TO INVENTORS.

An experience of more than thirty years, and the preparation of not less than one hundred thousand applications for patents at home and abroad, enable us to undeistand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. In addition to our facilities for preparing drawings and specifications quickly, the applicant can rest assured that his case will be filed in the Patent Office without delay. Every application, in which the fees have been paid, is sent complete-including the modelto the Patent Office the same day the papers are signed at our office, or received by mail, so there is no delay in filing the case, a complaint we often hear from other sources. Another advantage to the inventor in securing his patent through the Scientific American Patent Agency, it insures a special notice of the invention in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, which publication often opens negotiations for the sale of the patent or manufacture of the article. A synopsis of the patent laws in foreign countries may be found on another page, and persons contemplating the securing of pa abroad are invited to write to this office for prices which have been reduced in accordance with the times and our perfected facilities for conducting the business Address MUNN & CO., office Scientific American.

Business and Lersonal.

The Charge for Insertion under this head is One Dollar a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line. Advert sements must be received at publication office as early as Thursday morning to appearin next issue.

Jarvis Patent Boiler Setting burns wet peat, screenings without blast. A.F. Upton, Agent, 48 Congress St.,

Assays of Ores, Analyses of Minerals, Waters, Commercial Articles, etc. Technical formulæ and processes Fuller & Stillman, 40 & 42 Broadway, N. Y.

West Broadway, Reade and Hudson Sts., N. Y., Aug. 2, 1877. Messrs, H. W. Johns Manufacturing Company, 87 Maiden Lane, New York. Dear Sirs:—In my applica-tion of it, as Boiler and Steam Pipe Covering, your Asbestos Felting (single and double air chamber) gives most complete and thorough satisfaction, and is perior to any of the various non-conductors that I have tried or am familiar with. I very willingly recommend it to engineers and the public generally as the best nonconductor of heat that has been nut upon the market Yours respectfully, Chas. D. Doubleday, Engineer for H. K. & F. B. Thurber & Co.

Manufacturers of Hand and Power Brick Machines Please send circulars and prices to H. P. Gregory & Co.

Two Iron Coal Dumping Cars for elevated track, \$80 cost \$250. 310 York Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

One half of patent for sale of Tubular Iron Grindston Frame. J. E. Defreest, 73 Ferry St., Troy, N. Y

Wallace Electric Light Machine, 1,500 candle power; in use only two months, and guaranteed in perfect order Cost \$4:0; price \$200. E. T., Jr., P. O. Box 3814, N. Y.

The best Friction Clutch Pulley and Friction Hoisting Machinery in the world. D.Frisbie & Co., N. Haven. Ct.

The Lambertville Iron Works, Lambertville, N. J., build superior Engines and Boilers at bottom prices. Empire Gum Core Packing, Soap Stone Packing, Pis-

ton Packing; all kinds. Greene, Tweed & Co., 18 Park Place, N. Y. 1,000 2d hand machines for sale. Send stamp for de-

scriptive price list. Forsaith & Co., Manchester, N. H.

Bevins & Co's Hydraulic Elevator. Great power, simplicity,safety,economy,durability. 94 Liberty St.N.Y. Hydraulic Elevators for private houses, hotels, and public buildings. Burdon Iron Works, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Galland & Co.'s improved Hydraulic Elevators. Office

206 Broadway, N. Y., (Evening Post Building, room 22.) Consumption cured.—An old physician, retired from active practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma, and all throat and lungaffections, also a positive and radical cure for general debility and all nervous complaints, after having thoi oughly tested its wonderful curative powers in thou-sands of cases, feels it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. The recipe will be sent free of charge, to all who desire it, with full directions for preparing and successfully using. Address, with stemp, naming this paper, Dr. J. C. Stone, 146 South Eighth Street Philadelphia, Pa.

If you are troubled with leaky valves, use the Chapman. Warranted to give satisfaction. Chapman Valve Manufacturing Company, Boston, Mass.

For Fire or Power Pumps, address the Gould's Manf. Co., Seneca Falls, N. Y., or 15 Park Pl., N. Y. city.

Iron, Brass, and Steel Wire. Needle pointed English Steel Wire, for all purposes, W. Crabb, Newark, N. J.

The only Engine in the market attached to boiler having cold bearings. F.F.& A.B.Landis, Lancaster, Pa. Brush Electric Light. -20 lights from one machine. Latest & best light. Telegraph Supply Co., Cleveland, O.

The Hancock Inspirator received a gold medal at Paris, as being the best boiler feeder ever made, and the Old Colony Railroad (who have twenty-three ma- | perpetual motion, chines in constant use) have just given it their unqualifled indorsement, as the cheapest and most effective ested are referred to their letter of recommendation, which may be found in our advertising columns.

J. C Hoadley, Consulting Engineer and Mcchanical and Scientific Expert, Lawrence, Mass.

The Lathes, Planers, Drills, and other Tools, new and second-hand, of the Wood & Light Machine Company. Worcester, are to be sold out very low by the George Place Machinery Agency, 121 Chambers St., New York.

For the best advertising at lowest prices in Scientific, Mechanical, and other Newspapers, write to E.N. Freshman & Bros., Advertising Agents, 186 W. 4th St., Cin., O. For Town and Village use, comb'd Hand Fire Engine

& Hose Carriage, \$350. Forsaith & Co., Manchester, N. H.

Presses, Dies, and Tools for working Sheet Metals, etc. Fruit and other Can Tools. Bliss & Williams, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Paris Exposition, 1878.

Hoset all sizes. Greene, Tweed & Co., 18 Park Pl., N.Y. hot enough to explode gunpowder? A. Eight.

Punching Presses, Drop Hammers, and Dies for working Metals, etc. The Stiles & Parker Press Co., Middletown, Conn

Hydraulic Presses and Jacks, new and sec Lathes and Machinery for Polishing and Buffing Metals. E, Lyon & Co., 470 Grand St., N. Y.

Nickel Plating.—A white deposit guaranteed by using our material. Condit, Hanson & Van Winkle, Newark, N.J. H. Prentiss & Co., 14 Dey St., N. Y., Manufs. Taps,

Dies, Screw Plates, Reamers, etc. Send for list. Solid Emery Vulcanite Wheels-The Solid Original Emery Wheel – other kinds imitations and inferior. Caution.—Our name is stamped in full on all our best Standard Belting, Packing, and Hose. Buy that only. The best is the cheapest. New York Belting and Packing Company, 37 and 38 Park Row, N. Y.

Nickel Plating.-Wenzel's Patent Perforated Carbon Box Anode for holding Grain Nickel. A. C. Wenzel, 114 Center St., New York City.

Bolt Forging Machine & Power Hammers a specialty Send for circulars. Forsaith & Co., Manchester, N. H.

For Solid Wrought Iron Beams, etc., see advertise-Address Union Iron Mills, Pittsburgh, Pa., for lithograph, etc.

To Manufacturers.—Messrs. Bignall & Ostrander, 806-7. 2d St., St. Louis, Mo., have added to their present establishment a Machinery Department, from whence the wants of the Western machine-using public will be supplied. Manufacturers will do well to correspond with them.

Manufacturers of Improved Goods who desire to build up a lucrative foreign trade, will do well to insert a well displayed advertisement in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Export Edition. This paper has a very large foreign circulation.

24 x 48 in. Wright's Automatic Engine, with 16 foot band wheel, 30 in. face, for sale. Price low. Atlas Works, Indianapolis, Ind.

Pulverizing Mills forall hard substances and grinding purposes. Walker Bros. & Co., 23d & Wood St., Phila., Pa.

Inventors' Models. John Ruthren, Cincinnati, O. The Lawrence Engine is the best. See ad. page 13.

North's Lathe Dog. 347 N. 4th St., Philadelphia, Pa. Sheet Metal Presses, Ferracute Co., Bridgeton, N. J.

Band Saws, \$100; Scroll Saws, \$75: Planers, \$150;

upwards. Bentel, Margedant & Co., Hamilton, Ohio. Steel Castings true to pattern, of superior strength Evelina St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Export Edition is published monthly, about the 15th of each month. Every number comprises most of the plates of the four prece ing weekly numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, with other appropriate contents, business announcements, etc. Itforms a large and splendid periodical of nearly onehundredquartopages, each number illustrated with about one hundred engravings. It is a complete record of American progress in the arts.

Diamond Saws. J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N. Y. Eagle Anvils, 9 cents per pound. Fully warranted.

The well named Leader Lathe is far ahead of compe titors. For descriptive circular, address Frasse & \tilde{Co} ., 62 Chatham St., New York.

Improved Meat Cutter. Capacity 600 lbs. an hour. Cir-

cular and price list, J. W. McFarland & Co., Alliance, O. The only economical and practical Gas Engine in the

market is the new "Otto" Silent, built by Schleicher, Schumm & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Send for circular. Self-feeding upright Drilling Machine of superior construction. Drills holes from % to % in. diameter.

Pratt & Whitney Co., Manufs., Hartford, Conn. Correct thing for Holidays, Whist and Dinner Parties, is the Vanity Fair Cigarettes, with your monogram

Vertical & Yacht Engines. N.W.Twiss, New Haven, Ct. Wheels and Pinions, heavy and light, remarkably strong and durable. Especially suited for sugar mills and similar work. Pittsburgh Steel Casting Company,



(1) J. L. J. asks: What composition for team valves and cocks will expand the least? A. The to ran the lathe. following composition answers well: 20 Parts, by weight, copper; 3 parts by weight, zinc; 3 parts by weight, tin.

prehensive article on nickel plating on p. 209, vol. 38, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

AMERICAN.

(4) J. R.—No reward has been offered for

(5) J. R. M.—Lepidolite is found at Hebron, feeder ever used on their locomotives. Those inter- Me., and near Middletown, Conn. It has about the following composition:

Stillman has lately shown several lepidolites to contain cæsium—one sample from Bonn, Prussia, contained as much as 0.68 per cent, CsO.

(6) M. M. asks for the best method of cutting glass tubes used for water gauges. A. File in one side a slight notch; upon the opposite side place the two thumbs with ends of nails exactly opposite the lengthwise on it, while you break it as you would a

(8) W. E. K. asks: 1. What quantity and size of wire shall I use for an electro motor? A. This depends on the kind of battery used, as there exists a certain relation between the resistance of the magnet coil and that of the battery. Where a quantity battery is used the wire may be larger than when the battery to use both ends of the cores if possible: the cores will be about 41/2 inches in length; would such an arrangement generate any power for propelling light machinery? A. Yes, but U-magnets would be better. 3. What size wire is generally used for winding the permanent magnets of dynamo-electric machines, and also what size for winding the electro-magnets? A. Where permanent magnets are used they are not wound. When electro-magnets are employed, the size of wire varies greatly with the use to which the machine is applied; the same is true of the armature.

(9) S.D.C. asks: 1. How many pounds presinches diameter, 15 inches high, having 7 or 8 114 inch tubes? A. Safe working pressure, 15 to 20 lbs. per square inch. 2. Give directions for making a good ma chine which will furnish sufficient electricity to produce an electric light, said machine to be run by a small engine. A. See Scientific American Supple. pipe 2 inches in diameter will answer, MENTS Nos. 17 and 151.

(10) W. H. A. asks: 1. What is the weight of a United States gallon of water, and how many cubic inches in it? A. 8.331bs., 230.8 cubic inches. 2. What material will fit a piston in a cylinder water tight, so that when working the amount of friction shall be as small Does it take as much power to raise a piston (fitting air tight in a cylinder) with waterstanding under it so that place on the diaphragm? A. Short pieces of rubber tubform a vacuum beneath piston? A. Yes.

is used in the De Meritans machine? A. For a small machine we think No. 14 or 16 would do. 2. Can the wire be purchased already covered, and where? A. From dealers in this city who advertise in our columns. 3. Is the effect the same if the permanent magnets are Universal Wood Workers and Hand Planers, \$150, and revolved instead of the electro-magets? If so, it would seem as if the wear of brushes, springs, or commutations, would be avoided by this plan. A. Permanent Steel Castings true to pattern, of superior strength and durability. Gearing of allkinds. Hydraulic cylinagers, crank shafts, cross heads, connecting rods, and machinery castings of every description. For price list steel wire bent into proper shape, hardened, magnetized, ing power alone, or are they sometimes used for storage?

A The compartments in ships' rooms done off for floating power alone, or are they sometimes used for storage? net equally powerful with a compound plate magnet as used in the De Meritens machine? A. We think not, you a recent work on the subject of Magneto-Electricity and the Electric Light? A. We intend publishing papers on these subjects at an early day in the Scientwic American Supplement.

(12) T. S. M. asks which will consume the most power, to place the driving pinion in a hoisting machine above or below the center of the large spur wheel? A. We think it will make no difference

(13) G. E. F. asks: 1. How to make or mix the substance used in cold water pens. A. Mix any of the soluble coal tar dyes with gum water to form a thick paste, and after filling the case, dry at a gentle heat. 2. Also a good mucilage. A. Triturate 1 ounce of gum (25) E. G. McD. asks how to make mark-arabic with about 4 fluid ounces of hot water in a mor-ing fluid for the backs of Brussels carpets. A. An extar, and add a few drops of clove oil. Or makea solu tion of dextrine in about 31/2 parts of boiling water.

(14 W. E. G. asks what would be the wer of an engine 2 inches bore and 4 inches stroke. Will an oscillating engine of the same size produce the same power with the same amount of steam, say 60 lbs.? What size should a boiler be for such an engine? Would an engine of this size run a lathe that swings 12 inches for turning iron? A. There will be no difference in the power of the two engines, if properly constructed. To determine the horse power, multiply together the mean pressure during stroke in pounds per square inch, the area of the piston in equare inches, the length of stroke in feet, and twice the number of revolutions per minute, and divide the product by 33,000. Make a boiler whose heating surface is in the proportion of from 15 to 20 square feet per horse power. The engine can be used

(15) J. F. S. writes: I am about to select a trade or profession. I have a taste for mechanical trades of all kinds, farming and mercantile business. I have (2) J. N. B.—We know of no work espe. a chance to go as runner in a bank in New York, or to cially devoted to nickel plating. You will find a com- go on a 400 acre farm in Indiana. 1. Which shall I do? A. Go on the farm by all means. 2. How can I distinguish oleomargarine butter from the genuine article? A. According to Professors Sechartier and Taylor, (3) A. R -You will find a receipt for oleomargarine may be distinguished from pure dairy cementing rubber on p. 250 (15), vol. 38, Scientific butter by examining a sample under a good microscope. The latter presents a nearly uniform color; the forms seen consist of oil globules and crystals of salt. When observed by polarized light very little change is observed, but if the specimen contain oleomargarine the field is speckled over with shining particles which change color with every quarter turn of the analyzer. A power of 75 diameters exhibits these SiO₂ Al_2O_3 Fe₂O₃ MgO CaO RbO LiO NaF K H₂O changes very markedly. With a power of 250 diameters 5032 2854 073 051 101 024 07 177 26 312 more or less animal tissue may usually be detected.

(16) H. S. asks how to solder German silver. I have tried what they call silver solder, with a blow pipe and a spirit lamp; the solder will not melt. A. Rub a lump of borax with a drop or so of water on a common slate or porcelain slab, until a thick paste is produced. Clean the surfaces to be soldered and paint on the borax paste; dip your silver solder in the borax notch; now grasp the tube with both hands and pull tacks (not tinned), direct the reducing flame of a blow pipe upon the work until it becomes red hot, then project it (7) J. H. A. G. asks how many cells of a on the solder. The small silver three cent pieces make Callaud battery are necessary to heat a short strip of excellent solder for German silver, brass, copper, iron, Rubber Hose, Suction Hose, Steam Hose, and Linen platina foil in of an inch wide and 14 of an inch long, and steel. Scientific American Supplement No. 20, contains full practical directions for soldering,

(17) J. S. writes: I have a quantity of lard oil that I think contains salt or acid. How can I test it? A. If the oil contains pure acid, a scrap of blue litmus paper rubbed with it will indicate the fact by turning red. A notsale amount of salt is readily detected by taste. A little hot water will extract salt from is arranged for intensity. 2. I have straight soft iron the lard, and a drop of nitrate of silver solution (aqueous) cores 34 inch in diameter, eight in number; I calculate added to the clear water from the oil will occasion a white curdy precipitate, if salt is present even in very small quantity.

(18) A. A. asks: 1. How many Bunsen cells of such size as could be made in a common glass tumbler would it take to furnish electricity enough for an electric light to light a room twenty feet square? A. About 100. 2. How many of capacity of 1 quart for glass jar? A. 50. 3. What is the size of jar most suitable for battery for electric light? A. One quart. 4. Would porous cells made of fine potter's clay of proper size and shape be suitable? A. Yes. 5. Is a glazed earthen jar as good as glass for outer jar? A. Yes. 6. ure will a boiler stand which is made of heavy tin, 10 Are common plant jurs as good for porous cups as those made of finer and more compact clay. A. No.

> (19) A. C. F. asks what size of steam pipe to use for an engine 8 inches x 10 inches stroke, running at 180 revolutions per minute at 60 lbs. pressure. A. A

> (20) C. A. W. asks: Is the effect of the shock from an induction coil good or bad upon the body in good physical condition? A. Strong electrical shocks are injurious.

(21) J. C. F. asks: 1. In damping the as possible? A. Any hard metal, accurately fitted. 3. diaphragm of phonograph described in SUPPLEMENT No. 133, do you simply cut small pieces of rubber tobing and the water will rise as piston rises, as it requires to ing are placed between the diaphragm and its support, and are allowed to exert a slight pressure on the dia-(11) W. S. L. asks: 1. What size of copper phragm. 2. Will fine copper wire insulated with guttawire gives the best effect in an electro magnet, such as percha do for the coll in a telephone as well as silk covered? A. The gutta percha covering is generally too thick; silk covered is preferable.

(22 W. D. S. asks: 1. In the best kind of safety valves for steam boilers does the area for escaping steam gradually increase as the pressure increases? A. According to experiments made by the United States Boiler Inspectors, common safety valves, when properly proportioned, are as efficient as those which A. The compartments having doors are ordinarily used for storage. 3. Would an invention be valuable that but it might answer very well. 5. Can the magnets be compartments without any machinery in case a hole made with a set of bar magnets? A. Yes. 6. Will cotton do for covering for the wire? A. Yes. 7. Have would automatically close the doors between the air

> (23) W. A. M. writes: I have a bottle of pure bay oil, will you please inform me how I can make bay rum suitable for toilet purposes? A, 10 fluid drachms of oil of bay rum; 1 fluid drachm of oil of pimento; 2 fluid ounces of aceticether; 3 gallons of alcohol 95 per cent; 21/2 gallons of water; mix, and after two weeks' repose, filter.

> (24) G. C. asks: What is the best method of protecting the lungs against dust while sweeping? A. Breathe through a moistened sponge.

> cellent ink for this purpose is prepared by triturating 4 parts of powdered soluble nigrosine in about 15 parts of hot water, and straining the hot solution repeatedly through fine silk or filtering through filter paper, using a hot funnel. See also inks in Scientific American SUPPLEMENT No. 157.

> (26) Engineer asks which of the two is the largest-the Cincinnati water works, or the new water works about completed at Pittsburg, also their relative capacities. A. Perhaps correspondents from these localities will kindly send us particulars.-En.

(27) W. Z. B. asks: 1. Can water be forced into a boiler above the water line? It may not be advisable, but can it be done? A. Yes. 2. Our office is heated by coils of pipe which drain themselves com-pletely, where they, and their outlets, are subject to no other pressure than that of the atmosphere. If both outlets are connected to the dome of a boiler carrying 60 lbs. of steam, placed below these outlets, will the pipes still drain themselves? A. Yes, if there is sufficient fall, and the pipes are properly arranged. 3. Our water works give a pressure of 125 lbs. to the inch. If a pipe was connected from the main to the dome of a boiler carrying 60 lbs., would water enter the boiler? A. Yes.

(28) W. asks: 1. Will steam or water deposit scale when not coming in contact with heated surfaces? A. Water may do so. 2. Will steam when not superheated cause oxidation of brass? A. To some slight extent.

(29) T. D. H. says: 1. I have a telegraph line about 300 feet. No. 14 copper wire, gas pipe grounded, and on it are two learners' instruments and two bells (box pattern). How many jars will I want of Lockwood or Watson batteries to work it? A. Four. 2. What is the comparative strength and usefulness on a line of these two batteries? A. There is not much difference. 3 If an office ground both line and local on one binding post, and thence by one wire to the ground, is there any danger of a return current if one be grounded and the other in use? A. No. 4. What will take knot and dust marks (from cracks) out of an engraving? A. Moisten the parts thoroughly with soft water, and on a charcoal or piece of pumice stone, with common press strongly between hot sheets of bibulous paper. When cool moisten with strong cold solution of fresh sodium hypochlorite, and when sufficiently clean, moisten again with a little sodium hyposuiphite solution, and, after a time, absorb excess of moisture with clean blotting paper, and press between sheets of the same with hot irons until perfectly dry.

(30) W. S. D. writes: 1. I have made a steam engine cylinder 1¼x2 inches; now I want a boiler can Iget steam enough by using a boiler on a common cook stove—boiler to be about 8 inches in diameter made of cast iron? I want it to run a bracket saw on large work. If this will not do, how can I generate sufficientsteam? Of what can I make a boiler; and how large? A. If you set the boiler in the fire, you can prohably make enough steam. It would be better to form it of copper, from 8 to 10 inches in diameter. 2. Is cold rolled iron as good as steel for piston rods, arbors, etc. A. It is not as strong, comparing good qualities of each.

8. How shall I temper machine steel to have it the "Oughest? A. You can make the steel very hard, by heating it and plunging into cold water. After this, you can temper to any less degree of hardness, by reheating, and allowing it to cool somewhat, before plunging intocold water.

(31) E.W. T. asks: What form would be the best to copy to make a small magneto-electric machine, costing from \$8 to \$10? I want a continuous current for physiological experiments. A. Probably Clarke's machine would be best for your purpose, but we do not think you can make one for the price named.

(32) J. G. A. and C. K. will find receipts for ebonizing woods on pp. 191 (19), 219 (67), and 251, vol. 38, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

(33) W.B. S. writes: In heating our factory we take steam from the steam dome, and the return or drain pipe into the heater then (after the pipes are heated up) turned into the mud drum. It seems there is enough greater pressure at the mud drum to prevent the return water from flowing back into the boiler by a head of about eight feet or more generally. How can thi be remedied? A. Ordinarily, this is not enough head to secure good circulation, in an extensive system of radiators, unless all the return pipes can lead with a fall into a vertical main. Fortunately the difficulty can be easily solved by adding a good trap.

(34) S. G. B. asks if there is a difference between one "square foot" and one foot square. A. Square foot is the more comprehensive term, since it includes the "foot square" (i. e, a square one foot each way) and all other figures having the same area, 144 square inches. The first is a unit of measure, without regard to form; the second is a particular form of a particular size.

(35) A. G. L. asks: 1. Is there anything that will prevent kerosene oil from smoking when used for cooking purposes? I used three tubes similar to those used on torches, but a black deposit soon formed on the bottom of the kettle. A. The burner for a kerosene stove should be made on exactly the same principle as a first class lamp burner. 2. Can I make the electric light by using a battery composed of zinc and copper plates immersed in solution of 9 parts water, 1 part sulphuric acid, the plates being 3 x 4 m., 3/4 in. thick; how many cells would be sufficient? A. 59 such cells would produce a light, but not for a great length of time, as a battery of this kind is not constant. 3. What size copper wire is best for connections? A. No. 13 or 14. 4. When I melt zine in an iron ladle it is brittle; is it fit for hattery

(36) R. W. S. asks: If a malleable iron casting 18 of an inchthick by 21/2 wide, is securely held at each end by a solid support, so that there is two inches of unsupported metal between the supports, what pressure in pounds brought to bear upon the center of the casting will break it? A. Trautwine gives the following

rule: Breaking weight in pounds

=(Depth in inches) ² × (Breadth in inches) × 4200 Clear length in feet

This rule is for the case in which the ends are immovably fixed.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents, and examined, with the results stated:

S. F.—It is a micaceous sand. Not valuable. We could not indicate the probable value of the stone from your description alone .- J. G .- It is magnetic iron sand-magnetic iron oxide or magnetite. It will make an excellent quality of iron if properly smelted. It may be freed from sand and other impurities by means of large magnets.-J. B.-The light colored specimens are principally marcasite (an iron sulphide), with traces of copper and arsenic, in slate. The other sample contains a large per cent of lead (galena) and chalcopyrite (iron copper sulphide). The orc will probably prove of value.—J. T.—The quartz contains galena (lead sulphide) and a little chalcopyrite and zinc. The property is doubtless of some value

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the Scientific American acknowledges with much pleasure the receipt of original papers and contributions on the following subjects:

Wagon Wheel Problem. By M. S. C. Metric System. By R. F. Facts and Figures for Mathematicians. By L. S. B. Electric Light Telegraph. By F. P. Acoustic Telephone. By E. D. V.

Anynumbers of the Scientific American Supple MENT referred toin these columns may be had at this office. Price 10 cents each.

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We renew our request that correspondents, in referring to former answers or articles, will be kind enough to name the date of the paper and the page, or the number

Many of our correspondents make inquiries which cannot properly be answered in these columns. Such inquiries, if signed by initials only, are liable to be cast into the waste basket.

Persons desiring special information which is purely of a per onal character, and not of general interest, should remit from \$1 to \$5, according to the subject, as we cannot be expected to spend time and labor to obtain such information without remuneration.

[OFFICIAL.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS Letters Patent of the United States Were Granted in the Week Ending November 5, 1878. AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

[Those marked(r) are reassued patents.]	
A complete copy of any patent in the annexe including both the specifications and drawings,	
furnished from this office for one dollar. In or	
please state the number and date of the patent d	esired
and remit to Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, New York	_
Adding machine, E. L. Bill	209,644
Axlebox, car, R. C. Brown	209,546
Bag holder, S. M. Dalzell	209,588
Bed bottom. spring, D. L. Haire	
Berth, suspended ship's, D. Parks	209,622
Blotter, J. N. Huston	209,689
Blowpipe, C. Hoffmann Bobbin maker, Glazier & Wait Boller heater and feeder, R. N. Pratt	209,683
Boilers, preventing incrustation in, F. M. Maybury	209,574
Boilers, patching, F. A. Bidwell	209,608
Boot and shoe heel stiffener, G. V. Sheffield (r)	8,477
Box, sheet metal, J. Gilbert	8,481
Bran scourer, Smith & Thompson Bridle brow band, E. R. Cahoone	200.651
Bronzing paper, etc., Peterson & Frost	209,625
Buckle, G. W. McGill	209,701
Calendar, H. Meineke	209,577
Can, oil, T. Moran	209,56
Candlestick reflector, M. C. Meigs	209,576 209,656
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Cereals for food, preparing, Ross & McLeod	209,71
Chimney top and ventilator, G. W. & L. Demond.	209,552
Clock calendar, B. B. Lewis	209,618
Clock, striking, V. Himmer Cock, hot, cold, and waste water, W.D. Abbatt	209,610
Coffee and peanut roaster, C. L. Hall(r)	8,479
Coin holder, J. W. Whittie	209.63
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Cooler for water, etc., L. Dolle	209,669
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Corset, E. W. Bigelow	209,64
Cutlery, table, Hart & Fisher	209,633
Draught equalizer, D. S. Cole	209,657
Drawer pull, T. S. Alexander	
Elevator, hay, G. Miller	209,655
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Fence, J. Hart Fence post, iron, S. Heaton	209,680
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