

Business and Personal.

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Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Names and Address must accompany all letter 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 This is for our information and not for publication.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.

(7522) L. J. M. asks: How to bleach beeswax? A. Pure white wax is obtained from the ordinary beeswax by exposure to the influence of the sun and weather. The wax is sliced into thin flakes and laid on sacking or coarse cloth, stretched on frames resting on posts to raise them from the ground. The wax is turned over frequently, and occasionally sprinkled with soft water, if there be not a rain sufficient to moisten it. The wax should be bleached in about four weeks. If, on breaking the flakes, the wax still appears yellow inside, it is necessary to melt it again, and flake and expose it a second time, or even oftener, before it becomes thoroughly bleached, the time required being mainly dependent upon the weather. There is a preliminary process, by which, it is claimed, much time is saved in the subsequent bleaching. This consists in passing melted wax and steam through long pipes, so as to expose the wax as much as possible to the action of the steam; thence into a pan heated by a steam bath, where it is stirred thoroughly with water and then allowed to settle. The whole operation is repeated a second and a third time, and the wax is then in condition to be more readily bleached.

(7523) C. A. M. asks: 1. Have you published drawings, dimensions, and descriptions of a projection lantern? If not, can you recommend some small handbook with such? A. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, No. 8, vol. 61, and 25, vol. 58. Also SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 847 and 889, price 10 cents each by mail. 2. Where can I find descriptions and formulas for the manufacture of carbon paper? A. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 1144, price 10 cents by mail. 3. What is the candle power of a Welsbach burner, and can one get stronger ones than the ones ordinarily used? A. We should estimate the light to be from 25 to 40 candles. We do not know that any larger size is made. 4. What is the candle power of a petroleum burner with one flat 3/4 inch wick and with more than one wick? A. Such a wick may give 30 candles. A lamp with two wicks is generally used, the wick set obliquely to the line of collimation. More than two wicks are not advised, since the consumption is less perfect, the light less white, and the odor very much stronger. 5. Would it not be advantageous to use more than one lamp, and should they be placed one behind the other, or abreast? A. No; but if used, place them one behind the other.

(7524) W. T. B. asks: 1. Would it be practical to attempt to convert the small hand dynamo described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161, to a plating machine? A. We do not advise the winding of hand power dynamo for plating. Its output would be about the same as that of a plating battery, while it is not possible to drive it by hand for the time necessary for plating. 2. Has there ever been an article written in your paper on the construction of a plating machine? A. SUPPLEMENT, No. 793, price 10 cents, contains the necessary changes to adapt the light dynamo for plating. 3. Is there any method of removing finger spots on Russia sheet iron pipe? A. Rub the spots with alcohol on a rag to clear the grease, and then rub with dry stove polish or graphite.

Advertisements.

ORDINARY RATES. Inside Page, each insertion, - 75 cents a line Back Page, each insertion, - \$1.00 a line

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