The selling advance is the real profit, which in this case will be \$20, the difference between the purchase and the sale.

(7341) A. E. H. asks: 1. How long will a zinc last in an ordinary gravity battery of four cells, charging storage cells in parallel ? The zinc being cov ered with copper deposit, it is difficult to tell just when it is completely worn out A. A zinc of regular weight will last for six months in a gravity cell. Take it out once in a while and scrape or wash off the muddy coating. 2. Is it not better to amalgamate the zincs in the above gravity cells ? A. The zincs are not usually amalgamated in the gravity cell. They are made, however, of an amalgam, so that the mercury extends throughout the whole mass. Such zincs are called composite zince and are in the market. 3. What is the right density of the solution around the zincs (specific gravity) in a gravity battery to obtain the maximum current; and does a small percentage of iron sulphate, which is contained in commercial copper sulphate, affect the output of the battery? A. The solution around the zinc comes saturated in a short time, and the excess of zinc sulphate then crystallizes out at the top around the sides the glass. This should be removed occasionally 'The iron has no effect. The largest current will be had with a very weak zinc sulphate solution, say sp. gr.=1.02but this cannot last long, since the action of the cell will raise the density of the solution around the zinc and reduce the current. An equally important condition for large current is to keep the zinc clean. This, too, is equally difficult to maintain, even if the zinc be amalgamated.

(7342) A. F. S. writes: I am building an arc lamp with a carbon $\frac{5}{16}$ inch diameter, to be used on a 110 volt circuit. I want to feed the carbon in the usual way, i. e., by a break and magnet to reduce the same. 1. Is it proper to connect the magnet in parallel with the lamp? A. Yes; that is the usual way. 2. Of what resistance shall it be, what size wire shall I use to get the same? The coil is 2 inches long by 1 inch diameter, core 3% inch diameter. A. Give the shunt coil 100 times the resistance of the direct circuit through the carbons. With 3% inch carbon the resistance of the arc is 5 or 6 ohms; hence, you will require 600 ohms in the should make many a youth an amateur astronomer. A shunt circuit. Use No. 30, wind your spool full and put beautiful instance of simplifying subjects which may puzthe rest in a separate coil within the lamp. 3. Would zle the student is the tub and hoop experiment to illusyou recommend an extra resistance coil to be used in rate precession of the equinoxes, described and illusaddition to that of the magnet ? A. Yes, as above. 4, trated on page 128. From the very beginning the prac-What is the resistance of an arc flame at a gap of 1/2 tical value of astronomy is made evident, and a conspiinch; also that of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with $\frac{1}{16}$ inch carbons? A. For 1/8 inch arc, about 7 ohms; for 1/4 inch arc, about 6 ohms

your book, "Experimental Science," there is decribed a battery, concerning which I am in want of some information. First: What is the precise chemical change which takes place between the solution and the zinc and iron elements? Second: What is the office of the black oxide of copper, placed within the cell? Third: Will wrought iron serve as well ascastiron? and, fourth, When this battery becomes exhausted, to what is this exhaus tion due? I want a battery to run a small motor, and was attracted to this one by the simplicity of its construction and the statement that it "will operate several months without replenishing." I have tried a bichromate battery, but the frequent renewals necessary compelled me to abandon it. A. The cell in question is the Lalande Chaperon cell, which has been improved in the United States under the name Edison-Lalande cell. You will find the chemical changes fully worked out in "Primar Batteries," H. S. Carhart; price \$1.50, by mail. Briefiy, the action of the cell is to break up the caustic soda, zind taking the place of the hydrogen in it. The hydrogen then takes oxygen from the copper oxide at or near the Iron, the negative plate forming water, and leaving the copper in a metallic state. The object is to get rid of the hydrogen, which, if allowed to accumulate on the negative plate, would stop the current in a short time. The copper oxide is put there to furnish its oxygen for the hydrogen. Wrought iron is used in some forms of those heretofore in use, and a new method designed this cell. In this, as in all other cells, exhaustion is due in practice to give reliable results under all conditions. to the chemical decomposition of the materials. Here the zinc is changed into a sodium zincate, Na2ZnO2 and the copper oxide $CuO + H_2$ becomes $H_2O + Cu$. When all the materials are changed, the battery stops its working. There is in it no source of energy remaining. The iron is not affected by these changes, and an iron pail will last indefinitely, so far as the electric action is concerned. It will be exposed to rust from the action of the water in which the soda is dissolved.

(7344) A. J. L. asks for a formula for a polish for polishing the nickel on bicycles, or if you have already published such a formula hefore, please give the number of the paper that it was in. A. Rub the bright parts with rouge and lard oil. You can purchase from any dealer in bicycle sundries preparations for cleaning the nickel parts of a bicycle in an expeditious and safe manner. The polishing cloths now on the market answer admirably to keep the nickel bright. (7345) C. A. C. asks: How canvas can be made mildewproof without injuring the fabric. A. Dissolve 1 pound of zinc sulphate in 40 gallons of water ; then add 1 pound of sodium carbonate; when dissolved add 2 ounces of tartaric acid. This holds the partially separated zinc carbonate without neutralizing the exces of the alkali used. The canvas, etc., should be soaked in this solution for 24 hours and then dried without wringing.

NEW BOOKS, ETC.

THE SOCIAL MIND AND EDUCATION. By George Edgar Vincent. New York : The Macmillan Company. Pp. 154. Price \$1.25.

To give "greater unity and clearer purpose to our higher education" is the design suggested in "bares outline" in this book. It treats social philosophy as the science of sciences," notes the development of social and of individual thought, and discusses "the integration of studies," and a "tentative curriculum." from the view point of a professor of sociology in the University of Chicago, the author endeavoring to bring conceptions from social philosophy to bear upon the problem of education

TODD'S NEW ASTRONOMY. By David P. Todd, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of As-tronomy and Director of the Observatory, Amberst College. New York, Cincinati, and Chicago: Auerican Book Company. Pp. 500. Illus-trated. Cloth, 12mo. Price \$1.30.

This small textbook which Prof. Todd has just prepared is an elementary work for students. The clearness of explanation and profuseness of illustration, together with the care which has been taken to give a thorough and accurate conspectus of the latest advance all along the lines of recent investigation, which includes such a wealth of new knowledge in every department, and notably in that of astrophysics, render this work not only an ideal textbook for beginners, but the best comprehensive review of astronomy up to date for those who have studied that science before the spectroscope and the latest immense telescopes had contributed their quota of information as to the structure and composition of the universe. The beautiful pictures of the sun, moon and planets convey lessons to the youngest reader; and the simple and practical methods of making elementary experiments of observation, such as the find ing of the true north pole (pp. 22, 116), and all the points of the compass, and the measuring of the diameter of the sun (p. 259) and moon (p. 239), without costly apparatus, cuous application of science to everyday use is found in chapter viii, on the Astronomy of Navigation : in which the author applies the science particularly to the voy age of the yacht "Coronet," in which he sailed for Japan (7343) D. O S. writes: On page 408 of age the yack corone, in Anterna The book is in 1896, to observe the eclipse of the sun. The book is dedicated to the Messrs. James, who provided this yacht and one of whom accompanied Prof. Todd in it to Japan

INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN MECHANICAL DRAWING. By C. J. Tracy and E. H. Lockwood, Instructors in Shef-field Scientific School, Yale Universi-ty. With numerous illustrations and full page plates. New York: Harper & Brothers. Pp. 115. Price \$1.80.

This is a book for beginners, to prepare students for a ore extended course, assuming a working knowledge of the elements of geometry, but omitting machine and bridge drawing, and the more advanced applications of mechanical drawing. The book also has a chapter comprehensively treaating of perspective.

THE BAROMETRICAL DETERMINATION OF HEIGHTS. By F. J. B. Cordeiro, Surgeon United States Navy. New York: Spon & Chamberlain. Price \$1.

This brief monograph affords a practical method of barometrical leveling and hypsometry for surveyors and mountain climbers, presenting formulæ therefor which are free from errors, which cannot be said of some of

THE SUN'S PLACE IN NATURE. By Sir Norman Lockyer. London and New York: Macmillan Company. Pp. 360. Price \$2.75.

The interest in this book will be greatly heightened by the fact that its author has been at the head of one of the expeditions sent out to India to observe the recent solar eclipse, and the care which was taken to equip the party of which Sir Norman was the head is but the result of his long series of studies in this special line, the volume before us being only one of his numerous contributions on the subject. Since the author's publication in 1887, of "The Chemistry of the Sun," when approximate estimates of the temperature of the sun's photosphere were carefully considered, there has been such great improvement made in the instruments used, and such a large accumulation of independent observations, that the basis on which the problem is approached has been very much broadened, and yet without giving u sufficient data upon which to reach satisfactory conclu sions. All of the more recent authoritative investiga tions touching this subject are here considered, in connection with numerous examinations and analyses of spectra of the sun and different stars and photographic re presentations of nebulæ. The meteoritic hypothesis is es pecially considered in its many bearings as affording the most ample data for fixing the place of the sun amon its fellow stars.

the subject became at once matter of general comment. Bicycl Bicycl st• During the two years of Col. Waring's administration of the office the death rate showed a large decrease-a fact which leading physicians attribute mainly to the better condition of the streets. As to the disposal of the city's wastes, which is also treated of in this volume, our readers will remember the full illustrations and description of Col. Waring's plant and process which appeared in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Of August last. It is interesting to note that Col. Waring estimates that in the near future the revenue derived from the city's wastes will pay half the expenses of the work.

OIL ANALYSIS. By Augustus H. Gill. Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott Com-pany. Pp. 139. Price \$1.50.

To meet the needs of a professor teaching oil and gas analysis in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the primary object in preparing this monogram, in which only the more commonly occurring oils are discussed, considering their preparation, properties, analy-tical constants, uses and adulterants. It is an excellent book for one desiring right elementary guidance in the judging of oils, or for beginning the study with the view of becoming an expert. ARITHMETIC OF THE STEAM ENGINE cussed, considering their preparation, properties, analy-

ARITHMETIC OF THE STEAM ENGINE. By E. Sherman Gould. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. Pp. 77. Price \$1.

Car co Car co Car m Theauthor, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, presents here a collection of simple and accurate facts and rules in readily accessible shape for practical use, touching the fundamental principles of the Car sig practical operation of the steam engine.

- cical operation of the steam engine. REPORT UPON SALMON INVESTIGA-TIONS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN AND ELSEWHERE ON THE DASIN OF DEPENDENT OF REPORT UPON SALMON INVESTIGA-А PACIFIC COAST IN 1896. By Barton Warren Evermann and Seth Eugene Isa Cider Cigar Meek, United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries. Washington. Cigar Cigar Cister Clamp 1898.
- THE FISHES OF THE KLAMATH RIVER BASIN. By Charles H. Gilbert, United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries. Washington. 1898. Clay s Cleane Cloth lin Cloth Clothe
- Collar Collar Collar Colter Conde Corset Coupli THE FISHES FOUND IN THE VICINITY OF WOOD'S HOLL. By Hugh M. Smith, United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries. Washington. 1898. Crane
- THE JACK RABBITS OF THE UNITED STATES. By T. S. Palmer, M. D., United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey. Washington. 1897. Pp. 88.

OUTLINES OF RURAL HYGIENE. By Harvey B. Bashore, M.D. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Company. Pp. 84, Price 75 cents.

The author, an Inspector of the Pennsylvania State Board of Health, here sets forth, for physicians, students and sanitarians, the conclusions reached through his own _____Ch The author, an Inspector of the Pennsylvania State and sanitarians, the conclusions reached through his own experiences relative to water supply and waste disposal, the soil, habitations, and disposal of the dead. An appendix on "The Normal Distribution of Chlorine" is contributed by Prof. Herbert E. Smith, of Yale University.

The wonderful variety and the great beauty of many of the specimens of calendar work brought before the public with the commencement of each new year is a marked feature of the development of modern processes of illustration. The National Chemigraph Company, of St. Louis, Mo., Charles B. Woodward, president, send us a beautiful sample of their work in this line, the year's calendar consisting of six large plate Electric pictures, 18 by 22 inches each, and each well worth framing, being specimens of chemigraph photo-reproduction. The same company also send us a beautiful bass relief of the Davenant bust of Shakespeare.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of nearly fifty years, and the prepara-tion 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 unequaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all fereign countries may be had on application, and per-sons 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.

Fence Fence INDEX OF INVENTIONS For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

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stene Bicycle bandle bar, adjustable C. F. Wilson	598,336 598,299
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Bumb Watter shafts, safety door for, T. Grottke Dust pan, Rose & Pratt. Dyeing mixed goods, H. N. F. Schaeffer (reissue). Eccentric, H. B. McKee. Erg tester, T. S. Ferguson. Electric circuit controller, W. T. Budds. Electric furnace, J. E. Hewes. Electric heater, E. E. Cruzen. Electric heater, E. B. Cruzen. Electric action of the control of the second Electric and the second second second second second Electric location of the second second second second second Electric cal conductor, L. C. Werner.	$\begin{array}{c} 598,369\\ 598,116\\ 11,647\\ 598,253\\ 598,141\\ 598,358\\ 598,318\\ 598,303\\ 598,203\\ 598,209\\ 598,200\\ \end{array}$
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 Dumb waiteshafts, asfety door for, T. Grottke Dust pan, Rose & Pratt. Dyeing mixed goods, H. N. F. Schaeffer (reissue). Eccentric, H. B. McKee. Eleg tester, T. S. Ferguson. Electric circuit controller, W. T. Budds. Electric furnace, J. E. Hewes. Electric neter, C. D. Raab Electrical conductors, terminal head for, Sewall & Procunier. Elevator and carrier, H. W. Gaines. Elevator electric control device, J. D. Inider Elevator boisting ap paratus, W. C. Fiecher Elevator safety apparatus, C. C. Ilg. Elevators, etc. controlling device for, H. B. Gale Empriodery frame, B. A. Greyer. Direct acting engine. Direct acting engine. 	$\begin{array}{c} 598,369\\ 518,116\\ 11,647\\ 598,253\\ 598,141\\ 598,358\\ 598,318\\ 598,303\\ 598,303\\ 598,303\\ 598,303\\ 598,200\\ 598,326\\ 598,447\\ 598,447\\ 598,415\\ 598,415\\ 598,415\\ 598,416\\ 598,201\\ \end{array}$

(7346) C. B. W. asks how the paper is prepared of which dresses of dolls are made so that the color changes with the weather. A. Cobalt chloride dis solved in alcohol applied to artificial flowers or to the dresses of dolls to which you refer turns the paper or fabric pink when the air is humid ; when the air is warm and dry, the paper will be purple or blue. A solution of the same constitutes one of the sympathetic inks.

(7347) T. P. B. says: Can you tell me if the phenomenon of lightning during a snow storm is possible ? A. The phenomenon to which you refer has occurred when the atmosphere has become suddenly warmed above the season's average normal temperature. Lightning never occurs in cold weather without a current of warm air in the upper atmosphere.

STREET CLEANING, AND THE DISPOSAL OF A CITY'S WASTES. By George E. Waring, Jr. New York: Doubleday & McClure Company. Pp. 230. Drive 41.05 Price \$1.25.

It is not too much to say that the late Commissioner of Street Cleaning of the City of New York has made for himself a world-wide reputation in this particular line. Coming to the task of the supervision of the cleaning of the streets of New York at a time when they were sadl in need of thorough and energetic work, and when the department had been for a long time suffering from want of anything like efficient organization, he introduced system and order into the business, and effected such an immediate change in the looks of our thoroughfares that

as	FEBRUARY 1, 1898,	Filter, J. W. McLean	598.254
սց		Filter, H. A. Pooler	598,391
· · ·		Filter, R. J. Bobertson	598.115
u-	AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.	Filter, W. H. Wilcox	598,191
'a-		Filtering device, H. J. Murney	598,383
	See note at end of list about copies of these patents.	Fire alarm circuit and signal how electric L. G.	
n-		Rowand. Fire and burglar alarm system, C. P. Bostian	598.160
of		Fire and burglar alarm system, C. P. Bostian	598,410
	Acid, apparatus for making sulphuric, A. Staub. 598,351	Fire escape, J. Hagel	598,370
e-	Advertising device, E. Steinhauser	Fire escape, G. H. Petersen	598,110
-8	Air brake coupling, J. C. Look	Fire escape, J. Robbins	598,294
. I	Air compressor, J. H. Hoadley 598,149	Fire extinguisher, R. Wensley, Jr	598,188
he	Air compressor governor valve, N. A. Christen-	Fire truck, R. J. Voelker Fireproof construction, W. Orr	598,453
l	sen	Fireproof construction, w. Orr.	598,481
ng	Ammonium sulphate, apparatus for making, W.	Fish knife and scaler, W. C. Foster	598.463
- 1	S. Richardson	Floor beam stirrup, J. A. Butz Flooring or ceiling, composite, J. W. Piver	298,135
- 1	Animal trap, A. Plahn	Flues can for closing storening. A Schlatzom	500,401
\mathbf{L}	Annunciator, self-restoring, J. Steiner 598,276	Flues, cap for closing stovepipe, A. Sahlstrom Fluid pressure regulator, J. T. Harger	500 140
5	Asphalt, manufacture of, A. Hannemann 598,147 Axles, rotary motion transmitter from car, J. H.	Folding box, C. Ingrey	508 244
<u>5.</u>	Whiting 500 100	Foot, artificial, Roberts & Bevan	508 9:41
y	Whiting	Frame See Embroidery frame	0.00,400
7 I	Bag See Punching bag Telescope bag	Frame. See Embroidery frame. Fruit picker, A. M. Terrill. Furnace. See Blast furnace. Electric furnace.	598.401
U.	Balance, E. Bohmer 598.073	Furnace. See Blast furnace. Electric furnace.	01.0,101
	Bag. See Punching bag. Telescope bag. Balance, E. Bohmer. 598,073 Bank protecting device, G. J. Hinkle. 598,477	Ore roasting furnace.	
	Basket cover fastener, C. B. Porter 598.274	Garden tool, J. Brendner	598.173
of	Bearing, antifriction, E. Flannigain 598,414	Garment, A. S. Best.	598,335
or	Bearing, antifriction, A. J. Grinnell 598,317	Garment supporter, E. Langell	598,104
	Bearing, ball, W. Diebel	Gas generator. W. Sams Gas generator. acetylene, C. L. Wilson et al	598,393
e.	Bearing, ball, W. J. Tripp 598,402	Gas generator, acetylene, C. L. Wilson et al	598,213
of	Bed, R. B. Coffman	Gas lighting apparatus, electric, C. Eickmann	598,316
	Bed rail clamp, L. Weaver, Jr 598,454	Gases, valve and gage for administering oxygen or other. J. R. Crane.	F00 040
ly	Beer pipes, etc., apparatus for cleansing, V. Bon-	Or other, J. R. Crane	398,242
en	zagni	Gate. See Fence gate. Vaulting gate. Gear, chain driving, H. Harford	509 170
- 1		Generator. See Gas generator.	0.00,113
a	Bell, bicycle, C. A. Tredwell	Gold and silver annaratus for electrodenosition	
ed	Beveling machine, V. Royle	of. E. Andreoli	598,193
- L	Bicycle, C. S. Beebe	Gold and silver, apparatus for electrodeposition of, E. Andreoli Grates, chopper or agitator for shaking, J. Rea-	0000100
ın [Bicycle, J. M. Gilbert	gan	598.392
at	Bicycle, A. W. Hall	Grinder, blade, E. B. Allen	598,333
	• •		