

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

A. K.—It is a sample of spiegelisen. It is a valuable product, produced by smelting, in a blast furnace with charcoal, a sparsh iron ore containing a large percentage of manganese.—W. H. R.—Your supposed animated horsehair is a species of the genus *gordius*, frequently found in still water; it is not thicker than a horsehair, and is popularly considered to be a hair of that description in the act of being transformed into an eel. Linnaeus calls it *gordius aquaticus*.—J. P.—It is galena, an ore of lead.—A. B. C.—It is a sample of a fine quality of clay. Shale has the property (which clays have) of capability of being kneaded up with water and fashioned like paste by the hand; but it is a much stronger and firmer clay than the sample sent.—A. H.—It is magnetite, inclosing granules of apatite and phosphate of lime. All minerals are reported upon in the week in which they are received, except such few as require a longer period for analysis. The last have not altogether exceeded a dozen in number.

W. J. B. says: I have constructed two large sliding doors 10 feet high, 5 feet wide, and 2½ inches thick. They run on a round track on the bottom, with small pulleys on the top. I have weighted them so that they will open themselves as soon as unlocked, and I want a device that will shut them after they have been open 2 or 3 minutes. Can any of your readers inform me of one?—D. W. asks: 1. How can I make a cheap sealing wax of a violet color? 2. How can I make a good indelible ink, to be used with a stencil plate, for marking clothing?

#### COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

On Popular Fallacies. By A. D. F. H.  
On the Cardiff Giant. By E. X.  
On the Movements of a Gum Ball. By R. L. S.  
On the Philosophy of Thunderstorms. By J. H. G.  
On Swimming with the Clothes On. By W. A. H.  
On a Remarkable Prescription. By Z. T. D.  
On Strained Honey. By H. W. S.  
On a Family killed by Lightning. By P. D. R.

#### HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents whose inquiries fail to appear should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them. The address of the writer should always be given.

Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be published here. All such questions, when initials only are given, are thrown into the waste basket, as it would fill half of our paper to print them all; but we generally take pleasure in answering briefly by mail, if the writer's address is given.

Hundreds of enquiries analogous to the following are sent: "Please to inform me where I can buy sheet lead, and the price? Where can I purchase a good brick machine? Whose steam engine and boiler would you recommend? Which churn is considered the best? Who makes the best mucilage? Where can I buy the best style of windmills?" All such personal enquiries are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Personal," which is specially set apart for that purpose, subject to the charge mentioned at the head of that column. Almost any desired information can in this way be expeditiously obtained.

#### OFFICIAL:

#### Index of Inventions

FOR WHICH

**Letters Patent of the United States**  
WERE GRANTED IN THE WEEK ENDING  
**July 28, 1874,**  
AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

Adding machine, F. S. Baldwin..... 153,532  
Air motor, J. Laubereau..... 153,440  
Air to beer barrels, etc., D. and W. L. Adams..... 153,512  
Almanac, J. Tunbridge..... 153,505  
Anthracene, preparation of, Caro *et al*..... 153,536  
Auger, cart, D. A. Banks..... 153,484  
Axle skein, J. J. Hutchins..... 153,569  
Bag fastener, W. T. Johnston..... 153,571  
Bag for guano, etc., B. R. Croasdale..... 153,477  
Bag tie, S. A. Bartlett..... 153,472  
Bale tie, cotton, Y. F. Wright..... 153,463  
Bark, etc., grinding, J. Moulton..... 153,492  
Bed lounge, McClellan & King..... 153,559  
Beastcad fastening, A. F. Stowe..... 153,465  
Billiard cue tip fastener, T. Fuller..... 153,476  
Binder, temporary, B. J. Beck..... 153,526  
Boiler flux cleaner, H. Lehmann..... 153,441  
Bolt, was', E. A. Osborne..... 153,495  
Bolting reel, M. French..... 153,558  
Boot sole edges, turning, L. M. Baker..... 153,520  
Boots, tacking, Thompson & Bergh..... 153,467  
Boot toe protector, T. Cook..... 153,451  
Box for packing teasels, H. Thurlow..... 153,635  
Braiding and embroidering, E. Cornely..... 153,542  
Brick machine, S. H. Daddow..... 153,427  
Bridge, truss, S. Conklin..... 153,540

Bridges, iron support for, Hammond & Adler..... 153,483	Sawing machine, J. M. Linnell..... 153,530
Bridles, headstall for, D. Angelo..... 153,514	Scaffold for builders, O. P. Ambrustusen..... 153,471
Brush, paint, J. L. Whiting (r)..... 5,930	Scrapers, road, P. C. Post..... 153,607
Button, sleeve, L. S. Beals..... 153,535	Seed dropper, H. Koeller..... 153,576
Can, airtight, J. H. Post..... 153,608	Seeding machine, C. O. Gardiner..... 153,559
Can, oil, O. N. and A. S. Perkins..... 153,604	Sewer trap tray, E. D. Culver..... 153,425
Car axle box, Fern & Erbach..... 153,554	Sewing machine cutter, Tobey and Bryant..... 153,438
Carbrake, E. I. Hockaday..... 153,567	Sewing machine table, J. T. Jones..... 153,438
Carbufer frame, rail road, H. B. King..... 153,491	Sewing shoes, machine for, W. Duchemin..... 153,428
Car coupling, L. Herring..... 153,435	Sewing stand, A. Tostevin..... 153,463
Car coupling, J. Rancevan..... 153,603	Shirt bosom, W. Hay..... 153,564
Carcoupling, Smith & Bray..... 153,623	Shirt bosom support, J. M. Maurer..... 153,414
Car wheel, I. Driggs..... 153,548	Shutter fastener, Z. F. Bryant..... 153,420
Carding machine, P. J. McGoveran..... 153,416	Steve, C. B. Grahl..... 153,568
Carding machine screen, W. J. English..... 153,429	Signal light, J. C. McMullin..... 153,591
Carriage and wagon, F. H. Davis..... 153,545	Signaling apparatus, electric, W. H. Sawyer..... 153,498
Carriage, child's, J. Sues..... 153,629	State, roller, O. F. Bowen..... 153,474
Carriage wrench, H. Cutler..... 153,544	Skylight, burglar proof, M. T. Williams..... 153,652
Chair, invalid, E. Cutter..... 153,478	Sleigh, Seigfried & Borden..... 153,617
Chair, spring, W. T. Doremus..... 153,477	Stall cutter, Babcock & Stetson..... 153,416
Chimney cap, D. Boyd..... 153,530	Stamp, perforating, C. Schortau..... 153,558
Churn, J. C. Babl..... 153,518	Stand, reading and copying, C. E. Wells..... 153,642
Clamp, flooring, H. Chileson..... 153,422	Steamer and boiler, food, L. S. Bunker..... 153,533
Clamp for riggers, adjustable, E. A. Evans..... 153,551	Still, oil, E. Schalk (r)..... 5,988
Composition, mildew, S. M. Coburn..... 153,476	Stone dressing machine, J. D. Husband, Jr..... 153,568
Copying book, C. R. Miller..... 153,495	Stove, coal oil, J. H. Thorp (r)..... 5,959
Corseet, C. A. Baldwin..... 153,521	Stove, cooking, D. E. Paris..... 153,600, 153,601
Cotton, etc., hoisting, J. B. Wendel..... 153,643	Stove grate, M. A. Withers..... 153,655
Crif and cradle, H. H. Wiggers..... 153,617	Stove, heating, D. E. Paris..... 153,602
Cultivator, W. Hartgrove..... 153,565	Stove lid lifter and stand, S. Hill..... 153,588
Cultivator, J. D. Lynch..... 153,586	Stove, parlor cook, D. E. Paris..... 153,603
Cultivator, O. M. Shewmel..... 153,620	Stove, reservoir cooking, F. Wariner..... 153,641
Cutter, selvage and twine, C. W. Collyer..... 153,539	Stump extractor, R. P. Cory..... 153,543
Cut, movable, B. Cottle..... 153,424	Sugar, manufacturing hard, C. Spreckels..... 153,626
Derrick, E. O. Long..... 153,582	Table, drawing or writing, J. A. Knight (r)..... 5,993
Diamonds, machine for cutting, C. M. Field..... 153,555	Tachometer, R. H. Elliott..... 153,550
Door plate and letter box bell, J. J. Rose..... 153,615	Tanning composition, Stockton & Ward..... 153,464
Door pull, A. D. Judd..... 153,490	Tanning process, C. J. Tinnerholm..... 153,636
Door and gate spring, A. A. Stimson..... 153,503	Telegaph register and sounder, H. Middleton..... 153,593
Dredging machine, G. Souther..... 153,625	Telescope, Nystrom & Young..... 153,499
Engine, electromagnetic, H. M. Paine..... 153,456	Thill coupling, E. Brick..... 153,531
Engine, steam, F. Latta (r)..... 5,985	Thrashing machine, Blaymyer & Dull..... 153,419
Engines, slide for steam, Smith & Beggs..... 153,524	Ticket, A. Shiland..... 153,401
Fire extinguisher, S. Hodkinson..... 153,437	Ticket, C. H. Waite..... 153,507
Flowers, artificial, P. Knorpp..... 153,575	Ticket case, O. P. Beck..... 153,527
Furnace, hot air, C. Clark..... 153,537	Toy block, H. B. Owen..... 153,539
Furnace, portable, Roney & Eichbaum..... 153,451	Toy pistol, C. Nelson..... 153,597
Furnace, tyro heating, J. D. Vanderkarr..... 153,640	Toy trundle, C. E. Hicks..... 153,487
Game apparatus, P. H. Sessions..... 153,459	Trunk, W. J. Large..... 153,578
Gas fixture packing, Vosburgh & Day..... 153,605	Umbrella, S. R. Pinckney..... 153,637
Gas lighter and extinguisher, G. S. Dunbar..... 153,549	Valve, piston, G. H. Gibbs (r)..... 5,984
Gas machine, carbureting, R. L. Cohen..... 153,538	Valve, relief, G. C. Sweett..... 153,632
Gases, purifying, J. A. Miller..... 153,453	Valve, stop, R. S. Gillespie..... 153,561
Generator, steam, W. E. Haxton..... 153,486	Vehicle dash rail, L. W. Everett..... 153,552
Glass melting pot, M. Sweeney..... 153,631	Vehicle, hand, J. M. & J. L. Jones (r)..... 5,992
Glass or tumbler, jelly, M. J. Bennett..... 153,529	Vehicle seat, D. V. Miller..... 153,594
Grain dryer, F. H. C. Mey..... 153,592	Vehicle spring, J. D. Richardson..... 153,612
Hammer, trip, J. C. Butterfield..... 153,534	Vehicle wheel, J. Curtis..... 153,426
Hand rest, H. Willard..... 153,633	Vehicle wheel, J. F. Frederburgh..... 153,557
Harness coach pad, A. McCracken..... 153,454	Vehicle wheel, M. B. Wever..... 153,644
Harrow teeth, H. B. Fargo..... 153,430	Velocipede, A. Cooke..... 153,423
Harvester binder, D. A. Glenn..... 153,562	Vessel for holding liquids, E. B. Requa..... 153,611
Harvester guide, etc., E. F. Herrington..... 153,436	Vise, T. L. Baylies..... 153,418
Harvester reel, Shafer & Mauck..... 153,619	Vote counting apparatus, B. F. Larsh..... 153,579
Harcvesting gear wheel, A. J. Sweeney..... 153,630	Wash bench, Norris & Woods..... 153,598
Hay tedder, H. M. Burdick (r)..... 5,991	Washing machine, C. Bagall..... 153,519
Hearth plate, R. J. King..... 153,574	Washing machine, W. E. Banzett..... 153,523
Heel cutting machinery, E. Fisher..... 153,556	Washing machine, T. Harris..... 153,434
Hinge, lock, D. C. Serrin..... 153,618	Watch case bezel, C. L. Thiry..... 153,633
Hook, bench, E. F. Beach..... 153,521	Water meter, R. C. Gray..... 153,482
Horseshoe blanks, bar for, W. W. Lewis..... 153,443	Whiffletree clip, W. N. Sante..... 153,497
Hydrant spout, P. Lipos..... 153,462	Whip, Avery & Pratt..... 153,517
Kiln, pottery, J. Ferguson..... 153,573	Window shades, weaving, J. Baldwin, Jr..... 153,417
Lamp, street, C. L. Lochman..... 153,581	Wood, preserving, R. W. Archer..... 153,515
Lamp, street, Murdy & McNamee..... 153,493	Wrench, O. T. Bedell ..... 153,528
Latch, knob, J. Ottner..... 153,455	Toke, neck, M. S. Trowbridge..... 153,638
Lead castings, testing, J. A. Lowe..... 153,583	
Lathers, stuffing, G. H. Williams..... 153,654	
Leather, etc., imitation, W. Bell..... 153,473	
Lithographic transfers, etc., Reif & Areay..... 153,610	
Lock, combination, W. K. Marvin..... 153,538	
Lock, combination, A. M. Smith..... 153,501	
Loom let-off mechanism, D. Arthur..... 153,516	
Mains, tapping, G. F. Plimley..... 153,606	
Mangle, J. H. Schuett..... 153,499	
Match lighter, J. Straszner..... 153,628	
Matches, igniting safety, L. O. P. Meyer..... 153,451	
Medical compound, E. A. Butts..... 153,421	
Medical compound, H. D. Torbit..... 153,637	
Medicated neck band, E. T. Juergensen..... 153,439	
Muscle leaf turner, E. W. Waite..... 153,508	
Musical game apparatus, S. Turney..... 153,639	
Mail, picture, F. J. Seymour..... 153,500	
Nail lock, S. Brunson..... 153,533	
Oilcloths, making, A. Wilder..... 153,648, 153,649, 153,650, 153,651	
Ordnance, N. Thompson..... 153,624	
Ores, treating copper, J. W. Kidwell..... 153,578	
Organ, reed board, F. F. Romeo..... 153,614	
Paper bag machine, A. Müller..... 153,596	
Paper clip, Smith & Sawyer..... 153,502	
Passenger enumerator, etc., E. Chesterman..... 153,475	
Pendulum scales, H. F. and G. F. Shaw..... 153,460	
Photographs, retouching, C. L. Lambert..... 153,577	
Picture frames, molding, J. Nonnenbacher (r)..... 5,986, 5,987	
Pipes, joint for water, J. H. Yocom..... 153,511	
Planter and cultivator, Davis & Hemmingway..... 153,516	
Planter, corn and bean, G. B. Smith..... 153,522	
Plows, M. F. White..... 153,645, 153,646	
Plow and cultivator, Skaggs & True..... 153,621	
Plow colter, D. Jones..... 153,489	
Plow, subsoil, A. L. Manning..... 153,587	
Pot, coffee, T. J. McKalp..... 153,530	
Power, obtaining, D. Stanley..... 153,627	
Power, generating, C. C. Wolcott..... 153,510	
Press, cotton, W. A. Salmon..... 153,496	
Press, hay and cotton, Luper & Munger..... 153,584	
Pump, rotary, H. D. Houghton..... 153,508	
Pump, steam and vacuum, G. H. Nye..... 153,454	
Quicksilver, condensing, Fiedler & Randol..... 153,4	