

Correspondents

S. N. of N. Y.—You should communicate with the Illinois Board of Agriculture in relation to the steam engine for agricultural purposes.

J. T. of N. Y.—The cost of small knitting machines is about \$100. Address Geo. Whipple, No. 23 William street, this city, regarding the purchase of them.

E. W., of N. Y.—The constructing of a railroad break in the form of a shoe to be dropped in front of the wheel, for the purpose of taking the wheel from the track and resting the weight of the car upon the shoe, is not new, nor has it proved practicable in operation.

C. T. H., of N. Y.—You cannot prevent the magnetic current influencing a piece of soft iron when passing around it on a proper wire. Why do you ask such a question, when you can in an instant stop the magnetic action by breaking the circuit between the magnet and the battery?

J. B. M., of Me.—When you get your perpetual motion to work, we will get you a patent upon it, pay all the expenses of the application, and allow you to have the entire benefit which may be derived from the invention.

A. G., of La.—Carbureted hydrogen gas for illumination can be made from wood in the same manner as it is made from coal; but it is not so good in quality as when the retorts are so made that the gas, after it is generated, is directed over a highly heated surface before it goes into the cooler.

T. M., of N. Y., inquires how far a pound of lead will sink dropped into the sea? Ans.—It will sink until it reaches the bottom, and that distance will depend of course upon the depth of the water.

Wm. Cann, formerly of Black Rock, N. Y., is requested to give his present address to John M. Hartnett, of Wauconda, Ill.

J. V. Jenkins, of Detroit, Mich., the inventor of the sheep-shearing machine, illustrated on page 129 of the present volume of the Sci. Am., wishes to correspond with persons who would manufacture the machine or vend territorial rights.

G. T., of —Your fire alarm for hotels and houses, consisting of an inflammable cord to be easily consumed by fire to detach the spring, so as to set the alarm bell ringing, is not new. The same kind of an alarm was in operation some years ago in our office.

S. B., of Pa.—Vulcanized india-rubber is very good for packing steam joints, but no oil must come in contact with it. If you use oil in your pipes you must employ gasket and white lead packing.

C. C. S., of Vt.—A heavy balance wheel placed in a frame upon platform scales will weigh as much while in motion as when at rest, and it will also bear as heavily upon its journal boxes when in motion as when at rest.

E. S. A., of Ill.—On page 357, Vol. 7, Sci. Am., you will find a very complete article on lithography.

H. M., of Conn.—We are unacquainted with any reliable recipe-book relating to two such different arts as mixing paints and making solders. In "Ure's Dictionary of the Arts," you will find considerable information, such as it is, on both subjects.

H. H. P., of N. Y.—It will not affect the legality of your patent to sell machines before the patent is issued.

H. C., of Mass.—We thank you for the names you send us, and will mail copies of our paper to each. We are always pleased when subscribers can so strongly testify to the benefit gained from our paper.

A. T. S., of Iowa.—Write to McAllister & Bro., No. 725 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, regarding "dissolving views" for exhibitions.

J. A. B., of Ill.—Your hoggish system of feeding hogs may be very profitable, but you must possess a stomach of infinite endurance, if you consider it palatable or possible.

J. R., of La.—The Chinese sugar cane is cultivated in the same manner as Indian corn, and alcohol is distilled from its juice or sirup in the same manner and by the same processes as it is distilled from common molasses.

J. R. S., of N. Y.—We have examined your sketch of a hot air engine, and think it will operate, and run with considerable power, if you use plenty of fuel. Ericsson is now building some portable hot air engines for pumping water, at Delameter's works, this city, which are the most manageable and convenient engines for the purpose ever examined.

G. H., of Miss.—Your communication is very interesting, but does not throw any light upon the subject of serpent charming. The suggestions you make on the strength of the anecdote are good, although we think there is a bit of the "hunter" in the story.

M. R. A., of La.—There are engravings of gasworks that would suit you in the present number of our paper, and as to the roofing we have not any opinion for or against it, not being practically acquainted with its qualities.

J. F. B., of Ohio.—"Musical triangles"—those which we suppose, you mean,—are forged out of bar steel into the proper triangular form, and the three legs filed round then polished and tempered like any other piece of steel.

F. D., of N. Y.—We are not acquainted with any substance which could be used as a substitute for a hair brush that cannot be acted upon by sulphuric acid.

brush that cannot be acted upon by sulphuric acid. What do you mean by "sheet links"?

Money received at the Scientific American Office on account of Patent Office business, for the week ending Saturday, March 6, 1858:—

L. P., of Del., \$30; A. F. R., of N. Y., \$50; C. W. H., of Mass., \$25; A. H. G., of Ind., \$35; B. C. V., of Ohio, \$30; W. H. C., of Ill., \$30; F. N., of N. Y., \$31; N. H. S., of Ill., \$10; J. A. B., of La., \$50; O. L. C., of Ill., \$25; I. E. J., of Cal., \$10; L. R., of Mass., \$5; A. E. L., of Pa., \$30; J. McN., of L. I., \$30; W. & B. D., of Conn., \$25; W. B. Jr., of Mass., \$20; C. W. & W. W. M., of —, \$20; J. C., of Ohio, \$100; J. B., of N. Y., \$30; J. L. R., of S. C., \$25; O. P. S., of Maine, \$25; C. F., of N. J., \$30; O. S., of N. Y., \$25; C. M. L., of O., \$30; J. B. McC., of Ky., \$30; F. B., of N. Y., \$15; S. D. C., of Wis., \$100; M. E., of Ohio, \$25; W. Z., of Pa., \$25; B. & F., of N. J., \$10; B. B. M., of Fla., \$30; G. & G., of Pa., \$30; J. C. S., of Mass., \$35; J. F. E., of Conn., \$25; A. & Bro., of Conn., \$25; J. H., of N. Y., \$25; E. K., of Pa., \$25; W. H. M., of Iowa, \$30; F. S., of Pa., \$25; A. A., of L. I., \$25; A. & H., of N. J., \$25; T. W., of L. I., \$25; J. McL., of N. Y., \$25.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the following initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, March 6, 1858:—

A. H. G., of Ind.; C. W. H., of Mass.; J. B. J., of Cal.; A. A., of N. Y.; A. & H., of N. J.; W. & B. D., of Conn.; A. E. L., of Pa.; T. W., of L. I.; G. T., of N. Y.; F. N., of L. I.; I. L. R., of S. C.; J. McL., of N. Y.; R. B., of Ohio; M. E., of Ohio; W. Z., of Pa.; J. F. E., of Conn.; S. & J., of Ky.; J. F. A., of N. Y.; A. & Bro's. of Conn.; F. S., of Pa.; W. C., of Ind.

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