Scientific American.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. Francis, of Richmond, C. W.—The spirit of your friticism on our "vulgar" method of spelling words end ing in "re," etc., is evidently in bad taste. You refer us to Webster, an authority we are quite ready to accept and if you had taken the trouble to consult this standard before pouring your vials of contempt upon us, you would have learned to be less flippant. For the correctness of our orthography in rendering the words center, fiber saltpeter, hight, hub, tun, etc., see Webster, your own quoted authority. You are evidently a little too "learned" for this part of the world, and we would advise you to migrate to some region where spelling is practiced more to your own notion. Before going, however, you might render" Yankee vu garism" some service, by getting out a dictionary for their special benefit. Suppose you try your hand at this business, and leave us a legacy out of

your profound store of knowledge.

J. N. R., of Pa.—The only way to satisfy yourself regarding your proposed method of improving the manufacture of iron and steel is by experiment. The least change in any chemical process produces a new result The experiments made in France, and said to be so successful, in manufacturing silk from the mulberry tree, seem to be more advanced than yours. The field is a very wile one for experiment. Nothing but successful experi ments can give you or others confidence in their value.

R. Sanerhering, Mayville, Wis., wishes to purchase machine for turning spokes.

E. S., of Ill.—If Mr. W. claims a patent for that which

is not new, he cannot sustain it, even if the office ignor antly issue a patent for it.

A. A. K., of Tenn. - Scott's Cotton Spinner is published by H. C. Baird, Philadelphia. It will give you the information desired. There is a chapter in it devoted to

Merritt & Cruickshank, of Pittston, Pa., wish to purchase cultivator teeth.

A. S. P., of Mich.—We do not knowthe costofa set of works on Phrenology. You had better address your in quiries to Messrs. Fowlers & Wells, of this city. The y publish all the works that are issued here upon this sub ject. Webster's Dictionary contains more chemical terms than any other. Hoblyn's small work, by Appleton & Co., might answer your purpose. It is a tolerably good

A. M., of Canada-We cannot inform you as to the

E. C., of Conn.—Consult some elementary work on me chanics, and inform yourself as to the toggle joint motion &c. Eaker's Elements of Mechanism, \$1, published by Putnam & Co., N. Y., is as good as any.

W. P. H., of Va.-All builders of re-action water assert that more water will pass through some wheels while running than when standing, and an article on this subject, published in Vol. 7, Sci. Am., page 212, shows the course of the water through a wheel. We yet expect some scientific millwright will elucidate the question

I. S. D. of N. H .- If the floor of the shop in which the forge is placed is of earth, stone, or metal, it is fire-proof already, and youdo not require a fire-proof cement for it. If it is in an upper room with a wooden floor, the cheap est p an for you to pursue is to coat it with Blake's or the Brid_ewater fire-proof paint. You can purchase these at a'l the paint stores in this city, and no doubt can have them sent to you. Directions will be given with the

paint how to apply it.

C & M., of N. Y.—Such a propeller for a balloon as you describe is new, but not being very useful it is doubtful if a patent could be obtained. The gunpowder engine could not be patented. We advise you not to spend time nor money on them.

J. & W. C. of Ky.-There are no maters manufacture in this city that would measure your oil as it flows from the retorts. Rotary water meters are made in Boston to measure the city water, butwe do not think they would answer your purpose.

J. W. M. W., of Phila-We do not know the process pursiel by any party for bleaching gutta percha, but if kept for some time in a covered vessel containing a warm and clear solution of the ch'orate of lime, we believe gutta percha will be bleached like a piece of cotton cloth

E. M. & Sons, of Mass.—For burning shavings we would prefer to have the hot gases and flame pass three times round the boiler: but for burning coal we would prefer to split the draft and u e a double return draft only

Sarah Lee, of West Bloomfield, N. Y., wishes to pur chase a machine for knitting stock ngs. Something not expensive, that will do up the work like a charm. Who can supply the wants of this enterprising woman, in her laudable desire to clothe the "understandings" of hu

Moneyreceived at the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Office on account of Patent Office business for the week ending

J. R. M., of O., \$24; A. D. B., of Ga., \$25; G. S. K., of O., \$59; O. V. D. R., of Ill., \$25; G. A., of Pa,, \$30; H. G., of N. Y., \$30; S. & B., of Mich., \$30; J. C. H., of N. Y, \$25; T. S., of Iowa, \$39; F. & W., of Conn., \$39; R. W., of Conn., \$39; D. R., of Pa., \$55; F. E., of Pa., \$25; V. R. S., of N. Y., \$25; J. H. S., of Ky., \$25; E. & A. S., of N. Y., \$31; J. B., of III., \$11; J. D., of O., \$33; D. D. A., of Mass., \$31; B. & P., of Ind., \$35; W. C., of Pa., \$30; C. & T., of Wis., \$35; R. G., of N. Y., \$25; J. De S., of N. Y., \$25; J. M., of Pa., \$100; G. H. B., of N. Y., \$30; T. C., Jr., of L. I., \$25; R. C., of Mich., \$10; M. & P. of Ky.; \$29; J. R., of Pa., \$60; W. & St. J., of N. Y., \$30; J. L., of N. Y., \$30; R. W. & D., of Ky., \$25; J.R., of N. J., \$30; J. B. R., of L. I., \$290; W. S., of Mass., \$25; J. G. B., of N. Y., \$35; H B. B., of London, \$333; H. & C. P., of Tenn., \$25; W. K. P., of Mass., \$25; H. H. C., of Pa., \$30; E. G. S., of N. Y. , of Conn., \$30; G. C. E. B., of N.Y., \$25; J. H. W., of N.Y. \$25.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent

Office during the week ending Saturday, May 24:— J.C. H., of N. Y.; A. D. B., of Ga.; J. M., Jr., of N. Y. H.B. C., of N. Y.; O. V. D. R., of Ill.; G. S. K., of O., (2 cases): J. A. S., of Kv. : F. E., of Pa. . G. C. E., of N. Y.; S. B., of N. Y.; E. A. B., of Mass.; V. R. S., of N. Y.; D. B., of N. Y.; O. D., of Md.; W. B. & Co., of R. I.; J. C., o Pa.; C. & F., of Me; W. & D., of Ky.; W. S. T., of Mass.; T. C., Jr., of L. I.; R. G., of N. Y.; J. De S., of N. Y.; W. S., of Mass.; H. & C. P., o Tenn.; W. K. P., of Mass,; M. & P., of Ky.; J. H. W., o

TO THE UNFORTUNATE—We are no longer able to sup ply the back numbers of the present volume previous to No. 27, except from 1 to 12. Such numbers as we have to furnish, are gratuitously supplied to such subscribers as failed to receive them; and we would take occasion to state, that any person failing to receive their paper regularly, will confer a favor by notifying us of the fact. Missing numbers should be ordered early, to insure their receipt, as an entire edition is often exhausted within ten days after the date of pub-

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