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## 4ifuct

N. D., of N. Y.-Thirty years ago we heard a story somewhat slmila stealing the invention of the card-sctting machine; but on examining the evidence we are satisfind that all of these storics are false. See the report of the Congressional Committee. See also in thelast volume of the Scientifie ambican accounts of recent in vestigations of the subject or the absorption of gases by water and their expulsion by heat.
J. H. T., of N. Y.-If a cannon were moving breech foremost through the air at the rate of 1,010 feet per second, and should be discharged with a force that would move the ball in rela to the earth.
C. D., of Maine- $\boldsymbol{\Delta}$ sks the following question-" If I patent a machine and dispose of the right, and then make an im-
provement which I also patent, does that improvement belong to provement which I also patent, does that improvement belong to me or to the purchaser of the original patent, and can the pur chaser use the improvement; without my consent !" We answer Unless there is a previous agreement by which the patentee stipu lates to convey all subsequent improvements made by him, he would he at it no one could use it without his consent.
O. C. M., of N. J.-We have been interested in your statement of your troubles with your small propeller. You say that the boiler is perfectly clean, but although it was once large enough, it will not now make sufficient steam for your engine The trouble must be in the latter then, for if all the conditions ar the same with the boiler, as they were originally it will continue to act well. It is very likely that the engine is in fault. Try the pis ton and sec if it leaks. Examine the valve and see if it sets la on its seat; see that the eccentric has not shifted. Your exlaus pipe is too small at any rate. It should be one and a balf times the area of the steam pipe. Do not narrow it at the mouth; let be straight. It ought to work quite as well, if not better on a small
sult.
C. P.
C. P. W., of Mass.-Very little power is obtained from a Barker-mill steam engine except with high pressure. We shoul suppose, however, that you could produce sulfient blast for chemist's fire with an engine similar to the one described but con structed of thicker metal. The arms should be sword-shaped; this might be effected by enclosing the iron tubular arms in swor shaped sleeves. The openings sbould be very small, perlaps the 10)th of
H. C. A., of Ohio.-You will tind full instructions for making all the solutions used in electro-plating in "smee's Electro Metallurgy," published by John Wiley, of this city.
R. F., of Ind.-In the Hecker \& Waterman experiments a slide valve is used, worked by an excentric.
W. L. C., of Md.-The dimensions of the engrine in the Hecker \& Waterman experiments were stated in our last volume, page 377. The cylinder is ten inches in diameter with two feet stroke. As the object of the experiments is to test the quantity fuel required to do a given amount or wot-off is fixed at a certain point for eaclithirty hours run.
P. P., of N. Y.-The specimen you send us is a very good article of plumbago. Most of the mining companies in this city are perfect swiddles. We would suggest to you to advertise part of the mine extensively and scll it at auction.
E. L., of Pa.-If you ask your druggist for a box of the " Pittsburgh Salt Company's Concentrated Lye," which is sold for twenty-five cents, sou will find a number of receipts for making soap attached to the box. They are the best and simplest that we can give you, We make all our own soap for family use with this lye, and it is white, hard, and very emollient.
R. K. L., of Pa.-Chains have been made cast in one entire length. There Is no value in them betng only specimens of you will find an engraving and full description of such a chain. C. S. T., of Mass.-Address H. C. Baird, 406 Walnut street, lhitadelphia, for a work on malleable iron

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