## Scientific American.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. R., of N. Y.-A turbine wheel is the most simple and the cheapest, but under a twelve foothead, if you have sufficient water, you can drive one run of stones and a saw, easily, either with a breast or turbine wheel. The millwrights in your neighborhood are acquainted most with the breast wheel. It will take ten horse-power to drive one run of stones, and the same to drive one saw, but you can also drive them with one half this amount of power. It all depends upon the speed you wish to give

the saw and the stones. J. W., of C. W.—The seed of an apple will not pro a pear, although it may be taken from an apple graft on a pear tree. "Every seed bringeth forth after its kind." A very weak solution of gum arabic is the best varnish for pencil drawings, but it is difficult to apply it, as the pencil lines are liable to blur. E. C., Jr., of Mass.-Your window fastener is not new

or patentable. J. M. M., of Ill.-James McArthur resides at Waterloo,

J.F. of Va.-You can make a varnish for grates, by dissolving 3 lbs. asphaltum, and half a pound of shellac in a gallon of turpentine, adding a little lamp black.

R. W. T., of N. Y .- The cause of your wheel perform ing so irregularly may be owing to one part of its rim be ing heavier than another. You can easily find out this by careful observation, after shutting of the water. If it always stops with the same buckets downwards you may be sure that its rim is unbalanced.

Z. J., of Me.-Unless fish are salted very soon after they are caught, they will be of inferior quality. They begin to decay sooner than flesh meat. Do not suffer incipient decomposition to commence. There is too much carelessness exhibited by our fishermen in salting their fish It is a shame to them that so much wretched salt fish is to be found in our markets.

C. H. McC., of Wis .- Your seed planter is similar to others we have seen, and could not be patented. The flexible seed tubes are not new; they have been used on many machines.

J.D., of N.Y.-We cann t give you the information required respecting the building of your house. You must first consider what you want, and then endeavor to find out how to supply your wants, and for this purpose con sult a builder.

S. R. I., of R. I .- You can easily obtain a rotary mo tion without the use of a crank in your steam engine; but then you will have to sacrifice simplicity for complexity,

-a good arrangement for a bad one. E. H., of N. Y.-We always maintained that the Fire Annihilator might be useful in the holds of ships; but for general purposes, it is insufficient to prevent or extinguish fires.

W. T., of Mass.-If you use a weftfiner than your warp you will make a much finer fabric to appearance than if the "numbers" of the warp and weft were equal. Thus, if you use No. 3) warp and No. 36 weft, you will make more beautiful cloth than if you employ No. 33 for warp and weft.

L. W. J., of Phila.-Write an article brief, but com prehensive, on wooden versus iron ships, giving facts and circumstances, and we will publish it. Our object is to advance science and art by the dissemination of relia ble information and the correction of popular errors. E. M., of Ill.—The most available situation we know of

for the practice of your art is that of reporter for a news-We do not know of any opening for you here. paper. C. H. P., of Mich.-Your saw mill appears to be well

conducted. We have received a flood of letters relating to what saws have done, and cannot even publish the substance of them. The shingle machine which you have named ought to be secured to the inventor it is such an excellent improvement.

J. C., of Tenn.—Your last letter is very unreasonable. The answer which we made to your communication on the rotating globe was between you and us, and it was given for your own sake, because no other person reading it could come to a different conclusion than we did. With the explanations and principles laid down in your communication we are agreed, so far as they relate to the laws of motion. They are not disputed, and were not re-quired to be enunciated by any remarks ever made by us. Your wish shall be gratified to the letter.

V. S., of S. C.—We will endeavor to give you the in formation desired in a week or two at furthest.

J. W., of Pa.—Yours will appear in a week or two. R. S., of N. J.—The steam and ether engine should

have a fair test with the most improved steam engine, and ot with some miserable worn out one. S. & W., of Mass.—We can give you two other rule

sides those published for calculating the power of effluent water, but the results would be exactly the same. 11. St C., of Mich.—We know of one case of blindness aused by the use of sulphate of quinine for the Isthmus

fever. It should be taken with great circumspection in every case W. S. S., of Ill.-A tin roof would be more en

than a shingle one for your house, and we would advie you to put on the latter. If you immerse the shingles in a solution of alum and sulphate of oopper—one pound of each to ten gallons of water—then dry them thoroughly before putting them on, and they will be rendered near ly fire-proof.

S. R., of Ill .- We cannot tell you the cost of cement roofing. Blake's fire-proof cement for roofs is sold in all the large paint stores in this city. If you mix equal parts of pitch and tar, and add some fine sand with it, and lay it on hot, it will make a good water-proof roof. Fine gravel and sand should be pressed down on its surface before it is cold. The coarse boards of the roof should be first covered with thick paper or coarse cotton cloth, tacked dow and on this let the cement be laid. We prefer a shingle roof to such a cement one. The tar and pitch must be boiled together in a caldron, and used hot as wanted.

T. Y. S., of Pa.-Coal locomotives will yet supersede wood burning ones; it must be so, because wood is becom ing so dear. Pennsylvania will yet become the greatest manufacturing State in our country, we think, because its coal and other natural resonrces give it so many ad vantages over any of the other Atlantic States

A. R. W., of Conn.-No substitute has yet been discov ered to supply the place of fine oil in the woolen manu factures. Steam has been used with much success at the factory in Waterloo, N.Y., but not in other places that we have heard from. We do not think your compound is as good as oil: but if you have made sufficient experiments you are the best judge ; it is new, and if good may be patented

J. T., of O.-A propeller with double angular blades could not be 3 atented, as it is old and well known.

K

II. J., of N. J.—You can color paper with the very ame dyes that are employed for cotton. You will find receipts for the different colors in our last volume. If you boil the dyewoods and use strong solutions you may apply them with a sponge to the surface of the paper. Redwood boiled with a little sumac and alum makes a same dyes that are employed for cotton. You will find receipts for the different colors in our last volume. If you boil the dyewoods and use strong solutions you may apply them with a sponge to the surface of the paper. Redwood boiled with a little sumac and alum makes a red color.

Moneyreceived at the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Office of account of Patent Office business for the week ending Saturday, April 26, 1856 :-

J. T. Y., of O., \$25; J. K. D., of N. Y., \$30; J. L. P., of Miss., \$25; J. R. C., of Ind., \$50; C. H. P., of Conn., \$25 D.L., of Mass., \$30; J.F.H., of Ill., \$25; J.E.M., of N Y., \$25; B. G., of Mass., \$20; J. V. J., of Mich., \$25; E L. B., of N. Y., \$25 : J. L. of Conn., \$30 : J. B. C., of O. \$30; R. G., of N. Y., \$100; E. N., of Mass., \$27; H. C., of O., \$25; W. G., of Mass., \$30; L. H. S., of Mich., \$20; G. B., of L. I., \$10. C. P. C., of Mass., \$25 ; V. J., of N. Y., \$25; C. O. L., of III., \$30; W. E., of III., \$23;
 J. A. W., of Ky., \$30; J. S., of R. I., \$30; E. A. C., of N. Y., \$40; E. D., of N. Y., \$30; J. N. W., of N. Y., \$30; G W. S., of N. Y., \$30; H. C., of Mass., \$30; G. C. E., of N Y., \$30; A. S. M., of Vt., \$55; J. E., of Pa., \$25; W. B L., of La., \$25; W. & C., of Md., \$1250; A. C. R., of N Y., \$30 ; G. D., of N. Y., \$427 ; J. B. C., of N. Y., \$30 ; D D., of N. Y., \$100: T. S., of N. Y., \$260; G. & E., of N J., \$25; J. R., of N. Y., \$210; W. J. S., of N. Y., \$100 E. S., of Conn., \$85.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, April 25:-J. M. R., of Ga.; J. L. P., of Miss.; J. T. Y., of O.; C H. B., of Conn.; S. I. A., of N. Y.; J. E. M., of N. Y.; J C., of N. Y.; J. V. J., of Mich.; E. L. B., of N. Y.; J. W. S., of O.; F. F., of Ky.; W. J., of N. Y.; H. C., of O.; E. N., of Mass.; A. G., of Ind.; M. & B., of S. C.; C. P. C., of Mass.; G. & E., of N. J.; J. P., of N. Y.; R. G., of N. Y. (2 cases); W. & C., of Md.; W. T., of O.: W. & U., of O.; J.R., of N.Y., (4 cases); H. S. N., of Conn.: W. J. S., of N.Y., (2 cases): J.F.H., of Ill.

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**L**YONS COPPER LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR Patented July 11, 1854. The subscribers have pur-chased the entire interest of the patentee in the manufac-ture of these cele brated conductors, and are prepared to furnish them with the appropriate fixtures to all parties holding the right to territory, in any quantity and on short notice. Circulars sent on application. Address, BRIT-TAN & EDMONDS, Lockport, N. Y. 274 oam

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2d, West Hartiord, Vt. Or 200 I O(T)CE TO CONTRACTORS—Office of the Long Dock Company, Jersey City, April 15, 1856. Sealed Proposats will be received at this Office until the 5th day of May, prox., at 10 o'clock. A. M., for grading two miles of railroad, including a double track tunnel about 4000 feet iong. The tunnel is located in Hindson City, about one mile from the Hudson river, and through a ridge of trap rock known as Bergen Hill. The whole work to be esm-pleted on or before the first day of November, 1357.— Specifications, plans, profiles, sections, 8c., of this work and Erio Railroad Company, Erie Place, West Street, City of New York. HOMER RAMSDELL, President L. D. Co. 33 3 City of Ne L. D. Co.

53 3 WICT MACHINES A. NEWBURY & CO., of Windham Center, N. Y., are manufacturing a supe-rior article; having been thoroughly tosted for a number of years, they are found inferior to none in cheapness, du-rability, and in the quality of their work. Price 550. 32 4\*

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