty-six hours in a warm place, and is then reduced to forty per cent of spirits, sweetened to taste with crushed sugar sirup, and filtered. It is then ready for bottling for use or formarket.

VELVET REEL. -- Peder Jürgens, of St. Paul, Minn, -This invention consists of a pair of oval or cylindrical blocks of wood and another block, of square or other form, placed between them, with a wide board attached to each end of the blocks so as to form a reel. On this reel, velvet ribbon is wound by fastening one end to a pin in the central block and whirling the reel on a pivot at the lower side which may be placed on the counter. The reel is whirled by ahandle or key affixed to the upper side, and the pin isso placed in the central block that it will not penetrate the layers of ribbon as they are wound on.

ROTARY PUDDLING FURNACE.-Joseph Davies, of Knoxville, Tenn.-In this invention, the revolving puddling furnace is mounted on rollers and rotated in the ordinary manner: it has a large central opening at one side to eccive the fire from the combustion chamber, to which it is closely fitted, and another opening on the other side discharging into the flue which leads to the chimney. A flat puddling table is placed upon one part of the interior wall of this puddling furnace, with a hole through the side of the cylinder, arranged in such relation to the table as to allow of balling the metal onit in small balls adapted to be worked into blooms in the squeezer at one operation, the same as it is balled in the stationary furnace. A passage through the flue provides for removing the bails.

Dog for Saw Mill.-Denison Chase, of Orange, Mass.-This invention relates to apparatus used in saw mills for holding logsto be sawed. The dog consists of a bed plate fixed to a head block, to which is attached a slotted upright, against which the log rests when partly sawed. In rear of the upright is a stand or round bar which carries the dog proper stand is attached rigidly to the bed plate, and the dog is fitted to it so that it will slide up and down on it. In either direction from the central sleeve of the dog are two arms, each furnished with a claw or flager for entering The dog slides up and down in the slot of the upright, and when not in use is raised above the upright and turned round out of the way.

HYDROSTATIC SAFETY LAMP.—Hampton S. Whitfield, of Tuscaloosa, Ala. -This invention relates to that class of well known lamps where the oil is forced up by another liquid. The body of the lamp consists of an upper reservoir, a lower reservoir, and a connecting neck or partition. The neck has two holes formed through it, one to receive a pipe which extends nearly to the bottom of the lower reservoir, and the other to receive a flattened tube which extends up to the top of the upper reservoir, and which is designed to receive the elongated flattened wick tube attached to an ordinary burner. The lower end of the tube projects a little below the bottom of the neck or partition that separates the upper and lower reservoirs, so that there will always be a stratum of air in the upper part of the lower reservoir which cannot escape, and which keeps the oil from penetrating the partition.

Spring Bed Bottom.-Donald McMurchy, of Jeffersonville, Ind.-This nvention furnishes an improved spring bed bottom, simple in construction. effective in operation, and durable. The posts, siderails, and end rails of the bedstead are as ordinarily constructed. To the inner sides of the end rails are attached bars in which are formed notches or sockets to receive the ends of spring slats. Each spring slat is placed between and connected with two slide slats which should also be elastic. The side slats are made of such a length that when pressed downward their ends come in contact with and rest upon the bars. Various appliances, which cannot be explainedin detail, are added to keep the slats in position. With this construction, should the central spring slats become permanently bent or set they may be removed and reversed, making the bed bottom again as good as new: light weights will be supported by the elasticity of the central slats. but heavy weights will bring the ends of the side slats into contact with the bars, so that the weight will be supported by the elasticity of the three slats, the bed bottom being thus equally easy and elastic, whether supporting light or heavy weights.

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