

# Scientific American.

THE ADVOCATE OF INDUSTRY, AND JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC, MECHANICAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

VOL. XIV.

NEW YORK, APRIL 9, 1859.

NO. 31.

THE  
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN,  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
At No. 37 Park-row (Park Building), New York,  
BY MUNN & CO.

O. D. MUNN, S. H. WALES, A. E. BEACH.

Responsible Agents may also be found in all the principal cities and towns of the United States.

Single copies of the paper are on sale at the office of publication, and at all the periodical stores in this city Brooklyn and Jersey City.

Sampson Low, Son & Co., the American Booksellers, 47 Ludgate Hill, London, Eng., are the British Agents to receive subscriptions for the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

TERMS—Two Dollars per annum.—One Dollar in advance, and the remainder in six months.

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### Weather Prediction.

Although we have no faith in the predictions of Thomas, the almanac maker, or any of the weather prophet fraternity, we will publish the information of a correspondent—J. Royal, of White Rock, Ill.—who professes to be able to foretell the weather one year in advance for any locality where there is an almanac calculated. Here is the prophesy:—"The first half of April will be wet, the last half fair; the first week in May will be wet, the balance, fair; the first half of June will be fair, the last half changeable; July will begin and end with a few days of changeable weather leaving the middle of the month dry; August will have a great many wet days; September will set in fair, but the balance of the month will be changeable, the last part being wettest; October, changeable, gradually increasing to wetness; November, like the preceding, only commencing fairer and ending wetter; December, fair weather." On this, we are told we may rely, with the exception of September, where there has "to be added the extra stormy weather caused by the sun crossing the line." This truly depends on the prevailing winds at the time; if the winds be southerly, the month will be wet; if northerly it will be as dry as if the sun were at his extreme distance from the line.

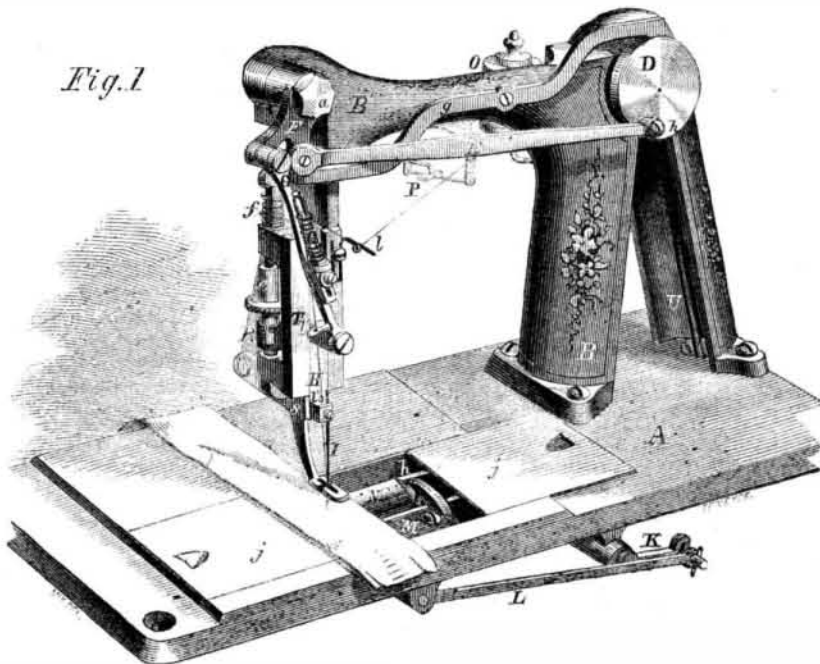
### To Waterproof Fabrics.

Take a pound of glue and one pound of tallow bar soap and dissolve them in five gallons of water. Now bring the water to the boiling point, and add carefully and slowly one and a half pounds of alum. When this is all dissolved, cool down the liquid to about 130° Fah. and plunge the articles to be prepared into it, then hang them up to dry. When they have become quite dry, they should be washed in soft water and dried a second time. Such articles should not be used for wearing apparel, excepting for loose tunics to be put on in rainy weather. Any person may thus prepare at little expense a coarse cloth water-proof fabric.

### Breaks in Levees.

In a paper recently read before the New Orleans Academy of Science, by Dr. R. Cartwright, he attributes the breaks in the levees of that city to the burrowing of crawfish. He says these animals build their houses near the base of the levee and next the river, for the convenience of catching fish, shrimps, &c. When the water comes up against it, they burrow through the levee, and go on the other side, to prevent being drowned. The most effectual method to drive them away is to throw on the base of the levee the crushed stalks of the sugar cane, called *bagasse*.

## BURNET AND BRODERICK'S SEWING MACHINE.



The sewing machine is now a piece of mechanism of such extended utility and application, that every contribution to its improvement or simplification is to be regarded with due attention and respect, and each invention which has for its object the more perfect action and the production of better work deserves to be examined impartially and with care.

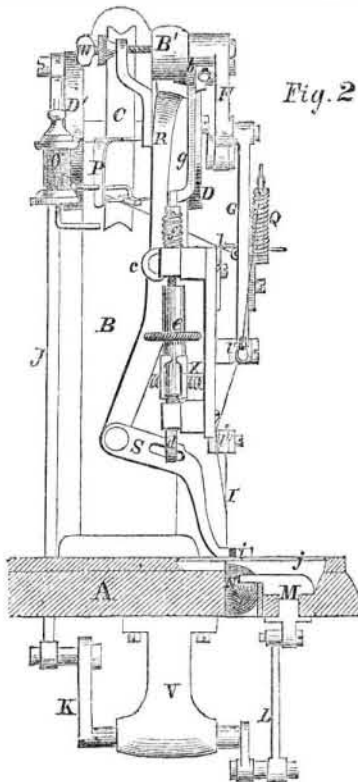
The illustrations of the present article show a perspective view, Fig. 1, and a front end view, Fig. 2, of a new sewing machine, invented by S. S. Burnet and W. Broderick, of Chicago, Ill., and patented November 30th, 1858, in following the description of which, we ask the reader to remember the above remark.

Upon the table or bed, A, a frame, B, and attached arm, B', is secured. These carry the feed motion and needle and their operating parts. Through the top of B, a horizontal bar is placed carrying a belt wheel, C, and two crank wheels, D D', the crank wheel, D, serving also as a cam by a small depression being formed at *h*. To D is attached an arm, E, which as D is rotated gives a back and forth motion to the rocker, F, that is attached to B' by a pin, *a*, and F communicates its motion through a link, G, to the needle carrier, H, and needle, I. H moves in guides, T. The motion of the needle is thus obtained by means the most simple and effective.

To D' is secured a link, J, that passing through a slot in A, operates the rocker, K, suspended by the bearing, V, under A, and K gives the proper motion to another link, L, that moves the slide, M, in which the shuttle, N, is placed; the shuttle moving in a race-way, *h*. By these means the shuttle motion is obtained.

The thread coming off the spool, O, passes between two thin flat metal plates in P, and a slide on them brings them closer together, or allows them to be further apart to regulate the tension; from P it passes through a small loop, *l*, thence through an eye or forked wire on G, where the tension is properly raised at different portions of the stitch by a spiral spring, after which it passes to the needle, being guided on the way by the eyes, *l' l''*.

The feed motion is obtained in the following manner; the feed bar, R, is pivoted to the frame at *c*, and it is moved by a small cam, *b*, on F, which forces it forward, and by means of a feed plate, S, the serrated end of which, *i*, moves the cloth. The feed bar and plate are forced back by the spring, X. In S, is a slot that works over a pin in an arm,



*d*, that can be lengthened or shortened by the double screw, *e*, a little nut on the bottom of which prevents its moving by the motion of the machine, and a spring, *f*, on the upper end of the device elevates the portion, *i*, from the cloth, as S is being drawn back, and at the same time the end of *g*, which passes over the indentation, *h*, on D, allows this to be done; when *i* is pushing the cloth forward or is at rest, the lever, *g*, keeps it in contact with the cloth, by being all the while on the largest diameter of D. The plates, *j*, serve to

cover up the shuttle and race. The whole machine is operated by a band, U, passing over the pulley, C. A perfect loop is formed by this machine, and the shuttle is allowed time to pass through the loop before it is drawn tight, and thereby accomplishes the interlocking of the two threads, and the drawing of the stitch tight upon the cloth. Every part is under complete control, the length of feed being regulated by screw, W, and the machine operates quietly and with great precision and regularity.

Any further information can be obtained by addressing Burnet, Broderick & Co., Chicago, Ill.

### Animal and Vegetable Life.

There is nothing short of revelation that more beautifully or satisfactorily proves the existence of an Almighty mind than the fineness and simplicity of the ultimate elements of animal and vegetable life. Thus, there are but four elementary principles essentially necessary, and but six generally employed, to form every variety of organic life; nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen are the bases, to which sulphur and phosphorus may be considered supplementary. With these, infinitely varied in their atomic proportions, are built up not only the whole animal kingdom, but also every variety of the vegetable world—from wheat, the "staff of life," to the poison of the deadly Upas tree. It is also worthy of remark that these four elemental principles are those also of which both air and water are composed, so that air and water may be considered in truth and fact as being the original elements of organic life.—*Dr. Toulmin.*

### Gun Boats.

About three weeks since (page 237) we directed public attention to the above subject, in a brief review of Chief-Engineer Isherwood's work on the British gun-boats. Since that period much discussion has taken place in the daily papers in reference to the utility of such war vessels. The brave old Commodore Stewart, in a letter of the 27th ult. to the *National Intelligencer*, expresses a favorable opinion of their qualities for the siege of fortifications. He says:—"They will prove of great importance under the power of steam, in any future operations against ports and permanent batteries."

### Peculiar Recording Thermometer.

The following is the description of a very simple recording thermometer, used by J. Gantlett—a farmer of Middlesborough-on-Trent, England—and which is stated to be very correct in operation. It consists of a long tube of thin sheet zinc, containing a loose, dry, wooden rod. The two are fixed at one end only. The relative greater expansion of the zinc, by an increase of temperature, causes it to protrude beyond the wooden rod, and *vice versa*. This varying motion of the zinc is communicated by a lever to a pencil which passes on a revolving cylinder, containing a strip of paper, which is wound off every minute by clockwork.

Measures have been taken to light the city of Honolulu with gas, and it is expected that the works will be completed for this purpose in the course of four or five months at farthest.





constructed and operating therewith substantially as described.

I also claim, in combination with the regulator and revolving tubes or arms, the vertical and inclined partitions, C, C, and lip, D, for the purpose of directing the seed to be sown from the hopper to the openings in the arms or tubes, and to prevent the seed from escaping unduly through the arm or tube, for the time being, immediately under the lip, substantially as described.

**GRINDING MILLS**—Geo. Selser, (assignor to himself, J. Cook and W. Cook) of Philadelphia, Pa.: I claim attaching the hollow steel burr to the spindle, D, by screwing or otherwise securing the end of the latter to a plate, I, which is fitted snugly to the inside of the burr, a shoulder, e, on the spindle bearing on the top of the burr, as set forth.

**MARINE PROPELLER**—John Taggart, of Roxbury, Mass., (assignor to himself and Geo. R. Sampson, of Brookline, Mass.): I claim my improved mode of propelling a navigable vessel through the water, viz.: by the conjoint action of two separate rotary or screw propellers, E and F, respectively operating or screwing into the water and air arranged and combined substantially as described, and propelled by a steam engine, or motor within, or carried by the vessel.

I also claim arranging the air screwpropeller, F, or its axis, at an inclination upward from the keel or plane of flotation of the vessel, substantially as shown, in order that the said propeller, while being rotated, may operate, not only to draw the vessel ahead, but to lift her bow more or less out of water.

**GAS RETORTS**—Davis L. Weatherhead, (assignor to himself and S. E. Southland,) of Philadelphia, Pa.: I claim the cap, E, with its box or reservoir, F, when arranged in respect to the lower chamber, A, the upper chamber, B, and exit pipe, D, of the retort, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

**SAW-SET**—Olive Ann Brooks, of Great Falls, N. Y., administratrix of the estate of Lebbeus Brooks, deceased, late of Great Falls aforesaid: What is claimed as the invention of the said Lebbeus Brooks, is the arrangement and application of the benders and bending screw together, and with respect to the two handles, substantially as set forth, whereby the center of motion of the benders is at the place of contact, or the vertex of the angle of their upper surfaces, and no fulcrum pin is employed for the support and connection of the levers.

**BRICK MACHINE**—William Wood, of Hartford, Conn. Patented March 22, 1859: I claim the arms, B B, in combination with the slides, A A, provided with the lever, C, and tappet, c, for operating the molds, M, as described.

#### RE-ISSUES.

**SMELTING FURNACE**—Charles C. Alger, of Newburgh, N. Y. Patented June 30, 1857: I claim constructing furnaces with the hearth and boshes of an elliptical or elongated form, substantially as described, in combination with the application of the blast at the sides, so arranged as to introduce the blast in the direction of the breadth, and for the purposes specified.

I also claim, in combination with the hearth and boshes made of an elliptical or elongated form, substantially as described, the construction of such furnaces with two mouths, one at each end, for working and tapping, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

**RECLINING CHAIRS FOR RAILROAD CARS AND OTHER USES**—Isaac L. Devoe, of Staten Island, N. Y., assignee through mesne assignors of Samuel M. Perry, of New York City. Patented July 27, 1859: I claim, first, to combine the back, D, with the two end frames, B C, by means of bars, E F, jointed to it one or two studs, a, and one or two series of notches, d d, or equivalents thereof, that the said back, when not a reversible one, may be raised and inclined in various positions, so as to not only support the back, but the head of a person at the same time.

Second, Making the back reversible by means of two series of notches, d d and e e, &c., and two sets of studs, b, or equivalents, the same being arranged on opposite sides of the chair and made to operate as specified.

Third, The improvement of making each arm or bar, E F, with a rack or racks of teeth, or succession of notches, or equivalents thereof, for the purpose of adjusting and securing the backs in the desired position, whereby the occupant can alter or vary said position without rising from the seat, substantially as set forth.

#### DESIGN.

**HAT-BACKS**—Edward Reynolds, (assignor to Thomas W. Brown,) of Boston, Mass.

#### Improved Blow-off for Boilers.

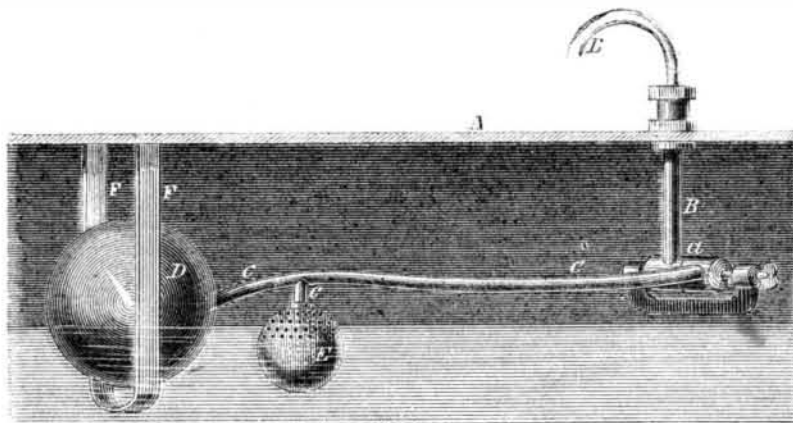
This invention makes security doubly sure, and adds an additional protection or preventive of accidents to boilers by the sedimentary deposits from the water. There is much solid matter contained in water, some of it organic particles which when the water ceases to hold them in suspension, they rise to the surface instead of falling to the bottom. The same is true of salt water, the salts in which, as evaporation goes on, rise crystallizing to the surface and afterwards form a scale on the inside of the boiler, causing it to burn out rapidly, and being at the same time a fruitful source of accident. The design, then, of this surface blow-off, invented by J. H. Washington, of 36 Fawn-street, Baltimore, Md., is to prevent the forming of this scale by blowing-off continually from the surface.

A is the boiler, through the top of which projects a pipe B, to the bottom of which (inside the boiler) is attached by a water-tight hinge or joint, a, the tubular arm, C, carrying at its extremity the hollow float-ball, D. D moves up and down in guides, F, which are proportioned according to the limits beyond which it is not safe to allow the water in the boiler to rise or fall. A steam whistle may be attached to the end of C, to notify the engineer when the water is too low. Near the end of C there is a small branch-pipe, c, projecting vertically downwards, and over this is slipped the perforated hollow ball, E, which is itself half filled with water, the perforations only being made on the upper hemisphere. This can be slid up and down on c to take the proper relative position with respect to D and the surface of the water. This

it will be seen will accommodate itself by the float, D, to the motion of the water in the boiler caused by the rocking of the vessel, and should any sudden lurch occur, which leaves the upper hemisphere of ball E, entirely exposed to the steam, the contained water has

first to be blown out before the steam can escape and by that time the ship will have righted itself, and if not steadied then, will refill E with water which will again act as a preventive to the escape of steam should a similar lurch occur,

#### WASHINGTON'S BLOW-OFF FOR BOILERS.



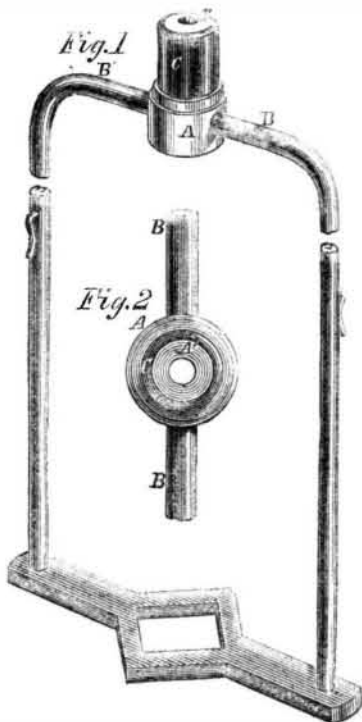
The device is remarkably simple; and, judging from the testimonials we have seen from the engineers of steamships which have it fitted in their boilers, and from the Inspector of Boilers for the Baltimore district, it very

thoroughly, efficiently, and perfectly performs the work for which it is designed. It was patented Jan. 25, 1859, and any further information may be obtained by addressing the inventor as above.

#### Sawtell's Spinning Flyer.

The accompanying figures represent an improvement in spinning flyers, invented by J. N. Sawtell; Fig. 1 is a side elevation and Fig. 2 a plan view of the nozzle. In form it is similar to the common flyer, but in construction quite different.

A is the bronze shoulder of the nozzle and B B are the arms of the flyer. The bronze part extends upwards, forming the tube, A', and C is the hardened iron capping or collar on the neck.



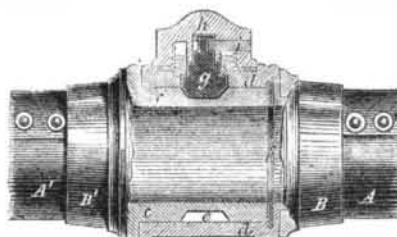
We will now explain wherein this flyer differs from others, and point out its advantages. In making the common flyer, the neck or nozzle is brazed to the arms or wires, B B, but this flyer is constructed by casting the nozzle (which is bronze) on the arms and thus uniting them together in a more permanent and superior manner. By the old way of brazing the nozzle and arms, the wires are highly heated, which injures their elasticity and strength, and by the refinishing which they require afterwards they are reduced in size which renders them weaker still. One of the arms is also liable to be reduced somewhat smaller than the other which thus tends to throw the flyer out of balance, and render the operation defective. The brazing is also sometimes imperfect and the arms, as a consequence, soon become loose; and when a nozzle becomes much worn, the cost of re-

pairing it is so great as to render this operation inexpedient.

In constructing this improved flyer by casting the bronze nozzle on the arms, B B, the two metals are permanently united, yet this is done in such a manner that the wires are not overheated, and thereby not softened, nor do they require to be reduced in size afterwards, but retain all their original stiffness, strength and elasticity; they are therefore not liable to work loose, nor be thrown out of balance; and should the hardened capping, C, become worn, it can be renewed at a small cost, and the whole nozzle rendered as good as when new.

These flyers have now been in operation for nearly three years and have given great satisfaction. They are manufactured by the Ames Manufacturing Company at Chicopee, Mass., who will attend to communications addressed to them on the subject. It was patented Feb. 17, 1857. For more information see advertisement on another page.

#### Lawton & Bliss' Hose Coupling.



A swivel joint for hose—one that would admit of turning, and that could be easily put together—has long been wanted. Here it is. It is the invention of R. B. Lawton and W. H. Bliss, of Newport, R. I., and was patented Feb. 22, 1859. Our illustration fully shows the invention, the coupling being seen in section.

A A' are the ends of the two hose provided with caps, B B', by which they are attached to their respective metallic rings or thimbles, c d, the one, c, fitting into the other, d, and pressing against a rubber packing ring, f, in d which renders the joint water-tight. Around c a groove, e, is made, and in d there is a hole in which a hollow screw is fitted provided with a screw-cap, h, through h a pin, i, projects that fits into the groove in the top of the roller, g, that is conical at its end and fits into the groove, e, thus securing the thimbles, c d, together and allowing one to move round the other with perfect freedom, but at the same time preventing them coming apart. This roller being conically shaped and the groove having inclined sides, the pressure of g upon the side of e will always tend to keep c close

o d, and thus compensate for any wear by the simple act of connecting them together.

A simpler and more efficient hose coupling it would seem impossible to devise, especially when so many ends are attained by the same device. Any person desirous of knowing more concerning it, in a business or other point of view, should address W. H. Bliss, at Newport, R. I.

#### Firing of Locomotives.

In the saving of wear and tear, and in the economy of fuel and oil in running locomotives, a very great deal depends upon the engineer. This is very clearly set forth in the recent report of R. A. Wilder, Esq., Superintendent of the Minehill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, published in the *Miner's Journal*, of Pottsville, Pa. The principle feature of this report is the information contained about the successful use of anthracite coal for fuel. It is used on the engines running on this road, and has been found much cheaper than wood at two dollars per cord. The engines are similar to those in which wood is employed for fuel, excepting that the fire-box is larger in area, but not quite so deep. An engine of 30 tons will take a train of 140 cars, to the summit of the mountain and return loaded—a distance of 65 miles, consuming four tons of coal—the total rise in the road being 900 feet. The coal used is all broken with a hammer, as it has been observed that when broken by rollers, although the work is done more rapidly, it does not ignite so readily, on account of the sharp angles being broken off. The fire in the furnace, is never more than six or eight inches deep, and an experienced fireman never throws in too much fresh coal at once; great care and skill are required in firing—in fact most of the success of coal-burning locomotives depends on this operation. A fireman has been known to burn out a set of grate-bars in one day, while another using the same coal, and raising as much steam, has preserved a set of bars for several months. The rapid destruction of fire-boxes, under the use of coal as fuel, has retarded its introduction as a substitute for wood. As the bottom parts of the fire-box plates are subject to the most rapid destruction; it has been necessary to remove the entire box to replace the injured parts. This has been owing to the method by which the sheets have been riveted together. On the above road, the lower parts of the fire sheets which are injured are only cut away, not the entire fire-box, and a saving of nine-tenths of the usual cost has been effected. By forming the fire-boxes with a set of lower fire-plates, joined to the upper portion above the fire surface by a horizontal seam, these could be easily removed, when burned out, with but little expense in comparison with that now incurred, according to the method by which fire-boxes are at present constructed. The firemen were very much prejudiced against coal when they first commenced its use, but now they prefer to work on coal-burners rather than those in which wood is employed. Engines which use wood require to stop frequently to obtain a supply of fuel; a tender full of coals will last an entire day. In Pennsylvania, where good oak wood can be obtained for two dollars and a quarter per cord, coal is found to be cheaper, and ten years experience on the above railroad has established the superiority of coal over every other kind of fuel. Common locomotives with large fire-boxes can be altered with very little expense, to burn anthracite; all that is required for their success is careful firing—no large lumps being used, and a thin fire kept up.

**CHEAP GAS.**—In the city of Dublin, Ireland, a new gas company supplies good coal gas at 80 cents per 1000 cubic feet, and no rent charged for meters. This is certainly very cheap gas in such a city, when it is considered that all the coal used is imported from England.