Scientific American.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. S. H., of Ohio-Chloroform dissolves gutta percha. If you take a solution of it, and filter it beneath a bell glass to prevent evaporation, the solution will pass through the filtering medium perfectly clear, and alm colorless. Then evaporate the chloroform, and you will obtain white guttapercha. You also wish to know how it can be rendered "hard':" Why it is a hard substance when kept below a temperature of 60 degs. It can be made as hard as wood, however, by kneading it with chalk and ground sulphate of magnesia, then heating it up

L. S. U., of Tenn.-We think that the black paper used by manifold letter writers would answer your purpose in imparting a black impression of the stamp to white paper. You will find it in almost every stationary store. Paste on your stamps with a solution of gum arabic instead of wafers. You can carry it about in a small vial.

J. E., of Md.—Ground limestone is not equal to quick lime for agricultural purposes, because the latter has alkaline properties. Any device which has been in public use, with the consent of the inventor, more than two years prior to the time of makingapplication for a patent, is an abandonment of the invention, in the eye of the law, as we understandit. There is no patent, to our knowledge, on he spring blade of the common apple parincomachine. In the descriptions of knitting machines given in our reports of the late Fair of the American Institute, you will obtain all the information we can give you in answer to

your particular inquiry.

G. H. S., of N. H.—We have carefully examined the sketch of your alleged improvements in water wheels, and we are of the opinion that the peculiar manner of constructing the floats possesses novelty sufficient to rant an application for a patent: we have had a good deal of experience in water wheels, and have never before seen the same contrivance; as to its practicability, we have some doubt, but this point can only be determined

L. H., of Pa.—There is nothing patentable in the mere employment of a separate engine and boiler to drive a blower, and nothing new in the application of a blower to a coal-burning locomotive. Your only chance for a patent is on some new arrangement of the boiler or engine, or some new features in their details.

T. D. H., of Ohio-We have carefully examined the sketch of your alleged improvement in rotary pumps, and we fail to discover in it novelty sufficient to justify an application for letters patent: we have had sketches of pumps of this character before, and therefore we do not think you stand any chance to procure a patent on yours We have not a number of the paper referred to, to send

E. G., of N. Y.—Youhad better not send in the petition against the re-extension of the Woodworth Patent until Congress is organized. Get all the names you can to the pettion, before that time. We hope all who feel interested in opposing this monopoly will act earnestly and vi-gorously in resisting it, and there will not be much fear of the result. The remonstrance in our office is rapidly fill- 11., of N.Y., \$30; G.W.B., of N.Y., \$25. ing up with good names.

R. S., of Mass.—We cannot tell you how to render glue

soft without water, or other substance, that would not render it liable to shrink after it becomes dry.

S. R. W., of Ill.-We think your alleged improvement in windmills contains the subject matter of a patent, but you must bear in mind that a great deal has been done to improve the windmill, hence the chances are less encour

L. D. S., of Mass.—The theory of your invention, as stated in your letter, may be perfectly correct: we are not sufficiently familiar with medical science to enable us to decide, but it would do no good to present an exparte statement of its value while the application is pending. If the case should be rejected, the testimony of medical men would be valuable to you, providing the Office should take the ground that the invention is pernicious, which it

G. R., of Mass.—Adjustable vise jaws have been made and patented, capable of grasping substances of unequal thickness: we do not know what your plan is, for doing this, but it may be different from all others.

E. M., of Ct.—Swedish iron, undoubtedly, yields the best quality of steel, much superior to English iron, and we believe the best specimens of English cutlery are

" Publicity's "ideas are very good: we nowmake place in this column for all the wantsthat come to us, which we are not able to answer readily.

P. I., of Pa.—Crosby has succeeded in getting the pat ent on his millfor re-sawing boards extended from seven years from last November. You cannot, therefore, use it without liability to him.

E. G., of N. Y.—We are very much pleased with your good opinion of our articles upon the art of dyeing. They were written by one of the editors of this journal from practical experience.

N. O. J., of N. Y.—We do not think a patent could be secured for merely casting projections to the outside of stove plates, for increasing the radiating surface: it does not possess novelty of a patentable character.

G. A. B., of Min.-Your inquiries about brick making are not sufficiently specific to enable us to understand precisely what you want.

J. L. B., of Ohio-We do not think a patent can cured on the washing fluid. In order to obtain a patent on a composition of matter, one of the ingredients must be new for the purpose, or if all are known, then they must be combined so as to produce a new result, which does not appear in this instance to be the case.

J. T. P., of Me.—The radiator referred to in your letter ably well: the water was carried off through a pipe at the bottom of the radiator: we abandoned it for the reason that we could not get sufficient heat from it to warm our offices. We do not know whether the inventor is engaged

W. P. T., of N. Y.—A modern work upon millwrighting cannot be produced; such a work is no doubt needed. but no one seems willing to incur the risk of its publica-

A.G. A., of Ill.—We are not acquainted with any work that embraces matter upon monumental designs. We think there is no such work.

G.B. A., of La.—The article on wire fencing has en tirely passed from our minds, and we are therefore not able to point it out to you. Examine your files of the paper carefully and you will find it.

W. W. H., of Va.—A patent could not be obtained for drawing water from great depths in the ocean, to obtain a denser brine for making salt.

C. S. Smith, of Portsmouth, Ohio-wishes to procure a machine for punching the eyes of axes.

C. A. C., of Mass., writes us:—"Will you please to in-

form me if superfluous hair can be permanently remo by being pulled out with tweezers. Or the best method of removing it."

If our correspondent is careful to pull the hairs out by the roots, the cure will probably be permanent. We re-commend him to try the operation. If not successful he might find the use of sand paper a better method. The ing. rubbing should be continued long enough to remove not only the hair, but the skin through which it grows.

G. R. P., of Phila.—At present we are not acquainted with a solution that will give the metal you mention a red appearance.

A.T. of Montreal.—We do not intend to destroy the Benzole apparatus to which you refer.

A. B., of N. Y.—Your marble sawing machine does not embrace anything new or patentable, and unless you wish to get into a sea of troublesome litigation, you had better back out of the scrape. There is no chance what-ever for you to obtain a patent unless you can ante-date a great number of applications already pending in the Office.

M. S., of Ill.—We have received your letter, and will

wait till you come to the city to have your explanations respecting the valve motion.

H. B., of Ind.—We could not tell you the amount of wind pressure on a body moving with one-third less the velocity of the wind, unless we knew what the velocity or the pressure of the wind was; whether driven by a fan, or merely by the motion of the atmosphere. Much ignorance exists respecting the velocity and friction of air passing through long tubes. A series of experiments by some spirited person would be a great boon to science.

J. M. H. of Ill.—You will no doubt experience a saving in fuel by heating the air before it enters the furnace of your boiler, using for this purpose a pipe running partthrough the chimney and then under the ash pit: but the plan is not patentable, it has been used before. A ten inch pipe should give you sufficient air for combustion.— You ought to use a damper in the flue at the chimney throat, and if you have not a fire-bridge under the boiler erect one as soon as possible.

A M., of N. J.-We are unable to inform you what horse power uses octagonal or hexagonal rollers. We have never noticed the shape of the rollers employed on

Moneyreceived atthe Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending

Saturday, Jan. 5, 1856:—

E. A., of Conn., \$25; S. & H., of N. J., \$250; J. B. E., of N. Y., \$12; H. N. DeG., of N. Y., \$30; W, H. C., of O., \$30; M. & W., of N. J., \$30, J. P. S., of Vt., \$50; H. & DULKLEY'S PATENT DRYKILNS, by superheated steam, will drygrain, flour, and meal, withnet, Story, S

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Jan. 5:—
M. M., of La.; E. W., of N. C.; R. L. & A., of N. Y.

S. & C., of Wis.; G. W. B., of N. Y.; A. P. C., of N. Y. E. A., of Conn.; L. & W., of O.; H. O'C., of Texas; H. C. S. of N. Y.

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 disappointed.

Models-We shall esteem it a great favor if inventor 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

PATENT CLAIMS-Persons desiring the 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 fees for copying.

Literary Notices.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE—The December number of this prince of European monthlies, completes the forty-first volume, and is as fresh, vigorous, and racy, as in its youngest years. True, Scott Hogg, Maginn, and Wilson, its famous contributors, are no more, but it still employs the finest intellects of Great Britain, as contributors; "Zaidee," is completed in this number; its author is believed to be Bulwer. Now is the proper time to subscribe for this magazine. Leonard Scott & Co., No. 54 Gold st., this city, are the publishers.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION AND COLLEGE REVIEW—This is a new magazine, published by N. A. Calkins, 345 Broadway, this city, and is edited by Absalom Peters, D. D., and H. Barnard, L.L.D. The number for this month—the second issue—contains a fine steel plate engraving of the late Hon. Abbott Lawrence. Some of the articles contained in it display uncommon ability, especially the one on the "Democratic Tendencies of Science," by Prof. Olmstead. This magazine will no doubt be well sustained by the Professors in colleges, teachers in schools, and by students in general.

THE KNICKERBOCKER.—Old "Knick" is unusually rich this month. The first article is on "Pleasant Memories of the Old World," by James W. Wall, and describes very minutely old "Holyrood Palace," and the terrible seenes transacted there during the reign of the beautiful number) are capital. This magazine has an originality about it peculiar to itself; it possesses more literary individuality than any of our magazines, especially the editorial department—there is nothing like it anywhere. Published by S. Hueston, No. 348 Hroadway.

THE UNITED STATES MAGAZINE, for this months, opens with an article on "Indian Corn." which is ably written and well illustrated. A very fine illustrated article on the progress of art in our country does credit to its author. This magazine now sustains a very excellent reputation. It is published by J. M. Emerson & Co., Spruce st. this city.

THE MINING MAGAZINE—Edited and published by W. J. Tenny, 93 Broadway, this city, contains a long article on the Iron Manufacture of Great Britain, by Wm. Truan, C. E., who has recently written a work on the subject, which has been published in London, Some of the statements of this author have been disputed in England by Prof. Noad; Mr. Truan, however, is acknowledged to be well acquainted practically with manufacturing iron. This magazine is devoted to mmes, mining, and metallurgy, geology, and is ably edited, and contains a great amount of very useful information upon every subject to which it is especially devoted.

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ORS.

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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 eviding at a distance are informed that it is generally unnecessary for them to incur the expense of attending in person, as all the steps recessary secure a patent can be arranged by letter. A rought of the step and th

MACHINERY FOR MAKING FLOUR BAR-rels—A man aud boy, with this machine, will do the

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its equivalent, in the three great industrial languages.

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P. N. FITZGERALD, Counsellor at Law—
late Principal Examiner in the U. S. Patent Office—has removed from Washington, D. C. to the city of
New York, 271 Broadway, (corner of Chamlers St.). As
heretofore, his practice is confined to Patent Cases, which
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