the concrete is molded, and the frames of doors and windows. For warehouses, it admits of the use of iron for pillars and braces, while everything else, floors, partitions, ceilings, etc., may be of concrete. It is estimated by an expert of this city that 100 cubic feet of Portland cement concrete wall can be constructed for $\$ 22.75$.
If plastering is used on interior walls, only one coat is required, so that this item of cost is considerably lessened.
For sidewalks this cement also furnishes a cheap and beautiful material, which can be formed in blocks on the spot, presenting a perfectly uniform surface, rivaled only by at stone
The rebuilding of Chicago furnishes an admirable field for the employment of concrete; and we trust that, as economy must be perforce consulted, our Western friends will be induced to turn their attention to the system, as it offers advantages possessed, as we believe, by no other

## JR. DRAPER'S EXPERIMENTS WITH BRICK AND STONE

We desire to call special attention to an article, published in our last, which is followed by a second, in our present issue, from the pen of Dr. John C. Draper, on the absorption of moisture by brick and stone. His experiments will show that bricks, properly compounded and burned, are really superior to many kinds of natural stone for building pur. poses.
A brick is an artificial stone, homogeneous and without cleavage. It may be made so as to absorb less moisture than many varieties of stone in popular use
The experiments conducted by Dr. Draper were made with brown stone, Nova Scotia stone, fine red Philadelphia bricks, and a white, or rather cream colored, brick, made by A. Hall \& Sons, of Perth Amboy, N. J. A specimen of the latter now lies on our table, and is undoubtedly one of the best building bricks ever produced in this country.
In color it is soft, yet brilliant, its tint being very agreeable to the eye. In texture it is dense and hard, ringing with a clear bellilike sound when struck, and chipping more like dense, bard stone than like the ordinary bricks in market. With granite or blue stone trimmings, these bricks would produce a beautiful architectural effect for fronts, in our opinion far superior to the somber appearance of the brown stone, now
so much in vogue, and which is undoubtedly one of the least so much in vogue, and which is un
durable of building stones in use.
Even ordinary bricks will endure our climate better than brown stone, as will appear upon an examination of buildings constructed of bricks with brown stone fronts. In such build ings, that have been erected for a considerable time, it will be found that the fronts are the first parts to become dilapi dated, the surface becoming disintegrated and peeling off.
Nova Scotia stone is, perhaps, not much better, in this res pect, than brown stone
The senior member of the firm of Hall \& Sons has, per haps, as extensive theoretical and practical knowledge of brickmaking as any one in the country, and this journal has been enriched by his contributions upon this important sub. ject. The result of the application of this knowledge, and the use of a very excellent article of clay, has enabled hi firm to produce the bricks alluded to
In conclusion, we would say that any who have any doubt as to the superiority of brick over the brown stone and Nova
Scotia stone, as building material, will do well to peruse Dr. Scotia stone, as building material
Draper's articles with attention.

## THE STUDY OF SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS

There is not an inventor or mechanic who does not suffer for want of a good elementary training in mathematics and the sciences; and yet, notwithstanding this notorious fact, it seems impossible to introduce such a reform in our school education as will successfully remedy the evil. The chief difficulty in the way of reform is in the supply of teachers Our training schools have raised up teachers whose mind run in the same groove, and who have no mental switch by which they can turn off on to a new track. The custom o learning everytling by rote, and reciting like a parrot, has become so embedded in our system of education, that it seems almost impossille to find any explosive sufficiently ac iveto blow it up. and no jack screw or hydraulic ram is pow firm foundations. But as the continued dropping of wate firm foundations. But as the continued dropping of water little and there a little, until some impression has been made and some good has been accomplished. It is probable that we must look to the West for our chief support in the wa that it is proposed to wage against the relics of monastic ed ucation. They have a practical way of viewing things in that section of the country, and common sense is allowed to have due weight in questions of all kinds. We are, therefore, not at all astonished to learu that, at the University of lowa, instead of teaching physics, chemistry, geology, and astronomy, by oral recitations and unillustrated lectures, they have established laboratories and workshops, where practical things can be practically learned, and theoretical ones can have all of the weight that properly belongs to them. The trustees of the Iowa State University have resolved that the only way in whichinstruction in science can become thorough is by placing the elements of physical science at the very beginning of the course. They do not propose to wait until the
pupil, by droning over dry facts and abstract principles, has pupil, by droning over dry facts and abstract principles, has
acquired a disgust for every branch of knowledge, but they think it wiser to pursue the natural method, and begin when the mind is anxiously inquiring into the cause of things, and the boy takes his watch apart to see what makes it go. The old-fashioned way was to give the boy a sound ilogeing, to
take the watch away, and make him learn by rote the princi ple of compensating balance wheels.
"My dear boy," says the teacher, " the duration of an oscilation depends on the radius of the wheel, the mass of its rim, and the strength of the spring," which, of course, is very intelligible to the lad, and would enable him at once to construct a new watch.
Common sense would dictate the propriety of showing up the parts of the watch, and by degrees expounding the principles upon which the construction is based. Theory and practice is what we want, and not either of them alone. Technical instruction alone will not result in the advancement of science, but that, together with a thorough training in the phenomena of Nature, will lead to great progress.
For the purpose of aiding in the introduction of experi mental science in our schools, Profes sor Gustavus Hinrichs. mental science in our schools, Profersor Gustavus Hinrichs.
of Iowa, has published "The Elements of Physical Science," and "The School Laboratory of Physical Science," books which are intended to serve as guides to teachers and pupils. The author says that, under his system, the result is " a marvel of studious industry." The students enjoy measuring, weighing, testing, demonstrating, and recording facts which, in former times, were pored over in a maze of bewilderment in the driest text books, to be afterwards bolted in sections without question. He proposes that the course shal be divided into three parts, rudiments, elements, and gen high school course, and be conducted with facilities as the as have solong been afforded in other departments. By securing in this way a sound elementary training, two very imcuring in this way a sound elementary training, two very im-
portant advantages are gained : First, if, as often lappens, portant advantages are gained: First, if, as often happens,
the boy is unable to pursue his studies beyond the high the boy is unable to pursue his studies beyond the high
school, he will not be compelled to grope about in utter dark. school, he will not be compelled to grope about in utter dark
ness in his subsequent career, but will be so far grounded in principle and practice as to be able to avoid the errors which now pervade society, and give aid and comfort to believersin perpetual motions and mysterious agencies. Second, the advantages, to those who have the means of pursuing their studies beyond the confines of the high school, will be very great. Having surmounted the elements of knowledge, they are in condition to prosecute their studies to a higher poin than was hitherto possible, and the advantages to themselves and to society would be very great.

In the first part of his book, Professor Hinrichs takes the pupil through a course of simple and easy experiments re lating to magnitude, weight, machines, properties of matter ight, electricity, and magnetism. The metrical system is aught by means of actual measurements performed by the scholars themselves, and the pupil constructs his own meas ures of weight and length, makes numerous determinations, and puts down results in his journal. There are blank page at the end of the volume for independent observations and experiments.
This strikes us as the only sensible way in which to im part instruction in science, and after it has been practiced for one generation, the condition of society will be found to be vastly improved. The best interests of education demand解 tion be weak and rotten, the bottom and the top will topple down to a common ruin.

## dence of the Scientific American.] <br> A NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS.--TEDIOUS SEWING MACHIN CASE.

$W_{\text {asbington, }}$ d. C., Nov. $18,1871$.
Among the extensions recently granted is the patent to J $\mathbf{W}$. White for a cotton seed planter. It consists of a frame with a seed wheel mounted within, a furrow opener attache o the forward part of the frame, and an adjustible see coverer suspended from the rear. It is said to save fifty per cent in labor, and do much better work than hand labor The civil war prevented the patentee from securing a suita le reward for his invention.
Also the patent of George S. Butterfield is extended. It is a rinding and polishing machine, designed especially to improve the manufacture of knives for planing machines, in which a perfectly plane and true surface is a great desiderat$u m$, the grinding by hand being very defective in this repect, as well as laborious. The result is secured by caus ing the artiole to be ground to reciprocate, vertically and horizontally, in a plan tangential to the face of the grinder. The mechanism for giving the vertical movement is very ngenious and elaborate. This particular compound move ment, however, was not new, the same having been provided or in a patent issued to William Harvey as early as 1847 and in other patents antecedent to Butterfield's. The inven tion reduces the cost of the knives at least ten per cent.
The machine is a valuable one and substantial profits have The machine is a valua
already been realized.
Also an extension is granted to E. H. Smith for a sewing machine shuttle. The invention is pronounced by the Examwarded
Willard \& Ross' improvement on harvesters. This patent was reissued in 1864, in seven divisions, and in four of these, extensions have been granted. The patent is an improve ment on what is known as the Ball machine or Ohio Mower In that machine the double binged coupling arm is used, giving a flexible connection to the finger bar, and rendering improvement consists in projectIng the inner surface. The ger bar beyond the lower joint, to form a iner end of the finper bar beyond the lower joint, to form a knuckle, and in
pivoting to the coupling arm a lever to act in connection with it, by which the lower joint is made rigid; so that, when the heel of the finger bar is raised to pass obstructions,
the outer end can be lifted also. This locking and lifting device constitutes the leading feature of the invention, and in the original patent there were but two claims, though the reissues embrace fourteen claims. The devices are simple but useful.
John Griffin's pile for wrought iron beams and girders. This improved pile closely resembles, on a cross section, a finished beam, and the rolling is therefore effected without any great reduction of its different parts, and consequently without any very unequal tensions of the fiber of the metal. In the case of other piles, the tension during the process of rolling is so unequal as, more or less, to tear the metal and separate the flanges from the web, thereby checking the edges of the flanges. (iriffin's pile has thus far been used exclusively by the Phœnix Iron Company, of Phœnixville, Pa., and by Palmer \& Co., at Buffalo, N. Y.; and these companies have manufactured more than two thirds of the beams and girders made in this country since the patent was issued, amounting to 37,758 tons. The advantages arising from the invention are, first: that cheaper iron may be used. Second: lighter and cheaper machinery may be used in roll ing it. Third: the beams are much superior to those made of the ordinary rectangular pile. Fourth: larger beams can be rolled, the size being limited only by the size of the roll trains and the capacity of the furnace. The royalties to the patentee have already amounted to a large sum, but in consideration of the value of the invention, the Office does not consider that he has been suitably rewarded. To the public, the saving has been from one to one and a half cents per pound, amounting alriady to the sum of $\$ 700,000$. The use of wrought iron beams in public and private buildings has greatly increased of late years, and in 1857 the manufacture was exceedingly limited. Since 1861, the Government has procured from the companies referred to, not less than 4,000 tons of fifteen inch classis rails, for fortification ordnance and the saving arising from this invention is not less than $\$ 120,000$. It is patented in England, France, and Belgium.
William Pratt, for an improvement in safety lamps. This is a protection against the explosion of vessels containing a volatile inflammable liquid ; and consists of a volute of ribbed metal wound together, forming a series of regular tubes, inserted in the mais orifice. The parts are so arranged that the wick cap cannot be removed until the cap of the feeder tube has been removed. The invention does not appear to great utility
William Sellers' improved machine for threading bolts the object being to avoid the necessity of reversing the motion of the cutting dies or stopping the machine to change the olts, and to facilitate the change of the dies. It is claime hat the machine does twice the work of an ordinary ma chine. If the 402 machines, manufactured and soll, had been in constant use during the fourteen years since the paten was granted, it is calculated, and the estimate is supported by practical machrinist, so that the saving to the public would have amounter to the sum of $\$ 1,081,500$. The profits to all the parties interested are estimated at about $\$ 50,000$.
W. H. Nettleton's machine for turning pillars for clock morements. Nearly all the clock pillars made in the country are manufactured on this machine. In the town af Bristol, Conn., there are nine clock making companies; and one of these manufactured last year 40,000 clocks.
Pierpont Seymour's machine for spreading lime and other fertilizers. The invention is a mechanism for operating a hopper with an inclined bottom provided with reciprocating bars.
Richard M. Hoe's printing apparatus consists in locating the cam shafts for driving the fly frames close up to the frames, greatly reducing the jar and wear of those parts. A simple invention, but one which saves annually, to each press on which it is used, the sum of $\$ 150$. Patented iu England. Alexander S. Newton's machine for turning wooden boxes in arrangement of devices by which round wooden boxes can be made from a square stick, thereby saving the expense of rounding the timber before it is placed in the lathe.
The following applicants have been refu-ed
Nicholas Whitehill, for a cultivator. The machine is a straddle row cultivator, the middle being elevated to pass over the row of corn, and provided with a compound evener suspended on three points. Remonstrants claimed that the patent was anticipated by the patent to Stahl and Hiffenbacher, as early as 1835, and also by five other patents of later date
W. N. Clark, for an elastic door guard, being a rubber bufier, confined by an escutcheon ring, to receive the force of the door knob and protect the wall. In this case, the original application as well as the application for re issue was refused by the Examiner, but finally allowed on appeal. The Commissioner decides that "applicant bas monopolized more than his invention in his re-issue, and is not entitled to further monopoly of even what he did invent.'
It is not uncommon in the regular routine of the Patent Office for an application to become somewhat snarled and tangled, and generally off the track. In January, 1869, Wil liam Duchemin, of Boston, applied for a patent for an improved sewing machine for manufacturing shoes, and its history in brief is this: February, 1869, letter from office rejecting some claims, showing needed corrections in specifications, and calling for an additional drawing. May, 1869, applicant informed that a certain clause of his claim must be limited if he wishes to avoid an interference with a subse quent application. May 20, 1869, interference declared. June 9, 1869, interference dissolved. New interference declared between applicant and three other applicants. Septemto Examiners-in-Chief, who, in January, 1870, decided against

Duchemin. Case appealed to Commissioner, who, in April, 1870, sustains the artion of the Board. Then appealed to Supreme Court of the District, and decision in favor of Duche$\min$, July 7, 1870. On return of case to the Office, in May, 1871, the correspondence was opened, which resulted, in June, 1871, in still another declaration of interference, in this case with a patent, which interference was dissolved in August, but followed in a few days by a fourth interference. The above leading actions were interspered with sundry correspondence and conferences too numerous to mention; and finally the points at issue were so adjusted that the case was pasped on the 6th instant, and appears in the regular issue of the 28th.

## SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

cheap preparation of chlorine.
Tessié du Motay, whose name is identified with the cheap production of oxygen and hydrogen, has invented a new pro cess, for making chlorine, that seems worthy of notice. He first prepares chloride of manganese in the usual way, and decomposes this by beating it, in contact with steam and air in earthen retorts, whereby chlorme and hydrochloric acid are evolved. If oxygen or air is passed over the red hot chloride of manganese, chlorine is given off and peroxide of manganese reproduced. If over this material a mixture of hydrochloric acid gas and air or oxygen is passed, chlorine is continuously produced and peroxide of manganese regenerated. The method appears to possess advantages over the mixture of common salt, manganese and sulphurie acid, or of manganese and hydrochloric acid, formerly employed, as it is continuous; and, after the first outlay for materials, the chief running expense would be the fuel, as the bydrochloric acid required for decomposition would cost very little
depositing aluminum on metals
J. Baynes Thompson, of White Hall, England, writes to the editor of the Chemical Neos that for more than two years he has been depositing aluminum daily on iron, steel, and other metals, and driving it into their surfaces at a heat of about $500^{\circ}$ Fahr., in the same way as he does silver and nickel. He also says that he can do the same thing with aluminum bronze, of various tints from the palest lemon to
the richest gold color. Some years ago, Dr. Gore, of Birmingham, England, also claimed to be able to coat copper brass, and German silver with aluminum by means of electrolysis. As there is no reason to doubt the veracity of either of these gentlemen, it would appear to be a fact that alumi num can be deposited by electro-galvanic action the same as nickel, copper, and other metals. We should be glad to be furnished with the details of the process.
mlininerfues' patent gas lighter,
On page 393, Vol. XXIV., we gave a full description of Dr. Klinkerfues' ingenious contrivance for simultaneously lighting the street lamps of a larg3 city. We learn from the German Journal für Gasbeleuchtung that the inventor proposes some important modifications in the apparatus. Instead of having a separate tube for regulating the pressure, he proposes to use the ordinary pressure of the gas mains There are three conditions required: In the first, the apparatus must be out of function and the gas tube closed; in the second, the plates of the battery must touch the exciting liquid and the gas tube open ready for ignition: in the third, the plates must be raised out of the liquid, but the tube must be open for the supply of gas to the burner. The firs condition can be attained for each lamp by regulating the apparatus according to the pressure of the day time; the second is put at the evening pressure, with the addition of a few tenths of an inch so as to assure the lighting of all the lamps. The excess of pressure car then be removed and the lamps will continue to burn until, by reversing the process, the day pressure is reached and the supply of gas again cut off. The parts of the apparatus remain the same as hereto fore described.

## RED, GREEN AND BLUE FIRE

In pyrotechny it often happens that colored fires produce disagreeable fumes or burn too slowly. In order to surmount these difficulties, a German chemist, J. R. Braunschweiger, has been making some experiments, and, as the result of his labors, gives the following recipes

Red fire, 9 parts nitrate of strontia; 3 parts shellac; $1 \frac{1}{2}$ parts chlorate of potash
Green fire, 9 parts nitrate of baryta; 3 parts shellac; $1 \frac{1}{2}$ parts chlorate of potash
Blue fire, 8 parts ammonium su
chlorate of potash; 1 part shellac.
It is only necessary to reduce the shellac to a coarse power. The nitrate of strontia, baryta, and the ammonia salt ought to be intimately incorporated with the shellac before adding the chlorate of potash: and, as any hard rubbing or percussion of the lattersalt in a mortarmight occasion an explosion, it is better to mix by transferring from one sheet of paper to another, and not attempt to rub the mixture at all. By the above mixture, the suffocating odor of sulphurous acid is avoided, and the fireworks can be let off without inconvenience in any large room. To obviate the danger of spontaneous combustion, the chlorate of potash could be stored in a scribed.
nitric acid in well water.
A. Wagner has determined the amount of nitric acid in a large number of wells in the city of Munich, and finds, for the water obtained directly, an average per liter of 0.1555 grammes nitric acid, equal to 0.2908 grammes saltpeter ; and for water introduced by pipes, 0.0249 grammes nitric acid, equal
0.0485 grammes saltpeter. As 14 milliard liters of water are annually consumed in Munich, if it were all drawn from the
wells it would yield $4,071,200$ kilogrammes of saltpeter. The author thinks that enough saltpeter is annually consumed in the drinking water of Munich to make $5,500,000$ pounds of gunpowder. What the effect of this enormous consumption of saltpeter may be upon the health of the inhabitants is not stated by the author.
preservation of meat.
At the meeting of the Lyceum of Natural History on Monday evening, Dr. H. Endemann read a paper on this impor tant subject, in which he gave an account of a process inven ted by himself. About 100 pounds of meat are placed in a suitable chimney, and air, heated to $140^{\circ}$ Fahr., is drawn by an exhauster through it until it is entirely dry.
Great care is observed, by the introduction of thermome ters in different places, that the heat does not get above $140^{\circ}$ as in that case the albumen and fibrin might be coagulated and much more difficulty encountered in expelling all of the water. The air is filtered through cotton before being passed through coils of steam pipe for heating. The meat is subsequently ground into powder, and will keep in ordinary paper packages It can also be compressed into hard cakes, for diminutiun of bulk. Four to five ounces of the dry powder represents one pound of meat. Scattered upon bread, its flavor is excellent and preferable to that of raw meat. It has an agreeable aromatic odor; and, as all of the albumen and fibrin are present, all of the nutritious properties of the flesh are retained, which cannot be said of Liebig's extract where these important constituants are wanting. It wa stated that the expense of drying need not exceed one cent a
pound. Any method by which we can reduce the price of pound. Any method by which we can reduce the price of
beef must be looked upon with favor; and it is to be hoped beef must be looked upon with favor; and it is to be hoped
that the plan proposed by Dr. Endemann may prove success that.

## PRINCE ALEXIS--HIS WELCOME TO AMERICA.

Full accounts of the briliiant reception of Prince Alexis have appeared in the dailies. The reception was admirably arranged, and the unmistakable cordiality and warmth of his greeting must have been highly flattering to the youth ful scion of royalty.
The prince is the third son of the Emperor Alexander II, nd was born January 14, 1850. He bears the name of Alexis Alexandrovitch, or Alexis the son of Alexander. He is a Grand Duke, and Chief of the Infantry regiment of Ekatherinenbourg and of the first division of the Finland fleet. The Prince Alexis has received a good German education, as wel as a thorough training in military and naval tactics. He is
reported as in favor of liberal principles, and as opposed to the reactionary policy of the Old Russian party, of which his the reactionary policy of the old Russian party, of which
elder brother, the Cesarevitch Alexander, is at the head.
All unite in praise of his fine manly bearing. His statur is above the average of what are usually called large men He is six feet two inches in hight, and broad in proportion His look is commanding, and he seems possessed of a fine cultivated mind. Followed everywhere by good wishes, we
trust his visit to the United States will prove one of the happiest events of bis life

## NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

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ry, and is a new and improved edition, containing 150 pages additionalmat $\mathrm{r}-450$ in all. This, the seventeenth London edition, has been rewritten and thoroughly revised, the past year, by its author, bringing into its pases the
results of the latest experiments and advances in engineering science. It i one of the most complete, correct, and reliable collections of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Formulx and Memoranda extant. The sale in Eng.
land alone has reached 40,000 copies, with an increasing demand; and we land alone has reached 40,000 copies, with an increasing demand ; and we recommend it
investment.

## Examples for the Ladies

Mrs. Mary O. Lewis, of Tremont, Westchester County, N.F., reports her
personal earnings, by stitching only, with a Wheeler \& Wilson Machine, as personal earnings, by stitching only, with a Wheeler \& Wilson Machine, a follows: Earned in 29 months, $\$ 8830$; average per month, $\$ 269$; per day $\$ 10.76$; earned in one day of 18 hours, $\$ 30$ : earned in one month, $\$ 350$, an
average per day of $\$ 14$; earned in 12 months, $\$ 3745$, averaging per day $\$ 12.50$. She has used the sewin
time, in robust health.
Dandruff can be removed by the use of Burnett's Cocoaine; also Irrita
tion of tre scalp.

## कusines and extant.

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