

be precipitated against its sides, producing a great strain and often a violent explosion. I do not think it possible to explode a boiler containing no water by forcing steam into it. The boiler would simply be ruptured at its weakest point, as by hydrostatic pressure. A. The conditions you name have been frequently complied with, sometimes by way of experiment and sometimes accidentally. The latest of the latter class is the breaking of the steam pipe of the Plymouth Rock. No explosion followed. Even in a small way, with a thin weak glass flask, the experiment must be made very carefully to be successful. You find no such conditions, as required in your experiment, in the ordinary use of steam boilers.

(25) E. J. D. writes: I wish to pump boiling water on the fruit trees in my orchard, to try and kill the scale bug. In driving a portable steam boiler through the orchard, stopping at every tree, in the stopping and starting the water will slush at the back end and forward end of the boiler, perhaps uncovering the flues of the boiler, the fire still burning in the fire box. I would like to know if there would be any danger of an explosion from the boiler? The steam pressure would be about 30 lb. A. There will be no danger except the tubes be uncovered too long. This action can be checked in a measure by putting in the boiler, above the tubes and crosswise of the boiler, a couple of "swash plates," that is plates on edge, and standing in your boiler say 10 or 12 inches above the tubes, and strongly fastened; these plates to be punched all over with holes, say, three-fourths or one inch diameter.

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

H. & Co.—A talco-argillaceous rock containing much iron sulphide—pyrites.—J. R. E.—An argillaceous hematite iron ore containing mica.—C. W.—Clay iron stone—an impure iron ore.—W. E. H.—Limestone and quartzite.—R. J. McD.—Impure barium sulphate—heavy spar—chiefly used for adulterating whitelead paints.—C. H. E.—The scale is composed chiefly of lime carbonate—not injurious in drinking water.—M. G. S.—A bituminous coal containing a large percent of ash.—C. E. C.—Your mica is of very fair quality.—See Mica, page 257, No. 7, current volume, and Hints to Correspondents.—R. T.—Chiefly magnetic iron sulphide—pyrrhotine.—A. M. K.—It is quartz containing zinc blende and galena—valuable ores of zinc and lead; also a small quantity of iron sulphide—pyrite. The value of such an ore can only be determined by a chemical analysis—it is worth an analysis.—E. S. M.—It is a small fragment of meteoric iron.—S. S.—A bituminous coal containing considerable ash, but nevertheless a good fuel.—D. St. J.—A mixture of limestone, quartzose rock, and carbonate and sulphide of lead—probably silver bearing.—W. F. M. E.—No. 1 is hematite or specular iron ore. No. 2. Orthoclase. No. 3. Silicious limestone.—A. H. H.—The composition contains copal and resin (colophony).—A. E. S.—The sand is not iridium, as you suggest, but magnetic iron ore sand—magnetite.—J. O'B.—It is composed chiefly of hornblende—contains no corundum or emery.—F. F.—The quartz contains much iron sulphide and a little copper sulphide. Not rich enough in the latter to be considered as a copper ore.—N. S.—The garnet sand is of no commercial value here at present.—H. M.—It is gypsum—sulphate of lime—used for making plaster of Paris.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

On the Strength of Bricks. By H. F. N.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS FOR WHICH

Letters Patent of the United States were Granted in the Week Ending October 18, 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 25 cents. 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.

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English Patents Issued to Americans.

From October 14 to October 18, 1881, inclusive.

Cable traction street railway, C. W. Rasmusen, Chicago, Ill. Electro-magnet, J. M. Stearns, Jr., Brooklyn, N. Y. Hats, W. A. Baglin, Brooklyn, N. Y. Locks or dams, J. Du Bois, Du Bois, Pa. Sewing machine cabinet, J. Jorgensen, Petersburg, Va. Screws, Harvey Screw Company, Jersey City, N. J. Telephonic apparatus, W. R. Patterson, et al., Chicago, Ill. Telephonic apparatus, C. E. Buell, New Haven, Conn. Telephonic communication, J. M. Stearns, Jr., Brooklyn, N. Y. Tricycle, S. N. Silver, et al., Auburn, Me.