

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

AMERICAN SOAPS. A Complete Treatise on the Manufacture of Soap, with Special Reference to American Conditions and Practice. By Henry Gathmann. Chicago, U. S. A.: Henry Gathmann, 32 Market Street. 1893. Pp. 334. Price \$15.

This excellent work deserves special attention, and a greater space than we can afford it. The keynote of the book is up to date practice. The author has not drawn upon a list of antiquated works to effect a compilation of disused processes, but has given the details of approved American practice, and of such European methods as are available for use to-day. The effort has been to produce a practical book, and to exclude matter of purely theoretical interest, not bearing upon the needs of the soap manufacturer. It is pleasant to find a technical work on a manufacturing subject compiled in this spirit. A list of the titles of the chapters might be given, to indicate the ground covered, but it is enough to say that our author seems to have omitted no essential topic. The book is beautifully printed and made, has numerous illustrations and full table of contents and index.

POOR'S RAILWAY MANUAL. New York: H. V. & H. W. Poor. 1894. Pp. 1392-134. Price \$7.50.

This is the twenty-seventh annual number of this work, a publication which is invaluable to all investors in railway stocks and bonds, or financially interested in railway operations. It includes statements of the business of some 2,000 companies of the United States, showing, with all necessary detail in most cases, the official figures of their resources and liabilities, setting forth the conditions of leases and consolidations, dividends paid, the comparative returns for freight and passengers for a series of years, and the extension of old or construction of new lines. It is the only work of the kind published. The book also includes similar information as to the railroads of Canada and Mexico, street surface railways, and the leading industrial corporations, with an exposition of the industrial and financial resources of the United States and statements of State and municipal indebtedness. An appendix affords a complete list of officials of all operating railroad companies.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of nearly fifty 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.

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