
hints to correspondents.

References to former articles or answers should give
date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasenable e time should ba

 the same.
pecial $W$ ritter

 Books
price
ref
Minerals sent for exam
marked or labeled.
(9979) D. C. asks: 1. It seems feast be, and i understand, perhaps erroneously gen, which has such a feeble grip on other ele ments, could readily by detonation be trans-
formed into gas which would violently comformed into gas which would violently com-
press the atmosphere and cut and tear things press the atmosphere and cut and tear things
to pieces; but how a proportional composition of hydrogen and oxygen, the former the light est of all gases, could compress the air or
cause an explosion at all is a mystery to me, unless there is an outward explosion, from solid matter to gas, such as that by dynamite, gun plosion, gas exploded by flame partly con sumed, thereby causing a vacuum and violent rush of air to fill the place occupied by the
gas consumed. Is it the air or gas that does gas consumed. Is it the air or gas that doe
the damage, cuts and tears the material to pieces? Whichever it is, it must become sharp such a deafening report when only in contact with air? A. In the explosion of a solid, such
as gun-powder or nitro-glycerine, the substance is transformed into gas at an enormously high temperature, which causes a very great pres-
sure and force of expansion, thus rending the walls of the containing receptacle, and hurling the fragments to a great distance. In the case of the explosion of mixed oxygen and hydrogen the same result is reached. The heat of the
resulting steam causes a great expansion and rending of the vessel in which the combustio takes place. 2. Some time ago I read in ferous beds in Ireland were pushed into th Atlantic Ocean by the ice at the time of the Glacial Period. Is this generally accepted as true by geologists, and if so have they any
means of knowing whether the beds were commeased of anthracite or bituminous coal? I am aware that the coal fields near Castlecomer small bituminous fields in other parts of the island. Can you inform me if this is the case? A. We have no detailed information regarding the displacement of the coal measures in Ire land. The textbooks of geology state a belief boniferous limestone of the center and south western part of the island. You may perhaps obtain help in this matter from the professo
of geology in the university of your city of geology in the university of your city.
Such men are always willing to give informaSuch men are al
tion to inquirers.
(9980) F. W. B. says: My boat is 20 feet long by 4 feet 5 inches wide, with easy lines, and my engine is supposed to be a highspeed double-cylinder opposed-motor, bore 4
inches, stroke 4 inches, weight less than 200 500 R . P. M and I would like to kow size propeller you would advise me to whe size propeller you would advise me to use,
and what should be the proper pitch, and whether it should be two fuke or three. A. The size of a screw depends upon so many
things, that it is very difficult to lay down any rules for guidance. However, the following rules are given sometimes for ordinary cases,
where the size and power of the boat does not where the size and power of the boat does not
exceed a speed of 20 knots per hour. First : The "pitch" of a propeller is the distance which any point in a blade, describing a helix,
will travel in the direction of the axis during one revolution, the point being assumed to move around the axis. The pitch of a pro
peller with a uniform pitch is equal to the distance a propeller will advance during one revolution, provided there is no slip. In a
case of this kind, the term "pitch" is analogous case of this kind, the term "pitch" is analogous
to the term "pitch of the thread" of an or to the term "pitch of the thread" of an or
dinary threaded screw. Let $P=$ pitch of pro dinary threaded scr

## 10133 S

In which $S=$ speed of boat in knots, $R=$
revolutions per minute of propeller, $x=$ per centage of slip. Assuming a speed of 10 knots. per hour for your boat, with engine running
at 500 R. P. M., and assuming a 10 per cent slip, we get a pitch

## $P=\frac{10133 \times 10}{500(100-10)}=2.25$ feet.

assumed a low percentage of slip.

Liameter of propeller
$K \sqrt{\frac{H \cdot P \cdot P}{\binom{R \times P}{100}}}$
$K=$ constant $=17.5 . \quad$ I. H. P. $=4, \quad R=$
500 R. P. M. $P=2.25$. Therefore, diameter of propeller under these conditions, namely, four blades to the screw, made of cast iron,
would be approximately one foot diameter. ${ }^{\text {To }}$ To allow for any increased slip which may occur, and other contingencies which may arise, we would not advise a screw less tan diameter, calculated on a pitch of 2 feet. This will easily allow for any increased speed de-
sired over 10 knots up to 15 knots per hour. (9981) F. R. S. asks: Some two months ago a friend of mine on a steamer going to Jamaica noticed something which
1 would like a little information upon. There was an operator on board the steamer for the wireless telegraph. The boat was equipped message was being received by the boat from shore the lights in the boat would dim, which would naturally show an overload of current, and there would also be a rumbling sound
about the boat at the time of receiving the message. What I cannot understand is why the receiving of the message would affect the lights on the boat, and what would cause the
rumbling sound. A. An electric current fownombing sound. A. An electric current flowcurrent in the vicinity, and it is to be expected that wireless signals should impress a purposes in the vicinity results as you de scribe.
(9982) C. J. N. asks how to draw on glass. A. To write or draw on glass, it is necessary to impart to the surface a certain
degree of roughness. This may be done by grinding or etching, but much more easily by applying some appropriate varnish. A good matt varnish is made by dissolving in 2 ounces of ether, 90 grammes of sandarac and 20
grammes mastic, and adding benzol $1 / 2$ ounce grammes mastic, and adding benzol $1 / 2$ ounce
to $11 / 2$ ounces, according to the fineness of the to $11 / 2$ ounces, according to the fineness of the
matt required. The varnish is applied to the cold plate after it has set. The glass may be eated to insure a firm and even grain. To ing upon it, apply with a brush a solution of sugar or gum acacia. Stili better as a surface for writing or drawing is a varnish of oown Dissolve equal parts of white and alcohol, and apply to hot glass plates. The film dries very rapidly, and furnishes a sur-
face on which it is perfectly easy to write face on which it is perfectly easy to write
with pen or pencil. The best ink to use is with pen or pencil. The best ink to use is
India ink, with sugar added. The drawing India ink, with sugar added. The drawing an be made permanent by varnishing with
lac or mastic varnish.
(9983) J. N. B. asks how to prepare sheepskins for mats. A. Make a strong lather
with hot water and let it stand till cold ; then wash the skin in it, carefully squeezing out all the dirt from the wool; wash it in cold water till all the soap is taken out. Dissolve 1 pound each of salt and alum in 2 gallons of hot water, and put the skin into a tub suf ficient to cover it; let it soak for twelve hours,
and hang it over a pole to drain. When well and hang it over a pole to drain. When well
drained stretch it carefully on a board to dry, and stretch several times while drying. Before it is quite dry, sprinkle on the flesh side 1 ounce each of finely pulverized alum and saltpeter, rubbing it in well. Try if the wool be firm on the skin; if not, let it remain a day or two, then rub again with alum; fold for two or three days, turning them over each ay till quite dry. Scrape the flesh side with blunt knife and rub it with pumice or rotten

(9984) B. J. N. asks how to remove toppers in bottles. A. The best way is to take a turn round the neck with a stou
string, hold the bottle firmly on the table with one hand, grasp one end of the string with the other, and get a friend to pull the other end ficiently to expand it and loosen the stopper have extricated broken stoppers in this wa with nothing to lift them out by but a little bit of sealing wax melted into the broken sur face. Try rubbing stopper with paraffin wax.
(9985) W. F. J. asks how to make waxed paper on a small scale. A. Place cart with beeswax, or brush on a solution of wa in turpentine. On a large scale it is prepared by opening a quire of paper flat upon a table and rapidly ironing it with a heavy hot iron against which is held a piece of wax, which, melting, runs down upon the paper and is absorbed by it. Any excess on the topmost laye readily penetrates ta the lower ones. Such
paper is useful for making waterproof and airpaper is useful for making waterproof and air-
proof tubes, and for general wrapping purposes.
(9986) A. J. B. says: 1. What would be the force in pounds exerted at point $A$ in
Fig. with the end of the repe fastend Fig. 1, with the end of the rope fastened at at point $B$, the other end of the rope? The direction of the two prts of the is direction of the two parts of to make the angles between $A$ and $D, A$ and $B$, and $B$ and $D 120$ degrees each.
A. The force exerted at point $A$ is the
resultant force of $D$ and $B$, or 1,000 pounds. 2. Please explain the term "triangle of forces." balance each other, they are proportional the sides of the triangle formed by any
three straight lines parallel to their di-

ections. Example: In triangle $A D C$ of and angles have angle $C$ equal to 90 degrees Let side $A D$ or the hypotenuse of the triangle represent a force of 1,000 pounds. Then, by forces $A C$ and $D C$ can be found. Rule for right-angled triangles: The side opposite an acute engle equals the sine of that acute angle Therefore $A C=$ sine of $D \times A D$,
and $\quad D C=$ sine of $A \times A D$.
Therefore $A C$ and $D C=707$ pounds.
(9987) R. H. M. writes: Query No 9966 in issue of May 12 asks why water
pipes freeze when the surface of the ground s thawing. Although the phenomenon may not have come to your notice it is neverthe
less quite common, as any plumber can tes tify. The explanation that has been made to me is the ice cream theory-the thawing ice above takes heat from what is below. Be this as it may, it seems to be a fact that water pipes freeze when it seems there ought to be no danger, and it is hard to convince the
owner that freezing is the cause of the stoppage.
(99
(9988) W. L. W. asks: Kindly advise me in your query column if you belleve exactly alike. In a recent argument I took the stand that there were lots of things in
the world just alike. My opponent took the stand that there were not; that there were no two grains of sand exactly alike, that exactly alike in the world, and that no two molecules which compose all the iron and steel in the world are exactly alike. It probable that it is imposssble to prove your opinion. A. We have no opinion whatever upon the question whether there are two things in the world exactly alike. We be-
lieve fully that a man can tell the same story twice in exactly the same way, and that the same old questions come up to us with startling similarity. Among these Wan bobbing up serenely is the inquiry which you ask. What is the use of discussing such
quibble? Why not start a new and fresh quid nunc?
(9989) S. C. H. asks: 1. What is the meaning of "ampere hours"? A. An ampere
hour is a current of one ampere flowing for one hour. This phrase is exactly the same form as "horse-power hour" or one horse-
power used for one hour. 2. How is the amperage of any light or coil measured? A.
The amperes used by a light or coil are meas ured by an ammeter put into the circuit so that the current flows through it. 3. What
are the necessary steps for a young man to get a position as electrician on young man to liner? A. To become an electrician in any position, learn the business thoroughly and then apply for the place you want. Make it and you will be likely to get it.
(9990) C. A. C. asks: Will you inorm me about the specific gravity of liquid
luorine? A. Hardin in "The Liquefaction Gases" gives the density of liquid fluorine at 1.14. This must be considered an approximation more or less close, from the manner
in which it was obtained. We can send you he book for $\$ 1.50$.

## NEW BOOKS, ETC.

The Dynamics of Living Matter. By | Jacques Loeb. The Columbia Uni- |
| :--- |
| versity Press, $1906 . ~ 8 v o . ; ~ p p . ~$ | versity $P$ Price, $\$ 3$.

Dr. Loeb's book is undoubtedly one of the of biology which has been issued for some time It is based on a series of eight lectures delivered at Columbia University in the spring of 1902, which were intended to present the
author's researches on the dynamics of living
matter, and the views and theories to which these had led him. In the preparation of the somewhat more complete survey of the field of experimental biology, but still without altering their character. Dr. Loeb considers living organisms as mere chemical machines which pos-
sess peculiarities of automatically developing sess peculiarities of automatically developing, preserving, and reproducing themselves. This opinion, given at the very beginning of the first ecture, strikes the keynote upon which the that the fundamental difference betw living machines and artificial machines is the fact that the latter, which can be created by man, do not possess the power of automatic development, preservation, and reproduction; but he declares that nothing contradicts the possibility hat the artificial production of living matter may one day be accomplished, for living organisms are doubtless nothing more than chemintarest mand. Dr. Lobs book of undoubted unscientific reader as well, will find in its pages much fascinating information.
A Pocket-Book of Mechanical Engineering. Tables, Data, Formulas, and Students. By Charles M. Sames, figures. Price, $\$ 1.50$.
While there are many excellent engineering andbooks before the public, the practical enneer as well as the theorist will find this ork a concise, comprehensive, and up-to-date
compilation of mechanical engineering information. ontents are so classified that reference to any subject may be made at a minimum effort; it may be conveniently carried in the ealing with reinforced conete is dealing with reinforced concrete is especially recommended
American Shoemaking Directory for 1906. A List of Shoe Manufacturers Giving the classes of goods manufactured, the trade for which they manufacture, names of buyers and superintendents, capacity of factory, number employed in leading factories, alphabetical list of manufacturers, Boston offices, location of towns, population, railroads, express companies, etc. Revised to April 1, 1906. Boston: Issued from the office of American Shoemaking. Paper
a New and Physiologic Explanation of a Common Psychologic Phenom-
cago: Press of the American Medical Association, 1906.
Breeding Plants and animals. By W
M. Hays. M. Hays. Minneapolis: The Uni During the last 1806. ies have been evolved relating to the problems of breeding both animals and plants. The ork of Luther Burbank has revealed extra ment, and the working out of systematic methods of breeding and of disseminating the various field crops at the Minnesota experimental station, has attracted wide attention in scientific circles. In this work Prof. Hays, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, has put in ing of animals and plants, including the work leading authorities as well as the results fis own extensive experiments. The book describes comprehensive plans for the improvechapters varieties of field crops, and includes animals for specific purposes.
The Primordial Energy. By Benjamin
W. Sands. Springfield, $1906 . ~ P p . ~$
18 This extremely interesting pamphlet is based pon a lecture delivered by the author in 1905, after rearly ten years spent in study and experiment to determine the truth or
falsity of the new discoveries set forth. He has proven, to his own satisfaction at least, that all the various kinds of energy are but he declares to be magnetic vibrations, which ture. The two illustrations of pre of namade by magnetism and by means of ozone interestingly supplement the text, which largely discusses radiant energy in various largely
forms.
actical Guide for Firemen. By W. H
Published by the Author, 1906 . Publishe by the Author,
16 mo ; pp. 93 . Price, 50 cents.
The intention of this little werk is shown in its title. It is practical and concise, and describes in word and illustration many points
of interest and value to the man in the engine room. The style is well calculated to make the instruction interesting, while the Appendix contains information which will assist in obviating by firemen and engineers. The two hundred examination questions included will be found useful in many ways.
The Universal Kinship. By J. Howard
\& Co., 1906. 8vo.; pp. 329. Price \$1. By this title the author indicates the purpose of the book, which is to prove the kinship
of all the inhabitants on the planet Earth, from the lowest protozoa to the highest animal, man

Nor does Mr. Moore limit this kinship to the physical, but he declares it to be an ethica one as well. The thesis of the book is undoubtedly contra to many existing theories, and will prove in well as for the undoubted originality son, as well as for the undoubted originality
shown in many phases of the discussion though the author's opinion of his fellowman is rather more hopeful for the future than optimistic concerning the present.
Slices from a Iong Loaf. By H. C. Stiefel, Ph.D. Pittsburg: Bissell Block Publishing Company. 8vo.; pp
221. 221.

It is seldom that a book which proposes, even in a measure, to discuss scientific, indus
trial, or manufacturing subjects can be as en tertaining as this one by Dr. Stiefel. It is the account of a voyage of five Pittsburg tourists
down the beautiful Allegheny River froif Oil ity the beautiful Allegheny River from tha happened during the expedition, humorous and otherwise, and gives in facts and figures rea sons for Pittsburgs greatness. Of the inustra ings, many are exceedingly humorous, whil others illustrate numerous phases of the iron coal and oil industries. The reader will find much truth and some fiction in the book which beginning with the author's humorous preface to the finis on the last page, is thoroughly entertaining.
Modern Materia Medica. New York The Druggists Circular, 1906. 12mo. pp. 306. Price, $\$ 1.50$.
This book is intended to supply the evident need of some work of ready information con cerning the many new additions to the materia medica. It embraces all the newer remedies introduced up to the beginning of the presen year, including the nutritives which are replac ng a great many stimulating medicines in the ence. The information given is complete concise, and accurate, and the user will probably ind it unbiased. It is expected that this work will take a place next to the Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary, and will fill a tical and up-to-date pharmacist.
Enigmas •F Psychical Research. By James H. Hyslop, Ph.D., LL.D. Bos-
ton: Herbert B. Turner \& Co., 1906.
ton: Herbert B. Turner \& Co., 1906.
12 mo . Price, $\$ 1.50$.
In this volume Prof. Hyslop, an undoubted of psychical research which may be classified as super-normal. Certain chapters are devoted to the history of psychical phenomena, to crystal gazing, telepathy, mediumistic phe of like nature. The author interestingly illustrates each subject by many examples taken from cases carefully investigated by that responsible and eminent group of scientists composing the Council of the Society for Psychical Research. The book will be of interest to those who wish to keep themselves well in-
formed in this fascinating if little understood formed in this fascinating if little understood ubject, and many readers will doubtless appre ciate the value of scientific knowledge of this
character, which assures us of a future life, if character, which assures us of a future life, if only as a plea for social morality. Dr.
Hyslop's discussion is earnest and judicious, and is undoubtedly free from dogmatism and propagandism.
Elementary Electrical Engineering in
Theory and Practice. By J. H.
Alexander, M.B., A.I.E.E. New York.
D. Van Nostrand Company, 1906.

$$
12 \mathrm{mo} . ; \mathrm{pp} \text {. 208. Price, } \$ 2 \text {. }
$$

'This eminently practical little volume is based on a series of lectures delivered by the
author before a class composed chiefly of young artisans, and it is intended rather to present fundamental principles and practical applications of the same than to enter into theoretical and involved discussion. The lectures were
illustrated by means of models, apparatus, lanillustrated by means of models, apparatus, lan-
tern slides, and blackboard diagrams, etc., and tern slides, and blackboard diagrams, etc., and
these were, of course, unavailable for the purthese were, of course, unavallable of the book. The illustration, which were carefully gotten up to take the place of
these, are clear and answer the purpose excellently. All complicated mathematical formulæ, which might tend to confuse beginners or those not fully familiar with mathematics, have been omitted, but many of the chapters include exercises worked out at full length, which will un-
doubtedly be of assistance to the student in doubtedly be of assistance to the student in
illustrating the character of the problems to be met in practice.
Nordamerikanische Eisenbahnen. By
W. Hoff and F. Schwabach. Berlin:
W. Hoff and F. Schwabach. Berlin:
Verlag von Julius Springer, 1906.

Verlag von Julius Spring
8vo.; pp. 377. Price, $\$ 2.50$.
Unfortunately for American readers, this book, which appears to be one of the best of roads that has recently been puifished, is printed in German, and it is to be hoped that its translation will not be long delayed. The authors have treated their subject at considerideas of fact, and with fairness. The subject of American railroads, always a difficult one not alone from its vastness, but from the va-
riety of interests involved, has been ever an riety of interests involved, has been ever an
interesting one for European investigators, and it was in the interests of the German rail-
road world and under the auspices of the road world and under the auspices of the
Prussian Ministry of Public Works that this
taken. Tho authors, on the whole, appear to
have been favorably impressed with many of the obtaining transportation conditions, though by no means blinded to the faults and disad miliar. They wisely make allowance for dif ferences arising from capitalization, rail ard express service freight rates, express com panies. etc., and draw the general conclusion that the Prussian rates, both passenger and reight, are somewiat lower than those in this ountry. It must be agreed that this is far and away the most thorough comparison that
has ever been made between the railway in the United States and a foreign railway systhe chief value of the report probably lies in the excellent objective description of railway organization and management in this country. To the American reader the va
comparisons the report contains.
The Book of Boats. A Brief Story of
Some of the Quee By Raymond the
Modern Launch. By Raymond Cav-
Printing Company, 1906. 16mo.; pp. 123.

The author of this interesting booklet dis-
cusses water navigation by means of small craft from its earliest inception, as exemplified y the. crude raft of prehistoric man, to the present day, represented by our latest types of boat with the ethnological development of the is Cescribed and illustrated in its most interesting phases. The illustrations show many remarikable and curious vessels designed and constructed by savage builders the world over, and are the result of exhaustive investigations in the literature of the subject as well as in cusses modern types of pleasure craft, and illustrates several types of motor boats.
The Art of Writing and Speaking the
English Language. Word Study,
Grammar, Composition, and Rhetoric.
By Sherwin Cos. New York. The

## Old $\$ 3$.

As the title of this work indicates, th author has chosen a rather ambitious subject terest and utility, it is the art of writing and speaking one's own language effectively. Not edly is the basis of business as well, and in no department of human endeavor is the value of effective English to be more highly rated.
These four little books, "Word Study," "Gram These four little books, "Word Study," "Gram written particularly with the adaptation of good English to business in view, notwith value to the student of English in general. The subject is treated clearly and without waste of space, and the facts are presented to the reader in an excellent manne
Wireless Telegraphy. By Gustav Eichhorn, Ph.D. Philadelphia, Pa.: J. B.
Lippincott Co., 1906. 8vo.; pp. 110.) 79 illustrations.
Notwithstanding the many excellent contributions to the literature of wireless telegraphy that are at present before the public, there are many phases of the theoretical as well which are necessarily somewhat obscure. The author of this book has wisely not attempted to make it a compilation of the many so-called systems" of wireless telegraphy, but has devoted his efforts to a simple and comprehensive description of the fundamental principles and
working methods of modern telegraphy by means of electric waves. Consequently the work will be found of value not only by the student, but by the practical expert as well.
For the latter, particularly, is the wide For the latter, particularly, is the wide ex
perience of the author valuable. The book is excellently illustrated with many engravings and diagrams, and probably brings the literature of the subject as nearly up to date as is consistent with its rapid growth.
Native Economic Plants of Montana By J. W. Blankinship. $\begin{gathered}\text { Bozeman, } \\ \text { Montana }\end{gathered}$ College Experiment Station, 1905 8vo.; pp. 36 .

INDEX OF INVENTIONS
For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued
for the Week Ending
May 15, 1906.
AND EACHBEARINGTHATDATE

## 

## 820,938 820,830 820,805 820,640 820,632




