

the breast bone to the vent; with a small piece of wood work the skin from the flesh. When the leg is reached, cut through the knee joint and clear the shank as far as possible, then wind a bit of cotton wool on which some arsenical soap has been put round the bone; do the same with the other leg. Now divide spine from root of tail, taking care not to cut too near the tail feathers, or they will come out. Next skin the wings as far as possible and cut off. The skin will now be entirely clear of the body. The skin must now be turned inside out and the neck and skin gently pulled in opposite directions till the eyeballs are fully exposed. The whole of the back of the head may be cut off and the eyes and brains taken out and their places filled with cotton wool. The whole skin should be rubbed well with arsenical soap or plain arsenic, and the neck returned to its natural position, when, after filling the body with a little dry grass or wool, the job is done. It is very easy, and the skin of a bird is much tougher than one would suppose, though, of course, they vary, the night-jar being very thin, while humung birds are fairly tough. All the apparatus required is a sharp knife and a pair of scissors, or, for large birds, a strong pair of nippers to divide the bones. For further information see works on taxidermy.

(6680) P. W. P. says: Will you kindly give me directions for the amalgamation of zincs? A. This is accomplished in several ways. 1. By dipping the zinc in dilute sulphuric acid and then dipping the end of it into a small quantity of mercury, after rubbing the surface with a brush. 2. Dissolve 1 lb. of mercury in 5 lb. of nitromuriatic acid (nitric acid 1 part, muriatic acid 3 parts), heat the solution gently to hasten the action. When a complete solution of the mercury is effected, add 5 lb. more of nitromuriatic acid. The solution should be applied with a brush, as immersing the zinc in it is wasteful. 3. To the bichromate solution commonly used in batteries, add to every pint of solution 1 drachm of bisulphate of mercury or a similar amount of nitrate of mercury (mercury dissolved in nitric acid). By employing this method, the amalgamation of the zincs is maintained continuously after the first amalgamation, which must be accomplished by method 1 or 2.

(6681) A. F. R. says: Can you give me directions for indexing? A. A writer says: Having had to index twenty nine thousand words, I think I have a right to speak about it. In the first place I got hold of a somewhat stiffish paper (old ledger paper is excellent); then I cut it into slips of different size (one inch by two inches will be about right). I put down on each slip a word or sentence (depending on the kind of index), with page and other reference if such is necessary. When every word or sentence which I wanted in the index was noted down, I got hold of twenty-six cigar boxes, which I lettered from a to z. I now distributed those slips into the boxes. This done, I put the contents of each box in a separate paper bag, put the now empty boxes again before me, got hold of a and distributed all slips bearing words beginning with a between these boxes, thus, aa, ab, ac, ad, etc., to the end of the chapter. This done, I got hold of aa and successively ab, ac, etc., and distributed those slips further. When arranged alphabetically, I pasted those slips belonging to a in proper order on brown wrapping paper. Having treated a in this way, I took hold of b, and so on to the end of the alphabet. It took me a fortnight (six hours a day) to get through with the distribution, and after that the copying took me several months.

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.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the
United States were Granted

December 10, 1895,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

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