### RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS. Electrical.

RHEOSTAT. - Thomas J. Parrish, Nevada, Mo. The base plate of this device is preferably made of hard ruhber, brass or wood, with binding posts at one end and at the other end an upright supporting a helical coil with hollow central chamber, where a slide is arranged to move into or out of the coil, an external spring being adapted to bear upon different portions of the exterior of the coil to transmi the current through more or less of the coil, as desired.

PHONOGRAPH. — James . P. Magenis. North Adams, Mass. This is a device in which, com bined with the record cylinders, is a mouthpiece fur nished with diaphragms having tracing points, a track to support the mouthpiece in the position of use, and other novel features, forming a phonograph in which a record may be made on two cylinders simultaneously, so that one may be retained as a file, or a message may be repeated from one cylinder to another.

SUPPORT FOR TELEPHONE RECEIVERS. -Simon Lebenberg, Berlin, Germany. This is a device to enable the receiver to be held and adjusted for use to leave the hand at liberty for writing, etc., and consists of a horizontal jointed bracket in vertical bearings, vertically movable upright in the outer member of the bracket, with a horizontal arm having at its outer end vertical spring clamps and connected by a universa joint to the upright.

DRILL HOLE MAGNET. - Charles S. Porter, Ivanhoe Furnace, Va. This is a magnet for lifting particles of iron and steel, broken bits, etc from drill holes, being a permanent bar magnet flattened at one end and perforated to receive the link of a chain, while the keeper is formed of a bar of soft iron with its ends curved over toward each other and fitted to tightly clamp the ends of the permanent magnet, to preserve its strength when not in use.

#### Mechanical.

SANDPAPERING MACHINE. - Axel K Hatteberg, Marshfield, Wis. This is a machine which provides for the holding of the work in yielding contact with the sandpapering cylinders, for a reciproca tion of these cylinders in a line parallel with the shaft axes, and for the adjustment of the machine so that it can be readily used with material of different thick-

SPINNING AND TWISTING. - Johann Boelsterli, Fussen, Bavaria, Germany. This is flier and drag device for spinning and twisting machines in which the flier is independent of the bobbin spindle and terminates in a tubular spindle which rotates on a fixed bearing, the fibrous substance passing through this spindle or its bearing, over one arm of the flier, and downward and around half of the periphery of a ring connecting the ends of the filer arms, and thence to the spool, making a stronger spindle and giving easier ac

MOTIVE POWER FOR JIGGERS.—James Nicholas, Benton, Wis. The upper ends of the pitmen of two oppositely placed balance wheels are secured to the outer ends of the tongues of one or more jigging machines, a large central drive cog wheel, rotated by a crank handle, communicating rapid motion to the balance wheels through side shafts and pinions, whereby the work will be lightened and its amount greatly increased, the device being also applicable to a variety of

VISE.—Charles Wies, Faulkton, South Dakota. This is an improvement in that class of vises whose sliding jaw is operated by a cam lever pivoted on the fixed jaw, and having a pendent lip or flange engaging shoulders or teeth on the shank of the sliding jaw, thenovel feature being the means for pivoting and detachably holding the cam lever on the fixed jaw.

# Miscellaneous.

MAP CASE. — Charles M. Terrell and Hiram M. Chittenden, Omaha, Neb. This case has a transparent front, and two rollers are revolubly mounted in the case at proper distances apart, a web of flexible material being wrapped on the rollers and adapted by simple mechanism to be transferred from roller to roller reciprocally, thereby exposing any map, design, engraving, or like article to view, as it is drawn before the transparent face of the case.

TIME AND DATE CALCULATOR. - William R. Will, Baltimore, Md. This is a device more especially for use in banks and offices for mechanically determining the number of days between two dates. and consists of two stationary concentric scales oppositely numbered from 1 to 365, combined with a similarly numbered rotary adjustable circular scale, with other novel features.

AERIAL MACHINE. - Stewart Cairncross, Grafton, North Dakota. The gas bag of this machine is held to a suitable frame by netting, and on the lower face of the frame is a shaft carrying a propelier wheel to be operated by gearing devices from the cage below, the machine being normally adjusted to counterbalance the weight of the operator, so that it will only rise as he operates the propeller wheel, but the adjustment being such as to permit guiding the machine in any direction.

MIDDLINGS PURIFIER. - Robert L. Hott'el. Cedarville. Cal. This is a machine designed to be simple and durable in construction and very effective in operation, the invention covering various novel parts and details and their combinations

FRACTURE APPARATUS. - Thomas M. Miller, Medford, Wis. This invention provides a device whereby a fractured limb may be held in position for bandaging or the application of plaster of Paris with the least inconvenience to the patient, while affording great facility for the operator, and whereby also the limb may be stretched or raised and lowered as desired, with rests for the limb capable of lateral ad-

COAL ELEVATOR.-Angus H. McLean, Saginaw, Mich. This elevator is designed especially for loading coal from a bin into the tender of an engine, and provides means whereby the bucket will be raised by the engine, and at the proper moment, as the ender is brought in front of the bucket, the latter will be dumped to deliver the coal into the tender,

BOX CLAMP.-Robert H. Blair, Kansas City, Mo. This is a clamp especially adapted for use on xes containing nursery stock, where there is consider able spring to the sides of the box, the clamp consisting essentially of two upright side pieces adapted to fit against the sides of the box, each piece having an angular lower end to fit beneath the box, and having notches near the top, a cross bar with a slot in one end fitting upon the side pieces, provided with a swinging lever adapted to engage the notches.

VEHICLE SPRING. - Phaon J. Kern, Frankfort, Ind. This invention relates more particularly to springs for road carts, providing what is designed to be a simple, cheap, and effective arrange-ment of springs, the invention consisting in the novel rrangement and peculiar combination of parts

DESK AND ITS SUPPORTS.-William A. Roos, New York City. This invention is more particularly designed for a window desk, or for desks to be used in doorways, and other places, and provides novel combinations of parts for supporting the desk, adjusting its top to various angles, shutting or closing when not needed, and its ready attachment and detachment.

STEAM FOOD COOKER. - Olive C. Christin, Bodie, Cal. This cooker has several sections, he lower one being a boiler and the upper sections divided into compartments with through and through passages for the steam, whereby several different kinds of edibles may be cooked at once, with economy of time, space, labor and fuel, and without giving one the flavor of the other.

Door CHECK .- Charles W. Fishel and rank S. Hotchkiss, Carbondale, Col. This is a door holder whose main feature is a spring catch adapted to receive and firmly clasp a knob or projection attached to the door, the spring catch being inclosed in and protected by a detachable barrel or tube applied to the part having a screw for attaching it to the wall.

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

# BUILDING EDITION

AUGUST NUMBER.-(No. 58.)

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- 3. Chateau de Chenonceaux, erected in the reign of Francisthe First. Page engraving.
- 4. A cottage at Villa Park, New York. Cost \$3,400 complete. Floor plans, perspective elevation, etc.
- 5. A residence on Chester Hill, Mount Vernon, N. Y. Cost \$5,500 complete. Perspective view and floor
- 6. A block of city residences erected for Dr. F. E. Robinson, on West End Avenue, New York City. Floor plans and perspective view.
- General view and details of Festival Hall of the Union of German Singers at Vienna.
- 8. Residence at Greenwich, Conn. Cost \$7,800. Perspective and floor plans.
- 9. Dwelling at Stamford, Conn. Cost \$5,000. Plane and perspective elevation.
- 10. A dwelling at Holyoke, Mass., erected at a co \$9,500 complete. Rossiter & Wright, New York, architects. Floor plans and perspective view.
- 11. Dwelling and store at Mount Vernon, N. Y. W S. Stickles, architect, Mount Vernon. Cost \$5,600 complete. Plans and perspective elevation
- 12. An elegant residence erected on the Highlands, Springfield, Mass., at a. cost of \$6,000. Floor plans and perspective view.
- Attractive stable at Montclair, N. J. Cost com plete \$3,200. J. C. Cady, New York, architect.
- 14. Miscellaneous: Steam as a fire extinguisher. Trees and streets. - Portrait and biographical lightning rods. - An improved square chisel mortiser and borer, illustrated.—Zinc and brick work.-The Hartman sliding blinds, - An improved mitering machine, illustrated.-An improved twist machine, illustrated.-An improved heater, illustrated .- A perfect sanitary wash tub. illustrated.-An improved bench plane, illustrated .- A large contract for steel roofing .- New York Central Iron Works Company,

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## 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.

For Sale-New and second hand iron-working machinery. Prompt delivery. W. P. Davis. Rochester, N.Y. Acme engine, 1 to 5 H. P. See adv. next issue,

Tuerk water motors at 12 Cortlandt St., New York, sees & Dies. Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J Holsting Engines. The D. Frisbie Co., New York city, Billings' Drop Forged Lathe Dogs, 12 sizes—% to 4 nches. Billings & Spencer Co., Hartford, Conn.

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

Best Ice and Refrigerating Machines made by David Boyle, Chicago, Ill. 155 machines in satisfactory u Tight and Slack Barrel Machinery a specialty. John

Greenwood & Co., Rochester. N.Y. See illus. adv., p. 13. Screw machines, milling machines, and drill presses The Garvin Mach. Co., Laight and Canal Sts., New York. Veneer machines, with latest improvements. Farrel Fdry. and Mach. Co., Ansonia, Conn. Send for circular. For Sale—Patented register for machines. No. 432,441, issued July 15, 1690. See page 89. Address R. Ruhlman, Trentor, N. J.

Guild & Garrison, Brooklyn, N. Y., manufacture steam pumps, vacuum pumps, vacuum apparatus, air pumps, acid blowers, filter press pumps, etc.

The Holly Manufacturing Co., of Lockport, N. Y. rill send their pamphlet, describing water works chinery, and containing reports of tests, on application.

The best book for electricians and beginners in electricity is "Experimental Science," by Geo. M. Hopkins.

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## HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information, and not for publication.

References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question.

Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and though we endeavor to reply to all, either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn.

Special Written Issormation on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration.

Scientistic American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each.

Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price.

price.

Wimerale sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(2363) E. W. H. asks: What kind of material is generally used for halloons? A. Muslin varnished with liuseed oil varnish is often used. For an excellent article on the subject we refer you to our SUPPLEMENT, No. 726. Silk is often recommended, but is too expensive, and probably more liable to heating while stowed away.

(2364) C. A. asks: 1. What is the mode of cleaning a meerschaum pipe? Please give process fully. A. Cork up the stem aperture, moisten the interior of the bowl with a little alcohol, and light it. When burned out, scrape the charcoal out with a knife, A button of meerschaum should be kept in the bottom of the bowl to prevent the point of the knife penetrating the base and spoiling the pipe. 2. What is mode of connections on the old style frictional plate electric machine, and what materials should rubbers be made of? A. Elther the rubbers or prime conductor must be insulated, and the one that is not insulated should beconected to the ground. The rubbers may be made of feltrubbed with a very little grease and an amalgam of tin and mercury. S. A good recipe for ginger beer. A. Crush sixteen ounces of the best ginger, and put it in a large tub, boil ten galions of water and pour thereon sketch of John Ruskin.-A porch covered with add six pounds best white sugar, one ounce cream of clematic montana, illustrated. - Prevention of tartar, and ounce tartaric acid, stir the whole up with a decay in stone.—The porcelain tower at Nankin.

The Howard heater, illustrated.—Effective sufficiently cooled, then add one pint brewer's yeast; stir this in, let it stand for twelve hours or until a scum forms on the top, then drain it off, add one ounce of soluble essence of lemon, clarify, bottle, and tie

> (2365) J. P. asks how he can plate a sil er ring with gold and not use an electric current. A You must apply amalgam gliding. The article is quicked " by dipping into a solution of nitrate of mercury. It is then rubbed with an amalgam of gold 1 part mercury 3 parts. A brush is used for the rubbing. It is then gradually heated until the mercury is all exwhich requires less than a red heat, and is rubbed up and polished. This is an extinct art practically, as battery plating has displaced it.

> (2366) L. W. asks how to detect tinctura cantharidis in coffee. A. Extract the coffee with ether or chloroform and evaporate to dryness. By volatiliza tion, pure cantharidin mixed with caffeine can be obtained. Weak alkali will dissolve the cantharidin. Precipitate with acid, filter, and test by second volatilization and examine under the microscope, comparing it with a sample of known cantharidin.

(2867) H. V. asks where he can pura book of designs used for papier mache decors-

tions and terra cotta workings, designs that would answerfor interior and exterior work on houses. A. We can supply you with Interior Decoration, by Brunner & Tryon, \$3. 2. Would you also inform me what is the composition of the plaster work on the outside of frame houses? A. Use a cement mortar, 1 part Port land or even Rosendale cement to 11/2 or 2 parts sand. The only rule to apply in working rapidly setting cement or plaster of Paris is to mix the ingredients dry, then moisten and mix, and only mix small quantities.

(2368) J. H. J. asks how to blacken brass and German silver. A. A very simple process consists in dipping the metal in solution of nitrate of copper and heating over a flame or clear fire. This must be repeated until a black is produced. Or proceed thus: Polish with tripoli or other agent, then wash with a solution of 1 part nitrate of tin and 2 parts chloride of gold; after 12 or 15 minutes wipe off. If the solution is acid, the color will be darkened.

(2369) F. P. asks (1) for the best preparaon to use of soda and tartaric acid for aerated water. A. Use 4 parts bicarbonate of soda to 31/4 parts tartaric acid. A slight excess of acid may be used to give pleasant acidity. 2. Is there anything better or cheaper that can be used without a special apparatus? A. No.

(2370) M. H. asks: 1. Is there such a thing as liquid vaseline? A. No. Kerosene and heavy paraffine oils may be taken as the nearest approach to it. 2. What is the most practical formula for determining the flow of water from an artesian well? A. Determine the head of water or pressure at the mouth, and apply the formula

#### 82 a 1/29 h

in which a=area of pipe in square feet, and h head in feet, and g=32.5. 3. What is the formula for determining the number of gallons of water discharged per minute by a mountain stream? A. Determine its profile and the current velocity, and calculate the flow from these data. 4. For determining the number of gallons of water discharged per minute by a river. A mine its profile and the current velocity at different depths, and from these calculate the amount of water. Can the magnetic variation be found by means of an ordinary compass, Jacob mounting, or ball and socket movement? A. Not very accurately. Works on surveving tell how to determine the true meridian, with which you can compare your compass. We can supply you with "A Practical Treatise on Surveying," by Gillespie, price \$3.50. 6. What is the best method to preserve poplar trees from being worm-eaten, and what is the scientific name of the worm that destroys them? A. Spray with Parisgreen and water. For publications and information on subject, address the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

(2371) J. H. J. writes: 1. Where are phonographic dolls to be purchased, and what is the price? A. For phonograph dolls, address the North American Phonograph Company, New York, N. Y. 2. Professor Steele, in his Series in the Natural Sciences, gives two experiments with sodium sulphate (Na $_1$ SO $_4$ , 10H $_2$ O); one is given in his "Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry," page 133, bottom of page, the other in his "Popular Physics," page 251, bottom of the page. I have tried both of these, and do not succeed. Can you suggest what the difficulty is? A. Sometimes these experiments in crystallization fail unaccountably. By using fresh soda sulphate each time you have a better chance of success. S. In catalogues of "weights of precision" I have seen "riders" spoken of in connection with some sets. What are they and what is their use? A. A "rider" is a weight made of wire that is used like a steelyard weight upon the arm of the balance which must be graduated, generally in twelfths. Thus a twelve milligramme rider gives one milligramme for each division. 4. In a great number of receipts paraffine is used. What is paraffine? Druggists in Shanghai tell me it is an extra refined kerosene oil. Is this right? A. Paraffine wax is meant—the substance from which paraffine candles are made. It is a white solid substance. a product of distillation of coal. It is not an oil in your case, although it is a common name for refined petroleum

(2372) G. W. writes: In the process of rendering fat and hone boiling from the refuse of markets, a very strong and disagreeable odor is engendered. By the most recent machinery this odor is directed from the vat through a pipe to a furnace fire. The pressure forcing the odor in steam form through the coal bed in the furnace from six to eight inches thick. Now the question is does this odor become odorless from this furnace heat, or is it brought back through the chimney in a warm form with the same smell to foul the air? Would, the smell be greater some distance from the factory, say a mile to a mile and a half, than near to it? A. The process described we should judge could be made perfectly effectual, and would quite destroy the odors if properly conducted. The odoriferous compounds would be oxidized and decomposed, not merely disseminated. No smell should be found near to or far from the factory.

(2373) P. I. W. M. Co. asks: Can you give process for recovering metals? We melt antimony lead, and tin together. We have a quantity of the ash or dross. We wish to separate the metal from waste. A. The dross undon btedly consists of the oxides of the metals. By melting in crucibles with powdered charcoal at a high heat, some could be recovered, but probably not enough to pay. By proper precautions the waste could be kept low. We would sugge-t keeping melted salt upon the metal in the crucibles, or even a layer of charcoal in coarse powder, and also keeping the crucibles covered.

(2374) C. C. W. writes: I have some pieces of serpentine rock which I wish to polish highly on one surface. Can you tell me how to do this? A. This has to be done by rubbing with proper polishing agent. A piece of moist sandstone may be used to produce the flat surface, or a plate of iron with sand and water will answer. This is followed by pumice stone ground to a flat face, and then a compact linen cushion is used with fine emery. Finally apply to the washed surface putty powder and water with a linen cushion. In Workshop Receipts, 1st series, \$2, there is quite an article on the subject under "Marble Working.

(2375) W. H. H. asks why it is that the manufacturers of best grades of barometers, both mercurial and aneroid, place the words stormy at about 28, rain at 29, dry at about 31°, when the instrument has no such range. Is it not misleading and erroneous? A. It is misleading, and the custom should be abandoned. The variations of the barometer in conjunction with other meteorological observations may be used to foretell the weather. In any case and under the best conditions there is much uncertainty.

(2376) S. L. asks: What kind of red powder is used in the manufacture of the metal polishing paste used for polishing all kinds of metal? A. Red oxide of iron, colcothar or jeweler's rouge may be used for this purpose in the proportion of 25 parts to 20 parts of rotten stone. Both enter into the formula.

(2377) G. F. C. asks how to make a good rosewood stain. A. Boil 1/2 pound of logwood chips in 3 pints of water until very dark, then add 1/2 ounce salts of tartar. Stain wood with boiling hot mixture. When nearly dry, repeat. Two or three coats can be given. Streaks can be made on it with black stain applied with a graining brush. The black stain is made by boiling 1 pound logwood chips in 4 quarts of water and adding a double handful of walnut husks. After boiling, stain. Good ink may be used for the black

(2378) U. L. H. asks: 1. What is the best method to clean sea shells and prepare them for the cabinet? A. If in good natural condition, no cleaning is needed. If encrusted with parasitic calcareous mat ter, it can be removed with an engraver's tool or other similar instrument. A very weak mixture of hydrochloric acid and water may be used as a last resort They should be soaked in cold water, dried well, oiled and polished by rubbing. 2. How are star fish and sea weeds best preserved? A. Immerse in fresh water for some hours, extended and pinned down upon a plank and dried. Thrust the pins into the wood by the side of the rays, not through them. Dry in the shade. The flesh should be cut out of the larger specimens and a preservative applied before drying. 3. How are shells polished in the quickest manner? A. Place in cold water with quick lime and boil for some hours, cool slowly, apply strong acid to the epidermis, which will peel off. Polish with rotten stone and oil. 4. What is the best illustrated work on conchology? recommend and can supply Structural and Systematic Conchology, by Tyron, 1 vol., cloth, \$12. 5. Where can I get a work on polishing shells, and a guide for lapidaries? A. We can supply you with a Handbook for Artisians, Mechanics, and Engineers, by Byrne, price \$5, which contains a chapter on lapidary work. 6. Is the process of embalming birds of any value? A. No. 7. How are fine shells shipped, also star fish? A. Pack as you would glass or china. 8. How long will specimens keep in alcohol? A. Indefinitely.

(2379) H. W. S. asks the meaning of the words "present" or "addressed," used in sending a letter to a person not far off A. "Present" should mean left by writer, but is used often when a letter is sent by hand. "Addressed" seems to have no special meaning in this connection.

(2380) J. J. C. writes: I have a small barrel which held orange wine, and I wish to make root beer in it. How can I clean the cask? There is a sort of a mould in it. A. Fill one-quarter of the cask with water, burn salphur in it, and shake repeatedly, removing the sulphur if necessary while shaking. This will destroy the mould if done well and effectually.

# Replies to Enquiries.

The following replies relate to enquiries recently pub lished in Scientific American, and to the numbers

W. T. M., in query 2348, in July 26 issue of the Scientific American, asks how to cut a large glass bottle. The method you recommend him you acknowledge to be a dubious one. If your correspondent will use a sharp triangular file kept wet with turpentine, he can file the glass with case. It takes patience, but it will be successful.

Answer to query 2353, to keep milk or butter cool in warm weather. Take tin vessel, say 10 or 12 inches diameter and 4 or 5 inches deep. The cover should be conical, the center being raised 3 or 4 inches. On this place a linen cloth, large enough to hang over the side of the vessel. Take about a dozen strands of woolen yarn, slightly twist them together a portiou of their length. From the cone of the cover spread the single strands of yarn over the linen. Immerse the twisted portion in a bucket of water near the can. One bucket of water will suffice for several cans. They should be placed on a bench under the shade of a tree. By this method milk may be kept sweet in the hottest weather .- J. M. C., Independence, Mo.

# NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
A discussion of the best methods of treatment of the sewage of farm houses, isolated country houses, sub-urban dwellings, houses in villages and smaller towns, and of larger institutions, such as hospitals, asylums, hotels, prisons, colleges, etc., and of the disposal of garbage, ashes and other solid house refuse. By Wm. Paul Gerhard, C.E. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1890. Pp. 1890 193. Price 50c.

This little work has as the best evidence of its use fulness the author's name. Mr. Gerhard's authorship gives it the proper stamp. We can confidently recom mend it to all interested in sanitary, engineering as an excellent exposition of country and suburban practice

PRACTICAL ENGINEERING FOR ELECTRIC LIGHT ARTISANS AND STUDENTS.
By W. Slingo and A. Brooker. London and New York: Longmans,
Green & Co. 1890. Pp. vi, 631.

contribution is found in the present work to the science of engineering. It purports to be for electric light artisans and students and to embrace branches prescribed in the syllabus of the institute just mentioned. As this syllabus happens to be a very exhaustive one, the work is also comparatively complete. It will be found of value for students and readers in general. We presume it is well adapted for its end, facilitating the work of passing the examinations of the London examining bodies.

#### TO INVENTORS.

An experience of forty years, and the preparation of more than one hundred thousand applications for patentast home and abroad enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all foreign countries may be had on application, and persons contemplating the securing of patents, either at home or abroad, are invited to write to this office for prices, which are low, in accordance with the times and our ex-MUNN & CO., office Scientific American, 361 Broadway, New York,

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