## Scientific American.

'TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Z. M. J., of Va.—You say "you have lately seen two inventions, suggested by you, published in the Sci. Am., u; on which patents have been secured by others." You now perceive the advantage of bringing out your inventions as soon as possible after they are made, and the impropriety of communicating them to others without preserving evidence of the time you made them. Inventors are often careless in these respects, and suffer by their extreme tardiness in making their applications for patents. Your fire alarmappears to be a complicated apparatus for the purpose, and we do not think you have any encouragement to prosecute it any further. Fuse has not, to our knowledge, been employed for sounding an alarm, but wires have been used in connection with bells for the urpose. The wire expanding under the effects of heat starts off the alarm, and thus effects the purpose without the necessity of using any other agent.

L.M. Y., of Ill.—It is not new to drive a saw directly from the piston of the engine, thus dispensing with the crank. This device was illustrated in Vol. 3, Sci. Am., and it has since been presented to us several times. We fail to discover any novelty in your arrangement for saw-

E. G. F., of Mass.—We can furnish you Vol. 9, bound, for \$2.75. We published, in that volume, two illustrated articles on calico printing, which you will no doubt find very interesting. The articles on Dyeing are published in Vol.10-a bound volume of which you can also procure for the same price.

C.A.C., of Mass.—We are not acquainted with any pre-paration that is capable of removing superfluous hair without injury to the cuticle. We would not advise you to try any experiments or nostrums advertised to do this.

L. M. L., of Ohio-A pawl and ratchet wheel employed as you propose, does not, in our opinion, embrace any patentable feature. We do not see how its application to this par icular purpose could be secured by patent, as it has no intrinsic novelty. We do not think the prize offered by Mr. Beach for a paper feeder has been withdrawn. The idea of feeding paper into the press in an endless sheet, is old and well known.

G. W. M., of Ga.—If one hundred pounds, placed on one of your springs, will close it, by taking ten springs of the same size and strength, and bending them together, they will be ten times the thickness or depth, and according to experiments, they willresist forty times the crushing strain of the single spring. That is, they will be bent only one-fortieth the distance of one spring on which one

hundred pounds are placed.

E. S. R., of N. Y.—You should consult with some law yer in your place on the point of inquiry involved in your

J.D.B., of Ala:-Printers' rollers, after they become impaired, cannot be renovated by any process known to us. The practice in this city, among printers, is to throw them aside as useless under such circumstances.

J. E. S., of Mass.-Your device for indicating the stations to be stopped at along the course of a railroad, as the train approaches them, without the necessity of a verbal notice being given, appears to be new, although others are in use, but those who are unused to traveling would very apt to misunderstand its object unless some one was especially appointed to explain what it meant.

S. W., of N. H.—You will understand that you cannot patent a principle in a machine or device. The claim Models—We shall esteem it a great favor if inventor must necessarily be based upon its construction and mode of adaptation to a specific purpose.

P. S., of N. Y.—A great deal of genius has been expenfled on windmills, and especially has this been the case or the past two years. Your arrangement seems to possess some novelty upon which we think a patent could

E. D. C., of N. Y.—Assignments of patents should always be recorded in the Patent Office within three months after their date. This is the law.

C. E. A., of Me.—The process of galvanizing iron, etc., to prevent its oxydation, to which you refer, was patented in 1837, by M. Sorel, of France. He made application in 1851 to the Commissioner of Patents for its extension for the term of seven years. This application was refused, and the invention is now public property. You will find the complete specification published in Vol. 7. Sci. Am. This process is very generally practiced in this country

Don Juan Santiago Baggally, of Mexico-Your long letters we have received, and read attentively, and hold them subject to your friend's-Mr. Bentley's-order. It would cost you \$500 for government fees, and about \$30 probably for agency fees, to make an application for a patent in this country, unless you have taken oath of allegiance to Mexico, in which event you would have to pay but three hundred dollars for government fees. Your order for lamps, etc., we cannot attend to filling, but will hold your letters subject to Mr. Bentley's order, and from them he will know as well what to select for you as we A circular of information in regard to the rules to be observed in getting your model and specimens ready for the Patent Office, we will hand to Mr B. for you. It is no economy for a foreigner to assign his interest in an inven tion to a citizen before it is patentyd, for all applicants for patents not only have to swear that they are the inventors, but also make affidavit that they are citizens of some country, and specify what country, so that the Commissioner may determine whether the amount of government fees he has deposited is correct or not.

W. H. W., of N. J.-Cummunications sent to us without the name of the writer are neither read nor preserved. no matter what the nature of the inquiry is, we will not attend to unsigned letters.

N. Y. G., of N. Y.-In Vol. 19, page 35, Sci. Am., you vill find a very interesting reminiscence of the first ocean steamer-the "Savannah." She made the passage in 1819, and on her return she was converted into a sailing

gas is much inferior to steam in this respect, and must stand back for the present.

N. P.A., of N. Y.-We have none of the instruments on sale that you want.

E. & R., of Pa.—Your model has arrived, and will be sent to the Patent Office, to take the place of your imperfect one, immediately. We are sorry you did not make it precisely like the original one; still, as it deviates only inso small apoint we guess the Office will not demur at it.

S. S. M., of S. C.—The first screw propeller ever made consisted of perfect screws having two or three turns of a a thread. Some with single threads, others double. The formation of the screw of a number of segments is a later improvement. The screw was used as a propeller long before the commencement of the eraof steam navigation

J. S. S., of Mass.—Throughout the entire category of invention, it is not perhaps too much to say, that on no class has so much real genius been wasted as upon rotary steam engines. It has been a greatdesideratum with inventors to realize a compact rotary machine, capable of economising all the power in this concentrated form. The intended advantages of the rotary engine are to allow the steam to act directly upon the wheel to be turned, with out the intervention of piston rods, cranks, etc., but inventors are strongly warned, by past experience, against the error inherent in engines of this character, and we believe we can say, without fear of contradiction, that not one rotary has yet fully realized the expectation of its projector. Examine Vol. 4, Sci. Am., and see how many worthless plans have been proposed, and you will thus be able to steer clear of the rock on which so many have foundered. If you send your sketch to us we will examine it, and give our opinion of its novelty. As to the question of utility this is always a matter of experimental

M. F. W. of Tenn.-Stirrups for the purpose of re lieving the foot in case of sudden overthrow of the rider, have been frequently suggested, and patents have been secured for them. Your modification, we think, is new and patentable, as we have never seen the same thing

Moneyreceived at the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Office or account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, Nov. 24, 1855:—

A. M. G., of N. Y., \$25; N. & W., of N. Y., \$30; J. H. A. M. G., of N. Y., \$25; N. & W., of N. Y., \$30; J. H., of Ohio, \$55; A. J. P., of Mass., \$20; R. E., of —— \$30; C. & D., of Ct., \$25; T. D., Jr., of Pa., \$30; J. D. A., of Ohio, \$25; R. W. J., of Ind., \$55; R. D., of N. Y., \$20; H. S., of Ct., \$25; L. A. C., of Mass., \$55; C. & S., of Pa., \$25; T. H., of London, \$550; W. H. B., of Pa., \$80; W. C. B., of N. Y., \$25; F. S. C., of Mass., \$30; W. W. H., of Va., \$25; D. L., of N. Y., \$27; J. S., of Ind., \$10; A. P., of N. Y., \$30; J. R. H., of N. J., \$30.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Nov. 24:-

D. L., of N. Y.; W. C. B., of N. Y.; W. W. H., of Va.; W. H. B., of Pa., 2 cases; T. H., of London; A. J. P., of Mass.: J. D. A., of O.: R. P. W., of N. Y.; C. & D., of Conn.; S. W., of N. Y.; E. B., of N. Y.; H. S., of Conn. C. & S., Pa.

## Important Items.

GOING RAPIDLY-The back numbers of the present volume are fast being exhausted, and those who desire the numbers of Vol. 11 complete, must not wait much longer before remitting their subscriptions, else they will be

will always attach their names to such models as they send us. It will save us much trouble, and prevent the

liability of their being mislaid. Subscribers or exchanges who are entitled, to the paper and fail to receive it regularly are desired to inform us that any omission may be corrected. Missing numbers are furnished gratuitously where the fault rests with the publishers.

PATENT CLAIMS-Persons desiringthe claim of any invention which has been patented within fourteen years can obtain a copy by addressing a letter to this office stating the name of the patentee, and enclosing \$1 as

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vessel. We have a right to claim the honor of first crossing the focean with steam, an honor that we can certainly boast of with pride and pleasure.

G. A., of M.ss.—You err most egregiously in concluding from our remarks on gas engines at the Fair of the American Institute, that "we appear to think gas cannot be made to propel machinery." No inference of the kind can be drawnfrom our remarks. On the contrary, we know that gas, air, and electricity can be made to perform this office, but we think the work can be more advantageously and cheaply performed by steam. This is the great essential, and we believe that steam is by far the most economical agent yet devised. Carbonic acid gas is much infectior to steam in this respect, and must

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and achitics which lew others possess, we are ache to give the most correct counsels to inventors in regard to the patentability of inventions placed before us for examination.

Private consultations respecting the patentability of inventions are held free of charge, with inventors, at our office, from 9 A. M., until 4 P. M. Parties residing at a distance are informed that it is generally unnecessary for them to incurthe expense of attending in person, as all the steps necessary to secure a patent can be arranged by letter. A rough sketch and description of the improvement should be first forwarded, which we will examine and give an opinion as to patentability, without charge. Models and fees can be sent with safely from any part of the country by express. In this respect New York is more accessible than any other city in our country. Circulars of information will be sent free of postage to any one wishing to learn the preliminary steps towards making an application.

In addition to the advantages which the long experience and great success of our firm in obtaining patents present to inventors, they are informed that all inventions patented through our establishment, are noticed, at the proper time, in the Scinntiff American. This paper is read by not less than 100,000 persons every week, and enjoys a very wide spread and sub-tantial influence.

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Warks, foot 8th st., G. Birbeck, jr., 100 North Moore st.;
C. & G. M. Woodward, 77 Berkman st.

A. VAN DOREN, EUTAW. 41,A,—Will at ventors, Manufacturers, or Dealers. Will be at this Office Dec. 10th and 11th.

PYOTT'S PATENT IBIN PHINT. Dyott's Patent Furnace; Ludwig's Patent Machine for Pelling Trees; (refer to Ser. Am. Sept. 8, 1855, No. 52). Harrison's Patent Grain Mills. For all the above, information can be had of GEO. C. BARNEY, Agent, 16 Kilby St., Boston.

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