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W. C. W. will find directions for purifying
is cistern water on p. 395, vol. $32 .-$ R. C. C. will ind a description of an incubator on $p$. 273 , wol 33.-E. F. Y. can waterproof his boots by following the directions on p. 154, vol. 28. Wire will do as well or better than string for the two cent tel-egraph.-G. P. A. will find a recipe for a durable paint for iron on p. 379, vol. 31.-W. R. H. is in formed that a steam derrick is commonly used
for raising a sunken ship.-A, P. M. can clean ight lcather shoes by the process described on p. 88 , ol.34.-W. C. M., J. C. L.,J. H. D.,E. L.,R. R.,J. H P. \& Co., S. \& E., and many others, who ask us to recommend books on industrial and scientific sub
jects, should address the booksellers who adver jects, should address the booksellers who adver-
tise in our columns, all of whom are trustworthy tise in our columns, a
frms, for catalogues.
(1) F. McA. says: 1. I have produced col color from the gum of the fir tree also procure a color from the gum of the fir tree. How can
tell whether they are dyes or not? A. Treat
them with the various solvents, such as water, alcohol, acid liquids, alkaline solutions, etc., until
you discover the proper solvent. Then experiyou discover the proper solvent. Then experi ment with the solution obtained on woolen and
other goods with the various mordants. 2. How can I separate nitric acid from a mixture withou to state with what the acid is associated. It is necessary to know this in order to answer your questi
(2) J. W. and others.-We do not think
that feathers are generally injured by steam that feathers are generally injured by steam
heating. We believe this method is consid heating. We believe this method is consid
ered one of the best ways of purifying feath ers.
(3) A. S. asks: 1. Is a person liable to ge dog entirely free from it? A. No. 2. How soon does it make its appearance? A. Sometimes years elapse, but it is oftener developesin a fe
days or weeks. 3. What are its first symptoms A. It is characterized, as its name implies, by ingular loathing for water, also by violen
(4) J. W. W. says: A friend contends tha Whisky, brandy, etc., increase in strength afte they are three years old. I contend that they continue to decrease as long as there is any spirit
remaining. Which is correct? A. As far as we have observed, the liquors, if kept in barrels, de crease constantly in the percentage of alcoholby (5) J.
(5) J. E. F. asks:-WKat can I mix with co on seed oil, as a substitute for boiled oil in
paints, and to make it act as a dryer? A. Litharge.
(6) A subscriber asks: Is it possible for an ceboat sailing in any direction to sail faster tha the wind? A. Yes. On smooth ice, sailing at the proper angle, ice boats often move much faste For example: a wo head, six inches long, sloped on one side to point f such a wedge be introduced between two su flciently strong bodies, one of which is flxed, the other movable against the sloping side of the wedge: if sumpient force is applied to the mova be body, it will expel the wedge, which latte he impelling body moves two inches. boat sail is the wedge, ice the fixed body, win the force acting against the sloping side of the wedge.
Minerals, atc.-Specimens have been re ceived from the following correspondents, and xamined, with the results stated
J. M. N.-It is clay containing a large percentge of carbonate of lime.-E. W.-It isan trilobite found in the older fossinferous rocks. It wa ength ascertained that it corresponded mos early to the lling genera of crustaceans, th nerolis, lumulus, branchipus.-D. K. C.-The specimen appears to be brown coal.-H. \& J.-The very clear porcelain.-G. H. S.-Nos. 1 and re magnetic oxide of iron (lodestone). No. 2 is siegeleisen, a carburet of iron with manganese -R.C. J.-Your sample appears to be a scrap of piegeleisen-a carburet of iron.-F. T. M.-The water contains a considerable quantity of carbon is of iron in solution, which, on exposure to air, is precipitated by the escape of the carbonic acid
with which the water is charged. The sediment consists of hydrated sesquioxide and carbonat of iron, together with some carbonate of lime. The water will be improved by the addition of a ittle lime water-not too much.-R. Y. G.-It is an impure clay containing iron. It might beemlloy commonly known by thenameyoumention. -We have recived a slate pencil box, not la beled, containing a number of pieces of granite gneiss rock, and hornblende.
J. A. P. asks: In making fruit butter, etc I am anxious to know if the dried fruit is wholly used, or is there a mixture of both dried and
fresh? Is it ground, or reduced by boiling, etc.? -A. R. asks: Can any one inform me of the process of making lager beer?-P. McS. O' F. asks What purpose does the two-fold division of the
back and belly of a violin serve? Is the belly back and belly of a violin serve? Is the belly carved or scooped out to the propershape, or
the material steamed and then compressed to the material steamed and then compressed nder side be straight or level a tlays in the box? Does the concavity of the Wheel make any difference as to the setting of the
axle? Is not a straight wheel better and stronger han one that is concave?

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED. The Editor of the Scientific American ac
knowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt original papers and contributionsupon the following subjects:
On the Moon's Longitude. By J. H.
On Working Men's Education. By A.s.
On Weight on and in the Earth. By H. A. H. Also inquiries and answers from the following : G. F.-L. H. - H. T.-F. T. H.-E. C. W.-W. C.-
C. C.-C. F. S.-J. E. K.-F. E. H.-M. D. H.-

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as it would fill half of our paper to print them all; by mail, if the writer's address is given.
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Birdcage hook, J. Maxheime
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Boller,wash, A. Lohmann
Boiler circulating apparatus, w. C. Lang
Boller, feed water heater, etc, T. R But Bolt-threading machine, A. Ward
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Boot counter stifeners, forming, $G$. F. Moore
Boot heel stiffeners, Boot soles, channeling, J. Dargan . Bottle-corking machine, J. A. De Mestre.... Botlle stopper, J. Conner Box-nalling machine, G. W. Swan.... Breastpin joint or tong
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Bung vent, A. . . . Kle
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ar coupling, J. A. Patterson
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Carriage seat, Hubbell \& Ruff
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