

strong enough to float an egg. Used to preserve eggs, which it is said it will do for two years, by simply keeping them in it. But we have not tested the process.

(3345) A. W. writes: I want to make a frame with a strong cloth fastened around it, about 3 feet by 4 feet, so I can use it to sketch on with chalk, colored or black, and afterward wash it off clean with a sponge. Glass ground is liable to break, and a board that wide cannot be had here, and would be heavy. I have been using common cheap muslin, and getting it washed after, and using it over again. Cannot cloth (muslin) be prepared in some way as to be used for the above purpose like a blackboard, but white? A. You can prepare cloth like a blackboard by several coats of paint, rubbing down between times with ground pumice. As a final coat use white lead mixed with enough ground pumice to give a "tooth" to the cloth. Or you may use shellac varnish mixed with Chinese white and ground pumice as the final coat.

(3346) J. E. E.—Gutta percha is made to adhere and act as cement by means of heat. One of the most convenient ways of using it is to place a thin sheet of the percha between the surfaces to be joined, and then apply heat by means of a hot pressing iron, applied on the back of the leather until the heat strikes through and melts the percha. This is the mode used by tailors in cementing leather and cloth to cloth. Thin sheet percha is on the market for this purpose. Another method is to dissolve the gutta percha in bisulphide of carbon. Apply the solution to the surfaces to be joined. Let dry. Then place the coated surfaces together and apply heat as before described until the gutta percha is melted and the part thereby cemented together.

(3347) L. H. W. asks: What can I get to wash over stone that is perishing, crumbling away, rubs off like sand? It is Ohio sandstone. Also what kind of cement can I get that will fasten on corners and slivers knocked off, so that they will stay and not attract attention? A. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 526, for illustrated account of the preserving process for the obelisk and discussion on preservation of stone, brick, etc.

Cement for sandstone; Dry clean fine sand.....20 parts. Litharge.....2 " Pulverized lime.....1 " Mix with boiled linseed oil to a thick paste.

Plaster of Paris colored with any dry paints to a suitable color then quickly wet to a paste and applied makes a good cement where not exposed to the weather.

(3348) I. A. L. says: I see in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, No. 8, August 22, that "oak timber loses about one-fifth of its weight in seasoning and about one-third its weight in becoming dry." Are drying and seasoning different things? Please explain. A. Lumber, when only seasoned or air-dried, is not free from moisture. There is a further loss of moisture and weight by thoroughly drying by heat.

(3349) J. S. L. says: I am running a light locomotive. Can I divide the lead of the valve while it is being run very slowly in this manner: Have the lead openings marked on the valve stem, then take a divider and mark the center of the distance between the two marks? Would the valve be made to cut off true if the eccentric rod was lengthened or shortened as the case may require, so that the valve will travel as far beyond the center mark one way as the other? A. Your method of finding an error in length of connecting rod is correct.

(3350) J. O. says: Will you let me know whether you can drive a pipe two inches in diameter for a well twenty feet deep with a sledge, and if you strike a stone, will you please let me know what to do? A. Yes, you can drive 20 feet with a sledge with a hickory block on the drive cap. Well pipes should be driven with a wooden maul or drop; hickory or locust is best. If stopped by a stone, pull up and start a little way off. A steel cap is good to strike on. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 107, on methods of driving well pipes.

(3351) G. J. L. asks: 1. How can I remove the size from one corner of a piece of paper without discoloration of the same? A. Wet the size with a soft sponge, and after it becomes thoroughly dissolved apply a piece of blotting paper to absorb it. Repeat the operation if necessary. 2. I have built an electric motor according to SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 161 and 599, but it does not work, and I am going to build a new armature. What size wire should I wind the armature with to make a motor to run a sewing machine? A. The motor, as described, should run a sewing machine with a current from four cells of a large plunging battery.

(3352) J. G. asks: 1. What should the dimensions of a boiler for a small engine (nearly 1 horse power) be for running the 8 light dynamo with incandescent lamps? Will No. 16 or 18 galvanized iron answer for this boiler? Should the dynamo be connected up in shunt or series? A. Your boiler should have 20 square feet of heating surface. For small boiler construction for amateurs see SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 702, with illustrations and dimensions. Galvanized iron is not suitable for steam boilers. Not less than three-sixteenths iron should be used for a 1 1/2 horse power boiler shell. Connect the dynamo in series, as shown in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 600.

(3353) E. K. H. asks how to mend meerschmum, or how it can be glued. A. Casein cement is recommended for this purpose. Boil fresh cheese in water until it is rosy. Dissolve it in water glass or solution of silicate of sodium, stir into it calcined magnesia and use at once. Use equal weights of cheese and water glass solution, and as much magnesia as will mix with it.

(3354) W. S. writes: I have been copper plating the ends of carbon plates for bichromate battery and have washed them well with clean water, but after a short time sulphate of copper has formed on them and broken the soldered connections. What is the cause and prevention of this? A. To pre-

vent the battery solution from acting upon the copper film deposited on the carbon, you will need to paraffine the end of the carbon, that is to say, you should heat the carbon and rub on paraffine until the extreme end of the carbon is saturated. You can electroplate on this and solder your connections to the electroplated surface.

(3355) F. E. C. asks with what to coat stoneware jars where glazing is defective, to render them airtight for preserving purposes. A. Heat the jars to a temperature of boiling water, or a little hotter if possible, and rub paraffin all over the unglazed spots until they have absorbed as much as possible. It is tasteless and harmless, and may be put on inside and outside of the jars to make sure of the jars being airtight.

(3356) R. C. B. asks how to make the best kind of a battery for an electric bell. A. There is nothing better for an open circuit electric bell than the Leclanche battery. You will find this described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 159, also in "Experimental Science."

(3357) W. E. F. asks how to clean and brighten small brass work to be lacquered. Have tried different mixtures of acids, but do not get good results. The acid will either not clean or the work will tarnish (turn black) immediately on taking from the running water. A. The brass must be thoroughly cleaned from grease or dirt before dipping, by boiling in strong caustic soda water; wash in hot water, then dip. We do not know of a better mixture than equal parts of nitric and sulphuric acids, with half a part of muriatic. Dip but a few seconds and immediately plunge the brass in boiling hot water and dry quickly. Cold water will not clear the acid from the porous metal. We recommend to you Butt's "Tinman's Manual," \$1.25 mailed, which has a variety of receipts for dipping metals.

(3358) T. J. asks for recipes for some cheap wash that will protect a wall plastered with common mortar against the effect of rain and consequently from frost. How will skim milk with lime or cement do? How about the solutions of oxide of zinc and chloride of zinc? Would a wash with Portland cement be sufficient? A. Whitewash used on United States public works: 1/2 bushel best lime slaked with boiling water, 1 peck salt dissolved in warm water, 3 pounds ground rice boiled to a thin paste, 1/2 pound ground whiting, and 1 pound clear glue dissolved in warm water. Mix all together, add hot water for proper use, and let stand for several days. Then heat and apply with large brushes. Chloride and oxide of zinc are good but expensive. Portland cement makes a fair brown wash. Skim milk may be used with cement and zinc oxides.

(3359) W. J. U. says: I contemplate building, for a shallow crooked river, a steamboat 65 feet long by 16 feet beam, maximum draught when loaded 2 feet (current 2 1/4 miles per hour); have been advised to put in a single engine to operate four 2 feet propeller wheels by bevel friction, each wheel to be reversed or stopped with engine always going one way. Do you think this will be as good a plan as the ordinary double engine and stern wheel of the river boats? If so, what power should be used to make a speed of 12 miles per hour? A. We do not advise the four small screws for your boat. They are difficult to connect properly, and bevel friction is not suitable or reliable for operating propeller screws, and gearing is too noisy. You will need at least 35 horse power. We recommend a stern wheel with two engines. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 398, 217, for illustrations of stern wheel steamers.

(3360) J. H. L. asks: Is it the best to shut up all doors and windows or let as much air get in as possible during electric storms? A. We think the better plan is to close all doors and windows, as a column of warm air issuing from the house would facilitate the passage of the electric discharge.

(3361) W. A. A.—The insect is the common mole cricket, Gryllotalpa borealis.

(3362) E. W.—Nigrosine is a coal tar color prepared from the hydrochloride of violaniline. This product is variously modified in the process of manufacture several shades, varying from blue through bluish gray to gray, violet to black, this last being called nigrosine, are produced. Other names for the various other shades are violaniline, elberfeld blue, bengaline, aniline gray, Confier's blue, etc.

(3363) J. C. M.—See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 51, on the manufacture of zinc white; carbonate of baryta is used to adulterate both zinc white and white lead. Chemical analysis is the only sure test.

(3364) G. H., Jr. asks: 1. Why is the rising moon red? A. Because of the absorption of the more refrangible rays of light by the great distance that the moon's rays pass through the atmosphere at rising or setting, aided by the hygrometric condition of the air, the water in the atmosphere probably being the most active agent of absorption. The midday sun looks red as seen from a considerable depth in water. Divers notice this peculiarity. 2. Where is the largest marble cutting establishment in the world? The largest marble works are near Rutland, Vermont. 3. I have a copper bath tub which is coated with tin or zinc. This bright coating has worn off in places and the copper turned black. Is there any way in which I can recast these injured places? A. You can do nothing better than to keep the bath tub clean by polishing with sapollo, or with oxalic acid. You cannot retin the bare spots.

(3365) J. F. M. asks: What is the inclosed powder? It is used in the porous cup of a battery. A. The powder is principally or entirely potassium nitrate, common saltpeter. In the porous cup mixed with dilute sulphuric acid it supplies free nitric acid as a depolarizer.

(3366) W. W. B. asks: 1. What chemicals and in what proportion, added to water, will extinguish fire? A. Most alkaline salts dissolved in sufficient quantity in water act as extinguishers. Sulphate of sodium is excellent. Bicarbonate of ammonium is good, as yielding a certain amount of carbonic acid gas.

2. How can a photographic plate be developed a positive? A. This has not been done except experimentally. No practically successful process is known. Several investigators are now working on the problem. 3. Explain E.M.F., which so often appears in these columns. A. Electromotive force, or the difference of potential which is the cause of a current of electricity. It is produced by batteries and dynamos in general practice.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of forty years, and the preparation of more than one hundred thousand applications for patents at home and abroad, enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequalled 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 extensive facilities for conducting the business. Address MUNN & CO., office SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, 361 Broadway, New York.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

September 1, 1891,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Table listing various inventions with their corresponding patent numbers. Examples include: Air brake mechanism, H. S. Hopper; Alarm, See High and low water alarm; Alarm clock, J. H. Smith et al.; Amalgamator, C. F. Pike; Ammonia still, Stroth & Osius; Annunciator, W. C. Dillman; Armature for electric motors, generators, J. F. McLaughlin; Awning, W. H. Wallace, Jr.; Axle, car, H. P. Willard; Axle making machine, W. L. Morris; Bag holder, N. R. Streeter; Baling press, P. C. Southwick; Band cutter and feeder, A. Booth; Bandage winding machine, M. D. Tibbets; Bar, See Car draw bar, Cutter bar; Barrel stand, J. J. Van Kersen; Bed bottom, spring, D. Edgar; Bed, portable, for sofa, W. Petersen; Bicycle locking attachment, F. H. Hohoff; Bicycle stand, A. P. Merrill; Bicycles, mud guard for, G. Harriott; Bin, See Store bin; Bin and sifter, combined, D. A. Wilkinson; Blackboard, many-surfaced, W. H. Larew; Bleaching apparatus, F. A. Clouman et al.; Block, See Gag block, Snatch block; Boiler, See Steam boiler; Boiler purifier, steam, J. E. Kintzel; Book rack, J. L. Fisher; Book rack, W. Hine; Boots, machine for buttoning, J. Keith; Boring bit, E. C. Phillips; Bottle holder, nursing, P. Zimmerman, Jr.; Botle, See Bask, L. Jordan; Box fastener, J. E. Payton; Box stripping or surfacing machine, G. A. Williams; Braiding machine, tubular, H. W. Struss; Brake, See Electric brake, Wagon brake; Brake, portable, for sofa, W. Petersen; Bread mixing stand, W. Wiesemann; Broom, F. W. Ratcliffe; Buckets, vent for, J. S. Alexander; Buildings, construction of, L. A. Beardsley; Burner, See Kerosene burner; Cable, machine for laying in the strands of wire, T. Borman; Calendar, H. Fitch; Caliper joint, W. L. Morris; Can, W. W. Grant; Can filling machine, Norton & Hodgson; Can opener, J. M. Dixon; Car coupling, M. N. George; Car coupling, J. D. Hall; Car coupling, Jones & Faan; Car coupling, V. Larson; Car coupling, R. V. Mitchell et al.; Car coupling, B. Rowell; Car coupling, F. Walsh; Car cushions, machine, for cleaning, F. O. Donahue; Car draw bar, G. P. Gage; Car, dump, J. M. G. Wood; Car, gas, cable, Hansell & Gill; Car, gas, cable, electric, W. E. Badger; Car mover, T. E. Evans; Car warming and ventilating apparatus, street, J. B. Platt; Cars, anti-friction bearing for, C. P. Buschner; Cars, portable, for railway, J. & H. R. Howard; Cars, sand box for, G. T. Drew; Carding engine, C. L. Hildreth; Carpet fastener, lever, B. Irvine; Carpet stretcher, and fastener, L. Fleischmann; Carrier, See Carriage carrier, Cash and parcel carrier; Carriage carrier or charger for repeating small arms, L. M. Daudeteau; Cartridge crusher, Beardsley & Meunton; Cartridge loader, automatic, H. & F. C. Bennett; Case, See Lock case; Cash and parcel carrier, A. A. Caille; Cash indicator and register, C. Carr; Cash register and indicator, W. G. Latimer; Caustic alkali making, F. Ellershausen; Chain, See Knockdown chain, Railway chair; Chimney cowl, P. W. Gardner; Christmas trees, etc., holder for, M. Merk; Churn, Hawks & Peoples; Clamp, See Lumber clamp; Clamp, spring, for holding; Clock, synchronizing mechanism for the seconds hands of, H. Munson; Cloth napping machine, I. N. Forrester; Clothes drier, E. S. Fassett; Clutch, friction, L. J. Hirt; Coiling wire rods, machine for, E. H. Gedge; Coin holder or package, Helm & Schwander; Comb, See Curry comb, Electric comb; Confectionery drops, machine for manufacturing, M. J. June; Cotton crib, J. Z. Benson; Cotton picker, H. P. Dooley; Coupling, See Car coupling, Hose coupling; Pipe coupling; Cradle, chair, etc., A. A. Ciddeau; Crate, folding, M. C. Burr; Crimping machine, W. E. Frost; Crusher, L. S. Hills; Crushing machine, A. Johnson; Crusher and pulverizer, R. McCully; Cuff holder, G. H. Scharf; Cultivator, B. B. Lewis; Curb and gutter, clamp for moulding a combined, S. P. McKelvey; Cutting comb, H. Bailey; Cut-off box, D. B. Weightman; Cut-out, fusible, Van Nuis & Vail; Cutter, See Band cutter, Bolt cutter; Cutter bar, F. G. Jaehneke; Cyclometers, ball bearing for, E. R. De Wolfe; Deforming implement, H. W. Leavitt; Diving machine, A. Johnson; Display horse, H. Schweibold; Diving dresses, means for attaching helmets and breast plates to, A. E. Store; Draught attachment for hawses, J. N. Schwalen; Draw bars, cushioned carrier iron for, A. W. Van Dorston; Drier, See Clothes drier; Drill, See Rock drill;

Table listing various inventions with their corresponding patent numbers. Examples include: Drill press, A. E. Johnson; Dust collector, H. A. & C. A. Barnard; Dust separator, P. Lee; Dynamo, constant current, E. P. Clark; Dynamo regulator, constant current, E. P. Clark; Electric brake, J. C. Lincoln; Electric circuits, testing switch for, R. C. Smith; Electric comb, J. M. Riley; Electric engine and pump, combined, C. J. Van Depoele; Electric engine, reciprocating, C. J. Van Depoele; Electric generator, Henderson & Sargent; Electric light fixture, F. H. Aldrich; Electric machines, automatic cut-out for dynamo, S. H. Short; Electric meter, Al. Koculin; Electric motor, Otis & Smith; Electric motor, E. Thomson; Electric subway, J. C. Reilly; Electric switch, A. Wessler; Electric switch casing, A. Wessler; Electric wire cleat, H. P. Ball; Electro-chemical transformer, T. D. Bottomo; Electro-magnetic engines, circuit controller for, C. J. Van Depoele; Electro-magnetic reciprocating engine, C. J. Van Depoele; Electro-therapeutic apparatus, W. J. Herdman; Elevator, See Hod elevator; Elevator, E. W. Houser; Elevator, A. Sundh; Elevator controlling device, G. H. Reynolds; Elevator controlling mechanism, N. C. Bassett; Elevator safety device, Moening & Haeseler; Elevator safety device, electric, Otis & Smith; Engine, See Carving engine, Electro-magnetic reciprocating engine, Electric engine, Steam engine; Engines, system of reciprocating electric, C. J. Van Depoele; Engines, system of supplying current to reciprocating electric, C. J. Van Depoele; Envelope machine, J. Dennis et al.; Excavator, See Steam excavator; Fanning mill, B. S. Constant; Faucet, measuring, F. M. Draper; Feed water heater, B. W. Taylor; Feeder, automatic stock, G. Lloyd; Fence, J. O. Brookbank; Fender, See Plow fender; Fertilizers, manufacture of, E. Watson; Fifth wheel, vehicle, S. H. Cawley; File box, P. H. Yawman; File cutting machine, J. & T. Fischer; Filter, C. Shuman; Fire box, steam generating, A. Peick; Fires, extinguishing, Dickson & Jones; Flue scraper, boiler, G. R. Ford; Fruit sizing machine, J. Adams; Furnace, See Hot air furnace, Smoke consuming furnace; Furnace, generating, A. Cohen; Fuse, protective, Hayes & White; Gag block, W. Lewis; Gauge, See Ring gauge; Gases with vapors of volatile substances, apparatus for impregnating, E. Bass; Gear wheel, See Smith; Generator, See Electric generator, Steam generator; Glass beveling machine, P. Wiederer; Glass for light-transmitting and ventilating, J. W. Mark; Glove, swimming, J. G. Eichel; Glycerine from soapmakers' waste, obtaining, J. Van Ruyambeke; Glycerine, plant for treating soapmakers' waste to obtain, J. Van Ruyambeke; Grain binders, bundle carrier for, M. Kane; Grain cleaner, G. B. Howard; Gripping device, H. C. Buddenberg; Guitars, etc., strutting, H. Lindemann; Gun, breech-loading, I. Larsen; Gun, magazine, L. M. R. Daudeteau; Gun, repeating spring air, A. B. Ireland; Hair clipper, B. Bonham; Hair, manufacturing curled, F. Woll, Jr.; Hame, F. Van Patten; Hammock, A. Beals; Hanger, See Hat hanger, Shaft hanger, Trowel hanger; Harness attachment, Wood & Young; Harrow, W. P. Bettendorf; Harvester, corn, J. Dein, Jr.; Hat hanger, W. V. Blair; Hawser guide, F. Meizer; Heater, See Feed water heater; Heating device, H. T. Wilcox; Heel trimming machines, rest for, T. Pierce; High and low water alarm, C. A. Hatch; Hinge, stop, J. F. McKibben; Hitching post, R. C. Bloomfield; Hitching post, J. Massey; Hoist, See Hoisting apparatus; Hoisting apparatus, P. Ditchy; Holder, See Bag holder, Bottle holder, Coin holder, Cuff holder, Paper holder, Picture holder, Pillow sham holder, Rein holder, Sash holder, Ticket holder; Hook, See Lock hook, Tug hook; Hook, H. W. Matthews; Horse power, E. W. Ross; Hose coupling, Mellink & Wadsworth; Hot air furnace, F. M. Campbell; Hydrant, P. A. Hardwick; Hydraulic gear, W. J. Gully; Indicator, See Gas indicator; Ink, making, E. Watson; Insecticide, P. Leonard et al.; Iron, See Shaft iron; Ironing machine, G. J. Fritz; Ironing machine, S. Knisely; Jack, See Lifting jack; Joint, See Caliper joint; Joint, box lubricator, J. J. White; Kegs, chain strengthener for, P. J. Butcher; Kerosene burner, A. M. P. Hery; Knife, folding, T. Taber; Knobs, sheet metal blank for, W. A. Turner; Knockdown chair, J. A. Judd; Lamp, S. G. Dodd; Lamp burner rest, J. K. Webster; Lamp cut-out, incandescent, T. D. Bottomo; Lamp, electric, B. Ward; Lamp, electric arc, W. A. Turbayne; Lamp, electric arc, B. Ward; Lamp, wickless oil, A. Shedlock; Lamps, carbon clamp for electric arc, A. P. Seymour; Lasting machine, J. J. Simning; Leaf treating machine, J. H. Strafer; Lifting jack, Hooker & Hatch; Light extinguisher, automatic, J. F. McCormick; Lightning arrester, J. P. Freeman; Liquid cooling device, C. W. Weiss; Lock, See Lock case, Nut lock, Scuttle lock; Lock case, W. H. Taylor; Lock hook, F. Splittsofer; Locomotive cab windows, dust guard for, F. C. Bond; Locomotive spring, W. E. Ladlum; Locomotive, electric, H. E. F. Shaw; Loom stopping mechanism, J. Hayes; Lorgnette or opera-glasses, J. Green; Low water alarm and boiler feeder, W. D. McLaughlin; Lubricator, See Journal box lubricator; Lubricator, electric, J. A. Madder; Lumber clamp, W. A. Madder; Mail bag catcher, G. W. Smi; Mail bag fastener, C. T. Anderson; Mail pouch, J. E. Wells; Marble surfaces, producing, S. C. Madsen; Mechanical motion, Blackie & Nisbet; Meter, See Electric meter, Water meter; Milk aerating machine, W. Garrett; Milk aerator, J. W. Farr; Milker, cow, S. Ampacker; Mill, See Flaming mill; Mill, J. H. Endleton; Mining machine, electric coal, C. J. Van Depoele; Moulding machine for moulding plastic material, J. Hoffman; Mortiser, groover, rabbeter, and borer, combined, M. P. Brown; Motor, See Electric motor, Pump motor; Motor, F. C. Moore; Mower, lawn, D. M. Kyle; Nails, machine for polishing, cleaning, and packing wire, B. H. Gedge; Nippers, cutting, S. O. Root; Nozzle, variable, A. A. Charonnat; Nut lock, D. O. Ward; Optical measurements, gauge for centering lenses and making other, A. L. Smith; Ore washer and concentrator, C. F. Pike; Ore washer or concentrator, C. F. Pike; Packing strip, E. Watson; Paper bag machine, W. H. Ching; Paper bag machine, F. W. B. McCredy; Paper feeding apparatus, Crane & Bradshaw; Paper holder, revolving, W. J. Hills; Paper, waterproofed parchment, E. Andrews; Perambulator, J. Manly; Pencil sharpener, G. Brookbank; Phonograph, E. Oxley; Photographic apparatus, E. W. Perry, Jr.

