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Guild's Plastering Machine-The Simplest and Best Tool for applyingmortarto walls. Oneworkmanusing this machine can easilydothe work of twomenusing th
ordinary trols. See engraving on page 194. Addres ordinary tools. See engraving on pa
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Boat Engines, for sidewheel boats drawing 6 to 12 in ;
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cialty. Office hours 9 to 6 . 733 Broadway, 3 d floor front.
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Hand Fire Eng. \& Hose Carriages, New \& $\& \mathrm{~d}$ hand Machin ery. Send stamp for illus. cat. State just what you want Electrical Indicators for giving signal notice of exremes of pressure or temperature. Costs only 220 . At-
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Blowers, address Buffalo Forge Company, Buffalo, N. Y Chase's Pipe Cutting \& Threading Machine. Send for Diamond Tools. J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N.Y. steam Hammers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks and Tub Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St, New York Wanted-The address of 40,000 Sawyers and Lumbermen for a copy of Emerson's Hand Book of Saws. New
edition 1880. Over 100 illustrations and pages of valuable information. Emerson, Smith \& Co, Beaver Ealls. Pa.
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Judson's Improved Assay Furnaces and Tongs. EnEmery Wheels of all tinds, and Mar
Emery Wheels of all kinds, and Machines at reduced
prices. Lehigh Valley Emery Wheel Co., Weissport, Pa. Comb'd Punch \& Shears: Universal Lathe Chucks. Lamertville Iron Works, Lambertville, N. J. See ad. p. 108. Patent Steam Cranes. See illus. adv., page 189. Improved Steel Castings; stiff and durable; as soft and easily worked as wrought iron; tensile strength not
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Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by . Diamond Drill Co. Box423, Pottsville. Pa. See p. 18 Drop Hammers, Die Sinking Machines, Punching and Rue's New "Little Giant" Injector is much praised for its capacity, reliability, and long use without repairs The only economical and practical Gas The only economical and practical Gas Engine in the market is the new "Otto" Sllent, built by Schlerche
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accompanied with the full name and address of the accomp
iven to inquirers
We renew irrers.
former former answers or articles, will be kind enough

## f the question.

Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. If not then pur-
lished, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines 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 obtain such information without remuneration. Any numbers of the Scientific American SUppleofice. Price 10 cents each
(1) E. C. writes: We are using iron tur running in the night it sticks to the iron and fills the wheels so as to stop them. while in the daytime, with the same conditions as to degree of cold, wind, and quantity of ice running, it does not bother at all. Can
it be explaineds A. It is probable that more anchor ice makes during the night than in the dav time, the water being in a comparatively quiescent state at night. can be cut and put together, so as to measure 65 square
square puzzle in Supplement. No. 21. If you are very board really has the same area in one case as in the other, and that some of the squares along the line of di vision are enough smaller than the others to account for
en
(2) C. D. R writes: I have quite a quan tity of grape vines which grow some six feet high. We
havein this section early frosts in spring and fall. I wish a light and cheap covering to tack to a wooden tiame six by eight feet long. A. We know of nothing better than
(3) J. B. asks (1) if one gravity battery cell can be put to any use. A. It will work a sounde
or electric bell adapted to light battery power. 2. Can or electric bell adapted to light battery power. 2. Can I
get an electric shock from it? If so, how? A. Yes, by get an electric shock from it? If so, how? A. Yes, by
using an induction coil like that described on page 203, using an induction coil like that described on page 203,
Vol. 39 of Scientific American. 3. How can I make a voltaicdry pile to be
SUPPLEMENT, No 157
(4) E. M. G. writes: 1. I am running portable mulay saw mill with a 10 horse power thrash mg engine, which is plenty strong, nut am troubled som
for steam when using green slabs. Now, how would it work to set another portable engine beside the one now in use, and connect the two boilers with a steam pipe, and make steam in both, using one engine? Could they be arranged to burn the sawdust? How large a pipe would be needed to connect the boilers. Would a valve be needed in the pipe to shut off steam from either boiler? A. Yes; set another boiler alongside, and con
nect with a steam pipe at least as large as that leading nect with a steam pipe at leastas large as that leading
to the engine; have no water connection between the boilers, but supply them with water independently. You hould have a stop valve in the connecting steam pipe, and be careful to have a separate safety valve on each
boiler. With proper arrangements you can burn saw dust with your ser and have an iron tank for hauling water for a thrashing en gine, to fill it with steam from the boiler, then start for the water, and when the steam had condensed and formed
a vacuum in the tank, to let it suck itself full through hose, how heavy would the iron need to be to sustain the pressure? A. Yes; you must have tank strong enough to bear safely the greatest internal pressur
that the steam will give, and stiff enough to not collaps under the full pressure of the atmosphere.
(5) J. H. S. asks: Can gutta percha be bleached white; if so, what is the process? A. White
gutta percha is obtained by precipitating a solution gutta percha is obtained by precipitating a solution o
ordinary gotta percha in chloroform by alcohol, wash ing the precipitate with alcohol, and finally boiling it in water, and moulding into desired form while still hot.
(6) J. R. asks: What will take old paint off wood without injuring the wood? I am told that 1 A. Strong aqueous solution of caustic potash softens A. Drant, which in this state may be removed by scrap-
ing. The potash is, however, liable to injuriously affect ing. The potash is, however, liable to injuriously affect
the wood. Burning is more commonly resorted to.
(7) W. H. B. writes: Having tried to gal vanize some small wrought iron hooks, I could not make
the zinc take to the iron. I used a pint of sulphuric the zinc take to the iron. I used a pint of sulphuric
acid, pint of muriatic acid, pint of sal ammoniac, and acid, pint of muriatic acid, pint of sal ammoniac, and
zinc enough to cover the hooks. I first dissolved the zinc with muriatic acid, then I reduced the sulphuric cid with water. I then dissolved the sal ammoniac,
then 1 dipped the hooks into the sulphuric acid then fter washing it off It then dipped it into the muriatic acid; after taking it out and letting it stand for some time, I then dipped it into sal ammoniac, after taking it out and letting it stand some time I then dipped it into the zinc, but on taking it out the zinc would not stick to it. Can you tell me where the trouble is? A. Clean the metal by pickling in the dilute acid, and
scouring (or tumbling) with moist sand, if necessary. Rinse quickly in pure water, pass through the chloride of zinc solution, and then transfer to the zin
pot. Keep the melted metal covered with dry sal ammoniac. Moist iron rusts very quickly when exposed to the air, and unless the surface is perfectly freed oxide it will not take the zinc.
(8) F. M. O. asks: What is the mode of manufacture, and what are the uses of the so-calle
mineral wool? What substance can I use to cover the surface of molten metals, say at a dull red heat, to pre vent the formation of the film of oxide? Can a glass be made sufficiently fusible to answer the purposes A.
See pp. 20 and 278 , Vol. 38, Scientific American. Have you tried borax (borax glass) or the double borate sodium and potassium
(9) E. Y. D. asks: 1. Do you know of anything that will cement two pieces of vulcanite, it being harden in 24 hours. I have also tried good cements which are patented. A. Melt together equal parts of pitch and gutta percha, and add about $1-5$ th part of shellac. Use hot (avoiding excess),and submit the joint to strong pressure until the cement has properly hardened 2. Can you tell me what the precipitate of the following is: I took olive oil and madeit very hot,almost boiling, into it I dropped a piece of phosphorns; there is now a
(10) F M. asks whether it is preferable to make the upper or the lower belt the driving belt in
case of a long horizontal belt. A. All authorities agree, and all experience goes to prove, that a belt should drive by the lower side.
(11) J. S. asks how to compute the horse power of a boiler. A. Total number
(12) "Mechanic" asks whether, in order make a bogt buoyant when she is filled with water, mospheric air to get in; or whether it is better to pump compressed air into the tank. A. Simply seal your
tanks. If you fill them with compressed air it will add lanks. If you fill them with compressed
(1:3) G. I. B. asks: 1. What is the rule for A very safe rule is that at a speed of 800 feet per minute
each inch in width of belt equals one horse power, that 800 foot inches $=1 \mathrm{H}$. P. 2. Does the same ruleapply friction wheels? A. No. 3. The slides of our en-
ines heat so that they need to be oiled every few minutes, to keep from cutting the crosshead brasses; verything appears to be level and in line; runs about 20 strokes per minute. What is the probable cause?
(14) W. E. F. writes: I am a paper manufacturer, and boil my rags and raw stock in "rotary oilers " under, say, 50 lb . pressure, and dry my paper with live steam. We are troubled with too much cinand filling the pipes and drying cylinders in drying mahine. I wish to ask: 1. Can we economize heat and nel by using superheated steam? A. Yes 2 We have fiue $6 \times 3,14$ feet long, between the brickwork of the boiler and smoke stack. Can we put in this a system of coils, or lengths, of pipe, drying the steam from the heat that would otherwise be wasted? A. Yes. if pro. perly arranged. 3. Would this mode be dangerous?
A. If well arranged and managed, no. 4. Will steam A. If well arranged and managed, no. 4. Will steam
so dried do more boiling and drying when superheated than before? A. Yes.
(15) E. H. R. asks: Why would not crude petroleum oil answer as well as creosote oil for the prethan any other oil, will not dry, and is cheaper than nything else. A. Petroleum unfortunately renders ood very inflammable. The effects of creosute are ore positive and lasting.
(16) L. P. L. asks: 1. How can hair be made to grow on the face most rapidly? Is there any-
thing besides shaving that can be done? A. The rowth of hair on the face of adult males is infiuenced hiefiy by constitutional causes. Those causes which nd in the skin usually stimulate the hair Chief mong thee is very frequent bathing as ale pplications are useless. 2 How can aniline inks be kept from fading? A. If exposed to light the fading is unavoidable. 3. Can aniline inks be made, by any preparation of the cloth, or addition to the ink, indelible for marking linen? A. With exception of aniline black, no.
(17) C. L. F. asks: 1. Is there any preparition that will cause the beard to grow to extraordinary length or add to its growth in any manner? A. See
anewer to L. P. L., this page. 2. Is there a preparation which will make a meerschaum pipe of uniform color? I have one that has been in use several years, and is only colored about the lower part of the bown where the stem goes in. A.
(18) C. L. B. asks: In changing an engine from 2 feet stroke to 18 inch, would I need to have a
shorter cylinder? A. You must either shorten the cylshorter cylinder? A. You must either shorten the cyl-
inder or fill up the waste space of the ends by deep inder or fill up the waste space of the ends by deep
heads.
(19) J. C. L. writes: I bave heard it said that the majority of persons in looking at objects
use one eye only, to a partial exclusion of the other. Is this true? A. It is not generally true. When both eyes are in their normal condition, both are equally used. The full intention of vision is not realized anless both eyes are used. With one eye everything appears fiat.
(20) J. W. E. asks whether United States abers are made of spring or cast steel. A. They are (21) W. E. B. writes: 1. I have a small steam engine whose cylinder is three inches in length be between the piston and cylinder head at the end of be between the piston and cylinder head at the end of
the stroke? A. Not more than $3-16$ inch. 2. Where can I obtain printed instructions by which I can make a model engine? A. We know of none. Follow the proportions of larger engines as given in back numbers
(22) N. T. L. writes: There are two locootive drive wheels at rest on the track; one is small, the other is large. Does more of the surface of one so, which one? A. With defiection of the rail, yes. The large one has the most surface in contact. Theoretically if there be no defiection, there would be no difference,
as both would rest on a simple line of contact. (23) C. M. B. asks: Is there any book pub. lished on saw hammering. If so, by whom and where can
they be obtained? A. You will find a comprehensive article on the subject on p. 259, Vol. 27, Scientific american.
(24) R. S. asks for the process used in marblizing slate mantels, and how the different shades and
colors are acquired. A. The slate is coated with a sphalt, ground to a smooth surface, and baked. The paints are mixed in oil and fioated on water, the prepared slate paint by bringing it up with the under sur. The paint tbus adheres in irregular patches, producing the marblization. After drying it is again baked.
(25) F. M. asks (1) if fruit and meat cans are not soldered by machinery. A. Yes. 2. Is mercury solder of some cans in which edible substances have been inclosed, but its use in solder cannot be too strongly deprecated, as it not only endangers the lives and health of the persons who consume the canned goods.
(26) W. D. G. asks: If I build a mill dam say 17 feet high, and it backs the water up the stream, say 5 miles, how/far from the upper side of the dam does A. The pressure against your dam will be the same, whether the water sets back 500 feet or 5 miles; it is the depth of water at the dam which determines the pres sure.
(27) L. C. asks: 1 . Is the fine edge of a sharpangle is produced,or on the particles of steel mag.
netically arranged by the friction on the strap, or
they both contribute to the result? A. The edge is pro duced by abrasion. 2. What kind of a fluid dye will color the wings, of a queen bee red or some other bright color (so that she can be readily seen among the bees)
without injury to her? It should be something the will not load the wings but leave them light and supple -a dye, not a paint. A. Try an alcoholic solution of the aniline dye magent
(28) F. J. will find the wagon wheel ques tion fully discussed on p. 394, Vol. 39 of Scientific american

| COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED. |
| :--- |
| On Drying and Disinfecting Fæcal Matter. By A. P. |
| Mathematical Table. By H. S. P. |
| Howto Make an Electric Burglar Alarm. By O. P.L. |
| The Use of Lines of the same Height. By K. L. |
| The Game of 15. By G. C. |
| On Western Adulterations. By G.T.A. |
| On the Route for the Panama Canal. By H. S. B. |
| On Voices of Fishes. By W. H. W. |
| Sudden Death by Electricity. By H. W. F. |
| On the Origin of the Atmosphere. By H. M. G. |
| Who Invented the Telephone? By M.D. T. |
| Maximum Sun Spot Periods. By E. J. Couch. |
| On Telephone Experiments. By C.E. L. |
| SingularLunarPhenomenon. By H. P. |

[OFFICIAL.]
INDEX OF INVENTIONS for which
Letters Patent of the United States were

## February 24, 1880,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.
[Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]
A complete copy of any patent in the annexed list, in cluding both the specifications and drawings, or any
patent issued since 1867 , will be furnished from this ofice for one dollar. In ordering please state the number and date of the patent desired and remit to Munn to Park Row, New York city.
 Chair seat, G. Gardner (r).......
Chart for draughting garments, pattern, E.J........... Chimney cap and cowl, C. C
Churn power, T. J. Britain
Cigarette machine, De SusIn i-Ruiseco \& de Caste Clock, striking, w. D. Chase

## Clothes rack, shelf bracket, E. B. Sims.

Coffee pot, J. E. Finley....
Coin detecter, counterfeit, J. A. Thompson
Coin holder, G. C. Hatch.
Column, iron, W. J. Fryer
Column, iron, W. J. Fryer, Jr....
Corns shieller separator, R. H. Sheldon, JI............
Corset parts, machine for folding, A. B. Curtis. Cuff shaping machine, J. K. P. Pine
Cultivator, J. Forbes .... ........
Doffer comb, J. K. Wright
Door check, A, Meritte
perspective, F. O'Ryan
Drying kiln, C. L. Campbell
Dyestuff or coloring matter, F. Kohler ..................... Electric brake, dynamo, O. Lugo...
Elevator, J. A. Groshon.............
End gate, wagon, J. S. Howey
Farm gate, s. G. Hurlbut.
Feathers, renovating, M. R. Rubl
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Stove leg, Peterson \& Beesley ...............
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Tablet, writing J. F Taple Tap, w. Kenworthy...
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Truck, flre engine, C. T. Holloway

## GENERAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

$$
\text { March, } 1880
$$

I.-INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES, AND PATENTS.

The Proposed New Patent Law.
Important Decision by the U. $\mathbb{S}$. Circuit Court. Th
Hydraulic Riveting-Tweddell System. 4 engravings.
mproved Carpenter Gauge. 2 engravings.
New Fluid Propeller or Motor. 1 engraving.
New Lawn Erge Mower. 2 engravinge
Now Lown Erge Mower. 2 engravings.
Impoved Steam Packing. 1 engraving.
Recent Inventions.
Agricultural Inventions,
Mechanical Inventions.
Engineering Inventions.
Miscelaneous Inventions.
Improved Shovel Plow Point. 3 engravings.
Loiseau Compressed Fuel.
New Fruit Drier. 1 engraving.
Improved Roller Gate. 1 ensraving

Faber's Talking Machine.
I.-MECHANICS AND ENGINEERING.

Power Required for Yacht.
The St. Gothard Railway Tunnel.
Steam Pressure and Temperature.
II. MINING AND METALLURGY.

Coal.
Malleable Bronze.
Electrotyping with
Maleable Bronze.
Electrotyping with Iron.
Lighting Mines by Reflectors.
IV.-CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

The Cerifification of Timepieces.
Artifi.ial Diamonds.
A New Metcorite. 2 engravings.
A New Meteorite.
Solar Spots. 5 engravin
Astronomical Notes.
Etching on Glass.
Recent Progress in Microscopy
Scientific Toys. 3 engravings.
New Yethod of Extracting Plant Perfumes.
A New Way of Studying Sounds.
? Prospecting

## ance. Hydrocellulose in Photography. Leclanche

Leclanche Battery.
Induction in Telephone Lines.
Cheap Spectroscope. 1 engravi
Chap Spectroscophe. 1 Lingraving.
The Leyden Jar.
Chasese's Multipiex Telegraph
Electric Lamp Tests.
The Great Iowa Meteorite.
Velocity of Rifle Ralls
Transmisision of Motive Power by Electricity.
Surveying by Pbotography.
Surveying by Photography.
Capsuling Bottles.
Recent Progress in Chemistry
Recent Progress
Electric Annunc
Electric Bells.
Electric Bells.
Induction Coil.
Meteoric Iron in Snow
The Durability of Gutta Percha.
Conversion of Cane Sugar into Grape Sugar.
Colors and Dyes used in Antiquity.
Preparation of Benzoic Acid.
Glucose from Rags.
Glucose for
An Owl at Sea.
The Hairy Crab.
1 engraving
The Touracon.
The Phylloxera in California.
Ferdinand De Lesseps and the Chagres Canal.
Land slide in Frazer River.
Italian Prizes for American Vines.
Benjamin Fish.
The Leaf Mormolyce. 1 engraving.
Natural History Notes.
Natural History Nctes.
Narcotism from Nutmegs.
Protection of Young Trees.
Meduse 1 e engraving.
Bundles of Snakes.
An Odd Fish in the Far West.
Natural Lime.
Our Iakes.
The Kirtgio and the Tong-Tsin
Ane Elingio and the Tong-Tsing-Yo. 2 engravings.
An Alligat Survives Freezing.
Lemons and Oranges.
I.-MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.

The Weather and H.alth in Europe.
Vaccination and Science
Snow Eating Unheallihy
Effects of Kidney Disea
Effects of Kidney Diseases upon the Eyes
The Transmission of carlet Fever by Milk.
American Rum Drinkers.
American Rum Dr
Novy Teeth Dodecay. of Preserving Man's Reaison.
How to Obtain Sleep.
How to Obtain Sleep.
Tobacco Chewers Not Wanted.
Coffee in Typhoid Fever.
The Circulation of the Blood made visible
Curious Mental Relations of Self-Consciou
The Atmosphere and Yellow Fever.
A Fatal Italian Disease.
Foreign Bodies in the Ear.
Aetion of talts on the Kidneys.
Iodide of Starch in Poisoning.
VII--SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS EXHIBITIONS, ETC.
The American Society of Mecbanical Engineers
The Melbourne Exhibition of 1880 .
The Melibourne Exbibition of 1880 .
The Buenos Ayres Exhibition.
Scientific Societies.
VIII.-INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

American Industries No. 33. Manufacture of Rolled
Tron. The Union Iron Mills, Carnegie Bros. \& Co.,
Pittsburg Pa
Approximate Economy of Gas and Electric Lighting.
The Inspection of Small Steamers.
Trichinosis.
Trichinosis.
Engines for Farmers.
Scientific Farming Pra
Scientific Farming Practical
The Ali Baba Vase.
The Ali Baba Vase.
The United States a Wheat Countrı
The Industrial Population of France.
Theory of Life.
Winter Cotion in Georgia.
Sugar Beet Industry in Dolaware.
Sugar Beet Industry in Delaware.
Artesian Wells for Colorado.
American Industries, No. 34. The Manufactu re of
Punching and Drawing Presse, Drop Hammers. Dies,
etc. Works of tiiles Parker, Meriden, Conn. 8 enge.
Who shall Hold the Surpus?
Regulation of Shifting River Channels.
The Drive Well in New York City.
Leading American Indnstries.
Submarine Communication with Australia.

