 French polish his pianoforte by following the d d rench polish his pianoforte by following the di-
rections on $p$ 11, vol. 32 . - J. N. Will find that par affin varnish is a good non-conductor of electri-
city. Sec p . 91 vol. 21. -J. C. W. will find some information as to the nature of electricity on pp 195, 228, vol. 36.
(1) C. S. asks: How long is it since the arst chilled plow moldborard was cast? $\Lambda$. $\Lambda$ pat ent for chilled plowshares was taken out in Eng-
and in 1833. In making them, they are cooled as rapidly as possible.
(2) I. D. \& Co. say: We have a home tele graph line, and use 1 gallon stone jars for bat
teries. We fill with water to within 1 inch from the top. The vitriol will soon form a coating over the entirc outside of the jar; it has the appearance of coming over the top of the Jar. Can you tell us how to prevent it? A. There is no perfect remedy except frequent attention. Teleof the jar at the top; this mitigates the trouble in a measure. Somegreasy substance is best.
(3) C. F. S. asks: Can small iron castings such as sewing machine parts, be caschardened
with prussiate of potassa? My machinist says it cannot be done. I say it can. Which is right . You are.
(4) J. S. D. says: I wish to construct an elec\%. O-m:ugnetic motor, for the purpose of running a jig saw. The magnet to be 7 inches long
and 3 inches wide, and $1 /$ inch thick, revolving in coils, the opening in which will be $71 / 2$ inches long, $11 / 4$ inches wide, and 7 inches decp. The
outer coils and those surrounding the magne outer coils and those surrounding the magnet Amcrican gase. The machinery is to be run by 3 cells Bunsen's battery. Will it give me sufficient power to run a jig saw at 800 strokes per minute 18. But it is doubtful if three ordinary cells will do the work.
(5) K. \& D. say: 1 . Can electricity be con-
ucted into a cylinder to be discharged at will?
A. Yes; the Leyden Jar is used for this purpose son to see through a fog? A. No. The electri ight, however, can be advantageously employed during fogs.
(6) F. E. B. says: What is the horizonta force of terrestrial magnetism for New York, in magnetic measure? I have worked it out (by formula given in Kohirausch's "Physical Mea and desire to know whether this is corre and there is much difference between New York and other places in the United States, say Chic go or San Francisco. It is a question of some importance; for if there is a great difference, the values by a given galvanometer would vary in proportion at differcnt places. For instance, th horizontal force at some places in Europe is only
188 , or nearly half what I make it. A. Kohl rausch's table is hardly applicable to this hemi sphere. Measurements made lastsummer at Newport made the horizontal force for that point, ap proximatcly, $1 \cdot 65$ in the meter-second system. W ave just learned, also, that recent determina tions at Philadelphia (measurements made this nou cen procebly full information from th Coast Survey Burcau
(7) A. H. asks: What is the difference be boiler with less than 21 lbs . of steam is usuall called a low pressure boiler. with a pressur above that figure, it is called a high pressur
(8) I. M. II. says: Please give me the re cipe for applying nitrate of copper to small cas ing3 (to represent a bronzc) with the battery? A. tained by coating the object with copper and then proceeding in one of the following ways: (1) Moisten with water, to a wineglass of which five r six drops of nitric acid are added, allow it to dry, and then heat till the desired shade is obtained. (2) Rub well in and cover with finely red hematite orc); heat till nearly red (3) Darke shades may be obtained by mixing the peroxide of iron with black lead,ground to a fine paste with spirits of winc. The copper is to be brushed well. When the color is obtained, the objectsshould be
warmell and polished with a cloth which eontains warmell and polished with a cloth which contain
a little beeswax, and all excess of this removed little beeswax, and all excess of this removed
with a clean cloth. A very good effect is also obtained by first bronzing to a deep color and the a picce of leather moistened with ammonia.
(9) E. A. Mc(7. asks: 1. How are razors ground and polished? $\Lambda$. Razors arc frst ground on grindstones, and then polished on emery
wheels and butf wheels with crocus. 2 . Is a rub ber polishing belt the best for the purpose? $\Lambda$ Leather is better than rubber
(10) P. S. says: I have made a Rhumkorf coil, with 180 fcet No. 20 plain copper wire for the primary, which I insulated by winding with cot-
ton twine, insulating cach succeeding layer. For the secondary, I put on $11 / \mathrm{lb}$. No. 35 cotton-cover copper wire. I have insulated the secondary from the primary coil with oiled linen. The core consists of a bundle of fine soft iron wirc, abou 4 inch in diamcter. I get only a little shock from it, and no spark. Must the fine wire be woun The lenyth of secondary is hardly sufficient to The lenyth of secondary is hardly sufficient to spark with proper battery power. The wire o the primary might be heavier and the insulation lighter.
(11) J. S. F. says: In your issuc of June 3,
Mr. Rose calls the tool illustrated on p. 357. vol 34, a bevelsquare. Is not a sliding bevel the cor ect name? Is there such a thing as a beve quare ? A. When the blade stands square, th
tool is a squarc; when otherwise, it is a bevel. What is black coffec? $\Lambda$. Black coffee is a ver
strong infusion of coffee, taken without milk.
(12) F. C. J. says: I luuilt a model engin of the four cylinder pattern; but thinking it o no use, I took it apart and destroyed all but the ylinders. The cylinders were $2 \times 3$ inches, with eversible link motion. All the machinery wa ntirely ought of sight, with no joints excep
those needed for the reverse gear. My boiler was upright, $18 \times 36$ inches, with 151 \% tubes, nehes long. My intention was to put it into team carriage. Would it do for this purpose A. The machinery would probably answer, if he boiler is strong enough for a high steam pres
(13) H. N. asks: 1. What does a buff con ist of, and how is it made? A. Buff wheels ar made of wood covered with leather, or of soli leather, such as walrus hide. Wheels are some mes made of loose disks of cloth or rag. 2. Is The wheel of disks of rag would probsbly answe the purpose, if used with some dry polishing inaterial and run at a high speed.
(14) E. S. N. sars: 1. We wish to carry nch pipe feet to run a 13 inch cylinder. Is a about 400 feet per minute. A. A 3 inch pipe will probably do, though a 8 inch one would be bette . It is proposed to return the exhauststeam in a pipe, the whole enclosed in a wooden box contain ing some non-conducting material. I say that the exhaust stcam will necessarily have a lower temperature than the live steam, notwithstanding its protection, and will therefore condense the live team. I tell them to put them both in the same ox, but kecp them separate. Will you pleas ive your opinion? $\Lambda$. Your view is correct.
what part of the area of a slide valve is to b considered in balancing the valve? A. The are of a slide valve requiring to be balanced depend
largely upon its shape, size, and fit to its seat.
(15) C. M. N. asks: Is a bent magnet, with the ends of core at right angles with the main
part of core, more apt to hold its magnetism after the current of electricity is broken than a straight core m
sounder. A. No.
(10) F. A. (query No. 42, July 15) is in than and Dreyfus, this city, draw water from to 20 feet perpendicularly.

## COMMONICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the Scientific American acnowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of ing subjects:

## On t

On Locusts. By $-\quad$.
On Meteors. By E. B.
Also inquiriesand answers from the following
P. L.-D. H. W.-N. W. O.-J. D. K.-C. H. H.
C. S. $\rightarrow$ D. C.-T. C. B. - B. - E. L. C. - H. E. B. - C.

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