

and if the front side of one ball comes in contact with the hind side of another, both rolling in the same direction, the kinetic friction between them is double that between either ball sliding without rotating and the cone on which it slides. With which explanation of the reasons pro and con we must leave you to judge whether or not it is better in your case to oil or not.

(11005) T. L. G. says: You will do me a favor to decide in your Notes and Queries the following: A holds that centuries are marked at their termination, and cites Gladstone for authority. B holds that centuries are marked at their beginning, and derides the intellectual Gladstone as guilty of this preposterous statement. Who has the better of the argument? A. The last year of each hundred gives the name to the century in which it is counted. We are now living in the 20th century. The last year of the 19th century was the year 1900. The first century began with the year 1 and ended with the year 100, and each century has followed the numbering of the first. This is exactly the same as counting other things. If you counted books, for example, you would count from one to one hundred, and the hundredth book would complete the first hundred books. A is right, although B calls his statement "preposterous."

(11006) G. M. says: Is the weight of the earth always the same, or is it getting lighter or heavier and what is the cause? A. The meteors which fall upon the earth in vast numbers every year add their weight to the earth. Thus the earth is increasing a minute quantity in weight each year, but not enough to be perceptible in thousands of years. Except for the escape of light gases from the atmosphere there is no known way in which the earth can lose weight.

(11007) G. W. M. says: Some time ago you published in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN a receipt for making gas from some kind of acids and aluminium; the paper I had has been lost and I would like to get it again if you can get it for me; find inclosed price for the paper. The gas I mean is so it can be lighted and made in a bottle. A. You can obtain hydrogen by means of aluminium in a variety of ways. The simplest method is to put chips of aluminium into sodic or potassic hydrate, using a rather dilute hydrate for the purpose. The mixture should be heated somewhat at first to start the action, but when the gas begins to come off the heat should be withdrawn or the action will be too violent. Another way is to pour hydrochloric acid upon the aluminium chips. This requires no heat. The chemical action will produce a great deal of heat. The acids of fruit will dissolve aluminium in the same way. For this reason aluminium cannot be used for cooking utensils. At one time it was thought that the metal would be of great service in the kitchen, but it had to be abandoned because the compounds formed from the acids of the food were harmful.

(11008) M. E. P. asks: 1. Give colors which have been adopted to indicate what a pipe is carrying. Ammonia pipes are painted one color and steam another, etc. A. There has been, to our knowledge, no sort of standardization of coloring of pipe lines to indicate their contents, and such standardization does not seem to us readily possible, as, if a list were made of all possible pipe contents of different plants, the colors most readily distinguishable from each other would be exhausted long before each content was designated. For instance, one plant may have steam, high and low voltage electric wires, and high and low pressure hydraulic; another may have steam, fire pressure, compressed air, electric wires, and gas, and one system of coloring to cover only those two plants will have already used up white, black, red, yellow, blue, and three other colors less readily distinguishable from the latter. A system must therefore be adopted to suit each particular plant, and the only important feature to be considered is that no two colors which may be mistaken for each other (as blue and green may be by lamplight) be used on adjacent lines, the accidental opening of one of which by mistake for the other in emergency would be dangerous (e. g., if a gas line were disconnected by mistake in looking for a short circuit in electric wires). For your case we would suggest black for steam, white for water, red for fire pressure, blue for ammonia, and yellow for brine circulation, or if there is no object in distinguishing fire from other water lines, red might be reserved for electric wire tubing, but in the light of the foregoing you can probably invent a better system for your special conditions than we can in ignorance of them. 2. What is the wind pressure per square foot at a velocity of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 miles per hour, respectively? A. The following are the pressures per square foot corresponding to the speeds in miles per hour given first:

10 miles per hour = 0.492 lbs. per sq. ft.
 20 miles per hour = 1.968 lbs. per sq. ft.
 30 miles per hour = 4.429 lbs. per sq. ft.
 40 miles per hour = 7.873 lbs. per sq. ft.
 50 miles per hour = 12.30 lbs. per sq. ft.

3. How can I determine how much angle to give the blades of a propeller in order to get a certain pitch? A. The pitch of a propeller blade is exactly the same as that of any other screw, a propeller blade being only a section of the surface of a helix, that is to say, the

pitch of the propeller is the amount by which any point upon it moves forward (in a direction parallel with the shaft) in one revolution of the propeller. Lay off a helix with the required pitch and the angle which its edge makes with a plane at right angles to its axis will be the angle at which the blades of your propeller must be set to a plane at right angles to the shaft to give the propeller the required pitch.

(11009) G. L. asks: What makes the earth move—not in regard to her three kinds of movements but simply what makes her to move, or in other words, what makes the matter move in the universe? A. The force which causes the earth to move is called gravitation. What its nature is is not known. It acts as if the earth had at some time been hurled into space in a line not directly toward the sun, but to one side of it, and had therefore moved around the sun ever since. Of course we do not think the earth was hurled in this way, but the effect of the attraction of gravitation is such as would have been the result if the earth had been thrown into space by a giant hand. Books of astronomy treat of these matters. One of the most recent is "Moulton's Astronomy," which we will send for \$1.75 post-paid.

(11010) H. L. W. asks: In the issue of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for October 3, 1908, in replying to "M. M." (Notes and Queries No. 10872), you say: "We do not know any reason why a person should be affected by lightning striking the water in which he is swimming." Some years ago I was swimming in Lake Luinrigamond, near Worcester, Mass., during a heavy thunder-storm. A very vivid flash of lightning occurred, the thunder being heard at practically the instant of the flash. Simultaneously with the flash, all my limbs contracted strongly, somewhat after the manner of a frog in Galvani's experiment, and I was conscious of a distinct shock comparable to that given by a strongly-charged Leyden jar. The shock was not painful, but was distinctly startling, so much so that I at once made my way back to the float. A friend sitting in bathing trunks on the wet float also said he felt the shock. We afterward found that the lightning had struck on the shore of the lake about a quarter of a mile distant. My knowledge of electricity is quite limited and I should quickly "get over my head" in a technical discussion, but the following explanation of the above facts seems tenable: While, as you state, "the earth is at 2,250 potential and of infinite capacity," would it not be true that at the instant of discharge that point of the earth which is struck by lightning is at a higher potential than the surrounding points? The potential is immediately equalized by the dissipation over the surface of the condenser (the earth) of the charge of electricity, the effects of the dissipation becoming weaker and weaker as the distance from the point of discharge is increased. Now a person submerged in a lake is in very intimate contact with the earth, and the discharge current, if I may use the expression, would pass through his body, as it would through all bodies of equal resistance, not insulated from the earth's surface, and if the current at this point were sufficiently strong, an effect would be produced in the swimmer's body, evidenced in my case by muscular contraction. There is nothing in this explanation except that you do not take cognizance of my assumption that at the instant of a discharge of electricity from a cloud to the earth, the zero potential of the earth is disturbed for an infinitesimal fraction of time, during which time a current is flowing from the point of discharge to be dissipated over the surface of the earth. A. We have read with interest your description of what happened to you when the lightning struck the water near where you were bathing. It would not appear that you experienced much of a shock from the electric discharge. Had you done so, you could not at once have made your way back to the float. It seems to us that your jumping in the water was as likely due to the suddenness of the flash and the sound of the thunder as to any other cause. Still we cannot say that it was so. If one did not experience more shock than from a discharge of a Leyden jar, the lightning was very weak. We entirely agree with your discussion of the conditions of the earth beneath a cloud at the instant of a lightning flash, but do not see that this alters what we said in the query referred to. That a certain degree of electrification should be dissipated from one would not give much of a shock. This is always experienced when lightning strikes in one's vicinity.

(11011) H. W. says: Why is it that, using the same effort and force, a long screw driver will remove a screw nail that cannot be moved by a short screw driver? A. The mechanical advantage gained is entirely and only due to the fact that the longer screw driver has the larger head, and consequently the greater leverage, i. e., the greater difference between the "arm of the power" as represented by the radius of the head and the "arm of the weight" as represented by the radius of the screw head (or half the width of the screw driver point). The only other advantages of the longer screw driver are the usual possibility of assuming with it a more comfortable position, using two hands instead of one, or throwing more weight against the screw driver to prevent the point jumping out of the screw head slot.

NEW BOOKS, ETC.

THE BOY'S BOOK OF STEAMSHIPS. By J. R. Howden. New York: The McClure Company, 1908. 12mo.; pp. 285. Price, \$2.

The author has proceeded along very practical lines in the preparation of this admirable book, which will be welcomed not only by boys but by their elders. There is something fascinating about the modern steamship, and the admirable frontispiece, showing the "Adriatic" at Cherbourg, will bring back pleasant memories to many. Of all the works of man's hand and brain, nothing is quite so impressive or fascinating as a ship. Imposing as she may appear when in port, her hull is such a tiny thing when compared to the great and wide sea across which she ventures, that it seems almost impossible that any fabric put together by men's hands could possibly endure the great force of the ocean waves, still less make its way as unerringly as a ferryboat across them to a purposed destination. The author has tried to unveil to his readers the secret which lies behind it all, the secret, namely, of "freedom within the bounds of law"; that man is only permitted to control natural forces for his own ends by obedience to the laws which control them. A recapitulation of the chapters gives an admirable idea of the scope of the book. After an introductory chapter, we come to "Principles of Ship Design," "The Coming of Steam," "Down in the Stokhold," "The Engines," "Propelling Machinery," "The Development of Type," "The Comfort of the Passenger," "Navigating and Engineering Departments," "Steward's Department," "River Steamboats," "Lake and Coasting Steamers," "Ocean Steamships." There are many exceedingly valuable tables scattered through the book. These tables are so valuable, that one almost wishes that the author had called it "The Man's Book of Steamships."

BIOLOGY AND ITS MAKERS. By William A. Lucy, Ph.D. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1908. 8vo.; pp. 439. Price, \$2.75.

The author has been frequently in receipt of letters from students, teachers, ministers, medical men and others, asking for information on topics in general biology, and for reference to the best reading on the subject. The increasing frequency of such inquiries and the wide range of topics covered have created the impression that an untechnical account of the rise and progress of biology would be of interest to a considerable audience. This the author gives as his reason for writing this book. This admirably fills a comparatively empty niche in the literature of science. The author has attempted to bring under one view the broad features of the biological progress, and to increase the human interest by writing the story around the lives of the great leaders, naturally the practical execution in the past resolving itself largely into the question of what to omit. The aim has been to keep in mind a picture sufficiently diagrammatic not to confuse the general reader. The book is divided into two sections. In the first are considered the sources of the ideas—except those of organic evolution—that dominate biology, and the steps by which they have been molded into a unified science. The doctrine of organic evolution, on account of its importance, is reserved for special consideration in the second section. The portraits with which the text is illustrated embrace nearly all the founders of biology.

THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. By Sydney George Fisher. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1908. 2 vols. 8vo.; pp. 573-585. Price, \$4.

The present work is a continuation and an enlargement of "The True History of the American Revolution," published some years ago in one volume. That work, while being a brief general account of the contest, dwelt more particularly on certain phases of the struggle which have been omitted or ignored by historians. It soon became obvious that it did not go far enough, that the original plan should be extended and carried out in more detail, and that the whole mass of original evidence in libraries and historical societies should be made accessible, revealed to the public in as complete and ample form as possible. Our people have little or no conception of what the Revolution really was, no conception of the nature of the original evidence; and the unwillingness of our writers of general history to set forth that evidence keeps it a sealed book to the people. Our national feeling is bound up in the Revolution; the extreme importance of such an event, which was the foundation of our nationality and of the political and social principles by which we are still guided, seems to deserve all the light that it is possible to obtain. Although our Revolution is said to have changed the thought of the world, like the epochs of Socrates, of Christ, of the Reformation, yet no complete history of it has ever been written upon the plan of dealing frankly with all the contemporary evidence and withholding nothing of importance that is found in the original records. Our histories are able rhetorical efforts, enlarged Fourth of July orations, or pleasing literary essays on selected phases of the contest; there has been no serious attempt to delve in the original sources of information and reveal them to the reader, as has been done with the history of England, of France,

and of other countries. In view of these facts, Dr. Fisher has written the admirable history which we are now reviewing. There is no one better qualified as a sound and accurate historian than Dr. Fisher, whose writings have been received with respect by all the reading community.

HOW IT IS DONE, OR VICTORIES OF THE ENGINEER. By Archibald Williams. New York: Nelson & Sons, 1908. 12mo.; pp. 484. Price, \$1.25.

In these pages the reader will find an account of the great bridges built and in course of construction, and other great railway enterprises during the past few years, including tunnels and car ferries; also the story of the Florida East Coast Railway built over the sea. Ample space is given to the description of the new Croton dam and the Panama canal. The book is excellently illustrated by numerous well-executed engravings, a number of which have already appeared in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

IN VIKING LAND. Norway, Its Peoples, Its Fjords, and Its Fjelds. By W. S. Monroe. Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1908. 12mo.; pp. 332. Price, \$3.

The present work is the result of two vacation trips to Norway and rather wide reading of the extensive literature of the country. The author's aim has been to give prospective tourists some notion of the benefits to be derived from a visit to Norway, and to inform readers who prefer to travel within the covers of a book. The author also trusts that this book may serve to refresh the memories of those who have already traveled in Norway. In any country so rich in mountains, ice fields, and waterfalls and fjords, it is altogether easy to devote the chief part of a book to those forms and forces. This is precisely what most writers on Norway have done. The present volume, on the other hand, gives prominence to matters of human interest—the people, their habits, customs, and traditions, to the developed and developing civilization of the country. The Viking age appeals strikingly to the imagination of readers and travelers, and the author has endeavored to draw from the chronicles of the old Norse sagas and the existing historic objects which have visible connection with the past such facts as may aid in the construction of a fairly vivid picture of this stirring period. The author has produced a most interesting volume, which has been beautifully illustrated, printed, and bound by the publishers.

BRIDGE ENGINEERING. ROOF TRUSSES. A Manual of Practical Instruction in the Calculation and Design of Structural Steel Truss and Girder Bridges for Railroads and Highways. Including also the Analysis and Design of Roof Trusses and Other Details of Mill Building Construction. By Frank O. Dufour, C.E. Chicago: Published by the American School of Correspondence, 1908. 8vo.; pp. 384; 340 illustrations; half morocco; marbled edges. Price, \$3.

The fact that this work by Prof. Dufour has been officially adopted as a textbook at the University of Illinois, is in itself convincing evidence of its value as a contribution to the literature of structural engineering. It is admirably adapted for the general practical use of the engineer. The problems involved in the calculation and design of modern steel structures are complicated, yet are adequately compassed here in a handy volume of moderate proportions. The treatment is exceedingly clear and concise, and free from the abstruse mathematics that ordinarily overburden other works in this difficult field. The section on Bridge Engineering treats fully both Bridge Analysis and Bridge Design, embracing the various types of truss and girder bridges, bridge piers and abutments, bearings, and other details, for railroads, country highways, etc. Every detail is clearly explained by the aid of diagrams, while graphical methods are chiefly used in the computations. The same practical and concise treatment marks the section on Roof Trusses, which covers all details of the analysis, calculation, and design of the various types of roof trusses used for buildings of various spans, the methods of securing good light and ventilation, the layout and other details of mills, shops, etc. Photographs of typical modern structures are shown, with full explanation of the methods followed in their design, and in some cases statements of cost.

A TEXTBOOK ON ROADS AND PAVEMENTS. By Frederick P. Spalding. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1908. 12mo.; Pp. 340; 51 figures. Price, \$2 net.

The methods employed in the construction and maintenance of highways have changed so greatly since the first publication of this book, that in the preparation of this edition it has been found necessary to practically rewrite the entire book. An effort has been made to briefly represent the best recent practice in highway work, and the book has necessarily expanded considerably beyond its former limits. The book contains chapters on "Road Economics and Management," "Drainage of Streets and Roads," "Location of Country Roads," "Improvement and Maintenance of Country Roads," "Broken-Stone Roads," "Foundations for Pavements," "Brick Pavements," "Bituminous Pavements," "Wood-Block Pavements," "Stone-Block Pavements," and "City Streets."

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS IN THE UNITED STATES. Including a Directory Dealing with Tuberculosis in the United States and Canada. Compiled under the Direction of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis by Philip P. Jacobs. New York: Charities Publication Committee of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. 8vo.; pp. 467. Price, \$1.

This book has been made possible by the generous co-operation of the Russell Sage Foundation, which has supplied the necessary funds for its preparation and publication.

CENTENNIAL OF RELIGIOUS JOURNALISM. Edited by the Rev. J. Pressley Barrett, D.D. Dayton, Ohio: Christian Publishing Association, 1908. 12mo.; pp. 656.

CONSTRUCTIVE DRAWING. A Textbook for Home Instruction, High Schools, Manual Training High Schools, Technical Schools, and Universities. Arranged and published by Herman Hasten. Chicago, 1908. Oblong 4to.; pp. 33; 33 plates. Price, \$1.

The author, who is a practical instructor in drawing, has applied an excellent series of problems, which will be found a great help for home instruction. This work represents the first year's course that has been followed the past twenty-five years in Chicago high schools and in the drawing departments of the Chicago Mechanics' Institute. A practical experience of seventeen years in the office and shop, and his occupation as teacher during the past thirty years, has given the author such judgment as to select only problems of practical importance to those who follow architectural, mechanical, and engineering vocations, as well as problems which are indispensable to manufacturing and industrial pursuits. The book is worthy of a good sale.

SECRETS OF THE ROCKS, OR THE STORY OF HILLS AND GULCHES. A Manual of Hints and Helps for the Prospector and Miner. By S. M. Frazier. Denver: Hall & Williams, 1908. 12mo.; Pp. 491. Price, \$2.15.

There are prospectors' handbooks by the score, and scientific treatises on miners and mining by the hundreds, but have you ever seen a book which contained all the facts of the one and the theories of the other, and yet which was truly a story of the hills and gulches, told in such a way as to be full of the most intense interest, even to those who are not prospectors and miners? Such a book is "Secrets of the Rocks." Its author has been a practical prospector in the mountains of the far West for more than three decades, and during all that time he has been striving to learn the "secrets of the rocks" by personal observation and exhaustive study of the researches of others. He has embodied the results of his work in this book. The facts can be relied upon, for they are gleaned from actual experience.

GRAPHICAL DETERMINATION OF EARTH SLOPES, RETAINING WALLS AND DAMS. By Charles Prelini. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1908. 8vo.; pp. 129. Price, \$2.

A large part of this work consists of graphical methods of solving problems concerning the slopes of earth embankments, lateral pressure, earth against the wall, and the thickness of retaining walls and dams. These pages are intended for students, and not for professional engineers. Simplicity and clearness have been the main objects in view, and the experience of the classroom makes the author believe that this little work will be of use to students and teachers, while at the same time it may be of some help to the practical engineer.

AUDEL'S GAS ENGINE MANUAL. New York: Theo. Audel & Co., 1908. 12mo.; pp. 469. Price, \$2.

A practical work dealing with all phases of the subject. There are 156 engravings. Among the interesting chapters are Gas Producer Systems, Ignition and Igniters, Installation and Operation of Marine Engines, Instruments Used in Testing, Nature and Use of Lubricants, Hints on Management and Suggestions for Emergencies, The Automobile, and Useful Rules and Tables.

VERZEICHNIS SAEMTLICHER PUBLIKATIONEN. Von Prof. Dr. Otto Lehmann. Frankfurt-on-the-Main: C. Naumann's Druckerei, 1908. Pp. 13.

ZUR GESCHICHTE DER FLÜSSIGEN KRISTALLE. Von O. Lehmann. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1908. Pp. 852-860.

KÜNSTLICHE ZELLEN. Mit Flüssig-kristallinischen Wänden. Von O. Lehmann. Braunschweig: Druck von Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn, 1908. Pp. 407-410.

FLÜSSIGE KRISTALLE. Ihre Entdeckung Bedeutung und Ähnlichkeit mit Lebewesen. Von Prof. Dr. O. Lehmann. Frankfurt-on-the-Main: C. Naumann's Druckerei, 1908. Pp. 35.

DIE WICHTIGSTEN BEGRIFFE UND GEGESZTE DER PHYSIK. Von Dr. O. Lehmann. Berlin: Verlag von Julius Springer, 1907. Pp. 58.

PATENT CAUSES

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were issued for the Week Ending November 17, 1908.

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE [See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Table listing inventions with names and patent numbers. Includes entries like 'Acid, manufacture of sulfuric, H. Petersen 904,147', 'Adjusting jack, C. S. Ehrhart 903,849', 'Agricultural implement, J. Pierson, Jr. 904,498', etc.

Table listing inventions with names and patent numbers. Includes entries like 'Clock or watch indicator, A. E. Aeschlimann 904,291', 'Clutch, C. T. Painter 904,358', 'Clutch, H. H. Taylor 904,463', etc.

Table listing inventions with names and patent numbers. Includes entries like 'Glass gathering machine, R. D. Brown 904,402', 'Glass, making plate or sheet, T. Spillman 904,158', 'Grain drill, D. A. Schutt 903,896', etc.