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J. B. C., of Ohio.—On page 169, Vol. VI. SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, you will find an instructive article on the subject of India-rubber rollers for washing machines. If you have any improvements upon which you wish to obtain patents, you will have no difficulty in obtaining the rollers from the Metropolitan Washing Machine Company, No. 2½ Dey street. You have a right to alter the mechanical construction of your machine, so long as you do not change the claim.

W., of Lowell.—We do not think your improvement in torpedoes patentable. A similar water-proof joint has been applied to other uses, and its application to a torpedo would be a mere double use.

Maple Sirup.—A. D. Smith, of Danby, Vt., is the manufacturer of a most excellent quality of maple sirup. We speak from experience.

S. F., of Pa.—The 15-inch smooth-bore guns to which you refer are for the navy; the 12-inch rifled guns are for forts, one 12-inch rifled gun has been made already at the Fort Pitt works.

A. L., of Mass.—The chloride of lime is bleaching powder, and consists of dry lime in powder saturated with chlorine gas. It will not do to use it for whitewashing the walls of rooms. The lime whitewash, to which you refer, is made with common lime slacked in the usual way, to which is added about one pound of common salt to the ten gallons.

C. R. B., of Kansas.—You will find that it takes but little, if any, more fuel to keep your boiler 15 lbs. above the working pressure in your cylinder. Fuel is always wasted when the steam is allowed to run down. Much fuel may be saved by careful firing.

J. A., of Ill.—India rubber is not soluble in alcohol, but neither it nor gutta percha makes good vessels for containing alcoholic spirits. A small quantity of essential oil in these gums imparts a disagreeable taste and odor to spirits.

R. S. L., of Ohio. The quantity of water, in pounds, falling in one minute, multiplied into the perpendicular height of your fall, and divided by 33,000, will give you its horse power, from which it is common to deduct one-third for friction leakage, &c. The water acts upon an overshot wheel by its gravity. If you multiply the area of your open pipe by the square root of its depth in feet, and by 200, it will give the cubic feet of water discharged per minute.

J. H. F., of Kansas.—If you wish to keep steam up in your boiler at a working pressure all night, to start your engine in the morning without kindling a fire, of course you must expect your boiler to wear out somewhat faster than otherwise. We prefer to use a damper in the smoke pipe so as to keep a low fire always under the boiler at night.

J. R. B., of N. J.—Dry-lead or charcoal dust is superior to lime for spreading on the floor of a hen house. Old india-rubber shoes may be patched by the use of warm india-rubber cement, and patches of old rubber laid on and pressed down with a flat iron.

SPECIAL NOTICE—FOREIGN PATENT.—The population of Great Britain, is 30,000,000; of France, 35,000,000; Belgium, 5,000,000, Austria, 40,000,000; Prussia, 20,000,000; and Russia, 60,000,000. Patents may be secured by American citizens in all of these countries. Now is the time, while business is dull at home, to take advantage of these immense foreign fields. Mechanical improvements of all kinds are always in demand in Europe. There will never be a better time than the present to take patents abroad. We have reliable business connections with the principal capitals of Europe. Nearly all of the patents secured in foreign countries by Americans are obtained through our agency. Address Munn & Co., 37 Park row, New York. Circulars about foreign patents furnished free.

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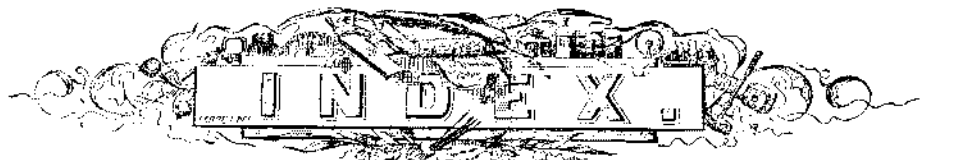
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