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## Madest (4urins

J. R.'s observations on scarlet fever an diphtheria have been handed to a prominent phy-
sician for reply.-T. E. is informed that we do sician for reply.-T. E. is informed that we do
not know the article he mentions.-W. H. H. can not know the article he mentions.-W. H. H. can
protect his iron castings from rust by the means
described on p. 169, vol. 33.-G. A. C. is informed protect his iron castings from rust by the means
described on p. 169, vol. 33.-G. A. C. is informed
that writing paper is glazed by rolling it under that writing paper is glazed by rolling it under
immense pressure.-J. R. will find recipes for bronzing iron en brass on p. 283, vol. 31.-J. C. G.
can raise the pitch of his tuning fork by filing it can raise the pitch of his tuning fork by fling it
shorter. It cannot be lowered without lengthshorter. It cannot be lowered without length-
ening it.-W.H. H.'s idea as to burning steam is a chimera.-A. K. will find a good recipe for indel-chimera-A. K. Win ind a good recipe for indel-
ible ink on p. 129 , vol. 28.-C. J. C. is informed
that the oxyhydrogen light will probably suit his that the oxyhydrogen light will probably suit his
purpose.-E. W. M. should address the Signal Service Bureau, Washington, D. C.-M. D. K. will
find a recipe for a fugitive ink on D. 267, vol. 34. flind a recipe for a fugitive ink on p. 267, vol. 34 .
Straw hats can be bleached by the process deStraw hats can be bleached by the process de-
scribed on p. 11, vol. $32 .-$ F. A. L. will find that
chloride of calcium will absorb the moisture in his refrigerator.-C.K. W's idea that machinery runs better atnight than in the daytime is perfectly absurd.-C. A. F. will find a recipe for fulmin-
ating powder for cartridges on p . 90 , vol. $81 .-\mathrm{B}$.
F. K. will find a good recipe for ink on p. 250, vo 34.-A. C. G. will find that the proportions of an
induction coil are fully described on $p$. 344 , vol. (1) M. E. B. says : Please give me a recipe for removing stains from marble table tops, sup-
posed to be caused by lemon juice? A. If the posed to be caused by lemon juice? A. If the
stains mentioned are from lemon juice, they canstains mentioned are from lemon juice, they can-
not be removed, as the organic acids they contain not be removed, as the organic acids they contain
attack and disintegrate the marble. Try moistening the spots with benzole and covering with hot pipe clay. If this does not remove them, it
will be necessary to resort to mechanical means.
(2) F. G. asks: By what rule do the "Far-
mer" and "Family " almanacs give the times of rising and setting of the sun? A specimen now
before me gives, for example, on November 1 , before me gives, for example, on November 1,
sunrise, 6 h . 29 m . ; sunset, 4 h .59 m . Now assuming the time for rising to be correct, that time, taken time of setting. Here is an error of 32 minutes A. On November 1 the sun is south of the equator $14^{\circ} 33^{\prime}$, the length of the day 10 hours $30 \mathrm{~min}-$ utes; one half of this, 5 h . 15 m . subtracted from 12 would make the sun rise at 0.45 , but the sun is fast of true time 16 minutes on this day. This makes him rise at 6.29 , and set 16 minutes earlier, 4.59 ,
making the forenoon 32 minutes longer than the afing the forenoon 32 minutes longer than the
afternoon. There are only fourdays in the year in which the sun is on time, April 15, June 14, Au gust 31, and December 24.
Does the attraction of magnetism vary as the square or cube of the distance? A. There are
some cases in which it varies inversely as the cube, but the attraction of terrestrial magnet(3) C. M. asks: What is the number of hreads per inch on the "society scre
croscopical objectives? A. Fifty-five
(4) D. H. asks: What color of paper is best o write upon, for a person having weak eyes A. Green or blue, or an intermediate color, if
there is light enough not to tax the eyes, as these colors reflect very little of the heat rays.
(5) E. O. K. asks. 1. Please give me a re ipe for making a bright red mortar for pointing foundation wall? A. Take Spanish brown, dry uit. 2. Would red lead be affected by the lime A. That you
would show.
(6) S. P. M. says: What size of paddle wheels do we need on a steamer 45 feet long, and 10 feet wide at the bottom? She is built sharp 18 inches of water. We have a 10 horse engine to
at 8 inches of water. We have a 10 horse engine to
run her, and plenty of power to spare. A. By run her, and plenty of power to spare. A. By
using 10 feet wheels with your present engine ou might obt get even better results by usin feathering wheels of the same diameter as the present ones, $71 / 2$ feet.
(7) J. D. E, says: The flint glass of my tel earance on the outsiding a scum or smoky apHow can I remedy it? A. This trouble is quite common with heavy fiint glass, and the only way
to remuve it is by polishing. When it it not very to remuve it is by polishing. When it is not very
thick it can be removed by polishing with rouge on a piece of chamois leather. If this does not remove it, take a piece of yellow beeswax and make a polisher about one third the diameter. of the lens. With this and a little rouge and wate cleaned. Care should be taken to go all over the glass evenly.
(8) E. A. F.asks: Can you tell how to remove a bad echo from a schoolroom, $26 \times 29$ feet, with the room, between two doors, on a slightly raise platform. The stove is a little in front of the plat form. A recitation seat runs along the sides of
the room, and between are low chairs and desks for nearly 100 scholars. There are three windows doors. Teachers complain of sare throats and tired lungs after having charge of the room a short time, of a confusion of sounds when the scholars are only moderately restless, and of the The room is so hard to teach in that a partition, an addition, or any reasonable remedy is to be tried if we can learn what will be best. A. It probably will be found that the difficulty in this
case arises from the bad shape of the room, it be case arises from the bad shape of the room, it be-
ing nearly square ing nearly square. It has been found that long
and narrow rooms, with the speaker at one end, have been the best for the voice. The auditorium opera house of this city, is a good example of room of this kind. If you should partition off a small room in the corner upon each side of the
platform, you might help it : say 9 feet wide and platform, you might help it : say 9 feet wide and
12 feet long, triangular, with the partition you in12 feet long, triangular, with the partition you in-
sert curving outwardly towards the platform upon a radius of 13 feet.
(9) F. H. N. says: In the house I live in is weet in dimensions, for the purpose of conveying feet in dimensions, for the purpose of conveying
light and ventilating some rooms which have no opening on the street, and which, otherwise, would be dark and close. Now it is a great source of annoyance that all conversation on the fourth
floor can be heard in the lower rooms, and vice floor can be heard in the lower rooms, and vice
versa. Can youtell me of any means or method that may be employed by which this may be ob-
viated? Could it not be done by means of crossed wires, that is to say, wires crossing each other at angles of about $45^{\circ}$ ? A. We have no information that would warrant the success of such a plan. Can you not put in a horizontal sash, and procu (10) C
(10) C. H. asks: How may I find when the north star is on the meridian, by reference to
the stars in the Dipper? A. The line, $\mathbf{N} \mathrm{S}$, repre-
north pole, and the lines $0-11,0-12$, etc., are 1 hour apart, and show sidereal time. A E are the
Pointers. It will be seen that the north star and

the next to the last star in the handle of the Dipper are on opposite sides of the poles, so that
when a plumb line will bisect both, they indicate the true meridian very nearly, They now pass
the meridian between 5 and 6 o'clock.
(11) W. W. L. says: About four years ago made an upright refrigerator; but not liking the metallic taste which a metal lining gives to
food, I left it unlined, but very foolishly varood, I left it unlined, but very foolishly var nearly every article of food placed in it tastes of the wood, but the smell and taste of varnish still remain. Will a coating of shellac remedy it?
If not, what will ? A. Coat the interior evenly If not, what will? A. Coat the interior evenly
with melted paraffin. It should be applied rapid y with a good brush, and is perfectly tasteles d inodorous.
(12) W. C. A. says: The inclozed drawing nto 3 inch ones, the last one to the left being 2 inch. The cordat the right runs off a drum ill be required to lift the 1 lb . at the left, and
 or the amount of weight required to move them
. Disregarding friction, the power and weight re to each other in the inverse ratio of the disances passed over by each in the same time. ${ }^{2}$ Is there any rule for calculating the power of coil
springs? A. The power of a coiled spring is the product of the force with which it tends to un wind multiplied by the distance passed over by the point of application of the force in a given
(13) A. I. asks: Can you recommend with
certainty of success some inexpensive formula o preserve cider? Your recipe as follows: "To barrel of new cider, add $1 / 2$ part sugar and weeks in cool place, then rack off into a well washed cask or barrel, and add from 1 to 2 dozen whites of eggs; let stand another two weeks,and
hen rack off into another barrel. Add finally gallons of whisky, stirring well, then bottle. This ider will keep sweet through the summer. cipe as given is a good one, with the exception that the proportion of sugar should have bee stated more definitely as about $31 / 2 \mathrm{lbs}$. to the bar rel. If the liquid is bottled, the bottle contain
ing it should flrst be placed with loosened stop ing it should first be placed with loosened stophould then be gradually raised to about $180^{\circ} \mathrm{Fah}$ and the
cool.
(14) F. B. L. asks: What can I put fruit up in so as to preserve it in its natural form and
color? I want to carry the fruit round as sample A. Try a weak solution of good carbolic acid in cohol.
(15) J. H. G. asks : 1. How may I distin guish pure rubber? A. Pure rubber is of a dark, indented with the teeth; in hot water it swells $\mathbf{u}$ and becomes quite plastic. 2. How is rubber dis solved in a liquid, and how long does it take A. When plastic it should be placed in the solvber having been previously cut into as small shreds as possible. In this condition it swells up very considerably and partially dissolves in a few
hours. In order to obtain a rubber cement, th solution, together with the softened pasty mas which should be well stirred and kneaded durin water bath, until of the proper consistence.
(16) Mrs. W. C. A. asks: 1. Is there any danger of incurring diseases from using wate
from a well which has not been used for about from a well which has not been used for about 1
year? A. If the water contams any notable quantity of organic matter,there is. 2.Is there any way to purify the water if it is not fit to use? A.
One of the best remedies is to keep the water running for some time before attempting to use it. The addition to the water of a quantity of
finely crushed, well burnt charcoal would also be
(17) W. R. B. says: I have some vinegar
which I cannot clarify. I have tried sand and charcoal in a barrel, but it does not clear it Would you advise anything in preference to charcoal flter? A. Try the following : Warm
some finely crushed charcoal or bone black, throw some finely crushed charcoal or bone black,throw
this into the vinegar and stir occasionally for this into the vinegar and stir occasionally for
about 24 hours; then draw off the vinegar, mix and filter through of common (clean)
(18) A. B asks: Please give me-a recis e for
aking a polish for wooden turned work, to be used on the work while in the lathe? A. Try a mixture of boiled oil and turpentine, well rubbed
in with pieces of rag in with pieces of rag. 2. Is there any other
method of bluing iron orsteel than by heating it? A. Dissolve 4 ozs. hyposulphite of soda in 13' pints of water, and then add a solution of 1 oz.
acetate of lead in 1 oz. water. Place your articles in the solution, and heat to the boiling point.
Your articles, if of iron or steel, will be blued.
(19) A. B. says: We have two engines, 7 inches bore and of 12 inches stroke, attached to
one shaft. They have reversible link motion, and one shaft. They have reversible link motion, and
are each provided with the ordinary slide valve. They make 175 revolutions per minute with a One of the engines has too much lead when on One of the engines has too much lead when on
either center. We have tried several plans to shorten the stroke of the valve, but without any
success. Will you please giveus some informa success. Will you please give us some informa-
tion? A. You must take the lead off your valve tion? A. You must take the
by setting the eccentric back
(20) W. B. asks: 1. Can charcoal be ob tained in a liquid form for commercial purposes?
A. There is no solvent for charcoal. 2. How can A. There is no solvent for charcoal. 2. How can
oils be filtered through charcoal, and the oil residuum remaining in the charcoal be extracted siduum remaining in the charcoal be extracted hering oil in bisulphide of carbon. The oil may
be recovered by distilling off the volatile bisulbe recovered by distilling off the volatile bisul-
phide in a suitable retort, at a gentle temperature
(21) J. C. ask: I have an iron pipe convey ing water from a cistern for culinary and other
purposes. The water becomes so highly impregpurposes. The water becomes so highly impreg-
nated with iron as to render it quite unpalatable. A. Add a little clean lime water (experience will teach you the proper quantity) and filter (22) J, S. F. asks: How is the lime water mentioned on p. 7, vol. 34, prepared? A. Digest a quantity of good quicklime in pure water for
quane hours, with occasional shaking; allow to some hours, with occasional shaking; allow to
settle and draw off the clear transparent liquid without disturbing the residue. It should be kep from contact with the air when not in use.
In steam or vapor baths, how is the
handled so that the heat does not affect the per hon? A. The steam simply imparts its heat and a
sorportion of its moisture to the air by actual contact.
Mountains, water here (among the San Fernando Mountains, Cal.) is of several kinds. Some springs
contain small quantities of petroleum, others alkali, others sulphur, iron, and alkali. The ground
over which the latter springs run, and boards with which the water comes in contact becom heavily coated with a bright yellow substance like rust; while on the surface of the surround ing soil, a thick white coat of alkali forms. Can
anything be done to such water to make it fit to drink? A. We do not think it would be practicadrink? A. We do not think it would be practica-
ble under the circumstances. 2 . One spring or ble under the circumstances. 2 . One spring or
well 8 or 10 feet deep, by the side of a now dry stream, has no bad taste, but the water makes the
excrements alm st black, and causes diarrhœa. What does the water contain, and what is the yellow substance mentioned? A. It is probably ue to the largequantity of iron and sulphurette hydrogen it contains. The deposit probably con-
sists chiefly of the hydrated sesquioxide of iron
(23) A. H. says: In what should I boil cider so as to make a good article, free from foreign A. It would be better to use a tin vessel or one cast iron, porcelain-lined. The vegetable acids corrode both iron and copper.
(24) F. D. H. asks: Are the connecting rods of locomotive at the Centennial, built by apprentices, of the character shown in Fig. 1 , p. 49 , simple eyes, without means provided for takin
(25) C. W. S. asks: What will remove eeply set tea stains from an oak table? A. Try
little ether and alcohol. (26) A. F. G. says: 1. I have 500 lbs . lea with it find no acceptance. What ingredient hould I use to make a compound with which to givethe cigars a deeper color? A.We understand that in similar eases it is a practice of some manther waste of the leaf by boiling the same in water, and afterwards concentrating the solution by evaporation until a very strong liquid is ob tc., the precise nature of which is strictly kep from the public as a "trade secret." The leave to be colored are then dipped in the preparation and dried until of the required shade. 2. I have also some very good Pennsylvania tobacco to
which I would like to give the aroma of Havana Which I would like to give the aroma of Havana Havana tobacco that the Pennsylvania leaf can be darkened with, that would give the tobacco a Havana taste ${ }^{\text {? }}$ A. Various means similar to that given above are constantly employed, with vary ing success to impart to baser leaves the peculia favor of Havana tobacco; but we are not pre (27) N. says:I use a copying ink pencil (made of aniline, I suspect). Can you inform me ters written by this pencil without using a press A. Try thin paper moistened with a little dilute um water and alcohol.
(28) E. C. B. says : I frequently have to the steel parts get rusty. I have tried puttin them in soda water and then soaking in oil, bu all to no use ; for after 2 or 3 months the rust will
reappear as bad as ever. Will you please tell me the best remedy? A. Try a littlevery dilutesul phuric acid. After removal from the acid, wash
quickly and cover with warm pipe clay for a time The working parts should be polished perfect
(29) W. C. W. asks: What process or pre paration will prevent strips of lead from black ing of varnish or melted paraffin.
(30) B. \& B. say: We wish to build a large brick factory, $50 \times 100$ feet, four stories high, an proof. What is the best mode of building it? A Build hollow walls laid up in a good cement mor-
(31) J. McT. asks: 1. Will concrete do for cellar wall and foundation for a frame building? A. Yes. 2. Will common lime do to mix it with, or will it require
A. Pure cement is best.

## COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the Scientific American acoriginal papers and contributionsupon the following subjects:
On Newspaper Subscriptions. By J. H. On Marine Propulsion. ByR. F. E. W.

On a Body in a Hollo sor On the Material Theory of Light. By G. L. B Also inquiries and answors froin the following : J. C. W.-J. G. A.-W. D.-U. R.
G. C.-C. S.-S. P. F. F.-C. Z.

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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 makes marbleized slate? Whose the most accurate barometers? Why do not maAll such personal inquiries are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Personal," which is the charge rentioned at the head of that column. Almost any desired information can in this way be expeditiously obtained
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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

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July 25, 1876
AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE A complete copy of any patent in the annexed list,
incluading both the specifications and drawings, will be
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Bag holder, J Mulder
Bag holder, G. M. \& J. Robinson
Bale hoop iron, W. B. Hayden.
Bale tie, J. H. Snyder
Bale tie, J. H. Snyder
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Bed spring, J. Rearion
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Buliard toble
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Bird cage, A. Heinz.
Blotter, paper cut
Boiler spark arrester, F. M. Steven
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Furnace, gas-burning, R.
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Governor, W. A. Hathaway
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Grain binder, E. R. Whitney...................
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Heater and feeder, M. Cabbell.
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Hinge, A. Barker...................
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Lamp, street, J. S. Woods.
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Latch, gate, S. O. Hall...
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