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## Improved Chronometer Governor and Balanced Throttle.

In this engraving we have a view of a new governor, designed by Mr. John Tremper, of Philadelphia, and intended to economize fuel, keep the engine under perfect control, render any speed attainable at a moment's notice, and thereby improve the value of the steam engine as an economical motor.

It is notorious that of all good servan s steam engines are the hardest used. They are not only badly designed, built, and run, but they are placed in all sorts of exposed situations, and neglected so much, in various ways, that it is no wonder that it takes 12 pounds of coal to produce a horse-power on an average, when one-sixth of that amount ought to suffice.

This mechanism governs the engine by cutting off the steam at the point required to do the work. It admits just as much steam at every stroke of the piston as may be required, and in that way maintains a constant and regular action.

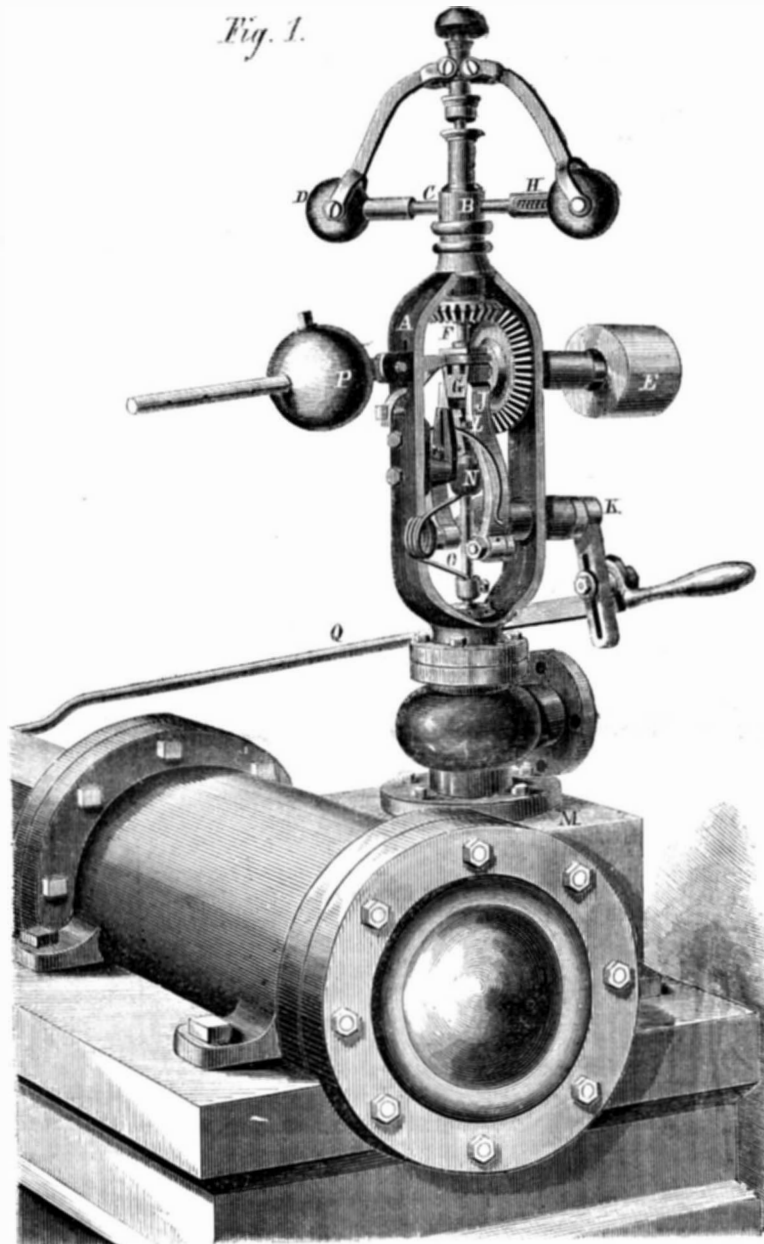
In the engraving, A represents a frame carrying an upright spindle, B, in which the arms of the governor are fixed.

This governor is peculiar in construction, as can be seen at a glance. The balls, D, are fitted to the arms, C, and slide thereon, the arms being revolved by the bevel gears and pulley, E. When revolved, the balls fly out, and in doing so depress the stem, F, which connects to the wedge, G, for a purpose described below. Any fluctuation in the speed of the engine, whether above or below that the governor is set to, is, therefore, instantly corrected by the movement of the balls, they being thrown out by centrifugal force, and returned to their positions by the centripetal action of the springs shown in the broken-out portion of the shank, H.

When the wedge before alluded to is depressed it acts on two jaws, J, which are connected to a rock shaft, K. These arms have steel bars, L, let into them which catch on the head of the valve stem and raise it, as clearly shown by the engraving. The arms receive motion from the rock shaft before mentioned, and are, therefore, raised vertically, carrying the valve stem and valve with them, until they strike the wedge, G, up which they continue to rise until the valve below is released from them, when it falls and shuts off the steam in the steam chest, M; from this chest it goes to the cylinder through the valve, as usual.

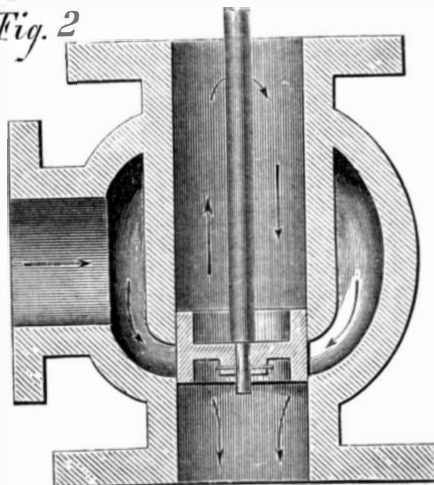
The throttle valve is shown in Fig. 2, and it will be seen that it has no seat, and that consequently there is no jar or concussion at every stroke, as in some machines. The valve is stopped, so that it shuts at the right place by a bracket, N. The socket on the head of the valve stem brings up on a cork facing in this bracket. The spring, O, is to seat the valve quickly. As it is a balanced valve, it needs some aid of this kind to shut quickly and prevent wiredrawing the steam.

Fig. 1.



TREMPER'S CHRONOMETER GOVERNOR AND BALANCED THROTTLE.

Fig. 2.



The speed of the engine is regulated by shifting the ball, P, on the lever. This increases the labor on the balls by adding to the weight to be overcome by the centrifugal force, so that the engine runs faster to

make the force greater. The cut-off valve is operated by an eccentric on the shaft, and a rod, Q, as shown.

The governor will act just as well without this weight, and it is only applied where a variable speed is required. At whatever velocity it is set to give, the governor will maintain it regularly for all time. The cut-off jaws, being attached below the center of the rock shaft, have a tendency to fall in toward the valve-stem socket, so that they always hold well without any danger of slipping, and the hard-steel edge in both the jaws and socket enable them to wear a long time. The engine can be stopped from any part of the building, if necessary, and the governor can be applied to any engine, new or old.

It is stated that hundreds are now in use in Philadelphia and vicinity, and giving entire satisfaction. We are of opinion that the governor will effect a saving in fuel on engines without cut-offs, and that it will act properly when well taken care of.

It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency by John Tremper, of Philadelphia. Address him at No. 316 North Third street, Philadelphia, or E. Weston, agent, Vulcan Foundry, Buffalo, N. Y.

## The Manufacture of Paper.

A substitute for rags in the manufacture of paper has been discovered by M. Caminade, for which he has obtained a patent. According to M. Caminade, the root of the lucern plant when dried and beaten shows thousands of very white fibers, which form an excellent paste for paper makers, and may be substituted with great advantage for rags. The pulp, beside the thread for paper, produces salt of soda and a coloring matter called by the inventor luzerine. It is calculated that France produces annually 75,000,000 kilogrammes of paper, of which one-seventh is exported, leaving not more than two kilogrammes for each inhabitant. It is consequently inferred that the production of paper would increase considerably were it not for the scarcity of the raw material. M. Gratiot, a good authority on the subject, states that it requires one pound and a quarter of rags to make one pound of paper, and that rags are eagerly sought after by every nation where paper is manufactured. This warm competition makes rags scarce and dear. Those who possess this article store it up in order to obtain a higher price, well aware that the quantity is limited. French economists express their conviction that, according as instruction becomes developed among the mass of the population, the 75,000,000 kilogrammes of paper at present produced will not be sufficient for the home consumption. It consequently becomes a matter of necessity to find a substitute for rags

Men working at the treadmill perform work equivalent to ascending half a mile per hour.

## NOTES ON NEW DISCOVERIES AND NEW APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE.

## SAVING SULPHUR FROM SULPHURETS.

In last week's "Notes" we estimated the value of the sulphur dissipated in the Swansea "copper smoke" at a quarter of a million sterling per annum. We based this estimate on the calculation made by Leplay, which is quoted in the first volume of Dr. Percy's "Metallurgy." Mr. Peter Spence, of the Pendleton Alum Works—the largest alum works in the world, we believe—has put forth, however, a much higher estimate of the value of the sulphur in the copper smoke. The quantity of copper ores smelted weekly at Swansea is about 5,000 tons, and the proportion of sulphur in them averages from 24 to 28 per cent. "This," says Mr. Spence, "is equivalent to 3,300 tons of brown oil of vitriol, and this weight I would undertake to produce therefrom. The present value of this weekly quantity is £9,900," which is at the rate of £514,800, or more than half a million sterling per annum. Mr. Spence proceeds, "this quantity of acid would meet the requirements of our staple chemical manufactures, or nearly so; while these manufactures have never been so pressed for a supply of sulphur ores as now. Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Norway, and even Iceland are being ransacked, but have so far failed to yield them in sufficient quantity. Shall this dearth on the one hand, and needless waste on the other, continue?" There is certainly no good reason why it should.

Mr. Spence invented about four years ago a "Copper Ore-calcining Furnace," which has, over M. Gerstenhofer's furnace, which we described last week, the great advantage, besides several others, of not requiring that the ores calcined in it should first be ground. This furnace Mr. Spence has had in constant work for the last three years—all the sulphuric acid which he has used during that period, whether at his works at Pendleton or at those at Goole, having been produced by its agency. It is of considerable length, measuring about fifty feet from end to end, and consists of two chambers, one above the other, separated by a thin partition of fire-brick. The fireplace is at one end of the lower chamber, the other end of which communicates with the chimney, and the products of combustion are confined to that chamber. It is in the upper chamber—between which and the lower chamber no communication exists—that the ores are calcined. In each side of this upper or ore-chamber are six apertures, placed at equal distances apart, and ordinarily closed by suitable doors. These apertures are for the purpose of enabling the workmen to move the ores gradually from one end of the furnace to the other. At one end of the ore-chamber is an opening through which a current of air is forced continuously while the furnace is in action; the other end communicates with a sulphuric acid chamber. In commencing working, a batch of ore, usually about ten hundred weight, is introduced through the pair of doors which are furthest from the fireplace, and so at the coolest part of the furnace, for, by reason of its length, and of the position of the fireplace, the furnace is very much hotter, of course, at one end than at the other. Having been spread evenly on the floor of the upper chamber, this first batch of ore is then allowed to remain undisturbed for two hours. At the end of that time it is raked eight feet forward, and a second batch of raw ore is introduced into the place the first has thus been removed from. At the end of the second two hours the first batch is moved a further eight feet forward, and the second batch is also moved eight feet, making room for a third batch; and so the process goes on continually. At the end of twelve hours the first batch is withdrawn, and thereafter a batch is withdrawn, as well as a batch introduced, every two hours. The action of the furnace is thus unintermittent, and it calcines about six tons of ore every twenty-four hours. The ores, as they pass from one end of the furnace to the other, are exposed to a gradually increasing temperature, whereby clotting is entirely prevented, and under the influence of the heat to which they are thus gradually subjected the sulphur in them combines with the oxygen of the current of air which is passed over them, to form sulphurous acid, which is afterward converted into sulphuric acid, in the usual way. The cost of calcination by his furnace, Mr. Spence states to be only 2s. 1½d. per statute ton of ore, which is less than the

cost of calcination by the furnaces at present in use, while for every five tons of ore calcined in Mr. Spence's furnace £9 worth of sulphuric acid is obtained, at a cost of not more than £1, from constituents of the ore, which the ordinary furnaces turn to no account whatever. Whether M. Gerstenhofer's furnace will prove capable of yielding better results than Mr. Spence has thus for the last three years been obtaining from his, may be fairly doubted. Be that as it may, we really seem at last to have reached the beginning of the end of the enormous waste which has so long been going on at Swansea of a substance which is quite as important to the chemical arts as iron is to the mechanical ones.

## THE MOST FUSIBLE ALLOY.

The most fusible alloy at present in use is a compound of two parts by weight of bismuth with one of lead and one of tin. It is called "fusible metal" *par excellence*, by reason of its melting at so low a temperature as 93·75° Centigrade. Dr. C. R. von Hauer has found, however, that by the addition of cadmium to alloys of bismuth with lead and tin, compounds may be produced which will fuse at a lower temperature still. An alloy of four equivalents of cadmium, with five equivalents each of lead, tin, and bismuth is quite liquid, he states, at 65·5° Centigrade. In parts by weight this alloy would consist of cadmium 224, lead 517·5, tin 295, and bismuth 1,050. An alloy of three equivalents of cadmium with four each of tin, lead, and bismuth fuses at 67·5° Centigrade, and an alloy of one equivalent of cadmium with two equivalents each of these three other metals at 68·5° Centigrade, which is also the fusing point of an alloy of one equivalent each of all the four metals. Dr. von Hauer made these alloys by fusing their ingredients in a covered porcelain crucible at the lowest practicable temperature. Their melting points were determined—under hot water, and also by placing a thermometer in the fused mass, without water—after they had been melted and cooled several times. They all become pasty at low temperatures than those given above; the temperatures quoted are those at which the alloys are perfectly fluid. It should be added that, unfortunately, all these alloys very rapidly oxidize when placed in water.

## INDIUM.

Fra. C. Winkler and Schrotter, who are the only chemists, other than its discoverers, MM. Reich and Richter, who have yet experimented on that latest discovery and as yet least known of all the elements, have each recently published some new researches on indium. Winkler finds the atomic weight of that metal to be 35·918, instead of 37·07, which Reich and Richter estimated it at. Schrotter states that the magnificent blue line in the spectrum of indium, from which the metal derives its name, does not coincide with any of the dark lines in the solar spectrum, and hence deduces the conclusion that this element does not exist in the atmosphere of the sun. Both Winkler and Schrotter agree with the discoverers as to the physical characteristics of the metal, which seems to closely resemble cadmium in color and luster, but to be softer than cadmium, marking paper easily. The streak produced by it on paper is bright, with a very slight shade of gray. Reich and Richter believe that indium was not perceptible by sulphureted hydrogen, but Schrotter finds that gas will precipitate it from any solution which is sufficiently dilute and not too acid. The precipitated sulphide cannot be distinguished, as regards color, from sulphide of cadmium. Indium seems, indeed, to bear in all respects a very close likeness to cadmium.

## REDUCTION OF POTASSIUM BY ALUMINUM.

According to the "Zeitschrift für Chemie und Pharmacie," Beketoff has found that potassium may be reduced by means of aluminum more readily than by any other agent yet tried. If we had cheap aluminum, therefore, it would enable us to cheapen potassium; but, of course, aluminum will never be used on any extensive scale for the reduction of potassium so long as aluminum has itself to be obtained by means of sodium. The potassium compound best adapted for reduction by aluminum is the hydrate.

## REAL RUBIES MADE ARTIFICIALLY.

Many chemists have endeavored to produce artificial diamonds, but hitherto with invariable success. Most of the other gems, however, have been produced artificially, the artificial stones having

exactly the same composition and properties as the natural ones. Rubies have till now been the most difficult gems to produce artificially, but MM. Ste. Claire Deville, Caron, and Troost have just communicated to the Academy of Sciences a method by which they can be made with ease. A mixture of fluoride of aluminum with a small quantity of fluoride of chromium is placed in an earthen crucible which has first been carefully lined with calcined alumina, after the fashion in which it is customary to line crucibles with charcoal. In the center of this crucible, in the midst of the mixture of fluorides, is placed a small platinum crucible containing boracic acid. The outer crucible having been well covered, the whole is exposed to a temperature sufficiently high to volatilize both the boracic acid and the fluorides. The vapor of the boracic acid then decomposes that of the fluorides, with formation of fluoride of boron and deposition of crystals of the mixed oxides of aluminum and chromium. If the fluorides were originally mixed in the right proportions, these crystals will have exactly the same composition, and exactly the same color, luster, specific gravity, and other properties, as the most perfect natural rubies.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

## Strength of Iron.

A very extensive and interesting test of the relative strength of iron has just been completed, as will appear by the subjoined report, at the gunboat yard of Messrs. Snowdens & Mason, South Pittsburg, under the immediate supervision of Jos. S. Kirk, general manager of that establishment. The object of the test has been to determine the strength of the cylindrical boilers of different diameters and thicknesses of iron; the best method of riveting; proper size of rivets, and space between them to produce the greatest strength:—

MESSRS. LYON, SHORR & Co.—Gentlemen:—Agreeable to your request, the four boilers marked "A," "B," "C," and "D," I submitted to a hydraulic pressure, with a view of testing their relative strength. The gages used in these experiments were two,—one of the celebrated manufacture of Schaeffer and Budenberg Buckau, Magdeburg, Germany, with a range of 66½ atmospheres; the other, Ashcroft's make, of 40 atmospheres; water used at a temperature of ninety (90) degrees.

Boilers "A," and "B," were not ruptured, owing to a disproportion between the size of rivets, diameter and thickness of iron, resulting in a general leak through the entire length, at the rivets and caulking: four blows with an eighteen-pound sledge, applied under the greatest pressure, produced no material effect.

Boilers "C" and "D," were ruptured by tearing out through the center of outside course of rivets, in the direction of the length, for a space of about eighteen inches. The following table will furnish you with such detailed information as it is hoped will be satisfactory.

Respectfully yours,  
JOSEPH S. KIRK.  
Pittsburgh, Oct. 25, 1865.

Brands of Iron	A		B		C		D	
	Silgo. Inch.	Tyrom. Inch.	Silgo. Inch.	Tyrom. Inch.	Silgo. Inch.	Tyrom. Inch.	Silgo. Inch.	Tyrom. Inch.
Inside Diameter	50	48	36¼	36¼	67	67	67	67
Length	73	73	67	67	67	67	67	67
Thickness of Iron	3½	5 16	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Size of Rivets	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Rivets staggered and centered on	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Space between center of rivets in parallel lines	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Rivets in parallel lines centered on	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16	2 5-16
Pressure per square inch	383	438	583	592				
Tensile strength of iron per sq. inch force as applied in boilers	80,246	105,722	132,842	114,386				

## A Boat Propelled by a Pump.

Nearly a year ago a dreadful accident occurred in Glasgow Harbor. About six o'clock on a dark winter evening the Clyde-street Ferry (a small open boat, pulled by one man with a pair of oars) with upward of thirty souls, was swamped by the waves of a passing steamer while crossing the stream, and the whole of the passengers were precipitated into the river, whereby twenty of them were drowned. Immediately after the accident the whole affair was carefully investigated by the Clyde trustees. Various schemes and remedies for the prevention of such another catastrophe were proposed by themselves, and laid before them by others, when, after due consideration, it was determined to try a steam ferry as an experiment, and, if successful, have a number of boats built and put upon the principal stations. Messrs. Hedderwick & Co., shipbuilders, of Govan, were entrusted with the construction of the hull, while the engines and a novel mode of propulsion were to be furnished by Messrs. Howden & Co., engineers, Scotland street, Glasgow. Last week the first boat was finished and launched, and the following is a description of the craft:—She is an open boat, 30 feet long by 12 feet broad, and draws about 2 feet 6 inches of water; both ends of the

boat are alike; or, in other words, she has two bows. She is nearly flat-bottomed, and, although after the trial they affixed a keel, they have since cut the first greater portion of it off, finding it superfluous. The floor of the boat is about the water level, and between the bottom and the floor are tight-water compartments. The first intention was to have small ports or scuppers pierced through the sides flush with the floor, to carry off any accumulated water in the boat; but, as she draws rather more water than was at first expected, this object has been frustrated. A light hand-rail runs round the gunwale, open at both bows, for the ingress and egress of passengers. The engine and boiler are placed about the center of the boat, in such a position that the passengers can freely walk round about them. The boiler is an upright cylindrical one, with one furnace; it is neatly incased in wood, with brass hoops, and the funnel has an external covering of brass, polished. The boat is propelled by means of a pump worked by the engine in any direction required. The following is the manner in which this is accomplished: Underneath each of the four quarters of the boat there is an aperture or tube open to, and always submerged in, the water in connection with the pump, but these waterways are not parallel to, or straight fore and aft the vessel, but run at a considerable angle from the pump in the center of the boat to the port or starboard side, as the case may be; thus we have four pipes in connection with the pump diverging from the center of the boat in the form of a St. Andrew cross, their apertures all open to the water. The pump is fitted with suitable valves, so that the water can be admitted by any of the apertures and expelled by the others. It will now be easily understood that by arranging the valves to allow the water to flow into the pump by the two stern apertures, for instance, when the pump is set in motion the water will be expelled with force through the two apertures at the bow, which will cause the boat to move stern first, and *vice versa*. Thus, without a helm, the boat can be propelled either backward or forward, broadside on, or made to revolve on its axis, simply by shifting the valves; its rate of speed is about five miles per hour. It has not yet been put on any station, as the trustees wish the ferryman to gain experience how to work it before carrying passengers, but it is expected it will be quicker, more easily steered and managed, and safer than the present laborious system of pulling with oars.—*London Engineer*.

[What a roundabout way this is? Why not put in a screw at once? pumps, valves, and pipes are much more liable to get out of order, and more costly to keep in repair than a propeller would be, to say nothing of the hull of the boat being pierced full of holes below the water line.—Eds.]

THE "ST. JOHN" BOILER EXPLOSION.

The public has reason to congratulate itself we think, on the manner in which disasters are examined into of late, and the determination evinced to get at the root of the trouble. "Died by visitation of God" used to be a common verdict with coroners' juries, anxious to be relieved from an unpleasant duty, and "nobody to blame," has not been so long out of fashion but that we can recall many instances of it.

The boiler explosion on the steamer *Arrow* was rigidly investigated, and the cause disclosed. The boilers were old, worn out, and unfit for duty, and the proprietors of the boat were indicted for manslaughter. In the recent explosion on the steamer *St. John*, whereby many persons lost their lives, the boilers were entirely new, and were perfectly sound, except in one place, and that place was where they gave way, as the appended examinations of the principal witnesses will show:—

Capt. Peck, on being examined, said:—I am Captain of the *St. John*, and have been one for many years; I have not had charge of an engine, neither am I acquainted with the management of them.

After some other particulars not essential to the point, a juror said:—

Did you notice any mark on the boiler where the fracture took place? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was it a cut with a chisel? A.—Yes, sir.  
Q.—Do you think that cut was made by the calker in chipping the sheet? A.—I think it might have been so made.

Q.—Do you think that cut weakened the boiler? A.—I think it did weaken it some.

Q.—Was not the line of the fracture directly along the cut or chisel mark? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Do you think that mark was, in any way, a damage, or that it caused the disaster? A.—I think it was the principal cause.

The first assistant, Joel Wright, was then examined, and testified that the boiler had plenty of water at the time of the accident. Some firemen were also examined as to the general conduct of affairs in the engineering department of the boat, and the Chief Engineer was also examined, and corroborated the testimony of the Captain—that the sheet tore along the line of the chisel cut before mentioned.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR AND HIS MAGNIFYING GLASS.

Mr. J. W. Hopper was the next witness. He testified that he was inspector of boilers and steamers; examined the boilers of the *St. John* after they were placed in the boat, and found they were properly braced and safe. [The witness then described the mode by which boilers are tested.]

Question by Mr. Fox—How were you appointed Inspector? A.—The Secretary of the Treasury appointed me.

Q.—What is necessary to be appointed? A.—I was nominated for the office by a Government committee appointed for the purpose, consisting of Hiram Barney, Ex-Collector, Mr. Thomas B. Stillman, and a Judge of the United States Circuit Court; they recommended me for the office, and the Secretary of the Treasury appointed me.

Q.—Were you examined as to your fitness for the office by them? A.—No; I was employed before that as an engineer on a revenue-steamer.

Q.—Did you run the engine on the steamer? A.—No, my assistants did; it is usual for them to do so.

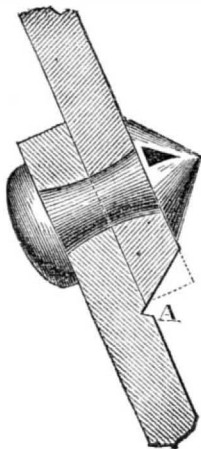
[The witness then testified that Mr. Secor's boilers were braced in the same way as the boilers of the *St. John*.]

Question by Mr. Fox—You say you made a very careful examination of the boilers of the *St. John* after they were placed in the boat—did you see a chisel cut on it? A.—No, I did not; I examined it with a magnifying glass, and did not see a chisel cut on it.

Here Mr. Fox took the piece of the boiler with the chisel cut on it, and exhibited it to the witness, remarking—"You say you failed to discover this chisel cut with a magnifying glass, which I observed several feet off. How is that?"

[The witness made no answer, but subsequently gave it as his opinion that the explosion was caused by a bad plate of iron. He then left the stand.]

As many of our readers do not know the nature of this technicality, we give herewith a diagram representing it.



When two sheets of boiler iron are lapped to form a joint, the outside sheet is chipped off on the edge, as shown by the dotted lines, and afterward calked or riveted tight on the edge. The tool used is an ordinary flat chisel, made thin and sharp, and unless common care is used by the workman the lower corner of the chisel will rest on the lower sheet and cut a slight channel all the way along, as shown at A. This chisel

mark is that alluded to by the witnesses above mentioned.

If any person reading this article has ever had a pair of boots cut in the upper by the carelessness of the shoemaker in paring off the sole, he will know the nature of this damage done by the chisel. Since the skin of the iron is the strongest part of it, it follows that the plate is weakened to that extent by being so cut. In view of the fact that the rent followed the line of this chisel mark, it does not seem difficult to account for the accident.

The makers of the boiler, no doubt, took every precaution against disaster—it is unreasonable to suppose otherwise. Men who make boilers do it for money, and a desire to build up a reputation, not to have them explode. Moreover, as these boilers were built by the pound, and not by contract, every additional sixteenth of thickness in the plate was just so much in their pockets.

We have always endeavored to get at the real cause of these disasters, and are wary of the theories which are so volubly uttered on all such occasions.

It will be found in most cases that honest examination into boiler explosions will reveal the cause, whether it be bad workmanship, flaws in the material, or neglect. The true way is to try and find some mechanical or other defect—not to mislead en-

gineers and the public into supposing that, in spite of all the care in building or running steam boilers there is some mysterious agency which will defeat all their efforts at any moment.

The jury returned the following

VERDICT.

The jury found that, at the time of the explosion, the boiler was in a weakened condition, from the force of the hydrostatic pressure brought to bear in testing its capacity by the United States Inspector in the use of cold water, by insufficient bracing on the circular part, above the flat surface, by the effects of chipping and calking, and by the corrosion of the boiler on the inside, at the high-water mark; but from the diverse views and opinions of the many witnesses who have testified before us, the jury are unable to say from which of the causes the explosion occurred, or whether from one or more combined. The jury find that this boiler was made of the best material, and braced in the usual manner of constructing such boilers by the best boiler makers, and approved by scientific and practical men; but the jury recommend that hereafter boilers be braced above the flat surface on the circular part. The jury recommend that steamboat boilers be inspected oftener than the practice now is, by competent inspectors, and that said inspections be made as often as once in three months; also, that the hydrostatic test with cold water be abolished, and that warm water be used in its stead. The jury also strongly recommend and urgently adjure all boiler-makers to extraordinary care in constructing steam boilers, and that especial pains be taken to avoid breaking the fiber of the iron by calking or by other means.

We, of course, do not know what passed in the secret deliberations of the jury, but we shrewdly suspect that the same jurymen whose searching cross-examination we report, used his influence to get in the significant words, "by the effects of chipping and calking." After these the remainder of the verdict is of no consequence.

Rescue of Shipwrecked Mariners.

The *Boston Courier* gives the following account of the rescue of the crew of a schooner lately wrecked on the south side of the Island of Nantucket:—

"By means of a gun provided for such emergencies by the Massachusetts' Humane Society, a line was thrown over the vessel, and, after considerable delay, owing to the exhausted condition of the shipwrecked crew, a rope attached to the line was hauled on board and fastened to the masthead. When this was done, a chair made for the purpose was run off on a hanging block, and one of the crew got in to be hauled on shore. When his weight began to press on the small line from the masthead to the shore, it began to stretch and he to sink down toward the top of the raging billows beneath him. When a little more than half way to land, the small line of the vessel used to veer him along the line and pull the chair back, got foul, and, for more than an hour, there the poor fellow hung, the line stretching, and the waves ready to swallow him in case it parted. At last he was drawn within a few yards of the nearest breaker, in which he was submerged every time the vessel rolled toward the beach. A rope was thrown to him by men wading up to their necks in the breakers, and he was dragged to land. In a similar manner, after toilsome exertions, continued all day long, the other shipwrecked mariners were rescued, the last man reaching the shore just at sunset."

"Hands Off."

The futility of placing this notice on goods at fairs is well set forth in the spirited paragraph subjoined, cut from the *Minneapolis State Atlas*:—

"The people are very curious, and inspection is the order of the day. The great placards, 'Handle not,' might as well have been turned wrong side out. You can never keep the hands of the briaean public off anything. They were on the delicate embroidery and snowy quilt; they left the furs with a new gloss; they fumbled the stockings, the pin-cushions and tanned skins; they dirtied the picture glasses, and felt all the rough spots in the oil paintings; if the book covers were lifted once, they were lifted a million times; the bright stoves soon got dingy faces, and the oil on the machines was carried off on a thousand fingers. How many digits were punctured by the needles on the Grover & Baker, and Wheeler & Wilson, would be a hard sum for Greerleaf himself. The vegetables had to 'take it;' hard potatoes got soft; fresh melons went rotten under the pressure, and the smell of onions was upon all. The only real iron-clads were the pumpkins, which couldn't be dented except by a hammer. Segars were much sought after, and, apparently, the awarding committee on these articles was very large.

**The New Sewing Machine.**

The engraving published herewith represents a new sewing machine. The objects its originator had in view in its production was to supply the great want existing for a really good practical sewing machine for family use, obtainable at a moderate price, simply constructed, readily understood, and easily operated and kept in working order.

The stitch made by it is elastic, which experience proves to be best adapted for all the varieties of family sewing, and is made from the spool direct as purchased at the store. It is self-fastening, yet can be taken out, without injury to the fabric, when necessary. The needle is readily adjusted, and is like that used by Mr. Howe, only shorter, and consequently stronger and less liable to be broken. The feed is the well-known "four-motion under feed," as used in the Wheeler & Wilson, Grover & Baker, and other first-class machines. It is now considered the only really reliable feed. The length of stitch is varied by simply turning the thumb-screw, H, in or out, securing it in place by the jam nut, C. The tension is laid directly upon the thread by passing it between two highly polished steel disks, B, instead of applying the pressure upon the spool which, from the unevenness of these spools, is found very unreliable. The spool, A, rests loosely upon the upright rod, and may be removed and replaced by another without disturbing the tension—a very valuable feature, especially when the thread gives out in the midst of sewing a seam. The pressure upon the foot resting upon the cloth is obtained by a coiled spring upon the rod. The foot is raised by lifting the nut, F, and held at rest by a pin fitted to the nut in such a manner that the foot may be thrown entirely around and away from the needle when desired. A gage is attached to the plate of each machine adjustable to different widths of sewing and tucking by the screw, L. In short, all the motions are obtained by the simplest mechanism, which, in practice, is found to be durable and noiseless.

The machines are made adapted both for the treadle (foot-power) and hand use. The annexed engraving represents the machine as adapted for hand use, and although they can be worked upon any house table without being secured, a clamp will be furnished with each machine to be used, if desired. Those for treadle use are made without the gear wheels, and with a smaller pulley or fly-wheel attached directly upon the main shaft for the belt.

These machines sew with double or single thread, and the stitch is far superior to that made by the cheap machines. It did not rip upon being tested, and the general appearance of the machine is satisfactory.

Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, long and favorably known in the sewing-machine and needle interests, and a resident of this city, is the patentee. Full particulars in relation to machines or agencies will be promptly given by addressing The Bartlett Sewing Machine Company, No. 569 Broadway, New York. The manufactory is at Winchendon, Mass. Page Brothers, Agents, Toledo, Ohio.

**On the Practical Results Obtained from Blast Furnaces by the Use of Hot Blast of Very High Temperature.**

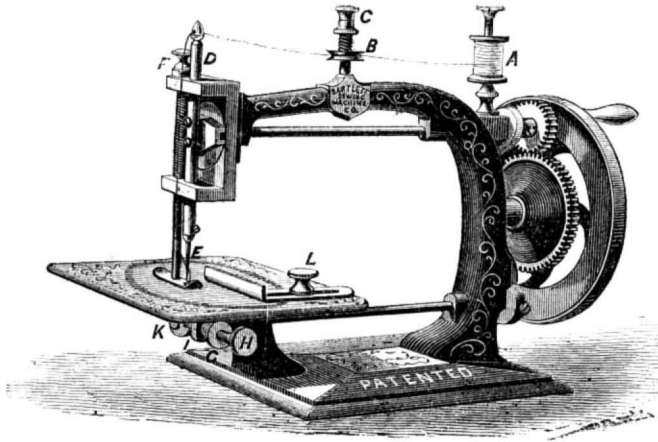
One of the most valuable papers read before the British Association, at its meeting this year, was one by E. A. Cowper, on the subject above stated. It will be seen that the blast is heated by a cellular mass of brick work on the principle of Siemens's furnace. This plan of obtaining an intense heat is destined to play a great part in the arts, and we wonder that it has not attracted greater attention in this country.

"It is not proposed to detain the meeting with a history of the numerous attempts which have been made to raise the blast for blast furnaces to a very high temperature, nor will the author occupy much time in the description of the means by which the desired result has been obtained, as a full account of

the apparatus was given at the meeting of this association held at Oxford, though the paper on the subject was not printed in the Transactions.

"In 1861, experimental stoves only, on the new plan, had been erected and worked for heating the blast for one tweek out of the five used for one blast furnace. Such satisfactory results were, however, obtained, that it was clear that the difficulty of procuring blast of very high temperature had been overcome, and Messrs. Cochrane & Co., of Woodside Ironworks, Dudley, and Ormesby Ironworks, near Middlesbro'-on-Tees, forthwith erected large stoves on the new plan for a complete blast furnace, and it is now proposed, with your permission, to lay before the section the results obtained during upward of four years' practical working with these stoves.

"The effect of heating air on the new plan, was that a temperature of blast of 1,150° Fab. was obtained, instead of only 600 or 700° as with cast-iron pipes in the common stoves; there was no loss of blast from leakage, owing to cracked or damaged cast-iron pipes; the iron produced was of rather better quality; twenty per cent more iron was made

**BARTLETT'S SEWING MACHINE.**

from the same furnace, and fully 5 cwt. of coke was saved in the blast furnace per tun of iron made.

"The details of the construction of the new stoves will be readily understood by reference to the drawings.

First, There are two stoves, which are heated alternately and used alternately in heating the cold air; these are filled with brick work 'set open,' or with small spaces between the bricks, and form 'regenerators,' on the principle of Mr. Siemens's 'regenerator furnaces,' as now so largely and successfully used in glass-houses, gas works, iron works, etc., both for obtaining great heat and economizing fuel.

"The outside of the stoves are of thin wrought-iron plate lined with fire brick, the iron skin being necessary to retain the blast under pressure, while the fire brick resists the heat.

"Second, There are provided for the purpose of heating the stoves valves, for the admission of gas and air into a central flue, where combustion takes place when a stove is being heated, the products of combustion passing up the flue and down through the mass of fire bricks forming the regenerator, and escaping at the bottom to the chimney, after the whole of the heat has been abstracted by the fire bricks, the temperature of the chimney being from 212° to 250°, or thereabouts, during the time a stove is being heated, viz., for a period of four hours.

"Then, when a stove is hot, the gas and air are turned off, the chimney valve shut, and the cold blast is turned on at the bottom of the regenerator, and passes up through the bottom courses of brick work in the regenerator, thus very quickly becoming heated; and passing in the heated state up through the remaining courses of the brick work, and down the central flue, through the hot-blast valve to the blast furnace; the process of absorption of heat by the air being so perfect that, as long as a few of the top courses of brick work remain hot, the blast is well heated, the variation in the temperature of the blast being only about 100° Fab., with four-hour changes.

"Third, The gas for heating the stoves is supplied from gas producers, similar to those commonly

used by Mr. Siemens for his regenerator furnaces, and which have already been described before this Association. They consist of a simple brick inclosure or fireplace, with bars near the bottom, for the admission of a very small quantity of air. The gas is formed by the slow combustion of a very thick fire, supplied with poor coal or slack down a slope or hopper, the gas passing off from above the fuel through pipes to the hot-blast stoves. Gas, may, however, be taken from the top of the blast furnace for heating the stoves, provided proper arrangements are made to separate it from the dust which comes over from the blast furnace with it; and, judging from recent practical experiments, it is certain that there are several ways in which this may be done with perfect success.

"The late James Beaumont Neilson, who did so very much for the iron manufacture by his original invention of the hot blast, in 1829, was sufficiently long-sighted to predict the advantages that would flow from the use of blast of very high temperature, though, as it happened, he was limited to what could be obtained from passing the air through iron pipes exposed to a fire, as in common stoves.

"Mr. Neilson said:—'In the new regenerator ovens that had just been described the great capacity of fire brick for heat had been well taken advantage of, and a very important step in advance had been made by giving the means of raising the temperature of blast much above the extreme limit practicable with the old ovens; and he considered this would be productive of the greatest benefit in the working of the blast furnace. He had no doubt the make of iron would be considerably increased by the higher temperature of blast given by the regenerator ovens.'

"These anticipations have been fully borne out in practice during upward of four years' regular working of the stoves. The high temperature of the blast produces such an improved effect in the furnace that the 'burden' is increased so as to save fully five hundred weight of coke per tun of iron made; and there is less fuel supplied, so there are less impurities taken in, and the quality of the iron is improved, the tweek-breasts do not 'work hot,' or burn, or give more trouble than usual, as the burden is increased as just stated. The same furnace, is, of course, enabled to do more work, the 'make' being increased fully one-fifth; so that a given plant produces 20 per cent more iron per annum, beside saving nearly 3s. per tun for coke.

"There is less friction or loss of pressure of blast in the stoves than in common ones, and there is no loss of blast by leakage through cracked or burnt cast-iron pipes or joints. More stoves are now being erected on the same plan."

**How to Cure Scalds from Steam.**

All readers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, but more particularly engineers, should read and remember the simple remedy here given for a most painful affliction. Engineers are often exposed to burning by steam, and it fortunately happens that the materials here recommended as a sovereign cure are always at hand. The *Medical and Surgical Reporter* says:—

"Mary S., æt. 30, was scalded a few days ago with the steam from hot ashes. The scald is on the middle of the chest, and about one foot square. The surface is raw, and covered with lymph. It is only a superficial scald, embracing the cuticle, and, at some points, the true skin. It is covered with granulations. The pain she suffered for a few days was intense; she could not sleep at all, but when the ordinary white lead, mixed to a thick cream, with linseed oil, was applied, in her own words, 'it took her up to heaven.' She is doing well under its use. No danger exists from lead-poisoning, and if it did, sulphuric acid lemonade would be the only prophylactic needed."

Sulphuric acid lemonade, we take to mean water slightly acidulated with vitriol.

**WATER-PROOF PAPER.**—Dissolve 8 ounces of alum and 3½ ounces of castile soap in 4 pints of water, and 2 ounces of gum-arabic and 4 ounces of glue in another half gallon of water. Mix both, heat, dip in the paper, then suspend until dry.

The temperature of the Lake of Geneva, at the depth of 1,000 feet, is always 42°.

## THE WAY BANKS ARE MANAGED IN NEW YORK.

To persons who have nothing to do with banks except to receive and pay away their bills, it naturally seems that furnishing these bills for use as money is the principal function of banks; it is in fact an incidental and comparatively unimportant part of their operations. Banks are companies of money lenders, who associate for the purpose of getting larger revenues from their capital, and with greater safety, than they could if each loaned his funds separately on his own account. The principal advantage of the association is the better credit obtained with the community by the large amount of paid-up capital, and the publicity which is given in relation to the bank's condition. This credit is advantageous in two ways.

First, it enables the bank to get the use of a large amount of capital without paying anything for its use. In every civilized community there are at all times persons having money on hand which they wish to deposit temporarily in some safe place where they may be sure to find it when they want it. Banks offer to receive such funds, and to return them promptly when called for; their whole capital being, of course, a pledge for the safety of the trust. Though each one of these deposits is liable to be called for at any moment, experience shows that others are constantly coming in, and thus a certain average amount, subject to some fluctuation, may be counted on with great confidence. A portion of this amount the bank officers consider it safe to loan to business men on good security, keeping sufficient funds on hand to meet any call of depositors likely to take place. The interest on this property of other people is, of course, a clear profit to the bank.

A second, but less important advantage of a good credit to the bank is the ability to pay out its notes and have them circulated in the community as money. As these notes draw no interest, while they are given in exchange for the notes of business men drawing interest, they are, of course, a source of profit.

Our joint-stock banks are all under the management of Boards of Directors—men selected from among the largest stockholders—those, therefore, who are most interested in managing the bank with profit to the owners. The directors choose a President from among their number, and hire a cashier and the necessary clerks; they then offer to merchants and other business men to open accounts with them, to receive their surplus funds on deposit, and to loan them a limited amount of capital. In paying large sums it is safer and more convenient to make the payment by a check on a bank than to count the bills; every man in active business, therefore, keeps an account in some bank, depositing with it all the money he receives, and making his payments by checks, which are simply orders to the bank to pay the amount stated in the check.

Banks in New York are opened at 10 o'clock, A. M., and closed at 3 P. M. Merchants having accounts with a bank generally make a deposit in the afternoon, as near as may be before the closing hour, of all the funds they may have received during the day. These are partly in bank bills, but mostly in checks, and they are sent to the bank by a trusty clerk. A list of the checks is sent with the funds, together with a little blank book, in which the receiving teller enters the amount of the deposit; this entry being the bank's official receipt for the funds. The receiving teller compares the checks with the list, counts the money, if there is any, and enters the amount in the little book, and also in a large account book in the bank. This work is done with great rapidity, as in the afternoon there is usually a long line of clerks awaiting their turn at his window.

To avoid the inconvenience both to the bank and the merchant of having several deposits made in a day, it is customary for the merchant to draw checks for whatever payment he has to make during the day, even if he has not sufficient funds in the bank at the moment to meet them; and the bank pays these checks, trusting to the honor of the merchant to deposit sufficient funds to make all his checks good before the bank closes. Occasionally a customer fails to make his checks good, and the bank suffers a loss from its misplaced confidence; but a conclusive proof of the general prevalence of mercantile honor is furnished in the fact that losses from this source are of very rare occurrence.

Twice a week the directors meet to loan the funds on hand at the time. Loans are usually made by discounting notes. A commission merchant, for instance, has notes of different jobbers to the amount of \$20,000, payable two or three months in the future, and he wants the money for them now. He writes his name on the back of each, and sends them to the bank for discount. The directors examine the notes, and if the names are satisfactory and they have the funds to loan, the paper is discounted; the book-keeper computes the interest on the several notes to the time they are due, deducts it from the principal, and carries the amount remaining to the credit of the merchant.

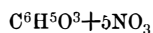
When capital in market is not worth more than seven per cent the main question in regard to discounting any paper offered is the certainty of its being paid, but when capital is worth more than the legal rate, a second question has quite as much influence in deciding who among the several applicants for loans shall have the preference—that question is, who keeps the largest deposit with the bank. If two merchants want each \$20,000, and, on examining the books, it is found that one has an average deposit of \$5,000, and the other of \$10,000, loaning the \$20,000 to the former is equivalent to loaning \$15,000, while to the latter it is equivalent to loaning \$10,000, receiving in either case the interest on \$20,000. In one case the interest on the capital actually furnished is  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent; in the other it is 14 per cent. Bank directors, like other men, generally accept the best offer, and the man who keeps the best account gets the discount. In this way bank directors always manage to get the market rate of interest for their capital, in spite of any usury laws, however cunningly devised, that any legislators can enact.

## NITRO-GLYCERIN.

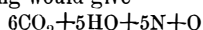
The last number of *Le Genie Industriel* has an article by M. Alf. Nobel, engineer, setting forth, at length, the advantages of nitro-glycerin over gunpowder for blasting rocks. The economy claimed is in the cost of drilling the rocks, as much smaller holes suffice, owing to the greater explosive force of nitro-glycerin. M. Nobel says that this force is in hard rocks from eight to ten times that of ordinary blasting powder, and in soft rocks from twenty to thirty times.

“Four principal causes contribute to its superior explosive force:—1st, its great specific gravity, which permits the introduction into a hole of nearly double the weight of powder which the same hole will receive; 2d, its perfect gasification, leaving no solid residue; 3d, its richness in oxygen, which produces complete combustion; 4th, its extraordinary suddenness of explosion.”

“According to Regnault, gunpowder, in burning, forms, theoretically, 260 times its volume of gas, taken cold, but in practice, owing to incomplete combustion, it does not exceed 200 volumes. The formula of nitro-glycerin is—



which in burning would give—

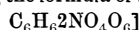


So that one volume of nitro-glycerin would produce about—

544 volumes of the vapor of water,
469 volumes of carbonic acid,
39 volumes of oxygen,
236 volumes of nitrogen.

1,288 volumes, taken cold.”

[We give M. Nobel's formula but do not understand how he gets his  $NO_3$ . The formula of glycerin is  $C_6H_7O_5$ , HO, and the usual view of nitro-glycerin is that it is a substitution compound in which two atoms of hydrogen are replaced by two atoms of nitrous acid, making the formula of nitro-glycerin—



“It is evident that gunpowder, the combustion of which is very incomplete, cannot produce an elevation of temperature so great as nitro-glycerin, of which all the carbon is transformed into carbonic acid, and all the hydrogen into water. This is proved in practice by the fact that a small addition of nitro-glycerin to powder communicates much more brilliancy to the flame. It is difficult to measure the heat of an explosive substance, but, in view of the above-mentioned circumstance, it will be admitted that the

temperature of the flame ought to be nearly double that of gunpowder. We shall have then for powder 200 volumes, which, with a quadruple expansion, will be 800 volumes, and for nitro-glycerin 1,288—in round numbers 1,300 volumes—which, with an octuple expansion, will be 10,400.”

Nitro-glycerin is made by dropping glycerin into a mixture of equal parts of strong nitric and sulphuric acids. It is a heavy oily liquid, its specific gravity being 1.6. It is insoluble in water, and the usual plan is to fill the hole above it with water in place of tamping, and then to fire it with a safety fuse, having a heavily charged percussion cap at its lower end. This mode of firing has been patented in France and other countries.

According to M. Nobel, nitro-glycerin does not explode by direct fire, decomposing itself with flame by contact with an ignited body, but being extinguished so soon as the hot body is removed. He also says that it detonates under a violent blow of a hammer, but only the part that is struck explodes; the fire is not propagated to the surrounding portions. A few drops spread on an anvil may, by repeated blows, produce a series of explosions. By the gradual application of heat it explodes at  $180^\circ$  Cent.— $356^\circ$  Fah. It is a very permanent compound, preserving itself indefinitely, and not being decomposed by either phosphorous or potassium.

## THE ELECTRIC RAY OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AND OTHER ELECTRIC FISH.

[Translated from the French for the Scientific American.]

In a paper communicated recently to the French Academy of Sciences, by Mr. Charles Robin, occur the following statements regarding certain electric fish;—

“The varieties of these fish are but few in number; the *raya*, ray, or skate, the *gymnotus electricus*, or electric eel, and the *silurus electricus*. The *raya* belongs to the skate family, hence they are sometimes termed electric skates, while fishermen call them *tremblers*, or magic fish. This fish has a smooth, flat body and short tail, resembling somewhat an almost circular disk. There are several kinds to be found on the coasts of Provence, and the channel between France and England. If a ray be taken up in the hand a strong shock will at once be felt, so violent as to numb and even paralyze the entire arm during several minutes. The sensation may be compared to that experienced from a violent blow on the elbow. The force of the shock is estimated as equal to that of a pile of 100 to 150 pairs charged with salt water. The discharges succeed each other with very great rapidity, as many as fifty discharges having been counted in one minute. A shock can be given to twenty persons simultaneously, if they stand touching each other in a circle, with the two persons at each end touching, the one the back and the other the belly of the ray. It has been discovered that the back of the fish emits positive and the belly negative electricity. After a fisherman has emptied the contents of his net into his boat, if he pours a large quantity of salt water upon the fish, should there be an electric ray among them, he is at once apprised of the fact by a shock in the hand he uses to pour out the water.

“Plutarch mentions this peculiarity as having been known to the ancients. The discharge from the ray emits sparks similar to those of an electric machine, produces magnetization and chemical decomposition, and gives marked signs of heat when passed through a thermo-electric pair.

“The electric organs are of three kinds, viz:—

“First, In the lower half of the body and at each side of the head there are several hundred small tubes (Hunter counted as many as 1,182) or membranous, vertical prisms close together, like honey combs, and subdivided by horizontal partitions into little cells filled with mucus.

“Second, In the hinder part of the brain there is a lobe known as the electric lobe. Every time that this lobe is touched strong discharges are produced, even if the organ be separated from the brain and spinal marrow. All action upon the body of the ray, determining the discharge, is transmitted by the nerves from the irritated spot to the electric lobe of the brain.

“Third, Three very large branches of the fourth pair

of nerves start from the above lobe and communicate with the electric batteries. If these nerves be cut or tied all electric phenomena cease; but in order to completely prevent any discharge they must all be tied or cut, for if they are only cut or tied on one side of the body the discharge will continue on the other side.

"The *gymnotus* is similar to an eel in appearance, and is commonly known by the name of 'electric eel.' These eels average about seven feet in length, and their skin is covered with a glue-like substance. They abound in the rivers and lakes in certain parts of South America. Their electric power is so great as to knock down men and even horses. Whenever a fisherman chances to catch a *gymnotus* and a young crocodile in the same net, when it is hauled in the latter reptile is generally found dead or paralyzed, while the electric eel shows no mark—the crocodile having been electrified before it could reach the fish.

"In certain sections of South America when it is necessary to enter a pond or stream of electric eels, wild horses are driven into the water infested by these formidable fish. Humboldt describes the method pursued. As soon as the eels hear the unusual noise caused by the plunging of the horses, they rise to the surface and attack the animals with their powerful electric batteries. The natives surround the pond or occupy the branches of trees overhanging the water, armed with harpoons and long reeds, and by their wild cries and reeds prevent the horses from landing. After a desperate combat, in which many horses are often killed and others paralyzed by the repeated and terrific shocks of electricity, the *gymnoti* being weakened by fatigue and loss of galvanic power, seek to escape in order to rest themselves and recuperate their electric strength, when the horses remaining drive them to the shore, where they are easily captured by harpoons attached to ropes.

"Professor Faraday has described the characteristics of the electric discharge from these fish. By the aid of two metal plates joined to the extremities of the galvanometer and applied to various points on the body of a *gymnotus* he succeeded in determining the direction of the discharge. He discovered that the anterior portion of the eel always formed the positive pole, and the posterior portion the negative pole, so that the direction of the current in the galvanometer was from the head to the tail. By causing the discharge of the *gymnotus* to pass over a wire arranged in a spiral, in the interior of which several needles were placed, he succeeded in magnetizing these needles in the required direction, by the direction of the discharge from the head to the tail of the fish. The same philosopher obtained chemical decomposition by the employment of iodide of potassium, and produced the electric spark by introducing into the circuit an electro-magnetic spiral, having a cylinder of soft iron in its interior.

"The electric apparatus of the *gymnotus* extends over the entire length of the back and tail, and consists of four longitudinal fasciæ, composed of a large number of membranous laminae, nearly horizontal, parallel, and very close together, and united by an infinite number of scales placed vertically and crosswise. The little prismatic, transverse cells formed by the junction of these laminae are filled with a gelatinous substance. The whole apparatus is supplied with very large nerves emanating from the spinal nerves.

"The *silurus electricus* of the Nile is about two feet in length. Its mouth is provided with six fleshy tentacles. It is to be found chiefly in Egypt and Senegal. The Arabs call it RAASCH, *angloae*, thunder. Its galvanic power is considerable. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire made many curious experiments upon this fish during the siege of Alexandria. The electric apparatus of the *silurus electricus* consists of a species of fatty cellular tissue extending over the whole body between the skin and the muscles.

"In conclusion, the phenomena presented by electrical fish may be said to be of the same order as those produce by our scientific apparatus, viz.: deviation of the needle of the galvanometer, elevation of temperature in conjunctive wires, magnetization, chemical decomposition, and, lastly, electric sparks."

THE Pacific Ocean covers seventy-eight millions of square miles the Atlantic twenty-five millions.



#### Toughening Steel by Hot Water.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I am a constant reader of your truly valuable journal, and have been since the first number; now it has become one of the indispensables, and I look with eager interest for each number. I am always instructed and often amused at the questions asked, and the answers to them by your numerous readers. I have been a worker in steel since 1815 for edge tools and machinery, and all other purposes for which it is used in this country, and am particularly interested in all I see written on the nature of that metal. Some time since I saw the question asked, "Why is a Razor Put in Hot Water?" I felt competent to answer the question, but not being accustomed to writing for the public prints, I felt a diffidence to appear before your hundreds of thousands of readers, and waited to see some one explain it. I will explain why a razor should be put into hot water before using.

Every degree of heat there can be put into a razor or any other tool, without injuring the temper, strengthens the steel. A razor has, or should have, the most delicate edge of all edge tools, and the highest or hardest temper; unless strengthened by heat, it would not stand the harsh usage that its delicate and hard edge is put to, as any man can prove by trying without heating it. He will find it broken out in notches wherever it has come in contact with the beard. The saw appearance of the edge, as one of your correspondents explains it, is caused by sharpening it. Any one examining a beautifully polished razor with a microscope is astonished at the rough and scratched appearance, and when examined carefully the scratches will be found to be cut through its delicate edge, producing a sickle instead of a saw edge. Hot water is the safest way to heat any tool and give it strength without danger of injuring the temper. All tools should be heated that are to be put to harsh usage, especially in cold weather. Most tools that cause great friction by use will produce the heat after they get to work.

Every wood-chopper does, or should, understand that if he attempts to work with a frosty ax he will break it, but when once at work the friction produces the necessary heat to strengthen it.

In my experience, the most difficult tool to make stand for the purpose intended, and the severest trial for steel, is a pick edge for cutting French burr-mill stones. These stones are the third hardest substance in nature, and a pick to answer has to be of the best steel, and must be the hardest temper of all tools whatever. In this case the hot water answers an admirable purpose, and is really indispensable in cold weather; in a great many trials and experiments I find it very beneficial, even in hot weather, as it allows the edge to be made very hard, and prevents the steel from flying if it is kept sharp by grinding.

I would say, for the benefit of millers, never use a pick so dull that it does not cut freely, as it should be made too hard to stand much hammering. If you use it dull it shatters the steel and is pronounced too hard, when the fault is improper usage.

D. C. STONE.

Kingston, N. Y., Nov. 4, 1865.

[Our correspondent need have no diffidence in writing to this paper. Some of the most valuable communications that we receive are from practical men, making known some fact that has come under their personal observation. While we leave communications with as little alteration as possible, we always correct grammatical errors, and if the matter is not new, or if we think it will interest few or none of our readers, we throw the letter into the waste basket, and it gives us no trouble whatever. We frequently receive the same explanation or statement from several correspondents; then we generally publish the first received, and, of course, throw the others away.—Eds.]

#### Negative Slip.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of the 21st October, page 257, "Negative Slip," of the screw propeller is noticed from an English publica-

tion, and variously, but I think erroneously, accounted for. This so-called "negative slip" gives a greater speed to the vessel than demanded by the rotation of the screw.

An article from the present writer, T. W. B., of Oct. 8, 1864, page 233, on "The Peculiarities of the Paddle Wheel," contains the following solution of the above phenomena:—"Experience shows an advantage of the screw propeller over the paddle wheel, of 10 to 15 per cent, and the cause of this superior efficiency may be found in the partially dead water against which the screw acts, and yet without drawing back the vessel, owing to the continued advance of the vessel beyond the immediate influence of the backward ejected water."

This saving effect attends the stern-wheel and screw steamers of the West.

THOMAS W. BAKEWELL.

Cincinnati, Oct. 27, 1865.

#### Power Required to Drive Machinery.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I take pleasure in giving you my experience as regards the amount of power I obtained from a water wheel I put up two years ago. I was at that time manager of a wood-turning establishment. We were running four of Weymouth's patent wood-turning lathes, at the rate of 3,500 revolutions per minute, by a three-inch belt on each spindle, stretched to its utmost capacity. Also, a gage lathe, using two three-inch belts, running at about the same rate of speed; one common turning lathe; one two-foot circular saw, at 1,800 revolutions per minute; one twenty-inch circular, 2,000 revolutions; one sixteen-inch, 2,500 per minute, and one small eight-inch circular saw, 3,000, with a circular cross-cut saw, of twenty inches, for cutting slab, plank, etc. We were also running a muley saw rotary feed, put up in the best manner, cutting 1,500 feet of hard-male boards, or 2,500 feet of pine boards in ten hours. The whole was driven by one water wheel, four feet in diameter, using 360 inches of water under an 8½-foot head and fall. The wheel was one of my own make, and is what we call a "direct-action" wheel, with a reaction bucket attached underneath the direct-action floats. The wheel, with its upright shaft, only cost me \$110 to build and put up, it being principally made of wood. It ran perfectly steady, and almost as even as a steam engine with a governor.

B. A. STRATTON.

Towanda, Pa., Nov. 1, 1865.

#### Tarnishing of Silver-plated Ware.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of August 19, 1865, you published correspondence on the causes of tarnish on silver plated ware. Your correspondent says, if it would be interesting to your readers, he could give the best modes of preventing the tarnishing of silver ware and of removing the same from silver-plated or solid silver articles.

There are a great many in the retail trade that would like to be informed of the best modes of doing the same—myself being one of them. Please ask "E. W. C." to be kind enough to publish the information on the subject, and he would oblige a great many of your readers in this section of the country.

H. P., Watchmaker.

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 23, 1865.

#### SPECIAL NOTICES.

Alfred Platt, Waterbury, Conn., has petitioned for the extension of a patent granted to him on the 13th day of January, 1852, for an improvement in buckwheat fans.

Parties wishing to oppose the above extension must appear and show cause on the 25th day of December next, at 12 o'clock, M., when the petition will be heard.

Byron Densmore, New York City, has petitioned for the extension of a patent granted to him on the 10th day of February, 1852, for an improvement in grain harvesters.

Parties wishing to oppose the above extension must appear and show cause on the 22d day of January next, at 12 o'clock, M., when the petition will be heard.

OBITUARY.—Chief Engineer Cushman, U. S. N., who was upon the *Kearsarge* when she cruised for and sunk the *Alabama*, died on Thursday last.

## RECENT AMERICAN PATENTS.

The following are some of the most important improvements for which Letters Patent were issued from the United States Patent Office last week; the claims may be found in the official list:—

**Coffee Roaster.**—This invention relates to certain improvements in a coffee roaster, for which Letters Patent were granted to this inventor, bearing date April 28, 1863. The original invention consisted of a rotating sheet-metal coffee receptacle, hung on a shaft or pivot horizontally, and operated by means of a clock movement provided with a single spring. The present improvements consist in substituting a wire-cloth coffee receptacle for the sheet-metal one previously used, whereby the coffee is screened while being roasted, and the husk and other substances which give the coffee a disagreeable, bitter taste, removed or separated from the coffee. Another improvement consists in using a detachable lid or cover with the receptacle above mentioned, whereby the heat is retained around said receptacle, and also the aroma of the coffee, while, previous to the roasting operation, the lid or cover is removed in order to admit of all moisture being expelled, so that the coffee may be roasted in a dry state. Another improvement consists in applying two driving springs to the clock movement, whereby the device may be wound up during the time it is in operation, and without stopping the rotation of the coffee receptacle. Another improvement consists in a novel manner of applying the coffee receptacle to the device, whereby it may be readily detached for the purpose of being filled and emptied, and readily applied and connected for use. C. A. Mills, of Bristol, Conn., is the inventor.

**Manufacture of Mirrors, Etc.**—This invention relates to a new method of precipitating on the inner surface of a mirror or looking glass nitrate of silver or other suitable substance, from a solution, by placing the glass plates edgewise into a vat, the face of each glass being protected by placing it against the face of the adjoining plate, with an intervening sheet of india-rubber, gutta-percha, or other bad conductor of electricity, whereas the backs of the plates are free, so that when the vat is filled with the solution of silver or other material the metallic salt contained in said solution is evenly and uniformly precipitated on the back of all the glass plates, and a large number of mirrors of great brilliancy can be made in a short time, and with comparatively little expense. On taking the plates out of the bath, a coat of varnish is applied over the layer of metal as a protection, and, thereby, mirrors made according to this plan are rendered cheaper and much more durable than mirrors coated with mercury in the ordinary manner. Rudolph Keck, of New York City, is the inventor.

**Car Spring.**—This invention relates to a new and improved spring for railroad cars, and it consists in the employment or use of a series of steel plates, placed within a box, which is fitted in the pedestal of the car, as usual; said plates being arranged with india-rubber or other suitable yielding substance, also placed within the box, and in such relation with the plates as to form a spring very compact in form, and one which will have a gradually resisting power when subjected to weight or pressure. George Douglas, Scranton, Pa., is the inventor.

**Caloric Engine.**—This invention relates to certain improvements in caloric or hot-air engines, and it consists in an improvement in the air-heating device, whereby the air is subjected to a large area of heated surface within a chamber of limited dimensions. The invention also consists in an improved arrangement of the flue of the heater and hot-air conducting pipe and the driving cylinder, whereby the heated air, in its passage from the heating device to said cylinder, and while within it, is prevented from being cooled and rendered inefficient. The invention also consists in a novel arrangement of slide valves for the pump and driving cylinder, whereby a perfectly balanced valve is obtained; and the invention further consists in a novel means of communicating a rotary motion to the shaft from which the power is taken, from the reciprocating motion of the piston rod of the driving cylinder. Hiram Kilbourn, of Waterloo, Iowa, is the inventor.

**Bottles.**—This invention relates to a new manner of constructing the head of a bottle, particularly

such as are used for bottling soda water, wine, mineral waters, etc., so that a wooden plug can be used instead of a cork, which will materially reduce the expense of corking bottles, for the reason that the corks now used in such bottles are destroyed as soon as drawn from the bottle, and are made of cork now, which is expensive. The invention consists in forming on the inside of the head of a bottle a groove of suitable extent, into which is introduced a packing or lining of rubber or other suitable elastic material, which will, when the plug is driven in, insure a perfectly tight sealing or corking of the bottle. Thos. B. Way, of Bennington, Vt., is the inventor.

**Paddle Wheel.**—This invention relates to a new and improved paddle wheel, of that class which are provided with feathering buckets, and it consists in a new and improved manner of operating or feathering the buckets, whereby the same are made, during the revolutions of the wheel, to radiate from its summit, so that the plunge and lift attending the ordinary paddle wheels are avoided, and the improvement rendered capable of being used as a submerged wheel, possessing the advantage over the screw propeller of a direct instead of an oblique action, and also rendered capable of working effectively when turned in either direction. Edgar Haight, of Buffalo, N. Y., is the inventor.

**Method of Coloring Photographic Prints.**—This invention has for its principal object the cheapening and increasing the durability of photographic prints, and relates more particularly to a new system of coloring photographs, by means of chemical substances, which so combine with the photographic prints, when applied to them, as to be indestructible either by water, alcohol, or spirits of turpentine, and, moreover, in beauty are equal to, if not superior to, prints colored by any of the ordinary modes hitherto known or practiced, and can never fade or discolor by exposure to the sun or any other light—said chemical substances being of such a nature that they can be readily and easily applied to the prints by any person, whether acquainted with the art of coloring or not. J. C. Beyse, of St. Louis, Mo., is the inventor.

**Bolt-heading Machine.**—The object of this invention is to produce bolts with square or polygonal heads, by the action of a mechanism which requires no more attention except that necessary to feed the blanks to the machine. The blanks are cut off to the proper length from round iron bars of the requisite thickness, and one blank after the other is fed into the machines by the attendant. Suitable tongs grasp hold of the blank and carry the same along under the several heading tools, by the successive action of which, combined with that of suitable heading dies, heads of the proper size and shape are formed, and the bolts, after having been headed, are discharged from the machine automatically. During the heading operation the blanks are held in position by suitable clamping jaws, and, while the first heading tool is brought into action, the head to be formed is sustained by sliding spring jaws. Simultaneously with the second heading tool the head to be formed is exposed to the lateral action of heading dies, and, when the last heading die comes into action, the head is confined by a heading die having a suitable recess representing one-half of the head to be formed. The tongs which carry the blanks from one heading tool to the other are secured in a sliding spring head so that they rise and clear the blanks in going back, and the blanks are raised after the heading tools have acted thereon, to such a position that the tongs on their forward stroke are enabled to grasp them, and advance them to the next succeeding heading tool, or to the discharge opening. While being moved from the second to the third heading tool, each blank receives a quarter revolution or less, by the action of a sliding pusher, so as to bring the heads in the proper position in relation to the last heading dies. Franz Schweizer, of New York City, is the inventor.

## A New Steam Engine.

A new steam engine, on the rotary principle, was exhibited before the British Association, at Birmingham, England, lately. The boiler is vertical, having a cylinder of three feet in diameter by six feet in height; the internal fire surface consisting of a hemispherical bottom, with the heat spreading all over it by leading to a circle of vertical fire tubes, passing through the water. To one side of this

boiler is attached the engine, which shows externally as a horizontal cylinder, about twelve inches in diameter by two feet in length, within which the pistons revolve, the entrance and exit of the steam being provided for by the action of external elliptical tooth wheels fixed on the revolving shafts, which, causing alternate faster or slower movements of the pistons past each other, opens and closes the passages. A drum-wheel on the axis of the cylinder carries a strap, which will put in motion any required machinery. The whole is supported on one pair of wheels, with a pair of shafts attached, and can be moved by one horse. The machine, as shown, was stated to be the equivalent of an ordinary eight-horse portable engine, and that the relative weights were thirty hundred weight, the rotary engine, against fifty-five hundred weight on the ordinary plan. No fly-wheel is needed, it was said, to keep up the movement, and there is an absence of all the vibrating motion induced by the reciprocation of ordinary engines. The principle is applicable to portable purposes or to boats or locomotive engines. The actual consumption of fuel for work done was not given to the meeting.

[We are unable to see any novelty in this engine.—Eds.]

## MISCELLANEOUS SUMMARY.

**JAPAN BLACK.**—1. Asphaltum, 3 oz.; boiled oil, 4 quarts; burnt umber, 8 oz. Mix by heat, and when cooling thin with turpentine. 2. Amber, 12 oz.; asphaltum, 2 oz.; fuse by heat, add boiled oil, half a pint; rosin, 2 oz.; when cooling add 16 oz. oil of turpentine. Both are used to varnish metals.

DR. RICHARDSON has succeeded in making the heart of a dog, which had been dead some time, pulsate perfectly for at least twenty minutes, by introducing blood heated to 90° Fah. into the coronary arteries.

A DENTIST of Edinburgh has patented an ingenious modification of forceps, which admits artificial cooled air through its points to the gum, so as to deaden sensation previously to the extraction of the tooth, and thus render the operation painless.

**ARTIFICIAL IVORY TABLETS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.**—Finely pulverized heavy spar (sulphate of baryta) is mixed with gelatin or albumen, compressed into sheets, dried and polished.

PINEAPPLE essence is a solution of butyric ether, with some oil of lemon and orange peel, in deodorized alcohol; essence of raspberry, a tincture of orris-root with a little butyric ether.

VEGETABLE ivory shows a red stain where a drop of oil of vitriol is applied, which again disappears on washing it with water. Bone or genuine ivory does not show this reaction.

OUR notice of the Fair of the American Institute made mention of the Clinton Wire Cloth Co., and located them in Connecticut. This was erroneous. The Works are located at Clinton, Mass.

A CHESS problem, published by the Philadelphia Fair paper, is the most complicated in the records of the game. The proposition is, "White to move and compel Black to mate in eighteen moves."

THE journeymen shipwrights of Baltimore, determined to mark out a path for themselves, have established an independent shipyard, and are already taking contracts.

THE diminution of the magnetic dip has been going on in London for the last half century with great regularity at the rate of about three minutes annually.

A WEIGHT which would only be 3 oz. on the moon would be 1 lb. on the earth, and the same force would throw a body six and a-half times further or higher on the former body.

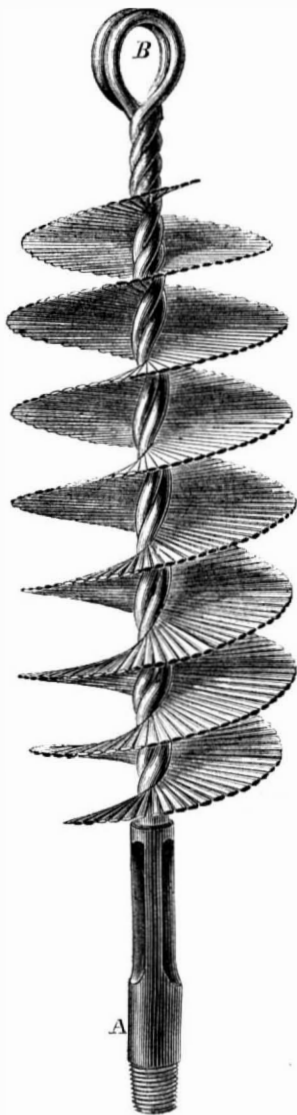
IN the mines of England there were 998 deaths by accident in the year 1864, and in the previous year 933.

FRAUNHOFER, in his optical experiments, made a machine by which he could draw 32,900 lines in an inch breadth.

THE highest inhabited place on the globe is the Post-house of Ancomarco, in Peru, which is nearly 16,000 feet above the sea.

**STEEL BRUSH FOR BOILER TUBES.**

Fuel of all kinds is costly now, and a great deal is wasted by allowing steam boilers to get thickly coated with layers of ashes. Many tubular boilers are so neglected that the lower row of tubes is suffered to get entirely closed. This is a bad state of things, and any engineer guilty of it is not fit for his place. Whalebone brushes, to remove ashes and soot from the tubes, have been used for years, but they cannot be employed unless the boiler is quite cold, otherwise they will be destroyed. Steel-wire brushes have also been introduced, and are very useful.



The engraving published herewith shows an improved brush made of steel wire, spring tempered. It can be used when the boiler is hot, which is a decided advantage, for in some boiler tubes a tarry residuum is deposited by the smoke, which is best taken out while hot. For, when cold and mixed with ashes, it forms a very hard cement, which is almost immovable. The wires are flat on the ends, and act like cutters, and, being firmly soldered to the shaft, can be turned and twisted in any direction without danger of becoming detached.

These brushes are made with a screw shank, A, to which rods are fastened, a line is attached to the eye, B, and one man draws the brush through while the other turns and twists it about to perfect the operation.

We think this the best tube brush that we ever saw, and can recommend it as an effective instrument to all who own or use steam boilers. A medal was awarded to D. Stillwell, the patentee, at the late Fair of the American Institute.

It is manufactured by the New England Tube Brush Company, Fall River, Mass., D. Stillwell, Agent, and was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency on March 20, 1864. For sale in this city by Bradley & Smith, No. 251 Pearl street.

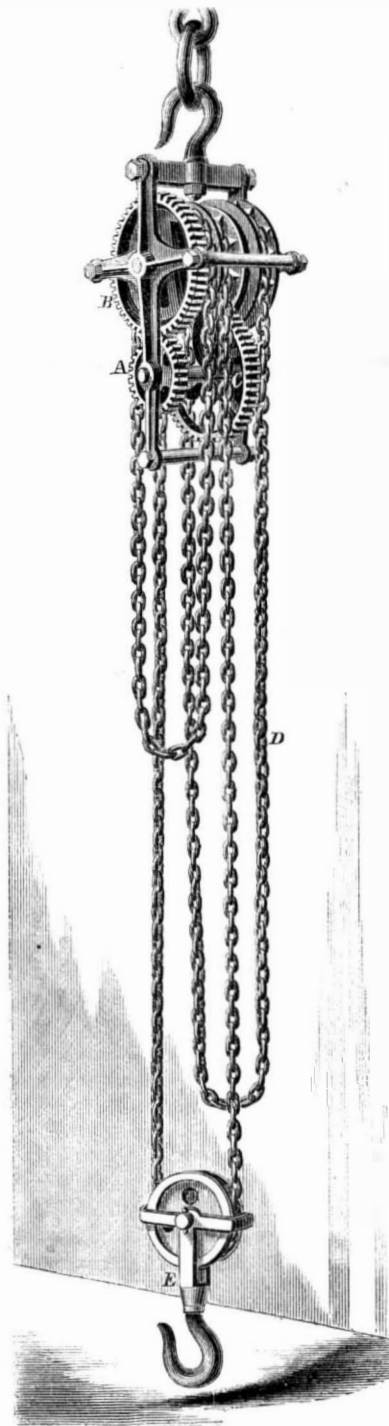
**Clarifying Liquors with Burnt Clay.**

Burnt clay is a very effective means of clarifying wine, liquors, beer, vinegar, and cider. You may use broken flower pots or any unglazed pottery-ware free from lime. These materials must be finely

powdered in a mortar and washed with water; let them rest for one hour and decant the water containing the finely distributed dust-like particles of clay. Repeat the same operation with another portion of pure water, and afterward dry the burnt clay. Two or three pounds of this material should be used for about one barrel; shake the fluid thoroughly with the clay, and allow it to rest. If necessary, the fluid may be finely filtered.

**BIRD'S GEARED DIFFERENTIAL PULLEY.**

The ordinary differential pulley blocks are coming into use in machine shops and workshops generally, where heavy bodies have to be lifted. In marine-engine works particularly, where many heavy jobs have to be put in lathes—sometimes in places so situated that laborers cannot get a chance to exert their strength—these hoisting machines have a marked advantage. The machine here shown is an improvement on the plain differential pulley, where the advantage gained is by making one more tooth in one of the wheels the chain passes over than in the other. This block is so made, but is also geared, in addition, by the common method of a pinion, A, working in a spur wheel, B; on the shaft of the pinion another spur wheel, C, being fixed, which gears in another not seen on the main block. By this arrangement additional power is gained in proportion to the measure of gearing employed, or in proportion to the di-



ameters of the pinions and the wheels driven by them. One man can raise great weights with these blocks, and the weight is sustained by hanging on

the chain, no fastening being required. By hauling on the bight, D, the weight attached to the pulley, E, will be raised.

This block was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency on June 6, 1865, by James Bird; for further information address him at No. 167 East Twenty-sixth street, New York.

**BROWNE'S BROOM HEAD.**

The annexed engraving represents a head or clamp for house brooms; it is made of malleable iron in two pieces, jointed together, between which the brush or filling is placed. One piece is made with a socket,



A, having a sharp-threaded screw on the inside to receive the handle; the other piece is made with a yoke or ring, B, which passes over the socket. The handle is made a little tapering and pointed at the end. By inserting it, when the clamp is closed, through the yoke into the socket, and turning it round, the screw in the socket cuts a thread on the handle, which secures it very firmly, and, at the same time, fastens the clamp and compresses the filling.

This improvement obviates the difficulty hitherto complained of, in keeping the handle fast after having been in use a while; or, should a handle get broken, it is very easily replaced, requiring no special tools for the purpose. There are no separate or detachable parts to lose or break, and it is better and preferable on that account. It is cheap, durable, and effective, and is easy and simple of construction. It is intended for family use, so that parties in the country, who have the facilities, can raise their own broom corn, and fill these clamps with it without trouble.

The patent for this invention was allowed on Oct. 3, 1865. For further information address the patentee, J. D. Browne, care of James L. Haven & Co., No. 177 West Second street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**SIZING FOR GOLD ON GLASS.**—The following recipe has been recommended:—Copal varnish is rubbed up fine with either white bole, burnt amber, or ocher—all of which must be quite dry—and then strained through cloth. The glass having been cleansed with fine chalk, is painted over with this varnish and placed in a warm room protected from dust. Experience soon teaches when it has become dry enough for applying the leaf, which is pressed on with cotton and then allowed to dry. If necessary, it may then be polished.—*Chemist and Druggist.*



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Contents:

(Illustrations are indicated by an asterisk.)

*Tremper's Chronometer and Balanced Throttle.....	319	Negative Slip.....	324
The Manufacture of Paper.....	319	Tarnishing of Silver-plated Ware.....	324
Notes on New Discoveries and New Applications of Science.....	320	Power Required to Drive Machinery.....	324
Strength of Iron.....	320	Special Notices.....	324
A Boat Propelled by a Pump.....	320	Recent American Patents.....	325
*The St. John Boiler Explosion.....	321	A New Steam Engine.....	325
Rescue of Shipwrecked Mariners.....	321	Miscellaneous Summary.....	325
"Hands Off".....	321	*Steel Brush for Boiler Tubes.....	326
*Bartlett's New Sewing Machine.....	322	Clarifying Liquors with Burnt Clay.....	326
On the Practical Results Obtained from Blast Furnaces by the Use of Hot Blast of Very High Temperature.....	322	*Bird's Geared Differential Pulley.....	326
How to Cure Scald from Steam.....	322	*Browne's Broom Head.....	326
The Way Banks are Managed in New York.....	323	To our Readers on the Pacific Coast.....	327
Nitro-glycerin.....	323	Fashions and Trades.....	327
The Electric Ray of the English Channel and Other Electric Fish.....	323	Negative Slip.....	327
Toughening Steel by Hot Water.....	324	Velpeau on Cholera.....	327
		Patent Claims.....	329, 330, 331
		Notes and Queries.....	331
		*Kelly's Nut Chuck.....	334
		A Pair of Shoes Made in a Minute.....	334
		*Field's Carriage Jack.....	334

TO OUR READERS ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

The SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN has now a large and increasing subscription list in California, Oregon, and other Pacific States. Our professional business in those States is also increasing, which clearly indicates a healthy progress in the manufacturing and mechanic arts.

We now desire to thank our patrons and friends upon the Pacific coast for their generous encouragement, and also to remind them that a new volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will commence January 1, 1866, at which time there are a large number of subscriptions that will expire. We make the announcement at this early date for the purpose of securing the co-operation of our friends in getting up clubs for the next volume.

Notwithstanding the increasing cost of paper, we have determined to offer the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN in clubs of ten and upward for \$2 50 per year, at which rate we hope to largely increase our circulation.

Of the future value of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN the past twenty years must be our guaranty. No other journal of the kind in this country, or Europe, can compare with it in the extent and value of the information which its columns supply.

Send in your clubs and subscriptions early, in order to secure the first numbers of the new volume.

FASHIONS AND TRADES.

Our ancestors, who clothed themselves in primitive fabrics, made in the plainest manner, would doubtless be astonished if they could realize the rage for unique articles of dress at the present day, and be still more surprised at the enormous consumption of them. There are cravats with all the colors of the rainbow, and a good many more not in it; there are hoop-skirts elastic, incompressible, and with countless other qualities unmentionable to profane ears; there are coats of shoddy, which, like the possessions of their owners, arise and disappear in a day; there are somber hats, shocking hats, hats invisible and waterproof, and other hats; there are boots with thick soles and square toes, with spring shanks, with rotary heels, boots with bootjacks already attached to them, and boots with wooden soles; there are shirts that pretend to be both shirt and vest together, when they are only simple shirts; and there are collars of steel, whitened by enameling, which are claimed to be all that fancy paints them. Truly, a man may

wonder at the diversity and variety of human attire, and he must be critical indeed, if out of all this array there is "nothing to wear."

The manufacture of clothing in various forms is immense, and gives employment in different branches of trade to thousands of persons.

When the hoop-skirt became popular with ladies, the energies of machinists, steel rollers, and wire drawers were taxed to the utmost. The call for the steel springs was such that hundreds of persons bought sets of rollers, hired a room and power in some factory, and with a forge went into business on their own account. All they had to do was to start the wire in the rolls, run it through them into the furnace, temper it as it went, and the job was done. Of course, much of it was wretched stuff, but it sold, and that was the main thing, for it kept the market brisk and supplied.

The latest candidate for popularity is the paper collar. The rapidity with which it has been seized upon, and the extent to which it is manufactured surpasses even the hoop skirt in its palmy days.

To say nothing of the number of collars made, which is almost beyond estimate, statistics concerning one branch of trade involved with it—the manufacture of paper boxes—will prove interesting.

One firm has a contract with paper-collar manufacturers, to furnish 11,000 paper boxes daily, for twelve months. This is but one out of numerous others in different parts of the country. Of course, with such demands upon them, the paper mills are busy, and the price is high. The men who furnish paper material are also busy; girls are busy with the boxes, in making and filling them; packing-case makers and machinists have enough to do, and, in short, every one whose business is in this line has his hands full.

That such wide-spread activity should spring from such a simple thing as a paper collar seems incredible. The impulse given to trade by this one thing ramifies in all directions. It stimulates inventors to produce better machines for making paper. It sets chemists to work on cheap processes for bleaching. It furnishes an incentive to capitalists to erect works and thereby call into requisition the services of all tradesmen in that line, and the list of persons and industries benefited by the adoption of the paper collar might be extended infinitely. Fashion does some good in the world, after all.

NEGATIVE SLIP.

Sir John Herschel remarks that the problem of the tides is one of the most difficult of any that has engaged the attention of the human mind, and it seems to us that the explanation of negative slip is of analogous character. When a fluid is acted on by contending forces, the direction and power of which cannot be measured, to determine the motion of the fluid by *a priori* reasoning, requires more than human intelligence; when, also, a ship is driven through the water by the rotation of spiral blades at its stern, the currents produced in the water, and the action of these upon the ship and upon the screw, form a problem too complicated and difficult to be unraveled by the mind of man.

That a screw propeller should exert part of its power in moving the water, and that the vessel driven by it should, consequently, move with less velocity than if the screw were running in a solid nut of metal, is precisely what would have been anticipated, but that the vessel should run faster than if the screw were revolving in a solid nut, would seem to be impossible. This strange circumstance was, however, observed in the running of the *Niagara*, and several other vessels, before its extraordinary development in the case of the *Bellerophon*.

THE "ALGONQUIN" AND "WINOOSKI" TRIAL.

Having thus far considered the circumstances of the entire trial with due seriousness, we may be pardoned if we smile at the scientific character with which the whole performance has been invested. No engineer in his senses would expect to realize economy, either by expansion or otherwise, from engines making barely fifteen revolutions, and pistons running at less than 300 feet per minute in unjacketed cylinders, with a stroke of 10 feet. It would seem as though neither Mr. Dickerson nor Mr. Isherwood are able to realize the fact that, in order to obtain economy of fuel by the aid of expansion, certain conditions must be complied with. The former apparently imagines that expansion is all-powerful, and, regarding steam as a permanent

gas, he takes no account of condensation in the cylinder, and constructs his engines without the least regard for principles which English engineers know to be essential to success. Mr. Isherwood, on the other hand, selecting a single machine of a construction notoriously the worst adapted to the application of the principle, tried a few experiments, carried out and worked up with a minuteness sufficient to invest them with a false importance, and gravely states that he has tested expansion, and that there is nothing in it. We have thus the remarkable spectacle of two men, equally ignorant of the fundamental principles of the subject on which they presume to discourse, trying experiments with machinery no more calculated to decide the questions at issue—if there be a question at issue—than a pair of water-wheels; while the Government of a great nation consents to identify itself with the one, and the great nation acts as bottle-holder to the other. As it is, the correctness of a principle has asserted itself, according to the reports which have reached us, under the most unfavorable circumstances. Whether Mr. Isherwood did or did not beat Mr. Dickerson is a matter of the least possible real importance. He would find in any of our English firms a very different opponent. There is such a thing as philosophy in sport as well as science in earnest. As far as we can see, the Washington competition comes under neither head, and its value is almost infinitesimal as compared with the importance with which the American public appear to have invested it.—*London Engineer*.

We are surprised that the editors of the *Engineer*, with their extensive knowledge of steam engineering, should regard the result of running two engines under such very different conditions as the triumph either of expansion or non-expansion. Suppose the pressure of steam in the two engines had been reversed—that the *Algonquin* had run with 17 lbs. to the inch and the *Winooski* with 70 lbs.—in what way would "the correctness of a principle" have asserted itself? We have no doubt of the economy of working steam with some measure of expansion; the most economical measure varying with the pressure of the steam, the extent to which it is superheated, the velocity of the piston, and several other circumstances, but to suppose that this principle can be established by experiments like that of the *Winooski* and *Algonquin* is preposterous, as we have already pointed out.

VELPEAU ON CHOLERA.

Among those men who have devoted themselves to the study of that department of medical science which relates to the cure of disease—therapeutics—the most eminent are two Frenchmen, Pierre Charles Alexandre Louis and Alfred Armand Louis Marie Velpeau. Louis is the author of a revolution in the mode of investigating the effect of medicine on disease. Previous to his labors, while anatomy, physiology, and pathology, contained a great mass of ascertained and unquestioned facts, almost every thing in the department of therapeutics was the subject of disputes among physicians, so constant and so general that they were the theme of universal ridicule. This uncertainty was the result of the defective method employed in observing the effect of medicines upon diseases. Each physician deduced the general law from the few cases that occurred in his own practice; and even these few cases were generally observed with prejudiced minds, and in a loose and careless manner. Louis undertook the task of ascertaining the effect of the medicines in general use upon the more common diseases by a series of observations so careful, thorough, and honest, and conducted upon so large a scale, that the results would command universal respect. The great hospitals of Paris gave him the most favorable opportunity for carrying out his plans, and he went through his task in such manner that his results are accepted by physicians throughout the world as indisputable and established science.

To illustrate his method: it had been the most general practice to give antimony in lung fever—Louis said, "Let us see whether antimony does any good in lung fever." He selected for experiment a hundred patients sick with lung fever, and divided them into two parts as nearly equal as possible in regard to age, strength of constitution, force of the disease, and all other conditions; to fifty he gave antimony in the usual quantity, and to the other fifty he gave no medicine whatever; treating the patients alike in all other respects. The effect on each patient was carefully observed and recorded. The experiment was then repeated in another hundred patients divided in the same manner.

The circumstance which has given peculiar authority to Louis' investigations, even more than their large scale, is the honesty with which they were con-







Fourth, The racks, I and slides, I, in combination with the pawls, H, as and for the purpose specified.

Fifth, The standards, F, F, and cross beam, G, in combination with the rod, h, and pawls, H, arranged to operate substantially as described.

Sixth, The detent rod, f, in combination with the projections, r, and standards, F, F, substantially as and for the purpose hereinbefore described.

Seventh, The cam, J, in combination with the traveling slides, E, and post, A, substantially as and for the purpose herein specified.

2,102.—Harvester.—Reuben Hoffheins, Dover, Pa. Patented Nov. 3, 1863: I claim, First, The combination in a two-wheeled, hinged joint machine, of a driver's seat mounted upon the main frame, with a raking mechanism mounted upon the finger-beam, and rotating on a vertical axis, or one nearly so, substantially in the manner described, for the purpose of enabling the driver to ride upon the machine while the rake is in operation.

Second, The combination in a two-wheeled, hinged joint machine, of a shoe with a hinged joint in it, with a rake and platform having an extension, J2, and with a draft frame which sustains the weight of the cutting apparatus and raking apparatus, with platform attached at a point between the two drive wheels.

Third, The combination with a hinged joint machine of the inner shoe and raking apparatus, substantially as described.

Fourth, The combination of a revolving or turning rake, extensible tumbling shaft, and driving shaft or axle of the main frame, substantially as described.

Fifth, The combination of a two-wheeled, hinged joint machine, a raking apparatus, and a driver's seat mounted on the main frame, substantially as described and for the purpose set forth.

DESIGNS.

2,215.—Standard and Treadle of a Sewing Machine.—Joseph W. Bartlett, New York City.

2,216.—Drawer Pull.—Pietro Cinquini (assignor to John E. Parker and H. J. P. Whipple), Meriden, Conn.

2,217.—Army Badge.—Isaac T. Hooton and J. H. Cummings, Boston, Mass.

2,218.—Monument to the Memory of Abraham Lincoln.—William H. Machew, Toledo, Ohio.

2,219.—Parlor Stove.—Charles Williams, Manchester, N. H.

PATENTS GRANTED FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS. MUNN & COMPANY. In connection with the publication of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, have acted as Solicitors and Attorneys for procuring "Letters Patent" for new inventions in the United States and in all foreign countries during the past seventeen years.

Statistics show that nearly ONE-HALF of all the applications made for patents in the United States are solicited through this office; while nearly THREE-FOURTHS of all the patents taken in foreign countries are procured through the same source. It is almost needless to add that, after eighteen years' experience in preparing specifications and drawings for the United States Patent Office, the proprietors of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN are perfectly conversant with the preparation of applications in the best manner, and the transaction of all business before the Patent Office; but they take pleasure in presenting the annexed testimonials from ex-Commissioners of 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.

[See Judge Holt's letter on another page.]

Hon. Wm. D. Bishop, late Member of Congress from Connecticut, succeeded Mr. Holt as Commissioner of Patents. Upon resigning the office he wrote to us as follows:

MESSRS. MUNN & CO.:—It gives me much pleasure to say that, during the time of my holding the office of Commissioner of Patents, a very large proportion of the business of inventors before the Patent Office was transacted through your agency; and that I have ever found you faithful and devoted to the interests of your clients, as well as eminently qualified to perform the duties of Patent Attorneys with skill and accuracy.

THE EXAMINATION OF INVENTIONS.

Persons having conceived an idea which they think may be patentable, are advised to make a sketch or model of their invention, and submit it to us, with a full description, for advice. The points of novelty are carefully examined, and a written reply, corresponding with the facts, is promptly sent, free of charge. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS AT THE PATENT OFFICE.

The service which Messrs. MUNN & CO. render gratuitously upon examining an invention does not extend to a search at the Patent Office, to see if a like invention has been presented there; but is an opinion based upon what knowledge they may acquire of a similar invention from the records in their Home Office. But for a fee of \$5 accompanied with a model, or drawing and description, they have a special search made at the United States Patent Office, and a report setting forth the prospects of obtaining a patent, etc., made up and mailed to the inventor, with a pamphlet, giving instructions for further proceedings. These preliminary examinations are made through the Branch Office of Messrs. MUNN & CO. corner of a and Seventh streets, Washington, by experienced and competent persons. Many thousands of such examinations have been made through this office, and it is a very wise course for every inventor to pursue.

The Patent Laws, enacted by Congress on the 2d of March, 1861, are in full force and prove to be of great benefit to all parties who are concerned in new inventions.

The law abolishes discrimination in fees required of foreigners, excepting natives of such countries as discriminate against citizens of the United States—thus allowing Austrian, French, Belgian, English, Russian, Spanish and all other foreigners, except the Canadians, to enjoy all the privileges of our patent system (except in cases of designs) on the above terms. Foreigners cannot secure their inventions by filing a caveat; to citizens only is this privilege accorded.

CAVEATS.

Persons desiring to file a caveat can have the papers prepared in the shortest time by sending a sketch and description of the invention, the Government fee for a caveat is \$10. A pamphlet of advice regarding applications for patents and caveats is furnished gratis, on application by mail. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.

INVITATION TO INVENTORS.

Inventors who come to New York should not fail to pay a visit to the extensive offices of MUNN & CO. They will find a large collection of models (several hundred) of various inventions, which will afford them much interest. The whole establishment is one of great interest to inventors, and is undoubtedly the most spacious and best arranged in the world.

UNCLAIMED MODELS.

Parties sending models to this office on which they decide not to apply for Letters Patent and which they wish preserved, will please to order them returned as early as possible. We cannot engage to retain models more than one year after their receipt, owing to their vast accumulation, and our lack of storage room. Parties, therefore, who wish to preserve their models should order them returned within one year after sending them to us, to insure their obtaining them. In case an application has been made for a patent the model is in deposit at the Patent office, and cannot be withdrawn.

It would require many columns to detail all the ways in which the Inventor or Patentee may be served at our offices. We cordially invite all who have anything to do with patent property or inventions to call at our extensive offices, No. 37 Park Row, New York, where any questions regarding the rights of Patentees, will be cheerfully answered.

REJECTED APPLICATIONS.

Messrs. MUNN & CO. are prepared to undertake the investigation and prosecution of rejected cases, on reasonable terms. The close proximity of their Washington Agency to the Patent Office affords them rare opportunities for the examination and comparison of references, models, drawings, documents, &c. Their success in the prosecution of rejected cases has been very great. The principal portion of their charge is generally left dependent upon the final result.

All persons having rejected cases which they desire to have prosecuted, are invited to correspond with MUNN & CO., on the subject, giving a brief history of the case, inclosing the official letters, etc.

MUNN & CO. wish it to be distinctly understood that they do not speculate or traffic in patents, under any circumstances; but that they devote their whole time and energies to the interests of their clients.

Patents are now granted for SEVENTEEN years, and the Government fee required on filing an application for a patent is \$15. Other changes in the fees are also made as follows:—

Table listing fees for various patent services: On filing each Caveat, \$10; On filing each application for a Patent, except for a design, \$15; On issuing each original Patent, \$30; On appeal to Commissioner of Patents, \$20; On application for Re-issuance, \$30; On application for Extension of Patent, \$50; On granting the Extension, \$50; On filing a Disclaimer, \$10; On filing application for Design (three and a half years), \$10; On filing application for Design (seven years), \$15; On filing application for Design (fourteen years), \$30.

EXTENSION OF PATENTS.

Many valuable patents are annually expiring which might readily be extended, and if extended, might prove the source of wealth to their fortunate possessors. Messrs. MUNN & CO. are persuaded that very many patents are suffered to expire without any effort of extension, owing to want of proper information on the part of the patentees, their relatives or assigns, as to the law and the mode of procedure in order to obtain a renewed grant. Some of the most valuable grants now existing are extended patents. Patentees, or, if deceased, their heirs, may apply for the extension of patents, but should give ninety days' notice of their intention.

Patents may be extended and preliminary advice obtained, by consulting, or writing to, MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.

Pamphlets of information concerning the proper course to be pursued in obtaining patents in foreign countries through MUNN & CO.'S Agency, the requirements of different Government Patent Offices, etc., may be had, gratis, upon application at the principal office, No. 37 Park Row, New York, or any of the branch offices.

SEARCHES OF THE RECORDS.

Having access to all the official records at Washington, pertaining to the sale and transfer of patents, MESSRS. MUNN & CO., are at all times ready to make examinations as to titles, ownership, or assignment of patents. Fees moderate.

FOREIGN PATENTS.

Messrs. MUNN & CO., are very extensively engaged in the preparation and securing of patents in the various European countries. For the transaction of this business they have offices at Nos. 66 Chancery Lane, London; 29 Boulevard St. Martin, Paris; and 26 Rue des enniers, Brussels. They think they can safely say that THREE-FOURTHS of all the European Patents secured to American citizens are procured through their agency.

Inventors will do well to bear in mind that the English law does not limit the issue of patents to inventors. Any one can take out a patent there.

ASSIGNMENTS OF PATENTS.

The assignment of patents, and agreements between patentees and manufacturers carefully prepared and placed upon the records at the Patent Office. Address MUNN & CO., at the Scientific American Patent Agency, No. 37 Park Row, New York.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR A PATENT.

Every applicant for a patent must furnish a model of his invention if susceptible of one; or, if the invention is a chemical production, he must furnish samples of the ingredients of which his composition consists, for the Patent Office. These should be securely packed, the inventor's name marked on them, and sent, with the Government fees, by express. The express charge should be pre-paid. Small models from a distance can often be sent cheaper by mail. The safest way to remit money is by a draft or Postal Order on New York, payable to the order of Messrs. MUNN & CO. Persons who live in remote parts of the country can usually purchase drafts from their merchants on their New York correspondents; but, if not convenient to do so, there is but little risk in sending bank bills by mail having the letter registered by the postmaster. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.

Communications and remittances by mail, and models by express (prepaid) should be addressed to MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park Row, New York.



G. S. B. & Co., of Vt.—Mr. L. L. Smith, of this city, one of our largest electro-platers, says that in depositing copper on iron he should use an alkaline solution, and should prefer to employ a magneto-electric machine, driven by power, to make the deposit. Smee's Electro-metallurgy was published by John Wiley of this city, in 1852, but we should advise you to learn the art from some practical electro-plater.

L. L. V., of C. E., whose query was answered on page 20, Vol. XIII.—Lieut. John A. Winebrenner, U. S. A., of Scott Foundry, Reading, Pa., would like to communicate with you.

J. M. A., of Pa.—It is possible that you might make an engine work by creating a vacuum through the agency of a stream of water rushing through a pipe. You say you dreamed of it. Did you dream that any power was derived from it?

C. W., of Pa.—The power of an engine is obtained by squaring the diameter of the cylinder in inches, and multiplying by 7854. The sum so obtained, multiplied by the pressure of steam will give the pressure on the piston in pounds. This last is to be multiplied by the length of the stroke in feet, and again by the number of revolutions per minute, and this sum divided by 33,000. This will give the horse-power, for a horse is capable of raising 33,000 pounds one foot high per minute.

B. B. C. of N. Y., asks:—"Can you tell me the best field for an inventor to work? I think if I knew I would devote my whole time and energies to that particular object." Ans.—The best field is, of course, that in which you are best qualified. For example, an ingenious man who is thoroughly acquainted with cotton and woolen manufacture would be more likely to succeed in making inventions pertaining to such mechanism than if he were to attempt improvements in a direction where he had had no experience. For further hints study the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

J. K., of Ill.—Fairbairn gives the tensile strength of single-riveted boiler plate at 56,000 lbs. to the square inch. To get the strain upon the plate of a spherical boiler multiply the square of the diameter by 7854, and this by the pressure per square inch. Your plan of securing the joints would give increased strength, but how much it is impossible to say, as it depends on so many circumstances.

C. D. R., of Tenn.—It is not new to stamp the exterior of lead pencils with measuring figures and marks, to indicate inches, and parts thereof.

G. W. R., of Mo.—You ask, "Is air a component part of a drum?" The reply is, it depends on the meaning of the word drum; and the meanings of words are to be determined by lexicographers. Webster defines drum, "A martial instrument of music, in form of a hollow cylinder, and covered at the ends with vellum, which is stretched or slackened at pleasure." It does not seem that air is a component part of the drum.

W. B., of N. J.—Gum shellac, dissolved in alcohol, will probably render your pine boards impervious to water; or you might line your tank with lime cement.

F. D., of Ky.—An india-rubber cement is made by dissolving pure india-rubber—not vulcanized—in spirits of turpentine. With this cement two pieces of india-rubber may be fastened together by coating their surfaces with the cement, and subjecting them to long-continued pressure. An india-rubber foot-ball might be patched in this way.

T. C. T., of N. Y., asks:—"Do you know of any good patent of which I can get an agency that will pay?" If our correspondent will read the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN with regularity he will become cognizant of many valuable inventions for which doubtless he could get an agency. Or, if he chooses to advertise in our columns for an agency, probably he would receive a number of suitable replies.

A. F., of Mich.—We do not know where a complete modern model engine, low pressure, and fitted with every detail, could be had cheap. It depends greatly on the meaning people attach to words. Such an engine, with boiler, would be worth \$150, and could not now be built for that.

A., of Conn.—One good way of encouraging your boys to take an interest in their work will be to supply them each with a copy of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Boys take pride in a paper which comes addressed to their names, and generally read its pages with care. A large engineering firm at the West lately wrote us that they are accustomed to make a Christmas gift of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN to their best boys. We know of other establishments where the proprietors voluntarily supply their workmen with this journal, and find that it pays a hundred fold and more.

L. P., of N. Y.—Your plan for an aerial car, with an elevating gas bag, to be drawn through the air by birds, may have advantages over the contrivance illustrated in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN a short time ago, in which the car was put on and moved by bird power only. Our friend Will Brighteye prefers to drive with birds exclusively.

T. H. B., of N. Y.—We are not sure that we understand your question. To raise water fourteen feet requires a pressure of about seven pounds, and if it takes 20 pounds to draw the water through your nozzle, the power requisite for that would manifestly be nearly three times greater than that required to lift the same water fourteen feet. If, on the other hand, you obtain twenty pounds pressure from the hydrant, it will require less power to work from that.

H. C. P., of N. Y.—We have no doubt that our correspondent was able to understand that the explanation of the motion of a projectile varying from its north or south direction applied to the hemisphere in which we live; it is very plain that in the southern hemisphere the directions would be reversed. Are you not in error in supposing that 761 bears a larger proportion to 597 than 262 does to 747?

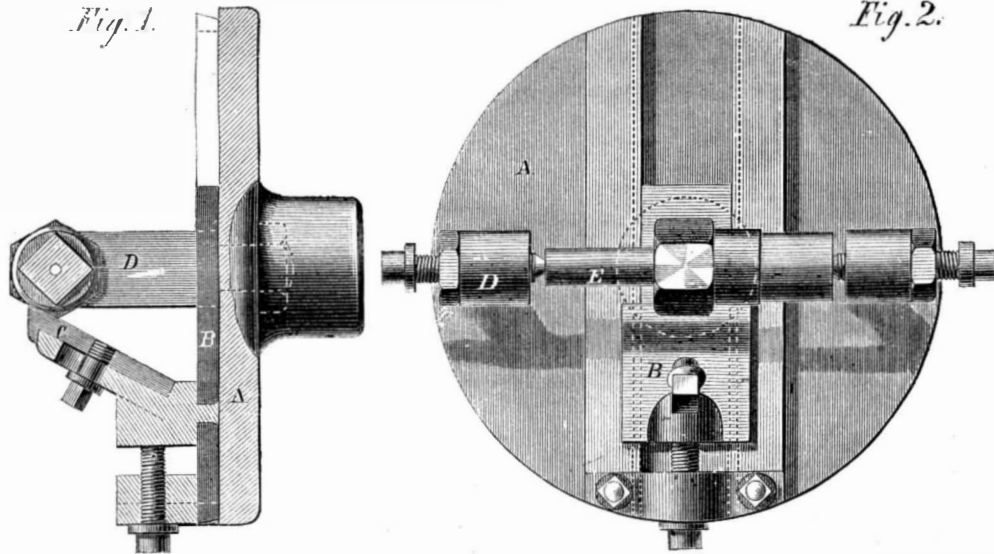




**Improved Nut Chuck.**

Machinists know very well that hexagonal, or six-sided, nuts take considerable time to finish, and that unless machines are employed the work becomes tedious and costly. In old times apprentices were made to chip and file all the six-sided nuts, but they were not always successful in their attempts. One half the nuts were spoiled from being variable in the size; no two angles were alike, and no single wrench would fit them. It was a great improvement on chipping and filing nuts when "slabbers," or milling machines, were adopted, for then all the nuts were alike in size and in the angles. The machine here shown is intended to face up six, eight, or four-sided nuts

steam power, pierces sixteen holes in the heel, after the 'lifts' are tacked together slightly, at the same time compressing the whole into a solid mass. Then the heel is taken to another machine, of similar construction, and the sixteen holes are pierced with one stroke by sixteen nails, and the heel fastened strongly to the sole of the shoe. The work is performed at a rate of one pair of shoes per minute, or faster if necessary; and the two machines, worked by one man and a boy, do the work of four heelers, thereby saving an outlay, at present prices for such labor, of fifty dollars per week. One hundred and ten operatives, men and women, boys and girls, are employed, divided into 'gangs' of ten or twelve



**REILLY'S NUT CHUCK.**

on a lathe, the same as is done on a slabbing or milling machine, and, as any mechanic can see at a glance, it will do the work to perfection.

A common face-plate, A, is fitted with a slide, B, which carries a gage, C, suited to the number of sides on the nut. This gage is shown in section of Fig. 1. From the face-plate two arms, D, project, which carry a mandrel, E, on which the nut is fixed as usual. These are the details, and the operation of them is easily understood. The chuck is screwed on to any common lathe, and the work of facing off the nuts can be done by a boy. Any sized nut can be faced off with the same gage for a guide. For by running the slide, B, out, and lengthening the gage, C, large or small nuts can be accommodated. The angle is always the same for hexagonal nuts of all sizes. This is an ingenious arrangement, worthy the attention of all persons making six-sided nuts. A number of nuts can be cut at once, but by working one at a time a beautiful finish is given, which is peculiar to this machine. The rays of light all converge in the center, as shown in the nut on the mandrel. Rough nuts can be quickly faced up on this chuck, by having two tool posts—one for roughing, the other for finishing. With a water finish the last cut is better than any nut we have ever seen, far surpassing emery polish.

This chuck was patented on May 30, 1865, by William A. Reilly; for further information address him corner of Third and Lawrence streets, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**A Pair of Shoes Made in a Minute.**

At Lynn, Mass., they make a pair of shoes in a minute; that is, the amount turned out at the end of the week is equal to a pair for every working minute of the time. This is done, says the Boston Commercial Bulletin, at Messrs. Bancroft & Purington's establishment:—

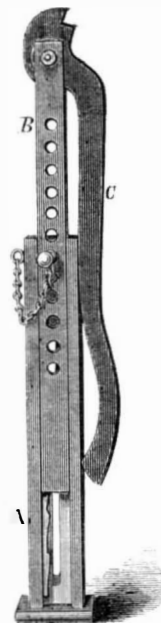
"Perhaps the most extensive establishment, in the details of its operations, is that of Messrs. Bancroft & Purington, who make about \$40,000 worth of ladies' boots per month. Mr. Purington has introduced the factory system of labor, and to decided advantage. One can witness in his rooms the entire process of making a shoe, from the rough side of leather to the full-finished article. Mr. P. has also introduced new machinery well worthy the attention of the trade. One of these machines, by the simple movement of a small lever, operated by hand or

each. Something more than a pair of shoes a minute are now being made during each ten working hours, and these are sent off to the purchaser every morning. The uppers are stitched in a separate establishment, and after a lot is received from the stitchers' hands, two days is ample time to prepare them for the sales-room of the purchaser."

**FIELD'S CARRIAGE JACK.**

A jack is an indispensable utensil to every one who owns a wheeled vehicle of any kind, for in order to grease the axles or remove the wheels from them they must be raised clear of the ground.

The engraving published herewith shows an improved carriage jack, by the aid of which any wagon or cart may be immediately raised and held securely without danger of falling. The details are as follows:—A represents a wooden standard which has a groove on each side to receive a metallic bar, B. In the latter there are holes and a pin fast to a chain, which passes through both parts, and supports them; in this way the jack can be fitted to any height of axle. When once brought to its position the lever, C, is thrown down—as shown in the engraving—and the axle rests on top of it. This machine is strongly made, and can be easily worked by any one. It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, on April 25, 1865, by Austin W. Field, of Vergennes, Vt.; for further information address him at that place. State and county rights for sale.



**CORRECTION.**—In the article on small steam boilers, published in our last issue, it was stated that the threads cut on the tubes should be 28 to the inch. This is an error; the number of threads should be 48—as a brass tube one thirty-second thick would not carry 28 threads.

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will, as heretofore, form a prominent feature. Owing to the very large experience of the publishers, Messrs. MUNN & Co., as SOLICITORS OF PATENTS, this department of the paper will possess great interest to PATENTEEs AND INVENTORS.

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MESSRS. MUNN & CO. have been engaged in soliciting American and Foreign Patents for the past eighteen years. Inventors who wish to consult with them about the novelty of their inventions are invited to send forward a sketch and description. If they wish to get their applications into Munn & Co.'s hands for prosecution they will please observe the following rules:—

Make a substantial model, not over one foot in size. When finished, put your name upon it, then pack it carefully in a box, upon which mark our address; prepay charges, and forward it by express. Send full description of your invention, either in box with model, or by mail; and at the same time forward \$16, first patent fee and stamp taxes. As soon as practicable after the model and funds reach us we proceed to prepare the drawings, petition, oath and specification, and forward the latter for signature and oath.

Read the following testimonial from the Hon. Joseph Holt, formerly Commissioner of Patents, afterwards Secretary of War, and now Judge Advocate General of the Army of the United States:—

MESSRS. MUNN & CO.—It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the able and efficient manner in which you discharged your duties as Solicitors of Patents, while I had the honor of holding the office of Commissioner. Your business was very large, and you sustained (and I doubt not justly deserved) the reputation of energy, marked ability, and uncompromising fidelity in performing your professional engagements.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. HOLT.

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