only that in this case the motion is continuous. The inventor employs these circular, band, or reciprocating knives in substitution of saws, to cut timber and other substances; and the cutting is effected with the production of a smooth surface, and without waste; and he also uses such knives or knife edges, moving not merely like a chopper against the substance to be cut endways, but like a saw, to cut tobacco and all kinds of fibrous or other similar substances requiring to be cut cleanly and without jagging.

## hydro electric cable.

This is the invention of F \& Tomasi, of Paris, France. The cable is composed of one or several pipes of copper or other convenient material, equal in number to that of the de-
spatches it may be desired to transmitsimultaneously. Each pipe leads respectively and separately at one end into a little cylinder provided with a piston, and at the other end into a bent glass tube which contains some mercury. A platinum wire, isolated everywhere except at its extremity, which is alwaysimmersed in the mercury contained in the tube, is in communication with a terminus or screw nut. Another wire, also of platinum, which can be immersed more or less deeply into the mercury in the glass tube at will, is con nected to another similar terminus, and a third wire, also of platinum, isolated everywhere except at its end, is in contact with a third terminus. The last wire is immersed in the glass tube, so that its uncovered end can only come in contact with the mercary at its upper level, The second mentioned terminus is put in contact with the receiving appa ratus, and the latter with the pile, which in its turn is con nected with the first mentioned terminus.

## lubihcating oils.

A Scotch inventor combines caoutchouc with minera lubricating oils. In preparing the improved mineral lubricating oils, the oil obtained from the destructive distillation of shale at a low red heat, and refined by redistillation and treatment with acids and alkalies, is employed ; and it is so far frced from paraffin as to be liquid at, say, $30^{\circ}$ to $40^{\circ} \mathrm{Fah}$. then refincd to the extent which produces an oil of a perma nent light yellow color, practically free from pungent odor In this mineral oil about one per cent of caoutchouc, prefer ably in the form of sheet india-rubber, is dissolved, and the solution is effected by first allowing the caoutchouc to re main immersed in the oil for a few hours, the oil being, dur ing that tme, maintained at a temperature of about $100^{\circ}$ Fal., and, second, by violently agitating the caoutchouc and oil together for about twenty-four hours by means of a mechanically driven dasher or agitator. However, heat alone, or mechanical agitation alone may be used for effecting the solution of the c soutchouc in the oil; a more perfect solution is obtained by employing the methods together. After the solution or combination of the caoutchouc with the oil has beon effected, the prepared oil is allowed to settle until it has bocome clear.

## THE PRESENT AND THE PAST.

numiber v .
The incredulous reader, who has lived a lifetime by the banks of some swift running and powerful stream, on read ing our last contribution, says at once: "Our stream has not sunk its bed, within our recollection, at the utmost more than a few inches, if that; it has not a?tered its channcl more than a few yards; and what it has removed from one place it scems to have redeposited in another; and yet you would have us believe, that these rivers of the West have eaten into the bowels of the earth six thousand feet; have given rise to a series of elevated plains, traversed by endless, water-courses ; and have carried away rocks not to be estimated by tuns, but thousands upon thousands of cubic miles! It is too incredi ble; just think for a moment of the time required in such an operation; millions of years will scarce meet the demand Can you not oxplain all this by the aid of fractures and dislocations of the strata and by the more energetic and rapid action of the breakers of the sea, while the land was gradually emerging from the ocean?"
No! good reader, we cannot relieve you; the facts of the case forbid a doubt, for Nature, in this instance, has recorded her own method of procedure in unmistakable characters. In the first place, the idea of these water courses being on the ine of fissures or dislocations is utterly untenable. The rocks on either side of them are undisturbed, and the very sinuous course of these nomberless streams forbids of their being on the line of faults. But the evidence against any action of the sea is, if possible, even still stronger.
Everywhere throughout this region Nature has left monuments to record the progress of her destroying hand. Here and there, harder portions of the rocks eroded have resisted the action of the atmosphere, and stand in fantastic shapes, resembling, as Dr. Newbery remarks, " the forms of churches, castles, gates, and monuments of various kinds." In one locality, a number of such monuments give the idea of a vast cemetery of gigantic tombstones. Had it been the violent monuments had not been left. Do you doubtthis statement? Then let us descend with our guide, into the gloomy depths of the cañons, and hear what Dr. Newbery says of these monuments in the early stages of their formation: "Near the mouth of the Diamond River, by the intersections of the numerous cañons which cut the plateau, portions of it have been left in a series of pinnacles and pyramids, frequently standing entirely isolated, forming some of the most striking and remarkable objects seen on our expedition. Many of these buttes exhibit a singular resemblance to the spires and pyramids, which form the architectural ornaments of the cities of civilized nations, except that the scale of magnitude
of all these imitative forms is such as to render the grandest monuments of human art insignificant in comparison with them. Oh, man! what becomes of your old churches and castles, your colosseums, and triumphal arches, your ruined cities of the desert, your pyramids, and of the Cyclopean masonry of your lost races, by the side of these, the ruins of an ancient continent?
But pardon me, reader; you ask, why could not these buttes that our guide describes, have been carved out by the action of breakers? Simply because in the depths of these cañons, even if the sea ever had had access to them, no breaker action could be possible. Visit the fjords of Norway, smaller carions actually partially submerged, and see the land-locked waters ling these, but harmlessly ruffled by the wildest gale, and you will realize that neither Scandinavian fjords nor Colorado cañons were ever formed by breaker action. And if the buttes below, now forming, do not owe their shapes to any such cause, may we not reasonably infer that the same statement applies to the buttes on the plateau above, long since weathered out, and more completely isolated by longer exposure to atmospheric influences?
But yet another proof. The extensive plateau, marked, in the section we gave in our last, as "the Sage Plains," has been erodedi $n$ thick strata of cretaceous shales. These shales represent muddy portions of the Cretaceous sea, which were thickly tenanted by a peculiarly formed characteristic oyster, known to geologists under the name of gryphwa. Like other oyster-shells, these are massive and heavy; and Dr Newbery tells us that, on the Sage plains, these shells occur, strewn over the ground in such numbers that thousands of large ships might be filled with them; these have undoubtedly all fallen from the hundreds of feet of shale that have been, removed, the heavy shells resting on the surface, while the lighter particles of earthy matter have been swept away. Now, had breaker action destroyed these beds, these shells would have been ground and reground, and their fragments would have been scattered far and wide; and they thus, in their present disposition, indubitably atte: the more gentle nature of the agent that has accomplished this great work of eating away these 1,600 feet of shales.
It is worth our while to cast another glance at the total mount of this erosion. Invert the section we gave in our last, and the empty space between the dotted line and the line describing the present surface will represent the mass of material that has been removed, as a section of a mountain range ; a range 6,000 fect in hight, and varying in width from 1 to 180 miles, and with a length of several hundred miles Nor, in reality, does this do full justice to the case; for, to give at all an approximate idea of all this denudation, we ought to have drawn the dotted line from peak to peak, and then continued it over the valleys ea $t$ and west of the Rocky Mountains and the Wasatch range, but we feared to confuse the reader. And all this work has been accomplished since the close of the cretaceous epoch!
Whither has all this material, thus removed, gonc? To form the more recent strata around the Gulf of California, and to furnish material for new strips of land, to be sooner or later upheaved and added to the western edge of our continent; and this appropriately, brings us to the consideration in our next, of the mode in which such materials are re-arranged into new strata.
But we would draw attention to one more question, to which Dr. Newbery gives prominence, and which is well worth remembering, when some tell you that, in our oldest rocks, we see the commencement of geological history.
The materials eroded, as hercin described, vast as they are, are as nothing to the vast total of deposits of which they once formed a part. In the Colorado region, we have sections of upwards of 6,000 fent of strata, from some of the oldest, as the silurian, up to the last of the secondary; and these deposits extend between the Colorado and the Mississippi, in belt 1,200 miles in width, and of "great, though yet unmer ured, extension north and south."
It would have required, according to our guide, all of an island c0) miles in diameter, and at least 6,000 feet high; or what is more probable, a continent of six timesthat area, and 1,000 feet high, " to furnish all the sediment thot forms the stratified rocks of only that portion of this great central plateau that immediately borders the Colorado."
Where, then, was the continent whose ruin furnished the materials for the whole of the great belt? Do you tell me that fragments of it remain in the north, in Canada, and the Adirondack Mountains? Granted! but these themselves are sediments, altered, it is true, by the vicissitudes of their vast history; and whence came they? Dr. Newbery infers the existence " of broad and rapid rivers, which flowed from the
mountains and through the fertile valleys of a primeval Atlantis," bearing down the sediments of our Paleozoic rocks but what shall we call that utterly lost land, whose destruc tion must have accompanied the formation of the very oldest ruins, the foundations of this same Atlantis that attest the nescience of creation," wherein he best learns how little he can know.

## Paper Wheels.

The Pullman Car Company is running a car, on the Chicago and North-western road, with what are called "paper wheels." The wheels have steel tires and cast-iron hubs, and the paper is introduced in the way of filling under the tires, for the purpose of deadening sound and diminishing the force of wheelsion. According to the National Car Builder the wheels have been running since July last under this particu-
lar car, and had been in use some four months previously The paper device is said to be superior to wood for the pur The paper device is said to be superior to wood for the pur-
pose designed, being stronger and lighter, and free from
knots, grain, or sap. It does not expand or contract, but re mains in the condition in which it is put in the wheels with out liability of change. It is cheaper than wood, and can be roof by asberm form pressure, and is madefre adapted to proof by asbestos. It is, as a substitute for wood, adapted to
variety of uses, especially in the way of ornamentation.

## SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

en preparation of the sulphocyanide of amandum A Dutch chemist, Van Zouteveen, has made the important iscovery that by passing dry ammoniacal gas through the bisulphide of carbon, a brick-red precipitate forms, which upon solution in water and boiling down to half its original volume, yields sulphocyanide of ammonium. The reaction is a valuable one, as it points out a possible way of making the sulphocyanides in an economical manner. Our readers will recall the uses of this class of salts in testing for iron also in photography, and more recently in the artificial production of cold.

RECOVERY OF IODINE FROM RESIDUES.
When bromine and chlorine are present with the iodine in residues, it is difficult to separate them and to recover the latter; and various methods have been resorted to for the purpose. Beilstein recommends the following: The solution containing the iodine is rendered acid by sulphuric acid; and nitrous acid gas, made from one part starch and six parts crude nitric acid, is passed through it, and the iodine thus precipitated is separated by means of a Bunsen filter. It is then thoroughly washed by cold water, and dried over sul phuric acid. If bromine be in the filtrate, warm the liquid to expel any iodine that may have been dissolved in it, and distil with black oxide of manganese and sulphuric acid. If chlorine be present, it will go off with the bromine. It is said that a considerable portion of the nitrous acid can be reclaimed, after it has served its purpose.

## NEW OPIUM MEDICINE.

We mentioned, some time ago, the discovery of a powerful emetic called apomorphine; we now have to record the preparation of a somewhat analagous base, to which it is proposed to give the name of apocodein. When chloride of codein is heated for 15 minutes to $338^{\circ}-348^{\circ}$ Fah., with an excess of a concentrated solution of chloride of zinc, water is eliminated, and apocodein is formed. It cannot be obtained in a crystalline form, but in other respects closely resembles apomorphine, and is more permanent and more easily made than the morphine compound. It is likely to prove a valuable emctic.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM SUFFOCATION BY CHLORINE.
The steamship England, which cleared from Queenstown on January 12th, with 200 passengers on board, was obliged to put back to larbor in consimuence of the breaking, during a heavy storm, of a number of barrcls of bleaching powder in the hold. The heavy sea washed into the ship, and thus liberated the chlorine gas in such quantities as to nearly suffocate all on board. Attempts were made to remove the powder, but it was soon found to be impossible for any one to live in the hold long enough to put on the grappling hooks, and the captain decided to put lack to port as fast as he could sail. There are few gases so suffocating as chlorine, and in case of accident to a large quantity of the bleaching powder, the lives of all on board ship would be greatly im periled. We have frequently observed the fumes of chlorine, while passing through some of the lower business strects of the city, and have been surprised at the endurance of persons employed in certain localities. There is too much carelessness in handling an article that is capable of so much mischief.

## RECENT DECISIONS AT THE PATENT OFFICE

The Examiners-in-Chief at the Patent Office make the following report to the Acting Commissioner of Patents, in relation to the application for an ex tension of a patent to John Worsley, granted December $\approx 3,156$, on the use
of cornhusks in manufacturingrolls ror calenders, washing machines, etc.

The reasons assigned by the examiners-in-chief for the adverse repor
upon the merititor the present application are decned good, and the exten
sion is accordingly refused.
DUNCAN, Acting Commissioner.
The Acting Commissioner makes the following report, in relation to an application for the extension of letters patent, of John B.
proved projectile for ordnance, granted October 28, 1856.
The invention to which this application relates is an expanding wroughty
iron sabot for elongated shot and shell Various modes are augested be
which the hollow cyinder constituting the soot may be atached to tht
projectile, but the preferred mode is by imbedding it more or less in the cas.


## (answers to Correspoulents.




H. \& R., of Ontario.-The amount of air to be admitted, through perforated pipe at back of the bridge wall, across a boiler furnace,to effect
perfect combustion, will vary according to clircumstances.
Provision perfect combustion, will vary according to clrcumstances. Provision
should he made for maximum admission, and regulating the same down to should he made for maximum admission, and regulating the same down to
a point where just enough alr is admitted o consume the smoke and no more. Every pound of air admitted beyond this polnt will result in lose of heat. Therefore we advise you to err on the sare side, it you err at all,
by making the admission free, and the perforations in the pine nun erous and of good size. We cannot even approximate to proportions, as you give nodata, but you need not fear to go anead with the work, If you do
not stitht the capacity for the admision of air. not stint the capacity for the admission of air. With a good damper you
can control it perfectly and get good reaults. can control it perfectly, and get good resulte
A. J. H. \& Co., of Mass.-We have never seen aity iron so badyy scaled or incrusted with oxide, that it could not be cleaned with a 8olution of one part sulphricic acid in ten parts water. Paradoxical asit
may seem, trong sulphuric acid will not attack iron with anything like the energy of a solution of the same. On withrdawing the pleces from
the weak solution of acid, they should be dipped in a hath of hot lime water, and held there till they become so heated that they will dry water, and held there till they become so heated that they will dry
immediately when taken out. Then if they are rubbed with dry bran or sawdust, there will be an almost chemically clean surface left, to which sawdust, there will be an almost chemically clean surface ereft, to which
zinc will adhere readily. We think you have been using too strong acid. T. G., of N. Y.-The brown powder collecting on the zinc of your Daniell's battery, is a oxide of copper deposit. This deposit and the copper deposit on the surface of the cup cannot be wholly avolded,
but, according to Pope, it may be greatis lessened, by suspending the zinc so that it will not touch the porous cup below the surface of the liquid, and by saturating the bottom of the porous cup to the hight of half an incli
with paraftlat For answers to your other queries, we reefer you to standwith parafli. For answers to your other queries, we refer you t
ard treatises on electrcity. We cannot give space to them here.
M. L. W., of N.-If a pipe containing water lave its lower cnd open beneath the surface of mercury, upon opening the upper
end of the pipe, tue water will fall in the pipe and bubble up to the surface end of the pipe, the water will fall in the pipe and bubble up to the surface
of the mercury, until the column in the pipe just balances the pressure or the mercury, when the flow will cease. The specific gravity of mercury at $60^{\circ}$ Fah., is $13 \cdot 56$, water being 1 . We cannot give you its price per pound.
F. X. L., of Md.-There are many flexible transparent substances beside tiinglass (mica). Thin plates of gelatin, or horn, films of
collodion, tracing paper such as is used by artists, are articles which we think might some of them answer your purpose.
Restoring the Color of Gold after Soldering.-Let R. R. boil the gold, after soldering, in diluted oil of vitriol, rinse in clean
water, pollsh with tripoll mixed in oil (sweet oil is best), wash and water, pollsh with tripolil mixed in oil (sweet oil
with crocus on a clean cloth.-C. J. C., of Iowa.
boring out Segment of Cylindrical Ring. - Having published a practical method for performing the above work, we take
this means of notifying correspondents that thelr communications upon this subject are no longer of value. We cannot undertake to reply to this effect to cach personally. We have on hand a number of designs, few of which ara erractical, and one of which we ehall use. We are much oblileed
to all for thert attention, and shall be glad to hear from them on any other to all for their attention, and shall be glad to hear from them on an
oractical subject withln the scope of the Scrimxtrirc Amerrcan.
To fasten Chamois and other Leather to Iron and STrpLL-Dr. Carl W. Heinitchen, of Dresden, gives the following recipe
fortle above purpose: " spread over the metal a thin, hot solution of good Yor the above purpose: " Spread over the metal a thin, hot solution of good
glue; soak your leather with a warm solution of gallinuts before placing glue; soak your leather with a warm solution of gallnuts before placing
on the metal, and leaeve to dry under an even pressure. If fastenec in this on the metal, and leave to dry under an even pressure. Tr rastened dithis
mannuer it is impossible to separate the leather from the metal without manuer it is
tearing It.-G. E. M. M. of Texas.
R., of Va.-You will find information in regard to windmills !n Crail's " "Practical Millwright and Muller," published by Henry Carey Baird, Phlladel
J. H. W., of Cal.-The density of proof spirits is not materially affected by pressure, and the hye
resulta on the mountaln as in the vaMyy.

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For Sale.-The Combined Tool illustrated in Scientific Amer Ican, Jan'y 28, 1871. Wilkinson \& Boyle, Plattsburgh, N.Y.
For Sale.-A valuable Water Power, Mills, etc. Peach Orchard in Delaware. I. J. W. Adams, Sallsbury, Md.
Wanted, by a first-class Machinist, some article to manufacture. D. E. Cain, Hingham, Mass.
Wauted.-The address of every reader of the Scientific American, to whom will be sent prez a specimen number of that first-
class Family Magazine, The Phrenological Journal. Address S. R. clase Family Magazine, The
Wells, 389 Broadway, N. Y .
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Brown's Coalyard Quarry \& Contractors' Apparatus for hoisting First-class Gage Cocks, at E. H. Ashcroft's, 55 Sudbury st, Boston, for $\$ 10.80$ per dozen.
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particulars address Mr. Michael Bittler, Eagle Hotel, Bethlehem, Pa. McCauley's Improved Force Pump, especially adapted to deep wells. Send for Circular. R. A. McCauley, Baltimore, Md.
2 d hand Worthington, Woodward and Novelty Pumps, Engines 25 to 100 H.P., 60 Horse Loc. Boiler. W.D. Andrewa \& Bro., 414 Water st.,N.Y. Wanted.-A Partner, with capital, in a newly invented Gun. Address A. H. Townsend, Georgetown, Colorado.
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break or rust. Send for circulars. Jennings Brothers, 352 Pearl st., N. T. House P'lanning.-Geo. J. Colby, Waterbury, Vt., offers information of value to all in planning a House. Send him your address. Manufacturers and Patentees.-Agencies for the Pacific Coast wanted by Nathan Joseph \& Co., 619 Washington st., San Francisco, who
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set ny J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau st., New York.
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## Quetits.

[We present herevith a series of inquiries embracing a variety of topics of LWe present herewith a series of inquiries embracing a variety of copics of
greater or less general interest. The questions are simple, it is true, but we
prefer to elicit practical answers from our readers, and hope to be able to prefer to elicit practical answers from our readers, and hope to be able to
make this column of inguiries and answers a popular and useful feature of the paper.]
1.-Silver Gilt Moldinas.-I wish a recipe for making
silver gilt moldings to silver gilt moldings to imitate gold. - N. B.
2.-Core Oven.-What is the best plan upon which to construct a core oven, to dry and bake cores, for all kinds of core work
where bituminous coal is used? I find cores very expensive, and would ke the most economical plan of doingthis kind of work.-W. M. J.
3,-Silver Solder.-How can I make an easy flowing silver solder, sultable forjoining saw blades and other thin plate?-C. P.
4.-Crystalling Glass Fronts.-How can I produce a 4.-Crystalling Glass Fronts.-How can I produce a
crystalline surface on glass forshop fronts, church windows, ete., that will crystaline surface on glass for shop fronts
withstand the action of frost ?-G. H. W.
5.-Lettering Steel Plate.-I wish a method of transferring letters or designs to the surface of steel plate, that may be used in-
stead of the old method of coating with wax. My impression is that thereis such a process, in which the work is facilitated by the use of an elastic tamp. - J. G. H.
6.-Gloe.-I would like to have a recipe for a rapidly hardening and tenaclous glue for fastening pine cones, etc., to wood, in
making fancy picture frames. If you or your readers know of any such, making fancy picture frames. If you or your re
please give it in your valuable journal.-J. F. K.
7.-Mixing Iron.-I am having considerable trouble in mixing iron. The metal I use is old car wheels with chilled rims. I use
about twenty-five per cent of No. 1 Scotch pig to softenwith, but it does about twenty-five per cent of No. 1 scotch pig to soften with, but it does
not appear to mix. Parts of the castings are soft, and others hard. Can
some of your correspondents suggest the cause and remedy ?-G. H. P. not appear to mix. Parts of the castings are soft, and others hard. Can
some of your correspondents suggest the cause and remedy ?-G. H. P. 8.-JOURNAL OF MILL SPINpLE.-What substance shall I None of the anti-friction metals will answer, because the poisonous particles
worn of pass into the meal.-H. A. A.

## Inventions Patented in England by Americans.

[Compiled from the Commissioners of Patents' Journal.] applications for letters patent.
184.-LLQuid Mrter. -José Francisco de Navarro, New York city. Janu-
ary 24 , 1871.
 209. Skiping Maceine.-Henry Graham Thompson, New York elty. Jan-212.-STEAM Boiler.-Jacob Lorillard, New York city. January 26, 1871.
231.-Bale Ties.-John Scott Leng, New York city. January 28, 1871.
 233.-PILLows, Bolsters, etc.-Timothy S. Sperry, Chicago, Ill. January
28, 1871 . 237.- VRssiLs For Volatile OILS, Spirits, etc.-Meissner, Ackermann
© Co., New York city. January 33, 1871 . 240.-PadLoczs.-William H. Atkins, Ithaca, N.Y. January 30, 1871.
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