

Business and Personal.

The Charge for Insertion under this head is One Dollar a line for each insertion: about eight words to a line. Advertisements must be received at publication office as early as Thursday morning to appear in next issue.

Betancourt's Rotary Plow, illustrated on page 146, is for sale. See notice for address.

Use King's Office Pen, patented July 31, 1883. Superior to all others. Price, \$1 per gross, mailed free of postage. One dozen pens sent as samples on receipt of 10 cents. Geo. F. King & Merrill, 29 Hawley Street, Boston, Mass.

New scientific books on Steam, the Steam Engine, Mechanics, and Engineering. Send for catalogues before purchasing. F. Keppy, Publisher, Bridgeport, Conn.

Steam Pipe and Boiler Covering, Roofing Materials, Prepared Roofing, and general line of Asbestos materials. Phil Carey & Co., 127 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, O.

Telescope, 14" diam., \$450. T. 835 Linden St., Camden, N. J.

Wanted.—Partner for the manufacture of four useful articles from sheet metal. Also for sale, or on royalty. Address L. B. 456, Jamaica (L. L.), N. Y.

For Sale.—Steel Fig's., \$1. S. M. York, Cleveland, O. Lightning Screw Plates, Labor-saving Tools, p. 140.

Microscopes, Microscopic Mounting Instruments, and Materials. Send for catalogue. Queen & Co., Phila.

25' Lathes of the best design. Calvin Carr's Cornice Machinery. G. A. Ohl & Co., East Newark, N. J.

Brush Electric Arc Lights and Storage Batteries. Twenty thousand Arc Lights already sold. Our largest machine gives 65 Arc Lights with 35 horse power. Our Storage Battery is the only practical one in the market. Brush Electric Co., Cleveland, O.

Best Squaring Shears, Tinners', and Cannery Tools at Niagara Stamping and Tool Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

Lathes 14 in. swing, with and without back gears and screw. J. Birkenhead, Mansfield, Mass.

The Best.—The Dueber Watch Case.

If an invention has not been patented in the United States for more than one year, it may still be patented in Canada. Cost for Canadian patent, \$40. Various other foreign patents may also be obtained. For instructions address Munn & Co., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Patent Agency, 261 Broadway, New York.

Blake's Patent Belt Studs. Most reliable fastening for rubber and leather belts. Greene, Tweed & Co., N. Y.

Guild & Garrison's Steam Pump Works, Brooklyn, N. Y. Steam Pumping Machinery of every description. Send for catalogue.

Nickel Plating.—Sole manufacturers cast nickel anodes, pure nickel salts, polishing compositions, etc. Complete outfit for plating, etc. Hanson & Van Winkle, Newark, N. J., and 92 and 94 Liberty St., New York.

Lists 29, 30 & 31, describing 4,000 new and 2nd-hand Machines, ready for distribution. State just what machines wanted. Forsyth & Co., Manchester, N. H., & N. Y. city.

For Power & Economy, Alcott's Turbine, Mt. Holly, N. J. "Abbe" Bolt Forging Machines and "Palmer" Power Hammers a specialty. Forsyth & Co., Manchester, N. H.

Railway and Machine Shop Equipment.

Send for Monthly Machinery List to the George Place Machinery Company, 121 Chambers and 103 Reade Streets, New York.

"How to Keep Boilers Clean." Book sent free by James F. Hotchkiss, 84 John St., New York.

Wanted.—Patented articles or machinery to make and introduce. Gaynor & Fitzgerald, New Haven, Conn.

Water purified for all purposes, from household supplies to those of largest cities, by the improved filters manufactured by the Newark Filtering Co., 177 Commerce St., Newark, N. J.

Latest Improved Diamond Drills. Send for circular to M. C. Bullock Mfg. Co., 91 to 93 Market St., Chicago, Ill.

Ice Making Machines and Machines for Cooling Breweries, etc. Pietet Artificial Ice Co. (Limited), 142 Greenwich Street. P. O. Box 3083, New York city.

Spy Glasses, Telescopes, Opera Glasses, Field Glasses. Send for catalogue. Queen & Co., Philadelphia.

Presses & Dies. Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J.

Machinery for Light Manufacturing, on hand and built to order. E. E. Garvin & Co., 139 Center St., N. Y.

Split Pulleys at low prices, and of same strength and appearance as Whole Pulleys. Yocom & Son's Shafting Works. Drinker St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Supplement Catalogue.—Persons in pursuit of information on any special engineering, mechanical, or scientific subject, can have catalogue of contents of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT sent to them free. The SUPPLEMENT contains lengthy articles embracing the whole range of engineering, mechanics, and physical science. Address Munn & Co. Publishers, New York.

Improved Skinner Portable Engines. Erie, Pa.

Steam Pumps. See adv. Smith, Vaile & Co., p. 93.

Drop Forgings. Billings & Spencer Co. See adv., p. 109.

Fossil Meal Composition, the leading non-conducting covering for boilers, pipes, etc. See adv., p. 158.

The Sweetland Chuck. See illus. adv., p. 110.

Catalogues free.—Scientific Books, 100 pages; Electrical Books, 14 pages. E. & F. N. Spon, 35 Murray St., N. Y.

Hollar's Safe and Lock Co., York, Pa., manufacturers of improved Fire and Burglar-proof Safes. Bank and Safe Deposit Vaults and Locks. See adv. p. 126.

Fire Brick, Tile, and Clay Retorts, all shapes. Borgner & O'Brien, M'Frs, 23d St., above Race, Phila., Pa.

Peck's Patent Drop Press. See adv. page 141.

Curtis Pressure Regulator and Steam Trap. See p. 142.

Diamond Planers. J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N. Y.

Steam Hammers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks, and Tube Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St., New York.

50,000 Emerson's Hand Book of Saws. New Edition. Free. Address Emerson, Smith & Co., Beaver Falls, Pa.

For Pat. Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling. See Frisbie's ad. p. 140.

Gould & Eberhardt's Machinists' Tools. See adv. p. 141.

Nickel Anodes, Salts, and Platers' Supplies of all kinds. Greene, Tweed & Co., 112 Chambers St., N. Y.

Barrel, Keg, Hogshead, Gave Mach'y. See ad., p. 142.

Helios, Blue Process, Paper, the best made; warranted. Sold at all stationers, or Keuffel & Esser, New York.

For Mill Mach'y & Mill Furnishing, see illus. adv. p. 140.

Aneroid Barometers, Mercurial Barometers, Thermometers, Anemometers, Hydrometers, Hygrometers. Send for catalogue. Queen & Co., Philadelphia.

Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p. 140.

For best low price Planer and Mather, and latest improved Sash, Door, and Blind Machinery, Send for catalogue to Rowley & Hierman, Williamsport, Pa.

C. B. Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., Wood Working Machinery of every kind. See adv., page 142.

The Porter-Allen High Speed Steam Engine. South-work Foundry & Mach. Co., 480 Washington Ave., Phil. Pa.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

FARLEY'S DIRECTORY OF THE HARDWARE TRADE. Farley, Paul, and Baker, Philadelphia.

This is a handsome octavo volume for office use, giving the addresses of the prominent hardware dealers throughout the country. The index and advertisements cover much more than the ordinary directory addresses, being guides to the most important manufacturers of hardware in the country.

DICTIONARY OF USEFUL ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS. By P. L. Simmonds, author of the "Commercial Products of the Vegetable Kingdom," the "Commercial Products of the Sea," etc. Published by E. and F. N. Spon, London and New York.

This volume is a handy pocket book, containing in dictionary form a large amount of convenient information in its double columned pages, in relation to animals and their food, and other products of use to man drawn from animal sources.

HYDRAULIC TABLES, FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE DISCHARGE THROUGH SEWERS, PIPES, AND CONDUITS. By P. J. Flynn, C.E. D. Van Nostrand, New York.

These tables are based on Kutter's formula, and are reprinted from Van Nostrand's Magazine. The volume is intended to facilitate the calculation of velocities, the discharges, the slopes, and the dimensions of sewers; and the tables are calculated for circular and egg shaped sewers and conduits, giving their outside as well as inside dimensions, and providing a basis for calculation for amount of materials.

THE CHICAGO HERALD COOKING SCHOOL. By Jessup Whitehead, author of "The Oven and the Range" and other books. Daily Herald Publication, Chicago, Ill.

The writer of this handsome illustrated octavo of 126 pages with an analytical index of 100 more pages, is evidently a professional cook, and probably a "home man." There is a flavor of appreciation in his descriptions that cannot be assumed. The author is evidently a lover of the good things to be pleasantly describes. The recipes are plain and easily followed.

Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No attention will be paid to communications unless accompanied with the full name and address of the writer.

Names and addresses of correspondents will not be given to inquirers.

We renew our request that correspondents, in referring to former answers or articles, will be kind enough to name the date of the paper and the page, or the number of the question.

Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them.

Persons desiring special information which is purely of a personal character, and not of general interest, should remit from \$1 to \$5, according to the subject, as we cannot be expected to spend time and labor to obtain such information without remuneration.

Any numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT referred to in these columns may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each.

Correspondents sending samples of minerals, etc., for examination, should be careful to distinctly mark or label their specimens so as to avoid error in their identification.

(1) C. G. H. writes: About ten days since the chief engineer of our fire department made a test of the water pipes, the conditions about as follows: Four hydrants were opened at the same time, with the following streams: 1 1/2 inch, 1 1/4 inch, 1 inch, three-fourths of an inch, and shut off as nearly as possible together and as quick as it could be done. The pressure was or is 135 pounds per inch. How much would it increase by shutting off as was done? As there is considerable argument on the subject, some think the pressure would only return to the same point at which it was when the hydrants were opened, others, it would be more, and we have decided to leave it to you. The hydrants were supplied by a 6 and 4 inch main. A sudden shutting off of outlets in long mains is considered injurious, as it subjects the pipes and valves in the vicinity to what is called a water ram by causing a great and sudden increase of pressure, due to the momentum of the water under motion. The usual construction of hydrants is intended to prevent sudden shutting off, by the use of a screw. The amount of increase of pressure depends entirely upon the length and comparative size of the main and the suddenness of shutting off. Under extreme conditions, such as an opening nearly the size of the main and shutting off with a large cock instead of a screw valve, the water ram would carry up the pressure to two or three times the original pressure, or burst the pipe.

(2) G. S. writes: I have a cellar, 10x12x6, out in the country—Jefferson—which is dug three feet in the ground, no ditches in the neighborhood, which always contains soil water, it was masoned with the wrong sort of water lime, I understand. How can I make it water tight, and what can it cost? A. If your cellar is in the low prairie that is water soaked, hydraulic lime will not save it. Such cellars have to be built of brick saturated with asphalt, sides and bottom. This is somewhat difficult even here, where there are professional water tight cellar builders. Better raise the whole cellar above water level, or cut a drain if possible. 2. The inside of my house was grained and varnished; the varnish sticks everywhere; I was told said varnish was thinned down with oil, and I varnished it over with good varnish but without any avail; it still sticks and I can not remedy it, how can I harden it? A. For your sticky varnish clean it off thoroughly with turpentine, and revarnish with good varnish thinned with turpentine with a little drier added.

(3) J. writes: I want to lay a wrought iron pipe 800 feet long from a pond to supply a 4 inch stand pipe for a hydraulic ram. This pipe I want to lay as a siphon to carry the water over a hill, lifting the water ten feet. The lower leg of siphon to be six feet below the water in the pond. How large a pipe must be laid to carry six gallons per minute? Will air get in and stop the siphon, or will it be constant in action? A. Theoretically a pipe 1 1/2 inches diameter should furnish more than 6 gallons per minute; but we would advise not less than 1 3/4 inch pipe, as you cannot rely upon the pipe being perfectly tight. If there be leaks in the pipe, air will likely accumulate in the highest point, and at that point there should be a stop cock or plug, by which the air can be let off and the pipe recharged.

(4) H. D. M. asks: What sort of a wheel and what polishing powder do I want for polishing agates? A. A felt buff, and rouge used wet. Buffs and rouge can be had at any jeweler's tool store. The grinding to a required surface can be done upon a grindstone. Grind with the stone very wet. If much is to be cut off, a copper or lead lap with emery and water will do the work quickly. The splitting by sawing is a tedious process, and hardly pays for an amateur. It can be done with a thin copper disk supplied with emery and water. It is better to get a lapidary to split with a diamond disk. You can split many minerals with a chisel and hammer by a little management. Agates will split fairly in various directions.

(5) J. E. L. writes: We have now in use a 48 inch "Stout, Mills, and Temple" turbine wheel, with 72 inch flume, 36 inch draught tube. Now if we replace the 48 inch wheel with a 60 inch wheel, will we get more power, and will we use more water, and will there be any change in speed? A. You would get no more power with the 60 inch than with the 48 inch wheel, using the same amount of water. The periphery of the 60 inch must run the same as the 48 inch, so the revolution would be reduced as 48 to 60, and your gearing would have to be correspondingly altered. If you have the water, use more on the 48 inch wheel, or get a 48 inch wheel that will use more water; in this case you would not have to alter your gearing; with either a 48 inch or 60 inch wheel you must use more water to get more power.

(6) R. W. M. writes: Some time ago I asked you how to take copies of a medal by a plaster of Paris mould. You referred me to SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT No. 17, which I ordered at a book store and duly received. I made a mould of plaster of Paris according to directions, and made an alloy of four parts tin and one part antimony as directed, but I can get hardly any impression at all, and all along the edge of the medal which I cast is full of superfluous metal, and thus the edge is not round, as it ought to be. Would you please tell me through your paper (SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN) how to get the impression and not have the superfluous metal on the edge of the medal? Please answer as soon as possible. A. Your composition is not fluid enough for medals. A composition of 69 parts lead, 15 parts antimony, 16 parts bismuth or old type, will make a fair cast. Fusible alloy, 19 parts tin, 13 parts lead, 40 parts bismuth, makes a better and finer impression and more suitable for plaster moulds. Make the plaster casts of each side of the medal separate. Trim and solder the pieces together with a fusible alloy that melts in boiling water. You can only get rid of the fins on the edge by careful moulding and dressing down the face of the mould.

(7) J. H. F. writes: My boy has asked me to explain "why his whip cracks." If you see fit to answer in Notes and Queries, I would be pleased. A. The doubling of the lash itself produces an accelerating speed in the cracker, so that by the time it arrives at the end of its stroke, its velocity is very great. Its sudden check and return produces a blow upon the air of great intensity which we hear and designate as a crack. The form of the lash, its gradual taper and the tipping with a small, fibrous, braided and knotted end are mechanical devices for facilitating the action of the lash, and for wear. The fibrous or frayed end adds much to the strength of the "crack" by spreading a large area to act upon the air.

(8) W. writes: Please give me your estimate of the value of a spring I have, and its capacity. The water is never failing, it fills a 3 inch pipe, and has a fall of nearly 100 feet. What horse power will it furnish for small machinery, such as sewing machines, elevators, electric light, etc.? Would there be power sufficient to unload vessels from a wharf? A. We call the head 100 feet, and supplying all the water which will pass through a 3 inch pipe under this head, you should get about 30 horse power with a good turbine wheel.

(9) F. K. asks: What is the best to burn in a small steam engine to heat water for generating steam? I want to use some kind of oil, but don't know which would be the best. A. For very small engines good cold strained lard oil is the best and safest. A boiler large enough to require from one to four full size kerosene lamps can be arranged with metallic chimney for the whole so as to avoid the use of glass.

This is done in the kerosene cooking stoves, which you may find on sale at the hardware or stove stores. An inspection of one may put you upon the right track for your wants.

(10) T. A. S. writes: I have noticed one or two inquiries relative to the destruction of red ants. Your readers can rely upon the fact that five cents' worth of powdered borax will drive them all away. There is no danger in this method, and a spoonful sprinkled anywhere infested by them will give your correspondents every satisfaction.

(11) E. M. asks: Is there more power in two cylinders 2 inches bore, 3 1/2 inches stroke each, both working on same shaft, than a cylinder 4 inches bore, 4 1/2 inches stroke? And what is the difference in steam space and power? A party claims more power in the two cylinders on account of double or 7 inch stroke. A. Working at the same speed and under the same pressure, the 4 inch cylinder by 4 1/2 inches stroke is more than double the power of two cylinders 2 inches diameter by 3 1/2 inches stroke.

(12) F. C. S. asks: What is hydrofluoric acid? A. Hydrofluoric acid is the chemical compound arising from the decomposition of calcium fluoride (fluorspar) by concentrated sulphuric acid. It can be procured through any wholesale druggist.

(13) J. W. B. asks: Does a rain gauge, or say a tin bucket, catch as much water in a given length of time if the water falls obliquely as if it falls perpendicularly, the vessel to stand level? A. It does not; but as the wind does not blow steadily in force or direction, no permanent inclination will satisfy the requirements. Experiments have been made on swing gauges much after the style of a marine compass, so that the force of the wind would tip the gauge to face the falling rain. They did not prove altogether satisfactory, and we do not know that there is any now in use.

(14) G. M. E. asks what the pressure of wind is to the square foot going at the rate of 25, 50, and 100 miles an hour. A. According to Wolff's table:
25 miles 2.97 lb. per sq. ft.
50 " 11.9 " "
80 " 30.8 " "
According to Smeaton:
25 miles 3.1 lb. per sq. ft.
50 " 12.5 " "
80 " 32 " "
100 " 50 " "

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

On Safety Lamps. By W. B.
On Hotel Fires. By J. K.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

August 21, 1883.

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Table listing inventions and their patent numbers, including items like Abdominal supporter, Adjustable chair, Advertisable table, Air brake, etc.