The diathermanous, properties possessed by various substances are precisely analogous to those of transparency and translucency with which they are endowed, except that the former refer to rays of heat and the latter to those of light. Although in some degree the two descriptions of rays may be confounded, yet they are in reality separate, and the actinic rays of the sun are perfectly distinct from his luminous ones. It might be supposed that the substance which showed great power of translucency would also eviace similar capabilities with respect to diathermanancy, but experience has proved this assumption to be perfectly erroneous. If we se lect chloride of sodium in its crude condition, common crystal, and alum, they will be found nearly all equal in their power of transmitting light, but a wide discrepancy will be found in the manner in which they transmit heat. Their diathermanous capabilities are in the proportion of $9,62,93$. It is quite possible to modify these proportions of bodies so as to produce quite contradictory and almostapparent paradoxical results. Thus a mirror can transmit light, and a perfectly translucent surface is capable, under certain conditions. of reflecting it. We really know the imponderable elements by their effects alone, and in spite of many learned surmises and ingenious theories of their origin and nature, we are as much in the dark as ever respecting their true cause and character The effect of platinum upon glass, and the modification it produces upon its optical properties, has been turned to ac count by M. Dodé some time ago. He takes an ordinary plate of glass, and by a chemically mechanical operation coats it upon one side with an almost infinitely thin layer of platinum. By this plan he obtains a mirror with direct re flection, and which moy also, curiously enough, be employed as a common window pane by turning the coated surfaceout side. A slight tinge is imparted to the objects beheld through this medium, but otherwise the vision is clear, and the out lines of the objects well deflned.
As all rays of light and heat must be disposed of by reflec tion, absorption, and transmission in different proportions, it is manifest that when a transmission and absorption accompanies a reflection, there is a loss incurred when the end in view is to bring into play the reflective powers only of the body. To prevent tbis, it is the practice to cover the nonplatinized surface of the mirror with a slight coating of var nish. In this condition they are, of course, not translucent but when they are intended to be manufactured in the form of kitchen and domestic utensils the varnish is omitted.
They are, moreover, covered with a variety of designs, produced by corroding the surface of the glass and platinizing the engraved portions, which, therefore, are rendered alone transparent. Very beautiful and elaborate designs can be produced in this manner. One of the distinguishing features characterizing the light transmitted by glasses platinized in the manner described, is its peculiar softness and tone. M. Leroux was the first to notice this particular attribute of the light, and stated that it might be turned to good service in shitlding the vision when engaged in regarding any intense source of heat, such as the sun, smelting, or gas furnaces When the natural sight is weak or temporarily deranged, these platinized glasses might be advantageously substituted for the tinted or colored ones usually employed, which are supposed to possess powers of neutralization that in reality rarely belong to them. They have already been reolaced by the former in some astronomical instruments, to modify the intensity of the solar rays. All that is necessary is to place one of the glasses before the object-glass of the telescope, by which means a large proportion of the rays are reflected, and only a number pass through sufficient to enable the observer to study the aspect of the luminous body, without fatigue or annnyance to the eye. This property of subduing and softening rays of ardent light is not confined solely to platinized glass. The same effect is produced by the application of different metallic substances. If a pale blue glass be simply covered with a piece of gold leaf, the light transmitted is instantly endowed with a peculiar soft tone. A slight characteristic tint is also imparted to the light, which depends upon the nature of the metal employed. Thus, if pure gold be used, the tint is of a light greenish hue, while the ordinary or jeweler's gold, which always contains a certain proportion of silver, gives a bluish sh: de , varying in depth of olor with the amount of alloy in the gold. The effect of thin sheets of metallic substances upon light has been known for a long period, and M. Foucault has proposed to silver the object-glasses of telescopes employed solely for taking observations of the sun. He himself made the experiment upon the lens of a large telescope in the French Royal Observatory, and found that the image lost none of its clearness or sharpness, and the plan was greatly superior to the ordinary ope of interposing a colored medium before the eye-glass of the instrụment.-Mechanics' Magazine.

Varnish for Ihon Wobs.-Dr. Lunge has publisbed a method of making an excellent black varnish for iron work. he distills gastar until nearly all the volatile products are got ridof. He then stops the distillation and dissolves the residual pitch either in the heavier oils, or, if a very quickly drying varnish is required, in light oils or naphtha. This varnish is, of course, the original tar minus the ammonia, water, carbolic acid, and other things which give it its dis. agreeable odor, and make it so long in drying.
Effect of Flannel on the Skin.-Dr. Fox remarks that under the use of flannel, local heat is intensified and itching often increased and kept up. He gives as a practical rule "whenever you have a congestive state of the skin, or ans disposition to neurosis, take off the flannel and place it, if necessary, outside the linen, this will prevent any catching

## OFFICIAL REPORT OF Patents and Claims

## Issued by the United States Patent Office.

for the week ending september 8, 1868.
Reported ojfcially for the Scientifc American.
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81.861.-Grain Moistener.-L. J. Adams and J. H. Esale,
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 81,864.-Port FoLio.-G. Ashworth and E. Ashworth, Man


81,865.-Ophrating shuttle Boxhe in Looms.-John Ash Worth assignor to George L. Davis, John A. Wiley, and Joseph M. Stone)
North A movyr



 81.867.-STiLL -G. O. Baldwin, Hillsborough, Ohio.





 81,869.-COFFEE M TiLL. - W. H Barns, New London, Cónn.
 81,870- - Reaister for Knittina Machines.-B. B. Bollin-






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 81, Pabi.-MEDICAL ComPOUND.-J. H. Butts, Stroudsburg, Pa. Paim the rompound abore described, c mposed and operating substan
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$81,870 .-B E D$ Lounge.-J. L. Cox, Manchester, N. H.



 $81,882 .-$ Wagon Brake. - H. Da vidson, New Salem, Ill.

 81,883. - Constroction of Wagon and Carriage Wheels.








 purpose desecined.







 81.887.-Colinary Apparatus.-Joseph S. Field, Brook-



 pecited. - Starch Separator. - Colgate Gilbert, Buffalo, as-





 8r, Clai-- SABH FAATENER.-L. D. Gould, Newark, N. J.
 81,890-A Anti-Slipping Plate--W. B. Gould, Boston, and
 81,891.-GRA Gin Binder.-J. B. Greenhut, Chicago. Ill.












 1894. - Explosive Compound.-Joseph Hafenegger, Sar,



81,895- SERvice Pipe For Boildinas.-Edward Hagan.


 81, H96.-CHURN-T. Haigh (assignor to himself and C. M.





 81, , Mar - Planding Machine.-S. M. Hamilton, Baltimore,





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81,911.-Corn PLaNTmR,-I. J. Kidd, Young Settlement,
 81,912--Face Tester for Millstones. - James Kuhn,
 1or the purpose eettorth.
81,913. - Bo Relar ALA RM.-N. P. Larsen. Chicago. Ill.


 81.914 - SEhDING MACHINE.-J. L. Linderman, Rockford, Ill.



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si, $919-\mathrm{G}_{\text {Arbage }}$ Box.-John L. Mason, New York city.






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81,900-Bellows Pumping Apparatus. - Simon Motte














 81,936.- Bedstead and Quilting Frame. - John Park,
 81,937.-Steam Generator.-Quintin Parker, New York


 81,939.-Meat Chopper.-Thomas Payne, Grand Rapids
 $\underset{\text { IClaim the combination, with the shatts, }}{81,940 \text { - }}$
the by a point and socket, of the springe, c , substantally as and for the par-
pose deseribed.
$81,941 .-$ Dropper for Harvesters.-G. M. Peters, Lancis.


 Opi, 94.2 -GRASS SEED SowER.-Darius G. Pickett, Stockton,
 and
ane mander nat forthe purpose pecifice. - Henry Poth, Pittsburg, Pa.

 S1,9+4.-GAS PRESSURE REGULATOR.-Charles C. Ramsay,


 81 , DTravosbury Pa. For Loading Coal.-Daniel Risher, Jr.,






 the purp se set forth: - Francis Roach (assignor to himself and



 Si,949.- SorA BEDSTEAD.-S.R. ROscoe, Obion Cnunty,Tenn.
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$81,950 .-$ BRIDGE.-Henry A. Rust, and Ludwig Hermann,

 81,951 .-Grain Separator.-David Shannon, and William










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 purpose described. 81,958 - Safty Bridge for Railroad Car.-Eli Stur-







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$81,961 .-$ Cate
Couthling. - Anson C. Tichenor, Council

 ${ }_{81}$ 81,962a. Envelope.-Sigmund Ullman. New York city



 81,965-Maring Forks.-Heman Whipple and Elon Denio,




 81,9b7.-DDocbLe Ratchet Lever Power.-John S. Wil:




 81,969.-Bow Spring for Railway Cars.-T. F. allyn,



 $81,971 .-$ Feed Water Heater and Filter.-James Arm-


 81,972.-STEAM GENERATOR.-James Armstrong, Bucyrus,










 81, harg. N. TEAM SAFETY VALVE. - Horatio B. Beckman, New-






 8 81, 7 ghto. Mode cf Purifying Water.-M. S. Bringier, As
 forth, 81,80 - Potato Digaer. - Albert Burhaus (assignor to him-















 81, 986 . FLEXIBLELE ABRADER AND POLISHING FABRIC.-John 1 Hicrane, Charlestown, Mass
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 81,993-W EDGE-BUCKLE FOR HARNESS.-Kasson Frazer









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81,997.-MOCLDING MCHINE.-J.
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 81,999. - Constroction of Dolls' Heads. - George H

 $82,000-$ CANDLESTICE. William H . H. Hinds, Groton, Mass



 82,001. Abdominal Stpporter.-S. L. Hockert, assignor


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$82,002 .-H O R S E$ HAY-RAKE. W William Holmes, Clarksville,
 rofth The rombination, substantially as ase forth, of the lever operated by the
foot of the ariver, and the device tor deoressing and elevaung the rake 82,003.-Smoke Stack.-George Holton, Chicago, Ill.

 28,004--MORTISING MACHINE.-Jas. M. Johnson and John



 For the parpose set forti.
82,006 . - BEE A. A. King, Nevada, Ohie.






82,008.-Animal Trap. - T. B. Kirby, Flowerfield, Mich.
 32,009 .
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nati, olio., The engension of one or more cresestet to the arxe, within the
revolving cy cylinder,


 82,010 . $J$ UG Top Top - Peter Lauster (assignor to Lang \& Laus-





 82, 1212 . Ind. SPING BED BOTTOM. -Jonn M. Losie, Indianapo-
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 82,028. - APothecaries I cliaim the combination of grsadater scale with an otherwise ordinary paper 19bel. substantially as asove dessiribed. 8 ,09.-MARIINGALE. -W. B. Perrie, Horse Head, Md.

 forth 030 - Adjustable Tumbler for Permotation Lock. -




 I 033 - Aws int - vells porlson. Washingtom, D. C.


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 82035 .-Miv For Sugars, etc. - Morgan L. Rich, Sand











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 B2:047.-SAW FILING MACHINE.-James H. Van Nort wick,







 Sidili-Spip-Balancigg Centrifugal Machine.-David






 8 and enesi. - Lim Mp. - Abel Whitlock, Danbury, Conn.




















8ite, 057 . - Valve for Water Closets.-David Morrison,



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59,402--Mancfaciure of Robber Coated Leather.-






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 14,245.-SEALING Preserve Cans.-Dated Feb. 12,1856




## ExTENSIONS.

Mor, DS FOR CEMENT OR EARTHEN TUBES, - Brafford S .
 nizitivators-Danicl W. Shares, Hamden, Conn.-Letters














 Carding Machink.-Horatio N. Gambrill, of Balti-





Machine for Graduating Carpenters' Squares.-Nor





 Centrifugal Pomp--William O. Andrews, New Yorkcity.



 Machine for Casting Metalic Exes or Mails of Hed














 Leather-Splitting Machine.-Sarah W. Flanders, New

 MaNUFACTUBE OF IndiA-RUBBER. - Caleb Swan, Easton,

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Inventions Patented in England by Americans. Complled trom the"Journelothe Commissioners of Patents." provisional protection for gix monthe.
 2,396.-Distillation, AND MEANS AND APraRA
Thos. Prosser, New York city. July 30,1868 .
2,400.-MANOFACTOREOFAND
Toronto, Canada. July 30, 1868 .
2.404.-S0bstitute da Robeer.-A. G. Day, Seymour, Conn. July 2.422.-Maciinery for Manopacturing Metallit Eyelets.-Wm. R.
Lancfear, Harfford, Comn. Aug. 11 , 1868. 2,465.-Frlted Fabrics.-Henry Hayward, New York city. Aug. 6,1868.
2,473.-Sewina Machine.-Benj. P. Howe, New York city. 2,473.-Sewing Machine.-Benj. P. Howe, New York city. Aug. $7,1868$.
1,821.-DBcorating Walle, Etc.-Wm. Howell, Philadelpba, Pa. Jun 444.-Harvesting Machine.-George Harding, Philadelphia, Pa


 2,466.-Boors $\operatorname{AND}$ SHOES.-John M. Hunter, Morristown, N. J. Aug. 6, 1868. 2478.-FIRE-ARM - WTM Gid. 2,478.-FIRE-ARM - Wm. Garaner, Toleao, Oho. Aug. 7, 1868.
2,485.-STEAM Engine Governor.-Edwin L. Bomeisler, Philadelphla, Pa
$\substack{2,486 .- \text { Screw } \\ \text { Aug. }, 1868 .}$

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