

(84) M. M. & Co. say: There is a person here who proposes to sell a recipe for causing 50 gallons of water to mix with 50 gallons of lard oil, thereby doubling the quantity and not deteriorating the value of the oil for lubricating purposes. Is this a fraud? A. Yes. We know of no chemical which will impart such properties to water.

(85) H. J. asks: 1. Are green paper hangings, that have been on the wall four or five years poisonous? A. Very probably. 2. Is the gas arising from coals taken from a stove as poisonous as that arising from burning charcoal in a room? A. Yes, if the gas given off is of equal amount. 3. In a recent article in your paper, you stated that kerosene oil barrels were poisonous. Is refined kerosene poisonous? A. It is injurious if taken in large quantities.

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

M. A. P.—The brilliant metallic particles are copper pyrites; they are imbedded in an impure quartzose rock.—T. A. H.—It is a rock, composed of quartz and mica.—E. W. S.—The sand is made up mostly of pure white quartz sand, and the brightshining appearance is due to little scales of mica. It can be employed where a fine white sand is needed.—O. H. P.—It is sulphuret of iron.—A box, directed to Rev. L. S. Bacon, contained red argillaceous (clay) shale, containing sufficient red oxide of iron to make it appear like an iron ore, but not enough to make it fit for working. When shale of this character gives a good color on grinding, it is sometimes used as a coarse paint.

A. B. asks: What is the material used in the manufacture of corduroy, which gives that fabric so disagreeable an odor whenever it is wet?—H. S. asks: Is there a good and speedy dryer for lithographic ink?—C. H. U. asks: How is the black stain and finish, similar to that used on lead pencils, made?—W. asks: How can I make rice paper?—L. K. Y. asks: In what way can I plug up screw holes in finished work, so the plugs will not show?—J. E. M. asks: What will keep sumac or bark liquor from souring in warm weather?—J. W. B. asks: How can I bleach yellow paraffin?—E. L. asks: How can I make a preparation for coloring eggs blue, red, and yellow?—J. W. asks: Is there a cheap mode of soldering or otherwise making a tight joint on black sheet iron pails?—J. N. P. says: I have some books that got very badly smoked from being in a burning house; the insides are not burnt, but the backs and edges of the leaves are very black. What can I do to take it off?

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

- On a Ride on a Locomotive. By G. M. G.
On the Patrons of Husbandry. By W. R. S.
On Chemical Telegraphy. By G. L.
On Rubber Ligatures. By R. B. M.
On Telegraph Alphabets. By J. M.
On Boiler Explosions. By T. F. T.
On Squaring Numbers. By F. C.
On Cleansing Dirt from the Hands. By B. F. R.
On Steam Climbers. By W. E. S.
On Frozen Water Mains. By A. C., by W. T. F., and by F. T.
On Polarity of Water. By J. T.
On Flies. By C. T.
On Kaolin. By G. B.
On Talking Ants. By R. A. H.
On Flying Moths. By J. S.
On Finding the Meridian. By J. A. M., and by C.

Also enquires and answers from the following: E. E.—F. A.—J. T.—J. M. S.—A. G.—R.—T. L.—A. A. P.—J. D. M.—W. L. S.—D. L. B.—W. P.—A. S.—T. A. B.—O. G. S.—W. H.—W. H. S.—N. M.—J. H. P.—A. S. G.—S. B.—E. R. H.—J. L. B.—A. G.—R.—H. C. W.—H. O. T.—E. J. E.—T. H. N.—J. C. G.—A. R. L.—G.—J. C. B.—H. T. B.—A. Y.—R. E. M.—S. & S.—J. M.—L. D.—A. F.—S. A. T.—W. M.

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: "Who makes firemen's respirators, invented and described by Professor Tyndall? Who makes the best ten horse engine for a sawmill? Who makes a lathe for turning wooden bowls? What is the price of galvanized iron water pipe? Who sells machines for sandpapering wooden rollers? Who sells sash holders that are efficient substitutes for sash weights? Who makes the best dynamometers? Who sells dentist's diamond drills? Whose is the best mode of drying lumber? Who sells an icebox constructed on scientific principles? Where can seeds of arundo arenaria be obtained? Who sells machines for turning croquet balls? Is there a glass bead factory in the United States? Who sells diamond drills? Who sells the most economical steam boiler? How small are hydraulic motors made? Who can give particulars as to drying lumber by steam? Who makes a spiral spring that will sustain 500 lbs.?" All such personal inquiries 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 March 16, 1875, AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. (Those marked (r) are reissued patents.)

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like 'Acid, obtaining boracic, F. Formhals', 'Advertising medium, C. H. and H. F. Torsch', 'Atr compressor, relief, G. H. Reynolds', etc.

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like 'Lamp extinguisher, W. H. Zimmerman', 'Lamp pendant, E. Stevens', 'Lampblack, manufacture of, Fales & Neff', etc.

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like '2,291.—MEDICINE.—Henry & Co., New York city', '2,292.—FLOUR.—T. C. Jenkins, Pittsburgh, Pa.', etc.

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION.

Table listing application fees, including 'On each Caveat... \$10', 'On each Trade mark... \$25', 'On filing each application for a Patent (17 years)... \$15', etc.

CANADIAN PATENTS.

LIST OF PATENTS GRANTED IN CANADA, MARCH 12 TO 19, 1875.

Table listing Canadian patents, including '4,487.—P. Mayrand, Gentilly, P. Q. Wood splitting machine. March 12, 1875.', '4,488.—G. R. Edwards, Galena, Ill., U. S., et al. Safety whiffletree. March 12, 1875.', etc.

Advertisements.

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