

(24) W. H. asks: Would it make any difference in the speed of 2 rowboats 18 feet long, one having a straight cutwater and the other having a cutwater inclining 4 inches in 18, this being the height of the boats, other things being equal? A. We scarcely think there would be any appreciable difference.

(25) J. F. N. asks: How can I remove the scale from sheet steel? A. With an emery wheel.

(26) D. R. W. says: We are obliged to use water from a well for watering plants. It forms an incrustation upon the earth and the flower pots, which, we presume, is alkali. Can you recommend anything which we can put into the water to neutralize the alkali? A. It is probably a lime salt. Try the addition of a little clear lime water, allow to stand a short time undisturbed, then pour the water off from the sediment.

(27) H. H. S. says, in reply to C. M. F., who asked if plaster of Paris were suitable for porous cells: Some two years ago I made several cells of Daniell's battery, using plaster porous cups, and found them to work very successfully. These cells were about the cheapest I ever saw. A. If the plaster cells are porous, they will answer instead of porous clay cells.

(28) H. J. says: Some time ago I saw an article in your paper recommending coffee as a disinfectant. It would be very expensive, and I have for years been using coffee grounds after the coffee has been extracted. I dry them and keep them for use. I simply sprinkle them over a hot stove or shovel of coals in the sick room. They would be good for emigrant vessels or hospitals, and might be used to great advantage in the yellow fever districts at present.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents, and examined, with the results stated:

H. S. S.—It contains no silver.—C. H. C.—It is decomposed mica.—C. P.—It is black oxide of manganese.—J. B. H.—It is carbonate of copper with shale.—H. W. S.—Both are sulphides of iron, No. 1 being pyrite, No. 2 marcasite.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

- On Aerostation. By J. J. R.
- On Celestial Dynamics. By J. W. H.
- On Mental Telegraphy. By J. L. M.
- On Trisectioning an Angle. By P. H. F.

Also inquiries and answers from the following:

- F. P.—H. H. L.—V.—R. D.—W. C. K.—N. B. P.—W. L.—W. T.—R. K.—J. C. W.

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents whose inquiries fail to appear should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them. The address of the writer should always be given.

Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be published here. All such questions, when initials only are given, are thrown into the waste basket, as it would fill half of our paper to print them all; but we generally take pleasure in answering briefly by mail, if the writer's address is given.

Hundreds of inquiries analogous to the following are sent? Who sells the best dies and taps for screw-cutting work? Who makes the best gas apparatus for domestic use? Who sells Centennial bronze medals? Who makes the improved zinc white, described on p. 328, vol. 35? Who makes the best incubators? Who sells the best ice machine? All such personal inquiries are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Personal," which is specially set apart for that purpose, subject to the charge mentioned at the head of that column. Almost any desired information can in this way be expeditiously obtained.

[OFFICIAL.]

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October 3, 1876,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

(Those marked (r) are reissued patents.)

A complete copy of any patent in the annexed list, including both the specifications and drawings, will be furnished from this office for one dollar. In ordering, please state the number and date of the patent desired, and remit to Munn & Co., 37 Park Row, New York city.

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He should also see that the claims are so worded as to cover all the inventor was entitled to when his patent was issued; and it is still more essential that he be informed whether it is an infringement upon some other existing patent. Parties desiring to have such searches made can have them done through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by giving the date of the patent and stating the nature of the information desired. For further information, address MUNN & CO., 37 PARK ROW,