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THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 161.

For the Week ending February 1, 1879.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Table listing contents of the supplement, categorized into sections I-VII, including topics like 'ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS', 'TECHNOLOGY', 'CHEMISTRY AND METALLURGY', etc.

SOME PATENTS THAT SECTION 11 WOULD HAVE KILLED.

The object of Section Eleven is to make void certain patents described as undeveloped and useless, yet involving principles or devices which subsequent experimenters may want to use.

It is argued that if an invention has any real merit its profitable development will speedily follow, as a matter of course; in which case the additional fees will be no serious burden.

The fallacies which underlie this specious argument have been repeatedly exposed in these columns and elsewhere. We do not propose to discuss them here.

To no one man is this country more indebted for its industrial and commercial rank than to Eli Whitney. The world knows what a long and, for many years, profitless fight he had to wage with prejudice and injustice before his invention was so far established as to be beyond condemnation.

In 1833 Obed Hussey patented an invention which solved the problem of the harvesting machine. For many years he labored almost in vain to advance his invention to the stage of practical and profitable usefulness.

The real value of the Goodyear rubber patent will not be questioned at this late day. Taking up the struggle under which Heywood had succumbed, Goodyear toiled through years of terrible privation to perfect his invention.

The Sarven carriage wheel is known the world over. Section Eleven would have killed the patent on it most certainly and effectively. During the first eight or ten years of the life of the patent the inventor's efforts to induce carriage makers to adopt his improvement were almost fruitless.

The struggles of Woodworth alone, and afterward with his partner Strong, to persuade men to adopt his method of finishing boards by machinery, up to the time of his death in poverty in the eleventh year of his patent, would make a volume.

Another radical and immensely valuable invention was Henry Voelter's process of making paper-pulp from wood. The best years of the inventor's life were given to the development and introduction of the improvement.

Daniel Lamson invented a machine for notching hoops. It was not a great invention, yet it was novel and unquestionably valuable. He was a poor man; and before he had succeeded in introducing his invention he enlisted in a Massachusetts regiment and was killed at Fredericksburg.

It is needless to multiply cases. From the history of inventors and inventions in this country hundreds of similar instances might be drawn. In a very able paper lately read before the Cincinnati Board of Trade, Mr. George H. Knight has furnished a long list of them—instances of patient, persistent, and long protracted struggles against poverty and class prejudice.

GLUCOSE HONEY.

For a long time strained honey has been so largely adulterated with glucose, that intelligent buyers are very shy of honey in that state. Honey in the comb, however, especially if the comb is clean and white, disarms suspicion.

Mr. J. Hasbrouck writes to the Bee Keeper's Magazine that his attention was lately called to some fine looking comb honey sold by a grocer in Williamsburg.

This is carrying the matter altogether too far. It is well enough to manufacture honey comb for saving the labor of bees, so long as the bees are allowed to furnish the filling; and there may be no vital objection even to the selling of paraffin cells filled with glucose as a cheap substitute for the industrial product of bees.

A VEGETABLE GREEN FOR CONFECTIONERS.

It appears, according to one of our French exchanges, that from the grains of raw coffee there may be extracted a beautiful green coloring matter adapted to all the purposes of the cook and confectioner, and which will undoubtedly prove of great value as a commercial product.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

For a number of years a Boston firm, emulous of the success which has attended the canning of baked beans, has been trying to discover a method for preserving the freshness and flavor of that other essentially Boston product, the codfish ball.

The fish are killed by being stuck in the neck, and are hung up until every drop of blood is removed, and the napes are carefully scraped and cleaned. When salted and dried the fish are equal to the best Phillips' Beach fish.