

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 understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequalled 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 model—to 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 patents 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 Personal.

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

The best results are obtained by the Imp. Eureka Turbine Wheel, and Barber's Pat. Pulverizing Mills. Send for descriptive pamphlets to Barber & Son, Allentown, Pa.

Valves and Hydrants, warranted to give perfect satisfaction. Chapman Valve Manuf. Co., Boston, Mass.

Steam Tug Machinery, Engines, Boilers, Sugar Machinery. Atlantic Steam Engine Works, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Kimball's Catarrh Cigarettes, an instantaneous relief and a pleasant smoke. They contain no tobacco.

"We get 10 lb. more steam since using 'Downer's Boiler Liquid,'" writes a party who appreciates the merits of the above article. Clean boilers, with more steam and less fuel, is the verdict. A. H. Downer, 17 Peck Slip, New York.

The Globe (Miner) Street Lamp; most durable, none better. Address J. G. Miner, Morrisania, N. Y. City.

For Sale.—Two Horizontal Engines, 50 and 25 H. P.; Price \$675 and \$450; are first-class, new, and complete. Address H. Nadig & Bro., Allentown, Pa.

Steam Hammers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks, and Tube Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St., New York.

Drop Hammers, Die Sinking Machines, Punching and Shearing Presses. Pratt & Whitney Co., Hartford, Ct.

Air Guns.—H. M. Quackenbush, Manufacturer, Herkimer, N. Y.

Boilers ready for shipment. For a good Boiler send to Hilles & Jones, Wilmington, Del.

Wanted—Estimates for Manufacturing Coleman's Mill Pick, advertised in another column.

The only Portable Engines attached to a boiler having cold bearings. The Peerless and Domestic. Francis Hershey, successor to F. F. & A. B. Landis, Lancaster, Pa.

For one dollar, with your chest measure, we will send, post paid, a pair each of our **O. K. Shoulder Braces** and **Bonanza Armlets**. J. W. Smith & Co., 178 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.

H. W. Johns' Asbestos Roof Paint forms the most durable and economical protective coating in the world for tin roofs, exposed brick walls, iron work, barns, fences, etc., for which it is in every respect equal to the best white lead, while it costs only half as much. It is made in a variety of beautiful colors, samples of which will be sent on application to 87 Maiden Lane, New York.

Lightning Chisel Pruner. Centennial award. For sale or royalty. Address Flournoy, Knowles, Md.

Magnets, Insulated Wire, etc., for experiments. Catalogue free. Goodnow & Wightman, 176 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

Shaw's Mercury Gauges, 5 to 50,000 lbs.; accurate, reliable, and durable. T. Shaw, 915 Ridge Ave., Phila., Pa.

New Pamphlet of "Burnham's Standard Turbine Wheel" sent free by N. F. Burnham, York, Pa.

17 and 20 in. Gibed Rest Screw Lathes. Geo. S. Lincoln & Co., Hartford, Conn.

Sheet Metal Presses, Ferracite Co., Bridgeton, N. J.

Vertical Burr Mill. C. K. Bullock, Phila., Pa.

Excelsior Steel Tube Cleaner, Schuylkill Falls, Phila., Pa.

Diamond Drills, J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N. Y.

A Cupola works best with forced blast from a Baker Blower. Wilbraham Bros., 2,318 Frankford Ave., Phila.

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

Split Pulleys at low prices, and of same strength and appearance as Whole Pulleys. Yocom & Son's Shafting Works, Drinker St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Ornamental Penman's, Engraver's, Sign Writer's, and Stonecutter's Pocketbook of Alphabets; 32 plates; 20 cts.; mail free. E. & F. N. Spon, 446 Broome St., N. Y.

Linen Hose.—Sizes: 1 1/2 in., 20c.; 2 in., 25c.; 2 1/2 in., 29c. per foot, subject to large discount. For price lists of all sizes, also rubber lined linen hose, address Eureka Fire Hose Company, No. 13 Barclay St., New York.

Dead Stroke Power Hammers; cheapest and best for general forging and die work; 500 in use. P. S. Justice, of Philadelphia.

Forsyth & Co., Manchester, N. H., and 213 Centre St., New York. Specialties.—Bolt Forging Machines, Power Hammers, Combined Hand Fire Engines and Hose Carriages, new and 2d hand machinery. Send stamp for illustrated catalogues, stating just what you want.

Partner Wanted.—A party with limited capital.—Address Des Moines Linseed Oil Works, Des Moines, Iowa.

Presses, Dies, and Tools for working Sheet Metal, etc. Fruit & other can tools. Bliss & Williams, B'klyn, N. Y.

Nickel Plating.—A white deposit guaranteed by using our material. Condit, Hanson & Van Winkle, Newark, N. J.

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

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

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

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.

Portland Cement—Roman & Keene's, for walks, cisterns, foundations, stables, cellars, bridges, reservoirs, breweries, etc. Remit 25 cents postage stamps for Practical Treatise on Cements. S. L. Merchant & Co., 53 Broadway, New York.

For Sale.—7 foot bed Putnam Planer, \$350. A. A. Pool & Co., Newark, N. J.

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

Steel Castings true to pattern, of superior strength and durability. Gearing of all kinds. Hydraulic cylinders, crank shafts, cross heads, connecting rods, and machinery castings of every description. For price list and circular, address Chester Steel Castings Company, 407 Library St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Walrus Leather for Polishing Agricultural Implements and all kinds of metal. Greene, Tweed & Co., N. Y.

Elevators, Freight and Passenger, Shafting, Pulleys, and Hangers. L. S. Graves & Son, Rochester, N. Y.

Machine Cut Brass Gear Wheels for Models, etc. (new list). Models, experimental work, and machine work generally. D. Gilbert & Son, 212 Chester St., Phila., Pa.

Holly System of Water Supply and Fire Protection for Cities and Villages. See advertisement in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of this week.

Diamond Self-clamp Paper Cutter and Bookbinders' Machinery. Howard Iron Works, Buffalo, N. Y.

Best Power Punching Presses in the world. Highest Centennial Award. A. H. Merriman, W. Meriden, Conn.

Electro-Bronzing on Iron. Philadelphia Smelting Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

Improved Steel Castings; stiff and durable; as soft and easily worked as wrought iron; tensile strength not less than 65,000 lbs. to sq. in. Circulars free. Pittsburg Steel Casting Company, Pittsburg, Pa.

For Shafts, Pulleys, or Hangers, call and see stock kept at 79 Liberty St., N. Y. Wm. Sellers & Co.

Wm. Sellers & Co., Phila., have introduced a new Injector, worked by a single motion of a lever.

Rubber Hose, Suction Hose, Steam Hose, and Linen Hose; all sizes. Greene, Tweed & Co., 18 Park Pl., N. Y.

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

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE COMBUSTION OF COAL. By W. M. Barr. Indianapolis: John Brothers. 8vo. pp. 306. \$2.50.

Mr. Barr has done good service by presenting in plain English such information with regard to the chemistry of coal, and the more recent mechanical devices for the economic use of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels, as may be of practical utility to the great mass of fuel users. He has not aimed to present new theories or new observations, but rather to bring the knowledge, already established, within the reach of those unprepared by mathematical and chemical training to profit by the excellent but abstruse treatises of Professor Rankine and others. The book is well written, illustrated with a few appropriate cuts, well made, and fully indexed.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY.—The current number of this floral magazine is full of handsome illustrations and pleasant reading matter. The frontispiece is a collection of small flowered petunias, and it includes every known variety. The grouping is artistic and the coloring exceeding rich. The Monthly is devoted exclusively to flowers and vegetables, and every page is filled with information regarding growing plants and roots. The magazine is devoted mostly to the culture of flowers. The magazine teaches the development of the beautiful, and were half its suggestions followed the world would be a garden of roses and the people in it bright and happy. Mr. Vick is an enthusiast and his spirit is seen in all he writes. The Floral Guide for 1879 has just been issued; it contains a full page colored illustration of lilies and numberless illustrations of smaller proportions, and representing a great variety of plants, flowers, and vegetables. Both magazine and Guide are published at Rochester, N. Y., by James Vick.



HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No attention will be paid to communications unless accompanied with the full name and address of the writer. Names and addresses of correspondents will not be given to inquirers. 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 of the question. Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. Persons desiring special information which is purely of a personal 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. Any numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT referred to in these columns may be had at this office. Price 10 cents each.

(1) R. G. S. asks for the process of hardening and tempering small steel instruments (dental). A. Heat them to a cherry red and immediately plunge them

into a cake of tallow, resin, or beeswax, according to the size of the tool or temper required.

(2) R. R. S. asks: 1. For best and cheapest method of case hardening axles. A. Pack the axles in an iron box with animal carbon, lute the box with clay, and heat it to a red heat. This temperature must be maintained for several hours, according to the depth of the hardness required. 2. Also the best mode of giving axles a fine polish while revolving in centers. A. Make a grinding clamp and line it with lead. Apply fine emery and oil to the axle and hold on the clamp, moving it along the axle as it revolves.

(3) C. P. W. asks for an explanation of the use of the "scale of chords." A. It is chiefly used for measuring angles. Refer to some geometrical work for explanation of the rule.

(4) R. S. H. writes: I have seen wheels made, or rather used, for gumming saws, by fastening emery on to wooden wheels in some way. Can you tell me how to do it? A. Coat the wheels with good glue, and roll them in emery heated to about 200° Fah. Solid emery wheels are far better than the kind you mention.

(5) A. L. writes: I have a flute, the first joint of which is ivory, and where it comes in contact with my lips it is very much discolored. Can you tell me how to color the ivory an indelible black or some dark color, something that will not injure the flute or poison my lips? A. Suspend in a strong aqueous solution of neutral silver nitrate exposed to direct sunlight until black; then wash thoroughly with water.

(6) G. J. V. asks: 1. How to overcome that nuisance, bedbugs. A. Try benzine—a very small quantity will suffice. 2. Am troubled also with rats and mice, which have become too shrewd to be taken in by any device of mine for destroying them. A. Dr. Ure recommends the following: Melt in a bottle by standing it in water heated to about 150° Fah., 1/2 lb. of lard, to which add 1/4 oz. of phosphorus, and 1/2 pint of proof spirit. Then remove the bottle from the water bath, cork, and violently agitate it for a minute or two. On standing the dilute alcohol separates and may be poured off, while the rest, made fluid by gently warming, is made into a dough with wheat flour and sugar, and flavored with oil of rhodium or anise-seed. Pellets of this dough are placed in the rat holes, and as they shine in the dark and are pleasant to taste and smell, they are readily eaten by rats and mice and prove certainly fatal. There is no danger of fire from the use of this mixture if properly prepared.

(7) H. A. J. asks how to remove the stains from the front of a brick house caused by white paint washing off of the window frames and running down the bricks. Also the green mould that has collected on the bricks, back of an old porch roof, now taken down. A. Apply a strong solution of caustic potassa or soda, and after a few hours wash with plenty of clean water.

(8) R. M. C. asks the best method of making an electro-magnet to sustain a heavy weight by the use of one "carbon" or "Daniell" cell, and how long will either of the above cells sustain its strength on a closed circuit without attention? A. You cannot expect to sustain a great weight with a single small cell of either battery. We think, however, that a magnet having 1/2 inch cores, 2 1/2 inches long, each wound with 10 or 12 layers of No. 30 wire, would give good results with a single cell. The carbon battery will run down in a short time. The Daniell will keep up for three or four months.

(9) G. W. L. asks: If a lead pipe attached to a common lifting pump be flattened one half of its diameter through its whole length, will the pump work as freely and throw as much water in a given time? A. If the pipe, before being flattened, is only sufficient to supply the pump, no.

(10) R. B. asks how to grind in a faucet plug. A. Drawfile the plug, and grind with the sand that is rapped from castings, or with grindstone grit and water.

(11) F. A. S. asks: 1. What is the proportion of the peroxide of manganese, carbon, and gum lac used in the new form of Leclanche batteries described in SUPPLEMENT No. 159? A. Use only enough shellac to cement the particles together. You can determine the proportion by an experiment. 2. Will gas carbon ground fine do for the carbon used in the carbon blocks made of the above mixture? A. Yes. 3. If I take a block of wood made the same size and shape that the rubber blocks are (between the zinc and carbon), and soak it in hot beeswax and coat it over on the outside with beeswax, will it not answer the purpose? A. Yes. 4. What is the size of Right transmitter for telephones, diaphragm thimble holding the carbon, and size of spring? A. The size given in the engraving on page 186 of current volume of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is correct.

(12) E. C. P. asks: What metal expands most when heated (mercury excepted)? A. Zinc, among common metals.

(13) G. W. G. asks for the number of minor planets now known. A. Professor Swift informs us that there are 194.

(14) N. C. L. writes: I have a boat 28 feet long over all, 6 1/2 beam, will draw about 2 feet, it is sharp fore and aft, like a whale boat, very strongly built. I have a steam fire engine boiler, 10 to 12 horse power. I want to make 10 to 12 miles an hour. If I carry 100 lbs. of steam, how large should the engine be? Would 4 1/2 x 7 inch cylinder be about right? A. 4 1/2 inches by 7 inches would answer, but 5 inches by 8 inches would be better. 2. The boat having a sharp stern, would you advise the use of two propellers, one each side? A. Two screws to be preferred.

(15) S. M. H. writes: 1. I noticed in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, some time since, that antimony could be used in the place of carbon in single fluid batteries. Would you use two antimony plates with zinc between, or two zinc plates with antimony between? A. You will find carbon more satisfactory than the antimony. Use two carbon plates with one zinc plate between. 2. How many such cells would be required for ordinary medical use? A very strong current is not required. A. One cell is sufficient.

(16) C. A. W. asks: 1. In the condenser of induction coil, described in SUPPLEMENT No. 160, are

both surfaces of the tin foil counted; that is to say, if each sheet were 1 foot square, would there be 20 or 46 sheets? A. 40 sheets. 2. I wish to make an electro-magnet about 3 inches long; what is the best diameter for core, and also what size wire and how much should I use? A. Half inch cores. If the magnet is intended for experimental purposes, probably six or eight layers of No. 18 wire will answer. 3. I wish to run a line with a friend about 800 feet off. Which will be the cheapest, a line of copper (about No. 20 or 18) or regular telegraph wire? A. Telegraph wire. 4. Which will have the more resistance? A. For the same size, iron has the most resistance; this is compensated for by using a larger wire. 5. How many gravity cells would it take to run it? A. It depends on the arrangement of your line, your instrument, etc. Probably four would answer.

(17) C., Y. & Co. ask for a copper dip, such as used by certain fixture manufacturers on their iron castings. A. Copper sulphate, 3 1/2 oz.; sulphuric acid, 3 1/2 oz.; water, about 1 gallon. Place the clean casting in a tumbling barrel with sawdust, bran, or sand moistened with this solution, and revolve for a few minutes; a longer exposure will spoil rather than improve the film of copper deposited. In place of tumbling the articles, they may be simply rubbed with this mixture.

(18) J. K. asks: 1. If an electric light can be maintained in a vacuum. A. Yes; the Geissler tube, the electric egg, and the Sawyer-Man lamp are examples. 2. It is stated that the wonderful Kansas and Colorado Centennial clock runs a hundred years with one winding up, and that the weight or weights of this clock has a fall of 6 feet and falls 1/4 of an inch in a year, and takes less power to run it than a watch. Now, perhaps a clock might be geared to run a hundred years, but the complicated machinery would cause so much friction that it would require a great deal of power. I doubt very much if it would ever stir, the friction would be so great. Now I would like to have the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN'S opinion about this wonderful clock; is it a humbug or is it not? A. There is very little friction in the clock referred to, the escapement and pendulum operate very slowly.

(19) J. C. A. asks: How does the microphone magnify small sounds? A. By varying the electrical current so as to produce in the receiving instrument greater sonorous vibrations than those at the microphone or transmitter.

(20) W. A. R. asks: What is the cheapest and easiest method of etching on glass? And how are the etching fluids prepared, and will the fluids used to etch glass produce the same results on metals? A. Glass is etched by hydrofluoric acid gas or liquid hydrofluoric acid (solution of the gas in water). The former in contact with glass produces a rough surface (as in ground glass), while the latter ordinarily leaves the surface clear. The gas is prepared by mixing together finely powdered fluorspar (calcium fluoride), 3 parts, and 2 parts of strong sulphuric acid, in a shallow leaden dish, and applying a gentle heat. The plates to be etched may be placed over the dish. The operation should be conducted under a hood or in the open air to avoid inhaling the pernicious fumes. The plates are prepared by coating them while warm with wax or paraffine, through which to the surface of the glass the design is cut with suitable gravers. In preparing the liquid acid the mixture of spar and oil of vitriol is placed in a leaden or platinum retort, which is heated, and the gas given off is conducted into a leaden bottle filled with water, which absorbs it. In contact with the flesh the acid produces stubborn sores. The metals are usually etched with dilute nitric acid and niter, or sulphuric acid, sulphate of copper and salt, hydrochloric acid and chloride of potash. Hydrofluoric acid is not used on metals.

(21) E. D. V. asks: 1. Of how many grains does the drachm consist? A. Apothecaries' weight—1 dr.—60 grs., or 1/8 troy pound. 2. In patent office formula, when not specified, how are we to understand drachm or dram, as avoirdupois or apothecaries'? The same question concerning the use of the word drachm or dram in these columns. I understand it, when not otherwise specified, to mean always 27 and eleven thirty-seconds grains. Am I correct? My druggist disputes me. A. Usually, the old apothecaries' drachm of 60 grains is understood, although in modern pharmacy (U. S.) the pound, drachm, and scruple have fallen into disuse, while in chemical formulæ the metric system is now almost exclusively employed. The avoirdupois drachm is now seldom used.

(22) N. D. writes: In finishing some stores I want a large quantity of counters, 400 or 500 feet. Black walnut is dear; white wood in wide boards is much cheaper and sufficiently hard and smooth. How can I stain this wood so as to resemble cherry, mahogany, or black walnut? A. Water, 1 quart; washing soda, 1 1/2 ounce; Vandyke brown, 2 1/2 ounces; bichromate of potash, 1/2 ounce. Boil for ten minutes, dilute with water if necessary, and apply hot with a brush.

(23) A. J. B. asks: 1. How are carbons for batteries made? A. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENTS, Nos. 157, 158, and 159. 2. How are porous cups for batteries made? A. They are made of potter's clay, baked without glazing. 3. How is the best and cheapest battery made which will do for nickel or silver plating? A. For plating on a small scale use a Daniell or a gravity battery. A full description of these batteries is given in the SUPPLEMENTS referred to above.

(24) H. J. G. asks (1) how to make a good diamond wheel for grinding, polishing, and sharpening diamonds? I would like to make a wheel to fit into my foot power lathe. A. Use a flat soft iron disk. Burnish the diamond dust well into it. 2. What color must I have when drawing the temper of a square center for centering in lathe? A. A brownish yellow.

(25) J. A. D. asks: Can a six horse power engine employed in a cheese factory, at the foot of a hill, be used with advantage for cutting and grinding feed in a barn 35 rods distant, on the summit of the hill? If so, what means of connection should be used? A. You can readily do it by employing a small endless wire rope, allowing it to run over a sheave at the factory, and over another sheave at the barn. Any dealer in wire rope will give you plans.

(26) C. L. V. writes: I have been gathering carnelians and agates for quite a while. Having a nice collection now, I should like to polish them. Will you please tell me if there is any other way or method of polishing them besides cutting them? If so what is the method? A. You may shape your carnelians with a corundum wheel such as is commonly used by dentists, and they may be tolerably well polished on a fine Arkansas oilstone fitted to the lathe.

(27) J. P. J. writes: I wish to build a scow about 60 feet long, and 18 or 20 feet beam, and 4 feet hold, decked over forward and not to draw over 3 feet of water when loaded. 1. Could I put on a stern wheel and successfully propel it by steam, at the rate of 3 or 4 miles per hour? A. Yes. 2. If so, about what horse power engine would it require, or would I have to use two smaller engines? A. One engine, 9 inch cylinder by 2 1/2 feet stroke, or two equal to this in power. 3. Would an upright boiler answer, and what size? A. Yes; consult a good engineer as to size and proportions. 4. What size should the wheel be? A. 9 to 10 feet diameter. 5. And about how many paddles? A. Ten. 6. Would it be better to have it longer and less beam? Will a square bow answer? A. Longer and less beam would be better; a square bow will answer for a light draught.

(28) A. H. asks: 1. Is crude petroleum superior to coal for smelting iron? A. If it could be practically and economically applied, yes. 2. If so, is it used for that purpose to any extent? A. No. 3. Is iron ore with 60 per cent of iron and 5 per cent of sulphur a good ore for smelting, say with petroleum? A. No. 4. What back numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN contain information about petroleum; iron smelting with petroleum, and is there any book published about iron smelting with petroleum? A. See pp. 352, 69, 90, 368, and 85, vol. 39, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. We know of no such book.

(29) W. J. H. asks for a compound used to harden iron. A. Heat the iron to a cherry red, dust on powdered yellow prussiate of potash, and plunge in cold water.

(30) "Subscriber" asks if a pipe 12 feet high, 6 inches diameter, be filled with water, the pipe to be made of material just strong enough to hold the water, would a pipe of same height, capable of holding three times the amount of water, have to be of stronger material? A. If of same height, yes.

(31) W. K. H. writes: Let us suppose a 10x12 engine, running at 200 revolutions, 400 feet piston speed, with a 5 foot driving wheel. Then a 10x24 engine, 100 revolutions, same piston speed as above. Now, to communicate the same speed to the driven machinery we must have a 10 foot driver, which exactly balances the leverage gained by the stroke. Am I right? A. Yes.

(32) J. S. S. writes: In "Notes and Queries," April 19 (11), you say: "J. W. W. asks: 1. What degree of centrifugal force is water at its greatest density? A. 4°, equal 39.2° Fah." In "The Depths of the Sea," by Prof. C. Wyville Thomson, Macmillan & Co., London, 1874, the author says, on page 306, that on the cruise of the Lightning, August, 1868, he found the temperature at the bottom of the sea—1.2° centigrade; and on the cruise of the Porcupine, August, 1869, page 309, he found—1.3° centigrade, more than 5° centigrade lower than the answer to J. W. W. A. The fact that the temperature is below 4° cent. at the bottom of the sea does not prove that the density of the water is greatest there. Water is practically incompressible, and expands both above and below 4° cent.

(33) A. K. writes: I want to make an induction coil like the one described in SUPPLEMENT No. 160. I have made the tube out of maple wood, 1/2 of an inch internal diameter and fifteen sixteenths of an inch external diameter. 1. Will this do? A. Yes. 2. Should it be varnished? A. Yes. 3. Must the hammer be soft iron? A. Yes. 4. How many thicknesses of thin writing paper should I put around each coil or layer of the secondary coil? A. Four. 5. Should it be varnished? A. Not necessarily. 6. What battery is the best as regards strength, durability, and cost? A. Probably the Grenet will answer your purpose best. 7. How many will I need for the coil to get the best results? A. Three, of good size.

(34) A. M. S. writes: Suppose a wood planer to have a cylinder 5 inches in diameter, with 3 knives set at an angle of 45° with the radius, and making 4,000 revolutions per minute. Will such planer cut any smoother or better with the edge of knives projecting only 1/2 of an inch over chip break, than it would with the knives projecting five sixteenths or three eighths of an inch? A. Yes.

(35) S. E. M. writes: I wish to make an ink that will copy several days after writing with it. A. Use a strong aqueous solution of soluble nigrosin (a variety of aniline black soluble in water), containing a few drops of clove oil to prevent moulding.

(36) J. W. P. asks what the Italian statuary or image makers put in their plaster of Paris so as to make it resemble marble. Some of their wares are very finely cast with a fine outside polish. A. Saturate the dry cast with melted (pure) stearine or stearic acid.

(37) B. A. M. asks: 1. Is not aniline red a poison? A. Pure fuchsin or magenta is hurtful, if not poisonous, when taken into the system in any considerable quantity. The commercial aniline red often contains traces of arsenic, owing to the employment of arsenic acid in its production. 2. Are there no means of neutralizing it without spoiling the wine which contains it? A. No. 3. How can it be detected in wine? A. See p. 344, vol. 39, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and pp. 862, No. 54, 593, No. 38, and 637, No. 40, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT.

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

E. D. B.—It is difficult to determine a plant from such material alone, but we are very positive that it is one of the milkweeds, probably the very widely distributed *Asclepias cornuti*. If so, we may state that numerous partially successful attempts have

hitherto been made to obtain from the tough stems of the plant a textile fiber and a paper stock. The plant, although common, is not found in sufficient abundance in a wild state to afford any very great supply. We are not aware of any experiments that have been made to ascertain whether its cultivation would prove profitable; if you have facilities it would be an interesting matter to devote a little land and time to its cultivation to find out this.—D. B. B.—No. 1. The rock is a serpentine. The crystals appear to be alundite and prehnite—quantity too small for proper classification. No. 2. Graphitic granite. Nos. 3 and 4. Hornblende and feldspar. In No. 3 the red crystals are garnets. No. 5. A ferruginous clay containing carbonaceous matters.—No. 6. Doleritic rock. No. 7. Chiefly calcite containing marcasite. No. 8. Coal shale.—L. W.—It is an impure clay—aluminum silicate—containing much lime carbonate, iron oxide, magnesia, and traces of alkaline chlorides. If properly washed it might be serviceable in the manufacture of bricks, tiles, drain pipes, cheap pottery, etc. It cannot be used for soap making, as the per cent of alkalies is very small.—J. A. S.—It is an impure alum—of some value if found in any considerable quantity. An analysis would be requisite to determine its actual value.—C. F.—No. 1. A schistose conglomerate. No. 2. Ferruginous sandstone. Ground, washed, and calcined, this may produce a cheap bright red pigment.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

- On Motion of Perimetral Points in a Rotating Shifting Wheel. By J. P. B.
On Squaring the Circle. By G. M. A.
On the Polar Sea. By F. G. N.
On Canals. By J. S. H.
On the Hop Plant. By H. W.
On Oilers. By A. B.
On Forgery and Science. By J. E. E.
Wagon Wheel Question. By S. N. M.
On Mosquitoes. By E. P.
On Cipher Writing. By J. W. W.
On Rose Hips. By C. F. E.
On Lunar Calendar. By J. D. S.
On Life Saving Apparatus. By Nauticus.
Machine for Covering Wire. By J. B.
On Telephones and Sounders. By H. H. E.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS FOR WHICH Letters Patent of the United States were Granted in the Week Ending April 8, 1879, AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. [Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

A complete copy of any patent in the annexed list, including both the specifications and drawings, will be furnished from this office for one dollar. In ordering, please state the number and date of the patent desired and remit to Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, New York city.

- Adjustable gate, F. Danzenbaker..... 214,112
Air engine, compressed, H. Matthes..... 214,050
Anchor, power, E. S. Webster..... 214,217
Animal trap, S. Earle..... 214,119
Animal trap, P. E. Willford..... 214,013
Animal trap, Williams & Chapman..... 214,221
Ax poll maker, D. W. & H. Johns & Embs..... 214,151
Axle and skein, vehicle, N. L. Holmes..... 214,137
Axle, ear, H. Watkeys..... 214,069
Axle skein, vehicle, C. Hotz..... 213,990
Bale tie, S. N. Drake..... 214,117
Bale tie, cotton, H. A. Burr..... 214,099
Baling press, E. F. McGowen..... 214,167
Beaststead, cabinet, M. Crosby..... 214,110
Bell door alarm, E. J. Cubley..... 214,111
Bevel, J. D. Hobbs..... 213,987
Beverage dispenser, aerated, C. J. Dietrich..... 213,986
Blind opener, window, J. Bradley..... 214,093
Blind, Venetian, T. Langdon..... 214,158
Blinder, B. W. Webster..... 214,216
Book keeping apparatus, Dow & Brown..... 213,981
Boot leg support, C. H. Tibbetts..... 214,206
Bottle stopper, W. H. Hicks..... 214,039
Bottle stopper, C. G. Hutchinson..... 213,992
Box cover spring, C. S. Merrill..... 214,169
Bricks, etc., coloring, G. P. Cole..... 214,106
Buckle, trace, C. B. Bristol..... 214,096
Burglar alarm, H. Hart..... 214,129
Calculator, mechanical, H. H. Ham, Jr..... 214,328
Car brake and starter, Crocker & Lytle..... 214,026
Car brake and starter, J. P. Dickson..... 214,116
Car buffer, E. H. Janney..... 214,043
Car chair, R. H. Morgan..... 214,051
Car coupling, G. Butler..... 213,974
Car coupling, E. Wilson..... 214,223
Car, postal, C. R. Harrison..... 214,036
Car pusher, E. P. Phelps..... 214,187
Car seat spillover, Smith & Hallstead..... 214,058
Car starter, H. Welch..... 214,070
Cars, ventilating railway, C. E. Lucas..... 213,994
Carpet stretcher, J. D. Whitney..... 214,219
Carriage clips, die for making, R. R. Miller..... 214,172
Carriage top extension joint, J. E. Reeves..... 214,193
Cartridge loader, C. Green..... 213,985
Casting, apparatus for withdrawing patterns from moulds for, S. J. Adams..... 213,964
Castings without blow-holes, steel, F. Walton et al..... 214,210
Chain, ornamental, W. W. Allen..... 214,075
Chain, ornamental, J. J. Horton..... 214,141
Check rower and dropper, J. Babcock..... 214,079
Cheese press, E. Cooper..... 214,107
Cigar buncher, J. R. Williams..... 214,015
Cigar pipe, I. P. Maxwell..... 214,164
Clamp, L. Austin..... 214,078
Clock, C. Ostrom..... 213,999
Coal scuttle, H. L. Arnold..... 214,077
Coffee, tablet of, J. B. Sultzter..... 214,011
Coffin head rest, J. S. Richardson..... 214,052
Coin holder, G. C. Hatch..... 214,130
Coke oven, L. Bemelmans..... 214,086
Collar, breast, R. E. Miles..... 214,170
Comb, F. Rheinhardt..... 214,194
Condenser, injector, J. E. Bott..... 214,080
Corset, W. L. Ahrens..... 214,074
Corset, D. H. Fanning (r)..... 8,663
Cotton, hay, etc., press, W. J. F. Liddell..... 214,046
Cotton press, Matthews & C. R. Morehead, Jr..... 214,163
Cultivator, L. Davis, Jr..... 214,113
Cultivator, Holly & Jones..... 214,138

- Dental floss carrier, A. P. Merrill..... 213,997
Dental forceps, A. Cobb..... 214,104
Desk and settee, school, J. H. Nichols..... 214,178
Desk, school, W. A. Bradford..... 214,092
Distillation of hydrocarbon oils, apparatus for the continuous, W. Ryder..... 214,199
Dog power machine, W. C. Rench..... 214,005
Door spring, L. A. Warner..... 214,213
Drilling machine, metal, D. Harrington..... 214,035
Electric motor, G. H. Bangs..... 214,082
Elevating apparatus, T. Critchlow..... 214,109
Embroidering machine, Jacquard, M. Umstaeter..... 214,209
Envelope, J. P. McCullough..... 214,145
Evaporator, M. Brownell..... 213,971
Eyelets and tubular rivets, setting, A. B. Edmonds..... 214,030
Eyelet setter, A. B. Edmonds..... 214,031
Faucet and measurer, self-closing, J. J. Bishop..... 214,018
Feather renovator, H. N. Rawson..... 214,191
Fence, barbed, J. Brinkerhoff..... 214,095
Fence, barbed wire, M. W. Colwell (r)..... 8,665
Fence, portable, P. Huffman..... 214,146
Fence post, P. H. Inman..... 213,993
Fence wire maker, barbed, F. Billings..... 213,966
Fences, barbed wire for, W. H. Waizer..... 214,211
Fibers in mixed fabrics, separating animal from vegetable, J. Wilkins..... 214,222
Firearm, breech-loading, H. A. Buck..... 214,098
Firearm, magazine, B. C. Gough..... 214,123
Fire engine, steam, J. E. Prunty..... 214,004
Fire escape ladder, J. R. Winters..... 214,224
Flower pot holder or stand, C. W. Stearns..... 214,061
Folding chair, E. E. Morse..... 214,174
Furnaces, feeding air to, J. V. Motter..... 214,176
Game apparatus, E. Maey..... 214,048
Garbage sink, G. G. Richmond..... 214,006
Gas lighter, electric, A. R. Mollson..... 214,173
Gas pressure regulator, F. G. Johnson..... 214,153
Gas, process and apparatus for the manufacture of coal, C. W. Isbell..... 214,042
Gas regulator, R. R. Ball..... 214,081
Gas regulator, T. Whaley..... 214,218
Glass, etc., ornamenting, Potter & Glahn..... 214,188
Glass vessel, incased, D. W. Norris (r)..... 8,668
Glassware, flaring, O. P. Jackson..... 214,150
Glassware former and finisher, D. C. Ripley..... 214,053
Glassware, shaper and finisher for pitchers and like articles of, D. C. Ripley..... 214,054
Globe, time, L. P. Juvet (r)..... 8,666
Grain drier, P. Provost..... 214,189
Grain drill gauge, P. W. & H. G. Briggs..... 214,094
Grain separator, magnetic, Cook & Thayer..... 214,025
Grinder and polisher portable, H. Howson..... 214,144
Grinding mill, E. Rhodes..... 214,195
Grinding mill motor, L. Langevin..... 214,159
Gun, spring, M. Coloney..... 213,976
Hame clip, P. Burns..... 214,019
Ham and foot power, J. Dick, Jr..... 214,028
Harrow, L. C. English..... 213,983
Harrow, pulverizing disk, R. D. Norton..... 214,180
Hatch stretcher and blocker, C. S. Coom..... 214,108
Hatch for street elevators, P. Hinkle (r)..... 8,664
Hay fork, horse, I. W. Heysinger..... 213,986
Hay fork, horse, T. C. Lord..... 214,047
Hay rake, horse, D. P. Sharp (r)..... 8,668
Hay rake machine, M. Holder..... 214,139
Heat regulator, E. S. Gary..... 214,122
Heating buildings by compressed air, apparatus for, T. S. Brooks..... 214,097
Hinge, blind, B. D. Washburn..... 214,214
Hoisting machine, D. B. Clem..... 214,102
Hoisting rope, C. W. Hunt..... 214,148
Hook for suspending meat, S. Mason..... 214,162
Ice machines, apparatus for preparing water for. F. Littmann..... 214,161
Ink well lid, J. M. Mott..... 214,175
Jack or dresser spool, B. Hawkins..... 214,037
Ladle, stopper rod sleeve for, A. J. Haws (r)..... 8,662
Lamp, Z. B. Adams..... 214,016
Lamp, J. M. Kelly..... 214,044
Lamp burner, B. F. Adams (r)..... 8,661
Lamp, street, G. D. Burton..... 214,021
Lamp wick, G. Beck..... 214,085
Lamps, reservoir for student, C. F. A. Hinrichs..... 214,134
Lard in large quantities, transporting and delivering, Sears & Burnet..... 214,009
Last, G. W. Day..... 214,114
Latch, P. H. Baker..... 214,090
Lath, metallic, J. V. Hennessey..... 214,038
Letter box, electric, W. H. Rodgers..... 214,097
Liquids, apparatus for preventing the boiling over of, L. McLaws..... 214,168
Lock strike, A. Blackwood..... 213,967
Loom shuttle, J. Johnston..... 214,155
Lubricator, G. H. Benton..... 214,087
Lubricator, Webb & Richmond..... 214,215
Marble, making artificial, H. G. Hosmer..... 214,142
Meat can filler, C. J. Bryant..... 214,100
Mechanical movement, T. Scholze..... 214,200
Metal, device for cutting and turning round bars of, W. J. Ingalls..... 214,149
Metal plate flanger, R. C. Nugent..... 214,181
Metallic can, J. H. Perkins (r)..... 8,659
Middlings, etc., separator, A. & A. N. Wolf..... 214,073
Mill pick, J. H. Cain..... 213,975
Millstone dresser, diamond, T. McFeely..... 213,996
Millstone driver, W. T. Duvall..... 214,118
Millstone exhaust apparatus, J. Q. Adams..... 213,963
Musical instrument, mechanical, M. Gally..... 214,121
Moustache guard, Thatcher & Decker..... 214,063
Muzzle for animals, H. R. Rice..... 214,196
Net for horses, fly, Ranivice & Sikes..... 214,190
Oilcan, G. W. Banker..... 214,017
Oil testing machine, C. M. Higginson..... 214,132
Ore washing machine, W. Hooper..... 214,140
Ores, extracting metals from, J. A. Robertson..... 214,065
Organ action, N. M. Boynton..... 213,968
Peg cutter, A. Whittemore..... 214,072
Photographs, coloring, J. C. Schuhmacher..... 214,008
Piano sounding board, A. H. Wood..... 214,226
Picture frame and packing box, L. Cole..... 214,105
Pin and needle case, F. M. Piper..... 214,003
Pipe joint and coupling, W. C. Allison..... 214,076
Planer, endless bed surface, H. V. Streit..... 214,062
Plant sprinkler, J. Suydam..... 214,012
Planter, corn, G. W. Brown..... 213,972
Planter, corn, R. J. Markoe..... 213,995
Planter, corn, A. & C. A. Norling..... 214,179
Planter, seed, Worthington & Templin..... 214,227
Plover, J. Seaman..... 214,201
Poison distributor, T. B. Taylor..... 214,205
Pork, curing, M. H. Smith (r)..... 8,660
Press for extracting oil from seeds, etc., J. C. Tiffany..... 214,207
Printing machines, sheet delivering apparatus for, S. D. Tucker..... 214,068, 214,067, 214,068
Printing machine sheet reverser, S. D. Tucker..... 214,065
Pump, J. Close..... 214,103
Pump, J. Y. C. & J. R. G. Wren..... 214,238
Pump for feeding steam boilers, C. G. C. Simpson..... 214,203
Pump, ship's, J. L. De Wolfe..... 214,115
Punch, belt, G. R. Everson..... 213,984
Rafter, W. Hall..... 214,127
Rag clipper, Patten & Knowles..... 214,185
Rail joint, C. Fisher..... 214,032
Rail spikes, safety plate for securing, G. P. Osborne..... 214,182
Railway brake, steam, Waite & Gavit..... 214,212
Railway cross tie, T. W. Travis..... 214,208
Railway platform guard, J. Simonson..... 214,202
Railway tie, H. Reese..... 214,192
Refrigerator, L. B. Woolfolk..... 214,225
Reverberatory furnace regenerator, S. T. Owens..... 214,183
Roasting and baking pan, M. E. Beasley..... 214,084
Roofing, composition, J. B. Bowen..... 214,091
Roofing plate, metallic, J. F. Currier..... 214,027
Rubber for packing, etc., sheet, J. Beardmore..... 214,093
Ruling machine, paper, E. Gouplet..... 214,033
Ruling machine, paper, Hickok & Cooper (r)..... 8,667
Saddle, harness, P. Burns..... 214,020
Saw sharpener, E. W. Phelps..... 214,002
Saws, clamper for filing, W. P. Wentworth..... 214,071
Scraper, road, J. Johnson..... 214,152
Screw wrench, G. V. Sheffield..... 214,057
Self-lighting burner, Z. B. Adams..... 213,965
Sewer gas from basin overflows, device for preventing the escape of, C. E. De Valin..... 213,977
Sewing machine, S. Borton..... 214,089
Sewing machine guide, J. W. Hollingsworth..... 214,136
Sewing machine presser foot attachment, H. Burk..... 213,973
Sharpie boats, construction of, T. Clapham..... 214,101
Shutterfastener, Gusman & Jones..... 214,126
Shuttle box mechanism, H. Riehl..... 214,197
Sickle grinder, T. J. Hubbell..... 214,145
Sifting machine, sand, J. D. Hobbs..... 214,040
Smoke stack blowing device, B. Converse..... 214,024
Spinning machine stop motion, H. C. Grayson..... 214,124
Stair rod holder, G. F. Kuhnle..... 214,157
Stairs, folding spiral, B. F. Card..... 214,022
Stamp, perforating, H. H. Norrington (r)..... 8,657
Staple fastener, G. W. McGill..... 214,166
Steam boiler, upright, G. Miles..... 214,171
Steel, manufacture of, O. Bolton..... 214,088
Stocking supporter attachment, S. Houghton..... 213,991
Syringe, J. L. Dibble..... 213,978
Syringe, C. B. Dickinson..... 213,979
Tag or ticket fastener, H. H. Groff..... 214,125
Tan vats, machine for raising and floating hides in, A. Whiting..... 214,230
Telephone, speaking, A. Ecard..... 214,029
Testing machine, T. Olsen..... 213,998
Thill lug, J. S. Folsom..... 214,120
Thrashing machine, J. Rumely..... 214,056
Time lock, J. L. Hall..... 214,034
Time lock, Kook & Hall..... 214,045
Tire setting machine, R. B. & J. E. Parks..... 214,000
Tires, measurer for wheel, R. B. & J. R. Parks..... 214,001
Tongue for trail wagons, C. Hotz..... 214,143
Top, spinning, L. J. Carpenter..... 214,023
Top, spinning, C. C. Johnson..... 214,154
Torpedo, oil well, H. C. Huntington..... 214,041
Toy, S. Seller..... 214,010
Trace carrier, C. H. Smith..... 214,204
Tramp safe guard, C. A. H. Bright..... 213,969
Trimming, E. Broseman..... 213,970
Truck, car, W. W. Snow..... 214,059
Truck frame, car, W. W. Snow..... 214,060
Truck, hand, T. Hill..... 214,033
Vehicle spring, M. R. Thurber..... 214,161
Vehicle wheel, F. Hollick..... 214,135
Ventilation, A. W. Murray..... 214,177
Wagon, buckboard, C. D. LeGrand..... 214,160
Washing machine, A. C. Horton..... 213,989
Water heater and steam generator, R. H. Elliott..... 213,982
Weather strip, Rowen & Miller..... 214,198
Weighing machine, automatic, J. R. Williams..... 214,014
Wells, increasing the productivity of oil, O. L. Mather..... 214,049
Wheat heater, P. B. Hunt..... 214,147
Whip socket, E. E. Hawkins..... 214,131
Whistle for steam engines, J. A. & S. E. Peiphrey..... 214,186
Wind engine, N. Holmes..... 213,988
Windmill, I. H. Palmer..... 214,134

TRADE MARKS.

- Bellows or blowers for distributing insect powders, Young & Stern..... 7,165
Bleaching compound, Holbrook Mfg. Co..... 7,168
Champagne wine, J. Bollinger..... 1,160
Chemical preparations intended for bread making and other analogous uses, Rumford Chemical Works..... 7,159
Chiccory, G. Bartelo..... 7,166
Dental plates, Q. A. Scott..... 7,177
Gin, I. H. Smith's Sons..... 7,175
Medicinal preparation, C. S. Hardy..... 5,156
Medicated pads, American Absorbent Pad Co..... 7,169
Men's, young men's, boys', and children's clothing, B. W. Currier..... 7,174
Mineral waters, J. L. Lockwood..... 7,263
Musical instruments, P. Goumas & Co..... 7,162
Oatmeal, Quaker Mill Company..... 7,178
Perfumery, creams, dentifrice, and analogous articles of toilet preparations, A. Raynaud..... 7,164
Plug chewing tobacco, Wilson & McCallay..... 7,179
Refined petroleum for illuminating purposes, Empire Refining Company..... 7,170, 7,171, 7,172
Silk and silk cotton velvets, Schaub & Heckmann..... 7,158
Soap, J. H. Wilson..... 7,176
Table cutlery, Rogers & Son..... 7,157
Teas, E. Guittard..... 7,173
Thread, Lidgerwood Mfg. Co..... 7,167
Toilet preparations, Cotta et Cie..... 7,161

DESIGNS.

- Boot and shoe heels, B. F. Jones..... 11,152
Carpet, T. J. Stearns..... 11,147
Carpet, A. L. Halliday..... 11,142, 11,143
Carpet, J. L. Folsom..... 11,140
Child's carriage body, W. B. Whitney..... 11,148
Curtain bands, M. Siedentop..... 11,146
Dust pans, L. G. Dalby..... 11,139
Envelopes, H. C. Bainbridge..... 11,138
Frame for clock movements, L. L. Culver..... 11,151
Fret work for furniture, F. Vogel..... 11,150
Perfumery bottles, M. B. Hood..... 11,149
Toy scales, J. Gerard..... 11,141
Umbrella handle, F. J. Kalenberg..... 11,144, 11,145

English Patents to Americans.

- From April 11 to April 15, inclusive.
Book covers, W. H. Douty et al, Shamokin, Pa.
Crayon holders, J. Reckenderfer, New York city.
Electric machines, N. S. Keith, New York city.
Extinguishing fires, C. L. Gorfield, New York city.
Eyeletting machine, G. Draper, Milford, Mass.
Fluid, regulating the flow of, G. W. Harvey, Washington, D. C.
Gas purifier, O. Lugo, Flushing, N. Y.
Governor for steam engines, E. Side, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Sewing machine attachment, J. C. Herr, Phila., Pa.
Sounding board for pianofortes, A. H. Wood, N. Y. city.
Steel casting, W. A. Sweet, Syracuse, N. Y.
Watch cases, E. C. Fitch, New York city.
Wheel for vehicles, F. Hollick, New York city.