

E. R. McC. asks: Can a patent be attached or a debt of the inventor? A. No. An injunction might be granted in a proper case, preventing its transfer except to a receiver appointed by the court.

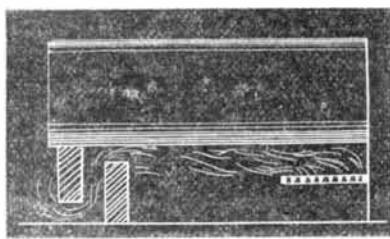
C. R. M. says: Kainit, as usually sold, consists of 28 to 30 per cent of sulphate of potassa, 14 to 16 per cent sulphate of magnesia, 4 to 5 per cent chloride of magnesia, 38 to 40 per cent chloride of sodium, and 10 to 12 per cent sulphate of lime. I want to use it as a substitute for ashes (which I cannot get), as a manure for onions. What is its probable efficacy? The potash and salt are good, but is the sulphate of magnesia likely to be injurious? A. The large proportion of potash in kainite should render it superior to ashes as a fertilizing agent, and we do not believe that the other salts will materially affect it in this respect.

H. A. S. says: 1. On page 27, current volume, in your answer to M. W. H., you say that 9,000 feet per minute is recommended as the proper speed for the rims of circular saws of all sizes. I think that, other things being equal, the speed of the rim should be in proportion to the power. I should figure the speed of the little foot power saw by compound proportion, thus: If a saw with teeth one inch apart, running with six horse power, cutting nine inch lumber, requires a speed of 9,000 feet per minute, what should be the speed of a saw with teeth half an inch apart, cutting one inch lumber and running with one eighth horse power?

1: 3 1/2 :: 9,000 : 643+. I do not say 643 feet per minute is 1 1/4 just the right speed for a foot power saw, but I think it would be correct if 9,000 is just right for the supposed six horse powersaw. The smaller saw might, however, be made to saw smoothly by running at a higher speed, but I think only by a loss in the amount of work done. I think the reason that your correspondent's saw did less work at the higher speed was that more power was required to cut the sawdust finer, and more was lost in economizing friction. A. Your theory does not agree with the results obtained by experiment. 2. Not long since I heard a man say that kerosene oil would destroy the temper of steel. Is it true? As the temper depends on the internal structure of the steel, and the oil can reach only the surface, I do not see why the temper should be injured throughout. A. You are right. 3. At what speed should a power drill run? A. In wrought iron, the speed of the drill should be about 12 feet a minute.

R. C. says, in reply to S. G. F., who asked about filtering water: If he can dig a trench, parallel with the stream, arrange a filtering gallery and filter the water through the bottom of his gallery, perhaps it would help him out and give no further trouble.

W. S. D. says, in reply to J. M., who asked if a check wall under the back end of a steam boiler will save fuel: Build a bridge wall just 1 foot forward



of the back end of the boiler, up to 4 inches from the bottom of the boiler, and then another wall just at the end of the boiler upon an iron bar hung on the side walls, to hang down 8 or 10 inches below the top of the bridge wall. Let the second wall come close up to the boiler. You will save fuel each day enough to pay you for your trouble and expense, and not a spark will escape into the smokestack.

G. S. D. says, in reply to A. M., who asked how to find the weight of a person's head without cutting it off: Attach to the person, as high up as convenient, an ordinary rubber bag or life preserver with tube and stop cock. Immerse the apparatus in water, and force air into the bag until the head is entirely above the surface. Secure the bag of air in any suitable vessel, fill with water, and weigh. Let out the air, again fill the vessel with water, and weigh. The difference between these two weights will equal the weight of the head.

T. V. says, in reply to T. J. McM.'s question: How can I divide a line into two parts so that the square of one of the parts may be double the square of the other? Let A B be the given line. Draw A C, making $\frac{1}{2}$ of a right angle with A B, and draw B C, making $\frac{1}{2}$ right angle with same line; at the angle C, draw C D a right angle to C B. Then the square on D B is double that on A D.

E. B. W. says, in reply to the question: What would become of a body dropped into a hole passing through the earth's center? This question has been much discussed, and the following opinions given: 1. By the prodigious momentum acquired in falling, the body would pass out at the opposite side into space. 2. That it would move to the opposite surface, return to the starting point, and vibrate for ever from side to side. 3. That these vibrations would lessen and the body finally rest at the center. I hold that none of these opinions are correct, but that the body would fall to the center and not pass it. What of its momentum? asks some one. In general, the momentum or inertia of a moving body is represented by the product of its velocity and weight, and may be formulated thus: $m = v \times w$. When the body reaches the center of gravity, being attracted equally in all directions, it has no weight; and the formula becomes $m = v \times 0 = 0$. That is, the momentum of a falling body ceases at the center of gravity. Nothing then remains to cause it to pass that point. Will some mathematician calculate the culminating points of the velocity and momentum in the descent of a falling body? I opine the former is much nearer the center than the latter.

M. J. M. says, in reply to R. T. and others who asked for a recipe for wood filling: Take 3 lbs. corn starch or silver white, 1 lb. pulverized pumicestone, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint boiled oil; add Japan varnish enough to dry the oil and turpentine to make it the consistency of thin paint; apply with a brush, then let it stand until it begins to turn white, then commence rubbing with a cotton cloth, always in circle and against the grain of the wood. For cleaning the filling out of carving, make a brush of hair cloth by removing the thread from the hair, leaving the hair about an inch long; roll it tight and fasten with tacks. Set the wood aside for one day to dry. After it has become dry take seven parts of boiled oil, one part of naphtha, and oil the work with it clean with cotton cloth. You will find that the wood will be very white before applying the oil, but the oil will restore it to its original color.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents, and examined with the results stated:

G. L. E.—Your specimen consists of dark colored tourmaline in quartz. Tourmaline is a silicate of alumina, containing also oxide of iron and potash.

N. M.—These specimens are iron pyrites, and are of little value at the present time.

A.—The mineral sent is graphite or plumbago: which, you know, is composed of carbon. The specimen shows traces of iron.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN acknowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of original papers and contributions upon the following subjects:

On Death Statistics. By S. B.

On Ventilation. By S. W. and by W. S. Jr.

On the Art of Tanning. By D. S.

On the Duration of Brain Impressions and the Memory. By D. S. T.

On the Use of Petroleum in Steam Boilers. By J. B. W.

On Canal Navigation in Winter. By C. P.

On the Cow Milk Tree. By C. L.

Also enquiries from the following:

H. W.—N. T. W.—C. A. M.—F. L. R.—J. H.

Correspondents in different parts of the country ask: Who makes ditching plows, to be drawn by horse power? Who furnishes small castings of a low grade of steel? Where can infusorial silica be obtained in large quantities? Who makes feed water heaters? Who makes electric gas lighters? Who constructs boilers which will not explode when the water gets low? Where is a boring machine, suitable for hubs for setting boxes, sold? Where can asbestos be obtained? Makers of the above articles will probably promote their interests by advertising, in reply, in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

Correspondents who write to ask the address of certain manufacturers, or where specified articles are to be had, also those having goods for sale, or who want to find partners, should send with their communications an amount sufficient to cover the cost of publication under the head of "Business and Personal," which is specially devoted to such enquiries.

[OFFICIAL.]

Index of Inventions

FOR WHICH

Letters Patent of the United States
WERE GRANTED IN THE WEEK ENDING

February 3, 1874,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

(Those marked (r) are reissued patents.)

Alignment instrument, C. O. Wederkirch.....	147,210
Artist's kit, T. Campे.....	147,101
Awning, D. C. Baxter.....	147,090
Bale tie, C. Driscoll.....	147,019
Bale tie, O. R. McLean.....	147,015
Bale tie, C. H. Schnelle.....	147,179
Barrel roller, J. E. Thorn.....	147,028
Barrels and kegs, washing, L. Langguth.....	147,238
Bedstead, wardrobe, J. L. Ferguson.....	147,117
Beehive, Bobo & Johnson.....	147,037
Beehive, A. Canniff.....	147,222
Bell, call, J. A. Evarts.....	147,116
Bench and step ladder, combined, C. Hood.....	147,003
Blacking box, C. W. Beebee.....	147,034
Boat and muf combined, C. Ring.....	147,178
Boiler feed and regulator, L. Swenson.....	147,079
Boiler, wash, C. H. Straflin.....	147,195
Bootjack, Sawyer & Sanborn.....	147,069
Boot pac, Weaver & Hawkins.....	147,083
Boot and shoe inner sole, J. P. Doty.....	146,992
Boot soles, polishing, L. Graf.....	147,125
Boot soles, stamping figures on, L. G. Swett.....	147,196
Boot turned seam, S. W. Shorey (r).....	5,754
Boot heel stiffener, A. H. Willoughby.....	147,030
Bottle stopper, P. Hayes.....	147,002
Box packing, W. D. Woodruff.....	147,086
Bracelet fastening, H. Stone.....	147,078
Broom, J. Shipman.....	147,182
Buckle, S. S. Hartshorn (r).....	5,755
Building, fireproof, P. H. Jackson.....	147,006
Button hole cutter guide, A. W. Webster.....	147,209
Caissone, portable, J. Brown.....	147,040
Cakes, making, D. B. Fuller.....	147,000
Car air brake, M. Champion.....	147,225
Car brake, G. Westinghouse, Jr.....	147,212
Car coupling, Gates & Root.....	147,001
Car coupling, O. and W. Rochford.....	147,175
Car coupling, C. P. Russell.....	147,177
Car door, street, J. Stephenson.....	147,190
Car door, street, J. Stephenson.....	147,192
Car, refrigerator, J. J. Bate.....	146,980
Car, safety, J. T. Worley.....	147,215
Car seat, head rest for, W. H. Peirsol.....	147,161
Car, sleeping, J. R. Renfry.....	147,171
Car spring, G. F. Godley.....	147,124
Car starter, E. Ames.....	147,058
Car starter, D. Warren.....	147,207
Cars, pedestal for railroad, J. Stephenson.....	147,191
Carpet cleaner, H. S. Allison.....	146,975
Carpet fastener, G. Gerardin.....	147,054
Carriage door, G. Kellner.....	147,058
Carriage spring, E. Wright.....	147,057
Casting mold board, J. Oliver.....	147,157
Casting mold board, J. Oliver.....	147,158
Ceiling, center piece for, W. Warren.....	147,206
Chain, P. Kaufman.....	147,139
Chain for necklaces, etc., S. Cottle.....	147,045
Chair, folding, Little & Prindle.....	147,147
Chandelier, G. Petry.....	147,164
Clothes line attachment, D. W. Smith.....	147,074
Clothes wringer, roller for, S. Ellis.....	147,112
Column, wrought iron, C. H. Kellogg.....	147,011
Condensing steam, etc., E. Körting.....	147,141
Corn cutter, green, B. Merritt.....	147,150
Cornices, etc., composition for, W. E. Brock.....	146,985
Corset, J. W. Askle.....	146,976
Cotton laps, making, T. C. Craven.....	147,104
Cradles, apparatus for rocking, D. Nash.....	147,154
Cultivator, Risley & Rogers.....	147,068
Curtain fixture, Buckley & Sawyer.....	147,099
Curtain fixture, C. Fisher.....	147,118

Dental apparatus, E. O. Smith	147,026	Sewing machine, W. Muir.....	147,151
Derrick, Setton & Jones.....	147,180	Sewing machine bobbin holder, R. T. Gillespie.....	147,123
Dispensing effervescent liquids, T. Walker.....	147,205	Sewing machine caster, G. W. Eddy.....	146,997
Door check, Dennuth & Willis.....	147,227	Sewing machine table, Marchand & Hutchinson.....	147,118
Dredgers, grapples for, A. T. Morris (r).....	5,750	Sewing machine lamp, Church & Driscoll.....	146,988
Dyeing cotton, A. Keller.....	147,610	Sewing machine treadle, N. & C. Dubrul.....	146,994
Egg and fruit carrier, W. D. Taber.....	147,197	Shoe fore part iron, R. S. Babblit.....	146,978
Electric gas lighting, frictional, J. P. Putnam.....	147,020	Skate, J. Forbes (r).....	5,749
Engine, rotary reciprocating, T. A. Fisher.....	147,174	Skirt, felt, J. E. Pollard.....	147,166
Engine feed water heater, J. Vandevelde.....	147,081	Skylight, G. Hayes	147,129
Engine variable exhaust, S. J. Dampman.....	147,107	Skylight bar, G. Hayes.....	147,130
Equalizer, draft, B. D. Morton.....	147,151	Slate frames, dressing, T. W. Parry.....	147,066
Evaporator in vacuo, F. O. Matthiesen.....	147,149	Spading machine, J. Gilea.....	147,122
Eye glass, L. A. Berteling	146,982	Spinning wheel, F. Voegtl.....	147,300
Faucet, Malmström & Dummer.....	147,060	Spring door, A. A. Stimson.....	147,077
Faucet, pumping, J. G. L. Boettcher.....	147,094	Spring, furniture, W. T. Doremus.....	147,048
Feather duster, J. L. Little	147,146	Squares, marking carpenters', H. K. Jones.....	147,008
Fertilizing compound, R. Birdsall.....	147,085	Stage machinery, W. Hyland.....	147,005
Felt fabrics, finishing, J. E. Pollard.....	147,167	Steel, manufacture of, T. Brooks.....	147,231
Felted fabric, J. E. Pollard.....	147,165	Stove heater, wood, J. C. Frazier.....	147,120
Files, etc., tempering, C. Engel.....	147,114	Stove leg, J. Biegler.....	147,218
Fruit jar fastening, J. Koebeler.....	147,012	Stove and hot air furnace, T. J. Whitehead.....	147,029
Furnace fix, Nelson & McNeff.....	147,064	Telegraph insulator, P. Eby	146,996
Furnace, reverberatory, E. Hellendorfer.....	147,036	Telegraph register, Morse, J. E. Smith.....	147,186
Furnace for steam boilers, D. T. Casement.....	147,043	Telegraph, printing, J. E. Smith.....	147,183
Furnace, reverberatory, J. Ostrander	147,159	Thill tug, D. C. Bassett	147,089
Furnace air distributing pipe, A. Rawson			