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inventor could prove prior invention
D. H., of Mass.-The Patent-office Reports of 1862 and 1863 have not get been lisuled.
C., of Mass.-We advise you to send us a drawing and description of your invention for our examination. A mer statement of what it is capable of doing does not convey a proper idea of its mechanical construction.
J. T. D., of $\cdot$ Ill.-Your communication in relation to the we ight of a bairsel of four is recelved, but your views do not scem to us sound. We have no douldt that
clsely In accordance with the weight.
C. G., of Mass.-The practice of destroying caterpillars qutte collog a rar with kerosene of and barning their tried successfully for two seayong.
J. B. L., of D. C.-Your countryman, Morin, has demonstrated that the Idea of navigating the atr by the plan of pro pelling balloons by muscular power, is preposterous. If the whole muscular force of a man could be exerted upon a ballnon of sufticient size to sustain him in the air, it would divert it from the co rse of the wind only about four miles in an nour.
T. C. R. H., of R. I.-Fluids do not rise to the same level in tubes of unequal diameter connected with eachotler. In tubes under half an inch diameter a sensible difference is pir celved In the hight of the fuld in the larger and the smaller-th latter being the higher. This is owing to capillary attraction. A. M., of Wis.-Keep the coffee-pot bright; cofle cools quicker In a dull pot tban lim a bright one, for the reason What heat sadiates mere rapidly from o. lusterless surface than
C. B. H., of Conn.-A piece of wrought fron one-fourth of an lnch thicl., twelve inches long and three lnches wide, weigh two and a half pounds.
T. R., of Mass.-Bismuth melts at 476 ; tin, at 421 ; tin and bismuth, equal parte, melt at 283 ; tin 3, bismuth 5 and lead 2 melt at the boll ng point. Advantage is taken of th 5 to surprise children, by makig into bolling liquid.
W. W., of N. H. -Pattern-makers' varnish-a pound of shellac to a gallon of varnish; lvory black enough to color
A. $\Lambda$. S., of Pa .-The substance that you send us is principally clay. Emery is so hard that It can be quarried only by ( rilling the rocks on the sides of the emery seams.
D. H., of Mass.-Sulphate of copper is soluble in three parts of cold water, and is decomposed by iron fllings, or by the galvanic Dattery.

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mulae, accompanied the armies in aill heir marches and campo an
are thoroughly broken, tardened bex exercize, gentle and familiar, are thoroughly broken, bardened by exercize, gentle and familiar
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The whole South is sripped of farming stock, and the North also

 24

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Eafelbatitu baben:

## Bie Watent-Sofetse Der Wercinigten Staaten,

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## Improved Pocket Lantern.

There are many places and occasions where a lantern would te highly desirable if at hand. To a hunter lost in the wilderness; to the soldier in his tent; to the voyager on the high seas; to the pleasure seeker, or the man of ousiness; to those who are out at all hours and liable to be caught at any time without a light; to the guide, philosopher, or friend, prophet, priest or sage, this pocket lan-
has exposed ozone papers at Rouen for severalyears, and has found that the chemical activity of the air reaches its maximum in the spring (May and June), diminishes in the aummer, and in the autumn almost disappears. It re-appears, however, in winter, and becomes specially appreciable in March. The author remarks on the coincidence of this chemical exaltation with the awakening of nature, and suggests the study of it to physicians and farmers, who may, he

Fig. 1

## MONOR'S POCKET LANTERN.

tern is the thing long desired.
If Diogenes, seeking for his honest man had had one of these lanterns to light him he would have found what he sought.
This lantern is one of the most ingenious combinations of its class we have ever seen. When extended, or opened for use, it assumes the shape shown in Fig. 1, which is, as any one can see, a perfect lantern in every respect. When not required it is collapsed by folding first the root, $A$, which has a hinge in the middle, and secordly, applying pressure across the corners of the case, $B$, which causes it to shut up flat; a second folding then brings it to the shape shown in Fig. 2, which is just half the size of the actual lantern. The candle will burn fully an hour, and
thinks, make discoveries proftable to hygiene and agriculture.

## Improvea Damper and Vencilniar

These engravings represent a new damper and ventilator for stoves. By the use of it the shaft can be periectly controlled or the apartment ventilated, as occasion requires. The invention consists in forming a casting, A, with a diaphaagm, B, in which are a series of openings. These openings are covered by plates, $C$, when the same are placed in the proper position. The exterior of the casting is ornamental in design, and is also furnished with holes, $D$, and there is a sleeve inside which covers them up when the projection, $E$, is moved. Both the plates, $C$, and


BOYNTON'S DAMPER AND VENTILATOR.
a supply of them is provided in the magazine, $C$, which is on the door. Just inside the door there is a reflector, which cannot be shown. The candle holder, $D$, can be turned outside on a pivot so as to use tbis reflector when in a room; the light is much increased thereby. This is a capital lantern and it will be appreciated by every one.
It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by John A. Minor, on Jan. 24, 1865. Patents have also been secured abroad. For further information address the general Agent, New York Lamp Co., No. 259, Pearl street, New York.
M. Houzeau has presented to the Academy of Sciences a memoir, "On the Influence of the Season on the Properties of Atmospheric Air." The author
the sleeve are connected together, but the apertures are so arranged with relation to each other that when one set is open the other set is shut, so that when the fire requires all the air which can pass through it, the openings, D, are closed, as in Fig. 2; other wise, when the atmosphere is vitiated, by turning the damper so as to open the hole, $D$, it will be ventilated.
This damper and ventilator was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency on May 5 1863; for further information address Richardson Boynton \& Co., No. 234 Water street, New York.

Ir is said that a foreign photographic house now makes pocket handerchiefs with the photograph of the owner in the corner. In some cases this addition would not be an ornament.

## Petroleum as a Steam Fuel.

In some experiments made by Mr. C. J. Richardson, an Woolwich Dockyard, with his improved petroleum boiler, he has succeeded in evaporating 150 gallons of water with 14 gallons of petroleum. It appears that with the improvements heevaporizes, on the average, at the rate of $12 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{lbs}$. of water per one gallon of petroleum, and Mr. Richardson anticipates reaching 14 lbs . or 15 lbs . with the gallon of petroleum. For such early trials, he considers the results hitherto obtained are extremely satisfactory. The oil is under perfect control, there is no danger whatever, and the boiler is very easily worked.

To Keep Butter in the Summer.-A simple mode of keeping butter in warm weather, where ice is not handy, is to invert a common flower-pot over the butter, with some water in the dish in which the butter is laid. The oriflce at the bottom may be corked or not. The porousvess of the earthenware will keep the butter cool.
[It will be still cooler if the crock be wrapped with a wet cloth. Not the porosity of the earthenware, but the rapid abstraction of heat by external evaporation causes the butter to become hard.-Eds.]

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mechanical department
a full account ot all improvements in machinery will be given Also, practical articles upon the various Tools used in Workshops and Manufactories.

Steam and mechanical engineering
will continue to receivecarefulattention, and all experiments and practical results will be fully recorded.
WOOLEN, COTTON AND OTHER MANCFACTURING INTERESTS will have special attention. Also, Fire-arms, War Implements, Ordnance. WarVessels, Railway Machinery, Mechanics' Tools, Elec tric, Chemical and Mathematicil Apparatus, Wood and Lumber ma chines, Hydraulics, Pumps, Water Wheels. etc.
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