

from the line, using a wire fence to receive with. In subsequent experiments the same writer states: "A large induction coil similar to that used by Marconi was used, and 10 to 20-mile messages were of common occurrence."

(10137) A. B. asks: 1. Why are magneto calls used on telephones instead of the common make and break bells? A. The magneto machine generates a current well adapted to ringing the bell. No battery is required. It is less liable to get out of order than if a battery were employed to ring the bell. 2. Is the armature of a magneto bell a permanent magnet? If not, please state what causes it to vibrate. A. The bell has a polarized armature. This is a permanent magnet, which moves the instant the current varies the magnetism around it. It works more easily than a bell with a battery could do. All such matters are fully explained in Webb's "Telephone Handbook," price \$1 by mail.

(10138) H. L. B. asks: How much No. 36 wire will it take for the secondary of a coil giving a one-inch spark, and how much and what size wire for the primary coil to be used for wireless telegraphy? A. It is a very good coil which gives an inch of spark for a pound of secondary. For primary coils from 12 to 16 wire may be used.

(10139) J. R. F. asks: 1. What amount of weight can be lifted with a pound of metal charged with lodestone as heavily as it can be charged? A. There is a great difference in the weight lifted by permanent magnets. You will do well if you lift a pound with a magnet weighing as much as a pound. Nor can you magnetize a bar magnet well with lodestone. It should be magnetized with an electric current, if you would produce a strong magnet. 2. Does the metal charged lose its power to lift in time by using it? A. No; a magnet is not injured by working. If left with a keeper on its poles and handled with care, no loss of strength need take place. 3. Can cast iron be charged as well as any other metal? A. Steel is the only metal of which a permanent magnet can be made. The best tool steel should be used.

(10140) K. S. A. asks: Is there any method known by which a picture or outline can be thrown on a screen in daylight, on the principle of the magic lantern, without making the room dark? For instance, could the outline be thrown on as a shadow? A. A lantern slide can be thrown upon a screen in a room by daylight if an electric arc lamp is used for an illuminant. It will not be as distinct as if the room were darkened, but still it can be distinctly seen.

(10141) W. E. F. asks: What would be the apparatus necessary to charge a storage battery from a trolley wire of an electric railway, and what size battery for 5 horse-power motor to run say 10 hours; and about what would the outfit cost, and how long would it take to charge it? A. You will require half as many storage cells to run your motor as the volts taken by the motor, since each cell will give 2 volts. To obtain the number of amperes you will need, divide 746 by the voltage of the motor. This gives the amperes for one horse-power hour. Multiply this by 5 and by 10, and you will have the ampere hours required for 5 horse-power for 10 hours.

(10142) L. E. A. K. asks: 1. Is the current that leaves a telephone in talking the battery or an induced current? A. An induced current. The induction coil is to be seen in the box of the transmitter in many forms of apparatus. 2. Are telephone generators alternating or direct current? A. The magneto generator by which the call bell is rung is an alternating current machine. 3. Can a direct current be transformed from a higher to lower or lower to higher without going through a rotary transformer? A. Yes; by an induction coil it is transformed to a pulsatory current in one direction.

(10143) C. C. McC. asks: Do you publish a work on the construction of voltmeters and ammeters that would enable one to construct one for use on an isolated plant? A. SUPPLEMENT No. 1215, price ten cents, will give information for the construction of a voltmeter and ammeter which may answer your purpose.

(10144) S. C. asks: 1. A party of us visited an electric plant. The electrician attached to the end of the poles of the dynamo two large pieces of iron, then inserted them into a saline solution, saying he would boil water, but I thought what he called boiled was only the decomposition of the water to H<sub>2</sub>+O. Am I correct? A. Both decomposition and heating of water takes place, and the water is soon heated to boiling. 2. The electrician said if the two pieces of iron at the end of the poles were to touch each other, it would blow up the dynamo. In that case what would cause it to blow up? A. If the plates were brought to touch each other, the resistance would be brought so low that an enormous flow of current would take place (Ohm's law), and this would heat the dynamo so that the wire would soon melt, unless there were a fuse which would blow and cut off the current. It would not be an explosion in any ordinary sense of the term, but a burn-out.

(10145) S. B. S. asks: 1. Will a 4-ohm telegraph work on a line one mile in length? A. Yes, if all else is in good shape. 2. If so, how many gravity batteries will be required to

work the instruments if No. 12 galvanized iron wire is used with ground circuit? A. The number depends upon the joints and insulation. We should put 4 to 6 cells and try it. Then add others if necessary. 3. How many gravity batteries will be required to work two 4-ohm telegraphs on a line 265 feet in length, where No. 18 ungalvanized wire is used with ground circuit? A. Probably two will do the work.

(10146) D. H. asks: 1. Is there any way that a number of open-circuit sal-ammoniac cells (say twelve) can be connected together so as to produce a continuous current for an incandescent light? Is there any apparatus made for such cells to make them produce a more continuous current? A. No. It is impossible to use a sal-ammoniac cell on a closed circuit for any length of time. 2. Will dry cells recuperate as quickly and as well as wet open-circuit cells? A. No.

(10147) M. B. T. asks if putting the antennae of a wireless telegraph system in an iron or other pipe will prevent the emission of the Hertzian waves? A. Anything which disturbs the free outflow of the waves from the vertical wires will disturb the transmission.

(10148) E. H. S. asks: 1. I should like to know something about the mathematics of an induction coil; how to calculate its probable output and what vital points tend to increase or diminish its efficiency. A. You will find in our SUPPLEMENT No. 1124, price ten cents, the description of a coil which gives a 6-inch spark. This will do X-ray work upon the thinner portions of the human body. For the thickest parts, a coil is employed which will give a spark of 14 inches or more. Such a coil is described in Hare's "Large Induction Coils," price \$2.50 by mail. 2. Something about the Wehnelt electrolytic interrupter. A. We can send you five numbers of the SUPPLEMENT containing illustrated articles upon the Wehnelt interrupter, at ten cents each. SUPPLEMENT, pages 19602, 19811, 20871, 20982, 21500. 3. How to build an induction coil suitable for X-ray work, etc.? A. Faraday's laws of the induced current cover the action of a coil. The correct designing of a coil is the result of experience extending over many years, as well as the application of law to the case.

(10149) A. E. W. writes: 1. I would like to know if there is any advantage in using plate rather than ordinary glass regardless of difference in price? The plate will run oppositely 1-16 inch apart (20 inch D.), while some window-glass may run seldom less than 1/4 inch apart. A. It is an advantage to bring the plates of any static machine as near to each other as possible. If they will not run nearer than 1/4 inch apart, the machine will not be very efficient. 2. The plate is usually about 3-16 inch thick. Does this thickness of glass take away from the efficiency of the machine? A. It is not advisable to use glass of a greater thickness than will stand the strain of the running. 3. Could you also tell me as to how I can obtain drawings or descriptions of the arrangement of conductors or carriers for a two-plate Wimshurst? A. A good design of a Wimshurst machine can be found in Bottone's "Electrical Instrument Making," price 50 cents, by mail.

(10150) J. F. McG. asks: 1. What is the temperature of a 30-candle-power incandescent electric light? A. The temperature of incandescence is not directly connected with the candle power of a lamp. Ganot gives the temperature as 2,350 deg. Foster's Pocket-book gives it at about 2,500 deg. 2. What is rare earth and where can it be obtained? A. Certain minerals have been known among chemists as earths. The rarer ones are zirconia, glucina, yttria and thoria. They are oxides of elements of similar names. 3. What candle-power would a 220-volt lamp give? A. It may be of any candle-power, depending upon the resistance of its filament.

(10151) R. B. asks: 1. Will a watch become magnetized by a motor? A. Yes; if there is much external magnetism in the space around the motor. 2. How can you tell if it is? A. By its irregular motion, or failure to keep time as well as it has been doing, often even stopping entirely. 3. How can it be demagnetized thoroughly? A. The quickest way is to take it to a jeweler, who is nowadays quite accustomed to this disease of watches. We can send you two valuable articles on the subject for 20 cents.

(10152) D. S. asks: Will you please answer through the columns of your valuable paper, if a small motor or dynamo, say 1-16 to 1-8 horse-power, can be designed the same as larger machine of 1 horse-power or over, that is in regard to the magnetic flux in the different parts? A. All dynamos are designed by the same rules.

(10153) F. M. C. asks: 1. In winding the primary and secondary coils for a medical battery (faradic current) should both be wound right or left hand, looking from the same end of the coil, or should one be wound right hand and the other left hand? A. We do not see how it can make any difference in which direction the turns of a coil are wound. The electrical induction will find that out for itself. 2. In using a galvanic battery, for medical purposes, of say ten carbon and ten zinc plates arranged zinc to carbon through the entire number, is it absolutely necessary to have each element, that is, a carbon and zinc plate, in a separate cup or cell with the

fluid, or will the battery work as well, and the current last as long, if one large cup is used containing all the elements and fluid? A. If all the plates are in one cell, you will have one cell with the electromotive force of one cell, but with the amperes due to the large surface of your single plate. The same state of the current results if you connect all the positive plates together, and all the negative plates together from a larger number of smaller sized cells. This is connecting in multiple. If, on the other hand, you join the zinc of one cell to the carbon of the next in series, you will have an electromotive force equal to that of one cell multiplied by the whole number of cells, and a less number of amperes because of the greater resistance of the arrangement. This is a battery connected for intensity.

(10154) W. H. G. asks: 1. Please give acid used in pole indicator and ground detector and state what size and kind of wire is used. A. Make a solution of alcohol, 10 cubic centimeters, phenolphthalein, 1 gramme. Add to this distilled water, 110 cubic centimeters. Make a second solution of sodium sulphate, 20 grammes, in 100 cubic centimeters of water. Soak blotting paper in the first solution, and drain off the superfluous liquid. Then soak the paper in the second solution and dry the paper. To test the poles of an open circuit, moisten a strip of the paper, and place the ends of the wires about two inches apart upon it. A red spot will appear around the end of the negative wire. 2. Is there any way in which a bipolar dynamo can be made to give a steady current and not an alternating current? I cannot run a Ruhmkorff coil because of this, and would like to know if there is any instrument or battery that I can connect in circuit to stop this alternation? A. A dynamo gives a direct or continuous current when its armature is provided with a commutator. The same machine gives an alternating current when its armature is fitted with rings connected to the windings. Either form of dynamo will work a Ruhmkorff coil equally well. If the alternating current is to be used, screw down the vibrator so that it will not vibrate. 3. Do I understand that in the system of wireless telegraphy explained in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of January 4, 1902, there is no Ruhmkorff coil used in the transmitting part, but just the batteries connected to the earth? A. Yes; but Hertzian waves are not used in this system. 4. What are inductance coils, and please give idea of how made? What is a choke coil, and how made? A. An inductance or a choking coil is a coil to reduce the current by its induction upon the current as it passes through it. A second current is set up in the inductance coil, which flows in the opposite direction to the main current and thus chokes it off, so to speak. 5. Please give number of SUPPLEMENT, if you have same, that has plans and working drawings for constructing small gasoline motor. A. See SUPPLEMENTS Nos. 715 and 716, for construction of gas engines, 23 figures, 10 cents by mail. Also a book on "Gas Engine Construction" by Parsell and Weed, \$2.50 by mail.

(10155) L. P. L. writes: We have an angle iron tower 100 feet high on which is a 50,000-gallon tank. Miscereants annoy us by climbing to tank. Electric light and trolley lines are near; how best connect them to tower to give a good stiff shock, and what size wire should we use? A. You can connect your tank to the electric lines you mention, but you will render yourself liable for the injury or death of anyone who may be connected to the circuit through your act. A man does not render himself liable to be murdered by climbing a neighbor's tower. It is simply a trespass, which has not so severe a penalty in the law. There are other ways of meeting the case.

(10156) M. P. C. asks: 1. What metal is next in quality to platinum for contact pieces in a bell, induction coil and a telegraph key? A. There is no metal which can take the place of platinum for this use. There are several which have higher melting points, but they cost from five to ten times as much as platinum and the price prohibits their use. Most metals oxidize too easily to enable them to be used for contact points. 2. Does carbon or graphite make a good contact? A. No. They are too brittle, and would soon be broken in pieces. 3. How many pounds of wire should be wound on the armature and field magnet of the hand-power dynamos described in SUPPLEMENT No. 161? A. The winding calls for so many turns, not so many pounds. 4. Is this dynamo suitable for running a motor? A. Yes, a small one.

(10157) L. A. G. asks: We have a small motor wound for 25 to 30 volts, which we would like to utilize in running a small job press which we are at present running by foot. Would it be advisable to use a battery of the Grenet cells; or would the cost of maintaining them be too high? A. The voltage is only one element in determining the output of a battery, and in rating the power required to run a motor. To furnish the voltage for your motor will require 16 bichromate cells. The type described in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 792, price ten cents, is best adapted to this purpose. The size of cell therein described will doubtless be large enough to run motor. One charge will last six hours. You can determine the cost from the price of bichromate of soda or potash and sulphuric acid at your place.

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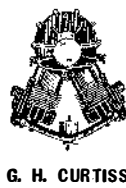
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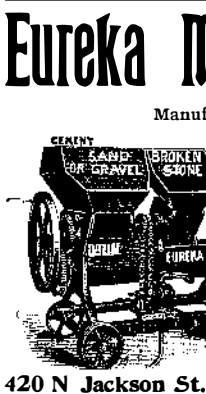
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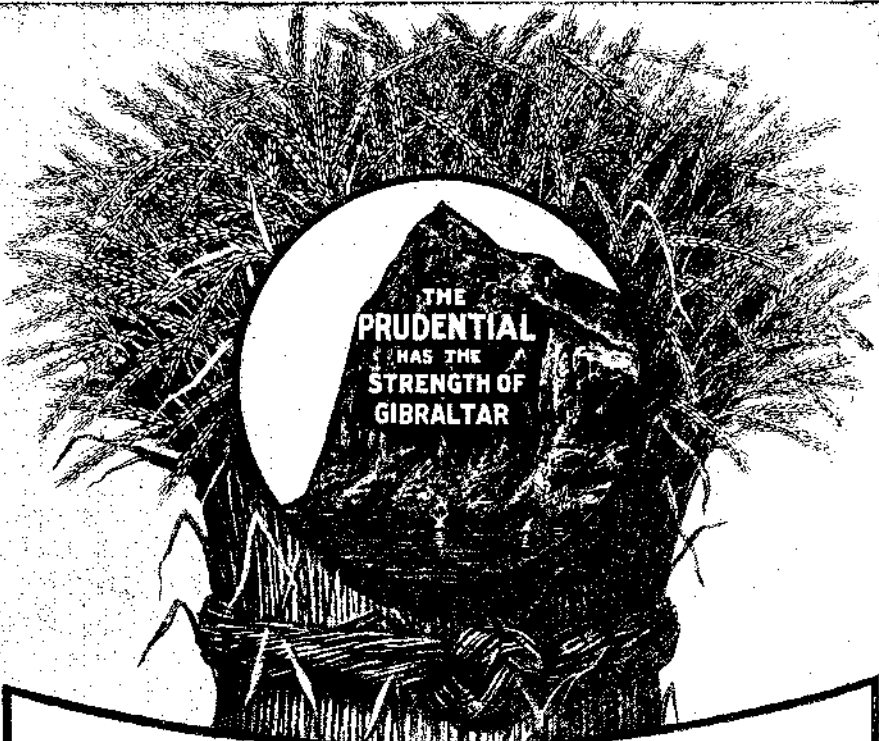
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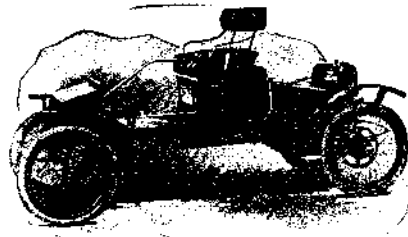
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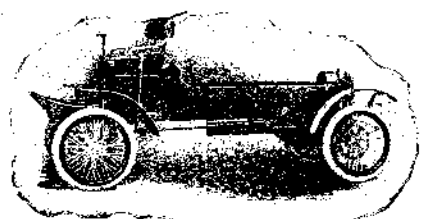
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