

Correspondents

R. H., of Me.—It is not new to insert the plumb and level in a try-square. It has been done before.
W. R. H., of Texas.—We are not acquainted with Professor Forshey's paper on Texan northers, but if you can give us any particulars of it, with your own remarks, we shall be happy to receive them, as we should like some information on the subject.
F. G. L., of Ala.—It is a well-known fact that a line disposed in the form of a circle will enclose more space than any other form.
E. F. W., of Ga.—Writing machines have long been talked and thought of, and a patent was taken out a few weeks ago for a key printing machine, which would nearly answer your description and ideas.
J. T., of Texas.—The idea you suggest of throwing a jet of steam direct from the boiler into a casing around the barrel of the locomotive pump, so as to prevent freezing, is not new. The same thing has been proposed to us before.
S. W. R., of Vt.—The advantage of what is termed "superheating" steam, that is to say, heating it after it has left the boiler, when only carried out to such a degree as to vaporize all the globules of water which it has carried with it from the boiler, and thus render it anhydrous is universally conceded. Many arrangements of superheating pipes have been employed for this purpose, sometimes in the main fire-box and sometimes in the flues or chimney; but there has been a great difficulty in controlling the temperature of the superheating pipes, so that they should neither burn out or cause the steam to be superheated to excess, both of which results are very likely to occur if the pipes are placed in the main fire-box. If you can arrange your pipes in such a manner as to guard against their being overheated, you will obtain a considerable advantage by "superheating."

pumps, valves, hydrostatic presses, &c. Ewbank's Hydraulics is a good general history on the subject of hydraulics, and such subjects are collateral to it.
W. F. M., of Md.—We think you can procure Professor Mahan's works from Wiley & Halstead, of this city. You can pursue a course of study on civil engineering at the Polytechnic College, Philadelphia, J. J., of N. Y.—The putty used by gilders is composed of whiting and size. You must find the proportions to suit yourself, as each frame maker uses it differently.
F. W., of Mass.—It is a burning shame that the Commissioner of Patents should have the disposal of so small a portion of the Patent Office Reports which are printed. The Patent Office should have the distribution of three-fourths of the number issued, for it has a complete register of the names of all parties entitled to them; but, under the present system of distribution, the members of Congress have a large proportion of the Patent Reports, and, of course, they distribute them among a class of their constituents who have the most influence at the polls. The mechanic and the inventor are not usually of that class. We would recommend you and others to ask the member of Congress from your respective district to send you the Commissioner of Patent's Report, and if those members are fit representatives of their districts, they will not refuse to respond to the request. The Commissioner has more orders for them than he can fill.
W. C. J., of Kenwood.—Smith Beers, of Nangatuck, Ct., has a patent for an odometer which we believe to be a good one.
H. H., of Pa.—The best wood is mahogany, next to that, soft pine. Shellac varnish will answer your purpose. To apply emery to a rifle, you had better use a weak solution of glue, and dust the emery on.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, November 7, 1857:—
M. T., of N. Y., \$30; J. H., of Ind., \$30; J. D. S., of Vt., \$35; R. L., of Wis., \$30; I. A. S., of Vt., \$30; J. L., of Mass., \$10; G. & S., of Vt., \$30; J. M. S., of Conn., \$30; A. A. N., of Ill., \$22; E. A. C., of Conn., \$55; J. H. H., of Pa., \$30; W. McK., of Cal., \$45; T. V., of Cal., \$10; G. H. W., of Wis., \$63; E. E., of Ill., \$30; L. & M., of Mass., \$35; C. W., of Pa., \$10; J. Y. J., of Mich., \$10; W. B., of N. Y., \$75; W. A. Y., of N. C., \$55; N. R. A., of N. Y., \$30; H. H., of N. Y., \$30; W. C. W., of N. Y., \$110; J. C. S., of Mass., \$155.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, November 7, 1857:—
J. D. S., of Vt.; J. H., of Ind.; A. A. N., of Ill.; L. K., of Ohio; L. & M., of Mass.; E. A. C., of Conn.; W. C. W., of N. Y., (2 cases); J. C. S., of Mass., (3 cases).

Literary Notices.
ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS FOR 1857.—Luther Tucker & Son, Albany. This is a re-issue of a work called the "Annual Register," and it pleasantly treats of all things connected with rural life—houses, gardens, animals, fruits and flowers are all here well and ably described, and they are illustrated with 440 engravings. Most of the new and useful implements used in cultivation or gathering the fruits of the earth find a place, and it is a nice and valuable book for the farmer or any one living in the country.

HUNT'S MERCHANT MAGAZINE.—Freeman Hunt, New York. The November number is full of useful intelligence and matters of interest to the commercial man, while one of its most valuable features is its national intelligence, which is an item not found in any other periodical.

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GIVE INTELLIGIBLE DIRECTIONS.—We often receive letters with money enclosed, requesting the paper sent for the amount of the enclosure, but no name of State given, and often with the name of the Post Office also omitted. Persons should be careful to write their names plainly when they address publishers, and to name the Post Office at which they wish to receive their paper, and the State in which the Post Office is located.
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The annexed letter from the late Commissioner of Patents we commend to the perusal of all persons interested in obtaining patents:—
Messrs. MUNN & CO.—I take pleasure in stating that while I held the office of Commissioner of Patents, MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF ALL THE BUSINESS OF THE OFFICE came through your hands. I have no doubt that the public confidence thus indicated has been fully deserved, as I have always observed, in all your intercourse with the office, a marked degree of promptness, skill, and fidelity to the interests of your employers.
Yours, very truly, CHAS. MASON.
August 14, 1857.

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