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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 This is for our information and not for publication.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.

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Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(8020) S. E. D. asks: What would be the proper lengths of the tubes mentioned in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of November 24 for a full set of chimes of ten notes? Will the tubes give as clear a tone as bells of the same pitch? A. The lengths cannot be given exactly on account of the variation in diameter and thickness of the tubes. They can be cut off a little longer than the length given and turned by filing the ends. We give the lengths of fifteen tubes in inches: G, 11½; A, 11; B, 10¼; C, 9⅞; D, 9⅜; E, 8⅞; F, 8⅜; G, 8⅛; A, 7⅝; B, 7¼; C, 6⅞; D, 6½; E, 6⅛; F, 5¾; G, 5½. The tubes are ⅝ in. external diameter and 1-32 in. thick.

(8021) H. S. G. asks: Is water a conductor or a non-conductor? A. Water is a non-conductor of electricity. It has a very high resistance when pure. The addition of a trace of an acid will, however, reduce the resistance so that it will conduct fairly well. When this is done electrolysis takes place.

(8022) H. H. G. asks: Can you tell me if I should shellac the plates of a Wimshurst machine which I am constructing? I am making the plates of hard rubber and they are eight inches in diameter. A. It is well to shellac the plates of a Wimshurst machine, even if of hard rubber, since the shellac prevents the deposit of moisture from the air upon the plates.

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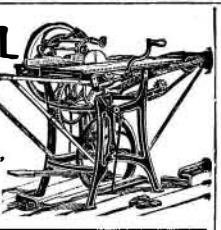

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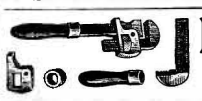

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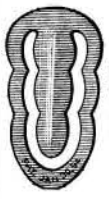

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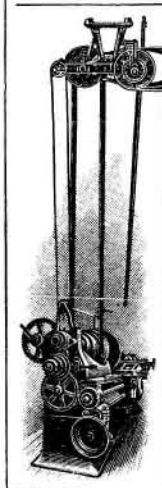

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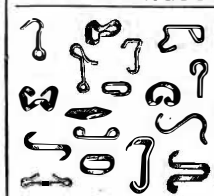

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