



## 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 This is for our information and not for publication.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 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.

(9157) R. A. N. says: 1. What apparatus is necessary to install telephone apparatus on a telegraph line? We wish to use only transmitters and receivers and such other as is necessary, using the telegraph battery as battery for the telephone. A. To use a telegraph line with a telephone it is only necessary to attach the transmitter and receiver to the line. The telegraph battery will answer for both services. The sounder may answer for the calling apparatus. 2. There is another telephone line on our poles; why is it that we can hear them talking while the lines are 18 inches apart? A. What you hear from one line to another is called "cross talk." It is due to the electric waves which fill the space around the wire. 3. When the lines get crossed we can hear them talk by putting an ear close to the sounder. Why is it? A. The sounder of a telegraph has long been known to be able to receive a telephone message. It is because the sounder is affected by the waves and vibrates just as the diaphragm of the receiver does. 4. I have read that the electricity flows around the surface of a wire and not through it. A. Electricity of very high voltage, as that of the lightning, does not penetrate a wire, but flows on its surface. This is not the case with the current from a battery. It penetrates the metal and goes through the wire. 5. Will a rusty wire offer more resistance to its passage than a galvanized wire?

A. From the answer to the last question you will see that if a wire is rusty upon its surface only, it can conduct electricity as well as if bright; but if the wire is so much rusted that its body is reduced by the rust, it is equivalent to a wire of the size of its unrust portion, and cannot conduct electricity as well as one unrust, of its former full size.

(9158) M. E. C. asks: I wish to put a telephone line from our house to one of our greenhouses a distance of about 320 feet. Will you please tell me the best way of running the wires underground? Are the lead-incased wires durable enough to be buried directly in the ground or should they be run through pipes? A. The lead-incased cables can be run by laying them directly in the earth. They are very durable unless a break occurs in the sheath. To prevent injury from this cause, it is better to use the cable with a core saturated with an insulating substance which repels moisture. These can be obtained with one or more pairs of conductors.

(9159) A. H. F. says: I would like for you to answer these inquiries either by letter or through your Notes and Queries column. I would like to know at what speed a trolley can be run constantly or can it be run at the rate of 60 or 70 miles an hour, with stops at about 35 or 45 miles, without injury to the wires or trolley contacts, such as pulleys. I think it is impossible to run a trolley and keep proper contact at the rate as stated above. Can you tell me what line, and where the highest speed is run and what distance runs are made without stops of about 35 or 45 miles? A. Trolley cars can be run constantly at any speed which they can attain at any time, if the roadway is safe and there is no break-down. There is nothing to prevent this in the trolley wheel or shoe of the contact with the third rail. Forty to fifty miles per hour has often been made for a short time, but cannot be maintained on any road because of stops and grade crossings with highways. An experimental track is in existence in Germany upon which over 100 miles an hour has been made. If there was any need of such a road electrical engineers would undertake to build and operate an express road with 60 miles per hour and stops at any interval desired. But there is no one to put up the capital for such a road, since it is not needed at present.

(9160) J. E. J. says: There are several gasoline engines in this town and the spark or battery gives us more trouble than a little. Will you please answer in Notes and Queries what is the best battery, liquid or dry, for a small (1½ horse power) engine. Have you a SUPPLEMENT that gives full information? A. Dry cells are usually employed for sparking gasoline engines. See Hiscox's "Gas Engines" for a full treatment of the matter; price \$2.50 by mail.

## NEW BOOKS, ETC.

CHEMISCH-TECHNISCHES REZEPTEBUCH FUER DIE GESAMTE METALLINDUSTRIE. Von Heinrich Bergmann. Vienna: A. Hartleben. 1903. 12mo. Pp. 327. Price, \$1.50.

Mr. Bergmann has collected a great number of recipes which should be of value to the metallurgist, particularly since the recipes which he has gathered are such as have proven themselves of practical value.

EMERY GRINDING MACHINERY. A Text Book of Workshop Practice in General Tool Grinding and the Design, Construction, and Application of the Machines Employed. By R. B. Hodgson, A.M., I.M.E. London: Charles Griffin & Co., Ltd. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1903. 12mo. Pp. 180.

An emery grinder is one of the most useful tools a shop can have, especially as a money saver. The present volume is an admirable contribution to the literature of money machine shop work. Unlike many English technical books, American practice is far from being neglected, and many of the best American types are shown.

WOOD. A Manual of the Natural History and Industrial Applications of the Timbers of Commerce. By G. S. Boulger, F.L.S., etc. London: Edward Arnold. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 1902. 16mo. Pp. 369. 66 illustrations, 3 plates. Price, \$2.60.

About 750 woods are enumerated in this excellent book, including most of those which are practically known in general commerce. The information is of a very practical nature, dealing with the weights of wood, their hardness and color, odors and resonance, the defects of wood, seasoning of wood, the uses of wood, and a complete catalogue and an excellent bibliography.

## INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued for the Week Ending

August 11, 1903.

## AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

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|---|---------|---|---------|
| Brush-back drilling and filing machine, C. E. Flemming .....                              | 735,737 | Feet, device for preventing flat, C. L. Darby .....                           | 735,860 |
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| Building block, H. E. Goodwin .....   | 736,154 | Fence feeder and crimper, wire, M. D. Taylor .....                            | 735,842 |
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| Burglar alarm and sash lock, Handy & Hosford .....  | 735,872 | Fence post, F. J. Peterson .....  | 736,147 |
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| Camera feeding device, magazine, Fyfe & Odquist .....                                     | 735,746 | File, account, E. T. Randle .....   | 735,907 |
| Camera focusing hood, La May & Whitlock .....   | 736,271 | File cabinet, C. Kline .....  | 736,268 |
| Camera photographic, F. B. Case .....   | 736,211 | File, paper, S. Chiger .....  | 735,710 |
| Camera sketching, Beebe & McFarland .....   | 735,697 | Filter, L. B. Skinner .....   | 735,835 |
| Cam gas, connection for the swinging elements of, F. B. Case .....                        | 736,213 | Filter, G. W. Johnston .....  | 736,107 |
| Can bodies, manufacture of key-opening tongued tearing strip, B. H. Larkin .....          | 735,783 | Fire escape, E. Banhagel .....  | 736,056 |
| Cans, manufacture of key-opening tongued tearing strip, G. W. Weber .....                 | 735,850 | Fire ladder and escape means, combined, W. Hubart .....                       | 736,104 |
| Candle, ornamental multiple, W. S. De Woody .....   | 735,724 | Fires, automatic sprinkler for extinguishing, J. G. Grimsley .....            | 735,756 |
| Candy, pulling, C. Thibodeau .....  | 736,313 | Firearm sight, C. Huber .....   | 735,771 |
| Cap or cartridge receptacle, J. W. Grubbs .....   | 735,757 | Fish opening and cleaning machine, T. Morris .....                            | 735,914 |
| Car-coupling, P. Baker .....  | 735,695 | Floor construction, J. Trunzer .....  | 736,316 |
| Car coupling, W. S. Lee .....   | 735,888 | Flooring, boarded ceiling, etc., separable, P. B. Guilhou .....               | 735,969 |
| Car loader, D. H. Clouston .....  | 736,330 | Flue scraper, P. F. Vogt .....  | 735,846 |
| Car sign, removable street, Coleman & Harner .....  | 735,846 | Fluid pressure engine, M. N. Forney .....                                     | 735,741 |
| Car wheels, molding, A. F. Howe .....   | 736,102 | Fluid transfer switch, E. A. July .....                                       | 735,881 |
| Carbon tetrachloride, C. Combes .....   | 735,948 | Folding box or crate, J. W. Prasky .....                                      | 735,906 |
| Card holder, S. H. Owens .....  | 735,802 | Folding chair, T. W. Washburn .....   | 736,180 |
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| Cartons, or the like, machine for setting up and filling, W. H. Doble .....               | 736,237 | Fruit gatherer, L. Scarbrough .....   | 736,028 |
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| Chain and sprocket wheel therefor, drive, F. V. Hetzel .....                              | 736,256 | Furniture fixture, C. Franck .....  | 735,961 |
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| Check and sales slip holder, W. Morton .....  | 736,288 | Fuse box, electric, J. J. Wood .....  | 736,049 |
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| Coal or other materials, classifying apparatus for, F. Blanc .....                        | 735,855 | Gas engine, H. H. Mulherin .....  | 736,122 |
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| Coin conveyor, E. G. B. Karting .....   | 736,115 | Gas heated comb, R. D. O. Johnson .....                                       | 736,266 |
| Coke oven door, G. D. Macdougall .....  | 736,281 | Gas heater, J. C. Goodwin .....   | 735,751 |
| Collar shield, horse, B. F. George .....  | 735,747 | Glass making, wire, Swearer & Toyne .....                                     | 736,310 |
| Collar throat brace, horse, J. H. Miller .....  | 736,128 | Glass ornamenting machine, J. M. Conroy .....                                 | 735,949 |
| Combining machine, wool, Jackson & Thompson .....   | 735,980 | Glass working, O. A. Mygatt .....   | 735,796 |
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| Concrete building blocks, machine for manufacturing hollow, Borst & Groskop .....         | 735,938 | Golf ball, C. Davis .....   | 736,223 |
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| Cooker, steam, E. C. Peters .....   | 735,808 | Grinding or polishing cone, L. G. Koenig .....                                | 736,114 |
| Copy holder, W. H. Peak .....   | 735,005 | Grinding tracers and tools for engraving machines, machine for, M. Barr ..... | 736,193 |
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