

## the examination uf inventions.

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 the bottom brass unless ofl grooves are cut in the same. We should regard the arrangement of the boiler intined as . We sirable. The temperature of the heat passing miver the as unde boiler may not be high but it must be enough to superheat the steam within, which is itself a source of det erioration to the iron . B. M., of Ohlo.-Flve sided rimmers cut better than . B. M, of Ohlo.-Five sided rimmers cut better than square ones, because there are no two edges op
one edge being always backed up by two others.
B. J. R., of Conn.-Try aluminum bronze in your hot bearing. We have known mandrels run 7,000 revolutions per min ute with this composition, and remain perfectly cool when al others falled. Alu in in D. $S$. Wis D. S., of Wis.-The focus of a concave mirror is the point where the rays erdanating from it converge.
. B. of Conn.-Tempered steel at $32^{\circ}$ according to Walaston and Lavoisier, expands at $212^{\circ}, 1$ in 926 , in length, and 1 in 309, in bulk.
B. J. R., of U. S. N.-The engines of the new sloops-ofwar are steeple engines placed horizontally. You need not go out of your own ship to see a steeple engine.
C. H., of Conn.-The tendency of superheated steam is to corrole the parts with which it comes in contact. Bourne
states that felt applied to bollers has been known to materially in
crease the corrosion, and he accounts for this fact by its prevent ing radiation; consequently increasing the steam heat within the boiler.
A. S. A., of Maine.-We are unable to publish you views on boiler explosions. They take a narrow view of the sub ject. The area of the safety valve is not the only thing, as you say, that requires consideration. A boiler would explode if it had unless properly taken care of.
T. B. H., of R. I.-There is no danger of your bursting the crank by shrinking it on, unless you allow too much shrink age. For a 12-Inch shaft allow a sixty-fourth of an inch. You must not heat the crank so hot as to raise a scale on it. Excranks stick fast when half home and have to be broken off. All caused by carelessness.
C. P., of Cal.-Your communication is received, and, notwithstanding its formidable length, is under consideration. M. R., of Mo.-We are much obliged for your receipts
D. L. W., of Mich.-There is but one self-propelling
steam engine in this city, the J. G.'Storm, and it is seldom used steam engine in this city, the J. G.'Storm, and it is seldom used exceptforgreat fircs.
T. T.. of Vt.-If, as you state, your cylinder is oval when taken out of the lathe although it was true before its removal, you must have sprung it in bolltug it down. When the bolts were taken of it assumed its distorted shape. The fastenings on every cylinder should be eased up before the last cut.
C. H. W.. of N. Y.-The number of square feer of heating surface necessary to evaporate a cubic foot of water in a marine boiler is from eleven to tifteen.
R. S. T., of Cuba.-The weight of your fly-wheel rim can be found by multiplvingthe mean diameter in feet by the area of its transverse
by 9.817 pounds.

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Trial of an English Broadesde Iron-clad.
The Achilles, a formidable iron-clad ship, has recently been completed in England, and we here present an account of her trial at sea:-
"This was her first trip at sea, and being one of an entirely new class of ships of large dimensions, 6,121 tuns, and carrying four masts, her performance was watched with considerable interest. The results of the trip were not entirely satisfactory, but this refers chiefly to the difference of speed at the contractor's trial and in the Channel. The officers speak well of her sea-going qualities, and all on board are hopeful that the cause of the loss of speed under steam will be found out and remedied. On the 21st, by plunging during a severe gale, the Achilles carried away her jibboom and her whiskers (two stout spars projecting at right angles from either bow). She also took in several heavy seas at the bow ports, and it was in consequence determined to run in for Torbay. Here she arrived on Saturday, the 22d, and dropped her starboard anchor, but having drifted with her full broadside to the wind, the chain, fifty farhoms of which were out, broke, and recourse was then had to the port anchor. The vessel, however, was kept onder steam all the time she continued in the roadstead. On Monday the lost chain was fished up. On Tuesday morning, the 25th, in weighing the port anchor with the steam capstan, it snapped off near the junction of the shaft with the flues, both of which were left below. On Thursday the Achilles was placed in the south basin of Keyham steamyard, where the new 'hog' for scouring the bottoms of iron ships was tested, under the superintendence of Mr. Robinson, from the Admiralty, Whitehall, by the help of the ship's diver. This hog is an enormous brush of birchbroom, abaut five feet long by three feet broad. Its back consists of a frame of wood 16 inches thick, having round the edge a groove, into which is inserted a rope with iron thimbles attached to each of its four sides, to receive the guides by which the hog is moved under water. Some shellfish were brought up, but the hog could not detach those which were on and near the 'lands,' or projecting strokes of the Achilles. The ship measures 380 feet from stem to stern, or 392 feet over all. Her draught aft was 26 feet 3 inches; the depth of water in the dock was 28 feet. Her engines are of 1,250 -horse power nominal, and at the contractor's trial were worked up to 5,067 horses; in the Channel 3,200 horse power only could be attalned, the pressure of steam being occasionally 26 pound, and the revolutions 40 per minute, against 46 on the trial. The speed first attained, and which at the time gave great satisfaction, was $14 \frac{1}{2}$ knots, but during the passage to Plymouth, although an especial effort was used on one occasion, very little over ten knots was produced. Scotch and Welsh coals mixed were used. The trim of the ship, her greater immersion, and the foulness of the bottom may account for a loss of from two to three knots, but what remains puzzles all concerned. At the contractor's trial the ship was 15 inches by the stern; her immersion now is 2 feet more, and she has about 30,000 superficial feet under water. Soon atter leaving the Nore it was discovered thatshe was too much by the head, some of her weights were moved aft, and the coal in the fore bunkers was reduced as speedily as possible. The armament on her main deck is 16 100-pounder smooth-bore drmstrongs, weighing $\sigma \frac{1}{2}$ tans each, and out the upper dect forr 110-pounders. On the passage, when going ahead, the screw revolved 73,500 times; when backing and performing other evolutions not accounted for, it is calculated that the revolutions were $\mathbf{3 6 , 5 0 0}$, making a total of 100,000 . The screw is considered very powerfol. It was occasionally out of water to a small extent, but the 'rest' was not great, because the screw is provided with four blades. The Achilles dipped very quickly. In a fresh gale there is little motion; but she did not answer so well in a rolling 8ea. The crew of the Achilles, all told, would be about 755 men. Out of 75 men engaged in the engineer's department 64 only were effective in the stokehole. During the hight of the gale, 27 stokers were unfit for work at one time, chiefly through sickness, occasioned by her liveliness."

THE sales of tobacco for the past year at Louisville, the largest tobacco mart in the world, were 63,322 hhds., the proceeds of which amounted to $\$ 20,000,000$.

## FOGLE'S OIL CUP.

This oil cup is constructed on an unusual and novel principle, and has no cocks or valves about it to become leaky. By the provision of two apertures, merely, the oil is let into the cylinder or valve chest. The following description will render it intelligible to every one. The whole cup, globe and all, slides up and down on the pipe, A. This pipe has the top chambered out to receive a smaller pipe, $B$, which lets the air or steam out of the interior of the globe. The cup, C, is flled with oil, and when in its present position, the oil runs into the tube, $A$.The handle of the lever, D , is then raised, the cup following it


This brings the upper holes, $E$, into communication with the interior of the globe, while the lower apertures are shut off from the steam-chest by the interposition of the partition, F, and the stuffing box, $G$. When the globe is restored to its lowest position the oil in the globe runs into the cylinder through the hole, $H$, because there is as much pressure in one vessel as in the other. This is a very neat and useful cup, and was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency on Sept. 20, 1864, by Jacob Fogle, of Putnam, Ohio; for further information address him as above.

## A ${ }^{6}$ Tricky ${ }^{9}$ Box

A war correspondent thus speaks of a novel box which was constructed by rebel prisoners confined at the North:-
"One piece of workmanship, of queer device, I shall have occasion to remember. It was a block of polished wood, carved to represent a book. Upon one edge was a small incision fitting the thumo nail, and indicating the existence of a slide and the hollow nature of the contrivance. But he who opened it was pretty certain to receive a surprise. As the slide was withdrawn, a serpent's head darted through the opening, and his forked tongue, in the form of two sharp needles, was violently inserted in the thumb of the operator, who generally hastened to let the curious and keen piercing contrivance fall to the ground as fast as the attraction of gravitation would take it there. It was a machine worthy of the ingenuity of a genuine Yankee, and as such it finally came into the possession of our first officer, who, as a representative of Cape Cod, would naturally look with favor upon such a mischief-making invention."

Economy in the Use of Coal.
With a view to obtain a clear bright fire with the utmost economy in a common stove, an improved fire invigorator has just been introduced by a Mr. Snook, and consists of an improved form of deflector, which is constructed of cast-iron, and occupies the space between the fire-bars. After lighting the fire, and permitting it to burn for about fourminutes, with the apparatus closed, so as to form a blower, a large coucave elliptical plate, immediately over the bars, and suspended on end pivots, was tilted over to form the deflector. Above this are the necessary shutters for regulating the draught. The heat thrown out is large in comparison to the fuel burned, and the fire has a warm red glow, without flame or smoke. The advantages claimed for the invention are-that fires are lighted without the slightest difficulty; that the whole heat from the fuel is thrown into the room instead of escaping up the chimney; that fifty per cent less fuel is consumed; that there is no smoke, and that nothing but mere ashes are left unburned.--Lon don Mining Journal.

Tre jour horse in the center of his stall, or he will "drive" more on one rein than the other.
:THE

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## FOR 1864!

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The publishers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN respectfully giv notice that the Eleventh Volume (New Series) commenced on July 2d, 1864. This journal was established in 1845 , and is undoubtedy the most inicly crrculated and infuential pubication of he kind in the world. In commencing the new volume the nublish ers dealre to call special attention to 1 ta clame an

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