

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.

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

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

Downer's Anti-Incrustation Liquid, for the removal and prevention of scale in steam boilers, is safe, effective, and economical. Fully guaranteed. Try it. 17 Peck Slip, New York.

Factory Fire Hose.—A large lot for sale cheap. W. F. Corne, Agent, 117 High St., Boston, Mass.

For Sale.—Canadian Patent for Automatic Mash Machine, successfully introduced in the U.S. A most valuable invention, capable of being successfully introduced in every brewery. A rare chance for a live man. Michael J. Stark, Buffalo, N. Y.

Millstone Dressing Diamonds. Simple, effective, and durable. J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., New York.

Caution.—All genuine Asbestos Liquid Paints, Roofing, Boiler Coverings, Fireproof Sheathings, Coatings, Cements, etc., bear the name of H. W. Johns, and are manufactured only by the H. W. Johns Manufacturing Co., 87 Maiden Lane, New York, who will supply samples and descriptive price list free by mail.

Yacht Engines. F. C. & A. E. Rowland, N. Haven, Ct. Eclipse Portable Engine. See illustrated adv., p. 382.

Wanted.—A good Metal Pattern Maker of considerable experience. Sargent & Co., New Haven, Conn.

Fine Taps and Dies in Cases for Jewelers, Dentists, and Machinists. Pratt & Whitney Co., Hartford, Conn.

For Stationary or Portable Engines, Circular Saw Mills, Grist Mills, and Mill Machinery, good and cheap, address the old manufacturers of Cooper Mfg. Co., Mt. Vernon, O.

H. Prentiss & Co., 14 De St., New York, Manufs. Taps, Dies, Screw Plates, Reamers, etc. Send for list.

"Workshop Receipts" for Manufacturers, Mechanics, and Scientific Amateurs. Illustrated. \$2, mail free. E. & F. N. Spon, 446 Broome St., New York.

For Screw Cutting Engine Lathes of 14, 15, 18, and 22 in. Swing. Address Star Tool Co., Providence, R. I.

Shaw's Noise Quieting Nozzles subdivide the steam into numerous fine streams. All parties are cautioned against purchasing from infringers. T. Shaw, 915 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Horton Lathe Chucks; prices reduced 30 per cent. Address The E. Horton & Son Co., Windsor Locks, Conn.

Lincoln's Milling Machines; 17 and 20 in. Screw Lathes. Phoenix Iron Works, Hartford, Conn.

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

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.

Sheet Metal Presses, Ferracute Co., Bridgeton, N. J. Excelsior Steel Tube Cleaner, Schuylkill Falls, Phila., Pa. Vertical Burr Mill. C. K. Bullock, Phila., Pa.

A Cupola works best with forced blast from a Baker Blower. Wilbraham Bros., 2318 Frankford Ave., Phila.

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

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

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.

Linen Hose.—Sizes: 1 1/2 in., 20c.; 2 in., 25c.; 2 1/2 in., 30c. 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.

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.

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

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

Messrs. Alsop & Clark, Jacksonville, Fla., after using 1 bbl. of "Downer's Boiler Liquid," write thus: "Your Boiler Liquid is all that you represent it to be. Inclosed find sight draft in settlement of bill. Please ship us another bbl. at once." It stands the test of a thorough trial. A. H. Downer, proprietor, 17 Peck Slip.

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.

Howard's Bench Vice and Schletter's Bolt Cutters. Howard Iron Works.

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

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

For Sale.—By A. J. Riddle, Eufaula, Ala., seven Negatives of Andersonville Stockade Prison taken August 17, 1864, while 33,000 men were incarcerated. Size of plates, 4 1/4 x 5 1/2. Price, \$500.

Deoxidized Bronze. Patent for machine and engine journals. Philadelphia Smelting Co., Phila., Pa.

Having enlarged our capacity to 96 crucibles 100 lb. each, we are prepared to make castings of 4 tons weight. Pittsburgh Steel Casting Co., Pittsburgh, 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.

Wanted.—The address of "manufacturers of novelties." Howard Bros. & Co., Wheeling, West Virginia.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

BETRIEBS-EINRICHTUNGEN AUF AMERIKANISCHEN EISENBAHNEN. Von H. Bartels. Berlin: Ernst & Korn.

Contains a clear and concise description, illustrated, of the stations, freight depots, cattle yards, oil docks, waterpowers, coal yards, switches, turntables, signals and signal service of the American railways. The author traveled on the Pennsylvania and Western roads in 1876 and '77. The subject of which the book treats was not well known in Germany, as can be seen from the fact that this book was published upon order from the Secretary for Commerce and Manufacture. We are indebted to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, for a copy of the work.

TABLES OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEEDS OCCURRING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING. By P. Keeraveff. London and New York: E. & F. N. Spon.

This little pamphlet must prove of great use to mechanical engineers and users of machinery, especially as the subject is meagerly treated in pocket engineering books.

THE NEW ENGLAND BUSINESS DIRECTORY for 1879. Boston: Sampson, Davenport & Co. 8vo. pp. 1,576. Price \$6.00.

This, the ninth issue of the New England Business Directory, will be of practical value and assistance to every man having business interests in, or connection with, those States. Its classification is such that one can find in a moment the names and post office address of every man or firm, in any business, in any town in New England. The book is well made, and contains a good map of the Eastern States.



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) A. McC. asks: 1. What length and sizes of wire for primary and secondary coils would be required for an induction coil to give a 1/2 inch spark for the electric pen described in No. 8 of present volume for February 22, 1879, p. 121? A. Wind over a well insulated core of No. 18 annealed wire, 1/2 inch in diameter and 3 1/2 inches long, two layers of No. 16 silk covered wire for the primary. For the secondary wind over the primary about 15 layers of No. 36 silk covered wire, insulating the separate layers as well as the primary from the secondary with two thicknesses of shellacked writing paper. You will need a condenser. 2. In "Notes and Queries," No. 32, March 22, 1879, you answer a like question from A. L. S., by saying "a coil giving an 8 inch spark will do." This is evidently a misprint; an 8 inch spark is a very powerful one. Do you mean a 1/2 inch spark or an 8 inch coil? A. It was a misprint; it should read—a 1/8 (one-eighth) inch spark will do. 3. I have a small coil made for a medico-electric apparatus. It is 2 inches diameter by 5 1/2 inches long and gives powerful shocks, but, though I have made for it a condenser with 350 square inches tin foil (700 in counting both surfaces) it will not give a spark more than one twentieth inch long, when used with the zinc and copper, sulphate of copper battery jar belonging to it. I have used it with a more powerful battery, before attaching the condenser, but could see no spark. The circuit breaker is a thin spring about one-fiftieth inch thick, nine-thirty-seconds inch wide, 1 1/4 inch long. Does it need more wire, a better, i. e. lighter spring, or more battery power? A. It is probable that the coil is not made with sufficient care to give a spark of any considerable length. The insulation must be very perfect.

(2) L. writes: 1. In making brass cocks that are used to control the flow of water in hydraulic cotton presses, can they be made solid by using a core in the mould? A. Yes. 2. If a core can be used, what should it be made of? Made of common sand they all come out full of small holes just under the scale. A. River sand 2 parts, loam 1 part, and a very small quantity of wheat flour. Mix well together and moisten preparatory to moulding, with stale beer or with water to which a little molasses has been added.

(3) F. C. J., referring to query (20), page 283, current volume, writes: It seems to me the answer should be four feet instead of three. A. Test the question practically by weighing any uniform bar of iron on two scales, or spring balances. If it was placed at 4 feet the two men would carry two thirds and a part of the other third. See answer to W. P. P. on this page.

(4) W. P. P. writes: On page 283, current volume, query (20), relating to the carrying of a 12 foot shaft by three men, two carrying it by means of a lever and the other by taking one end, you state that to distribute the weight of the shaft equally between the three men, the lever should be placed three feet from the end. Is this right? I think it should be placed 4 feet from the end, because the 4 feet one side of the lever would balance 4 feet on the other side of the lever, leaving 4 feet for the man at the other end. Am I right? A. True, 4 feet on one side of the lever balances 4 feet on the other—but this does not leave 4 feet for the other man to carry, but one end of four feet. See answer to F. C. J. on this page.

(5) H. J. P. asks if the Corliss engine which was at the Centennial was the largest ever built? A. We believe it was the largest Corliss engine which had been built up to that time.

(6) A. D. R. asks if the mercurous sulphate battery gives off poisonous fumes, or fumes that would destroy metallic apparatus. A. If pure sulphate were used the amount of anything given off would be inappreciable under ordinary circumstances. These batteries should not, however, be kept in a warm place.

(7) J. H. G. asks: How can I make an emery wheel out of a cast iron one? A. Cement to the periphery of the wheel a strip of leather, allowing the ends to overlap each other. Coat the leather with rather thick glue, and roll the wheel in emery heated to about 200° Fah.

(8) F. L. R. asks: What causes halos around the sun and moon, and what do they indicate, if anything? A. They are formed by reflection of light from minute crystals of ice floating in the atmosphere or from watery vapor. They generally indicate a change of weather.

(9) C. M. R. writes: 1. I have constructed an induction coil, 1 1/4 inches by 1 1/2, Nos. 26 and 36 silk covered wire used in its construction, and each layer is insulated with paraffined paper. Also a condenser containing 324 square inches of surface mica insulated. Have proved the insulation with galvanometer. The coil without condenser will yield a spark 1/2 of an inch, but with condenser in primary circuit, as per drawings and description in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 160, Fig. 4, the spark will not pass even at half that distance, though the shock which one may receive by completing the circuit with the hand is greatly increased. Are these results such as might be expected, or should the coil yield a spark at greater distance with the condenser in, and if so, where is the fault? A. Your primary wire is too small, and your condenser must be in some way defective. See that the two parts are everywhere well insulated from each other. Possibly less condenser surface would be better; the coil should certainly yield a longer spark than without a condenser. See reply to A. McC. on this page. 2. How is the Trouve battery constructed? A. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT No. 159.

(10) J. W. W. writes: I am making a dynamo-electric machine according to drawings in SUPPLEMENT No. 161, only three times the size instead of twice. What would be a suitable number of wire to wind the magnets and armature? The machine is intended for general experimental purposes, with reference more particularly to the production of a small electric light. A. You would probably obtain good results by winding the magnets with No. 14 wire and filling the armature with No. 16.

(11) C. B. B. asks: How can I polish fancy woods? A. Apply with a woolen rubber a mixture of alcoholic shellac varnish 3 parts, boiled linseed oil 1 part. Rub the work briskly until the shellac is hard.

(12) J. A. D. writes: In No. 162 of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT you describe a simple electric light. 1. How many Bunsen cells would be required and how long would the light last? A. It would require about 8 or 10 cells. 2. Would a piece of carbon from a lead pencil answer for the thin carbon rod? A. No. 3. In No. 160 SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT is a description of an induction coil. Is there a simpler way of making a commutator. If so, please describe it, and if possible by diagram. A. See answer to W. G. S. on this page. 4. How long a piece of tin foil is needed for 40 square feet of surface if it is one foot wide? A. 40 feet.

(13) W. G. S. asks: 1. Could the commutator described in connection with the induction coil (SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT No. 160) be made like that of Professor Hughes' induction balance (page 244 in current volume of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN), and if so describe connections and give details of making? A. You may make one on a similar principle by connecting with each binding post a button, and driving three round headed screws into the board, so that either the middle screw or one of the outer ones may be touched by one of the buttons, and the middle and the other outer screw may be touched by the other button. Connect the middle button with one terminal of the primary coil and the two outer buttons with the other terminal and you have it. 2. What would be the price of the induction coil? A. \$35 to \$40. 3. How can I make a pair of spools suitable for a telegraphic instrument or electric call bell? A. As you do not give the resistance of your proposed line we cannot give you a definite answer. If the bell and instrument are intended for experiment only, probably the following would do: Turn two very thin wooden spools, 1 1/2 inch long, 3/4 inch internal diameter. Wind them with about 8 layers of No. 20 cotton covered wire. 4. Could I make a Trouve battery of a number of zinc and copper plates in the same cell, and would it be of sufficient power to be felt? A. You can make a battery in the way you propose, but you will not be able to feel the current from it without using a great number of pairs or employing an induction coil.

(14) J. A. McC. asks: 1. Is not the office of the line wire in the acoustic telephone to transmit the vibrations of the diaphragm from the transmitting to the receiving instrument? A. Yes. 2. If this be correct, would it not be better to use as light a wire as possible? A. Yes. 3. If this also be correct, would it not be better to use hard drawn wire on account of strength and lightness, instead of soft? A. No, on account of its resonance. 4. What is the durability of the diaphragm in this instrument when made of thin iron, or has it been tested? A. We see no reason why it should ever fail. 5. Is there anymore danger of damage from lightning on lines of one mile and less without ground connections than there would be from a badly put up lightning rod to a house or other building? A. More danger to the operator because the line extends over a greater area. You should use a lightning arrester. 6. Can you tell me if there is any foundation in fact for the idea generally prevalent among western hunters that a breech loading shot gun will not shoot as well as a muzzle loader, everything else being equal both as regards closeness and penetration? A. We think a well made breech loader the best.

(15) J. H. W. asks for the best way to keep steam boilers through the summer that are used for heating purposes in winter. A. Fill them entirely full of water and paint the outside well.

(16) D. B. B. asks can power be obtained by air pressure in the cylinder of an engine in the same manner as from steam. A. Yes. See Mr. Haupt's report published in Nos. 176 and 177 of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT.

(17) J. L. G. asks: 1. What is meant by saying an engine cuts off at 1/4 or 3/4 stroke? A. Cutting off the steam at the time when 1/4 or 3/4 the stroke is made. 2. How is the valve set when it cuts off at 1/2 stroke and when it cuts off at 3/4 stroke? A. We cannot explain to you the set of the valve, as it depends upon the kind of valve and valve motion. 3. Are the fire sheets of a large flue boiler the same as the other sheets? A. Yes. 4. What is the diagram often mentioned in connection with steam engines? A. By examining the back numbers of this journal you will find descriptions and cuts of engine diagrams.

(18) D. C. H. asks for a receipt for making paste to make paper adhere to tin. A. Soften 4 parts of glue in 15 of cold water, and then moderately heat until the solution becomes quite clear. Then add 65 parts of boiling water, and agitate. In another vessel stir up 30 parts of starch paste with water enough to form a milky liquid without lumps, and into this pour the boiling glue solution with constant stirring. Continue the boiling for a few minutes, and add, after cooling somewhat, a drop or two of carbolic acid to each gallon of paste. Keep the paste in closed vessels.

(19) P. A. L. asks if bismuth is extensively used. What is its value? A. Bismuth is chiefly used for certain alloys, as Newton's and Rosse's fusible alloys, etc. The basic nitrate and the carbonate are used in medicine. Magisterium Bismuthi or blanc de for is used as a cosmetic. Bismuth is worth about \$2.25 per pound.

(20) J. C. asks: 1. Do you know of any locomotive in Wales or England that weighs 120 tons? A. No. 2. What is the weight of the heaviest American locomotive that you know of? A. About 60 tons without tender. 3. When is a locomotive heaviest on the rail, when it is running or when it is standing? A. When running up a concave grade.

(21) B. F. M. asks: 1. Will it materially weaken 3/4 inch pipe to bend it cold into coil of 20 inches internal diameter? A. No, if of good iron. 2. Can a pump be made—and how—to work boiling water coming out of boiler at about 150 lbs. pressure? I wish to take the water out at one side and pump it in again at the other. A. Place your pump a distance below the boiler, so that the water will fill the pump by gravity.

(22) J. J. B. writes: A friend of mine has in constant use three return tubular boilers side by side, two of which are connected with one smokestack, 60 feet high; the third is connected with another smokestack, same dimensions and height as the one referred to. The smoke stacks are of brick, and stand about seven feet apart. The first smoke stack referred to has not quite sufficient draught for two boilers, the other has more than enough for one. Will connecting the two stacks be of any benefit in running the three boilers, if so, how near the surface of the ground should the connection be made? A. Yes, if properly done. The flues of all the boilers should be brought together and then divided to lead off to the two chimneys.

(23) T. P. H. asks: 1. Will not a keel do as well as a center board in the boat of which plans are given in No. 29 of SUPPLEMENT? A. You will not be able to carry so much sail with the ordinary keel unless the boat is ballasted. 2. If so, what depth and thickness should the keel be made? A. 2 inches thick and 4 1/2 inches deep.

(24) J. H. C. asks: Can you tell me when and where cycloidal teeth were first used for gear wheels? Who is supposed to have invented them? A. Camus, a French mathematician, describes cycloidal gearing in a work published in 1752 and translated into English about 1806. 2. Are the profiles of "involute" teeth approximate involutes, or are they but one of the curves of cycloidal profiles? A. Approximate involutes. 3. Can you refer to any work containing the history of gearing? A. There is no such work that we know of.

(25) W. R. writes: 1. Suppose two side wheel steamers of unequal size run with equal speed in still water, should the larger boat be able to beat the smaller one against a current because the current has more effect on the smaller boat? A. The one having the greatest propelling power in proportion to its weight, should be the most efficient against the current. 2. Can a boat run in shallow water (not touching bottom) as well as in deeper water, other things being equal? A. No. 3. If two unequal but similar boats stop their engines when even and going at the same speed, which will stop first? A. Other things being equal, the lightest boat.