

Business and Personal.

The Charge for Insertion under this head is One Dollar a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line.

Edson's Time, Speed, and Pressure Recording and Alarm Gauge. The only perfect life-saving gauge in market.

Gentlemen: On November 6, 1881, the Eagle Docks, in this city, were burned, and our buildings placed in great danger.

Sparks and embers fell in large quantities on your Asbestos Roofing (with which our coal-saed and ferry-houses are covered) without injury to the roofs.

No repairs to the roofs have been made necessary by the fire. Yours truly, J. J. CHASE, Supt.

Wanted.—A few hundred yards of light Railroad Iron, about 20 lb. rail. R. N. & H. Valentine, Woodbridge, N. J.

For Machinists and Apprentices.—The Student's Illustrated Guide to Practical Draughting. Sent on receipt of price, \$1. T. P. Pemberton, 92 Liberty St., New York.

Combination Roll and Rubber Co., 27 Barclay St., N. Y. Wringer Rolls and Moulded Goods Specialties.

Send for Pamphlet of Compilation of Tests of Turbine Water Wheels. Barber, Keiser & Co., Allentown, Pa.

List of Machinists in United States and Canada, just compiled; price, \$10. A. C. Farley & Co., Philadelphia.

Latest Improved Diamond Drills. Send for circular to M. C. Bullock, 80 to 88 Market St., Chicago, Ill.

Telegraphic, Electrical, and Telephone Supplies, Telegraph Instruments, Electric Bells, Batteries, Magnets, Wires, Carbons, Zincs, and Electrical Materials of every description.

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

How to Keep Boilers Clean, and other valuable information for steam users and engineers. Book of sixty-four pages, published by Jas. F. Hotchkiss, 84 John St., New York, mailed free to any address.

Cope & Maxwell Mfg Co.'s Pump adv., page 398.

Supplement Catalogue.—Persons in pursuit of information on any special engineering, mechanical, or scientific subject, can have catalogue of contents of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT sent to them free.

Saw Mill Machinery. Steamers Mfg. Co. See p. 397.

Supplee Steam Engine. See adv. p. 397.

Punching Presses & Shears for Metal-workers, Power Drill Presses, all sizes. Power and Foot Lathes. Low Prices. Peerless Punch & Shear Co., 115 S. Liberty St., N. Y.

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

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

Peck's Patent Drop Press. See adv., page 398.

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

Presses & Dies, Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J. Corrugated Wrought Iron for Tires on Tractor Engines, etc.

Best Oak Tanned Leather Belting, Wm. F. Forpaugh, Jr. & Bros, 581 Jefferson St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Presses, Dies, Tools for Working Sheet Metals, etc. Fruit and other Can Tools. E. W. Bliss, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Improved Skinner Portable Engines. Erie, Pa.

Learn Telegraphy. Outfit complete, \$4.50. Catalogue free. J. H. Bunnell & Co, 112 Liberty St., N. Y.

List 27.—Description of 3,000 new and second-hand Machines, now ready for distribution. Send stamp for same. S. C. Forsyth & Co., Manchester, N. H., and N. Y. city.

For Pat. Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling, see Frisbie's adv. p. 413.

Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p. 413.

C. B. Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., Wood Working Machinery of every kind. See adv., page 412.

Safety Boilers. See Harrison Boiler Works adv., p. 412.

For best Portable Forges and Blacksmiths' Hand Blowers, address Buffalo Forge Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

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

Ball's Variable Cut-off Engine. See adv., page 448.

Paragon School Desk Extension Slides. See adv. p. 450.

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

Brass & Copper in sheets, wire & blanks. See ad. p. 450.

The None-such Turbine. See adv., p. 413.

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

The Chester Steel Castings Co., office 407 Library St., Philadelphia, Pa., can prove by 15,000 Crank Shafts, and 10,000 Gear Wheels, now in use, the superiority of their Castings over all others.

The Improved Hydraulic Jacks, Punches, and Tube Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St., New York.

Ajax Metals for Locomotive Boxes, Journal Bearings, etc. Sold in ingots or castings. See adv. p. 449.

Geiser's Patent Grain Thrasher, Peerless, Portable, and Traction Engine. Geiser Mfg. Co., Waynesboro, Pa. Tight and Slack Barrel machinery a specialty.

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 448.

Magic Lanterns and Stereopticons of all kinds and prices. Views illustrating every subject for public exhibitions, Sunday schools, colleges, and home entertainment. 116 page illustrated catalogue free.

Drop Hammers, Power Shears, Punching Presses, Die Sinks. The Pratt & Whitney Co., Hartford, Conn.

For Shafts, Pulleys, or Hangers, call and see stock kept at 75 Liberty St., N. Y. Wm. Sellers & Co.

Wm. Sellers & Co., Phila., have introduced a new injector, worked by a single motion of a lever.

The Sweetland Chuck. See illus. adv., p. 450.

Skinners' Chuck. Universal, and Eccentric. See p. 449.

Don't buy a Steam Pump until you have written Valley Machine Co., Easthampton, Mass.

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.

Correspondents sending samples of minerals, etc., for examination should be careful to distinctly mark or label their specimens so as to avoid error in their identification.

(1) P. J. asks: How shall I construct a furnace so that in evaporating cane juice the pan will boil all the way alike? In the last stage, the fire being diminished, I have to stir from back to front, which darkens the sirup. Will corrugating the after end do, or a bath of whale oil, as this oil will maintain a heat of 600° without boiling? If this or any other liquid will do we then can get the fire surface. A You might use as an equalizing bath a concentrated solution of calcium chloride or zinc chloride. The corrugations proposed would not help the matter.

(2) J. A. L. asks: Is there any substitute for quicklime in the oxyhydrogen light which will be more permanent and less fragile? A. A clear, well-burned magnesian lime, prepared from dolomite, is better than ordinary lime. There is no better substitute that we know of.

(3) T. H. C. writes: 1. The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN some time ago contained a reference to "Spence's" or "Spencer's" metal, a compound of sulphur with something else. Can you refer me to it, or describe it for me in your Notes and Queries? A. See answer to E. A. C., this page. 2. Do you know anything respecting the nature of tripolith, so called? A. No. You should address the manufacturers.

(4) S. S. Mfg. Co. ask: Will you please oblige us, through the medium of your valuable paper, with a recipe for making draughtsmen's sensitive paper for copying blue prints? It is extensively used by railroad companies for duplicating, and is a similar process to that used by photographers. A. Ammonia citrate of iron, 40 grains; distilled water, 1 oz.; dissolve and spread over the paper with a flat brush or glass rod. After drying (in the dark) expose to light under the negative. Develop by spreading over the paper the following solution: ferrocyanide of potassium, 1 drachm; water, 1 ounce. Rinse the developed blue print in plenty of soft water. To prevent fading, wash the print in a weak aqueous solution of ammonium carbonate (which will turn the color to a lavender hue), then wash in water and dry, when the blue color will be restored.

(5) J. D. B. asks: Is there a phosphorescent paint or wash that is of practical use in lighting, or that will assist in lighting a mill by night; and if so, how can it be made? A. For direction for preparing phosphorescent paint, see page 53, last volume. These paints are hardly of sufficient luminosity to aid much in illuminating apartments. 2. Also is there anything I can see on pine framework of a barn that will prevent horses from eating it? If so, what? A. Have you tried a thick lime wash?

(6) H. B. asks how to make a solution for silver plating—a solution that will deposit the silver in a polished state. A. See Stereotyping and Electrotyping, Electrometallurgy, in SUPPLEMENT, No. 310. 2. What is the best battery to use for the purpose? A. A bichromate cell is preferable. 3. Will a six-inch Grenet cell do? If not, why? A. If the work is quite small the Grenet cell may answer, but a larger cell would be better. 4. I have a bobbin, six inches in length, out of which I intend making an induction coil, but am in doubt as to what quantity of thick wire to use. A person told me that it was necessary to have an equal amount in weight of thick and fine wire. Is this true? A. No. 5. What number of fine wire is best to use for the purpose? A. No. 36. 6. On what does the power of the coil depend: on the number of feet of thick wire, number of feet of fine wire, or the thickness of the fine wire? A. On all, and upon an appropriate battery current. See Induction Coils, SUPPLEMENT, No. 160.

(7) E. A. C. asks: 1. Can you give me information in regard to the composition known as "Spence metal," of recent discovery and origin? Can it be procured in quantities. How can I get a specimen? A. See "Spence Metal," in SUPPLEMENT, No. 222. The metal is what may be called an alloy of sulphur and certain metallic sulphides—as iron sulphide. 2. Why is not aluminum produced cheaply for use in the mechanic arts? A. If the demand for aluminum were greater the cost of manufacturing it could be very considerably reduced. The cost is directly due to the high price of the metal sodium used in its reduction. 3. Is there any other metal of a very light specific gravity, say as light as aluminum or lighter, and with qualities, say, like lead and similar metals as to hardness and fusibility? A. We know of no such metal or alloy.

(8) J. L. writes: Would the developer, described in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of May 7, 1881, in answer to S. B. D., work without the addition of nitrate of silver? As the formula given by W. D. Richmond, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 226, shows that all of the AgNO₃ is converted into AgBr. I do not understand how development takes place. Please explain, showing reactions. A. The addition of silver was not recommended, and is not required. For the reaction of the iron developer consult any good work on the chemistry of photography.

(9) C. K. asks: Will you tell a number of us how thermometer tubes are graduated? A friend ordered a box of them. There were no two alike; all were of the same length. A. In the graduation of thermometers two points on the tube are first determined (after the instrument is filled and sealed properly), one to register the height of the column of mercury after fifteen minutes' exposure in pounded ice; the other the height of the column when the tube is exposed to steam at the atmospheric pressure (760 millimeters barometer). The space between these is then marked off into a certain number of equal degrees, according to the kind of scale to be used. Thus for the Fahrenheit scale the space would be divided into 180 parts or degrees, and the division continued downward beyond the lower mark, 32°, thus making 212 divisions in all—the lowest being zero on this scale, and the highest 212°, while the 32d division from the bottom registers the freezing point of water. In the Celsius or centigrade scale the space between the freezing and boiling points is divided into 100 parts or degrees, while in the Reaumur scale the same space is divided into 80°—the zero mark in these scales corresponding to the freezing point (32°) on the Fahrenheit scale.

(10) W. M. M. asks: Is there any difference of water level at the Isthmus of Panama, between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea? A. There is no absolute level; but, since the tides are much greater on the eastern side of the Isthmus, the water level at high tide on that side is several feet above high water level on the western side.

(11) F. H. G. asks: How can I make a solution for copper plating? A. See Electrometallurgy and Copper Deposits, in SUPPLEMENT, No. 310. 2. How to make the best razor strop paste? A. Ligated tin oxide (putty powder), 1 ounce; powdered oxalic acid, ¼ ounce; powdered gum, 20 grains; make into a stiff paste with water, and evenly and thinly spread it over the strop. Or, emery flour (finest), 2 parts; spermaceti ointment, 1 part; mix together and rub it over the strop. Or, jeweler's rouge, blacklead, and suet, equal parts.

(12) E. M. H. asks: 1. What can I use for packing the plunger of a lead pump for oil of vitriol? Rubber will not stand. A. Try asbestos packing. See our advertising columns for addresses of dealers. 2. Theoretically a small cell of battery should give the same electromotive force as a large one. I find a vast difference in favor of the large cell, in work actually performed on a motor. How is this? A. The internal resistance of a large cell is less than that of a small cell of the same type, and, as ordinarily constructed, the relative volume of liquid to active metal surface is greater, consequently the conditions of maximum current are longer maintained in the larger than in the smaller cell.

(13) W. T., Jr., asks: Has there been any means invented to successfully prevent the reuse of canceled postage stamps? A. No.

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

S. B.—It consists chiefly of copper and iron sulphide and carbonates, probably carrying silver. If the sample is representative of the body of ore, the property is likely to prove a valuable one.—R. J. C.—It is a piece of burnt iron or steel—of artificial origin.—M. A.—It is impure phosphocalcite—a native phosphate of copper.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

On German Hygienic and Life-saving Exhibition. On a Rainbow. By J. B. D.

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

FOR WHICH

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

December 6, 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., 87 Park Row, New York city. We also furnish copies of patents granted prior to 1860; but at increased cost, as the specifications not being printed, must be copied by hand.

Table listing various inventions such as Acid, manufacture of sulphuric, Benker & Lasne 250,416; Adding machine, W. M. Howland, 250,541; Aerial navigation and machinery for propelling the same, vessel for, A. L. Blackman, 250,417; Air, apparatus for purifying vitiated, R. Neale, 250,568; Alarm, See Low water alarm; Annunciator for telephone signals, J. B. Odell, 250,384; Apple corer, P. M. Ackerman, 250,474; Aspersorium, P. Schneider, 250,398; Axle box, car, J. Hooley, 250,538; Axle lubricator, car, G. F. Godley, 250,522; Baling press, F. K. Dederick (r), 250,956; Bail, See Tube welding bail; Bar, See Harvester finger bar; Battery, See Galvanic battery; Bedstead, sofa, H. R. Plimpton, 250,453; Beer cooler, C. Zimmer, 250,471; Belt tightener, J. F. Wilson, 250,617; Berry crate, C. D. Chapman, 250,341, 250,342; Bird cage, O. W. Taft, 250,400; Board, See Bosom board; Boiler, See Range boiler; Steam boiler; Bolt threading machine, L. W. Stockwell, 250,459; Book clasp, E. P. Hinkel, 250,536; Boot and shoe burnishing and polishing machine, Newton & Gilman, 250,383; Boot and shoe heels and soles, protecting plate for, L. Young, 250,410; Bosom board, Everett & Quinby, 250,550; Bottling machine, Lang & Breitenfeldt, 250,309; Bottling machine, compound, E. G. Chewing, 250,500; Box, See Axle box. Fare box. Loom shuttle box. Cigar box. Game box; Braid roll binder, P. J. Duggan, 250,428; Brake, See Sled brake. Wagon brake; Brush, J. R. Renness, 250,577; Bucket, sap, T. B. Hayward, 250,353; Buckle, G. M. Hubbard, 250,542; Buckle, shoe, J. Leiboldt, 250,447; Burner, See Lamp burner; Button, detachable, B. B. Manchester, 250,374; Button fastener, W. M. Hazel, 250,529; Button or stud, I. R. Dunham, 250,429; Camera plate holder, M. Flammang (r), 9,958; Cap, knit, C. F. Hoar, 250,440; Car coupler, G. O. Bishop, 250,388; Car coupling, S. T. & S. D. Autey, Jr., 250,480; Car coupling, C. L. Cloutman, 250,629; Car coupling, R. Jones, 250,366; Car couplings, draw bar attachment for, I. S. McGeehan, 250,563; Car curtain, flexible, H. N. E. Cottier, 250,345; Car, dumping, G. E. Boyden, 250,420; Car replacer, S. R. Owen, 250,683; Car seat, G. B. St. John, 250,597; Car, stock, S. P. Tallman, 250,461; Car wheel, A. D. Canfield, 250,496; Car wheels, manufacture of, Z. S. & L. W. Washburn, 250,497; Card, thread, A. Engisch et al., 250,430; Carpet and oil cloth fastener, J. A. Cole, 250,344; Carriage spring, J. F. Shaw, 250,399; Carriage wheel, J. Raddin (r), 9,963; Cartridge capper and uncapper, J. Thistlethwaite, 250,603; Case, See Writing case; Cask or barrel, knockdown, R. F. Adams, 250,475; Caster, L. M. Morehouse, 250,634; Chair, See Folding chair; Chair, J. W. H. Doubler, 250,546; Chuck, lathe, J. C. Baker, 250,415; Chuck, lathe, J. N. Skinner, 250,400; Churn, rocking, O. Gentsch, 250,521; Cigar box, S. Debriner, 250,427; Clamp, See Net clamp. Spring clamp; Clasp, See Book clasp. Yoke clasp; Cleaner, See Grain cleaner; Cloth cutting machine, N. B. Rafelson, 250,575; Clothes pounder, A. Patterson, 250,386; Clutch for hoisting apparatus, friction, D. R. Fraser, 250,433; Coal and rock drilling machine, F. M. Lechner, 250,370; Cock or valve, globe, P. G. Van Wie, 250,405; Coffee, etc., apparatus for roasting, P. Pearson, 250,571; Coffee roaster, G. W. Richmond, 250,578; Collar, horse, J. Herkimer, 250,355; Comb, See Currycomb; Commode chair, T. Russell, 250,396; Connecting rods, device for increasing the throw of, G. W. Golay, 250,523; Cooler, See Beer cooler; Copying pad, W. G. Morse, 250,380; Coupling, See Car coupling; Crate, See Berry crate; Crate for vegetables, fruit, etc., O. C. Brown, 250,628; Crib and cradle, folding, Wilbur & Hungerford, 250,531; Crutch, H. A. Heckler, 250,531; Cultivator, Evans & Draper, 250,512; Cultivator, J. W. Hudson, 250,361; Cultivator fender, G. W. Haviland, 250,527; Cultivator shovel, J. C. Heck, 250,550; Cupola and blast furnace, Thioilier & Laurent, 250,602; Currycomb, J. L. Dole, 250,349; Currycomb, W. E. Lawrence, 250,549; Cut-off and throttle valve for steam engines, safety, J. F. Barker, 250,332; Dental flask, J. R. Finney, 250,513; Drawer pull, H. H. Liemke, 250,371; Drill, See Rock drill; Electric circuit wires, underground conduit for, E. A. Kitzmiller, 250,548; Electric conductor, subterranean, S. Chester, 250,499; Electric machines, armature for dynamo, J. B. Livingston, 250,554; Elevator, See Hay elevator. Water elevator.