Scientific American.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. M., of Mass.—Stringer & Townsend, 222 Broadway, J. Y., publish the Practical Draughtsman. - We think there is a chance for a patent J. H., ofonyour barrel-head cutter; it appears to be useful, and we do not remember to have seen an implement made like it. In all patent cases, however, there is doubt. A model will be necessary, which, with government fee, you will need to send whenever you desire to have us proceed. You did not give your address or we should have written by mail. Y., of Pa.-Your sketch shows a common re-action

wheel, center vent, having three curved shutes. You can use as few or as many of such shutes as you choo

C. P. & Co., of N. Y .- Multiply the area of your pistonin square inches, into the pressure of steam on the square inch, and into the speed of your piston per minute, and divide the product of this by 33,000. The quo tientwill be the horse power of your engine. Deduct one fourth of this amount for friction.

W. J. C., of N. C.-It is generally believed by those who have attended water wheels, that with the same head of water, the effect is greater during cold than warm weather : what the difference is, if any, we cannot tell. In our own experience, we have been led to believe that with the same head of water, and area of sluice, the effect was better when running a wheel during the night, than during the day. J. A. H., of Wis.-Common lime whitewash, with the

addition of some salt and a little sulphate of zinc, is ex-cellentfor outhouses and fences, but do not use salt for inside whitewashing. A whitewash of whiting-Paris white-is best for the ceilings of apartments; as it maintains its color better than lime. As it rubs off easily it is not suitable for side walls. Sulphuric acid and water is used to bite-in files.

C. W. B., of Pa.-Wewished to find out the number of the Chemi.st in which the article was, to which you referred. The Dictionary does not give it.

. B., of N. Y.-We did not say that friction matche could not be made without sulphur; but that there was no substitute for the sulphur, which is a different thing. We know that matches have been made without sulare three or four companies in this city manufacturing

under Goodyear's statts-which do you mean ? R. C., of Mich.-The only way to prevent soap drying to shutit up close from the atmosphere.

C. M., of N. Y.—The meaning of inertia is well under-

stood. "The passiveness of matter:" "resistance to a change of condition," and "tendency to preserve its condition," are terms used by different persons to explain the same thing. The subject has been exhausted, we assure you.

J. C., of Tenn.-The water wheel railroad has received more favorable attention from some persons than it really deserved.

J. C., of N. J.-We cannot give you the information de sired.

H. A. E. of ____ Steel Works, may prove a failure, as you state ; this will soon be decided. The Congreve ball, described by you, appears to be a destructive missile; such balls are charged with common powder, and not with the kind you mention, so far as we know.

S. M., of Md.—In our last and in this number, you w find rules for calculating the power of your water. You can runyour burswith four or eighthorse power according to the speed. Mr. Vandewater, no doubt, means the area of the water inlet at the top of the flume. C. L., of Cal.—There is a mistake in the number offect

of hose. It crept in by some unaccountable overight. The length should have been 450. M. P., of Ind.—In the Sci. Am., Vol. 9, No. 31, you will

find the claims of Carmi Hart's Veneer Cutting machine He does not employ saws.

Henry Cavarly, of Ottowa, Ill., desires to procure the address of the patentee of the small knife and scissors

grinder. C. Thornton, of Bethel, O., wishes to procure a machine to mortise hubs, one that is good and cheap, not to cost over \$60. Your subscription expires with No. 26. Vol. 12. Lyman Kinsley, of Canton, Mass., wishes to purchase

a machine for making boiler rivets. J. S., of N. J.-Several patents have been issued for fountain pens capable of doing all you claim for yours If yours is new, a patent can be procured for it. You had better send us either a model of it or a properly executed

sketch, with a description, and we will give youour opinion of its probable novelty. S. G. J., of Texas-Your postmaster must be either ig-

norant of the law, or else inclined to gouge a little, if he charges you one cent. for each number of our paper, and declines to take less if payment is tendered quarterly in advance. The law expressly states that the postage per quarter, paid in advance, on the regular numbers of a newspaper mailed from the office of publication to subscribers anywhere within the United States, is as follows : -On daily papers, 39 cents per quarter, tri-weekly, 19 1-2 cents, semi-weekly, 13 cts.; weekly, 6 1-2 cts., semimonthly, 3 cts.; monthly, 1 1-2 cents. Therefore, the le gal postage on the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, if paid in advance, at the post office where received, is 6 1-2 cts. per marter

D. W., of N. Y.-Your plan of tunnels under rivers looks feasible.

O. W. O., of Mass.-We are not acquainted with a good liquid hair dye that will not stain the skin. We have been in search of such a liquid for some time, but have not yet found it.

S., of Cana

- 20.

J. H., of O.-Your letter covering remittance of \$16 for engraving your Universal Joint came safely to hand. The illustrations will appear in the paperinabout two weeks Moneyreceived at the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending

Saturday. March 22, 1856 :-J. W., of N. Y., \$50; S. M. P., of N. Y., \$40; B.T., Mass., \$30; N. N., of Ill., \$30; B. & D., of Mich., \$30; J. C. P., of O., \$25; C. B., Sen., of Ind., \$5; I. S., of R. I.,

\$27; S.G of Pa., \$25; L. F. C., of Me., \$25; C. W., of N. Y., \$55; T. & H., of N. Y., \$25; C. J. C., of Pa., \$30; J. C. A., of Conn., \$25; J. E. N., of Ind., \$10; W. B. L. of La., \$50; W. N, T., of N. Y., \$30; C. W., Jr., of N. Y., \$35; S. F. F., of Vt., \$30; W. C., of N. Y., \$30; H. & A., of Ind., \$60; J. W., of Del., \$25. H. W. O., of Conn., \$5; D. C. W., of Pa., \$25; S. & S., of Conn; \$25; G. & Co., of O., \$200; J. M. R., of Ga., \$55; J. M. Jr., of N. Y., \$30; R. F. G., of Ill., \$30; B. & W., of Ill., \$42; S. W. R., of Mass., \$30; G. P. G., of N. Y., \$20; J. F. A., of N. Y., \$30; J. F., of N. J., \$30; H. C. H., of Mass., \$25; A. L. C., of Mass., \$25; T. S., of Mo., \$30; O. V. D. R., of Ill., \$10; J-E., of Mich., \$15; J. N. A., of N. J., \$32; A. W. A., of Mass. \$25; M. & S., of Conn., \$10; R. C. B., of 111., \$25; P. L. of Mich., \$25 : R. W. & D. D. of O., \$250 : W. B. G., of Iowa, \$30; C. M. L., of N. H., \$55; W. W. B., of N. Y., \$29; O. T., of Wis., \$55; E. H., of N. Y., \$30; B. K. 1. \$25; O. 1. of W. R. \$35; E. H. at A. Y. 506; H.
 \$J., of Mich., \$27; J. O., of Ill., \$25; J. L., Jr., of Ill.,
 \$\$25; M. L. P., of Texas, \$50; J. H. G., of O., \$30; J. R.,
 of Pa., \$90; F. F., of Ky., \$55; P. S., of N. Y. \$15; B. &
 Co., of N. Y., \$35; W. D. T., of N. Y., \$17; H. E., of N. Y., \$29; J. W. W., of L. I., \$27; H. H., of N. J. \$3).

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, March 2

J. J. B. of N. Y.; J. C. A., of Conn. : L. F. C., of Me. S. &. S., of Conn.; D.C. W., of Pa.; H. W. O., of Conn.; T. C., of N. Y.; J. W., of Del.; G. P. G., of N. Y.; J. B., of Ill.; C.B., Son., of Ind.; J.C.P., of O.; S.G., of Pa.; P. M., of Ill.; I. S., of R. I.; A.W. A., of Mass.; W. W. B., of N. Y.; P. L., of Mich.; R. E., of N. Y.; A. L.C. of Mass.; T. H., of N. Y.; M. & S., of Conn.; H. C. H., of Mass.; J. M. W., of L. I.; J. H. G., of O.; J. L., Jr., of phur, by dipping them into stearine. The name of the III.; J. O., of III.; C. W., of N. Y.; L. K. S., of Conu. person to whom you refer we cannot give now. There W. D. T., of N. Y.; B. & J., of Mich.

Important Items.

BACK NUMBERS VOLUME XI-We are no longer able to supply complete sets of the present volume. The num which are entirely exhausted are 6,12, 14, 15, 17, and 19. Any other numbers up to the present we are able to supply to any who may wish them. Those who order the back numbers from the commencement of the volume will receive such as we have, and their subscription will be entered up enough longer to com pensate for the numbers which we are unable to supply RECEIPTS — When money is paid at the office for subscrip tion, a receipt for it will always be given; but when sub scribers remit their money by mail, they may consider the arrival of the first paper a bona fide acknowledg ment of the receipt of their funds.

Literary Notices.

Literary Notices. LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW—This able periodical for the present quarter contains much choice reading. The first essay is "Table Talk" and contains a vast amount of rich conversation as it flowed from the lips of Martin Luther, John Selwin, and Coleridge. An article on the London Zoological Gardens, is full of curious in-formation for naturalists. There are 1300 mammals, birds and reptiles in those gardens, and their habits have been closely studied by the author of the article in question. The concluding Essay is on the "Results and Prospects of the War." The American publishers of the four fa-mous foreign Quarterlies and Blackwood's Magazine, are Mesrst. Leonard Scott & Co., No. 55 Gold street, this city. Newvolumes of these periodicals commence with the numbers for this Juarter. No man can be intelligent re-garding foreign literature who is unacquainted with these Reviews.

THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—The April number of this magazine is beautifully embellished with twenty-seven illustrations, and contains several good articles from able pens. The publishers are endeavoring, by every availa-ble means, tosuit the tastes of all classes of readers, by giving them not only a moral, but a highly amusing and instructive periodical. \$2 a year. Carlton & Phillips, publishers, New York.

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amination. Private consultations respecting the patentability of in-ventions are held free of charge, with inventors, at our office, from 9 A. M., until 4 P. M. Parties residing at a not yet found it.
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M. C., of Cal.—The method of making shot is to drop molten lead from an elevation, through a sieve, from which it falls in drops into a large tub of water. The different sizes are separated afterwards; sieves of different sizes are used.
M. J., of Pa.—You will find the rule for calculating watter power in the last number of the Sci. Asr.
E. E., of III.—We appreciate your remarks about the index, and will endeavor to overcome the objections in ture.
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C. C., of Pa.—An upright saw mill and engine would cost about \$1600. Address Logan & Lidgerwood, No.
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