

Table of items and prices, including Mop holder, Motor, Mowers, Musical instruments, and various mechanical parts.

Business and Personal Wants.

READ THIS COLUMN CAREFULLY.—You will find inquiries for certain classes of articles numbered in consecutive order. If you manufacture these goods write us at once and we will send you the name and address of the party desiring the information. In every case it is necessary to give the number of the inquiry.

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PRINTS.

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"Our Edeba," for shoes, L. Franc & Son... 414

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 This is for our information and not for publication.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.

(8420) G. E. D. asks: Are the exciting balls of a wireless telegraph instrument immersed or rubbed with vaseline or other oil in the best modern methods? A. No. 2. Are choking coils used in the receivers of the instruments? A. No. 3. What would the height of the wires have to be for telegraphing the distance from one and one-half to two miles? A. We think from 20 to 30 feet will answer.

(8421) J. F. K. writes: In answer to F. S. (8241), issue of July 6, 1901, you say there is no destructive local action between the oxide filling and the grid of a storage battery. How is this to be explained, as there appear to be all things necessary for a galvanic cell—metallic contact between different conductors and simultaneously liquid contact between the same?

(8422) A. M. asks: Please let me know what I would need to cause the sound of a clock to be transmitted a distance of, say, 150 feet by electricity. A. A simple device would consist of a telephone transmitter in front of the clock and a receiver at the point at which you would hear the ticking.

(8423) B. F. V. writes: Will it affect the quantity of gas consumed in a building whether the gas is turned on full at the meter and partly turned off at the burners, or partly turned off at the meter and fully turned on at the burners? Assuming the same number of jets burning and the same illuminating power in both cases. A. There is a very slight difference in the volume of gas due to the pressure at the meter and the proper pressure at the burner jet, which indicates a saving of gas by the meter measurement at the higher pressure or by regulating the pressure at the burners instead of at the meter.

(8424) J. W. D. asks: 1. How long does it take to decompose one pound acidified water with a current of 100 volts? A. The time required to decompose a pound of water depends upon the amount of electricity used. If 13 1/2 amperes are used at 100 volts it will require one hour. From this the time for any other current can be found, or the current for any other time. Water is decomposed with any voltage greater than 1.47 volts. You will see then that 100 volts is very much higher than is necessary. 2. How much does it cost to run a dynamo of 1,000 volts annually, including all expenses? A. That depends upon how many amperes the dynamo is to furnish. A dynamo giving 1,000 volts might be lighting a small village, or it might be lighting a large section of your city. The cost would not be the same in both cases.

(8425) G. G. S. asks: Please inform me as to the amount of current used by (1) 1/2-inch solid carbons, (2) 1/2-inch soft core carbons, (3) 3/8-inch solid carbons, (4) 5/8-inch soft core carbons, when used in a stereopticon on 110-volt alternating current circuit. A. Stereopticons are usually run with 1/2-inch carbons. We have never used one with a larger carbon. The 1/2-inch carbon will carry as high as 25 amperes, but 10 to 15 amperes is the usual current for such a lamp. A 5/8-inch carbon would carry 25-16ths as much current as a 1/2-inch carbon. The current would be proportional to the area of cross section of the carbon.

(8426) J. V. J. asks: 1. Why are open circuit telegraphs not used as often as closed circuits? A. The calling apparatus requires a closed circuit. 2. Can the duplex be worked on them? A. We do not know as to the possibility. Many things are possible which are not practicable. 3. Does an arc lamp when placed under water decompose? A. No. It heats the water. 4. Can a person get a shock from one carbon-zinc cell? A. Not from the battery alone. 5. Can an electric motor be driven both ways to advantage? A. Yes. Street car motors are reversed very often.

(Continued on page 303)

(8427) C. O. H. asks: 1. In regard to the article on wireless telegraphy in a late issue of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, will you please inform me at what distance it will work over land? A. This question is answered in the article referred to. It is there stated that a 1/2-inch coil will transmit 1/4 to 1/2 mile over water, but that the writer has sent messages to a distance of a mile. It is also stated that messages can be sent about ten times as far over water as over land. About 1-10 of a mile is therefore the distance to which one may expect to send a message over land with a 1/2-inch coil. 2. Can the radiator plates be hidden from each other by trees and houses. A. Yes. 3. Also please mail me the SUPPLEMENT containing directions for making a Ruhmkorff coil which you consider the most suitable for the above. A. We can send you SUPPLEMENT 160 for ten cents. This gives full details and drawings of a coil giving a spark 1 1/2 inches long.

(8428) N. A. B. asks: 1. How long will the glass tube have to be to make coherer described in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of September 14? A. Almost any length from an inch to two inches. Length not important. The drawing in the article shows a wire 1-16 inch in diameter in the tube. You can get the length of the tube in the drawing from this dimension of the wire. It is sixteen times the thickness of this wire. 2. Will a wireless telegraph work well when the instrument is higher than the point of aerial wires or when sender or receiver is higher and the other is lower? 2. Yes. The waves by which the message is transmitted go out from the transmitter in the form of spheres or rather spherical shells, up, down and in all directions. They enter the earth for a distance, but pass through the air more easily and go to greater distances, all around the transmitter, north, south, east and west. In any direction the messages can be received if one has a receiver. These messages do not go in one direction, as on the ordinary telegraph lines.

(8429) C. B. H. asks: 1. Can you give me a good formula for blue-print paper, not difficult to make? A. Take 1 gramme of citrate of iron and ammonia, and dissolve in 5 grammes of water. Make a second solution of 1 gramme of ferricyanide of potash in 5 grammes of water. Mix the two in the dark and apply to the paper. 2. In your issue of June 8, 1901, page 358, in an article on "A Whistling Arc": (a) What is a one-third M. F. condenser? (b) Is the ten-ampere arc light necessary? How large or small a current might be used? (c) What current does the storage battery give? (d) Would the ordinary telephone cell do? A. (a) A microfarad is the unit of electrical capacity. The letters M. F. are used as an abbreviation for microfarad. (b) We presume the ordinary arc lamp is implied in the article. We have not tried the experiment. (c) A storage battery gives a current which varies with the size of the plates. They are made so large that the lamps of a big station can all be lighted with it, and so small that it can be carried in the pocket to light a tiny lamp on the scarf pin. (d) We presume it would do.

(8430) W. writes: A boiler which has a 2-inch feed pipe and 2-inch check valve reduced to 1 1/2-inch discharge, the size the pump calls for. A 2-inch pipe extends from boiler 4 feet to check valve, and also 2-inch pipe continues from check about 4 feet, when it is reduced to 1 1/2 inches. A claims that there is one-quarter greater resistance on the pump than should be or would be if there was 1 1/2 inch check valve. B claims it has nothing to do with it, but that if even the check valve was larger it would not affect the pump. Who is right? A. B is correct. The larger size of the check valve makes no more work for the pump. If anything, it favors the work of the pump, causing less friction and resistance.

(8431) J. M. C. asks: 1. Are there transformers made for direct currents? A. Yes. They are called rotary transformers, or converters. 2. Are 500-volt arc lamps made and operated successfully? A. No open arc light uses over 50 volts. It cannot. Inclosed arc lights use about 80 volts. Upon circuits of higher voltage as many arc lamps are put in series as will use up the voltage. On 500 volts ten arc lamps will burn in series. 3. Is there a chemical preparation or the like, by which I may be able to clean fiber of oil? A. We do not know anything better than potash. 4. By cutting off a trolley pole, say, two feet, does it increase or decrease the pressure against the trolley wire? A. It will bear harder against the wire the shorter it is. 5. Has copper ever been hardened to any great extent? A. Not in modern times. It is considered one of the "lost arts" to temper copper. 6. Do you consider the best of lightning arresters a success? A. They are considered indispensable. We do not advertise any goods in this column. 7. If there is such, what do you consider a perfect, at all times waterproof insulation? A. India rubber. 8. Has electricity, as yet, been taken from the earth? A. No more than has been put into the earth. No one has drawn it from the earth for doing work.

(8432) A. H. asks: Please describe how salammniac is obtained or produced. A. Salammniac is prepared from the ammonia water of the gas works, by the addition of by-drochloric acid.

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(8433) M. C. A. asks: Will you please inform me what size and how many feet of wire it will take to make an electric heater, 104 volts, say 5 to 7 amperes capacity? A. Seven amperes at 104 volts require 15 ohms of resistance. For a rise of 190 degrees F. the resistance rises 40 per cent. Hence about 5-7 as much wire will be needed if you wish to raise the temperature about to that of boiling water. No. 14 iron wire may be used. This has about 65 feet to an ohm. These are approximate numbers, and you can adjust the quantity to the temperature you wish to maintain.

(8434) E. B. S. writes: I have a dynamo that gives 25 volts and will light two 16-candle power lights. Must the light be rated at 25 or will it light two 110-volt lamps and how many one candle power lamps of 100 volts will it light? A. Your dynamo, rated at 25 volts, will do anything which a pressure of 25 volts will do; but it cannot do work requiring 100 volts. It cannot light any 110-volt lamps. The lamps for this dynamo must be 25-volt lamps.

(8435) E. L. S. asks: What is the voltage of the hand power dynamo in "Experimental Science" when wound as directed with No. 16 wire on fields and No. 18 armature? What sizes of wire should be used to give an E.M.F. of 25 volts? About how much wire will be required in each case? A. The hand power dynamo gives about 3 amperes at 12 volts. The voltage would be doubled by doubling the number of turns on the field. For the field as designed, about 5 1/2 pounds of No. 16 B. & S. wire are required, and for the armature about 1/2 pound No. 18 is required.

(8436) J. W. J. asks: Have you plans in any of your SUPPLEMENTS of a dynamo that will charge storage battery described in SUPPLEMENT No. 1195? If so, state what number or numbers? A. The dynamo described in SUPPLEMENT No. 600, price ten cents, will charge the storage battery of SUPPLEMENT No. 1195.

(8437) A. W. P. asks: 1. I am building a 10-inch spark coil, and wish to insulate it with some kind of oil. I have allowed an inch space between primary and secondary, in addition to a thin fiber tube enveloping the primary. I have tested linseed oil (boiled) and kerosene, finding the latter a somewhat better insulator; but the odor is more objectionable. Can you advise me on the subject? A. Any heavy petroleum oil is a good insulator for a coil immersed in it. We do not know how to get rid of the odor of any oil. If inclosed in a tight box the odor will not be perceived very much in the room. 2. I have seen several accounts of Roentgen rays producing acute dermatitis and causing the hair to fall out. Will you please explain to what extent this danger exists, and what means, if any, may be taken to prevent its occurrence? A. The danger of producing X-ray burns is very imminent if the operator is inexperienced or the tube is not properly shielded. The best mode of avoiding these burns is to have an apparatus which will do its work so quickly as to not produce them. It is, however, prudent to cover the patient in the parts exposed to the rays with a piece of aluminum foil which is grounded to a gas or water pipe or has a wire carried to earth. 3. In an interrupter where the circuit is quickly broken under water, is it necessary that the contacts be made of platinum? A. The same heat is produced in breaking a certain current under any circumstances. If water is interposed, the heat is carried away more readily, but the spark and heat of the break is able to burn the wire, and platinum should be used for the terminals.

(8438) J. E. P. asks: 1. In substituting a button to throw the drop at the central telephone station, how many Mescro dry cells will be required instead of the magneto-electric machine usually used in small towns? A. This depends upon the distance from the central, and the number of telephones in series if the line is a party line. It may be that a small number will do the work. Experiment is the solution probably in this case. 2. What cells would you consider preferable for this charge? A. There are a number of dry cells differing but little from each other. We have no recommendation to give to one of these over another.

(8439) W. H. P. asks: Can you give me the address of a manufacturer of a light to illuminate porch and grounds, not using gas from the street main? A. No. We cannot give any advertisement to any one in this column. Our advertising columns are the place to refer for addresses of dealers. Within a few weeks there has been an advertisement which exactly fills the bill for you. The light is that of acetylene.

(8440) G. S. T. writes: Will you kindly give me your opinion of the following statement made here to-day: That a cube of iron one inch square, being dropped overboard at the greatest known depth of the ocean, would not sink to the bottom, but that there is a depth where it would be held in suspense. A. The cube will drop to the bottom of the ocean at the greatest depths. Anything that is heavier or has a greater specific gravity than salt water sinks to the bottom at all depths. The compressibility of sea water is only about 0.000044 of its bulk per atmosphere of pressure and not materially denser at great depths; thus at a depth of a mile its density would be only

(Continued on page 304)

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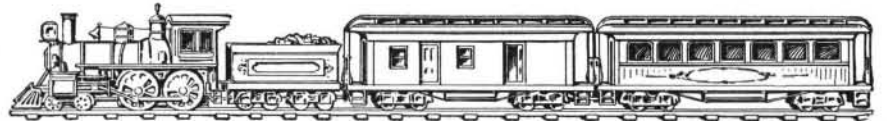
D. L. HOLDEN REAL ESTATE TRUST BLDG PHILA, PA. SOLE MANUFACTURER REGEALED ICE MACHINES SEE FIRST PAGE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SEP 2 1899

about 1-130 greater than at the surface. Sand and mud sink to the bottom of the ocean at great depths, and shells are dredged from the deepest seas.

(8441) C. R. M. asks: I want to get the table for carrying capacity of copper wire and German silver wire. I have seen tables run as fine as 26 B. & S. gage, but not any finer. I would like to get a table or a way to figure for finer wire if possible. I also would like something on the size of wire to use on motors and dynamos. A. A finer wire than No. 18 has no carrying capacity, since its use is not allowed by the fire underwriters for wiring buildings. The wires in dynamos and motors are selected on the basis of 2,000 to 3,000 amperes per square inch of cross section in ring armatures, and even 4,000 amperes in drum armatures. In magnet coils only about 2,000 amperes per square inch is allowed.

(8442) A. L. S. asks: 1. In the engineering notes of your paper for September 28, 1901, there is a paragraph on obtaining oxygen from the air, stating that it can be mixed with water gas for lighting. Is not this an explosive mixture? A. A mixture of oxygen from the air and street gas is explosive in certain proportions; but in the burning of these in a jet the fire cannot get at the mixed gases!!! they are ready to be burned, as in the calcium light jet. 2. Also, will you kindly give the principle of the Nernst lamp? A. The Nernst lamp employs a thread of a substance like that used in the Welsbach mantle. This, heated to a white heat, gives out light.

(8443) J. N. P. asks: Kindly furnish me with explicit definition of the term "equivalent focus," as applied to a compound photographic lens. Give one or more rules, as free from mathematics as may be, for accurately determining the equivalent focus of such a lens. Is the relation of diaphragm aperture to focal length of a lens based upon the actual or equivalent focus? How can we determine the diameter of the circle of illumination of a lens upon which its covering power is dependent, since this dimension varies with the distance between lens and ground glass? A. The equivalent focus of a photographic combination is "the focal length of the single lens which will produce the same sized image." This focus is measured from the optical center of the lens. It is not the "back" focus. Several methods are given for measuring the equivalent focus in Taylor's "Optics of Photography," price \$1 by mail.



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