

Scientific American

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

VOL. XIV.

NEW YORK, MAY 14, 1859.

NO. 36.

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 Bookellers, 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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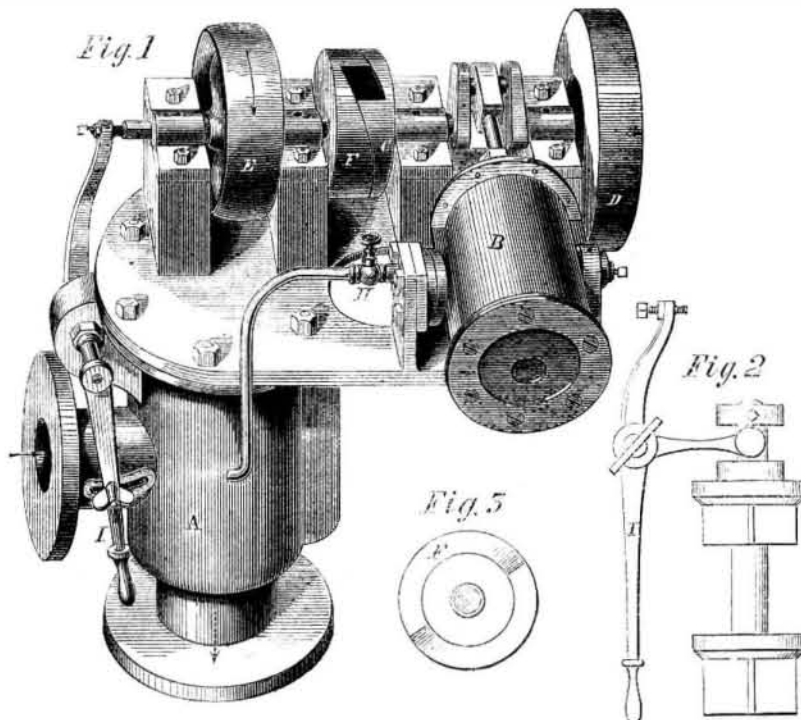
The Od Force.

This is the name given by Professor Reichenbach, of Germany, to "an extremely subtle fluid, emitted from the magnet," &c., and which Judge Edmonds, of this city—and other spiritualists, we suppose—hold to be an agent for communication between spirits and "persons in the body." Judge Edmonds says: "I have myself beheld it issuing from both ends of a magnet, and forcing itself out like a pale, shadowy smoke from under its armature. I have also seen it issue from the human head and fingers. On one occasion I saw it so plainly that, in a dark room, I saw my own hand in the light which issued from the head of the person who stood at my side." By giving old things new names, the ignorant may be puzzled and the weak-minded muddled. This, we think, has been done by Reichenbach in substituting the term "od force" for "electrical current," which is nothing less, we are confident, than the pale, shadowy smoke which Judge Edmonds beheld. There are currents of electricity continually flowing through and around almost all bodies—metallic, vegetable and animal—and the human body is highly electric. An electric current flowing from the human body can be made visible in any moderately dark room in which machinery is driven by a broad leather band, moving at a high velocity. In such a situation, if the forefinger is held up under the belt, near to the surface, a stream of light, like the electric brush, will be seen flowing upwards from it towards the belt. This is the "od force" of the German sage—the old electric current of scientific men, who make no pretensions to new discoveries from old things by giving them odd names.

Important Decision Relating to Sewing Machines.

A recent decision made in the Court of Queen's Bench, London, makes those essential parts of sewing-machines, viz., the eye pointed needle and shuttle, public property. It seems that in December, 1846, Mr. Thomas obtained an English patent, in which the needle and shuttle were claimed, and that in 1857 he instituted proceedings against several parties for importing American sewing-machines, especially those of Grover & Baker. In one instance he obtained a verdict, but the case having been carried up to another court, his patent has been declared invalid, because he claimed that which was patented by Fisher & Gibbons, Dec. 7, 1844. These patentees invented a machine for embroidering cloth in which they employed eye-pointed needles combined with shuttles or loopers. This old patent expired last December in England, and it never was secured in this country.

SERGEANT'S GOVERNOR FOR STEAM-ENGINES.



An examination having been made of this invention by the Chief Engineers of the U. S. Navy, and who conclude their report with these words: "It can be applied to any engine where any governor can, and we think it better adapted for marine engines than any other with which we are acquainted;" it needs no recommendation of ours to call public attention to it.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the contrivance, Fig. 2 a view of the balance valve and rod, and Fig. 3 a front view of one of the regulating disks.

A is the valve chamber, into which the steam enters from the boiler, as shown by the arrow, and passes to the engine in the direction of the dotted arrow. To the valve chamber are attached levers for working the valves, one a hand lever, the other worked by the governor. B is the cylinder of a common oscillating engine which is placed on the top of the valve and supplied with steam from it, between the valves by a small pipe, and the piston of B being connected with a crank drives a balance wheel, D, and circular wedge, C, both of which are prevented from lateral motion in their bearings. E is a pulley driven in the direction of the arrow upon it, by a belt from the engine to be governed. It has journals cast to it and drives the circular wedge, F, by a shaft and feather passing through its journals, thereby allowing a free movement of the shaft in its bearing, no matter what the strain of the belt is. H is a small valve and pipe for regulating the speed of the little engine.

The operation is easily understood. Steam is admitted into the engine by operating the lever, I, and the large engine starts; then by turning steam on to the regulator engine, and setting it at the desired speed the two wedges, C and F, rotate together, so long as their speed is exactly the same (about four revolutions to the large engine's one), but the moment the load is thrown off the large engine, a change of position of the circular wedges takes place instantly, and the feathered shaft of F presses on the lever at its end, operating the valve instantly, thus keeping the engine

running at the same velocity; when the load is again thrown on, the reverse operation takes place.

An experiment was made with this governor by Park, McCurdy & Co., of Pittsburg, Pa., and they give the following report: "Our steam-engine is about 628 horse power. The irregularity of resistance in rolling is about equal to 200 horse power. The diameter of the steam pipe is 10 inches. The balance-wheel weighs 15 tons, and our power is used in rolling copper into sheets from 4 to 1200 pounds weight. We have great satisfaction with the operation of the governor, and believe there is no other one so well adapted to regulate steam power, it being very sensitive to any change in speed and correcting it at once. We would not be without your governor upon our engine for twenty times its cost. Any further information we can give you we will do cheerfully."

For simplicity of action and detail and perfection of principle, it is seldom that we have the pleasure of describing anything that equals this governor, which was invented by Henry C. Sergeant, of Columbus, Ohio. It was patented in this country, December 21, 1858, and is also patented in England and France.

The inventor will be happy to furnish any further information upon being addressed as above.

A Thought or Two on Poison.

The existence of an organized government which makes and enforces a system of laws indicates, in some measure, the civilization of the nation; and that sailor's exclamation, when wrecked and cast upon an unknown shore, as his eyes beheld a gallows, "Thank God, I am in a civilized country!" has not only satire but truth in it, for the gallows was emblematical of a code of laws.

The most valuable possession of a State is, undoubtedly, its inhabitants, and the first and most especial care of the government should therefore be the individual lives of the citizens. Every barrier that law and the executive can place around each human life should be

so placed, and murder more prevented than it is. Let us see how this is *not* done in the city of New York. During the year 1858 the number of persons poisoned by accident was 20, the number who chose to "shuffle off their mortal coil" and commit suicide by this means was 35, and the murders by poison, 1; showing a total of 56 persons who were permitted by the law (that should have prevented it) to murder themselves, or be killed by designing persons whom the law almost furnished with the means to put their hellish schemes in practice.

When we say the law does this, we mean that it might prevent much of it but, does not, and hence the citizens themselves are responsible for not having some prohibitory measures taken to prevent the present reckless sale of poisons. Any person can go into a druggist's store and purchase arsenic, laudanum, oxalic acid, or a little strychnine; and there are very few druggists who would take the trouble even to enquire into the purposes for which it was designed to be used, but would supply the poison without a single question or the slightest hesitation. This can, we believe, be prevented in some measure by compelling the druggist not to sell a poison to any one without taking a receipt from the purchaser, signed by two witnesses, each party giving their full name and address; and also by ordering each druggist to keep the deleterious articles of his trade in a separate part of the store, and in bottles with a distinguishing label, as is now done in France. There is a law in this State which compels the word "poison" to be written or printed on every package containing such a compound or simple, but it is virtually a dead letter. Death by poison surely comes under the head of preventible diseases; and as it is one of the most flagrant, it should be at once attacked, for it is rapidly growing on this continent. If any ambitious legislator wants a hobby, here is one that he may ride with safety to himself and benefit to the community.

Laws for Sportsmen.

A law passed at the last session of the New York Legislature provides that no person in this State shall kill any wild deer, partridge, quail, woodcock, or snipe at any time during the months of February, March, April, May, June, and July, under penalty of \$25 for each offence. In the same statute it is forbidden to take brook-trout with nets, seines, weirs, baskets, spears, or grapples in any of the inland waters (Cayuga, Seneca and Otsego lakes excepted), between Sept. 15th and Feb. 15th under a penalty of \$25 for each offence. City sportsmen who go to the country will do well to remember the existence of this law.

Sturgeon's Flesh Pugnacious.

This distinguished fish, according to the Washington correspondent of the Charleston (S. C.) *Mercury*, must be excellent for the feeding of soldiers and others distinguished for pugnacious qualities. He says: "It is a remarkable fact, though not noticed by Cuvier, Buffon, or any of the other fathers amongst the naturalists, that sturgeon's flesh when eaten in sufficient quantities creates a very elevated condition in the consumer, and moreover imparts to him a most courageous spirit, and a disposition to be quarrelsome and fierce. This peculiarity is noticeable among the fisherman along the Potomac every spring."