- chalk, 2 ounces turpentine, 1 ounce alcohol, 4 drachms spirits of camphor, and 2 drachms liquor of ammonia. Apply-this mixture to the article with a sponge, and allow to dry before polishing. 2. How to make a dressing for ladies' boots? A. See answer to query 27, Sci-ENTIFIC AMERICAN, vol. li., No. 17.
- (40) M. S. P. writes: 1. I have two fingers dislocated in the knuckle joints. The joints are considerably enlarged, and somewhat stiff and tender to pressure. What shall I use on them to reduce them to their natural size and usefulness? A. Consult a physician is the best thing to do. Tincture of iodine or solution of arnica, or indeed both, may be applied with advantage. 2. How shall I make a cheap and serviceable paint for tar paper roof? A. See "Receipt for Roofing Paint," in Scientific American Supplement, No. 113.
- (41) J. T. L. asks how to obtain a cement which can be used on crockery, etc., and not be uffected by hot water. A. Calcine oyster shells, pound and sift them through a Eleve, and gried them on a flat smooth stone with a muller till reduced to the finest powder, then take white of egg, and form the whole into a paste, join the pieces of glass or china, and press together 6 or 7 minutes. This cement will never yield if properly applied. Glue with which a little potassium bichromate is mixed becomes insoluble when exposed to the light.
- (42) J. G. asks: 1. What is acid phosphate of lime? A. The calcium phosphate which contains hydrogen. 2. Which is the best kind of molasses to use in the manufacture of shoe blacking? A. Ordinary common molasses. 3. A receipt for a first class blacking would be very acceptable. A. See four formulas in Scientific American, vol. li., No. 5, in answer to query 71, and numerous subsequent answers
- (43) L. W. asks the meaning of the photographic terms f 8, f 11.3, etc. A. The term f represents the equivalent focus of a lens, which we will say is seven inches. This is multiplied by 16 or 64, which transforms the seven inches into so many sixteenths or sixty-fourths inches, say 448. The diameter of the largest diaphragm measures perhaps 14 of an inch; the question then arises, What part of the total equivalent focus does that represent? We find it by dividing the \$ by 54, the diameter of the diaphragm:

Therefore the largest stop is equal to one eight and three-tenths of the equivalent focus, and we express it in terms f 83. These terms are uniform for any lens, hence it is much more intelligent to mark the stops in such terms than to call them 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., as is common. f 8.3 in any lens means relatively the same sized stop; we thereby can understand readily whether it is a large sized or small stop, and what sort of an illumination we should have on the ground gass,

- (44) J. H. W. asks what process of finishing Turkey red cloths undergo after leaving the dye vats, that is, from the time the cloth leaves the vats to the time when it is placed in the market for sale. A. The material is first singed over a flame or heated surface, then boiled in a soap solution, and this washed away with cold water. Next it is hot pressed under a hydraulic press at a high pressure with hot steam. In some cases it is stretched in a stretching machine. Details of the process may be found in either Professor Crookes' Practical Hand-Book of Dyeing and Calico Printing or Calvert's book on the
- (45) R. W. writes: A drum or pipe is filled with water, and the cap screwed on tight. This is put inside another and larger drum, which is also fastened steam tight. Steam is then admitted to the larger drum. Now, what will be the effect on the smaller drum? Will it burst or will it collapse? A. The effect will be to generate pressure in the inner drum, equal to the pressure of the steam admitted around it. There can be no collapsing of the interior drum, and the pressure within it and outside of it being equal, the water within the inner cylinder will be in much the same condition as that in an ordinary boiler generating steam, but without ebullition or foam ing.
- (46) W. C. F. asks: 1. What sized cell of the battery illustrated on first page of Supplement, No. 149, would be most economical for use in ringing electric bells? A. One quart cells will answer the purpose. 2. How many cells at each end would be required to ring an ordinary bell a distance of 600 feet over a No. 16 galvanized wire with good ground connection? A. Two at each end of the line will be required for so small a line wire; better use No. 12 for your line, when one cell will probably answer. 3. In dry plates by substituting the same for the original, giving surface required for plate for ground connection and what would the result be? A. If you use a 10x12 of lines, do you compute surface on both sides of the rapid rectilinear Dallmeyer lens on a 5x8 camera, the te or only ones A Both sides of the plates able.
- (47) B. & D. write: Please inform us through the columns of your paper what the difference than would be necessary ordinarily, and thereby have is between (if any) one square yard and one yard square, considering it as applied to flat or surface measure A. The term square yard signifies a surface equal to a rectangular surface measuring one yard along each of its sides. A square yard of surface may be of any shape. The term yard square applies to anything of rectangular form that measures one yard upon each of
- (48) W. B. P. asks: 1. Can a good working photographic camera be made from a lens taken from a Marcy sciopticon? It has no place for diaphragms Are they necessary? If so, can they be added? Where can I get specific directions? A. If your sciopticon has a first class objective, it may be used in photography You can apply diaphragms by securing a flat ring in the middle of the tube, and sawing into the side of the tube at the edge of the ring, so that you may insert diaphragms by the side of the ring. Diaphragms are often necessary to good definition and depth of field.

- clean silver—liquid or paste. A. Mix 8 ounces prepared use, or must it be kept in the dark, or be prepared fresh illuminating clouds with light flashes, but this plan is each time? A. Glue to which bichromate of potash impracticable. The only practicable way of telegraph-has been added must be kept in the dark or be ing by light flashes is to throw the light directly freshly prepared. 3. After it has dried and become insoluble in water, does it become hard and brittle? A. Yes. 4. Is frequent oiling good for a new harness? A. Yes, if oiled with neatsfoot oil. 5. Ought it to be oiled each time it is cleaned? A. Yes. 6. Can you recommend a preservative dressing that will leave the leather bright and smooth, so that dust will not adhere and water will not penetrate? A. Consult Supplement,
 - for a lacquer for varnishing an old theodolite? A. Good lacquer can be made by dissolving seed lac in far as we know, have proved to be very uneconomical. 95 per cent alcohol, afterward filtering the varnish thus produced, and coloring it with turmeric or dragon's blood. If you are unable to procure seed lac, use the best quality of white shellac instead. The article to be lacquered should be slightly warmed before applying the lacquer, to prevent it from becoming chilled. The lacquering should be done in a very warm room, and as soon as possible after the application of the lacquer the article lacquered should be warmed, either by placing it in an oven or by applying to it the heat of a Bunsen gas burner or alcohol lamp. 2. Which is the working side of the inclosed piece of drawing paper? A. The rough side. 3. Is the concave side of rolled paper always the working side? In some papers there are no water letters. A. It should be, because the working side is ın that way kept clean.
 - (50) Querist asks: I have seen several articles published in regard to oil on the troubled waters, but no satisfactory solution of the phenomenon. The idea has occurred to my mind that electricity may have something to do with it. It is a well known fact that oil is almost a non-conductor of electricity; that being the case, are there different kinds or qualities of electricity in combination with the atmosphere and the and would an insulator destroy the attraction? Does the wind passing over the water create friction enough the electricity generated by the passage of the wind over the surface of the water is immediately conducted away by the water. It is probable that electricity has nothing whatever to do with the quieting effect of the oil upon the water.
 - (51) C. W. T. asks: 1. Are steel screws stronger than brass? A. Yes. 2. Is there any way simpler than plating them, to prevent rust? A. Bluing them will prevent rusting to a great extent; nickel or brass plating is probably better. 3. Would not bricks set in Portland cement make good ballast for flat bottomed sailboat? A. They would answer very well, although heavier material would be better. 4. Would not screws serve as well as nails in putting- a flat bottomed boat together? A. Yes.
 - (52) E. W. R. asks (1) how celluloid stereotypes are made. A. Celluloid stereotypes made by placing the dried mould and the celluloid of which the stereotype is to be made in a frame provided with a spring, which will keep the celluloid under constant pressure. The whole is then immersed in hot oil, until the celluloid is sufficiently softened to be forced into the mould by the spring. 2. What to put on, to prepare plaster of Paris moulds for casting? I have no trouble to make the moulds, but cannot fill them with metal so as to make a perfect cast. A. Plaster of Paris moulds for metal stereotypes must be very thoroughly dried before any attempt is made to use them. The common method of drying them is to bake them in an oven until no further moisture can be removed in that way. They are then immersed in the melted metal, face upward, and allowed to remain until bubbles cease to rise from the mould. It is then lifted from the melted metal, bringing with ita portion of the metal, and supported in a horizontal position until the metal is cooled.
 - (53) F. W. T. asks: 1. Would Swedish iron do as well as soft cast iron for armature? A. It would answer very well, but would be no better. 2. How can I stop the articles turning black when plating nickel? Consult Supplement, No. 310. 3. Would I have a right to sell the machine I am making? A. We cannot reply to this query without knowing what kind of machine you are making. 4. What kind of a gas is made by putting zinc in nitric acid? A. Hydrogen gas.
 - (54) O. A. writes: I possess a camera front Dallmeyer lens, 10x12, rapid rectilinear, lenses 2 inches diameter. Could I use it in a camera 5x8 for ture will be too large in proportion to the plate. This may be remedied byplacing the camera at a much further distance from the object to be photographed the picture of a proportionate size.
 - (55) C. J. F. writes: I have bent seven pieces of tire steel 1 inch by 1/4 inch into a uniform horseshoe shape, and bound them together. They weigh about 20 pounds. What quantity of wire and what gauge will I require to work it as an electromagnet. Also, how many Bunsen cells will it require and the probable strength of attraction? A. Steel is not suitable for the cores of electro-magnets. You should use the softest iron, with a winding of No. 16 wire, and with iron cores of the size given you would require about four Bunsen cells. Such a magnet ought to sustain from 200 to 300 pounds.
- (56) J. M. A. writes: I would like to know if it is absolutely necessary in using Mangin's optical telegraph (Supplement, No. 284, page 4522) that nothing should intervene between the observers. Can the instrument be made to reflect a beam of light upward so

- from one station to the other. There can be no intervening object. Consult Supplement, Nos. 253, 258,
- (57) T. McN. asks: Will you please tell hy rotary engines have never come into practical use? What the objections to them, etc.? Can you furnish me any work treating of them? A. Because they are practically far inferior to the reciprocating engine, and because they are theoretically no better; also because (49) B. A. L. asks: 1. A practical receipt of the difficulty of constructing a rotary engine with suitably packed contact surfaces. Rotary engines, so You will find most of the types of rotary engines described in Reauleaux, Kinematics of Machinery.
- (58) J. D. writes: 1. I should like to know how large can a dynamo machine be made like the one described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161? Is there any danger of the wire on the armature swinging out and touching the electro-magnet? If made on a much larger scale.does the thickness of wire want to be increased accordingly? A. A few years ago these machines were made of quite large sizes, and many of them are now in use for the electric deposition of metals, but they have been superseded by more efficient and economical machines. In large machines the armature is grooved circumfer entially at different points along its length, to receive a binding wire which is wound around the iron and the wire forming the conductor of the armature to restrain it, and prevent it from being thrown out by centrifugal action. 2. What is a good thing to mix with rouge to keep in a paste, such as is sold in the stores in tin boxes for polishing purposes? A. A mixture of beeswax and olive oil. 3. What is oxide of tin soluble in? A. Protoxide of tin is soluble in acids. Binoxide of tin when fused with alkalies or their carbonates forms compounds which are soluble in water. 4. Is there any water? If so, have they any attraction for each other, rule laid down in which the different numbers of wire can be known in parts of an inch? A. Nearly all electrical works contain tables in which the various sizes of to excite or produce electricity similar to friction of wire are given in fractions of an inch. 5. What is a metals? Or would the wind passing over oil (that being good hard paste for a razor strap? A. See answer to a non-conductor) confine the different kinds of No. 2. 6. What is the wire made of that is used in the air, and the water kind to the water? A. We think extend through the glass are platinum. The loop which gives the light is a filament of carbon.
 - (59) F. E. P. asks: 1. How many times will the hammer of a common clock strike from noon till 6 o'clock in the evening? A. Twenty-seven times. The striking mechanism of a clock is released exactly at the close of the hour, so that the striking for any hour of the day really transpires after that hour has passed. For this reasonall of the hours which would be struck between noon and six o'clock would be 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 the sum of which is 27.
 - (60) T. P. E. asks the origin of the length of the yard measure. Also why St. Rupert's drop was so called? A. The vard appears to have had its origin in England in the reign of Henry the First, "who ordered that the ancient ell should be made of the exact length of his own arm, and that the other measures of length should be based upon it.", In 1824 it was enacted by the English Parliament that if the standard yard should be lost or defaced, it should be restored by making a new standard yard bearing the same proportion to a pendulum vibrating seconds in London as 36 inches bears to 39 1393 inches, the latter being the length of a pendulum vibrating seconds in London. This measurement, however, was found incorrect when the attempt was made to reproduce the standard vard, after the destruction of the Parliament House by fire in 1834. The standard was restored by making four standard yards from the best authenticated copies of the old standard. These duplicates are the bases of the present United States and English standards of length .-Prince Rupert's drops were so called from Prince Rupert, who carried them to England and showed them to Charles II., in 1661.
 - (61) M. A. W. sends a plant for identification. A. It is the Monotropa uni flora, known by the common names of Indian pipe, corpse plant, ice plant,
 - (62) J. W. M. writes: 1. When grinding with an emery wheel, is it the iron or the emery that gets in the eyes and is so hurtful? A. Both emery and iron are thrown off in the operation of grinding with emery wheels. If the particles become embedded in the eye, so that they cannot be removed with a pointed stick, the end of which has been slightly bruised and wet between the teeth, you should apply to a competent surgeon. It is always best while using an emery wheel to employ some protection for the eyes. 2. What is the best way to get it out? Also give me a receipt for making a good soap to take off grease from the hands, such as oil, from a dirty machine shop. A. Tryalcohol and aqua ammonia equal parts.
- (63) J. F. W. writes: I am about commence the study of insectology, and have been told to get a microscope; what powers will be required? A. You will require a microscope of medium quality, with about three objectives and two eyepieces. The entire insect should be examined first with a low power, say a two inch; then the general structure may be examined by a higher power, say a 3.4; finally, the details will require a 1-4 or 1-5. 2. Which is the more interesting study—insects or botany? A. It depends entirely upon the taste of the student; both subjects are deeply interesting, and might be conveniently carried on together. 3. I had a collection of moths, butterflies, and insects; some kind of an insect got into my boxes and destroyed them. Is it not the cabinet heetle? A. Probably. The buffalo moth is also destructive of specimens of this kind. 4. Is there any preparation with which I can capture nocturnal insects? A. By employing a light and a net you will be able to secure the insects. Ordinary sticky flypaper might be of some service in this connection. 5. In capturing meects last summer, I killed them by dropping them in a bottle in which I had previously burnt a piece of sulphur. Is there any better way? Prussic acid. I have been told. A. Place Clamp. See Gripping clamp. as to be visible 25 miles, the country level but heavily better way? Prussic acid. I have been told. A. Place

- (39) A. F. C. asks (1) for a preparation to has been added be kept in a common glass bottle for lenses? A. Telegraph signals have been produced by down the neck insert a pledget of cotton. Place a few drops of ether or chloroform on the cotton, and close the mouth of the bottle with a cork.
 - (64) L. M. F.—The lower layer of bricks undoubtedly supports the entire building.
 - (65) M. R., Jr., writes: What is the latest discovery in metallizing a non-metallic substance, like wood or plaster of Paris, for instance? I wish to electroplate wood and plaster of Paris figures, and do not want to take moulds of them in wax. I know that by first coating the substance with wax or paraffine plumbago will adhere to it, but I wish to learn of a speedier way of preparing them for the bath. A. We know of no speedier way of preparing articles for the electro deposit of copper than the one you describe. There are different ways, however, among which are the deposition of a film of silver, also the covering of the objects with the bronze powder.

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November 24, 1885,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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