Business and Personal. Charge for Insertion under this head is \$1 a Line.

For Milling Machines, see advertisement of Brainard Milling Machine Company.

The best Pattern Letters now before the public are manufactured by S. E. Adamson, No. 5 Dey St., N.Y. City. Send Stamp for Catalogue and Price List.

Chucks—Our Chucks are of the very best material & workmanship. Fairman & Co., Baltimore, Md. Screw and Drop Presses, Fruit Can Dies and Dies of every description. Thomas & Robinson, Cinn., O.

We have a Packing Box Factory in Michigan, and want some party in New York to nail and deliver to city trade, we furnishing shooks. Address, with reference, A. G. Bissell & Co., E. Saginaw, Mich.

For Sale—The Patent of the Sliding Support for Clothes Lines, pat. Jan. 14, 1973. M. Bubser

114 Newark Avenue, Jersey City.

Patent No. 126,693, for Steel Spring Lamp
Chimney Cleaner. Price only \$1,000. L. Granger, Patentce, Armada, Mich.

Wanted a good machinist, with small capital, to engage in manufacturing and repairs. Nearest shop 18 miles; onlyshop in county. Or will sell—all new. Ladd& Parker, Elmore, Ohio.

Buy Improved Car Machinery of Gear, Boston, Mass.

For Sale—An established manufacturing (wood working) business, in one of the best sections of country in Illinois. Capital required, \$8,000; more can be used. Or will take in partner. Address H. Bevis, Virginia, Ill.

Wanted—The address of every intelligent reader of the Scientific American, to whom will be sent free a specimen number of the Illustrated Phrenological Journal. Address S. R. Welis, Publisher, 389 Broadway, New York.

The Safety Valve—Buy B. M. Johnson's Safety Valve Guide. Any person can learn all they wish of the Safety Valve. Price \$1.50, post paid. Address Box 133, Post Office, Greenpoint, L. I.

Indispensable to every Manufacturer and Machir.isis-Boston Journal of Commerce; send for a specimen copy. §3 per year.

Machinists' grindstones, Mitchell, Phila.

Pulleys ground cheaper and better than by turning. Suitable grits by Mitchell, Philadelphia.

Wanted—A partner to help introduce the best Hay Stacker and Carrier ever invented; saves backing the horse. Patented through the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Address C. H. Kirkpatrick, Sugar Grove, Indiana.

Operates like a sewing machine engine— Agents wanted for steam engine models. E. P. Ryder, 19 Ann St., New York.

Wanted—Agents to travel and sell "Stilwell's Pat. Lime Extracting Heater," and "Eclipse Turbine Water Wheel," on commission. Liberal inducements to good parties. Stilwell & Bierce Manufacturing Company, Dayton, Ohio.

Small Printing Press Wanted—C. S. Bennett, Crawfordsville, Iowa.

Buy Gear's Improved Car Boring Machine Boston, Mass.

Belting as is Belting—Best Philadelphia Oak Tanned. C. W. Arny, 801 and 303 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Wanted—Superintendent, capable of managing a manufacturing establishment embracing a general Foundry business, Architectural Iron Work and Machinery. Must be a first class man of practical experience. Address A. H. Massey, Cleveland, Ohio.

For the best Endless Bed or (Farrar) Surfacer, address Davis, Hatch & Co., 436 North 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Wanted—An experienced manufacturer of Door Locks and light hardware, with \$10,000 Capital, to take charge of Shops. Edward Rowe, Jr., Mansfield, Ohio.

Tin Ware Manufacturers should see the patent Weighing Scoop. For Sale, or Worked on Roylty. D. H. Priest & Co., 3 Tremont Row, Boston, Mass.

J.R.Abbe, Munchester, N.H., sells Bolt Vises.
Millstone Dressing Diamond Machine—
Simple, effective, durable. For description of the above,
see Scientific American, Nov. 27th, 1899. Also, Glazier's
Diamonds. John Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., New York.

Circular Saw Mills, with Lane's Patent Sets; morethan 1200 in operation. Sendfor descriptive pamphlet and price list. Lane, Pitkin & Brock, Montpelier, Vermont.

We wish to correspond with some party who understands bleaching and refining oils. Any one who can bleach a dark, mixed oil, so as to make it a clearmer-chantablearticle, will be well paid for doing it, or for the process. Samples sent on application to Lock Box 199, Pawtucket, R. I.

To Purchase—A large amount of Second Hand Machinery. Any parties having Engine Lathes, Iron Planers, Drills, &c., in large numbers, who wish to dispose of them cheap for cash, will find a purchaser on application to W. A. James, Roche & Spencer, 273 South Canal Street, Chicago, Ill.

Peck's Patent Drop Press. For circulars, address the sole manufacturers, Milo, Peck & Co., New Haven, Conn.

For 8, 10, 12 & 15 horse Steam Engines, with Link, cut-off, and reversing motion, address, for circular, E. West. Lockport. N. Y.

Tree Pruners and Saw Mill Tools, improvements. Send for circulars. G.A.Prescott, Sandy Hill, N.Y.
Five different sizes of Gatling Guns are now manufactured at Colt's Armory, Hartford, Conn. The

larger sizes have a range of over two miles. These arms are indispensable in modern warfare.

Fire Clay and Limestone Mills, which wear onger than any others made, cast to order by Pittsburgh Casting Co., Pittsburgh, Pa. All work warranted.

The Berryman Manuf. Co. make a specialty of the economy and safety in working Steam Boilers. I. B. Davis & Co., Hartford, Conn.

B. Davis & Co., Hartford, Conn.

Carpenters—For Sale, a Sash Factory, run
by water power, at a lumber landing, with a profitable
run of trade. For particulars, address P. O. Box No. 2,

Charlestown, Jefferson County, West Virginia. For 2, 4,6 & 8 H. P. Engines, address Twiss Bro., New Haven, Conn.

The Berryman Heater and Regulator for Steam Bollers—No one using Steam Bollers can afford to be without them. I. B. Davis & Co.

Needle and Clock Machinery of every description of the most Improved Styles. Hendey Bro's, Wolcottville, Ct.

Shafting and Pulleys a specialty. Small orders filled on as good terms as large. D. Frisbie & Co., New Haven, Conn.

All Fruit-can Tools, Ferracute, Bridgeton, N.J.

English Patent—The Proprietors of the 'Heald & Cisco Centrifugal Pump" (triumphant at the recent Fairs), having their hands full at home, will sell their Patent for Great Britain, just obtained. A great chance for business in England. Address Heald, Sisco & Co., Baldwinsville, N. Y.

Read the article on "The Machinists," now being published in the Boston Journal of Commerce. Send for Specimen Copy.

American Boiler Powder, for certainty, safety, and cheapness, "The Standard anti-incrustant." Am. B. P. Co., Box 797, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Williamson's Road Steamer and Steam Plow, with rubber Tires. Address D. D. Williamson, 32 Broadway, N. Y., or Box 1809.

For Steam Fire Engines, address R. J. Gould Newark, N. J.

Brown's Coalyard Quarry & Contractors' Apparatus for hoisting and conveying material by iron cable, W.D. Andrews & Bro. 414 Wuterst. N. Y.

Always right side up—The Olmsted Oiler, nlarged and improved. Sold everywhere.

For Solid Wrought-iron Beams, etc., see advertisement. Address Union Iton Mills, Pittsburgh, Pa., for lithograph, etc.

Mining, Wrocking, Physica Draine go on

Mining, Wrecking, Pumping, Drainage, or Irrigating Machinery, for sale or rent. See advertisement, Andrew's Patent, inside page.

Gauges, for Locomotives, Steam, Vacuum, Air, and Testing purposes—Time and Automatic Recording Gauges—Engine Counters, Rate Gauges, and Test Pumps. All kinds fine brass work done by The Recording Steam Gauge Company, 91 Liberty Street, New York,

Hydraulic Presses and Jacks, new and second hand. E. Lyon, 470 Grand Street, New York.

Machinists—Price List of small Tools free; Gear Wheels for Models, Price List free; Chucks and Drills, Price List free. Goodnow & Wightman, 23 Cornhill, Boston, Mass.

Boynton's Lightning Saws. The genuine \$500 challenge. Will cut five times as fast as an ax. A six foot cross cut and buck saw, \$6. E. M. Boynton, 80 Boekman Street, New York, Sole Proprietor.

Absolutely the best protection against Fire
-Babcock Extinguisher. F. W. Farwell, Secretary, 407
Broadway. New York.

Steel Castings "To Pattern," from ten lbs. upward, can be forged and tempered. Address Collins & Co., No. 212 Water St., N. Y.

The Berryman SteamTrapexcels all others. The best is always the cheapest. Address I. B. Davis & Co., Hartford, Conn.

For best Presses, Dies and Fruit Can Tools, Bliss & Williams, 118 to 120 Plymouth St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Covering for Boilers and Pipes. The most economical and durable article in use. Took first prize at American Institute Fair. Van Tuyl Manufacturing Company, 728 Water Street, New York.

A Superior Printing Telegraph Instrument (the Selden Patent), for private and short lines—awarded the First Premium (a Silver Medal) at Cincinnati Exposition, 1872, for "Best Telegraph Instrument for private use"—isoffered for sale by the Mercht's M'T'g and Construction Co., 50 Broad St., New York. P. O. Box 6865.



1.—G. T. P. says: How can I make good sealing wax?

2.—T. E. B. asks: How can I remove clinkers from the inside of a stove?

3.—E. R. asks what is the best way of resuscitating a person apparently drowned?

4.—W. T. H. says: Please let me know what is put on the tin oval butter kettles to make them look like silver, and how it is made and applied.

5.—T. G. asks: Will some one give full directions for making a solid emery wheel & inch thick and 6 or 8 inches in diameter for cutting slots in rough castings?

6.—P. asks for the modus operandi of producing "Grecian painting," also for the transparent var nish (or the same.

7.—J. M. asks for a method of treating old oil paintings, which have been almost obliterated by frequent and bad varnishing; also for the best way of treating a painting on panel of which the wood is cracked.

8.—G. E. H. claims to have a process for tinning cast iron, which he has tried with success both on finished and rough castings. He asks: Has nothing of the kind been done before, and if not, to whomis it of the most value?

9.—E. H. asks: What is proper speed per minute for a common wood turning tathe, and also for a circular saw from 8 to 12 inches in diameter? What is the best method of tempering cast steel for common wood cutting tools?

10.—P. P. has often observed such birds as eagles, hawks, and turkey buzzards, and wishes to know how they can gyrate and ascend by a spiral course without any motion of their wings and tails. As a phenomenon utterly at variance with the laws of gravitation, P. P. thinks it deserves investigation.

11.—H. says: I have a great many horses with tender feet, having what I call corn on the inside of the heel of the fore feet. I have been trying many ways to cure it, and I wish to know if there is any certain remedy, and what is the cause.

12.—L. says: I have a house organ which troubles me by giving every pulsation of the bellows feeders when less than half the instrument is in use. The reservoir for wind is three feets inches by three feet, rising twenty two inches, with two feeders of the usual construction. Can any correspondent tell the cause or its remedy?

13.—W. H. says: Is there such a society as a co-operative grocery store in this country, from which we can get a copy of the constitution and byelaws? If so, where is it, and what is its name?

14.—S. W. P. asks: What system of phonography is most used by the reporters of the press at the present time? Which is the easiest to learn, and can phonography be well learned without a living teacher?

15.—A. S. G. Says: I recently saw a receipt for liquid glue in the Scientific American, stating that nitric ether would dissolve glue. I have had some white glue soaking in this ether for nearly three weeks, and find no solution; the glue has become leathery, with no further change. Can yeu tell me anything practical about this

14.—A. K. asks: Are there any powerlooms for weaving sacking out of the Mexican "istle," and machinery for transforming that fiber into the necessary thread, in existence? Istle is a very hard and cross grain fiber, about as stiff and thick as horse hair. The threads used for sacking are two cord and % inch diameter, making 8 to 4 meshes to the inch. The sacking is now all made by hand, and I would like to know if and where any simple machinery, to make such coarse fabric, is to be had.



G. S. T. says: My mouth is full of your raise! You are at the pinnacle of wisdom, and are ever eady to impartinstruction to your subscribers. Please tell me (1) how I shall prepare a black board upon the wall of a room? I have read and racked my brain with out success, and, without your help, I will abandon the task. 2. Which arrangement of a stove pipe is the bet ter, a straight slanting or a perpendicular and then a horizontal one? Which would secure the best draft: Should the chimney be contracted at the top or a little enlarged, and should it be closed just below where the pipe enters it? S. Am I right in believing that some glass is not a non-conductor of electricity? I find it impossible to construct a Leyden jar of the ordinary fruit jar or bottle green glass. 4. How long before the United States mail will remove my anxiety by bringing on my SCIENTIFIC AMERICANOT February 13? Answers: The editorial countenance is suffused with blushes as the compliments of our gushing correspondent become fully comprehended. 1. Scad for the preparations of the deal ersinsilicateslate; ormix shellacvarnish withanyslight-ly gritty material and lay on rapidly with a brush. 2. The fewer the bends the better. Make the chimneystraight. It does not pay to attempt a deviation from the uniform ectional area. S. Some glass, especially that contain ing iron oxide or the oxide of lead in considerable quan titles, it is stated by President Morton and other author ities, is sometimesquite a good conductor. A hardglass without iron or lead in excess, is the best non-conducting glass. Good non-conductors, such as are used in insulating the best submarine wires and in insulators, are better than any glass. 4. "For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" commend us to some of the agents of the Post Office department. Do not despair, howe

J. M. W. says: 1. Can you tell me the composition of printers'ink, both black and in colors; also the composition of inking rollers? 2. Can you tell me whether, in stuffing animals, the natural eyes are ever left in? Answers: 1. Printing ink is essentially a combination of lamp black and oil; the best is obtained from the smoke of naphtha and boiled linseed oil. Therollers are made of glue and molasses. 2. Apply to some reputable taxidermist. We have many enquiries of this nature, and our readers can probably find replies to them by watching our advertising columns.

G. W. K. asks for some idea of the first cost, and cost per day of the calcium light. Answer: About \$50 first cost for apparatus, and 50 cents to \$1 an hour to run it.

A. B. S. says: I have a dispute with a friend o mine with regard to a piece of rubber. My friend maintains that it is devulcanized, "that the mere trace of sulphur that it contains is not in chemicalunion with the rubber, that the quality of the rubber is not injured and that it is in a suitable condition for manufacturing purposes." I maintain that the rubber is not devulcanized or only slightly so, that its quality is injured, and that it is not in a condition to be worked into rubber fabrics. We refer the matter to you, and upon your decision rest three year's subscription to the SCIEMTIFIC AMERICAN. Answer: To decide this question, an analysis would be necessary, and our time is too much occupied to allow us to do it.

E. R. S. asks: 1. By what means can ordinary writing ink be given that intense, shining gloss which some kinds have? I have a small ink well in one of the desks at school, made in the ordinary way of glass within zinc, in which after the ink has stood several days, it is found to have this gloss, I suppose the zinc must produce some chemical action in union with the actid in the ink. 2. Can you inform me in what way a letter should be addressed to the Emperor of Russis, and how it should be sent? Answers: A fine gloss is imparted to ink by the use of gum arabic solution. For copying, the following is a good recipe: Mix thirty grains of extract of logwood, seven grains of crystal sods, and half an ounce of water. Boil till dissolved; then, while stirring well, add thirty grains of glycerin, one grain bichromate of potash previously dissolved, and four grains of powdered gum arabic. 2. A letter sent by mail addressed to the Emperor of Russis, St. Petersburg, would reach its destination if prepaid.

J. M. asks how to treat oiled walnut wood to polish it without varnishing. Answer: The directions given on page 72 of our volume XXVI. will no doubt serve your purpose.

L. F. A. L., of Cal. The only metallic substances in the minerals you send are pyrites and oxide of iron. It is an old idea to propel vessels by means of endless belts of paddles. Placing floats around the edges of boats, filled with cork or inflated by air as you propose, is also very old.

W. H. W. asks: Will shrinking a caststeel tire of ordinary thickness on the circumference of a cast fron locomotived river affect the central hole of the latter? Answer: We presume not. Ask the skillful railroad superintendent at the Marquette railroad repair shops to try it and send us results.

B. N. C. would like to know if there is a rule for cutting patterns, such as tin and sheet iron workers use. Answer: Study the "Sheet Metal Worker's Instructor," by Warn.

P. J. C. sends a mineral specimen found imbedded in limestone, and saks what it is. Answer: The mineral you send is iron pyrites.

J. J. C. comments on our reply to J. H., who asked how the outside wheel of a locomotive orcar on a curve keeps pace with the inside wheel, on account of the distance to travel being greater, both wheels being fast on the axle. Our answer was: "With wheels of equal size, having cylindrical bearing surfaces, one or both must slip on the rail. The wheels of the cars on railroadsare coned to avoid the difficulty, their diameter on the outer edge of their bearing or tread being less than that of the portion of the tread next the flange. In turning a curve the wheels ride toward the outer rail, and thus, to some extent, if not wholly, this tendency to sip is prevented." J. J. C. says: I olaim that coning of the wheel is more of a damage than a beacht in rounding a ourve, forthis reason: The wheels, being in pairs of equal diameter, will roll the flange of the outer wheel hard against the outer rail and set so tight to the head of the

rail that thew heel on the innerside, merely touching the top portion of the rail, will slip, being the easier of the two Any one can demonstrate the fact by the experiment of taking one wheel of 30 in hes and another of 29 inches diameter, and keying them on to an axie. Then move them forward on a level floor, and they will describe a circle; but take two pairs of such wheels and construct a car truck, the wheels being fastened as truck wheels are. Now push this truck forward over a smooth surface, and it will be found upon examination that the small wheels have slipped and the large ones have traveled in a straight line. This proposition will convince any mechanic that the coning of car wheels is a damage rather than a benefit to the safety of traveling on the rail. Answer: Our or respondent's experiments confirm fully our former statements.

C. C. says to J. D. W., who asked of what material a mold for casting a small engine cylinder should be made: I have a good cylinder that I cast in a mold made of pine wood. Take a block of the length you wish your cylinder to be, bore a hole through it, and put in a core. Cut through one side for your valve seat, make some small pieces of wood to the shape and size you want your ports to be and fasten them into each end of the core, and fix your exhaust to the bottom of themold. Cover the ends and side and pour in your metal. I used block tin with a little zinc, mixed.

C. T. says, in answer to T. C. M. who asked for directions for gilding on marble, porcelain, etc.: I use, for sizing, equal parts of elastic copal varnish and fatty linseed oil slightly diluted with turpentine. The time required to produce the requisite "tack" is about 24 hours. Barbers'shaving mugs have been treated in this way with success; but, if the articles are such as require repeated washing and rough usage, it may be well to cover the gilded portions with a coat of good varnish.

S. L. D. replies to S. T. W., who asked how to transfer engravings on glass: First coat the glass with a varnish composed of balsam of fir diluted with turpentine, then press the engraving on smoothly and evenly, being careful to remove all air bubbles; let it standforabout 24 hours, then dampen the back sufficiently to allow the paper to be rubbed off by the forefinger, rubbing it till a mere film is left on the glass; then varnish again. When dry, it is preferable to put a yellow paper on the back of it, next the varnish, which adds greatly to the beauty of the picture.

H. A. B. says: I am taking the position of engineer in a steam saw mill, and there is a dispute, between myself and the man who is building the furnace, as to the proper place for the wall to strike the boiler (a tubular one); he contends that the wall should strike the boiler above the upper water gage; while I contend that it should strike the boiler a little below the lower water gage, as I think that it is dangerous to have the fire strike the boiler at any point above the water line. Answer: Our correspondent is right. No part of the steam space should be left exposed to the action of the hot gases and flame from the furnace until, at least, they are reduced in temperature, nearly to that of the steam itself and far below the temperature at which iron is perceptibly weaker than when cold.

fective heating surface of an upright cylindrical boiler, with horizontal water tubes arranged across the fire chamber? Answer: Determine it by measuring the total area of all surfaces exposed to the directly or indirectly communicated heat of the furnace gases, and proceed as directed in replies to earlier correspondents.

B. M. D. who cake for the best things to re-

C. M. S. asks: How can I calculate the ef-

B. M. P., who asks for the best thing to remove scale from steam bollers, should read our advertising columns and especially the answers to correspondents. In the latter, directions for treating particular cases are constantly being published.

P. O. B. caka. How can I collect small per

R. O. B. asks: How can I collect small particles of lead from dross and ashes cheaply? Oil answersvery well, but it is too costly. Answer: Fuse the lead with some cyanide of potassium in a crucible.

F. H. asks: Can a valve which has sufficient lap to cut off at one half of the stroke be set so as to admit steam correctly when the crank is upon either center, and shut off the steam when the piston has traveled an equal distance from either end of the stroke? Answer: No. The obliquity of the connecting rod will prevent perfect equality of cut off.

J. F. B. says: Knowing that strange and singular freaks of steam engines are interesting to you, I will tell you of one in our place, that puzzled us for some time. The cylinder is 14 inches bore by 86 inches stroke, with a common slide valve, using steam the whole length of stroke, making 41 revolutions perminute. About two weeks ago, she commenced by making a strange crackling noise in the cylinder, increasing until it seemed as if she would break everything to pieces. Steam poured from every joint that, at other times, was tight, and she slowed down in speed until she scarcely moved. The fly wheel trembled as though about to fall in pieces. But the moment steam was shut off, if only for an instant, she would start up again all right, and the trouble would probably not occur again for one or two hours. Atsome times it would be moresevere than others. Everything seemed to get loose during the difficulty, and all the keys would have to be set up after each occurrence. I took off the cylinder head, found the rings a little slack, and set them out; but the next day, she was as bad as ever. The two boliers are 42 inches in diameter and 26 feet long, having two 13 inch flues in in each. Can you tell me what the difficulty is? Answer: The difficulty arises from excessive priming, we presume and will probably knock out a cylinder head or do worse damage if the trouble is not remedied.

J. P. S. says: How many inches does the lawful bushel used in Pennsylvania in measuring coal contain? Answer: The standard United States bushel is that which contains 21504 cubic inches, when level full; when heaped up to standard hight, 6 inches, it contains about 2,700 cubic inches. Usually 28 bushels are reckoned to the tun.

N. L. T. asks: Why is it that the shadows cast by an object from two different lights, as those of the moon and of a candle, on a white surface are of different colors? The difference is most distinct when the object is placed on a line between the two lights. Answer The colors of the lights being different, they together illuminate all of the white surface, not the shadow, with a tint which is compounded of both. The shadows are each illuminated by the light from only one of the two sources, and each therefore differs in tint from the general field, as well as from the other.

C. D. R. & Co., say: We have a 12x20 inch plain slide vaive engine, cutting off at about % strokeand running at 80 revolutions. Would it be economy to speed up to 125 revolutions with the same vaive? Answer: If more power is required than the engine can now develope, it would be proper to speed up as proposed. If the boilers are reliable at higher pressure, carry five pounds moresteam to make up for friction of pipes and passages at the greater speed. Watch the crank pin and other journals. They may heat at a higher speed.

T. M. S. says: I would like to know how many pounds pressure it takes to burst the head of a barrel off. The head was of white oak, 114 inches thick, and 1 foot 3 inches across. Answer: We have no means of determining the figures desired. We presume it would vary immensely with different kinds of barrels, and with different examples of similar make. Cannot some of our readers enlighten our correspondent?

J. F. W. asks if there is any way of distinguishing anthracite pig iron from charcoal pig iron? Answer: We do not know of any way to distinguish anthracite from charcoal pig iron, nor do we think it can be done by judging from the appearance of the pig metal. Mechanical tests of the product of the metal say that wrought iron will show greater softness for charcoal Swedish bariron is much softer than Low Moo and other high class from made with mineral coal.

S. A. T. says: The manner in which a pantagraph is to be constructed is very plain (see page 99 of your current volume), but I do not know whether one (forordinary use) should be 6 inches or 36 inches in length of longest stick. Can the stationary or pivoted end be fastened to the table with anawlor screw? Can the casters be dispensed with? What is the piece pro-jecting to the left between C and F, from D, for? Why is it jointed differently at F than at E, D and B, and how is it jointed? Answer: Our own instruments are from 18 inches to 30 inches in total length. In a rough appa ratus, an awl will answer to pivot the fixed joint. The casters are used to reduce friction, but may be dispensed with. The arrangement of joints is a matter of indif-ference. In making the copy, say, three quarters the size of the original, the stick B D is hinged near the end which, in the sketch, projects.

G. N. A. says: I wish to know how the red and blue lights such as are seen at the aters are produced. I want to light a large room without incurring any danger. Answer: It is always better to apply to a pyrotechnist for colored lights, as there is danger in prepar-ing and keeping them, and it would cost less to buy than to attempt to make them.

VV. K. asks: Which is the best acid or combination of acids that will entirely destroy the fiber of paper? Answer: The best solvent for paper fiber is cupro-ammonium, known as Schweitzer's reagent.

W. R. J. says: The powder I enclose is the remains of an evaporated gallon of well water. Supposing t to be lime I applied the test for that substance, with no indications. The same kind of water is used in a boiler here and causes some trouble by the deposit. 2. Can a bubble or ball similar to a soap bubble be made of any substance (except glass) that will allow handling? It must be transparent. Could a solution of gclatin be made to serve the purpose by the addition of any material? Answers: The enclosed powder was chiefly composed of carbonate of lime and a little organic matter. The water is evidently impregnated with lime. 2. Soap bubbles of considerable size and strength can be made by mixing glycerin in soap and testing from time to time until the proper proportions are obtained.

J. J. R. asks: Do pure wood ashes contain mineral matter? Answer: It was the opinion of the ancien's that the potash of plants was produced from the air during combustion, but as soon as this alkali was discovered in rocks, it was readily traced to plants and shown to be a necessary constituent of all vegetables. It makes no difference how pure wood ashes may be: they necessarily contain mineral matter, chiefly com posed of carbonate of potash.

VV. H. F. says: 1. I would like to know if there is any way that I can use to get the grime and dirt off of my hands. I am a machinist and I find it very difficult to get my hands clean. 2. I am very desirous of icarning to draw, and I would like to know if I can learn without a teacher, and what books you would advise me to get. Answers: 1. Use plenty of soap and elbow grease to clean yourself. 2. With dividers, rule and pencil, practice copying the best engravings in the SCIENTIFIC CAN. You will learn to draw in this way, if you perse

S. R. asks: What proportion should there be between the steam portarea of a steam engine, and the area of the piston? Also, what should be the relation between the steam pipe and the cylinder? Can poppet valve engines be run at as high a specd as slide valve engines? Answer: Steam ports are made, in good practice, of from one sixteenth to one tenth the area of piston, according to speed. At very high speeds, poppet valves may not seat themselves promptly, and hence a limit of speed is sooner reached than with slide valve engines.

A. B. says: A mercurial siphon gage has onelegtwentytimes the area of the other; what will be the rise of mercury in the smaller leg per pound pressure? Please give rule. Also a rule to work out the power required to raise a given weight by differential blocks. Answer: The difference of level must be, ap proximately, two inches per pound. The mercury rising in the smaller leg must be supplied from the larger. This quantity will occupy one twentieth the hight, in the largerleg, that it fills in the smaller. Hence the sum obtained by adding the rise in the smaller leg above the original level to one twentieth the same distance is equal to two inches, and the actual risc in smaller leg will therefore be $\frac{20}{1}$ of two inches= $\frac{11}{2}$ inches. The exact figure will be $\frac{20}{1}$ ×2.035=1.933. The handlest way to determine the relation of the force exerted to the resistance overcome, in any combination of mechanical powers, is to measure the distances moved by each. For example: If the weight is raised 3 inches, while the fall of the tackle is overhauled a distance of 4 feet, the ratio is as 1 to 16, friction not being considered.

H. P. says: Take a fly wheel ten fect in diameter, with a hollow rim 12 inches depth and 2 feet face (the shell being 3 inch thick), and fill the hollow in the rim half full of water. Will the wheel and water weigh more, or less, when it is in motion and the speed great enough to keep the water next to the face, or when it is standing still? Answer: It will make no dif-

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN acknowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of original papers and contributions upon the following subjects:

On the Metal Palladium. By G. J. R. On the Influence of the Moon on the Tides. By W.S.

On the Formation of the Tides. By S. S. G. On Steam Engine Economy. By C. H. C. On the Dredging Machines Used at the Bar of the Mississippi River. By E. B. B.

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APPLICATIONS FOR EXTENSIONS.

Applications have been duly filed, and arcnow pending for the extension of the following Letters Patent. Hearings upon the respective applications are appointed for the days hereinaftermentioned: 22,528.—WEBBING.—J. C. Cooke. April 9, 1873. 23,836.—CULTIVATOB.—M. Alden. April 23, 1873. 23,893.- KATE FASTENING.-E. Behr. April 23, 1873. 23,921.—HARVESTING MACHINE.—M.G.Hubbard. April 23 23.924.-MAIL BAG.-T. J. Lamdin. April 23, 1873. 23,950.—CLOCK DIAL.—S. E. Root. April 23, 1873. 28.960.-LATHE.-C. & A. Spring. April 23, 1873. 23,933.—Coor Stove.—H. G. Leonard. April 23, 1873. 21,631.—Pin Sticking.—J. W. Naramore. June 18, 1873.

EXTENSIONS GRANTED.

23,001.—ELASTIC TOY.—L. P. Porter. 22,990.—MoP HEAD.—L. Taylor. 22,947.-WBENCH.-D. P. Foster.

DESIGNS PATEN TED.

6,331.—CENTER PIECE.—S. Kellett, San Francisco, Cal 6,382.—URN.—P. P. Meyer, New York city. 6,383.—BEER Mug.—J.Oesterling, Wheeling, W. Va. 6,384.-VASE.-W. H. Wilkinson, New York city.

TRADE MARKS REGISTERED. 1,115.—Haus, etc.—Evans Brothers, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1,116.—Bearing Metal.—I X L Metal Co.,St.Louis, Mo. 1,117 & 1,118.—GALVANIZED IBON.—McCullough Iron Co.

Philadelphia, Pa.

1,119.—Boots, Etc.—C. Merritt, South Weymouth, Mass 1,120 to 1,122.—GINS.—F. E. Suire & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio

SCHEDULE OF PATENT FRES:	
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CANADIAN PATENTS.

OFFICIAL LIST OF PATENTS GRANTED IN CANADA FROM DECEMBER 13, 1872, UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 1, 1873.

Patents taken by citizens of the United States arc marked U. S.

[Note.-Under the new patent law, now in vogue,

American citizens may patent their inventions in Canada on favorable terms. For full particulars, address Munn & Co., Office Scientific American, 37 Park Row, N. Y.) Shoe pegging machine, H. Kuhlman, Gcr., Dec. 13.. 1,900 Needle machine, F. W. Mallett, U. S., Dec. 18. 1,905
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