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Business and Lersonal.

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[We present herewith a series of inquiries embracing a variety of topics of greater or less general interest. The questions are simple, it is true, but we prefer to elicit practical answers from our readers.]

1.—COLORING LINSEED OIL.—How can I color linseed oil red or brown? Aniline in alcohol will not do .- J. P. W.

2.—Taxidermy.—How are birds and animals stuffed?—

3.—CLEANING MARBLE.—What is the best way of cleanng polished marble slabs from grease, oil, or red wine stains ?-C. R

4.—Polishing Knives.—Will some one inform an old subscriber how the English polish is put on knives, how the wheels are made and what kind of leather should be put on ?—J. G.

5.—Walnut Stumps.—What is the value of walnut tumps and in what shape should they be sent to market? Are the white walnut, black walnut, or butternut the most valuable ?- E. C.

6.- VINEGAR.-Will some practical man inform us of the best mode of making vinegar from the best materials, that the public may ot continue to be poisoned by vitriolic and othermixtures?—G

7.—Skin Diseases.—I notice in your paper of May 11th, 1872. a communication from a sufferer from skin disease, attributing the cause to the use of a certain kind of soap. I am one of many shop mates who have the same disease, and I think we contracted it from using sand paper, as it is altogether on the hands. I have had it two months, and have had two of our best doctors here at work on me, but without success. What they give me to use are washes for the hands, which apparently drives it away for a few days; but just as soon as I commence to work, out it comes again. I have been using carbolic acid and glycerin, bathing the hands in strong salt brine, nitrate of lead, and sulphuret of potassium; the latter apparently does the most good, but the cure is not permanent. We should be grateful to you if you could get, from some of your eminent physicians in New York, a radical cure. I think some medicine should be taken to purify the blood, but both the doctors I have seen do not give me any .- C. N.

Answers to Correspondents.

S PECIAL NOTE.—This column is designed for the general interest and instruction of our readers, not for gratuitous replies to questions of a purely business or personal nature. We will publish such inquiries, however, when paid for as advertisements at 1.00 a line, under the head of "Business and Personal.

LLL reference to back numbers must be by volume and page

J. D., and others.-Multiply together the area of the piston in inches, the mean boiler pressure in pounds per square inch, the length of the stroke in feet, and the number of strokes per minute; divide by 33,000 and you have the horse power of your engine.

To R. P. P.—There are positive and negative poles to the induced currents of the electrical machines that you speak of. As to method of manufacture, consult books on electricity. It is not new to place a wheel at the bow of the canal boat, nor to have side pieces extended forward to prevent lateral movement of swell or waves. This plan was illustrated in last volume of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

W. S. M.—The clearest and most dense ice will keep the longest and produce the most refrigeration. Placed in water, the temperature produced by two cubes of ice, one of porous or snow ice, the other of dense clear ice, will be the same. But the clear ice will refrigerate a larger quantity of water than the porous ice.

MILK Soured BY A Thunder Storm.—Milk, beer, and other fluids turn sour by oxygenation. After a thunder storm there is always considerable excess of ozone, which is oxygen in its most active condition, ready to attack any matter that can be affected by it. -D.

Proportions of Steam Engine.—D., query 5, page 26, is is informed that James Watt determined that the condenser and air pump should each have one eighth the capacity of the cylinder. In more modern practice, however, the air pumps are made larger, especially in marine engines. Some engineers also make their condensers larger, but the practice is not justified by any economical result. – D. B., of N. γ .

DIMENSIONS OF BELT.—Query 7, page 416, Vol. XXVI.—W. J. S. can ascerta'n the width of belt required for his purpose by calculation from the speed of his driving pulley. A belt one foot wide running at the speed of seventy feet per minute will develop one horse power; a belt three inches wide, to develop the same power, must run of course at 280 feet per minute.-T. L., of Mass.

GILDING ON GLASS.—In answer to J. F., query 5, page 416, Vol. XXVI., I would say that gilding on glass is done by theuse of what is termed a water size, made by the use of some mucilaginous substance, such as the white of egg reduced with water. I conclude that Euglish gelatin is best, but great care is necessary not to make it too strong; and it should be perfectly clean, therefore straining it through thin muslin is a good precaution. The gilding is done upon the back side of the glass. First clean the glass perfectly with alcohol; then apply the sizing with a fiat camel hair brush, and immediately lay the gold leaf. Stand the The gold will flatten and have a burnished appearance. When dry, la ymiddle part of each pair of buckets.

out your designs on paper and transfer by the use of some sharp pointed instrument, pricking through the paper; then paint your design on top of the gold; asphaltum varnish is a good material for that purpose. When that is dry, wash off the surplus gold, and shade the letters or other design with paint of any color desired and let it dry. If you desire a colored ground, then paint the whole surface with the color desired. Experience is necessary forthis class of work. -R. F., of Mass.

OCEAN CABLES.—H. F. H., query 1, page 416, Vol. XXVI.— The Atlantic cables mostly lie at the bottom of the ocean, but there are many stretches between the submarine mountain peaks. The specific gravity of the cable causes its sinking and remaining at the bottom of the sea .- E. H. H., of Mass.

CEMENT FOR LETTERS ON GLASS.—To J. F.—This is frequently made by diluting white of egg with water to a suitable degree of fluidity, and adding a little carbolic acid to prevent decomposition, and then filtering. Paint the glass by means of a badger hair brush, allow it to partially dry, and apply gold or silver leaf, and allow it to become thoroughly dry. Now put on the stencil plate, and with a needle point mark out, down to the glass, the letters or design. Then put the whole plate into a shallow dish of tepidwater, and by means of a stick, finger, or fingernail, etc., rub off the extraneous metal, and you will have your perfect letters left, and if the cement has not been too thick, with a perfect brilliancy .- E. H. H., of Mass.

SLACK COAL AND SAWDUST.—To J. F. T.—Mix them together with enough gas tar to stick and make into bricks. A machine like the pug mill of a brick machine would do, or indeed a brick machine at once would probably answer, especially such a one as would press the mass into a mold, and not such as would drive out the stuff in a stream. then to be cut with wires. This last style of machine would inevitably make very poor work, but by the former you would get. I think, a splen did fuel, and only take a very small quantity of the cheap tar .- E. H. H.,

SLACK COAL AND SAW DUST .- J. F. T. can burn all his sawdust for fuelif he has proper grates and has a good draft to his fire box. I am sawing green hemlock with a five feet circular saw, and burn every bit of sawdust made. I use no coal or extra fuel.-N. J., of N. Y.

CUTTING STEEL AUGERS, ETC.—To A. V., query 10, page 354, Vol. XXVI.-I would say, first, that the diameter should vary with the diameter and pitch of thread, and should be about two inches for threads from 24 to 32, three inches from 16 to 24. The number of revolutions should be from 12,000 to 16,000 per minute, and a pulley 2 x 2 (on a steel arbor running in Babbitt boxes) will be large enough to run it. A. V. will find he will have to harden his cutters and temper to a straw color in order to have them stand .- C. M. P., of Mass.

TEST FOR ZINC .- To J. B .- The simplest method for an amateur to employ is probably to evaporate a gallon of water to dryness, put the residue on to a platinum wire, and moisten with a solution of protonitrate of cobalt. Apply the blowpipe flame, and the little mass will yield a green colored appearance if zinc be present. Other means oftesting are adopted, but to any but a professional will be found complicated. The presence of five grains in a gallon would eventually prove injurious, but it would probably be only after a lengthened use of such water. The antidote for acute zinc poisoning is the exhibition of an emetic, and afterwards the drinking copiously of albuminous fluid and large doses of tannin or oak bark tea, etc .- E. H. H., of Mass.

United States Coinage.—To F. R. E., query 16, page 10.— Copper cents were issued first in the year 1793 and ceased in 1857. In 1815, there were none coined. The half cents made their first appearance in 1793, and were discontinued in 1857. In 1798, 1801, 1812 to 1824 inclusive, and 1852 there were none coined except a few pattern pieces in 1813, 1883, 1840, and the eight succeeding years, and 1852. The eagle head nickels were first issued in 1857, and in 1859 were supplanted by the Indian head, -E. T. P., of N. Y.

Recent Imerican and Loreign Latents.

Under this heading we shall publish weekly notes of some of the more promi $nent\,home\,and\,for eign\,patents.$

Horse Shoe Nail Clincher.-Wm. H. Lyman, Springfield, Mo.-Many efforts have hitherto been made to construct this tool so as to afford the greatest leverage to the hand of the smith, to avoid side strain upon the crews and pivots, and to prevent the liability of the jaws to slip from the nail. Some clinchers have one of these advantages and some another, but none have hitherto combined them all. This clincher has the following advantages: 1st: It is constructed so as to take off all sidestrain from the fasteningscrews or pivots and thus to allow none of the parts ever to lose their true relative position to the others. 2nd: It is provided with double leverage jaws, so that the grip of one hand will easily and accurately clinch the nail. 3rd: It has a peculiar shape of underjaw which prevents that jaw from slipping and causes it to rock on the nail head. The effect of these several advantages is to give the smith complete control of the horse's foot, while he is being shod to enable him always to turn off perfect work, and witha to furnish him with a most durable tool that is not liable to get out of order.

HARVESTERREEL.-George S. Grier, Milford, Del.-The invention consists in supporting an adjustable reel by means of a pivoted crank shaft, which passes through the hollow shaft of said reel and moves up or down

FIRE KINDLER CASE. - David W. Thompson, St. Joseph, Mo. - The invention consists of a screw capped can for holding the oil and kindler, so that the former is prevented from spilling or waste in the event of the can being accidentally upset, and the latter is kept from rattling or moving about in the can while the can is being handled; at the same time the kindler is always saturated and ready for use.

Rossing Machine. - Charles Gilpin and James T. Hill, Cumberland, Md. -The invention consists in causing the knife of a rossing machine to change its position automatically according to the thickness of bark passing between the rolls, and in the peculiar arrangement of devices by which this newicea is carried out.

PEANUT AND COFFEE POLISHER.—Benjamin F. Walters, Norfolk, Va.—The invention consists in combining a rotary and stationary brush with a feed longer, so that coffee or near ally polished for market.

CIRCLE FOR CARRIAGE.-Edwin Wilson, Prattsburg, N. Y.-This invention relates to an improved method of connecting the reach, front axle, head block and circle of a carriage. The reach and head block are rigidly attached to a three armed plate or strap which rests upon the circle. straight part of the circle is attached by clips and yokes to the axle. The ring bolt is attached to the upper side of this straight part, and passes through the strap and the head block. The whole is strengthened by braces.

COVERING TUBULAR FABRICS WITH RUBBER.-William H. Bates and Hugh Faulkner, of Leicester, England, assignors to Ezra Thomas Sawyer, of East Hampton, Mass.-This invention relates to a new machine for applying an outside coating of india rubber, gutta percha, or other analogous elastic gum to tabular fabrics that are to be made water tight. It is more particularly adapted to, and intended for, the manufacture of rubber hose, outmayalso be used for other tubular fabrics. The tube to be covered has coreplaced within it and is joined at the ends. It is passed over two drums, and by their means carried repeatedly through the waterproofing solution, drying cylinders, and an annular scraper until the covering is thick enough.

WATER WHEEL.-James P. Lamoree, of Mexico, N. Y.-This invention relates to that class of water wheels in which the buckets are arranged in diametrical pairs, and are thrust in and out as they rotate. It consists in adjusting the throw of the buckets so that the maximum protrusion thereof takes place at different points, which is accomplished by means of a shaft. glass on edge and allow the surplus size to settle from under the gold. axle and axis which are arranged adjustably in a rectangular slot in the