

the atmosphere or water with which the then forming coal was surrounded. The author of this theory has of course considered the probability of the existence of so peculiar an oil, and of its forming when squeezed into cracks. He has also considered the fact that these structural peculiarities exist in many different varieties of coal, anthracite included. Mineral impurities are apt to accumulate along planes of cleavage or structure. We have no experimental data to prove the justness of the theory heretofore given in this particular instance. The specimens of specular and pot ore are fine. The kaolin is much colored by yellow hydrated oxide of iron. The pinkish gray stone is an inferior variety of asbestos.

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 Cheap Telescope. By W. K.
On the Origin of Man. By H. M. S.
On a Magic Square. By A.
On Exterminating Grasshoppers. By J. P.
On Veneered Diamonds. By J. W. M.
On Sleeping Cars. By J. I. S.
On a New Explosive Agent. By M. O. N.
On American Inventions in Europe. By T.
On the Wants of the Age. By H. B. C.
On Coal. By S. F. V. F.
On the Persecution of Galileo. By C. J. W.
On Preventing Colds. By G. F.
On Weather Predictions. By M. O'R.

Also inquiries and answers from the following:
H.-W. A. K.-A. H. R.-O. W. M.-R. B. R.-H. P.-
A. W. P.-G. R. B.-A. A. H.-W. T. S.-H. C. P.-
W. F. H.-R. E. P.

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Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be published here.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 inquiries analogous to the following are sent: "Who sells giant powder, vulcan powder, etc.? Who sells acetometers? Who sells draining machines? Who sells bicycles? Who makes wire fencing? Who sells fittings for model boats? Who is the best process for drying timber? Who makes chains of malleable cast iron? Who sells small steam engines? Who sells twine-making machinery? Who sells the best boiler and steam pipe covering?" 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

October 12, 1875.

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. (Those marked (r) are reissued patents.)

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like Aerial vessel, Agricultural implements, Air and gas engine, etc.

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like Clams and oysters, Clock lock work, Clothes dryer, etc.

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Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like Coal ash sifter, Horse power, Paper match box machines, etc.

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