

Correspondents

F. D. of N. Y.—The process of making patent leather is a complicated one. The varnish consists of one pound of ivory black, ten pounds thick copal varnish, twenty pounds of linseed drying oil, and twenty pounds of turpentine. Indelible ink may be made by dissolving 1 1/2 ounces of nitrate of silver in 5 1/2 ounces of strong ammonia and 12 ounces of gum mastic. It must be kept in the dark.

J. H. H., of Wis.—The best method you can pursue is to wash your level with weak acetic acid applied with a brush; let it dry on, and repeat until you have the shade you want, then lacquer with any varnish you think fit. We are perfectly cognizant of our right to use this column in any way we think fit, and we do so by throwing it open to our correspondents.

J. T. P., of Vt.—To make copal varnish, take hard copal, 300 parts; drying linseed or nut oil, 125 to 250 parts; and oil of turpentine, 500 parts. First melt the copal, then add the drying oil, heated; let them cool a little, and add the turpentine. Great care must be taken that the turpentine does not inflame.

J. H. M., of N. Y.—A suitable engraving to illustrate your invention would cost \$15.

D. B. C., of Ohio.—We will receive your State bank bills at par for government fees, as well as for our own; but we would rather have you send us a draft on New York. The reason for this you can appreciate, as you are aware that we are obliged to pay the government fee in gold.

R. F. B., of Md.—We have no data from which to obtain a calculation of the strength of hollow globes of wrought iron.

L. H. M., of R. I.—James Harrison, Jr., of this city, has a patent for a machine for making spiralsprings for furniture use.

W. H. B., of Pa.—You will find an article on the subject you refer to, in this week's paper; and you may obtain further information by consulting Scott's Engineer's Assistant.

M. A. K., of Ohio.—You will find your question answered in that to another correspondent—B. A. L., of Conn., in No. 9 of the present volume.

C. G. M., of N. J.—We do not know where you can get a machine for making shoe pegs. They are manufactured in the eastern States, but just where, we are unable to state.

H. H., of Mo.—There is no power in the Patent Office to renew a patent after it has once expired; therefore, if you have neglected to ask for the extension until now, there is no chance for you, unless by special act of Congress. Very poor encouragement.

C. C., of Pa.—Please to send us all the facts in regard to your rejected case. We are inclined to think that by a vigorous prosecution a patent can be obtained. In order to put the case properly into our hands, you will need to revoke the power of attorney given to your former agent, and confer it upon us. Through our Branch Office at Washington we are prosecuting rejected cases with great success.

W. C. J., of Kenwood.—Smith Beers, of Naugatuck, Conn., has a patent for an odometer, which we believe to be a good one.

E. G., of —.—Your explanation of the phenomena described by T. McN., of Ill., about the water in a tin dipper not freezing, while the water contained in the bucket in which it was immersed did, is incorrect, because you assume that the dipper and its contained water sunk in the bucket; if we understood our correspondent's letter, it did not. You will find our explanation under his query; and we should like to know your reason for objecting to that explanation.

P. S., of Pa.—The best cement for houses is undoubtedly, the so-called Roman cement, which, we believe, can be procured from any dealer in building materials.

D. W. J., of Ohio.—The mineral which you have found in your locality is heavy spar, or sulphate of baryta. When made artificially (by precipitating baryta from its solution by sulphuric acid), it is much used for paint. As its name implies, it is very heavy, having a specific gravity of about 4.4. At a very high temperature it fuses into a beautiful white enamel.

H. J. E., of Ind.—Your chain propeller for boats is one of the oldest known inventions for this purpose. It has neither novelty nor utility to recommend it.

E. J. N., of Md.—Just at this time we have no patent law pamphlets on hand. They do not contain the form of power of attorney for the sale of patents. The form in general use will answer your purpose. Faraday's Lectures on Electricity will meet your wants.

G. E. D., of Pa.—We are very glad to learn that you intend to canvass for subscribers, in competition for the prizes we offer. There is a good chance to get spending money in this manner, and if you persevere you cannot help but succeed. We shall promptly pay over the cash on the 1st of January next. Bear in mind that we are able to supply all the back numbers from the beginning of this volume. Sample numbers sent free by mail.

F. S., of Va.—We will notice your communication next week. It came a little too late to receive such attention as we wished to bestow upon it. The sugar sample seems to be very good.

C. J., of N. Y.—Such a device as you claim is not new. By reference to No. 2, this Vol., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, you will find the claim of an extension gas tube, which fully covers yours. If you have delayed your application unnecessarily, it is a misfortune, as you cannot now succeed without a troublesome interference. Delays are dangerous.

F. M., of Ind.—The advantage of feeding furnaces with hot air is very great, as you save the amount of fuel necessary to heat the air up to the required heat; and it also enters into the furnace hot enough to burn immediately. It takes no more fuel, as it may be warmed by the waste gases from the furnace.

P. B. J., of Ill.—The vine which will grow well in your State, and some excellent varieties of catwaba have already been made there. We understand that the vine culture has been commenced in the environs of Peoria and Nauvoo, and has been very successful.

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, November 14, 1857:—

H. A. S., of Vt., \$25; D. G., of Pa., \$30; A. B. C., of Ga., \$30; L. K., of Ohio, \$40; A. J. G., of Mass., \$25; E. L. T., of N. Y., \$50; N. A., of Conn., \$50; A. M., of N. Y., \$30; D. E. of Ohio, \$30; J. G., Sen., of R. I., \$25; W. R. M., of Ohio, \$55; D. W., of N. Y., \$30; W. A. F., of Conn., \$30; D. H., of Ky., \$55; H. T. S., of Mich., \$35; D. B., of R. I., \$30; N. R. A., of N. Y., \$30; D. & R., of N. J., \$55; H. M., of N. Y., \$25; F. O. D., of N. Y., \$30.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, November 14, 1857:—

F. O. D., of N. Y.; A. J. G., of Mass.; C. R., of N. Y.; H. A. S., of Vt.; H. H., of N. Y.; D. & B., of N. J.

Literary Notices.

MUSPRATT'S CHEMISTRY.—G. B. Russell and Bros., 290 Broadway, New York. This work is gradually progressing, and although it has already arrived at Part 32, it has only begun to treat of "Glass." It will be voluminous in form, and no doubt perfect of its kind when complete; but we are afraid that by the time it arrives at Z, much of the matter classified under A will be old and require to be re-written.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY is the title of a new magazine just commenced by the eminent publishing house of Phillips, Sampson & Co., of New York. The number contains ably written articles, superior, in fact, to the ordinary run of contributions to magazine literature. In reference to the merits of particular articles every reader must judge for himself.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW, for October, (American reprint) published by Leonard Scott & Co., New York, contains a very good article on the "History of Civilization in England," and many others, one of which is a severe and just criticism of Mrs. Browning's new poem, "Aurora Leigh."

THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL.—R. S. Newton, M. D., Cincinnati. The November number contains an excellent paper, by Professor G. W. L. Bickley on "Female Medical Colleges," and much interesting matter on the medical sciences.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

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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SUBSCRIBERS TO THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN who fail to receive their papers regularly, will oblige the publishers by stating their complaints in writing. Those who may have missed certain numbers can usually have them supplied by addressing a note to the office of publication.

EVERY SUBSCRIBER would do well to try and get one or more of his neighbors to send their names with his own, even if he has no wish to avail himself of our clubs. The larger the package of papers sent to one address, or the same Post Office, the greater is the certainty of getting the paper regularly. A single paper is sometimes mislaid or overlooked in sorting the mails at some one of the intermediate post offices through which it has to pass; while, on the contrary, we have noticed that a large package seldom fails to reach its proper destination.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

Twenty-five cents per line each insertion. We respectfully request that our patrons will make their advertisements as short as possible. Engravings cannot be admitted into the advertising columns.

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Yours, very truly, CHAS. MASON. August 14, 1857.

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For the 6th largest List.....90
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For the 8th largest List.....70
For the 9th largest List.....60
For the 10th largest List.....50
For the 11th largest List.....40
For the 12th largest List.....35
For the 13th largest List.....30
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