

## RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS.

## Engineering.

**FURNACE.**—Eulio De Strens, Rome, Italy. Two fire or combustion chambers are provided in this furnace, one above the other, the design being to obtain a high temperature from solid fuel of any kind, especially that containing a large proportion of slag. The upper fire chamber has a front opening for the feed, and ordinarily left open to admit air, and has grate bars of refractory material, downwardly converging openings from which lead to the lower fire chamber. The latter has an ordinary grate extending rearward at a sharp incline, and in a space front of the bridge wall below the lower end of the grate is an opening leading to the ash pit, adapted for the flowing away of fused slag. The draught is downward through the upper fire chamber, and through the lower one to the mixing chamber front of the bridge wall, the ignited and partially burned fuel falling and its combustion being completed in the lower chamber.

**BOILER CLEANER.**—John L. and William E. Alexander, Hazlerigg, Ind. This invention consists of a pipe adapted to slide into and along the bottom of a boiler, entering through a blow-off valve, and disturbing in its course the impurities in the bottom of the boiler, which are drawn into and blown out of the pipe. From the outlet of the blow-off valve extends a short pipe carrying a stuffing box, through which slides the pipe of the cleaning device, having at its outer end a valve, and clipped to the short pipe is a frame carrying a drum rotated by a crank arm, a rope on the drum being connected with the sliding pipe for moving it in and out. The device is readily fixed in its place for the work designed, and removed after this is effected until it is again wanted.

## Railway Appliances.

**RAILWAY COACH.**—Jesse P. Tillson, Union City, Ind. This coach has a series of doors in its sides, in pairs, hinged at their adjacent edges to open outward back to back, there being a latch for each door operative from within and without the car, with a series of vertically sliding bolts on the inner sides of the doors and a sliding bar having depending arms engaging the upper ends of the bolts, preventing the doors from swinging outward until the bar is retracted or the bolts pressed down. A door is to be located in the side of the car opposite each seat, means being provided for simultaneously locking or unlocking all the doors, and whereby also any door may be unlocked without disturbing the others. This construction provides ample exit in case of accident or fire, and such cars may be used for street railways as well as general railway service, each door preferably having a drop window.

**CAR COUPLING.**—Gabriel Rohrbach, Del Rio, Texas. This coupling is adapted for connection with one of the ordinary type with a link and pin, and is also designed to afford means to automatically connect cars and disconnect them from the roof or side of a car. The drawhead is spring-supported, and has its lower wall recessed to receive a pivoted jaw plate having depending flanges, so that its inner edge will be held raised by gravity, there being a device movable from the top or side of the car to rock the jaw. The drawbar is slotted and has a hook shoulder at each end, on its bottom surface and on each side, and is designed to interlock with the free inner edge of the pivoted jaw, or an ordinary coupling pin may be passed through the slot.

## Mechanical Appliances.

**CIRCULAR KNITTING MACHINE.**—Max Gernsny, Brooklyn, N. Y. This invention affords an improved construction whereby part of the tubular fabric is formed with a figured design according to a predetermined pattern, while the rest of the fabric is knitted in the usual manner in plain ribs with Cardigan or other stitch. According to the invention the cylinder or plate, or both, are formed in sections, one of which is shifted to change the relative position of part of the cylinder and plate needles, there being pattern wheels governing the movement of the movable section to reproduce on the fabric the pattern represented by the pattern wheel.

**TRESTLE.**—Thomas J. Peck, Ballston Spa, N. Y. This is an adjustable trestle or horse for the use of carpenters, masons, and others, to support work or scaffolds at any desired height between two and four feet without the use of blocking. Its main portion is formed of a bar of channel iron, to opposite ends of which are attached castings with sockets into which are screwed pipe lugs and a central sleeve through which slides a standard projecting into a cross beam. The sleeves are cut away to receive friction grips, consisting of an eccentric on a pivoted lever, whereby the movable parts of the trestle are readily clamped in fixed position, or released for adjustment to any desired height.

## Agricultural.

**CULTIVATOR.**—Bosil F. Coulomb, Clifton, Ill. This cultivator is capable of use either as a walking or riding implement. It has swinging frames in which are pivoted shanks adapted to receive various styles of cultivator blades, shovels or teeth, the frames being so constructed and hung, and the shanks so located, that the frames may be carried forward or outward in a horizontal line without lifting the blades or shovels from the ground, or pressing them farther in. Any desired degree of inclination may be given to the harrow or cultivator teeth, or to the shovels and cultivator blades, according to the character of the ground and the plants to be cultivated, the frames being carried toward or away from one another to cultivate wide or narrow rows.

**PLANTER AND FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTER.**—Andrew M. Hanna and Lewis J. Walker, Koscusko, Miss. This is a combination implement of simple, strong, and inexpensive construction, adapted for attachment to an ordinary plow beam. It is provided with a slide valve capable of being positively and

safely locked to permit more or less of the fertilizing material to be fed from the hopper, and its construction is such that one kind of seed may be planted and fertilizer distributed at the same time with the seed, or two kinds of seed may be planted, being dropped alternately, and fertilizer supplied at the same time.

## Miscellaneous.

**PROJECTILE.**—Abraham Martin, Birmingham, England. This is an explosive projectile or shell, in the base of which is a screwed socket for the fuse of sufficient length to prevent the blowing out of the fuse and the consequent failure of the shell to burst under the force of the explosion. A ring or bush is first screwed into the base of the shell, the rear end of which is then closed or contracted behind the ring by means of dies, the closed-in base of the shell and the ring or bush together, or the bush alone, as the case may be, affording the necessary length of socket for the fuse.

**PNEUMATIC GRAIN CONVEYER.**—Frederic E. Duckham, Millwall Docks, London, England. This invention relates to the means whereby the admission of air in sufficient quantity to the mouth of the suction pipe is insured, so that the individual grains will be suspended or caused to float in the current and thus obviate choking of the suction pipe. For this purpose the nozzle is surrounded by a sleeve inclosing an air passage opening above the level of the grain in which the nozzle is inserted, the sleeve not extending entirely to the mouth of the nozzle, whereby air will be drawn through the sleeve to enter the nozzle with the grain.

**FENCE WIRE REEL.**—Mendal F. Reagan, Salisbury, Mo. A simple and durable construction is provided by this invention for conveniently and rapidly winding up or reeling barbed or other wire that has been used on and taken from fences, posts, or other places. It consists of a light two-wheeled vehicle, from which one of the wheels may be readily removed to place and secure a spool on the axle, the spool when filled being as readily replaced by another spool. The vehicle is ordinarily pushed forward to wind the wire, the operator at the same time turning a crank arm near the end of the frame to operate a sprocket chain and sprocket wheel on the axle, or the vehicle may be a standstill, and the wire wound by operating the crank arm.

**HOOD FOR FIREPLACES.**—John S. Wallace, Nelsonville, Ohio. This hood is pivoted above the fireplace, and consists of a semicircular or semirectangular cover to which is pivoted a series of flexible strips adapted to close one upon the other, the strips having recesses and stops to limit their movement. The improvement forms a simple adjustable device which may be attached to any kind of a fireplace and folded up so as to leave the fireplace entirely exposed or let down to partially inclose it, preventing ashes and dust from scattering about when the fire is shaken, and also increasing the draught.

**BROMINE COMPOUND.**—Frank H. Fishedick and Charles E. Koechling, New York City. This compound is designed as a medicine for the cure of nervous excitement, insomnia, headache and neuralgia, and for use in fevers. It is a new composition of matter derived from a combination of certain proportions of aniline, alcohol, and bromine, the solution and crystallization being effected after a specified manner, and the product being designated as bromanid. The crystals are of needle shape, small, white, brilliant, and nearly tasteless, while having a faint aromatic odor.

**ALKALINE CARBONATE AND CHLORINE.**—Farnham M. Lyte, 60 Finborough Road, London, England. This invention relates to a conjoint process of continuously producing alkaline carbonates and chlorine and their derivatives. The process consists in decomposing sodic or potassic nitrate by heating it with calcic carbonate, lixiviating out the sodic carbonate and converting the nitrous fumes evolved into aqueous nitric acid by the action of air or oxygen and water, dissolving plumbic oxide in the nitric acid, precipitating plumbic chloride by means of sodic or potassic chloride, fusing the plumbic chloride, and decomposing it electrolytically to form chlorine and metallic lead for use over again.

**LAMP WICK RAISER.**—Martin A. McBride, Woodville, Texas. The wick-operating wheel of this device consists of a cylinder formed with a series of coarsely pitched helically arranged ribs triangular in cross section, the ribs being so pitched that they extend from end to end of the cylinder without making a complete revolution. This wheel is secured on a shaft mounted to turn in bearings in the cap of the burner, the cap supporting in the usual manner the tube through which the wick passes. The device is designed to be of simple and durable construction, effectively facilitating the moving of the wick in the tube without cutting or tearing the wick.

**INNER SOLE.**—Augustine F. Littlefield, Lynn, Mass. This is a patent for an improved article of manufacture, in which a filling of leather, rubber, or other suitable material is glued, stitched, or otherwise fastened in the channel of the inner sole, a veneer being secured to its top surface and doubled over the edge to cover the channel. The object of the improvement is to produce an inner sole which will be light and flexible, but which will have sufficient strength, while it may be made of lighter stock than the inner soles in ordinary use.

**GLOVE.**—Isaac W. Lamb, Colon, Mich. This is a knitted glove composed of a main blank having finger pieces narrowed at the bases, the blank being narrowed at the point where the thumb is attached and having its upper portion of uniform width, while the thumb blank is secured to the main blank at the point of narrowing. The object of the invention is to produce a perfect fitting glove of good quality, which will look nicely when off the hand as well as when on.

**CHECK BOOK.**—Edward North, Newhall, Cal. In this book the stubs of each succeeding check vary in shape, dimensions, or position, so that as the checks are drawn and detached, the amounts of all

the checks drawn will be plainly visible in column order, one below the other, thus affording great convenience for adding and footing them. A special stub is also provided for bringing forward check footings, and a leaf is inserted for entering deposits and showing balances.

**BOX PULL.**—William J. Evans and William H. Kunert, Minneapolis, Minn. This is a simple and inexpensive device adapted for ready attachment to any form of fragile box, especially paper boxes, as it has a large bearing surface on the box, whereby the strain will be so distributed that the box may be readily moved without injury. The pull is made with a back plate having ears adapted to project through the side of a box, while a front plate has end slots to receive the ears and diagonal slots for the insertion of a label, a removable handle being secured in the ears.

**LABEL AND TWINE CABINET.**—Thomas M. Haynes and William H. Gunning, Palestine, Texas. The cabinet provided by this invention is designed to facilitate the speedy and correct selection of any desired label, and is arranged for the storage of quantities of various styles of labels in a distinctive manner in a neat, compact, and ornamental device. The casing has a partly open front and a drawer below, while the casing is a rotating many-sided label-holding cylinder, glazed doors being hinged to bars on its periphery and springs holding the doors normally closed. There are finger springs for each door, holding the labels so they may be seen.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ATTACHMENT.**—George W. Van Dusen, Norwood, N. Y. This invention provides a tremolo attachment for string instruments, consisting of a tremolo block adapted to press the free end of one of the levers of the set of levers connected with the unison strings, so that when the hammer strikes these strings, the one connected with the lever pressed on by the tremolo block produces a higher sound, which sound mingling with the rest produces a tremolo sound of the unison string. The device is designed to be very simple and effective, and completely under the control of the performer.

**NOTE.**—Copies of any of the above patents will be furnished by Munn & Co., for 25 cents each. Please send name of the patentee, title of invention and date of this paper.

## SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BUILDING EDITION.

NOVEMBER NUMBER.—(No. 73.)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. Colored plate of a very attractive cottage erected at Asbury Park, N. J. Cost \$2,500. Perspective elevation, floor plans, etc.
2. Elegant plate in colors showing a residence in the Colonial style of architecture, recently erected for Mr. Gerald Hayward, at Larchmont Manor, New York. Floor plans, two perspective elevations, and interior view.
3. A cottage at Plainfield, N. J. An excellent design. Plans and perspective. Cost \$6,500 complete. Messrs. Rossiter & Wright, architects, New York.
4. A neat cottage at New Dorp, Staten Island, N. Y. Cost \$3,300 complete. Plans and perspective.
5. A handsome cottage at Rochelle Park, N. Y., erected at a cost of \$10,000. Perspective elevation and floor plans.
6. Plans and elevation of an attractive dwelling at Asbury Park, N. J. Cost \$4,300 complete.
7. A model cottage at Chester Hill, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. Floor plans and perspective view. Cost \$4,000 complete.
8. Perspective and plans of a cottage at Fordham Heights, N. Y. Cost \$5,800 complete.
9. A cottage recently erected at Asbury Park, N. J. Cost \$2,700 complete. Floor plans and perspective.
10. Perspective view of the residence of Mr. H. P. Rugg, St. Paul. Mr. A. H. Stern, architect, St. Paul.
11. Perspective and ground plan for a memorial church.
12. Accepted design for the completion of the South Kensington museum, Ashton Webb, architect.
13. Miscellaneous contents: Clover honey.—Fire precautions in building.—What taste with a little money may accomplish.—Wrought iron gate, illustrated.—Plan designing.—Simple precautions against fire and rats.—Floor painting.—The Japanese house.—The Postmaster-General's bricks.—Architecture in relation to hygiene.—Fireproof buildings.—Some novel effects in paper hangings, illustrated.—An improved wood-working machine, illustrated.—An improved mechanical stylus, illustrated.—An improved tenoning machine, illustrated.—An improved swing cut off saw, illustrated.—The Byrkit-Hall sheathing and lath, illustrated.—Power hack saw, illustrated.—An improved dumb waiter, illustrated.

The Scientific American Architects and Builders Edition is issued monthly. \$2.50 a year. Single copies, 25 cents. Forty large quarto pages, equal to about two hundred ordinary book pages; forming, practically, a large and splendid MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE, richly adorned with elegant plates in colors and with fine engravings, illustrating the most interesting examples of Modern Architectural Construction and allied subjects.

The Fullness, Richness, Cheapness, and Convenience of this work have won for it the LARGEST CIRCULATION of any Architectural publication in the world. Sold by all new dealers.

MUNN & CO., PUBLISHERS,  
361 Broadway, New York.

## 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 the following week's issue.

For Sale—One No. 2 second-hand Brown & Sharpe milling machine. Used but very little. Good as new. W. P. Davis, Rochester, N. Y.

For best hoisting engine. J. S. Mundy, Newark, N. J. Presses & Dies. Ferracuta Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J. Best 15 in. Shapers, \$245. Am. Tool Co., Cleveland, O.

For Sale—Good Luck, on terms to suit. See page 333. Frederick J. X. Miller, Olympia, Wash.

Patent Office Reports for sale. Address, R. D. Cooke, 19 Centre St., New York.

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

Screw machines, milling machines, and drill presses. The Garvin Mach. Co., Laight and Canal Sts., New York.

Gun and Machine Makers' Screwdrivers, drop forged in best Tool Steel. Billings & Spencer Co., Hartford, Ct.

"How to Keep Boilers Clean." Send your address for free 96 p. book. Jas. C. Hotchkiss, 112 Liberty St., N. Y.

Centrifugal Pumps. Capacity, 100 to 40,000 gals. per minute. All sizes in stock. Irvin Van Wie, Syracuse, N. Y.

For Sale—Patent 445,891, Cotton Scraper. New and valuable. Send 2 cents for circular. Jas. Hobbs, Lagarto, Texas.

Scale removed and prevented in boilers; for each 50 horse, 10 cents a week. Pittsburgh (Pa.) Boiler Scale Resolvent Co.

Have mill and power. Want to associate with one having patented article to manufacture. Address "B.," care Scientific American.

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

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

For Sale—A beautifully finished plain amateur foot lathe, 9 x 28, with slide rest, chucks, tools, drawers, etc. An amateur outfit. Apply 17 Cedar St., room 15, N. Y.

Lowe's Unlimited Typewriter.—Patents for the United States and Canada for sale. See description, page 323. Address Austin Lowe, Minneapolis, Kansas.

Burr's Combination Index for indexing ledgers, letters received and sent, and records of all kinds. Used by Sci. Am. for letters received. Send for descriptive circulars. Address The Burr Index Co., Hartford, Conn.

For Sale—The U. S. patent No. 440,971, or single State rights on combined Pug Mill and Stone Separator (no crusher). Will work clay from the bank and take out stones as small as 3-16 of an inch. Address P. Stoerger, 145 Wells Street, Chicago, Ill.

Magic Lanterns and Stereopticons of all prices. Views illustrating every subject for public exhibitions, etc. A profitable business for a man with small capital. Also lanterns for home amusement. 220 page catalogue free. McAllister, Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

MANUFACTURERS recognizing the advantages of advertising, and contemplating the use of the trade journals during 1892, will find it to their advantage to confer with the Manufacturers' Advertising Bureau and Press Agency, New York, relative to the economical conduct of this important branch of their business.

EARL & PHILP,  
BRASS FOUNDERS AND FITTERS,  
GAS, HOT WATER & VENTILATING ENGINEERS,  
113 London Wall, E. C., Oct. 16, 1891.

MESSRS. F. ARMSTRONG & CO., BRIDGEPORT, CONN. GENTLEMEN: Some few years ago we purchased of your representative who called here a set of stocks and dies for gas work, and they have turned out very superior to anything of the class we have ever used. The 1/4 inch dies came to grief some time ago, and we require 2 sets for 1/4 inch gas (not Whitworth); also a set of set-screws throughout; also spanner for tightening up same. If you will forward them by parcel post and send on the invoice, we shall be pleased to remit the amount.

Yours faithfully,  
EARL & PHILP.

Should like one of your circulars on tools. We are of opinion that you are clever tool makers.  
\* Ordered eight years ago.

Send for new and complete catalogue of Scientific and other books for sale by Munn & Co., 361 Broadway, New York. Free on application.

## Notes & Queries

## 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 Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration.

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

Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price.

Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(3661) W. F. A. asks (1) for a receipt for electro plating in bronze. A. For general electro-plating we refer you to our SUPPLEMENT, No. 310. We can also supply Watts "Electro-Deposition of Metals," \$3.50 by mail. 2. What temperature is required to melt gold? A. 2016° Fah.

(3662) B. J. asks: 1. How can I glue cement emery dust on wooden wheels? A. You can apply the emery directly to the wood, or you can first cover the wood with leather. Prepare a solution of white glue, to which add a very small percentage of common molasses, say 1 or 2 per cent. Spread the emery out on an iron plate heated to about 200° Fah. Coat the wheel smoothly with glue and immediately roll it in the emery. When the glue is dry, brush off

the surplus emery. 2. How shall I manipulate gutta percha to use it as a cement? A. For a flexible cement melt together equal parts of brown pitch and gutta percha. For a hard cement melt together gutta percha, pitch and shellac, equal parts. 3. How to determine whether a battery is working? A. If it is a single cell, touch the ends of the wires to the tongue. If there are several cells, dip the wires in acidulated water. Gas will rise from the wires if the battery is active. A galvanometer, however, is preferable.

(3663) C. C. asks: Is there any way of deodorizing the common coal oil used in our lamps? What will do it? I have been using it for ten years as a hair dressing which keeps the hair soft and moist, but its disagreeable odor is a great objection to its use. A. Something can be done in the way of deodorizing coal oil by treatment with a mixture of bichromate of potash and concentrated sulphuric acid. If these are mixed and agitated with it, and the whole is then allowed to settle, the oil can be siphoned off, and after washing with water containing a little washing soda, will be found improved as regards odor. Conduct all operations without heat, and experiment on small quantities. The first named chemicals are very corrosive and poisonous. You might also try simple agitation with bone black. This is simpler, and might be measurably effective.

(3664) H. T. asks: 1. Does the generator in the Bell telephone connect with the main line and ground direct, or does the current pass through some of the other parts than the polarized bell? A. The magneto generator is connected through the bell magnet with the ground, either directly or through an annunciator. 2. Does the continued excessive sparking of a dynamo or flickering of the lamp indicate leakage? A. The sparking shows that the commutator is rough or otherwise out of order, or that the brushes are not correctly adjusted, or that the armature is not properly constructed. 3. What would an eight light dynamo like one described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 600, cost, ready made? A. About \$100.

(3665) T. B. asks: 1. What is a magneto-electric machine? What is the difference between one and a dynamo? A. The magneto-electric machine is one in which the armature revolves between the poles of the permanent magnet. In a dynamo, the small residual magnetism of the iron core of the field magnet serves to slightly excite the armature, generating a small current, which traverses the winding of the field magnet and increases the original magnetism until the maximum is reached. The field magnet of the dynamo is an electro-magnet. 2. How is the electric system of timing races, as practiced a short time ago at the athletic meeting in St. Louis, managed? A. In the electric system of timing races an electric contact maker is arranged to be operated by a bullet from a pistol. The starter fires the pistol into the contact maker, thus giving the signal for the start, and at the same time causing an electrical impulse to be sent, which sets in operation the recording mechanism. The mechanism continues operative until the runners reach the end of the course, where is stretched a thread connected with the recorder, which is broken by the runner and causes an electrical record of the close of the race to be made. 3. What is carbolic acid? Is it poisonous? A. Carbolic acid is a product of coal tar. It is a light liquid which often crystallizes in long needles. It is very poisonous. 4. What is the poison brucine, and how is it made? A. Brucine is extracted from the bark of the *Bruce antidysenterica*. It has also been detected with strychnine in nuxvomica. It is made by reducing the bark to a coarse powder, digesting it in ether to remove fatty matter, then with strong alcohol. The alcohol solutions are then distilled to drive off the alcohol. The matter remaining is dissolved in water and subacetate of lead is introduced to throw down the coloring matter. The excess of lead is removed by sulphureted hydrogen. The brucine is then precipitated by boiling it with magnesia. The liquid is evaporated, when a brown granular alkaline mass results. This is saturated with oxalic acid, and the oxalate is washed with absolute alcohol. The brucine is obtained by decomposing the oxalate by boiling it with magnesia and water. The brucine is then dissolved in boiling alcohol, which yields crystals of pure brucine when the solution cools.

(3666) A. S. H. asks how much wire, size, etc., and all that is needed to make a battery for shocking purposes, such as is used in the medical batteries. A. For an ordinary shocking coil make a bundle of soft iron wires, 3/8 of an inch in diameter and 3 inches long, of No. 24 wire. Wrap this with two or three thicknesses of stout paper, glue on a pair of heads to form a spool, and wind on the paper-covered core two layers of No. 20 magnet wire for the primary of the induction coil. Wrap this coil with two thicknesses of paper, and upon the paper wind twelve or fifteen layers of No. 36 silk-covered magnet wire. Bring out the terminals of this fine wire secondary coil, and connect them with binding posts for receiving the handles. Provide the primary wire with a circuit breaker, and connect the primary with a plunging bichromate battery. The strength of the current may be varied by sliding over the outside of the secondary wire a piece of brass tubing.

(3667) W. G. G. writes: To settle a doubt in regard to the winding of the armature of electric motor described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 759, will you kindly inform me if the armature is not wound in precisely the same manner as that of the dynamo in SUPPLEMENT, No. 600, with the exception that instead of twenty-four divisions of the periphery of the armature core in the dynamo, the armature of the motor is divided into but 12 divisions on the periphery of the core? A. The armatures are both wound according to the same system.

(3668) J. S. P. asks for the manner of polishing tortoise shell. Would like the successive steps of scraping or cutting down and final fine polishing. A. Tortoise shell is prepared for polishing by smoothing it with a single-cut file, then scraping it with a scraper like those used on wood. If this part of the work is carefully done, the polishing may readily and quickly be effected by holding the work on a thick leather buff charged with calcined Trent sand and oil,

or fine pumice stone and oil. The finishing is done with rottenstone and oil, applied with similar wheel, the final touches being given by means of rotten stone applied dry with the hand.

(3669) L. H. & Co. write: We have a 5 inch steam pipe in dry kiln which has a bad leak at a coupling. Can we get or make a solder of some kind to close it without taking out the pipe? We also inclose specimen; please let us know what it is? A. If the coupling is wrought iron, you can calk the leak with a calking iron and hammer. If you are not able to stop the leak in this way, a clamp of wrought iron should be made to fit the place where the leak is, and bolted tightly over the leak with a thick piece of rubber between clamp and leaky place. The specimen is pyrites, composed of iron and sulphur.

(3670) L. M. W. asks: 1. What is the chemical difference between artificial and common camphor? A. Camphor is a terpene, a hydro-carbon (C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>). Camphor contains oxygen. A typical formula is C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O. 2. How is bisulphide of carbon changed to the proto-sulphide? A. It is said by Sidot to be obtained by exposing the bisulphide to the sunlight in sealed glass tubes. Free sulphur and mono-sulphide are formed. The latter is dissolved out with bisulphide. 3. Is the protoform a crystal or liquid? A. It is a maroon-colored powder.

(3671) I. K. M. writes: I have a deposit of kaolin, which shows aluminum 40 per cent, silica 45 per cent, and iron about 2 per cent. I have also a deposit of marl, which shows by the analysis 45 per cent of carbonate of lime, and have been informed with these two articles combined, a first-class article of cement can be made. A. You can only tell by experiment what your materials will give. Mix ten per cent of the kaolin with ninety per cent of the marl, knead with water into lumps, and burn in a coal or charcoal fire. Grind and experiment by making briquettes with water, observing time of setting, etc.

(3672) A. W. N. asks for best receipt for dressing over rubber carriage tops. A. The varnish for this purpose is made by digesting orange shellac in ammonia until a solution is effected, which will require several days. Another varnish often used for this purpose consists of refined asphaltum cut in turpentine. It should be applied quite thin.

(3673) R. F. asks: Explain choke boring in a shot gun, the principle on which it depends, the manner in which it is done, and whether guns are choked throughout the entire length of the barrel or only a portion of the length? A. Many systems of choke boring have been tried, affecting different portions of the barrel. It is done by reaming or drilling. The general system is to choke or diminish the bore at the muzzle. This is supposed to deflect the outer pellets inward and to secure a more compact distribution of shot.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS. ELECTRICITY SIMPLIFIED. The Practice and Theory of Electricity. By T. O'Connor Sloane, E.M., Ph.D. New York: Norman W. Henley & Co. 1891. Pp. 160. Price \$1.

This book is designed to give a kind of information much needed by the student of electricity, but heretofore obtainable only by digesting a number of comparatively extensive works. It goes into the theory of electricity and furnishes many apt analogies of electrical action, giving examples of its practical application in every-day life. The analogies are new and well calculated to elucidate points which are generally regarded as obscure. As examples of its treatment of the subject, the sections devoted to the velocity of electric transmission, the relations of static and dynamic phenomena, the meanings of the units, volt, ohm, etc., may be cited. The dangers of the current and conditions for the death-giving shock are also explained at some length.

PICTORIAL ASTRONOMY FOR GENERAL READERS. By George F. Chambers. London: Whittaker & Co. 1891. Pp. xvi, 268. Price \$1.25.

This little manual is one of Whittaker's Library of Political Science. It is well illustrated and quite popular in its tone. As it is not written with a view to cramming for an English examination, its scope does not appear subject to the disagreeable limitations that so often mark contemporary English works. It is a review of the celestial world, rather from the old than from the new standpoint. For this reason it will be found to be of more popular cast than if the spectroscopic and photographic methods of the observatory had filled the greater part of the text.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PLUMBING. By S. Stevens Hellyer. London: George Bell & Sons. 1891. Pp. xv, 294. Price \$2.

Mr. Hellyer is already well known on this side of the ocean by his other writings on this subject. In the present book the details of sanitary plumbing are treated with numerous illustrations of good and bad practice. The minutiae of the subject, such as the making of wiped joints, the treatment of the solder, their proper length and size, etc., are given in practical form. An excellent index and a full table of contents, with the numerous illustrations, add greatly to the value of the book.

A Souvenir Edition of the Memphis Evening Scimitar presents a notably enterprising newspaper novelty. It is a large illuminated quarto containing reproductions from photographs of the principal churches, schools, public buildings, and private residences of the city of Memphis, with portraits of more than a hundred of its representative citizens. The pictures, as a whole, are remarkably excellent, and the enterprise of the publishers will doubtless receive a high degree of appreciation from Southern people, as they deserve to have. The beautiful buildings of Memphis, as portrayed in this illuminated Scimitar number, equal those of many of our larger northern cities, both in number and beauty of design.

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

November 10, 1891, AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

Table listing inventions with names and patent numbers. Includes items like Adding machine, Addressing machine, Air brake systems, etc.

Table listing inventions with names and patent numbers. Includes items like Elevators, signaling device, Embroidering machine, Engine, etc.