

## 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.

Cope & Maxwell Mfg. Co.'s Pump adv., page 188.  
The American Electric Co., Proprs Mfrs of Thompson Houston System of Electric Lighting the Arc Type. See adv., page 189.

Foot Power Printing Press; Chase, 8 x 10; Price, \$65. I. W. Colburn, Fitchburg, Mass.

The New System of Bee Keeping. Every one who has a farm or garden can now keep bees with pleasure and profit. For particulars address Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton, West Gorham, Maine.

N. C. Baughman's Climax Wash. Mach. See adv., p. 188.

For the Cheapest Process of Manufacturing Bricks, see Chambers Bros. & Co.'s adv., page 190.

Rowland's Vertical Engine. Wearing parts of steel. Broad bearings. F. C. & A. E. Rowland, New Haven, Conn.

50 cents each will be paid for the following numbers of London *Engineering*. Jan. 14, 28, and Feb. 18, 1876; Sept. 14, 1877. B. R. Western, No. 8 Broad St., N. Y.

Boomer & Boschert's Cider Press will perform better work and produce more cider from the same quantity of apples than any other press in the world. Farmers and others interested, send for illustrated circulars to the New York Office, 15 Park Row.

Any one having a first-class new Sewing Machine, well protected by patents, can find a responsible party to make on royalty or purchase patents, by addressing "Advertiser," Box 773, New York.

See Special Bolt Forging Machine Notice, page 204.

Blake's Belt Studs are better than lacing or any other fastening for belts. Greene, Tweed & Co., New York.

The New York Assay Laboratory.—Short, practical courses of instruction in Iron Chemistry and Assaying of Ores. Send for circular. Thos. B. Stillman & Co., 40 Broadway, N. Y.

Gear Wheels for Models (list free); Models, Experimental Work, etc. D. Gilbert & Son, 212 Chester St., Philadelphia, Pa.

R. J. W.—Froth or scum in your boilers caused by sediment in water from driven wells, entirely obviated without loss of water, by Hotchkiss' Mechanical Boiler Cleaner. Send for circular. 84 John St., New York.

Telephone and Call Bell, complete set, only \$3. Model Novelty Co., Boonton, N. J.

For Machinists' Tools, see Whitcomb's adv., p. 173.

For Light Machinists' Tools, etc., see Reed's adv., p. 156.

Large Slotter, 72" x 18" stroke. Photo on application. Machinery Exchange, 261 N. 3d St., Phila.

Buy the Buffalo Port. Forge. Have no other.

Presses, Dies, and Tools for working Sheet Metals, etc. Fruit and other Can Tools. E. W. Bliss, successor to Bliss & Williams, Brooklyn, N. Y.

L. Martin & Co., manufacturers of Lampblack and Pulp Mortar-black, 226 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Send to John D. Leveridge, 3 Cortlandt St., New York, for illustrated catalogue, mailed free, of all kinds of Scroll Saws and Supplies, Electric Lighters, Tyson's Steam Engines, Telephones, Novelties, etc.

Pure Oak Lea Belting. C. W. Army & Son, Manufacturers, Philadelphia. Correspondence solicited.

Star Glue and Pure Turkey Emery for Polishers. Greene, Tweed & Co., 18 Chambers St., New York.

Within the last ten years greater improvements have been made in mowing machines than any other agricultural implement. It is universally acknowledged that the Eureka Mower Co., of Towanda, Pa., are making the best mower now in use, and every farmer should write to the manufacturers for catalogue, with prices.

Jenkins' Patent Valves and Packing "The Standard." Jenkins Bros., Proprietors, 11 Dey St., New York.

Presses & Dies. Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J.

Wood-Working Machinery of Improved Design and Workmanship. Cordeman, Egan & Co., Cincinnati, O.

The "1880" Lace Cutter by mail for 50 cts.; discount to the trade. Sterling Elliott, 262 Dover St., Boston, Mass.

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

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

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

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

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

Wren's Patent Grate Bar. See adv. page 173.

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

Eclipse Portable Engine. See illustrated adv., p. 158.

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

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

4 to 40 H. P. Steam Engines. See adv. p. 158.

Rollstone Mac. Co.'s Wood Working Mach'y ad. p. 158.

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

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

Saunders' Pipe Cutting Threading Mach. See p. 173.

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.

Saw Mill Machinery. Stearns Mfg. Co. See p. 141.

Clark Rubber Wheels adv. See page 172.

For Mill Mach'y & Mill Furnishing, see illus. adv. p. 172. See Bentel, Margedant & Co.'s adv., page 188.

For Sale.—Two New 66-inch Stevenson Turbine Wheels composition buckets; 200 H. P.; price, \$1,500. Continental Works, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Diamond Saws. 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. Your 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.

Peerless Colors—For coloring mortar. French, Richards & Co., 40 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, Pa.

For Pat. Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling, see Frisbie's ad. p. 185.

Tight and Slack Barrel machinery a specialty. John Greenwood & Co., Rochester, N. Y. See illus. adv. p. 188.

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

For the manufacture of metallic shells, cups, ferrules, blanks, and any and all kinds of small press and stamped work in copper, brass, zinc, iron, or tin, address C. J. Godfrey & Son, Union City, Conn. The manufacture of small wares, notions, and novelties in the above line, a specialty. See advertisement on page 188.

For Heavy Punches, etc., see illustrated advertisement of Lilles & Jones, on page 188.

Comb'd Punch & Shears; Universal Lathe Chucks. Lambertville Iron Works, Lambertville, N. J. See ad. p. 189.

Best Band Saw Blades. See last week's adv., p. 189.

Reed's Sectional Covering for steam surfaces; any one can apply it, can be removed and replaced without injury. J. A. Locke, & Son, 40 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p. 189.

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

The only economical and practical Gas Engine in the market is the new "Otto" Silent, built by Schleicher, Schumm & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Send for circular.

Penfield (Pulley) Blocks, Lockport, N. Y. See ad. p. 189.

Tyson Vase Engine, small motor, 1-33 H. P.; efficient and non-explosive; price \$50. See illus. adv., page 188.

Use Vacuum Oil Co.'s Lubricating Oil, Rochester, N. Y.

For Thrashing Machines, Engines, and Horse Powers, see illus. adv. of G. Westinghouse & Co., page 189.

## 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) E. S. M. writes: I am about to build a steam velocipede of three wheels of about 4 feet in diameter. Would we have more power to have the piston rod connected right to the back axle? A. No. 2. Would it be best to have one or two cylinders, and what size to carry three persons? A. Two, about 2½ inches diameter by 4 inch stroke. 3. The size of boiler, and of what material? To be plain or tubular? A. Tubular. Size depends on speed and weight of vehicle. 4. Can that be heated by lamps, or would it be best of coal or wood? A. Coal or mineral oil or coke.

(2) J. H. P. writes: 1. I want a cheap cement for uniting half-inch lead pipe that will last six months and stand a water pressure of six feet? A. Join the pipe with a piece of stout canvas or duck smeared with red lead in oil, wrapped several times about the joint and bound with copper wire. 2. What is the purport of the term "limited" as applied to a firm or company? A. The term limited signifies a limitation of the individual responsibility of members of a firm or company.

(3) F. & S. ask: What is dynamite, and how is it made? A. The name was originally applied by Nobel to a preparation of infusorial silica partially saturated with nitroglycerine. Other earths and gunpowder mixed with nitroglycerine are now frequently classed under the same name. Consult Mowbray's "Trinitroglycerin."

(4) J. H. N. writes: We have exhausted part of the steam from our engine into the cistern that catches the rain water. Examination shows that the cement has all scaled off and the cistern is worthless. I am told that this result always follows such treatment, also that no cement exists that will make the cistern tight if steam is admitted. Would like to learn through the columns of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, if with such management a cement is known that will cause the cistern to hold water, or is our only course to line it up with wood or iron? A. Few cements applied will retain their integrity under such conditions for any length of time owing to the excessive alterations of temperature and the action of the steam and heated water. Better board up the cistern, or better line it with iron.

(5) E. M. T. writes: 1. I want thorough light on the subject of "luminous paint." A. Experiments in the manufacture of luminous paint have not

proved successful in this country so far. We believe the imported article is now for sale by some of our dealers in colors. See our advertising columns. 2. I want to bleach thin sheets of wood quickly and cheaply. A. Scour lightly with hot solution of caustic soda, rinse, submit to a strong bath of chloride of lime (calcium hypochlorite) in cold water, then to a dilute solution of oxalic acid. Repeat the two last if necessary, rinse, and dry.

(6) J. M. writes: In answer to inquirer, 21, in your paper of March 5, I would say that refined benzine will dissolve the disagreeable odoriferous oily substance which is secreted from some people's skin. After which plenty of soap and water will remove it. This persevered in will make the skin inodorous.

(7) P. Y. asks: What ingredients are required to make mirror glass and how to prepare them? A. The proportions are as follows: Finest white quartz sand, 720 parts; best soda, 450; lime, 80; niter, 25; cullet (broken plate glass), 425. Powder, mix, and heat in the crucible for 48 hours.

(8) J. H. W. asks: What is the best preparation used to produce a polish on bone and horn and give a glossy appearance, and how applied? A. First use finely ground pumice stone and water, applied with a felt polishing wheel; finish with rotten stone applied in the same way.

(9) L. A. asks for a receipt for stove polish paste as known under various names in trade: Russian, Acme, American, stove paste polish. A. Reduce graphite (blacklead) to an impalpable powder by grinding in a mill with a little water, and dry. In using moisten with water first, and finish with the dry powder.

(10) E. G. A. asks: Is there any chemical process or other mode of extracting the dextrine or sap from green lumber? A. Boil in a solution of 1 lb. caustic soda to the gallon of water.

(11) J. H. K. writes: Myself with some others have need to use some blue colored fire for outdoor use, but cannot obtain a good blue color; it has a whitish shade. Could you give me a receipt for making a good color? A. Blue fires: 1. Sulphur, sulphate of potassa, and ammonio-sulphate of copper, each 15 parts; niter, 27; chlorate of potassa, 28. 2. Niter, 5; sulphur, 2; metallic antimony, 1. 3. Fine gunpowder, 4 parts; sulphur and metallic zinc, each 3 parts; niter, 2 parts. 4. Nitrate of baryta, 77 parts; sulphur, 13; chlorate of potassa, 5; charcoal, 3; realgar (sulphide of arsenic) 2 parts. 5. Chlorate of potassa, 69 parts; sulphur, 24; sulphate of copper, 7. 6. Black sulphide of antimony, 4 parts; niter, 12; sulphur, 16; charcoal and orpiment (sulphide of arsenic) ¼ part. The purity of the color of these fires depends very much upon the care bestowed in drying and powdering each ingredient and in mixing the prepared substances.

(12) M. M. asks: What is the action of arsenic in the human system? What are the symptoms of arsenical poisoning, and how large a quantity is required to produce fatal results? A. "Arsenic is a non-accumulative irritant poison, and exerts no decided chemical or corrosive action on the tissues." (Taylor.) Its action is to inordinately increase the secretions and diminish the contractility of the voluntary muscles. The symptoms vary according to the form and dose in which the poison has been administered. The average time at which they appear is generally from half an hour to an hour after the poison has been taken. It produces at first a nameless feeling of illness, failure of strength, and aversion to eat or drink, followed by nausea and intense burning pain in the region of the stomach increased by pressure. These symptoms are soon followed by retching, vomiting, sense of constriction in the throat with intense thirst; diarrhea, more or less violent, accompanied by severe cramps in the calves of the legs; matter discharged from the stomach dark greenish or yellow, sometimes streaked with blood. There is tenesmus and sometimes excoriation of the anus; pulse small, very frequent, and irregular; skin cold and clammy in the stage of collapse, at other times very hot; respiration painful; eyes red and very bright; sometimes coma supervenes, with paralysis and tetanic convulsions, precursors of death. 2½ grains have caused death.

(13) D. F. C. asks: Can I melt zinc clippings in an iron ladle over a coal fire? I want to cast zinc plate for a battery. What kind of mould should be used? A. You can readily melt zinc clippings in the way you propose. A sand mould will answer, but a metal mould would be better.

(14) C. D. M. asks: 1. Please describe a practical mode of electro-engraving. A. Clean the polished plate thoroughly, warm it slightly, and give it in the dark a flowing coat of the following solution: Fine gelatine, 5; isinglass, 5; bichromate of ammonia, 1½; water, 200; mix and dissolve by aid of heat over a water bath. When dry, cover with a glass photographic positive (strong), of the reduced design (in limework), and expose to sunlight for about 20 minutes. Remove to a dark room, take off the glass, and put the plate in water, first warm, then hot, change the water several times; then connect the plate by means of copper wire with the carbon pole of a moderately strong bichromate battery, the other pole of which is joined to a large copper plate. Immerse both plates in sulphuric acid diluted with three volumes of water until the prepared plate is properly engraved. Clean in a hot caustic potash dip. 2. Why will not a silver coin do for the anode in a silver-plating solution? A. Because it is not pure silver. 3. Please give a good method of gold plating. A. See article on electro-metallurgy, gold deposits, page 116, current volume. 4. In plating gold on silver is it necessary to first wash the silver with any solution to make the gold adhere firmly? A. No. 5. To obtain a brilliant polish is it necessary to use greater intensity in silver plating? A. See article on electro-metallurgy, silver deposits, page 81, current volume. 6. In the electric light should Grenet or Fuller batteries be coupled for intensity or quantity? A. Intensity.

(15) C. P. K. writes: 1. I have a yacht, hull 58 feet long, 13 feet beam, and 7 feet depth of hold, moulded. Will two 36-inch wheels (propellers) run it 22

miles an hour, and what size engines necessary to do so? A. No. We doubt if any power you could put in, would drive it 22 miles per hour. 2. I have a double cylinder engine, bore 8 inches and stroke 8 inches, running at 300 revolutions per minute. Is the engine too large? Wish to make the boat as fast as possible, without regard as to cost of running it. A. A pair of 8 inch by 8 inch engines would be too small for high speed, but a very fair speed could be obtained (with good model) by carrying 140 or 150 lb. steam, and running 306 revolutions per minute. 3. Is there an electric machine described in SCIENTIFIC that will run 15 of Edison's electric burners, and if so, in what number? A. Edison's generator, described on pp. 239 and 243, vol. xli., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, would answer your purpose. No detailed description of his later machine has been published. 4. Would an engine, 3 inch stroke and 3 inch bore, run the machine described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161, if it were enlarged four times, and, if not, what sized engine would it take, to attach it direct? Or in other words how much must the machine be enlarged to run 15 of the above named lamps, and what sized engine? A. This machine is not adapted to the Edison light. An engine of the size given would run a machine of this kind three or four times as large as the one described in the SUPPLEMENT.

(16) C. H. asks: 1. How can I make a gallon of nickel plating solution? How is copper and brass prepared or cleaned before plating? How is iron prepared before plating so as to make the nickel plating adhere? A. See article on nickel plating, page 153, vol. xliii., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. 2. How is nickel "stripped" from articles that are to be replated? A. Use nitric acid diluted with half its volume of water. 3. What is a simple test to find out whether an article is silver or nickel plated? A. Nickel and silver can easily be distinguished by their appearance. 4. Will coin nickel answer the purpose of making solutions and anode? A. No. 5. What kind of battery is the best suited for plating small objects such as binding screws, medals, and thimbles? A. One of the modifications of Bunsen's battery. 6. In making the mercurial air pump described in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 224, vol. ix., will it affect the working of the pump if the glass tubes are made a few inches longer or shorter? A. Yes, the lengths given are correct.

(17) R. J. W. asks (1) how gold leaf on frames is burnished. A. The burnishers used by the frame gilder are either of flint or agate, generally the former. They are made of various sizes and shapes to suit the work. These are passed lightly over the gilded and dry work until properly burnished. It is then usually given a thin coat of very weak clear size. Frame gilding requires much practical experience to do properly. 2. What kind of varnish is put on silver leaf to make it appear like gold? A. Dissolve, by digestion, fine pale shellac in alcohol, and color with turmeric and dragon's blood.

(18) C. P. F. writes: The rise in coal in the river towns from \$4.50 to \$9 a ton, has made it a matter of general interest as to the respective value of coal and wood for steaming purposes. The books give from 1 to 1½ cords as the equal of 2,000 lb. coal, but the engine users say it takes 1½ to 1¾ cords wood to produce the effect of a ton (2,000 lb.) of coal. A. Experiment has shown that in practice 1¾ cords pine wood equals 1 ton of coal (2,240 lb.), but this can only be considered approximate, as very much depends upon the character and condition of the wood.

(19) G. H. S. asks how to produce prismatic colors on brass buttons like samplenset. A. The button is brass; it has been thinly coated with a dilute hard gum lacquer to which has been added a sufficient quantity of fuchsine, and when half dry momentarily dipped in alcohol, quickly dried, and thinly washed with uncolored lacquer.

(20) C. B. T. asks: 1. What is the horse power of an engine with a 1½ inch bore and 2½ inch stroke, making 200 revolutions per minute? A. See rule for calculating the horse power of engines in SUPPLEMENT, No. 253. 2. What size fly wheel would you put on an engine of the above dimensions and what weight? A. About 12 or 14 inches diameter and 50 or 60 lb. weight.

(21) D. M. writes: In a brook over which I pass I notice that where there is a strong current the ice forms on the bottom. The depth of water is from four to six inches. Can you explain this? A. The ice you allude to is what is termed anchor ice. The stream being shallow, the water is the same temperature the entire depth, and while the surface current prevents freezing at the top, the more quiet waters below freeze and the ice attaches to rocks and stones, thus preventing it from rising to the surface.

(22) H. C. P. asks: Will water run down hill through a one and a quarter inch pipe, the angle to be 45° to 20°, for half a mile, provided of course the supply to be plenty? A. Yes.

(23) A. J. A. asks: 1. What is sailing distance made by the Cunarders between Boston and Europe? A. Boston to Queenstown, 2,668 nautical miles. 2. And also between New York and Europe? A. New York to Queenstown, 2,798 nautical miles; Queenstown to Liverpool 248 nautical miles. 3. What is the quickest recorded time? A. Arizona, 7 days 8 hours and 8 minutes, July, 1879. 4. What is the sailing distance between San Francisco and Sandwich Islands? A. San Francisco to Sandwich Islands, 2,680 nautical miles.

(24) C. K. S. writes: 1. I am making a fifteen dollar canoe according to the directions given in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 39. Will you please answer the following questions: I have heard it said that the heaviest cotton drilling, well oiled, would answer exceedingly well for the sides of a canoe. Is it so? A. Yes. 2. If I use cotton drilling or canvas which way must I put the canvas: in one piece, that is, so the length of the piece of canvas goes the way of the length of the boat; that is from stem to stern, or in breadth across the boat? A. Lengthwise. 3. Could not a paddle be used instead of sculls, and if so, how long would a double paddle have to be? A. Yes; it must be of such length as you can conveniently handle, if you wish to use it standing; it must be longer than if used sitting.

(25) G. H. M. asks: 1. How long should work be left in the plating bath to give as thick and durable a nickel plating, using say three cells Daniell's battery? I have used the information from your article on nickel plating, but have no idea how long the articles should remain in the plating bath. A. Expose from one to three hours according to requirements. 2. Should the articles be removed from the bath and scratch brushed or scoured, or simply allowed to remain undisturbed? A. In most cases it is not necessary to remove them. 3. Can an article once nickel plated and still covered all over with nickel be replated without stripping or removing the old plating? These questions I can find no satisfactory answer to in any work at my command, and living away from a large city can consult with no nickel plater. A. Yes, if the coating is perfect. In most cases it is better to strip. 4. Can a substantial silver coating be applied to an article with a bath and battery, but without using a silver anode, and if so, how can it be done? I am only an amateur, and these questions will solve some difficulties if you will answer them. A. Yes. Use carbon or platinum anode. The bath cannot be depended upon, however, as the silver salts soon become exhausted.

(26) R. S. writes: I would like to know how to make a strong mucilage, that I can put on the back of paper, and use it after it is dry, by moistening it as you would a postage stamp. A. Try the following: Cooper's liquid glue, gum arabic, and white sugar, equal parts, hot water, q. s.

(27) W. S. writes: I have the charge of a 35 horse power engine, stationary, making 165 revolutions per minute, slide valves. There is a dispute among some of us in regard to setting the valves to realize the most power. A. Without knowing the dimensions and proportions of the engine, we could not advise you fully; but at the speed you run the engine, the valve should have considerable lead.

(28) E. S. C. asks: 1. What is the best size of wire for line for acoustic telephones? A. No. 30. 2. Should the wire be hard or soft? A. Soft. 3. Will any other wire beside copper answer for line? A. Soft brass wire will answer. Soft iron wire serves a good purpose, but is not durable. 4. What kind of type is used by bookbinders for printing gold letters on cloth or leather. Will common printing type do? Brass usually. Common printing type may be used, but great care will be required to avoid melting while heating them. 5. What is the powder composed of which they dust on the leather previous to applying the gold leaf? A. Well beaten white of an egg diluted with water is used for this purpose. 6. How can I transfer newspaper cuts to wood to be engraved? A. Take a saturated alcoholic solution of potash, pour it on the engraving, and immediately remove all superfluous liquid by means of blotting paper. Lay the engraving while damp upon the wood and place it in a press (a copper-plate press is best). The transfer will be obtained immediately. The engraving must be immersed in clear cold water after the transfer is made.

(29) W. W. asks: 1. Is the conovosite metal made up from the sulphurets of several metals, and described as recently invented, inoxidizable, black, hard as wrought iron, melts at 300° Fah., expands in casting, cost \$50 per ton—is it sold in this country? A. You probably refer to Spence metal. It is described in SUPPLEMENT, 222. For further information in regard to it address dealers in metals who advertise in our columns. 2. Somewhere in your columns you state that a French authority asserts a quart of nitroglycerine to be equal to 5,000 horse power working continuously. Is this not a misprint, or too high an estimate? But, assuming it to be correct, I read often in the SCIENTIFIC paper, and reports of the Aeronautical Society, etc., that if the power were controllable, it would solve the flying question. Suppose one lb. Mowbray's glycerine were mixed with several lb. of raw unconverted glycerine, would not its violence be reduced, like the case of the Otto "silent" gas engine, in which the gas is diluted, etc.? A. We know of no successful experiments in this line. When largely diluted, as you suggest, the detonation of the explosive becomes very difficult and uncertain. The extraordinary energy developed in the explosion of nitroglycerine is largely due to the almost instantaneous nature of the reaction in which it consists; and while by the dilution of the liquid by a comparatively inert substance, it may in some degree be possible to bring the power as measured by the volume of gaseous matter produced in the reaction within control, it would seem to be impossible to retard the rapidity of the reaction. Considering the power developed by the increase of volume from the liquid to the heat expanded gas, only the estimate referred to is doubtless excessive.

(30) S. F. asks: 1. What is the best material for small embossed ornamental blocks? A. Papier mache answers very well. 2. What are the proportions of the mixture of bullock's blood and sawdust— is it subjected to pressure, and subsequently dried, to get best results? A. Use enough of the blood to completely moisten the dust. It is submitted to hydraulic pressure, then gradually heated to about 300° Fah.

(31) W. T. asks (1) how cores for brass castings are made. A. The cores are made of sharp sand to which a very small proportion of flour has been added. The sand and flour are mixed dry; the mixture is then moistened with a little stale beer or molasses and water. 2. What preparation they use for pasting parts of cores together. A. Flour paste. 3. Why will the mould not fill up with metal, providing it has lots of air holes? A. Your sand may be rammed too tight, or your metal may not be hot enough.

(32) I. S. R. writes: I have often wondered how common playing marbles were made, but never thought the matter of sufficient importance to warrant much effort to find out; but as my little boy, aged 13, now asks me the question, I refer the matter to you. A. Playing marbles are made from a hard stone found near Coburg in Saxony. The stone is first broken with a hammer into cubical fragments, and about 100 to 150 of them are ground at once. The mill is something like a flour mill; the lower stone is stationary and filled with concentric grooves, which receive the stone fragments. The upper stone is revolved by suitable power,

and small streams of water are thrown on the lower stone. The pressure of the running stone on the small fragments causes them to roll in all directions until they are reduced to perfect spherical form. It is said that it requires only a quarter of an hour to shape the millful.

(33) J. W. S. asks if there is any preparation made for cleaning brass while hot, such as the throttle box, etc., on locomotives, whereby it can be thoroughly cleaned and at the same time retain its luster. I am a locomotive fireman, and like to keep a clean engine, but as she is always hot, I have failed so far to find anything to answer the purpose. A. Where it is not liable to get into wearing surfaces washed emery moistened with kerosene oil is very good. Where the surfaces are subject to wear tripoli or rotten stone and kerosene oil may be used. The oil should be thoroughly removed by means of a cloth and a little dry whitening.

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

- F. McC.—1. Limestone—the pearly mineral is diallage. 2. Traprock and serpentine. 3. Chlorite. 4. Quartz rock. 5. Fluorspar.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Is Steam Explosive? By S. G. Determination of the Moon's and Sun's Horizontal Parallax at Mean Distance. By F. G. Experiments with Naked and Metallized Carbons. By C. S.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

FOR WHICH Letters Patent of the United States were Granted in the Week Ending February 22, 1881, 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.

Alkali balls, manufacture of, M. M. Smith..... 238,064
Amalgamator, P. Plant..... 238,050
Animal shears, Benavides & Arthur..... 238,080
Bed bottom, Granger & Frost..... 238,107
Bed, folding, E. S. Griffith..... 238,196
Bed, spring, A. J. Curtis..... 238,029
Beer cooler, S. G. Spicer..... 238,065
Belt coupling, E. O. Sawyer..... 238,164
Belt fastener, P. Baehner..... 238,009
Bessemer plant and apparatus, W. Hainsworth..... 238,110
Binder, temporary, T. H. Brown, Jr..... 237,954, 237,955
Bit stock and shank, O. G. Stratton (r)..... 9,582
Blacking box, N. O. Wilcox..... 238,012
Bobbins, machine for scoring, Brooks & Wait..... 238,083
Boot and shoe sole edge trimming device, Dodge & Bresnahan..... 238,033
Boot and shoe heel, S. A. Nolen..... 237,995
Bottles, stopping, H. Barrett..... 237,946
Bracket support, A. Roelofs..... 238,159
Brick kiln, W. Barkley..... 237,945
Brick mould attachment, G. Logan..... 238,134
Bridge, R. D. Lawrence..... 238,130
Broom, whisk, J. H. Flynn..... 237,970
Brush, scrubbing, J. O. Astenius..... 237,944
Buckle, N. L. Anderson..... 238,018
Buckle, A. Owen..... 238,150
Buckle, S. Ward..... 238,188
Burglar alarm, Dimick & Sawyer..... 238,145
Burglar alarm, J. H. Luckhurst..... 238,135
Burial casket, W. C. Lautner..... 238,129
Button and stud, J. E. Chace..... 238,088
Button, separable, Coggeshall & Arnold..... 237,960
Button, separable, P. H. Long..... 238,043
Button, stud, etc., collar, P. Lavell..... 237,985
Can, W. H. King (r)..... 9,505
Car brake, automatic, Stenstrom & Nilson..... 238,178
Car coupling, W. H. Maple..... 238,137
Car coupling, D. Smith..... 238,170
Car coupling, J. E. Smith..... 238,063
Car door latch, McCombie & Morgan..... 238,047
Car door staple, J. E. Thomson..... 238,010
Car heating apparatus, railway, J. W. Graydon (r)..... 9,587
Carbureter, McKenzie & Mason..... 238,141
Carding machines, roving guide for, A. A. Sargent..... 238,056
Carpet sweeper, H. A. Mueller..... 238,144
Cartridge primer, J. Gardner..... 238,039
Chain, drive, N. B. Fasset..... 237,967
Chain, drive, J. M. Dodge..... 238,096
Chain, ornamental, H. A. Church (r)..... 9,573
Cheese, manufacture of, W. Cooley..... 238,091
Chimney ventilator, E. Van Noorden..... 238,185
Chimneys, apparatus for utilizing the force of currents of fluids passing through, W. Mansfield..... 237,986
Chimneys, draught device for, Heinbothem & Doubleday..... 238,116
Churn, F. Aldred..... 238,017
Clothes pin, J. Hoffacker..... 237,976
Clothing, J. Feiss..... 237,968
Coffee pot, J. E. Finley..... 238,066
Coffin handle bar, E. S. Wheeler..... 238,189
Colter, C. R. Hartman..... 238,115
Conveyer, W. Winterhalter..... 238,194
Cooking and heating apparatus, J. H. Graves..... 238,108
Cork, poultry, E. Rutz..... 238,055
Cork cutting machine, F. L. Blair..... 238,082
Cork fastener, R. Robinson..... 238,158
Corn sheller, J. S. Waterman..... 238,069
Cornice, extension, J. W. Campbell..... 238,085
Corset, S. Florsheim..... 238,100
Corset, L. M. Holstein..... 238,118
Corset, A. L. Zorkowski..... 238,072
Corset clasp, O. C. Haskell..... 237,974
Corset fastener, W. A. Nettleton..... 238,147
Cotton chopper, L. W. True..... 238,183
Cotton chopper and scraper, B. J. Curry..... 238,028
Cotton gin, J. R. Gray..... 238,109

Cultivator, F. W. Leslie..... 238,132
Cutter head for wood-working, G. W. Amesbury..... 238,074
Dairies, cooling, J. Wilkinson (r)..... 9,586
Doctor engine, G. F. Fritz..... 238,103
Dredging box, M. F. Wilson..... 238,070
Drilling device, P. N. Dixon..... 238,062
Dry plate changing box and plate holder, combined, A. M. North..... 237,996
Drying printed, varnished, or gummed sheets, machine for, L. A. Fernow..... 237,969
Egg tester, J. F. P. McMullen..... 238,142
Elastic gore, gusset, etc., for wearing apparel, S. Florsheim..... 238,101
Elevator, J. B. Johnson..... 237,961
Elevator brake, F. P. Canfield (r)..... 9,584
Embassing table, D. W. Frazee..... 238,058
Exhaust mechanism and spark arrester, J. D. Brown..... 238,064
Facial symmetry, device for restoring, F. C. Batcheller..... 237,948
Farm elevator, G. V. Underwood..... 238,184
Felting machine, G. Yule..... 238,071
Fence, portable farm and stock, N. Smith..... 238,171
Fence post, D. P. Wirt..... 238,013
Fertilizers, manufacture of, G. T. Lewis..... 238,133
Fiber from pine leaves, etc., vegetable, J. G. Stephens (r)..... 9,581
Finger compress, F. C. Batcheller..... 237,949
Fruit cleaner, A. J. Shepard..... 238,005
Fruit bleaching apparatus, J. C. Duell..... 238,031
Fruit dri'er, J. T. Campbell..... 237,958
Furnace door, H. M. Pierce..... 237,998
Furnace door, J. Smith..... 238,006
Furnace door shield, W. Swindell..... 238,182
Furniture leg, adjustable, C. C. Frost..... 238,104
Gas burner, self-extinguishing, N. Sleeman..... 238,169
Gas or vapor, apparatus for producing illuminating, Anthony & Frost..... 238,030
Gate, I. G. Betts..... 238,081
Gate, A. A. Shepard..... 238,166
Glass bottles, machine for and process of forming rings or rims on, W. C. Cook..... 238,090
Globe, time, L. P. Juvet (r)..... 9,579
Grain drill, Otstot & Ludlow..... 238,149
Grain meter, James & Lynn..... 238,122
Grain reducing mill, E. L. Baker..... 238,078
Grain, etc., separator, O. Davis..... 238,030
Graining machine, wood, E. Struppe..... 238,181
Grinding grain, etc., roller mill for, T. S. Poole..... 238,000
Grinding grain, roller mill for, Poole & Miller, Jr..... 238,001
Harness box loop, Ruffner & Kriebs..... 238,152
Harrow, W. J. Lane..... 238,128
Harvester and husker, corn, Randall & Snow..... 238,051
Hat felting machine, G. Yule..... 238,016
Hat, sweat lining, R. Eickemeyer..... 238,035
Heating apparatus, hot water, E. Backus..... 238,077
Hinge, spring, J. Spruce..... 238,177
Hog cholera compound, L. L. Bockes..... 238,022
Horse rake, C. Bollinger..... 237,951
Horseshoe nail plate, W. W. Miner..... 237,993
Hose reel, H. B. Piper..... 238,153
Hot air furnace, M. H. Roberts..... 238,003
Hub boring bit, H. W. Ransom..... 238,002
Hydrocarbon furnace, B. Sloper (r)..... 9,588
Ingot mould, compound, Catley & Graff..... 238,087
Iron, manufacture of sheet, I. E. Craig..... 237,963
Jewelry, manufacture of, G. E. Adams..... 237,073
Knob, door, S. Russell..... 238,163
Ladder, L. P. Teed..... 238,067
Lap ring, J. P. Morris..... 238,143
Life saving mattress, W. H. Horton..... 238,119
Lock, E. Hand..... 238,113
Locket, J. Rothschild..... 238,054
Loom temple, R. P. Pearson..... 238,151
Lozenges, manufacturing, T. Robertson..... 238,157
Lubricating the cylinders of steam engines, apparatus for, M. S. Cabell..... 237,957
Magneto signal apparatus, Edison & Johnson..... 238,098
Mail bag and lock, A. O. Kruger..... 238,127
Mail bag delivery apparatus, Smith & McQueen..... 238,172
Mail bag receiver, Smith & McQueen..... 238,173
Meat and vegetable cutter, W. H. Pierce (r)..... 9,580
Mechan movement, N. Meyers..... 237,991
Milk setting and skimming apparatus, Platt & McCloud..... 237,999
Monument, D. Schuyler..... 238,056
Monument, metallic, D. Schuyler..... 238,059
Musical instrument case, W. W. Hyde..... 237,980
Musical instrument, mechanical, A. Fowler..... 238,102
Musical instrument, mechanical, M. J. Matthews..... 238,138
Musical instrument, mechan., Matthews & Kelly..... 238,139
Musical instrument, mechanical, E. P. Needham..... 238,146
Musical instrument, mechan., Needham & Fowler..... 238,145
Musical instrument, mechanical, J. P. Richardson..... 238,156
Nut lock, H. S. Joines..... 237,982
Oil can, Ricker & Barker..... 238,052
Ointment, H. Yater..... 238,015
Ore crusher, S. P. Speers..... 238,176
Pantaloons protector, J. A. Maloney..... 238,016
Paper cutting machine, J. M. Jones..... 238,125
Paper into bunches, machine for wiring, C. P. S. Wardwell..... 238,197
Paper making machines, screen plate for, H. Judson..... 238,126
Paper pails, making, E. Hubbard..... 238,120
Pegging jack, C. H. Corneal..... 238,027
Pen rack and letter holder, combined, S. Hillman..... 238,117
Pen, stylographic fountain, Brown & Sutherland..... 238,034
Permutation lock, E. Bernhardt..... 237,950
Pipe and nut wrench, L. Glynn..... 238,041
Pipe cutter, J. Miller..... 237,992
Pipes and tubes, apparatus for testing, W. S. McManus..... 237,987
Planter, corn, A. Runstetter..... 238,100 to 238,162
Plow, sulky, Robertson & Hamilton..... 238,053
Potato digger, Seger & Benuet..... 238,105
Printing machine bufferspring, J. T. Hawkins..... 237,975
Pulverizing mineral and other substances, method of and apparatus for, Luckenbach & Wolfenden..... 238,044
Pump, W. H. Cloud..... 238,026
Pump, J. B. Drake..... 238,097
Pump, C. Powell..... 238,155
Pump, rotary, E. Madden..... 237,988
Pump, siphon, W. B. Manwaring..... 238,136
Railway brake, electric, Milligan & Wheeler..... 238,048
Reeds, mechanism for assorting, O. Orcoran..... 237,962
Refrigerating device, D. Boyle..... 237,953
Rolling hoop iron, mill for, J. Gearing..... 238,105
Safety pin, J. Jenkins..... 238,123
Sandpapering machine, Doane & Bugbee..... 238,085
Sash fastener, W. Sibrey..... 238,168
Saw filing machine, gin, H. N. Cramer..... 238,092
Saw sledge, P. J. Hogan..... 237,977
Saw swage, G. F. Simonds..... 238,062
Saws, puuch for gumming circular, E. Senn..... 238,060
Scissors and pencil holder, comb'd, C. Bramberg..... 238,023
Scoop, H. L. Anderson..... 238,075
Screw cutting machine, Wilder & Nutting..... 238,191
Sewing machine, N. Myers..... 237,990
Sewing machine, broom, McCombs & Rogers..... 238,140
Sewing machine, glove, C. M. Boland (r)..... 9,586

Sewing machine ruffing and puffing attachment, C. H. Carter..... 238,068
Ship's log, T. F. Walker..... 238,187
Shirt, G. F. Mott..... 238,049
Shoulder pad, I. N. Stern..... 238,066
Sled, hand, F. M. Priestley..... 238,154
Sleigh body, F. Selle..... 238,004
Soldering machine, can, J. Solter..... 238,174, 238,175
Sower, seed, M. Gibbs..... 238,040
Spark arrester, J. D. Brown..... 238,025
Sphygmograph, W. H. H. Barton..... 237,947
Spring motor, C. F. Shehan..... 238,061
Stage scenery, adjustable groove for, G. B. Winne..... 238,192
Steam boilers, etc., protective cushion for, H. M. Pierce..... 237,997
Steam generator, M. A. Sutherland..... 238,008
Steit, spring, G. H. Herrington..... 238,042
Stitching and tying pamphlets and papers, S. Elliott..... 237,966
Stone dressing machine, T. H. Cook..... 237,961
Stool, milking, W. G. Hyder..... 238,121
Stovepipe thimble, W. T. Leader..... 237,181
Stove, reservoir cooking, I. A. Sheppard..... 238,167
Stove support, A. J. Curtiss..... 237,964
Straw stacker, W. H. Latta..... 237,994
Sugar evaporator, C. Autenrieth..... 238,076
Telegraph duplex, G. D'Ifreville..... 238,094
Telephone, acoustic, W. Hubbard..... 237,979
Telephone and automatic switch, combined, E. T. Gilliland..... 237,971
Telephone switch, G. L. Anders..... 238,019
Telephone wire, D. Brooks..... 238,195
Textile and other materials, machine for cutting, A. Warth (r)..... 9,589
Thill coupling, R. M. Johnson..... 238,124
Thill coupling, F. P. Nourse..... 238,148
Thill coupling, E. M. Winslow..... 238,193
Thill coupling jack, R. Grav..... 237,972
Thrashing machine, R. H. Hoskins..... 238,197
Tobacco plants, raising, J. M. Dunkum..... 238,034
Toy or puzzle, W. Stranders..... 238,180
Traction engine, E. Hoxsie..... 237,978
Traction wheel, R. H. Yale..... 238,014
Transom ventilator, Hart & Bissell..... 237,973
Traveling bag lock, R. Flocke..... 238,017
Truck, car, F. Beaumont, Jr..... 238,079
Tumbler drainer, D. E. Kenworthy..... 237,983
Upholstery nails, machine for capping, J. Gobbels..... 238,106
Valve, steam-actuated, P. Murray, Jr..... 237,994
Vapor burner, R. F. Danforth..... 238,965
Wagon brake, block, B. F. Haldeman..... 238,111
Wagon seat, W. H. Harris..... 238,114
Washing fabrics, machinery for, Ashton & Mather..... 238,021
Washing machine, W. V. Burgess..... 237,956
Washing machine, Strain & Miller..... 238,179
Washing machines, churning attachment to, R. H. Botts..... 237,952
Watch cases machine for making, A. E. Spangler..... 238,007
Watch charm and seal, F. E. Meyer..... 237,989
Watch protector, J. A. Consterdine..... 238,089
Watches, push pin for, J. Macher..... 238,045
Water meter, J. B. West..... 238,011
Water motor, J. E. Vartley..... 238,186
Wells, sand point for, C. L. Halstead..... 238,112
Wheelwright machine, A. B. y Fabregas..... 238,080
Whiffetree for plows, R. W. Whitehurst..... 238,190
Windmill, L. Carrier..... 237,959
Yoke, neck, C. A. Tower..... 238,068

DESIGNS.

- Cars, interior finish of railway, J. Lochner..... 12,177
Stove cooking, G. Smith..... 12,178
Telephonic apparatus, Williams, Jr., & Lane..... 12,179

TRADE MARKS.

- Bitters, S. A. Groff..... 8,170
Forks, agricultural, Auburn Manufacturing Co..... 8,174
Hair color revigorators, M. Besosa..... 8,169
Medicine for the cure of rheumatism, J. M. Hunnicutt..... 8,171
Restoratives, S. B. Sigmond..... 8,172
Rum, brandy, whisky, gin, and foreign and domestic wines, Purifying and Maturing Process Co..... 8,170

English Patents Issued to Americans.

From February 18 to February 22, 1881, inclusive.

- Carbon, process of preparing, H. S. Maxim, B'klyn, N. Y.
Covers, means of securing, N. Thompson, B'klyn, N. Y.
Joint fastener, T. H. Alexander et al., Washington, D. C.
Locomotive engine, C. B. Clark, Detroit, Mich.
Loom, C. Couplant et al., Seymour, Conn.
Package for merchandise, R. S. Jennings, Baltimore, Md.
Pen holder, W. W. Stewart, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Pipes, apparatus for manufacture of, C. A. Berthelet, Milwaukee, Wis.
Sheep shears, C. Benavides et al., Laredo, Texas.
Spindle lubricator, J. W. Wattles, Mass.
Steam engine, J. W. Chisholm, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Telephonic apparatus, H. R. Miller, South Farmington, Mass.
Vessels, armored, N. B. Clark, Philadelphia, Pa.

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