

one may be invented upon a similar principle to those for making lace and for knitting. Such a machine would undoubtedly have an extensive and rapid sale, I am told that there are large and expensive machines now used for making seins, but those are not calculated for the purpose, because they are not within the reach of the common fishermen. I reside at the side of a river abounding in fish, and if I could procure a small cheap machine of this kind, I should consider it a great boon, and there are hundreds in this place that would be glad to obtain similar contrivances.

I have taken the liberty of addressing you, as through your valuable paper, possibly some of the long list you weekly give of inventors may be induced to undertake to carry out the plan I propose.

R. G.

Sydney, Cape Breton, April 10, 1860.

[The small knitting machines manufactured by J. B. Aiken, office 429 Broadway, this city, and illustrated on page 328, Vol. XIV., (old series) of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, could be so modified as to answer the purpose of making cheap nets. Of course they would not be so strong or durable as nets that are tied with a knot at the crossing of the meshes, but they would answer very well for most kinds of fishing.—Eds.]

A WOMAN PLEADS FOR NEW INVENTIONS.

MESSESS. EDITORS:—Whatever lightens the labors and cares of the house helps to bring comfort and cheerfulness and elevated tastes to the heart of home. In a former letter, published on page 410, Vol. I. (new series) of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, I suggested to practical artizans some improvements in the kitchen stove, and the kettles to be used thereon. I would further suggest that iron cooking kettles be lined with a material less easily oxidized. No dish of meat or vegetables can, with impunity, be allowed to cool in an iron vessel. Though iron is the most important of all metals in all the various uses to which it is applied—though it be a part of the soil, and a constituent of all plants, fruits and animals—though even the health of the blood depends on the quantity of iron which it contains, and this may yet be found to depend upon its magnetic properties, as one of the moving forces of that electro-magnetic machine, the human body—yet it does not follow that we should leave to ignorant or careless cooks the amount and quality of iron we are to consume, served up in unsavory dishes. Porcelain-lined kettles are all we could desire, but for their liability to crack off with dry heat. For instance, in cooking potatoes, my way is, either to peel or cut off a ring of peeling, and after boiling until the fork easily penetrates, but not till soft, drain off all the water, set the kettle back without the cover, to force the moisture in the potatoes to escape in the form of steam. My servant usually cooked the potatoes according to my instructions; but one day she unluckily used my porcelain fruit kettle for that purpose, and of course ruined it. If any kind of stone, or that peculiar clay used for vessels in glass manufactories, will stand dry heat, would be preferable to metal. If this is impracticable, could not a thin lining of silver or aluminum be brought within the reach of common use? If its influence upon health was properly considered, platinum itself would not be deemed too costly. A cooking kettle acts a most important part in the healthful and cleanly preparation of food. It is to be hoped that our new silver mines will help us to silver tea-kettles, or, at least, to rid us of the copper bottoms.

In the letter above alluded-to, while speaking of a machine for washing dishes, I neglected to specify that the drainer should be placed in a water-tight box, with cover and faucet, and some churning machinery placed within, to splash the water. And in connection with this, we need some simple little apparatus for wringing out a cloth without wetting the hands.

I wish to call the attention of artizans to the working dress of females. The present working dress is a shame to the age of invention in which we live. I am aware of the conscientious efforts of many who have made martyrs of themselves, by trying to introduce a better style of dress for active life. Their experiments show a want in this direction. Women need a dress that will allow a full play of the chest, the free use of the arms, and the unconstrained action of all the blood vessels, nerves and muscles of the body. We want one of many pounds less weight, which shall not drag the body down or knock about the ankles at every step, and which will not "cop

the house," from garret to cellar. The present working dress requires to be carried up stairs. No matter what else is to be carried, one hand is always monopolized by the dress. If any scrubbing or dirty work is to be done, the dress must be taken care of. Outside of the demands of health, buoyancy and cleanliness, time is too important to spend so much in taking care of the working dress, especially when servants' hire is such an item as it is in this country. Some sort of tunic and trousers, made of warm material, forms a desideratum. Such a dress is also needed for out-door exercise, and for active life in general. Witness the calisthenic exercises of school-girls and mark the painful contortions of those in close waists, with arms tied down, when compared with the ease and grace of those in loose tunics. Is there not inventive power enough in the country to get up some shape or fashion of working dress which will better answer the purpose than the one in present use?

As the onward march of machinery is removing the drudgery from the various departments of labor and active life, the constitutions, habits, food and medicine of the people are also undergoing a corresponding change. For instance, the coarser vegetables are yielding place to those less bulky, and more nutritious. In this view, could not the common chestnut, being more palatable and nutritious, take the place of the potato? And could not the chestnut tree be dwarfed and brought forward, in the same manner as the apple and pear?

I would ask practical chemists whether the fermentation of wine and cider can or cannot be stopped at an early period, and before the juice becomes sufficiently alcoholic to be intoxicating? Such stoppage would afford a very healthful and delicious drink for the table and for general use, in place of the various foreign and deleterious drinks which are now poisoning the people. The successful discoverer in this department would indeed be a benefactor to his kind.

MRS. M. L. VARNEY.

San Francisco, Cal., March 31, 1860.

EGG-HATCHING MACHINE.

MESSESS. EDITORS:—Seeing in your paper of the 14th inst. an answer to W. B. O., of California, that you did not know where any machine to artificially hatch poultry could be obtained, I beg to say that I am the inventor of an egg-hatching machine, and I will warrant it to hatch the eggs of all kinds of birds, as well as all kinds of poultry; and the machine has a section in which to rear the same to maturity. Should your correspondent wish such a machine, he can be accommodated by W. J. Cantelo. Address, Box 194 Post-office, Philadelphia, Pa.

[We publish the above for the benefit of our California correspondent. We know nothing about Mr. Cantelo or his egg-hatcher; but we give the inventor's own statement respecting it.—Eds.]

OF INTEREST TO NONE BUT INVENTORS.

While letters like the annexed may not interest that class of our readers who have never taken out patents, and who never expect to do so, there are many thousands of inventors who like to know the experience of others of their craft. To this class the following letters will afford much satisfaction:—

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—Your polite note of the 2d inst. came to hand yesterday, bearing the news that my last application was granted. You may well imagine the enthusiasm that filled my heart at this result, for the anxiety I have had since the case was in your hands can only be realized by those in similar circumstances. I applied for a patent on my cultivator tooth, and on the hand corn-planter (patented the 6th of last month) nearly six months ago; both cases were rejected. The corn-planter I finally got through myself. The other case my judgment dictated (after the bad luck had been sadly experienced) should be confided to MUNN & Co. The case was energetically prosecuted by your successful agency, and it "passed the Rubicon." I can but again express my heartfelt thanks for your success; had the case been rejected my hopes and happiness would have been greatly blasted.

H. B. HAMMON.

Bristolville, Ohio, April 7, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—Yours' of the 2d inst. has come to hand, and I hereby tender you my sincere thanks for the efficient and energetic manner in which you have carried my case through to a successful termination, and, when opportunity offers, I will take pleasure

in recommending all having business at the Patent Office to employ you, as being safe and honorable men.

J. K. LEMON.

Toledo, Ohio, April 6, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—I feel truly grateful to you for the privilege of informing you that I am in receipt of my Letters Patent, which came to hand on the 10th inst. I was much pleased with their appearance. The drawings are so perfect that they hardly need explanation to enable a person to understand the working and construction of my machine.

W. W. GREEN.

Chelsea, Ill., March 25, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—I am indeed under obligations to you for the promptitude with which you have conducted that business, and trust that your success in obtaining the patent will enable me ere long to show to you my gratitude for the kindness and indulgence you have on former occasions extended.

W. BUSHWICK.

Easton, Pa., March 26, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—On March 26th I received a letter from you, stating that you had been successful in prosecuting the business I entrusted to your care. Yesterday I received the Letters Patent, which confirmed your statements. I was much pleased with the description and claims, and was satisfied that the originators are competent and experienced men. Please accept my thanks for your services in the prosecution of my case at the Patent Office, and be assured that if any of my friends have business to transact in your line, I will recommend them to you.

G. K. BARCOCK.

Utica, N. Y., April 6, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—I have not before had an opportunity of expressing to you my sincere thanks for your prompt and upright way of transacting my patent business, and if I have any other business I will certainly solicit your aid. I have considerably simplified my lock, so as to make it applicable to banks and other places where safety is required. There is one thing in your system of obtaining patents that is alone worth (to an inventor) all your fees; and that is the explanation you give (in the weekly list of claims) at the end of each patent obtained by you. I am astonished at any one employing any other than yourselves; and such as do cannot be constant readers of your valuable paper—the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.

C. DUCKWORTH.

North Adams, Mass., April 9, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—Yours' of the 10th inst. was received this morning; please accept my thanks for the information therein, and for the able manner in which you have prosecuted my claims before the Patent Office. Be assured that I shall use every laudable means to further the success of your agency and that of your indispensable paper—the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN—which I consider should be in every mechanic's house. I have given to three apprentices the paper for one year, and I find, upon inquiry, that they have already improved by the perusal of it.

S. DAGGETT, JR.

Charleston, S. C., March 18, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—Accept my sincere thanks for the promptness and efficiency with which you have conducted my case through the Patent Office. I had scarcely hoped to have heard from it before another month (at least) had passed, seeing the very many applicants that are constantly pressing their claims. I shall certainly recommend others to present their inventions through you. I have now under my eye a very poor man, of some sixty years, or more, who is struggling to get his application considered, but finds himself involved in constant trouble and difficulty. I have not failed to urge him to take the same course, not doubting that you will inform him faithfully whether his invention is as valuable as he supposes, whether it is patentable, and whether likely to clash with other patents. I shall now add the stimulus of your success in my case, and again urge him to confide his claim to you.

I remain yours, with sincere thanks,

S. CHAMBERLAINE.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 4, 1860.

MESSESS. MUNN & Co.—I have received the two patents issued the 10th inst., which makes three that I have received through your agency within the last few weeks. It is indeed gratifying to do business with businessmen who understand their business and have the facilities in every department to accomplish what they undertake. Every case, thus far, which I placed in your charge has been successful. The one now before the Patent Office I trust will meet the same result, as also the one before the English office. Inventors should be doubly cautious in whom they trust their cases. Several years ago I lost one by bad management of an agent in Washington City. Your success has more than met my most sanguine expectations, and hereafter it will afford me the greatest pleasure to recommend you to all my friends and inventors generally. Respectfully yours,

J. F. EMERSON.

Trenton, N. J., April 16, 1860.