TIN PLATE INDUSTRY.—THE PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE.

In the last issue of the London *Iron Exchange* received at this office is an interesting history of the manufacture of tin plates from about the year 1600 up to the present time. Omitting the historical portion of the writer's account, we extract from the article a description of the methods now employed in the manufacture of this useful article.

The British Association have recently visited the Dyferyn Iron and Tin Plate Works at Swansea, situated on the river Tawe, with a view of informing themselves regarding the practical workings of this important industry. The same association met at Swansea 32 years ago, since which time great advances have been made in the processes of manufacture. From the 40 mills now running within a radius of 3 miles in the Swansea valley about 20,000 boxes of finished tin plate are turned out weekly, or 1,000,000 boxes annually, which is estimated to be equal to about one-third of the entire export.

But how tin plates are made is information likely to most interest the reader:

In the first place, says the writer, we have what is termed bar iron, several feet long, about 7 inches wide, and from ½ to ⅝ of an inch in thickness, rolled according to the plates required at so many pounds per foot. It is cut in what may be termed a jack-in-the-box or steam shear, say about 19 pounds, to a piece which will eventually be rolled into 16 sheets of 20 inches long by 14 inches wide, 112 of such sheets forming a box, and weighing when tinned nearly 1 cwt.

This piece of iron is first placed in a reverberatory furnace, heated to redness, put through the chilled rolls, and rolled in what is termed thick, five times; reheated and rolled in singles twice; doubled, reheated, and rolled, three times; doubled, reheated, and rolled, twice; doubled, reheated, and rolled in eights, twice, until they are stretched out to the required length and thickness. The length of the bar exceeds by about one inch the width of the sheet to be made, so as to allow for the shearing process, and the bar is therefore rolled with its axis parallel to that of the rolls. Great attention is necessary in the construction and management of the mill furnaces, so that the heating of the bar and sheet for rolling may be effected with the utmost regularity, and without the formation of scale on the surface of the bars or sheets; for when scaling takes place from the draught in the furnace being too keen or the heat raised too high, the quality of the iron is injured; the scale, if subsequently rolled into the iron, leaves a rough surface on the plates in the after process of separating and pickling. The plates are then sheared, and the rough edges taken off. The iron of 19 pounds or thereabouts makes 16 sheets, which, being cut in half, leaves 8 sheets in a piece closely wedged. Girls with small iron hatchets open or separate them. They are then termed blackplate. From one ton of bar iron about 16¾ cwt. of blackplate is made; the loss is termed shearings, and is worked up again in the forge fineries. The plates are next sent to be pickled, *i. e.*, immersed in heated dilute sulphuric acid, known as oil of vitriol.

This process is done by aid of a patent, known as Hutchings' patent pickling machine. The plates are placed in a brass cradle or receptacle, lifted by a hydraulic, then dropped down into a round wooden or lead tank containing the o. v., the cradle is then made to revolve by means of steam power, to enable the liquid to rush between the sheets, which revolution is retained. They are lifted again by the hydraulic, dropped into a tub, a little apart from the last, containing water only, the cradle revolving as in last tub, so that the water may rush between the sheets to cleanse or wash away all trace of the acid, when taken up again the plates are clean and bright as silver. They are next subjected to a bright red heat, which lasts from 12 to 24 hours, in closed iron annealing pots in a reverberatory furnace; they are well covered on the top to prevent the plates from being burnt; the heat is kept as high as it can be without softening them to such a degree as to cause them to stick so fast together as to prevent their separation when cold.

They next pass singly through cold rolls, three, four, or more times, as may be deemed requisite. These rolls are highly polished, and must be set in accurate order to give the plates a perfectly flat set and well polished surface. Again they are annealed or softened at a lower temperature than the first, as their surfaces would be damaged by being in any degree stuck together. Pickled again as before, excepting that the liquid is considerably weaker than previously, placed in cast iron troughs containing clean water renewed by a stream constantly flowing through, they are then taken in hand singly, and scoured if necessary with sand and hempen pads before being delivered to the tinman.

Now comes the last process. The sheets are iron only so far. They next reach the tin house, and are placed in a trough containing clean water, ready for the tinman, as he is termed, who then picks them up and puts them singly in a grease pan containing palm oil, to soak, and after being there for a short time the tinman places the sheets in a large iron pot containing molten tin, with a covering of palm oil. Here it unites with the tin, to which it has a strong affinity. When he has performed his part the plates are handed over to the next man, called a washman, whose pot contains pure molten tin; after they have soaked in his pot a little, he raises them with a tongs on to the hob as he requires them, brushes the surface of both sides of each sheet, and after dipping them into another pot containing molten tin again, they are sent through rolls which work in a large pot containing palm oil, and the speed at which the rolls move regulates the quantity of tin to be put on each sheet. They are afterward raised from the rolls (under which they have been passing) by a youth, called a riser, handed to two young women, who rub them in bins or boxes containing bran, one after the other, which takes off the grease; another girl, called a duster, gives them a further polish with a skin duster, and takes them to the assorting room, where every plate passes inspection, and, if not up to the mark, is sent back for rectification. After passing through that ordeal they are counted and weighed by young women, made up into boxes according to the different sorts, handed to boxers or packers, who pack them in elm boxes, marked by branding irons as per order, and finally placed in the railway truck to be forwarded to their various destinations. It may be a surprise to some to know that a tin plate passes through about thirty hands from the bar to the railway truck, but is handled no less that 105 times. Such is a simple account of tin plate making.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

Mr. Elijah Cravens, of Osage Mission, Kan., has patented an improvement in the class of automatic car couplings in which each drawhead is constructed with a horn and provided with a pivoted draw bar or clevis, which, when two cars meet, drops over the horn on the opposite draw head and thus locks the cars together. The improvements relate to details of construction and a peculiar combination of the various parts, which render it practical and efficient.

Mr. Charles A. Tucker, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has patented an improved nut lock, designed especially for securing nuts on bridge bolts, carriage bolts, and the like.

Mr. Frank P. Simonds, of Natick, Mass., has patented a simple device for treeing boots, which is rapid and efficient. The device operates by two eccentrics, which are oppositely arranged in respect to each other, and are connected with a strap which is drawn over the boot on the tree with a reciprocating motion.

An improved barrel making machine has been patented by Messrs. David Murray and Thomas W. McGregor, of Rushford, Minn. The object of this invention is to provide in a single machine the several mechanisms and devices for trussing and working the ends of barrels, kegs, etc., preparatory to receiving the heads.

Mr. Albert T. Bleyley, of Conception, Mo., has patented a car coupling, so constructed that cars of the same height or different heights will couple themselves when run together, and which can be uncoupled from the tops of the cars.

Mr. William Brown, of Fort Cameron, Utah Ter., has patented a hollow iron railroad tie, of rectangular cross section, having a concave bottom, and having end ledges formed on its top to prevent the spreading of the rails.

Researches on Batteries.

The author has found two methods for obviating the inconvenience that chemical action in batteries is never entirely arrested when the circuit is open. One of these methods is based upon the absorbent power of animal charcoal, and is applicable to all the cases where the depolarizing liquid is a metallic salt. He has constructed a sulphate of copper battery, in which the copper solution cannot be diffused through the zinc. He takes an ordinary Calland element, at the bottom of which is placed a stratum of powdered copper sulphate, covered with bone-black, washed, and powdered. The zinc is placed in the upper part of the jar, and is separated from the copper sulphate by the bone-black. The element thus arranged resembles a Minotti battery, in which bone-black is substituted for sand. The zinc remains entirely unaffected. The second method, more general than the first, consists in taking as a depolarizing body a liquid which gives a precipitate on mixture with the liquid which attacks the zinc. The diaphragm separating the two liquids is thus rendered completely impermeable. The precipitate formed in its pores must be a conductor of electricity and must be capable of electrolysis.—*A. D'Arsonval.*

Improvement of the Bunsen Battery.

This improvement, made by Mr. Azapis, consists chiefly in replacing the acidulated water in which the zinc is immersed by a solution of about 15 per cent of cyanuret either of potassium, of caustic potash, of sea salt, or of ammonia salts. The liquid in the porous vessel which contains the carbon plate remains the same as usual. This improvement has the advantage that, while the intensity of the current is the same as in the Bunsen element, the zinc plates do not need to be amalgamated, and the consumption of zinc is considerably less, while the constancy and the durability of the current are remarkable. A battery improved in such a manner, which consisted of 25 elements, and in which ordinary ammonia salts were employed, was used without interruption for four days in succession, and during the evening for the purpose of producing an electric light. Another advantage of the battery is that it gives out very little odor.

The Exportation of Apples.

Over 40,000 barrels were shipped to Europe from this and other American ports during the last week of September, and large quantities are expected to follow. It is a year of extra bearing in most parts of this country, while in England and other parts of Europe the apple crop is a failure. It is estimated that half a million barrels will be exported this season. Two years ago—a good apple year—333,000 barrels were shipped to Europe.

AMERICAN RAZORS.

Among the industries which have been transplanted to this country during recent years none has had greater prejudice in favor of foreign products to overcome, or has started from a higher level of practical excellence, than the manufacture of fine razors.

For twenty years or more the establishment of Mr. J. R. Torrey, 34 Southbridge street, Worcester, Mass., has had a national reputation for the variety and quality of the razor-strops it has turned out. More recently Mr. Torrey has formed with his son and Mr. Joseph Turner, a practical razor maker, the J. R. Torrey Razor Company, and organized under the most favorable conditions an establishment for the production of razors of the finest quality.

Here the steel in the bar, the horn and ivory in the raw state, are taken in hand, blades are forged and ground, handles are made, and every step of the work of producing finely-finished razors is going on under the same personal supervision. The making of the paper cases, their lettering in gold, and the etching of the razor blades, are all included in the work of the establishment. Hence our American cutlers are no longer obliged to send to Europe for razor blanks and handles, as they are now made of equal excellence on our own soil.

The methods and processes employed at Sheffield have been greatly improved upon, and the J. R. Torrey razors have taken high rank in competition with the best that Europe produces.

CREMATION OF THE DEAD.

Exactly how to dispose of the ashes of the dead in the most satisfactory manner, after cremation is accomplished, is still a question. The ancient practice was to deposit the ashes in a funereal urn, to be preserved in a tomb or other sacred place. This is also the modern custom. But if tombs are to be required then there is not much need for cremation, as the corpse may as well be buried in the tomb without cremation.

A recent American patent consists in providing a parlor bust of the deceased, cut in marble, and in making a hole in the back of the bust, wherein the ashes are to be deposited after cremation of the body.

A further improvement, suggested by one of our lady correspondents, is to prepare a wet mixture of cements for artificial stone or marble, and sprinkle the ashes of the deceased into the mixture, which is then to be cast or pressed into the form of busts, statuettes, or other objects. In this way various members of a family might possess enduring portions of the ashes of the departed one.

Pneumatic Tubes supersede Cash Boys.

The incessant calls for cash boys, which formerly made shopping in our larger establishments so wearisome, if not exasperating, were silenced and the terrors of shoppers greatly mitigated by the introduction of electric calls. An enterprising Philadelphian has gone a step further, and displaced the dusty skurrying of cash boys and cash girls by a system of pneumatic tubes. Under the new system an inspector and wrapper is stationed at each counter, who will receive with the money and goods the seller's check. While the goods are being wrapped up the cash with the proper vouchers will be transmitted to a centrally located cashier, who will return the change through the proper tube. There are two such tubes leading from each counter to the cashier's inclosure. One of the tubes is to carry the money to the cashier, and the other is to return the change and accompanying check to the counter again. The "carriers" which work inside of the tubes are little cylindrical boxes of sheet steel, lined with green baize, and protected at each end by diminutive felt cushions. Each carrier is of the exact diameter of a silver dollar, and is capable of holding thirty of the latter pieces or a much larger sum. By means of a steam engine and exhaust pump in the cellar, with proper attachments leading therefrom, the air is being constantly exhausted at the cashier's end of the tube and at the counter end of the tube of each pair; and when a "carrier" is placed in the mouth of either tube, it is immediately drawn to the other end, and is there delivered automatically by an apparatus devised for the purpose. This system not only saves time and noise, but the wages of an army of boys or girls, besides discharging a large amount of fresh air into the building, greatly improving the ventilation.

The Factory Laws in Switzerland.

A short time ago the Swiss Government enacted laws restricting the time during which the workmen might be employed in factories, and forbidding the employment of children under 15 years of age. It appears now that this law works so injuriously that the State counsel is embarrassed about it and advocates its abolition, as many Swiss manufacturers have founded new establishments abroad, while others are removing their old plant entirely in order to escape the restrictions imposed, especially the limitations of the hours of labor, contending that the capital invested does not yield sufficient returns when the factories have to be idle for 14 to 15 hours out of every 24. This objection could be easily met by employing two sets of workmen, each working 8 hours a day; while with three sets of hands the factory could be kept going night and day.

The restricting laws would ere this have been abolished were it not that the working classes are agitating against its repeal. The result of the struggle in little republican Switzerland is looked upon with interest.

The standard gallon of the United States contains 231 cubic inches. H. W. Johns' Asbestos Liquid Paints are sold by this measure, and, although they command a higher price than any others, they are more economical owing to their wonderful covering qualities and superior durability. They are strictly pure linseed oil paints of a higher grade than have ever before been offered to the public, and are in use upon the finest and most extensive structures in this country, among others the United States Capitol at Washington, the Metropolitan Elevated Railroad of New York, etc. Samples of twenty-eight newest shades for dwellings sent free. H. W. Johns M'f'g Co., sole manufacturers, No. 87 Maiden Lane, New York.—*Adv.*

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 publishers of this paper guarantee to advertisers a circulation of not less than 50,000 copies every weekly issue.*

Chard's Extra Heavy Machinery Oil.
Chard's Anti-Corrosive Cylinder Oil.
Chard's Patent Lubricene and Gear Grease.
R. J. Chard, Sole Proprietor, 6 Burling Slip, New York.

The Tools, Fixtures, and Patterns of the Taunton Foundry and Machine Company for sale, by the George Place Machinery Agency, 121 Chambers St., New York.

Steam Yacht Wanted.—Send description, speed, and lowest cash price, to Lock Drawer C, Meredith, N. H.

A. J. Emery, Mechan. Engineer, 7 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

For Sale, on account of increase of power, one 24 x 48 Corliss Engine, with three boilers and equipment complete. Now in use, but deliverable in November next. For particulars address Natchez Cotton Mills Company, Natchez, Miss.

2 Steam Yachts for sale. Geo. F. Sheid, Waltham, Mass.

Factory for sale or lease. Building 40 x 100 feet; forge shop 30 x 160 feet; 12 lots; steam power. Burr & Co., 212 West St., Brooklyn.

Shafting Straighteners. J. H. Wells, Vineland, N. J.

The genuine Asbestos Cement Felting consists of fine long asbestos fibers and a cementing compound, which forms a light, porous, fireproof covering, partaking of the nature of a felt and a cement. It is prepared ready for use, can be easily applied by unskilled workmen, and forms the most effective, durable, and economical non-conducting covering in use for steam pipes, boilers, and other heated surfaces. H. W. Johns Manuf. Co., 87 Maiden Lane, New York, sole manufacturers.

Wanted—A Second-hand Engine Lathe, back gear, screw cutting, in good order. Address, giving description and price, Glass Works, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Improved Rock Drills and Air Compressors. Illustrated catalogues and information gladly furnished. Address Ingersoll Rock Drill Co., 1¼ Park Place, N. Y.

Collection of Ornaments.—A book containing over 1,000 different designs, such as crests, coats of arms vignettes, scrolls, corners, borders, etc., sent on receipt of $2. Palm & Fechteler, 403 Broadway, New York city.

The Eureka Mowing Machine now is acknowledged as the best in the market. It has taken the first premium in nearly every State Fair this year. Prices to suit the times. Send for illustrated circular to Eureka Mower Company, Towanda, Pa.

The Boomer & Boschert Press Co. have in daily operation, at the Am. Inst. Fair, a complete cider mill and cider jelly manufactory. New York Office, 15 Park Row.

Packing once tried always used. Phœnix Packing from 1-16 up in spools or on coils. Phœnix Packing Company, 108 Liberty St., N. Y.

Gas Machines.—Be sure that you never buy one until you have circulars from Terril's Underground Meter Gas Machine, 39 Dey St., New York.

Experts in Patent Causes and Mechanical Counsel. Park Benjamin & Bro., 50 Astor House, New York.

Corrugated Wrought Iron for Tires on Traction Engines, etc. Sole mfrs., H. Lloyd, Son & Co., Pittsb'g, Pa.

Malleable and Gray Iron Castings, all descriptions, by Erie Malleable Iron Company, limited, Erie, Pa.

Skinner & Wood, Erie, Pa., Portable and Stationary Engines, are full of orders, and withdraw their illustrated advertisement. Send for their new circulars.

Sweetland & Co., 126 Union St., New Haven, Conn., manufacture the Sweetland Combination Chuck.

Power, Foot, and Hand Presses for Metal Workers. Lowest prices. Peerless Punch & Shear Co., 52 Dey St., N.Y.

The Brown Automatic Cut-off Engine; unexcelled for workmanship, economy, and durability. Write for information. C. H. Brown & Co., Fitchburg, Mass.

Recipes and Information on all Industrial Processes. Park Benjamin's Expert Office, 50 Astor House, N. Y.

For the best Stave, Barrel, Keg, and Hogshead Machinery, address H. A. Crossley, Cleveland, Ohio.

Best Oak Tanned Leather Belting. Wm. F. Forepaugh, Jr., & Bros., 531 Jefferson St., Philadelphia, Pa.

National Steel Tube Cleaner for boiler tubes. Adjustable, durable. Chalmers-Spence Co., 40 John St., 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.

Stave, Barrel, Keg, and Hogshead Machinery a specialty, by E. & B. Holmes, Buffalo, N. Y.

Nickel Plating.—Sole manufacturers cast nickel anodes, pure nickel salts, importers Vienna lime, crocus, etc. Condit, Hanson & Van Winkle, Newark, N. J., and 92 and 94 Liberty St., New York.

For Patent Shapers and Planers, see ills. adv. p. 220.

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

Hydraulic Jacks, Presses and Pumps. Polishing and Buffing Machinery. Patent Punches, Shears, etc. E. Lyon & Co., 470 Grand St., New York.

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

Wright's Patent Steam Engine, with automatic cut off. The best engine made. For prices, address William Wright, Manufacturer, Newburgh, N. Y.

Improved Solid Emery Wheels and Machinery, Automatic Knife Grinders, Portable Chuck Jaws. *Important*, that users should have prices of these first class goods. American Twist Drill Co., Meredithville, N. H.

Silent Injector, Blower, and Exhauster. See adv. p. 252.

Fire Brick, Tile, and Clay Retorts, all shapes. Borgner & O'Brien, M'f'rs, 23d St., above Race, Phila., Pa.

Don't buy until you see the $4 Drill Chuck; holds 0 to 9-16. A. F. Cushman, Hartford, Conn.

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

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

50,000 Sawyers wanted to send their full address for Emerson's Hand Book of Saws (free). Over 100 illustrations and pages of valuable information. How to straighten saws, etc. Emerson, Smith & Co., Beaver Falls, Pa.

For Wood-Working Machinery, see illus. adv. p. 252.

Eclipse Portable Engine. See illustrated adv., p. 252.

Tight and Slack Barrel machinery a specialty. John Greenwood & Co., Rochester, N. Y. See illus. adv. p. 253.

For Separators, Farm & Vertical Engines, see adv. p. 220.

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

Clark Rubber Wheels adv. See page 237.

Steam Engines; Eclipse Safety Sectional Boiler. Lambertville Iron Works, Lambertville, N. J. See ad. p. 141.

4 to 40 H. P. Steam Engines. See adv. p. 252.

Nellis' Cast Tool Steel, Castings from which our specialty is Plow Shares. Also all kinds agricultural steels and ornamental fencings. Nellis, Shriver & Co., Pittsburg, Pa.

Rollstone Mac. Co.'s Wood Working Mach'y ad. p. 237.

C. J. Pitt & Co., Show Case Manufacturers, 226 Canal St., New York. Orders promptly attended to. Send for illustrated catalogue with prices.

For best low price Planer and Matcher, and latest improved Sash, Door, and Blind Machinery, Send for catalogue to Rowley & Hermance, Williamsport, Pa.

Elevators.—Stokes & Parrish, Phila., Pa. See p. 252.

National Institute of Steam and Mechanical Engineering, Bridgeport, Conn. Blast Furnace Construction and Management. The metallurgy of iron and steel. Practical Instruction in Steam Engineering, and a good situation when competent. Send for pamphlet.

Reed's Sectional Covering for steam surfaces; any one can apply it; can be removed and replaced without injury. J. A. Locke, Agt., 32 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

C. B. Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., Wood Working Machinery of every kind. See adv., page 205.

For Yale Mills and Engines, see page 252.

For Pat. Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling, see Frisbie's ad. p. 220.

For Mill Mach'y & Mill Furnishing, see illus. adv. p. 221.

Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p. 221

Machine Knives for Wood-working Machinery, Book Binders, and Paper Mills. Large knife work a specialty. Also manufacturers of Soloman's Parallel Vise. Taylor, Stiles & Co., Riegelsville, N. J.

Penfield (Pulley) Blocks, Lockport, N.Y. See ad. p. 252.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE VICTORIA REVIEW. Published at Melbourne, Australia, by the Victoria Review Publishing Company, and edited by H. Mortimer Franklyn, Esq.

This is one of the best magazines that comes to this office from any country. The Victoria *Review* is published monthly, and its contributors are among the most able and profound writers of the day. The July number, just received, contains papers from several eminent writers, and to better convey an idea of the nature of the publication we append a list of the writers and the subjects of their several contributions in the July issue: Lewes' History of Philosophy, by C. Hamilton Bromby (Tasmania); Nineteenth Century England, by the Rev. W. H. Fitchett; A Few Words about Béranger, by John F. Perrin (New Zealand); Proportional Representation, by Guido Padelletti (Florence); Modern Biology, by Edward B. Sanger (Adelaide); The Place of Religion in Fictitious Literature, by Miss C. H. Spence (Adelaide); A Venetian Dramatist, by James Smith; Sermons on Genesis by Dr. Bromby, by the Very Rev. the Dean of Melbourne; Goethe's "Faust" and Byron's "Manfred," by R. Colonna-Close; The Affairs of Europe, by Emilio Castelar (Madrid); A Menacing Comet, by Richard A. Proctor; The Decay of Matrimony in Victoria, by the editor; The Contemporary Thought of Great Britain, Europe, and the United States. We would like to see this *Review* more widely circulated than it has heretofore been in this country, for it merits an extensive subscription list, if it is published in a remote English colony on the other side of the globe. We would, therefore, recommend it to the patronage of students and all thoughtful persons, who, we are sure, will be both interested and benefited by receiving the publication regularly. D. Appleton, 3 Bond street, New York, receives subscriptions and furnishes the numbers to their subscribers as soon as they are received.

MANUAL OF THE RAILROADS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR 1880. By Henry V. Poor. New York: H. V. & H. W. Poor. 8vo, cl., pp. 1077. $5.

Poor's Manual grows fatter and more widely useful every year. This the thirteenth annual number gives the mileage, stocks, bonds, cost, traffic, earnings, expenses, and organizations of something like 1,400 railroads, with an appendix containing a full analysis of the debt of the United States and of the several States.

BOLETIN DE LA SOCIEDAD DE GEOGRAFIA Y ESTADISTICA DE LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA. Vol. V. Mexico, 1880.

The present issue of this valuable scientific publication, which we have just received from the society, embraces the first three numbers of the fifth volume (third series). The articles, as usual, pertain to a wide range of scientific subjects, are very interesting, and give evidence of conscientious study and much painstaking labor on the part of the authors. The contents, in addition to the society's proceedings, embrace contributions from Sr. Fernandez on the "Determination of the Length of the Seconds Pendulum in Mexico at 2,283 Meters above the Sea Level;" Sr. Leal on a "Study of Mortality in the City of Leon de Aldamas;" Sr. Ramirez on the "Mines and Mineral Productions of Guadalcazar in San Luis Potosi;" Sr. Reyes, "Meteorological Observations;" and Sr. Arechiga, "Note on the Saltpits of Sayula." In addition to these signatures, there are various notes and translations by the editors, making altogether a collection which well sustains the high standard reached by the preceding volumes. We congratulate the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics on having so many earnest workers, in its ranks, and wish it every success.

ELEMENTARY TREATISE ON ELECTRIC BATTERIES. From the French of Alfred Niaudet. Translated by L. M. Fishback. New York: John Wiley & Sons. $2.50.

Telegraphers, and all others who have to do with or desire to study the nature and management of the various types of electric batteries, will find M. Niaudet's book very serviceable. The translator's fitness for his task is generally vouched for by the capable electrician of the Western Union Telegraph Company, Mr. George d'Infreville.

Notes & Queries

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. If not then published, 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 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) L. H. C. asks: 1. How many two quart Bunsen cells will be necessary to run a Duboscq's electric light regulator? A. About 50. 2. Is the following a proper formula for the battery fluids: for porous cell—1 gallon water, 1 lb. bichromate of potash, 1¾ parts sulphuric acid; in outside jar—1 part sulphuric acid to 12 of water (by measurement)? A. Yes.

(2) D. H. F. asks: Will a dynamo-electric machine produce a continuation of sparks between two or more electrodes in the circuit, or must an induction coil be placed in the circuit? A. An induction coil will be required. 2. What is the best material to make the electrodes of? A. Platinum. 3. Why are the buttons on telegraphic instruments platinum tipped? A. Because it is refractory and unoxidizable. 4. Does not every electro-magnet placed in an electric circuit act as so much of a break or resistance coil to the current? A. As so much resistance.

(3) H. S. writes: I wish to build a cistern to hold twelve thousand gallons. It can't extend over five and a half feet below the surface, on account of the quicksand. What shape and dimensions are required to secure the greatest strength in walls? How many brick will it take to build it? A. A cistern twenty feet diameter and five feet deep will hold the quantity named. The number of bricks cannot be given, without knowing the thickness of the walls, and this will depend somewhat upon the nature of the soil backing the walls.

(4) C. W. H. asks: 1. On what part of the axle of a buggy wheel is the greatest friction while the vehicle is in forward motion? A. It depends upon the surface over which the wheel is traveling, the size of the wheel, and the load. Generally a little forward of the vertical line. You may determine this point in any given case by examining an axle long in use, and see where has been the greatest wear. 2. If a wheel could be suddenly freed from its axle while the vehicle was in motion, would the wheel run on with accelerated motion—in other words, if the speed of the vehicle continued the same, could the free wheel pass it? A. No.

(5) G. S. H. writes: 1. I wish to build a small steam yacht; I wish it entirely for speed. The boat must be sufficiently large to carry 500 lb., besides boiler and engine. I have an engine, 2 inch bore by 4 inch stroke. What size boiler and boat will I require, and the speed I can make with same? A. Length 18 to 20 feet by 4½ feet beam, by 28 inches deep; engine, 2 inch cylinder by 4 inch stroke; boiler, upright tubular, 22 inches diameter by 40 inches high; tubes, 1 inch or 1¼ inch diameter by 24 inches long.

(6) C. W. asks: 1. Would it not be as well in making the dynamo machine described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161, to wind the wire round the armature instead of lengthways? A. No. 2. Would the machine be strong enough to magnetize small bars of steel? A. When made according to directions given in the SUPPLEMENT, yes.

(7) J. N. J. asks: Will it require a stronger dam or dike to hold a large body of water than it does to hold a very small body? A. Leaving out of consideration the effect of waves, the depth being the same in both cases, there would be no difference in the strength of dam required.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

On Boiler Explosions. By L. H. K.
On Hydraulic Cements. By J. D.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

FOR WHICH

Letters Patent of the United States were Granted in the Week Ending

September 21, 1880,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

['Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

A printed copy of the specification and drawing of any patent in the annexed list, also of any patent issued since 1866, 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. We also furnish copies of patents granted prior to 1866; but at increased cost, as the specifications not being printed, must be copied by hand.

Air engine, F. E. B. Beaumont 232,438
Alarm lock, H. Hoffmann 232,497
Animal power, J. Wilson 232,384
Armor plate and method of producing the same, J. D. Ellis 232,476
Axle arms, tool for repairing, L. S. Lewis 232,407
Axle, carriage, A. E. Smith 232,500
Axle coupling, vehicle, Eimbeck & Wehrmann 232,473
Bag holder, B. A. Taber 232,568
Baling press, A. A. Gehrt 232,400
Ball trap, W. R. Hamilton 232,347
Barrel swing, E. M. Mallett 232,523
Barrels, rack for tiering, W. H. Thomas 232,569
Bed bottom spring, I. A. Clippinger 232,390
Bell, individual call, F. Blake 232,442
Belting, machine for stretching leather, W. H. Chace 232,454
Belts, method of and means for clasping, W. M. Whiting 232,428
Binder, temporary, Smith & Shannon 232,374
Blower, rotary, C. A. Smith 232,559
Boiler furnace, steam, H. McElroy 232,534
Boot and shoe sole channeling and trimming machine, J. S. Turner 232,382
Boot and shoe soles, mechanism for abrading and polishing, J. A. Ambler 232,323
Boot and shoe stretcher, F. A. Fay 232,478
Bottle and stopper, J. C. De La Vergne 232,468
Bottle stopper, H. C. Johnson 232,404
Bottle stopper, S. S. Newton 232,362
Bottles, lamp chimneys, tumblers, etc., machine for washing, M. Cody 232,458
Brake lever, J. J. Padden 232,410
Brush, blacking, E. L. Wood 232,585
Brush machine, C. A. Watkins 232,576
Buckle, harness, A. & C. L. Marschall 232,526
Buffing roller, J. G. Buzzell 232,333
Butter press, N. S. Long 232,356
Button and button fastener, E. Wright 232,587
Button, collar, G. E. Adams 232,385
Buttons from plastic material, manufacture of, P. L. Sylvester ..... 232,564 to 232,567
Buttons from plastic material, manufacture of, C. R. Wickes 232,582
Calculator, H. Fitch 232,482
Can filling machine, L. Cutting 232339
Can seaming machine, H. Miller 232,535
Car coupling, E. Cravens 232,464
Car coupling, H. Heller 232,348
Car coupling, J. J. Padden 232,411
Car door, freight, L. H. Webster 232,578
Car door lock, W. Bradley 232,448
Car, dumping, J. F. Mathews 232,528
Carpet lining, E. K. Cooley 232,336
Chair, L. Heywood 232,496
Check row wires, stop and wire for, J. C. Dupee 232,472
Chimney cap, W. D. Bartlett 232,434
Churn power, H. Brown 232,451
Cigar holder, C. Carrington 232,453
Clapboard sawing machine, S. Babcock 232326
Cock, self-closing, M. Hogan 232,350
Coffee, etc., machine for cleaning, scouring, and polishing, G. W. & G. S. Hungerford 232,504
Coke oven, E. Burns 232,389
Colter and jointer, combined, A. C. Schram 232,370
Comb, high back, E. Brown 232,449
Copying apparatus, H. Van Hoevenbergh 232,425
Cornice, extension, G. W. Ferguson 232,479
Corset, Mamlok & Drewes 232,524
Corset cover, D. L. Engel 232,477
Cot, folding, C. J. Skau 232,418
Damper regulator, J. C. McLaughlin 232,359
Dentist's chair, N. N. Horton 232,352
Doll support, L. Herrick 232,403
Door hanger, S. Shreffler, Jr 232,555
Door mat, J. W. Lilly 232,408
Drier, J. H. Prichard 232,544
Drier, H. Tilden 232,572
Dust pan, G. E. Neville 232,361
Egg beater, T. W. Brown 232,328
Egg beater, H. B. McCool 232,358
Ejector, steam operated water, H. Coll (r) 9,380
Elbow pipes, machine for making, M. Ptischner 232,368
Electric lighting apparatus, A. J. Martin 232,357
Electric machine, dynamo, C. J. Van Depoele 232,574
Electrical visual indicator, C. H. Pond 232,415
Elevator, F. Stoddard 232,377
Elevator, carrier, and dump, comb'd. C. A. Baldwin 232,433
Elevators, safety attachment for, D. H. Chamberlain 232,455
Exercising machine, J. H. Weeks 232,579
Explosive compound, M. Tschirner 232,381
Eyeglass case, E. J. Hauck 232,493
Faucet, L. W. Truesdell 232,380
Feed for horses and cattle, H. H. Beach 232,327
Feed water heater, S. M. Fulton 232,342
Feed water heater, I. E. Myrick 232,539
Feed water heater, D. P. Stewart 232,563
Fence, L. W. Berger 232,440
Fence, J. D. Olinger 232,540
Fences, barbed wire for, H. B. Scutt 232,373
Fire alarm signal box, electric, J. M. Gardiner 232,343
Fire engines with hydrants, etc., coupling for connecting, D. D. Hayes 232495
Fish cans, lining for, L. Lenglet 232,517
Flooring clamp, W. Douley 232,470
Flour dressing machine, G. E. Throop 232,379
Flue cleaner, P. W. Lamb 232,406
Freezing machine, G. W. Passell 232,365
Game apparatus, S. J. Delan 232,394
Garment supporter, G. H. Phelps 232,413
Gearing, J. S. Worth 232,586
Glass and other fragile vessels, casing for, J. Hughes 232,502
Grain binder, C. W. Levalley 232,518
Grain drills, force feed device for, J. C. Slaughter 232,373