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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Accidents, happy', 'Answers to correspondents', 'Battery for electric lamp', etc., with corresponding page numbers.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT.

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For the Week ending June 24, 1876.

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Table listing sections of the supplement such as 'I. THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1876', 'II. MECHANICS AND ENGINEERING', etc.

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Crystallized Osmium.

MM. Ste. Claire Deville and Debray have recently obtained osmium in a crystallized state, by making an alloy of the element with tin and treating it with nitric acid.

THE END OF THE VOLUME.

The presence of the index at the close of this number of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will remind our readers that we have reached the end of another volume, the thirty-fourth of the present series. It is not because we fall into that proverbial failing of all humanity which believes the last accomplished work to be the worthiest that we confidently believe that the now finished volume is the best we have ever issued.

Few occurrences of any note in the world of Science or invention have happened during the past six months, but that our readers have been fully posted thereupon. In great engineering works we have described and illustrated the massive anchorage of the East river bridge, the Metlac viaduct in Mexico, the St. Charles railroad bridge in Missouri, the La Vanne aqueduct in France, the New York Elevated and the projected Underground Railway, the Callowhill street bridge in Philadelphia, besides many others.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

The regular weekly issue of the SUPPLEMENT as a distinctive publication, for a special subscription price, has enabled us to supply our many friends with an immense amount of additional detailed information in all the principal branches of science. It would be difficult to find any fresh subject of note or interest in the scientific world that has not been brought to the reader's notice.

The first volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT has been illustrated by about one thousand three hundred figures and engravings.

The International Exhibition has formed, and will during the year continue to form, one of the principal features in both of our papers. We have already given in the SUPPLEMENT over one hundred engravings, showing the progress up to date. The next volume will be full of illustrations of new and remarkable exhibits.

The series of letters on Mechanical Drawing, by Professor MacCord, have proved acceptable to thousands of persons. About one hundred and thirty illustrations have so far been given. The series will be continued in the next volume of the SUPPLEMENT.

Another useful series of articles is entitled "How to Build Cheap Boats." It is accompanied by illustrations of particulars. The series embraces nearly one hundred and fifty engravings, and illustrates the method of boat building, from the humble scow, costing three dollars, up to the graceful Whitehall row boat, costing fifteen or twenty dollars.

A number of the most important engineering works and structures have been illustrated and described in the SUPPLEMENT. Among these are the great Jetty Works of Captain Eads, at the mouth of the Mississippi river, by which the seven-foot bar has already been removed to a depth of twenty feet.

The great St. Gothard tunnel through the Alps, Switzerland, has been illustrated by many figures. Among these the drilling machines and the compressed air locomotives have been engraved and explained.

In the Department of Mechanics and Engineering, a large number of valuable practical papers, by experienced writers, have been presented with illustrations; the same may be said of all the principal divisions of science, such as Chemistry, Metallurgy, Technology, Electricity, Light, Heat, Sound, Geology, Mineralogy, Natural History, Astronomy, and Medicine.

In the matter of quantity, estimated in book measure, this just completed volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT contains the matter of over three thousand five hundred book pages, or more than seven volumes of five hundred pages each. Thus the yearly issues of the SUPPLEMENT, costing only five dollars, will equal fourteen ordinary book volumes.

For the most part, standard in its character, and worthy of preservation for future reference.

For the convenience of readers, the first volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, twenty-six numbers, January—June, 1876, has been bound in paper covers, and may be had at this office and at news stores throughout the country, price \$2.50. Sent by mail to any address.

INVENTORS MISJUDGED.

The inventors of this country owe Hon. J. H. Bagley, of New York, a debt of gratitude for a very excellent speech, recently made by him in the House of Representatives, in their behalf and that of the Patent Office. A defense of a class and an institution to which the United States owes so large a proportion of its material prosperity might well have been looked upon as a superfluity; but Mr. Bagley on one hand has discerned that, among certain people, inventors, through no fault of theirs, or rather through their misfortunes, are receiving unmerited odium; and on the other, he is aware of the false economy which, for the purpose of making political capital, has induced some of our lawmakers to contemplate crippling the resources of the Patent Office.

There is another point, based on sound truth; and it is, in a very great number of cases, the inventors are not those who reap the chief reward. There are plenty of wideawake sharp people, who know a good thing when they see it, and are ready to snap at it, with cash in hand. These are constantly on the watch for new inventions; and during the period, when the inventor has secured his patent and is looking about to see how best to realize returns, they are down upon him like hawks.

Much, however, of the opposition to inventors and their patented devices arises from the misconceived idea that the patent laws are intended solely for the benefit of inventors. Now, as we have repeatedly explained, such is not the case. True, they hold out an inducement which has for its object to make people invent; but that inducement is a monopoly closely limited in point of time, and during the existence of which the inventor develops his idea.