

Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845

MUNN & CO., - - - EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

No. 361 BROADWAY, - - NEW YORK.

TERMS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

(Established 1845.)

One copy, one year, for the U.S., Canada or Mexico.....\$3.00
One copy, six months, for the U. S., Canada or Mexico..... 1.50
One copy, one year, to any foreign country, postage prepaid, £1 18s. 6d. 4.00

The Scientific American Supplement

(Established 1876)

is a distinct paper from the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. THE SUPPLEMENT is issued weekly. Every number contains 16 octavo pages, uniform in size with SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Terms of subscription for SUPPLEMENT, \$5.00 a year for the U. S., Canada or Mexico. \$6.00 a year, or £1 4s. 6d., to foreign countries belonging to the Postal Union. Single copies 10 cents.

Building Edition of Scientific American.

(Established 1885.)

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(Established 1878)

with which is incorporated "LA AMERICA CIENTIFICA E INDUSTRIAL," or Spanish edition of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, published monthly, uniform in size and typography with the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Every number contains about 100 pages, profusely illustrated. It is the finest scientific industrial export paper published.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1898.

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NEGOTIABLE PAPER FOR PATENT RIGHTS.

In our correspondence column will be found a communication regarding an enactment spread upon the statute books of Tennessee, making it a felony to receive any negotiable paper given in purchase of a patent, or interest therein, unless said paper carries upon its face a statement of the purpose for which it was originally uttered.

This is, apparently, the last outcome of a form of special legislation, begun in Ohio, in 1886, and which has been in greater or less degree emulated by thirteen Western and Middle States. The original enactment in Ohio has undergone considerable modification, so that it is much less objectionable than the statute in Tennessee.

Per contra, these statutes have been respectively upheld in the courts of last resort in five States. Therefore, considering the conflict of legal authorities, it is desirable the questions involved be brought before the Supreme Bench of the United States for final adjudication.

Unfortunately, any hardship arising from this form of legislation is prone to fall upon innocent shoulders, especially in the case of the Tennessee statute, which makes the holding of a note of ordinary form, given for a patent consideration, an absolute felony.

HOW THE AX MAY BE MADE THE PRESERVER OF THE FOREST.

In a recent address before the Lumber Exchange of Baltimore, Dr. B. E. Fernow, chief of the Forestry Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, presented many important facts. The title of his address, "The Ax the True Preserver of the Forest," does not appear at first sight to be a topic which would naturally suggest itself to a friend of trees, but Dr. Fernow showed that it was in line with the true principle of forestry.

Trees must be cut down and ought to be cut down, not only for commercial and industrial uses, but also for the good of other growing trees, and all that the scientific forester asks is that the cutting should be done judiciously. The ignorant lumberman who does not look to the future cuts down all of his forests at once, while the forester cuts the trees so as to make it a permanent investment.

We have a remarkable object lesson in forestry in Germany, where it has become almost an exact science. In this country about 11,000,000 acres of forest lands are owned by the state and the yearly revenue is not less than \$20,000,000.

Of course, forestry can only be practiced successfully in a country where forests properly receive adequate protection from fire. In the last few years many farms in New England have been abandoned because the land was no longer regarded as productive, though they would be considered so in other countries where people are less used to an abundant fertility.

DIVER'S PARALYSIS.

Every profession that entails extraordinary conditions and surroundings exacts, ultimately, some penalty, if the warnings of nature are not heeded, and that of divers is by no means exempt. Diver's paralysis has long been recognized, though its occurrence is comparatively infrequent, and divers themselves hold it is directly induced by abrupt change in air and body pressure.

Recently, in The Clinical Journal, Frederick Taylor reported a case of this paralysis—the third seizure in the same individual since 1890, the two former, however, being of ephemeral character, exciting no alarm or apprehension. On the last occasion the paralysis came on during operations conducted at a depth of 162 feet.

After about five minutes, intense pains and noises in the head were experienced, along with evidences of suffocation and a tendency to lose consciousness. In the meantime those on the lighter observed the air-tube was not working, and another diver went down, who by following the life line was able to clear the air pipe, and also to relieve his fellow diver, the latter being at once and rapidly drawn to the surface, the ascent occupying less than a minute.

Nine weeks later, there having been no improvement in the meantime, he was admitted to hospital, when it was observed there was notable loss of power in both legs and partial anæsthesia of the inner surfaces thereof from a point three inches above the ankle to about the same distance above the knees, the areas being roughly symmetrical.

The sufferer ascribed his condition solely to being hauled to the surface suddenly—to abrupt change in bodily pressure, aided by lack of proper oxygen, resultant upon fouling of the air tube. The degree of immersion he seemed to regard as of little account, even while admitting that a descent beyond one hundred and fifty feet usually caused a sense of "fullness in the head, buzzing in the ears, flashes of light before the eyes, succeeded, perhaps, on coming to the surface, by bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears, and more rarely a condition known to divers as the 'bends,'"

Hitherto, this form of paralysis has attracted little attention, probably because of its generally ephemeral nature; but it appears probable, in the light afforded by the foregoing, that it is cumulative in effects; i. e., each succeeding attack predisposes in progressive ratio to another, until the individual, if he persists in adhering to a diver's calling, especially if he essays unusual or dangerous depths, becomes a permanent and incurable paralytic.

RUSSIA'S STRATEGIC CANAL.

The expenditure for naval work in many countries is far greater than ever before, and the effect of this is shown not only in the laying down of new ships and the building of ordnance, but also in the creation of naval stations at home and naval bases of supply and repair abroad, and the field of activity has even been enlarged so as to admit of the construction of extensive engineering works in the shape of canals for the purpose of the rapid concentration of fleets of war vessels.