

Business and Personal.

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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 This is for our information and not for publication.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. Buyers wishing to purchase any article not advertised in our columns will be furnished with addresses of houses manufacturing or carrying the same. 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.

(7099) J. H. B. asks: Will you kindly publish in your next issue recipe for making scouring soap with sand? A. 100 pounds of cocoa nut oil are saponified with about 200 pounds of lye at 20° B. The soap is then hardened by the addition of about 8 pounds of salt dissolved in water to a density of 15° B., with the addition of 6 to 8 pounds soda ash. The mixture is covered up and the foam is allowed to subside. After standing five or six hours the foam is skimmed off and 100 to 150 pounds of dry sifted sand is thoroughly crutched into the mass, and the crutching is continued until the soap is cool. This soap is very firm and hard.

(7100) A. R. G. says: I would like information on the storage battery. Where shall I look for instruction regarding the construction, uses and all things pertaining to them? A. For valuable information, the construction, uses, etc., of storage batteries we refer you to SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 159, 838, 845, and 997, price 10 cents each; we also refer you to "Accumulators," by Salemons, price \$1.50; "The Storage Battery," by Warwick, price \$1.50; "The Voltaic Accumulator," by Reynier, price \$3 post paid. 2. What is the best known conductor of electricity? A. Annealed silver. 3. Does the better conductor entail less loss in transmitting to a distance? A. No; the poorer conductor can be made of larger diameter to compensate. If of equal diameter, then the poorer conductor is less efficient. 4. Does it take quantity or power to produce sparks? A. It takes high voltage, and as the duration of a spark is short, the power for the fraction of a second may be very high, but the total energy very low.

(7101) C. C. S. says: Please state in Notes and Queries for the information of several readers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN the height and base of the several Egyptian pyramids. A. There are some 60 to 70 pyramids in Egypt. The three pyramids near Cairo measure as follows: The great pyramid is 764 feet on the sides and the perpendicular height has been variously estimated at 480, 484, and 485 feet. The second pyramid measures 707 feet on the sides and the height is 454 feet. The smallest pyramid is 354 feet and a few inches on the sides, and the height is 208 feet. You can obtain additional particulars regarding the pyramids by referring to Rawlinson's History of Ancient Egypt, which is accessible at any library.

(7102) H. J. D. says: 1. Kindly inform me through Notes and Queries of the best method to clean parquette floors of grease and dirt. A. Clean the floors with crude petroleum. 2. And, when clean, how to polish the same. A. Take 1 pound of the best beeswax, cut it up into very small pieces, and let it thoroughly dissolve in 3 pints of turpentine, stirring occasionally if necessary. The mixture should be only a trifle thicker than the clear turpentine. Apply it with a rag to the surface of the floor, which should be smooth and perfectly clean. This is the difficult part of the work, for if you put on either too much or too little, a good polish will be impossible. The right amount varies, less being required for hard, close grained wood, and more if the wood is soft and open grained. Even professional waxers are sometimes obliged to experiment, and novices should always try a square foot or two first. Put on what you think will be enough, and leave the place untouched and unstepped on for twenty-four hours, or longer if needful. When it is thoroughly dry, rub it with a hard brush until it shines. If it polishes well, repeat the process over the entire floor. If it does not, remove the wax with fine sandpaper and try again, using more or less than before, as may be necessary, and continue your experimenting until you secure the desired result. If the mixture is slow in drying, add a little of the common driers sold by paint dealers, Japan, for instance,

in proportion of 1 part of the drier to 6 parts of turpentine. When the floor is a large one, you may vary the tedious work of polishing by strapping a brush to each foot and skating over it. 3. Can you tell a remedy for removing stains from marble or earthenware washbowls, etc.? A. Take 2 parts sal soda, 1 part pumice stone, and 1 part finely powdered chalk; sift it through a fine sieve and mix with water; then rub it well all over the marble, and the stains will be removed; then wash the marble over with soap and water.

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

JANUARY 19, 1897,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

(See note at end of list about copies of these patents.)

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TRADE MARKS.

Table listing trade marks with names and dates. Includes entries like: Beer, Jager, John Eichler Brewing Company 29,482; Boots and lumbermen's socks, wool, Mishawaka 29,476; Cocoa and spices, Peck Brothers & Winch 29,483; Cotton fabrics, Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company 29,480; Hardware, tools, agricultural implements, scythe stones and lates, Hammacher, Delius & Company 29,493; Harness snaps, J. F. Covert 29,494; Lye, W. H. Priesmeyer 29,487; Medicine, diuretic, Lamar & Rankin Drug Company 29,491; Molasses, F. Duff & Sons 29,485; Oil refined from petroleum, illuminating, Standard Oil Company, of New York 29,488; Remedies for headache, neuralgia, rheumatism, and dyspepsia, and essences and extracts for cooking purposes, C. F. Stoffregen 29,490; Serums, F. Ivoni 29,489; Sheetings, drilling, calico and muslin, Abe Stein Company 29,477; Sheetings, cotton, Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company 29,479; Shirtings, cotton, Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company 29,478; Suits, men's, and cutaneous affections, C. F. Miller 28,486; Suits, men's sack, Kub, Nathan & Fischer Company 29,475; Sirup, Ehrhart, Conrad & Company 29,484; Tubing, weldless steel, American Weldless Steel Tube Company 29,492; Twine, sewing, C. E. Brownell 28,481; Watches and watch movements, American Waltham Watch Company 29,473; Writing fluids and bottle, wells, and stands for same, E. Davis 29,474

A printed copy of the specification and drawing of any patent in the foregoing list, or any patent in print issued since 1863, will be furnished from this office for 10 cents. In ordering please state the name and number of the patent desired, and remit to Munn & Co., 361 Broadway, New York. Special rates will be given where a large number of copies are desired at one time.

Canadian patents may now be obtained by the inventor for an amount of money named in the foregoing list, provided they are simple, at a cost of \$40 each. If complicated the cost will be a little more. For full instructions address Munn & Co., 361 Broadway, New York. Other foreign patents may also be obtained.