

THE VALIDITY OF PATENTS.

Persons who are about purchasing patent property, or patentees who are about erecting extensive works for manufacturing under their patents, should have their claims examined carefully by competent attorneys, to see if they are not likely to infringe some existing patent, before making large investments. Written opinions on the validity of patents, after careful examination into the facts, can be had for a reasonable remuneration. The price for such services is always settled upon in advance, after knowing the nature of the invention and being informed of the points on which an opinion is solicited. For further particulars address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row New York.

ASSIGNMENTS OF PATENTS.

The assignment of patents, and agreements between patentees and manufacturers, carefully prepared and placed upon the records at the Patent Office. Address MUNN & CO., at the Scientific American Patent Agency, No. 37 Park Row, New York.

It would require many columns to detail all the ways in which the inventor or patentee may be served at our offices. We cordially invite all who have anything to do with patent property or inventions to call at our extensive offices, No. 37 Park Row, New York, where questions regarding the Rights of Patentees, will be cheerfully answered.

Communications and remittances by mail, and models by express (prepaid) should be addressed to MUNN & CO. No. 37 Park Row, New York



S. D., of Conn.—The question of lubricating valves and pistons of steam engines will soon be discussed in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. It tends to injure a steam boiler to refill it immediately after blowing off in winter; the abrupt contraction of the iron, from a high to a comparatively low temperature weakens it would injure the flues to burn them out whether the boiler is full or not; the heat must be so intense to affect the scale that the flues are burnt & are removed. The deposit you mention can be removed by using a stiff wire brush with short handles linked together like a chain, this can be employed in the shortest turns. It will take some time to do it thoroughly if the flues have been neglected. An eel as thick as a man's thumb and of proportionate length must be a singular fish; we could not account for the presence of it anywhere, much less in a spring on the top of a rocky hill. The eel must have been a water snake.

E. L., of Mass.—Gas stoves are in quite extensive use, and it seems to be generally supposed that they are serviceable in warming rooms, but we have never known of any careful experiments being made to ascertain whether a room is heated more quickly by means of the stove than it is by burning the same quantity of gas in the open air. In both cases the combustion would probably be perfect, and the absolute amount of heat generated would be the same. As, however, heat accompanied by light—intense heat—passes more freely through diathermic bodies than heat of low temperature, the stove would cause a larger quantity of heat to be absorbed by the air, a correspondingly less quantity passing through the air into the walls. But the principal advantage of the stove is probably to prevent the heat from rising to the upper part of the room, as it does in the upward current produced by an open burner. Gas burned in a stove, as well as in an open jet, not only exhausts the oxygen from the air, but generates in its place carbonic acid, and if a large jet were burned a long time in a small room it might prove fatal to the occupants; but we have never heard of a case of death from this cause.

O. P. B., of Ind.—Trees grow by a deposit of new matter each year between the bark and the wood all round the trunk and branches. This deposit is made in the form of cells, and those which are deposited in the spring have their cross walls absorbed and form minute tubes extending the whole length of the tree. But those which are formed late in the season become filled with solid matter. Thus each year's growth of the tree is an envelope, the inner portion of which is porous, while the outer portion is solid wood. When a tree is cut down it is easy to ascertain its age by counting these yearly rings. An estimate formed by counting the rings in an inch of section near the bark, and multiplying these the number of inches in the semi-diameter, would instead, as he rings are generally broader near the center.

O. S. D. Mass.—You can procure photographic gun-cotton of Seely & Boltwood, 244 Canal street, this city. They would doubtless make some for you, to order, by Baron von Lenk's process.

C. R. L., of N. Y.—If you will look on another page of this journal you will see an article called "A hint worth remembering." You can draw an inference from that whether your machine is worth patenting or not.

C. E. H., of Cal.—We do not now know where you can procure a good rock-drilling machine. There are none now on sale in this market, so far as we can ascertain.

J. A. McC., of Mich.—Address Wilcox & Hall, Middletown, Conn., for galvanized castings of malleable or cast-iron.

J. R. L., of N. Y.—The safety valve was first invented by Papin in 1700, who applied it to a cooking machine for digesting bones, meats, &c.

A. S., of N. J.—Your small boiler is not safe over 25 pounds on the square inch. Slippery elm will sometimes remove scale from boilers; in others spent tan bark has been found useful. The nature of boiler scale varies with the locality; what might be a good prescription in one case would be utterly worthless in another. Pure rain water is decidedly the best if you can get it.

J. W., of Canada.—We perceive nothing new in your suggestions. Vessels with compartments, and a rudder at each end are now in use. Propellers at the sides are old. Fog signals for indicating the direction of movement for vessels are employed.

G. S. S., of Pa.—Use Hilton's Insoluble Cement for sticking your glass letters on to your windows, it is a good thing. It can be had in stores.

P. S., of Va.—You should address H. C. Baird, 406 Walnut street, Philadelphia, for a treatise on the slide rule. If he hasn't got it, he can get it, or anything else in the book line.

Money Received.

At the Scientific American Office, on account of Patent Office business, from Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1864, to Wednesday, March 2, 1864:—

J. D. McL., of N. Y., \$35; M. B. C., of Pa., \$16; H. & S., of Pa., \$50; D. G., of Pa., \$30; J. S., of Conn., \$31; G. C., of Mich., \$25; H. L., of Ky., \$44; R. E. B., of Mich., \$16; J. P. A., of Wis., \$16; F. M., of Mo., \$25; G. & P., of Cal., \$40; J. A. K., of Mo., \$20; F. A. De M., of N. Y., \$15; R. P. P., of N. Y., \$45; J. F. C., of N. Y., \$22; H. & R., of Ohio, \$50; D. P., of N. Y., \$16; Mrs. S. A. M., of N. Y., \$16; G. R. V., of N. Y., \$20; E. T. S., of N. Y., \$41; A. S. S., of N. Y., \$10; H. G. E., of N. Y., \$25; C. B. G., of Iowa, \$16; A. E. W., of Ill., \$16; R. F., of Ind., \$20; P. & B., of Pa., \$16; S. & B., of Ind., \$15; W. H. S., of Ohio, \$15; T. D. H., of Conn., \$16; E. M., of Mich., \$19; A. J. F., of Vt., \$25; B. & B., of Mass., \$25; B. L., of Mich., \$209; R. L. S., of Conn., \$20; E. C. A., of N. Y., \$22; H. W. G., of N. Y., \$16; J. McL., of Ohio, \$20; E. H., of N. Y., \$61; J. W. P., of Mass., \$20; J. G., of N. Y., \$16; W. W., of N. Y., \$16; P. C., of N. Y., \$25; G. K. W., of Conn., \$12; H. M., of Pa., \$16; O. M. F., of Pa., \$25; C. A. C., of Pa., \$25; W. B., of Mass., \$25; O. W. K., of Wis., \$25; E. H. M., of Iowa, \$25; A. E. K., of Pa., \$16; W. C. H., of Ill., \$25; W. D., of Cal., \$20; P. P., of N. H., \$16; K. & S., of Ill., \$16; D. R. W., of Iowa, \$20; L. W., of Conn., \$22; J. H. T., of N. J., \$16; A. M. W. of N. Y., \$41; T. W., of Mass., \$41; B. M. F., of N. Y., \$16; E. B., of England, \$41; W. H. J., of N. Y., \$23; S. & B., of N. Y., \$101.

Persons having remitted money to this office will please to examine the above list to see that their initials appear in it and if they have not received an acknowledgment by mail, and their initials are not to be found in this list, they will please notify us immediately, stating the amount and how it was sent, whether by mail or express.

Specifications and drawings and models belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office, from Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1864, to Wednesday, March 2, 1864:— J. D. McL., of N. Y.; H. G. E., of N. Y.; D. A. G., of N. Y.; E. C. A., of N. Y.; L. W., of Conn.; E. H., of N. Y.; A. M. W., of N. Y.; E. T. S., of N. Y.; E. B., of England; H. & S., of Pa.; O. M. F., of Pa.; W. H. F., of Pa.; D. G., of Pa.; J. B., of Ohio; C. A. C., of Pa.; R. F., of Ind.; F. M., of Mo.; J. C., of N. J.; O. W. K., of Wis.; E. H. M., of Iowa; W. C. H., of Ill.; A. J. F., of Vt.; G. C., of Mich.; W. B., of Mass.; G. W. M., of Mass.; B. & B., of Mass.; G. K. W., of Conn.; P. C., of N. Y.; W. H. J., of N. Y.; A. P., of Kingdom of Hanover (2 cases); F. A. J., of Prussia.

TO OUR READERS.

PATENT CLAIMS.—Persons desiring the claim of any invention which has been patented within thirty years, can obtain a copy by addressing a note to this office, stating the name of the patentee and date of patent, when known, and enclosing \$1 as fee for copying. We can also furnish a sketch of any patented machine issued since 1853, to accompany the claim, on receipt of \$2. Address MUNN & CO., Patent Solicitors, No. 37 Park Row, New York.

INVARIABLE RULE.—It is an established rule of this office to stop sending the paper when the time for which it was pre-paid has expired.

MODELS are required to accompany applications for Patents under the new law, the same as formerly, except on design patents, when two good drawings are all that are required to accompany the petition, specification and oath, except the Government fee.

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