

Correspondence.

The Patent Office Deficiency.

To the Editor of the Scientific American:

Is not the present time—when members of Congress are mostly at home, and before they are absorbed in questions in which they see political capital—to again remind your many readers of the desirability of personal interrogation of their representatives, of the cause of delay in Patent Office action, and especially as to whether prompt action could be secured by adequate appropriation from the \$3,000,000 excess of patent fees over expenditures, and why such appropriation is not made?

G. H. KNIGHT.

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 28, 1884.

Erroneous Interpretation of the Label Law by the Patent Office.

To the Editor of the Scientific American:

In notice in two of the August numbers of your valuable journal some interesting articles respecting the registration of labels in the Patent Office. Permit me as a lawyer having such questions frequently brought before me to give you my views, as I think the matter of sufficient importance to be somewhat further discussed in public.

Section 3 of the Act of June 18, 1874, merely transfers a portion of what before was registrable with the Librarian of Congress to the Patent Office; and the statute is merely declaratory when it says in substance that no trade mark shall be so registrable. No doubt, whenever a trade mark, as such, is offered in the guise of a label, the registration thereof is void in law. The Commissioner, however, should act ministerially in receiving all registrations of labels declared by the registrant's petition as such, leaving the courts to determine in the particular case litigated whether the subject matter is or is not a label. We should proceed just as was the practice with the Librarian of Congress previously; for the 3d section says that he is charged with such registration, "in conformity with the regulations provided by law as to copyrights and prints." The applicant furnishes a form or specimen of label, and makes oath that it is a label which he desires registered. The Commissioner ought not to go behind that statement, as it satisfies the statute so far as he is concerned. Should he do so, he acts as judge and thereby prevents a proper adjudication of the registration in the various courts having jurisdiction thereof, thus working an injury to the person seeking the registration.

The object of the law was no doubt to prevent the registration of a trade mark at a fee of \$6, as under the the existing statute for registration of trade marks \$25 Government fee had to be paid. To prevent this, in other words, to render void in law such a registration, was the cause of the insertion in section 3 by Congress of the words "not a trade mark." It should be borne in mind in this connection that at the date of the passage of this act relative to registration in Patent Office of labels, the first trade mark statute had not been declared invalid by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Assuming that the Commissioner of Patents has discretion to deny the registration, he ought not to do so merely because the trade mark forms part of the label. The trade mark is not the part protected by the payment of the \$6: it is the whole of the label, of which the trade mark forms incidentally a portion. To deny this registration of the label until the arbitrary word found therein, and composing a trade mark in itself, is removed is, I think, proceeding contrary to the statute, instead of "in conformity with the regulations provided by law as to copyrights and prints."

Lawyer.

N. Y., Sept. 1, 1884.

An Appreciative Client.

On the 19th of last month (August), there was issued to B. F. Wright, editor and proprietor of the *Nemaha Monitor*, published at Oneida, Kansas, a patent on a steam boiler of peculiar construction, and possessing many novel features. In the last issue of his paper Mr. Wright pays the following unsolicited compliment to his attorneys:

"We take pleasure in referring those who contemplate making applications for patents, to Messrs. Munn & Co., of 361 Broadway, New York city. They acted as our attorneys in an application for patent on steam boiler, and secured the patent on broad and well protected claims, fully equal to our expectations. Although our invention was somewhat difficult of explanation, and some minor points explained by letter, they seemed to have thoroughly understood its principles and workings. The drawings clearly embrace every feature, while the specifications clearly and definitely point out every feature and manner of operation, thoroughly protecting every claim.

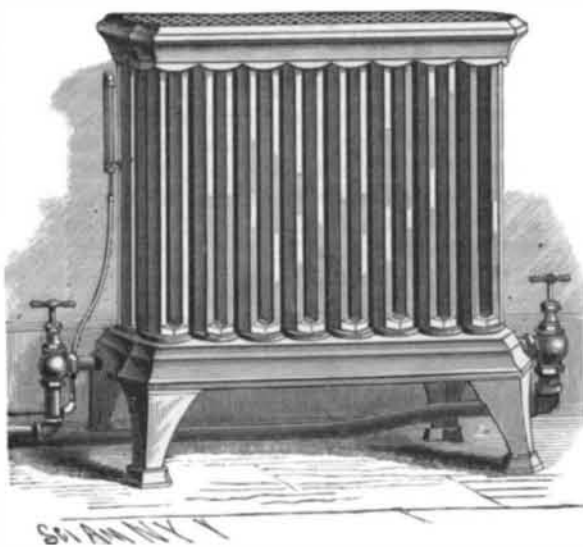
"We feel safe in recommending them as reliable and competent attorneys."

The Jumping Bean, or Devil Bean.

We notice that several of the daily papers are publishing accounts of this curiosity as if it were something newly discovered. A full account of its origin and the cause of its movements, illustrated with figures, will be found in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 106. To be had at this office for 10 cents.

RADIATORS FOR HEATING BUILDINGS.

There are but few houses now built in cities, either for dwellings, business purposes, or public use, which are not supplied with radiators for heating. The various forms in which they are built are calculated to give the greatest amount of heating surface for the smallest possible floor space, and so they will present a not unattractive appearance. The illustration we give herewith shows a small but very efficient one, the Bundy patent radiator, which is in use in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN office. More than half a million of this same make of radiators are now in use, having been adopted in many of the finest buildings in New York city. The joints cannot be affected by expansion or



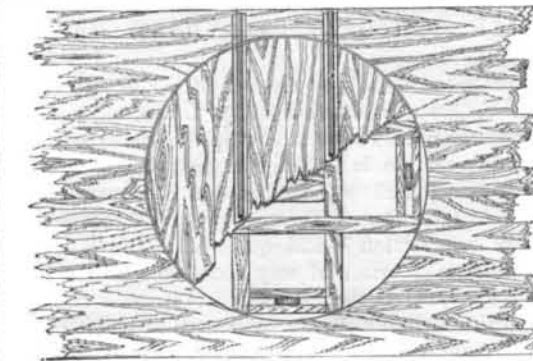
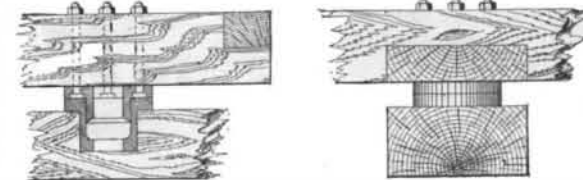
BUNDY PATENT RADIATOR.

contraction in any way to cause a leak, nor are they liable to injury from rust or freezing. They are made to fit almost any place, and no accumulation of water can occur in them, so that a positive, free circulation of steam is always assured. This radiator has no packing, and its construction is exceedingly simple, but each one, we are informed, is tested up to 125 pounds to the square inch before being sent from the factory. These radiators are made by the A. A. Griffing Iron Company, of 750 Communipaw Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.

A HOME-MADE TURNTABLE.

The facility with which a resort is made to "expedients," or the faculty that adapts whatever materials may be at hand in application to immediate requirements, is probably as important an element of success in engineering practice as "expectancy" is in exhibitions of spiritualistic wonders.

The accompanying illustrations, together with the following brief descriptive matter, is offered as evidence of the



A HOME-MADE TURNTABLE.

above, and showing what may be done by a disposition to exercise this faculty.

A small turntable, similar to those in use by contractors when portable track is in operation, was required at the bottom of an open shaft and adjacent to an elevator or hoisting cage.

As it was likely to be in use for a comparatively long time, it was desirable that it should be durable and have a pivot of so substantial character as to maintain the alignment with the rails of two lines of track, and those on the platform of elevator permanently.

Now the usual fittings even for a turntable of this kind, to say nothing of the more elaborate mechanism of a full-fledged locomotive turntable, have been the subject of much study and skill, but in this case were made a very simple matter.

The table was made 6 feet in diameter, which was 2 feet longer than the wheel base of the cars used, and the materials consisted of:

- 2 pieces yellow pine, 6 inches x 12 inches x 2 feet 4 inches.
- 1 piece " " 6 " x 12 " x 8 "
- 4 pieces " " 4 " x 6 " x 6 "
- 8 " " 2 " x 4 " x 2 "
- 4 cast iron wheels, 7 inches diameter.
- 5 bolts and nuts, 3/8 inch x 8 inches.
- 2 pivot castings, which were found in the scrap heat, being an old stuffing box.
- 30 feet B. M. 2 inch hemlock plank.

Total cost for labor and materials did not exceed five dollars.

The 8 foot length of timber, 6 x 12, was used in the foundation or support, and does not properly belong to the table.

The framing or manner in which it was put together is so simple and clearly shown in the illustration as to require no further description.

An International "Inventions" Exhibition in London.

A great exhibition on something of a novel plan, or one that is little respected in most of our modern fairs, is now projected, to be held at South Kensington, London, opening in May, 1885. The novelty of the plan is that it is proposed to limit the exhibition specifically to apparatus, appliances, processes, and products invented or brought into use since 1862. Untried and unpatented inventions will not be accepted unless recommended by a competent authority; and when the invention relates to parts only of a machine, the whole machine will not be admitted unless there be specially good reason therefor. Also, unless under exceptional circumstances, space will not be given for objects which have been shown in the Fisheries Exhibition of last year or the Health and Education of this year. Intending exhibitors must state in their applications the particular features of novelty in the articles they offer, applications from foreign countries and the British Colonies to be made by the 1st of November next. The exhibition takes place under government auspices, and our own and other governments have been invited to take official cognizance of it, our State Department suggesting that Congress will be invited to make an appropriation for securing a suitable American representation.

In this connection we would suggest, for the benefit of intending American exhibitors, that they cannot move too promptly in the matter of securing an English patent on any inventions they may think it worth while to send to this exhibition. The English patent law is very strict in requiring that applications for a patent there shall be made before the invention is publicly made known, and applications should be made even before the description of the invention is put in printed form in this country.

L'Abbe Moigno.

We regret having to record the death at St. Denis of Abbe Francois Napoleon Marie Moigno, in the 81st year of his age. He was borne in Brittany, at Guemenee—Morbihan—on the 20th of April, 1804. He was educated at Pontevy, and by the Jesuits of St. Anne d'Auray. He early manifested a strong predilection for science, and especially mathematics. This was not quite what the Jesuit order to which he belonged wanted, and as recently as 1861 he was directed to suspend the publication of a book on the calculus, and sooner than give way he left the order. His principal works are "Traite de la Telegraphie Electrique;" "Memoires sur le Stereoscope et le Saccharimetre;" "Repertoire d'Optique Moderne;" "Cours de Science Vulgarisee;" "Lecons de Mecanique Analytique;" "Les Elairages Modernes;" many volumes of "Actualites Scientifiques;" and, lastly, "Les Splendeurs de la Foi."

The Abbe Moigno was, to use his own expression, one out of the *procheurs* of his epoch. The word is untranslatable in his sense. It literally means one who handles a pick-ax. Rising every morning at 5 a. m., he performed his religious duties and then began work, which he did not cease to perform until evening, and he led this life until a very recent period. He was a man of vast erudition and a voluminous writer, having published more than 100 volumes on various scientific subjects, to say nothing of 21 volumes of *Cosmos* and 58 of *Les Mondes*. He was blessed with an astounding memory, and he was well acquainted with all the usual languages, ancient and modern. He invented a curious system of artificial memory, called "Mnemotechnie," by the aid of which he held at his disposal a vast number of facts, historical and scientific. It was wonderful to see with what ease he searched his memory for obscure dates or little known scientific facts. The Abbe Moigno's death will leave a blank which will not readily be filled, and he will be regretted by a large circle of literary men and friends.—*The Engineer*.

Full of Science.

The city of Philadelphia is at present overflowing with scientific men and scientific objects. The International Electrical Exhibition has just opened, the American Association for the Advancement of Science is in session, many prominent American scientists being present, together with a large number distinguished foreign visitors, members of the British Association. The American Institute of Mining Engineers is also in session; likewise the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture.