condition. We should call them *phytocoris lineolaris*. The history of the insect is yet imperfect. It is found most abundantly in the months of June and July. It has been found in Maine, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Missouri. The great increase of these and other noxious insects may fairly be attributed to the exterminating war which has wantonly been waged upon our insect-eating birds, and we may expect the evil to increase unless these little friends of the farmer are protected, or left undisturbed to multiply and follow their natural habits.—J. H. P.—It is hematite. It contains no nickel. The teeth sent, being very imperfect and broken, cannot be named or classified. The bone has been sent to a distinguished naturalist for examination.—G. W. H.—No. 4 only was received. It is hematite.—J. L.—Send us a sample of the water you complain of.—R. J. & S.—They consist of quartz rock and iron pyrites.—J. McC.—Send small samples by mail, marked legibly with name.—S. H.—It is marcasite, or white iron pyrites.—M. J. D.—We will shortly answer your questions in full.—A.A. J.—It is quartz, containing iron pyrites and a small amount of chalcopyrite.—E. P. C.—It is coal of a very poor quality, containing so much silicious matter as to be worthless.—H. F. L.—It is iron pyrites mixed with carbonaceous matter.—S. K. B.—We cannot make a complete analysis. The specimen is hematite, an ore of iron containing, when pure, nearly 70 per cent of iron.—F. C.—It is iron pyrites.—O. D. B.—It is a limestone containing mica, talc, and iron.—F. & B. It consists chiefly of the double sulphate of nickel and ammonia, mixed with a small quantity of organic matter.—N. V. C.—It appears to be a poor variety of elaterite. It contains a large percentage of sand and clay. We do not consider the sample to be of much value.

J. L. asks: How can I best convey sawdust from a sawmill to a fire 300 feet distant?—E. M. says: In Europe a paste or cream is used to remove the beard from the face, without the use of soap or razor. How is this cream made?—A. A. asks: What sort of varnish is used on the sounding boards of guitars? Are the sounding boards made of heart or sap pine, or both? What is used for dyeing wood black for finger boards, bridges, etc.?

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

On Terrestrial Magnetism. By W. E. S.
On the Altitude of Storm Clouds. By J. M. S.
On the Heavy Rains. N.B.G.
On the Keely Motor. By A. A., and by J. T.
On Motive Power without Fuel. By S.
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On Mental Science. By F. H.
On Using Steam Expansively. By F. C.

Also nquiries and answers from the following:

R. K.—N. J. T.—F. Q.—N. W.—R. B. S.—J. F. S.—C. M.—M. V.—C. K.—E. T.—T. Y. J. H.—L. W. T.

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 dynamite? Who sells machinery for drying corn meal, etc.? Who sells snow spectacles? Who sells cheap telescopes? Who buys kaolin?" 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.]

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8,495.—STEAM PUMP, ETC.—D. A. Burr, Philadelphia, Pa.
8,496.—GLASS VESSEL.—E. Finney, Philadelphia, Pa.
8,497.—CIGAR BOX.—F. Haehnel *et al.*, New Orleans, La.
8,498.—TOY BANK.—J. Hall, Watertown, Mass.
8,499 to 8,523.—CARPETS.—O. Heinigke, N. Utrecht, N.Y.
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8,528.—CARPETS.—L. G. Malkin, New York city.
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8,550 to 8,553.—FABRICS.—E. C. Clark, Rockville, Conn.

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CANADIAN PATENTS.

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5,018.—A. G. Haskell, North Andover, Mass., U. S. Life-preserving bed. July 24, 1875.
5,019.—W. L. Pawleson, San Francisco, Cal., U. S Smoke consumer. July 24, 1875.
5,020.—E. Heley, Dublin, Ireland. Printing machine. July 24, 1875.
5,021.—T. Herron, Ottawa, Ont., *et al.* Churn. July 24, 1875.
5,022.—S. Spicer, Goderich, Mich., U. S. Hame lock July 24, 1875.
5,023.—D. R. Proctor, Gloucester, Mass., U. S. Spark arrester. July 24, 1875.
5,024.—S. M. Barré, Montreal, P. Q. Ironing board and stretcher. July 24, 1875.
5,025.—J. Fensem, Toronto, Ont. Hydraulic elevator. July 24, 1875.
5,026.—S. T. Waggoner, Mattson, Mich., U. S. Folding table. July 27, 1875.
5,027.—C. G. C. Simpson, Montreal, P. Q. Railway car wheel. July 27, 1875.
5,028.—F. Dodge *et al.*, Oswego, N. Y., U. S. Peat machine. July 30, 1875.
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5,033.—A. S. Hopson *et al.*, Plainview, Minn., U. S. Vehicle spring equalizer. July 30, 1875.
5,034.—C. L. Riker, Rochelle Park, N. J., U. S. Lining for excluding cold. July 30, 1875.
5,035.—T. F. Gordon *et al.*, Rouseville, Pa., U. S. Process for decolorizing and refining petroleum. July 30, 1875.
5,036.—L. A. Dodge, Keeseville, N. Y., U. S. Nail feeding device. July 30, 1875.
5,037.—A. T. Jones, Clinton, Wis., U. S. Food preserving process. July 30, 1875.
5,038.—J. Rigby, Montreal, P. Q. Gas from petroleum. July 31, 1875.

Advertisements.

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Engravings may head advertisements at the same rate per line, by measurement, as the letter press. Advertisements must be received at publication office as early as Friday morning to appear in next issue.

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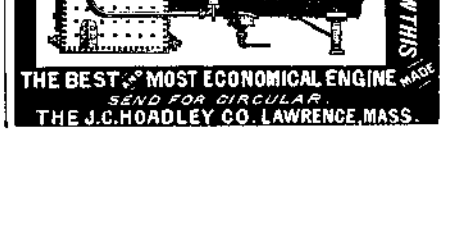

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