

ployed for a great variety of manufactures, where it is desirable to keep the product from the atmosphere.

The establishment at Elgin is capable of reducing the carcasses of eight heaves per day; from 100 lbs. of meat  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of extract are obtained. Mr. Borden claims to get all the albumen, and everything but the fiber. He says that farmers who have given the substance remaining to their hogs, affirm that the swine refuse to eat it, and that it is worthless for purposes of food for any animal. The gelatin is not included in the extract; it is well known that that substance is all eliminated by the kidneys without imparting nutriment to the system.

We have tried Mr. Borden's extract, and find that it makes a palatable and nutritious beef tea. It is recommended by the Boston *Medical and Surgical Journal*, and other medical authorities of the highest respectability, for the use of invalids.

**MAKING CRUCIBLES IN MOLDS.**

In a visit to the plumbago crucible manufactory of J. H. Gantier & Co., of Jersey City, N. J., we learned that an entire revolution has recently been made in the process of fashioning the crucible. They were formerly all made by hand, on that ancient implement, the potter's wheel, but the substitution of steam for hand power, in its irresistible progress, has invaded even this most conservative portion of the arts. The wheel is still used, but it is driven by machinery, and the crucible is formed in a mold instead of being fashioned wholly by the hand of the workman, as heretofore.

In the old process, the black lead, after being assorted, ground, mixed with its proper proportion of clay and water, and kneaded for a long time by hand to beat out any bubbles of air which it might inclose, was divided into lumps of a suitable size each for a crucible. The "thrower" seized one of these lumps, and dashed it down upon the center of his wheel, which was a disk of cast iron, about fifteen inches in diameter, driven by a treadle working horizontally. As the lump revolved, the workman with his wet hands drew it up in a rude conical form, and then pressing one hand down the center of the mass, he brought it into the shape of an irregular hollow cylinder. Keeping his hands constantly wet, and continuing his manipulations with great dexterity, he soon brought the crucible to the desired shape in all particulars. The only guides to the eye of the workman in this operation, were two wires projecting horizontally at different heights from a vertical standard, and by so making the vessel that its exterior surface would be very near the ends of these wires, the desired form and size were obtained.

The improvement consists in the use of a plaster mold, the interior of which is of the proper form for the exterior of the crucible. This mold is set upon the center of the wheel, which rotates much more rapidly than wheels driven by the foot, the lump of plumbago is dropped into it, and is partly driven out from the center by centrifugal force against the sides of the mold. A bent lever, which has the exterior edge of its vertical arm cut to the form desired for the interior surface of the crucible, is now turned down so as to bring this arm into the mold, when the fashioning of the crucible is quickly completed.

The mold, with the crucible in it, is then set aside to dry, and when the drying is completed the crucibles are packed in the kiln to bake—each one being set in a rough earthenware sagger to protect it from the dust of the furnace.

Though crucibles made by the improved process answer perfectly well for melting steel or brass by anthracite fires, they do not prove durable when exposed to coke fires. Consequently, crucibles for the steel makers of Pittsburgh must still be fashioned by hand, and Messrs. J. H. Gantier & Co. continue to make them in the old way for the Pittsburgh market.

**DEEP GOLD-COLORED LACKER.**—Seed-lac three ounces turmeric one ounce, dragon's blood one-fourth ounce, alcohol one pint; digest for a week, frequently shaking, decant and filter.

Lackers are used upon polished metals to impart the appearance of gold. If yellow is required, use turmeric, aloes, saffron, or gamboge; for red, use annatto, or dragon's blood, to color. Turmeric, gamboge, and dragon's blood, generally afford a sufficient range of colors.

**BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.**

Considerable stir has lately been occasioned among the photographers in this vicinity, in consequence of the visits among them of the assignee's agent of Cutting's "Bromide" patent, who has made profitable collections of money as damages for past and future use.

The patent in question was granted to James A. Cutting, of Boston, Mass., July 11, 1854, and contains the following claim:—"The employment of bromide of potassium in combination with collodion." No suggestion or allusion is contained in the patent to the use of free bromine, or any salt or extract thereof, except bromide of potassium.

The original application for the patent was rejected. The applicant then asserted that he could prove the use of a bromide basis in collodion in the month of April, 1853. The Patent Office replied, citing references conclusively showing the use of bromine long anterior to that date. Among the salts thus used was bromide of ammonium. A patent was finally granted to Mr. Cutting, with a claim to the use of bromide of potassium in collodion, as quoted, and those who use that salt appear to be infringers; but the use of any other salt or form of bromine in collodion, is free to the public.

The effect of bromide of potassium in collodion is to increase its sensitiveness, and thus to render photographic pictures more brilliant in their details of light and shadow.

This salt also possesses peculiar medicinal qualities. It has a sedative and soothing effect upon the perceptive faculties, produces good humor, and brings on sleep. The assignee of the patent seems to have understood this use of the drug; for the leading photographic dealers have complacently joined in a certificate to the validity of the patent, and have good naturedly paid over large sums for its use, and the patent is considered good for the collection of a million more. We congratulate all the parties concerned. We like to see patents well sustained and liberally paid for.

We have had frequent occasion to notice the great value of some small inventions, and in the above we have another example. Truly, it was a lucky thought of Mr. Cutting's to drop  $2\frac{1}{2}$  grains of the bromide into an ounce of collodion.

On the 28th of October, 1808, there was submitted to the Emperor Napoleon by General Clark, Minister of War, the quixotic plan of a person named L'Houmond, designated as "ex-chief of the battalion of aeronauts," for making a descent on England by means of one hundred balloons of one hundred meters diameter each, the car of which could contain one thousand men with provisions for ten days, two peices of cannon with their ammunition chests, twenty-five horses, and fuel for the balloons. The Emperor wrote a few words on the margin, ordering the plan to M. Monge, the celebrated mathematician, "to see if it wereworth while to make so great an experiment."

WERE it not for the friction and the contraction of the vein, water would flow from a circular orifice with a velocity equal to that acquired by a body falling from the level of the surface to the level of the orifice, and in quantity equal to a solid cylinder moving with this velocity and equal in size to the orifice. In practice the flow is about two-thirds of this quantity.

**STAVE, BARREL AND BRICK MACHINERY; ALSO HAND LOOMS FOR FLANNEL, ETC.**—We have inquiries from our readers for the best mechanism of the above character. We advise the manufacturers to advertise in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Regular advertisements in our columns will doubtless bring them orders from all parts of the world.

UP to the year 1860, no less than fifty wells had been sunk in the great Sahara desert by the French. The total quantity of water given by these wells amounts to 7,920,000 gallons per day.

**LACKER FOR TIN.**—Any good lacker laid upon tin gives it the appearance of copper or brass. It is made by coloring lac varnish with turmeric to impart the color of brass to it, and with annatto, to give it the color of copper.

**PATENT-OFFICE DECISIONS.**

**IMPROVEMENT IN PACKING FERULES FOR CONDENSERS AND REFRIGERATORS.**

*The Board, by Elisha Foote.*—These ferules serve to make the joints between the tubes and headsheet steam and water tight, and at the same time allow the movement produced by expansion and contraction of the tubes from variations of temperature. The applicant has already a patent for these ferules. He has heretofore made them of lead, wood, and some other materials, but has found that paper best answers the purpose, and now he claims an additional patent for the substitution of that material. No change of any part of the apparatus was required for the use of one material rather than another.

As a general rule, the mere substitution of one material for another is not patentable—as in the prominent case of a porcelain door knob. A machine or instrument may be greatly improved by the use of steel, brass, etc. in place of poorer materials, but this involves the exercise of mechanical skill, rather than of the inventive faculties.

The rule, however, has its exceptions, and they apply in those cases where the result of the substitution is so decided and important as to give it the character of a new discovery or of an invention.

We do not perceive any such advantages from the use of paper to the applicant's device, and consequently must affirm the Examiner's decision regarding the application.

**IMPROVEMENT IN BREACH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.**

*The Board, by Elisha Foote.*—The reference given by the Examiner seems to fully anticipate the applicant's device.

Besides there is a defect in his specification. In the apparatus shown, there is nothing to receive the recoil of the charge. The applicant states that he employs means for supporting the block against the force tending to cause it to recede during the explosion, but that these means being no part of his present improvement, need not be described. In this he is mistaken. He must show all that is necessary to carry his invention into practical operation. It is admissible to refer to what is already well known, or to what is described in some other patent, but nothing must be left to be devised by others or ascertained by experiment. A mechanic, skilled in the art, must be able by following the description and the drawings to construct the apparatus and make it practically operative and useful.

In this case something would have to be invented before the applicant's device would be made practical. The decision of the Examiner is affirmed.



**ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT-OFFICE**

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 26, 1865.

Reported Officially for the Scientific American.

Pamphlets containing the Patent Laws and full particulars of the mode of applying for Letters Patent, specifying size of model required and much other information useful to inventors, may be had gratis by addressing MUNN & CO., Publishers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, New York.

51,675.—Combined Level Square, Compass, and Plumb Staff.—James R. Abbott, Midway, Ind.:

I claim the combined level square, compass and plumb staff, substantially as described.

51,676.—Machine for Boring Fence Posts.—John Agnew, Bath, Pa.:

I claim the post borer constructed as herein described, with sliding carriage, L, notched bar, O, clamps, P, racks, K, pinions, G, straps, H, and treadles, J, all arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

[This invention relates to a new and useful machine for boring fence posts, and it consists in the employment or use of a carriage arranged in such a manner that it may be readily moved towards and from the auger, the carriage being provided with a sliding gage, which is fitted on the carriage, and has the post to be bored clamped to it, all being arranged in such a manner that the posts may be bored very accurately and with the greatest facility.]

51,677.—Crutch.—George T. Allamby and John G. Bugbee, Bangor, Me.:

We claim the combination of the buffer, D, with the adjustable spur, C, inserted in a socket, A, placed on the lower part of a crutch; the spur, C, being provided with a spring, a, and knob, b, the knob through a slot, E, in the socket, A, all arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes specified.

We also claim the sliding tube, c, in combination with socket, A, spur, C, spring, a, slot, E, and knob, b, when arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes specified.

51,678.—Ore Separator.—Stephen F. Ambler, Brooklyn, N. Y.:

First, I claim the use and employment of the vertical hollow shaft, C, in combination with the basin, B, sieve, G, agitators, M, and branch tubes, F, arranged and operated as shown for the purpose specified.

Second, in combination with the same, I claim the scrapers, E, arranged and operated in the manner described and for the purpose specified.

51,679.—Safety Fuse.—Albert F. and John H. Andrews, Avon, Conn.:

First, We claim employing in the body of safety fuses, sliver of cotton or other suitable fiber, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

Second, We claim the combination of the tubular powder casing, D, the sliver, A, and the equivalent saturating material, M, the la-