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**HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

**Names and Addresses** 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 This is for our information and not for publication.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.

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(7684) E. R. writes: I have noticed recently in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN and other papers, different articles and letters on clocks, and two especially on new plans to illuminate tower clock dials. I would like to say that I experimented somewhat in this line in 1879 and since at various times. I used but three lights to each dial, a red one on the end of the minute hand, a green one on the hour hand, and a white or frosted one on the center post. There is no effort or intention whatever to illuminate the dial, as the time is readily ascertained by the position of the moving red and green lights in relation to the stationary white one, just as a blind man tells the time by feeling the hands and center post of a watch. I used a five foot dial, making a great number of changes at random in the position of the lights, and both myself and my assistants could readily tell the time without difficulty at a distance of 2,400 feet. The ordinary ground glass illuminated dial in general use will not do half as well, although often twice this diameter. They are also expensive both in first cost and in the amount of light required. By rigging the lamps out on light extension pieces attached to the ends of the hands the effect is had of apparently much longer hands and larger dials, thus increasing the distance at which it may be seen. I took no patent out on this, but give it to the world for what it is worth. Electric lamps are of course used, the various connections being easily made by means of wings and brushes. All the public needs to learn and remember is, red minutes, green hours, and white centers. A. Red and green are the nautical colors for signals, and perhaps were chosen for this reason; but a yellow light is brighter than a green one, and seen in close contrast with a white light can be readily distinguished from the white light. With this modification, the plan of our correspondent seems a very practicable as well as an economical one for enabling one to read the position of the hands of a distant clock in the night.

(7685) A. F. T. asks: Does paint affect the efficiency of lightning rods when applied to rod? A. No, not in the slightest degree.

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