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VOLUME X.]

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Roman and Modern Roads..

"In many things the world has made no progress, as the excavations of Egypt and Pompeii attest. There are no roads in the world now that will at all compare with those of ancient Rome. Even our best street pavements hold no comparison with them. The Appian way, which was made three hundred years before Christ, ran from Rome to Capua, about 140 miles, and part of it was through the Pontine marshes. Nine hundred years after its construction, it was described by Procopius as showing no appearance of waste or ruin. It is described as composed of large square blocks of freestone, so well fitted as to show no joint, the whole looking like one stone. The bed underneath was broken stone, grouted with cement .-Parts of this road are still sound and bid fair so to remain. The Russ pavement which is seen in Broadway, New York, and the cubical block pavements of our city, seem to be contrived by the payiors with an eye to encouraging the trade by future repairs and renewals. The old Romans would have saved the expense of cutting up hard stone into little blocks. The larger they could get them, the more they knew they would resist displacement, and of course the longer they would endure. When we come up to the wisdom of the old Romans, we shall also have ways that will cease to tax this generation for repairs. Besides, the effective power of the horse would be greatly increased the terrible noise would be lessened, and the mud reduced."-[Phila. Ledger.

[The Ledger, we believe, is wrong, which is not often the case. Large blocks are totally unsuited for modern pavements in cities. Those of the first Russ pavements laid in New York were too large. The old Roman roads were not traversed by such innumerable armies of carts and carriages as our streets; they were used principally for foot travel. Neither were they underlaid with gas and water pipes, like our streets, which require such pavements as can be easily lifted. The best size of blocks for street pavement should not be over eight inches broad by fourteen in length. It is easy for us to make roads as permanent as the Romans. When the first Russ pavement was laid in this city, we stated that the blocks were too large (about sixteen inches square,) and that when they would wear smooth, the distance between the joints would be found so great that horses would be liable to slip and fall. This turned out to be actually the case with respect to part of Broadway, hence no Russ pavement is now made with large blocks unless their faces are cut in grooves about six inches apart. Much of the paving of this city is now done with small blocks, but the operatives or contractors do not seem to be acquainted with their business. The best way to pave streets is to have a well rammed substratum of air slacked lime and sand, and one depth-laid firmly on this.

Fig. 1

The annexed engravings are views of the | next page, is a view of this principle of illufield. Mass.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the apparatus; fig. 2 is a longitudinal section simply winding up a spring in the lower part through the screw pump, for supplying air | of the case on the arbor of the wheel a, wheel to the benzole chamber, and fig. 3, on the b is set in motion, which operates the pinion,

portable apparatus for making Benzole gas mination applied to lighting a dwelling. By light for private dwellings, offices, factories, clock-work machinery inside of fig. 1, when &c., invented by A. M. Mace, of Spring- it is wound up, and the screw pump, fig. 2, set in motion, the gas is produced and passes out of the two burners shown, so that by



tar, and has a pleasant smell like that of burnt almonds. It is very volatile and inflammable, but as it contains a great amount of carbon, its symbol being C12 H6; it burns with a smoky flame, hence it requires a great amount of air rapidly supplied to it and more hydrogen, to make it burn with a clear light. Many plans have hitherto been tried to effect this, so as to make it into gas, and as it was known that by blowing air through it, a very good gas could be produced, Mr. Mace has here presented a machine which is in practical operation-not a mere theoryand which manufactures gas from benzole by simple clock-work.

(NUMBER 20.

As pure benzole gas contains chemically six parts of hydrogen and twelve parts of carbon, and produces a smoky flame, and alcohol contains six parts of hydrogen and two of carbon, and produces a blue but clean flame, when these two are mixed in proper proportions, with the same quantity of water that there is of alcohol, they produce a luminous and smokeless flame.

The proportions of the mixture are not confined to fixed quantities, but those best adapted for use are equal quantities of alcohol and water with a stratum of benzole (which floats upon the surface) of from half an inch to an inch in depth.

One of the objects of mixing water with the benzole and alcohol is, to produce a complete hydration or moistening of the vaporizing current, and at the same time to prevent a loss of normal temperature in the benzole, which loses its heat by the evaporation.

The reason why moist air is preferred as a vaporizer of the benzole and alcohol, and as a vehicle of the vapor it takes up from them, is, that it distends the volatile matter held in solution by it, and dilutes it to sogreat an extent that it takes on a more permanent form than if simply vaporized in dry air; and, besides this, it imbibes and dissolves the vapor of the benzole in larger portions than dry air can possibly do.

There is another reason why perfectly hydrated or moist air is used to vaporize the benzole and alcohol, and that is, complete combustion is best secured by the presence of the aqueous vapor, and a rich, yellow, bright flame is only obtainable in that way.

The gas obtained from this mixture consists of air completely saturated with aqueous vapor, holding in diluted solution the carbon and other inflammable matter of the benzole and alcohol, in such proportions as to make it equivalent to olefiant gas.

On one end of the machine is the glass index, on which is marked the hight to which it is to be filled; and it should be kept filled within half an inch of said mark by adding, from time to time, alcohol and water in equal quantities (for they evaporate in about the same ratio,) not forgetting to keep the stratum of benzole from half an inch to an inch in depth, as before stated. The temperature of the mixture and that of the surrounding air, to make the best light, should be about 70° Fahr., but it may be several degrees above or below. When found to be too low, it may be brought almost immediately to the proper temperature, by lighting the jet, f, of the pipe, e, for this purpose, It heats the fluid in the small attached chamber above, and raises it to the proper temperature.

NEW-YORK JANUARY 27, 1855.

MACE'S BENZOLE GAS APPARATUS.

c, on the spindle of the revolving screw dro-carbon of the fluid, in a state of gas, pump, fig. 2, the action of which at once mixed with the air, which passes up into the burners through the conducting tube, and generates the gas, and by applying a match to the burners, they produce a brilliant produces illuminating gas. g is the tube by gas light. A composition of benzole, alcowhich the vessel, A, is supplied with the ilhol, and water, is shown in the chamber luminating fluid. The plan of feeding in the air by a screw air pump, affords a very fig. 2; in this revolve disks of wire gauze, d d d, on the spindle of the screw pump, B, equal current, to prevent the flame flickerwhich, as it revolves, draws in air through ing. The apparatus is exceedingly simple. an open tube at its center on its opposite end, The chamber is perfectly close; it is furand carries it through, as shown by the nished with a small window, which shows the arrows, into the liquid chamber, where it is hight of the fluid, and when it requires a new the small rectangular granite blocks-all of agitated and diffused among the fluid, and as supply. Benzole is a colorless hydro-carbon it passes up absorbs and carries off the hy- liquid, obtained by the distillation of coal

When it is necessary to burn the gas in a cold medium, a simple fixture for that purpose may be attached to the pipe near the burners, taking the heat from the flame for the purpose of raising the temperature of the gas to the proper hight before it arrives at he burners.

The machine may be placed in a kitchen, price of a pint of alcohol, at present $12\frac{1}{2}$ or in any other part of the house desired, where the temperature is in the vicinity of 70° Fahr., and pipes may be arranged, as in duce light as cheap as coal gas. the ordinary way for common gas, to carry it to any part of the house, like fig. 3.

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This gas can be carried in pipes of the size for common or coal gas, but a liberal size is preferable, and the rule observed by experienced gas fitters, to prevent accumulation of condensation, should be observed in placing the pipes.

Benzole, like alcohol, is inflammable, and should, like all inflammable spirits, be han dled with some care.

The present price of benzole does not exceed \$1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per gallon, to which add the

making \$1.25, and as much water as alcohol, and you will have a mixture that will pro-

This light is free from the unhealthy exhalations experienced in coal gas, and is also very agreeable to the eye.

Benzole gas is eight times heavier than coal gas, and requires a much larger orifice at the burner; and in its combustion, it produces much more heat.

When the price of benzole is reduced to forty cents per gallon, it will be a cheap and convenient method of heating small apartments, and for cooking purposes.

The mixture described used in this machine, was patented July 13th, 1852.

в Fig.3

In fig. 3, C represents an apparatus like fig. 1, excepting that instead of a spring being employed to drive the spiral air pump and agitating the wire gauze disk, a weight o, is employed. The stove, A, gives out a low heat, and keeps the fluid at a proper temperature. B represents a room on the first story, lighted up by jets, and E is a room on the second story lighted up in the same manner. D is the main gas pipe, dd are branch pipes, f f are jet pipes leading down to the ornamental burners; ee represent the spaces between the floor and ceiling, and h hare side lights projecting from the walls just as buildings are now fitted up for the use of common gas.

These machines are so constructed as to be very durable, and not liable to get out of order, and require but little attention, as they are self regulating, by the beautiful arrangement of the spiral pump, B. Thus, for example, when only two jets are burning and one is shut off, less gas will be evolved, as the spiral revolves with less velocity. This is

RED ON SILK-Silk is generally dyed in the yarn state, as none but that of the softest quality, in the piece, can be colored without creasing and injuring the appearance of the fabric, excepting by the use of complicated speak. Silk, cotton, and wool, to be dyed blue-must be white, or they cannot be dyed a pure color. Only two kinds of substances are commonly employed for coloring red on silk, namely, cochineal and red wood-embracing Brazil, peachwood, or Nicaragua. The mordant for Brazil wood red is simply alum, a tub of which is kept standing at a strength of about 3° hydrometer, or of a either silk or wool. strong taste. As it is a simple color to dye, the peculiar strength of the mordant need not trouble any person who wishes to dye this color. The silk being deprived of its gum

owing to the gas being compressed in the fluid chamber, and offering resistance to the revolution of B. By simply shutting off all the jets, the machine will stop of itself.

In referring a short time since to the great quantities of coal oil manufactured in England from Boghead cannel coal, we directed attention to the manufacture of the same liquid from the cannel coal of our own country, which exists in abundance, especially in Virginia. We would now direct attention to the manufacture of benzole, the hydrocarbon fluid used in this machine, which is now obtained from England, but at a price we are informed, which makes this gas as cheap at least as common gas. Who would burn oil, candles, or any of the camphene fluids in private dwellings, when gas can be produced so easily in a portable machine like this. One of these machines is now in our office, where it can be seen, and examined in oper-

ation. More information may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. Mace, Springfield, Mass.

be dyed a good red by the same mode as that

The Art of Dyeing-No. 5. it is handled for about ten minutes and sunk beneath the liquor, and allowed to steep for about four hours. It is then lifted and dripped, and washed in one tubfull of clean cold water, and is wrung and scutched on pins for the dye stuff. About four pounds of good machinery. As has been stated in former Brazil wood boiled will dye ten pounds of neal red on the top of this, by putting the articles, almost all silk has to be deprived of silk yarn. This should be given hot in silk through the whole process described. a natural gum previous to being colored.— a tub, and the silk entered and handled for Some silk is dyed in a gummy state, but the about half an hour, wnen it will be found to amount is small, and of this we will not have acquired a good full color. It is then washed well in cold water, wrung, and dried. any of the primitive colors-yellow, red, and Some dyers give their dye stuffs at two separate times, one-half in the first tub and onehalf in a second tub, and this is the best plan. The alum should always be given cold, and the dye stuffs should be given moderately cold in the first tub, and pretty hot in the second. Peach wood and Brazil wood should be kept boiled up in strong liquor for dyeing Old silk dresses, if boiled in a strong solution of soap, then well washed, and the old color discharged in a hot liquor of diluted sulphuric acid, and well washed again, can

be dyed in this manner by any female by simply making up a solution of alum in a crock, and proceeding as above directed for the silk dress. Old ribbons can in this manner, if they are of soft silk, be made to look equal to new. They can be stiffened with a little weak white glue, dissolved in water, and ironed on the wrong side with a flat iron. All Brazil wood reds are of a rich color, but inclined to a ruby shade, that is, they are not of a bright red color. Another way to dye red on silk with Brazil wood, is by making up a strong standing tub of the nitro muriate of tin and Brazil wood liquor, and handling the silk in this till it is the proper depth of color. This liquor must be very strong, the spirits at the ratio of 3°, and the dye wood liquor as strong. For common purposes, this method of dyeing red on silk should not be pursued. If a very few drops of the nitro muriate of tin is added to the last liquor -for dyeing by the alum process, as described—a few minutes before the silk is finished (but it must be lifted out of the tub for this purpose,) it will make the color more brilliant.

COCHINEAL RED-This is the most beautiful red that is dyed on silk, and far exceeds all ancient colors for brilliancy. The mordant for this is nitro muriate of tin spirits. and cream of tartar. The spirits should be strong, about 3° in the hydrometer, and for each pound of silk no less than three ounces of cream of tartar should be mixed with the spirits. The silk is spirited moderately hot, handled for half an hour, and left to steep for three hours. It is then lifted, squeezed. or wrung, and is ready to receive the cochineal. It takes no less than four ounces of cochineal to dye one pound of silk. This is ground fine, put into a clean copper kettle and boiled for ten minutes. It is then put off the boil and cooled a little down, and the silk entered and handled at a scalding heat, for three 'quarters of an hour, when it will be found to be a beautiful color. To dye white crape shawls a full red, it requires six ounces of cochineal to every pound weight of the shawl. Four ounces of good cochineal will dye fifteen yards of silk. By preparing silks with alum instead of spirits, they can 'also be dyed red with cochineal, but they must lie in the alum for at least six hours.

LONDON SCARLET-The London jobbing dyers, in dyeing crape shawls a scarlet color, give them first a strong body of annatto, then steep them over night in a tub of strong cold alum liquor, and give the cochineal as has been described, in a kettle at a scalding heat, with two ounces of spirits for every heavy crape shawl. They allow four ounces of cochineal for every pound weight of silk, but the experience of New York jobbing dyers is different; they have to give six ounces of the common cochineal. All silks should be well washed before they are dried. There is no fear of spoiling this color with too much cochineal; it is too dear to be used indiscriminately.

CRIMSON is a binary color, composed of the red and blue rays, but it is commonly called red, because the red ray greatly predominates. It is dyed by preparing silk with a strong body of archil, instead of the annatto as for scarlet, and then dyed a cochi-After being dyed red it can be toned down

(which saddens the color) that may be in the nitric acid, and there is but little made which is free from it. The next article will relate to dyeing blue.

Note-James Yates, in writing to us from Bridgeport, Ohio, thinks these articles in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN imperfect for country manufacturers, "because," as he says, "they do not tell us how to make or proportion the different acids, and how much tin to put in." He is mistaken so far as it relates to the making of spirits, if he means this. On page 130, we gave the proportions of acid and tin; the proportion of tin is to feed it slowly in, till the acid will take no more. The complicity of spirits, and the mystery which some dyers throw around them, is all fudge. If Mr. Yates wishes to know how to make acids, we can inform him, but it is no more a part of the dyers regular business than to make indigo, the bichromate of potash, or to cultivate the cochineal insect. Mr. Yates will never go wrong, if he is a country dyer, and uses no other spirits than the simple muriate of tin-fully saturated with pure tin.

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Distributing Scientific Documents.

Congressional printing which, until very recently, was disgraceful to the nation, and to the typographical art, has been reformed in some degree; but the system, or want of system, which governs the distribution of scientific documents, is still wretched in the extreme. "Men of science," says Silliman's Journal, "to whom particular reports would be of direct practical use, are often entirely unable to procure copies of them, while many men of more political importance, but who will never even look into them, have these same reports profusely lavished upon them. Valuable documents which are reported to applicants as all exhausted, do wholesale duty as wrapping paper for Washington grocers and marketmen, at a standard price of four cents a pound, maps and plates included. Distributing Owen's Geological Report to a dry goods importer and the Treasury report on commerce to a geologist, would seem too great an absurdity to exist if we did not know that hundreds of truly valuable volumes are annually thus wasted."

The remedy for this ridiculous waste of the public money seems to us extremely simple. Sell copies of the documents referred to, to all who desire them, at the cost of production. This plan has been adopted in England, and has been found to answer the purpose perfectly. We are opposed to the deadhead system, root and branch, and shall go strongly for its eradication from all departments of affairs, public and private. Abolish the franking privilege, and sell the documents!-[Life Illustrated.

The Fishy Taste of Boston Water-the Reason. Dr. Jas. R. Nichols, of Haverhill, Mass., has written an article to the Boston Journal which we think accounts, in a very satisfactory manner, for the late fishy taste of the water in Boston. Haverhill is supplied with water from Round Pond, which is fed by bubbling springs, and the bottom and shores of which are clean and pebbly; no swamp waters, nor decayed vegetation finds their way into it, and yet its waters sometimes have the same fishy taste of those proceeding from Lake Cochituate, which supplies Boston, and which taste has been attributed to decayed vegetation. Dr. Nichols discovered that the fishy taste of water in Haverhill—which has taken place in winter as well as summer—has been caused by a slime which accumulates on fish when they are not abundantly supplied with fresh water, and which is thrown off in the water when new fresh water is supplied to them. The fish in Lake Cochituate, he believes, were not supplied with sufficient quantities of fresh water during the great drouth of last summer, and hence the phenomenon, as in Haverhill, of the fishy taste experienced in drinking Boston water. This appears to be a very conclusive argument. He admits that his view of the question does not detract from the value and importance of the investigations pursued with so much sagacity and ability by Professors Jackson and Hors-

to any depth of crimson by handling in a weak alkaline liquor; urine is used for this purpose. Silk in pieces about twenty yards in length, can be handled easily by selvedging.

London has been long distinguished, in England, for dyeing the finest cochineal reds, and the spirits which are made there for this purpose used to be sold to all the other dyers throughout that country. The simple muriate of tin, however, makes a very good spirits, but the red they produce is more on the blue shade than spirits made having the greatest proportion of nitric acid. All nitro muriate of tin spirits, for cochineal red colors, should have one ounce of sal ammoniac added in a dissolved state, to every gallon yarn,) and entered into the above tub, where described for white silk yarn. Ribbons may of spirits. This removes any trace of iron ford. The remedy is, "remove the fish."



On Quercitrine.-By M. Rigaud.

The author has investigated the coloring matter of quercitron bark in Will's laboratory. The coloring matter contained in it, called quercitrine by Chevreul, has since been investigated by Bolley, who called it quercitric acid; and his investigation shows it to be probable that this body contains sugar, and therefore belongs to the glycosides, as he found that it furnished formic acid by treatment with oxydizing agents.

Rigaud's quercitrine, C36 H20 O21, or more probably C36 H19 O21, was prepared essentially according to Bolley's directions. The commercial bark was extracted with alcohol of spec. grav. 0.849; the expressed fluid was freed from quercitron-tannic acid and a brown body by gelatine or animal membrane. Lhis purified solution was further evaporated after the distillation of the alcohol, replacing the alcohol as it evaporated by water, when the quercitrine, which is insoluble in hot water, is deposited. By the direct evaporation of the alcoholic solution, only a brown extract is obtained. The substance is obtained pure by repeated solution in alcohol, and separation by means of water.

It is of a sulphur or chrome-yellow color, of a slightly bitter taste, inodorous, composed of microscopic crystals of the rightrhombic system, which do not polarize light; it is soluble in 425 parts of boiling water (400 parts according to Bolley,) is readily soluble in dilute ammonia and solution of soda, sparingly soluble in ether, and almost insoluble in cold water. The ammoniacal solutions become darker in the air, and acquire at last a dark brown color. In dry distillation, it fuses, becomes darker in color. and for the most part decomposed; the residue is a light cinder, whilst the receiver contains a small quantity of a sublimate accompanied by the ordinary products of dry distillation, such as empyreumatic oils. Both the aqueous and alcoholic solutions of quercitrine give a dark green color with perchloride of iron, without producing a precipitate; the color is still observable when the solution is diluted 4000 to 5000 times. Its analysis gave,—

Bolley. 52.486 36 4.958 19 Carbon, 53**·**04 53.07 53.66 53.5 5.03 4.91 5.22 4.958 41.93 41.62 41.12 42.556 Hydrogen, 5.03 4'7I 21 41.70 Oxygen The analyses differ principally in the

amount of carbon from Bolley's, who calcu-

QUERCETINE, C24 H10 O11.-If quercittime. Hence, if the perihelion distance and acid, diluting this with water, and adding being burned, and no cause for the same asrine be boiled with much water and dilute periodical revolution of one of these bodies a little to the liquid described, the result designed, I am led to believe that there is a become known, its orbitual elements can be sulphuric acid. a substance of a brighter sired will be obtained. When the timber is phenomenon produced from bulks of ashes, readily computed, not only "according to color separates, and a kind of sugar is contaken out of the trough it is dried in a hot that is not generally known by our people tained in the fluid. The author calls this yelcometic calculation," but strictly in conroom, and is then found to resist the destruc-(I for one.) In the year 1852 I was engaged low body quercetine. When pure, it is a citformity to mathematically demonstrated tive action of fire and the atmosphere in an in removing a pile of ashes about 4 feet in diron-yellow powder, with a greenish tint; principles. Several comets are known to reeminent degree. ameter from an ash house ; they had been deand when examined under the microscope, it turn to their perihelia periodically, in orbits The waste chlorine liquor in our bleach posited there in small quantities during one whose mean distances and periods are not is found to consist of transparent crystalline works might be applied to impart preservaneedles, which do not polarize light. It is much different from those of the asteroids, or more years, and great care was taken not tive qualities to timber by the above process, to have any fire in them when they were tasteless and inodorous, and undergoes no such are Encke's and the twin comet of Biela by saturating it as described. stowed away. On coming to the center of The mean distance of Encke's comet is 2.2 change in the air. It is but sparingly solu-A solution of roasted alum and the sulthe heap I was surprised to find them almost ble in hot water, but dissolves readily in alradii of the earth's orbit; and its eccentricphate of copper makes a very excellent preas hot as they were when they were taken ity is four-fifths of its semi-axis. The aphecohol. It is soluble in acetic acid when hot, paration for wood, to render it non-combustiout of the center of the fire place during the lion of this comet is within the orbit of Jn but separates for the most part on cooling. ble, and to impart to it good preservative time of a hot fire being over them. The hot piter, but that of Biela's is a little beyond It possesses the character of a weak acid. qualities. The timber to be prepared should ashes occupied a space in the center of about his path. The mean distance of Halley's Water containing a little potash or soda disbe placed on end in a water-tight trough, and two feet in circumference. Now the quescomet is about eighteen; and its eccentricity solves it with the greatest facility, and with the liquor poured in on its upper ends until tion arises, what caused this heat, and what a golden-yellow color. On the addition of is above nine-tenths of its half major axis. the trough is full, and covers the timber. Of kept it up for so long a time, and if this kind No attracting body can exist in the upper fo. an acid, it separates again in flakes; whilst course some weight must be applied to hold the color disappears. It is also readily soluof a chemical action has not taken place in cus of the orbit of any comet which is known down the timber in the trough. The solution many places, and at different times, and to ble in ammonia; the solution constantly beto be periodical, besides its being impossible should be proportioned of one pound of the such an extent as to cause ignition and set comes darker when exposed to the air, until for a body to remain motionless at such a sulphate of zinc to two pounds of roasted alhouses on fire. Yours, &c., F. STINSON. at length it acquires a humus-like color.point, its perturbing actions would at once um, and of the strength of 3° in a Twad. Hebardsville, Ky. Jan., 19th, 1855. When heated upon platinum foil, it fuses, reveal its existence. Nor is there any physhydrometer. [More than one question arises from the and burns with a strongly fuliginous flame, ical necessity for such a contrivance, their motions being admirably directed by the Apple Sauce. leaving a light coal as a residue, which disfacts presented. Hot ash heaps will set appears entirely at a more intense heat. solar attraction alone. No comets can have houses on fire it kept in contact with wood. If any of our readers are in want of any The non-conducting quality of dry-wood The solution of quercetine gives the same bodies in their further foci, unless they pass good old fashioned apple sass, they can proto the fixed stars themselves. The nearest green color with perchloride of iron as that ashes, is well known. Some red-hot cinders cure it of E. Myrick, Shaker Village, South are always thrown into ash pits; it is scarce-Groton, Mass. We have carefully tested its of quercitrine, a property possessed by these fixed star whose distance has been ascerbodies in common with æsculine and æsculetained, Alpha Centauri, is more than two ly possible to prevent this, and as a number quality, and can recommend it as a most deof charred chips are left mixed with the ashtine. Quantitative determinations of the hundred thousand radii of the earth's orbit licious article for table use. Some time ago sugar (by Fehling's method) gave 44.35 per from the sun. It requires light, moving conthe facetious Knickerbocker was eloquent in es, these are often ignited in the ash pit, and cent. of sugar, supposing it to be grape-sugtinually at the rate of 192,000 miles per secburn slowly for a long time, producing a low its praise of Capt. Coddle's medicated apple ar. The quercetine being nearly insoluble ond, above 34 years to traverse this interval. combustion. The ashes on the outside being sass, and preferred it to all other remedial in water, could also be determined directly How long then would it require a comet to a good non-conductor, prevent the heat from agents. We can assure our neighbor that by collecting and weighing. From 100 parts complete the double tour? That comets do radiating into space, and thus the heat of the sass of our shaker friend is far superior of quercitrine the author obtained 61.44 of not reach our system from the regions of ash heaps is maintained for a long time. to Coddle's in every respect.

lowing formnla for quercitrine, C36 H20 O21; during decomposition an equivalent of grape sugar would be produced by the assimilation of 2HO, leaving for quercetine C24 H10 O11; thus:

C36 H20 O21 plus 2HO equal C12 H12 O12 plus C24H10 O14, Quercitri Grape Sugar. of which the percentage composition agrees with that found by analysis:

Carbon, 59.15 59.05 59.48 59.26 4.05 4.35 4.27 Hydrogen, 3.84 36 80 36.60 36.47 36.68 Oxygen. The author nevertheless considers it to be more probable that the formula of quercitrine is C36 H19 O21, which would consequently, by the reception of 2HO and the elimination of C12 H10 O10, give C24 H9 O11 for quercetine. The decomposition would therefore be represented in the following manner :---

C36 H19 O21 plus 2HO equal C12 H12 O12 plus C24 H9 O11, Grape Sugar. Quercitrine. Quercetine The sugar formed by the splitting of the quercitrine does not deviate the plane of polarization. From the analyses it appears to have the composition C12 H15 O15 or C12 H12 O12+3HO. It tastes much sweeter than grape-sugar .-- [Liebig's Annalen.

----Comets.

MESSRS. EDITORS-Your correspondent J. Wise, in an article appearing in the SCIEN-TIFIC AMERICAN of the 2nd ult., conjectures that those apparently erratic visitants of our heavens, comets, revolve round the centers of different systems in their aphelia; which hypothesis is wholly at variance with their observed motions while in their visible orbits, and the rapid periodical returns of several. The immortal Newton showed that the orbits of bodies revolving round attracting centers, must belong to the conic sections. The orbits of all the planets, and probably of nearly every comet, are ellipses, having the sun in one of their foci respectively. The orbits of the larger planets are moderately eccentric; but those of the asteroids are quite otherwise. The eccentricity of Juno's orbit amounts to one-fourth of its semi-transverse axis; and Pallas describes a path almost à eccentric. The asteroids form a sort of connecting link between planets properly so termed, and comets of short periods.

Comets, like planets, describe their orbits in obedience to the laws of gravitation. When in the visible portions of their paths,

quercetine. From this he calculated the fol- the fixed stars is quite evident. The solar system is continually moving through space with a velocity equal to about one-fourth of the earth's in her orbit, towards a point in the celestial regions situated in the constellation Hercules. It may be demonstrated that this motion of the system would cause a comet coming into it from external regions to move in a hyperbolic orbit, whatever might have been its previous velocity. The observed orbits of comets do not appear to be hyperbolas; hence, they belong to our system, and are carried along through space with it. Moreover, if they come from other systems, they would enter ours more frequently on the side towards which its motion is directed; but they approach the sun alike on all sides. Therefore we conclude that comets are a peculiar class of members of our system. STILLMAN MASTERMAN.

Weld, Me.

Incrustations in Boilers.

MESSRS. EDITORS-I took different kinds of wood and tried them in a steam boiler, such as mahogany, maple, walnut, both in sawdust and blocks; I also tried potatoes and corn meal, but I could not keep the encrustations from forming. I then tried some green white-oak blocks, from two to four cubic inches in size. In two weeks I went into the boiler, and to my great pleasure I found the scale all lying on the bottom, but the blocks were nowhere. I swept the boiler as clean as new iron, and then put about a peck more of such blocks. At the end of three weeks I examined it again, and found it as clean and smooth as a dinner pot, but no blocks. There was a white sediment on the bottom, which I suppose was the lime of the water. While I continued to use the white oak I was not troubled with scale. Were those blocks burnt up, or were they decomposed by the water, or did the steam decompose them as they floated on the surface? A. M. O.

[The blocks very soon became as heavy as the water itself, and were no doubt dissolved

by the continued action of the hot water. High pressure steam has wonderful solvent powers. It will dissolve the flinty rock itself. Silicon is found in solution in the hot springs of Iceland.

Hot Ash Heaps.

MESSRS. EDITORS-Having often heard of lated for this body the formula C16 H9 O10. their radii vectores, like those of planets, are Some creosote may be added to the liquid, houses being burned which were supposed to The author founds his proposed formula upobserved to sweep over equal areas in their and with a good effect. By dissolving coal have taken fire from ash barrels, and ash on the following facts. orbitual planes during equal divisions of oil in a concentrated solution of sulphuric houses, and also hearing of many houses

Heaps of grain that have been burned in stores, have in some instances retained a great heat for a number of years.

A New Flesh Broth for the Sick,-By Justus Liebig.

To prepare a portion for one person of this flesh broth, take a half pound of meat of some freshly slaughtered animal (beef or chicken,) chop it finely, and mix it well with eighteen ounces of distilled water, to which has been added four drops of pure hydrochloric acid and from a half to one drachm of culinary salt. After standing for an hour, the whole is thrown upon a hair sieve, such as is to be found in every kitchen, and suffered to drain without the application of any pressure.-The first cloudy droppings are returned to the sieve until it flows quite clearly. A half pound of distilled water is then thrown in small portions upon the residue in the sieve. In this way is obtained about a pound of liquid (cold extract of flesh,) of a red color and pleasant broth taste. It is administered to the patient cold, and by cups full, at pleasure. It should not be heated, as it then becomes cloudy, and gives rise to a thick deposit of flesh-albumen, and hæmatin.

A great difficulty in the use of this broth is, it is liable to turn sour, from its undergoing change in warm weather; it enters regularly into fermentation, like sugar-water with yeast, without giving rise to a bad smell; the body thus formed is very well worthy of investigation. The extraction of the flesh must therefore be undertaken with quite cold water, and in a cool place. Ice water and external ice cooling remove this difficulty completely; above all, it is strictly to be cared for that the flesh is fresh, and not several days old.

Preserving Timber.

Antoine E. P. Le Gross, of Paris, has recently obtained a patent, the object of which is to preserve all kinds of timber by a cheap chemical solution, which does not injure its fiber. For this purpose he employs a solution of hydrochlorate of manganese saturated with chalk and the oxyd of zinc. The logs or pieces of timber are steeped in this solution about twenty-four hours. The vessel to hold the timber is placed vertically, so that the timber can be placed on end, to allow the liquid to flow through the pores by capillary attraction. If placed horizontally, the liquid will not flow through the fibers of the timber.

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Rew Inventions.

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Improved Churn.

Although quite a number of patents have been obtained for improvements in churns the end of excellence has not been obtained simple as such dairy apparatuses are. The patent granted to Ezekiel Gore, of Benning ton, Vt., on the 2nd inst., affords some assurance for this assertion. In the process of churning it is desirable to have some means of producing a ceaseless agitation among the oily butter globules of the fluid, also of regulating at pleasure the resisting surface presented to the cream. When the cream to be churned is thin, the resisting surface within the churn should be greater than when it is of a thick consistency. Again, in gathering the butter together after it has been separated from the other milky matters, very little agitation is required. These results are obtained in the churn by making the dash pins with their lower ends flat, and so arranged that they can be set feathered-edged, to present the exact amount of resisting surface required.

Suspended Purchase

In the list of patents granted on the 2nd inst., there is one bearing the above title granted to Wm. Hogg Brown, of Erie, Pa From its name many of our readers may not be able to infer what it is-what are its uses and what new objects it accomplishes. As a knowledge of the nature of the invention cannot well be obtained from the claims as published, we would state that it consists in transporting heavy bodies with great facility and ease across rivers and ravines, and it can also be applied to the saving of persons by shipwreck, when near the shore, by shooting a cable over the ship, and fastening it on the ship and to the shore, the cable being suspended above the wild waves, and a carriage, acting automatically, be made to run on the cable between the ship and the shore, and convey both persons and goods to land safely, and with rapidity. A fixed wire cable is suspended between two points, say both banks of the Niagara river, and Mr. Brown's peculiar carriage is made to traverse on this cable, guided by block and tackle, and made to act automatically to couple and uncouple, for loading and discharging at any desired point, with ease and correctness. It is a great engineering invention for transporting blocks for building piers in rivers, and transporting cannons and the baggage of armies. By it the whole artillery of a large army could be transported across a deep river with steep banks, in a very few hours. It has also been secured by patent in England, and soon will be in France and Russia.

Printing Press for a Number of Colors. Every improvement which renders the printing press superior in its operations for ornamental printing, must certainly be considered an elevation of the art. This ap pears to be effected by the patent granted to Stephen Brown, of Syracuse, N. Y., also on the 2nd inst. The nature of the improvement consists in the use of a series of sectional plattens, the number of which corres pond to the number of colors used. The form to be printed from is placed upon the several plattens, and so arranged that each part of the form upon the several plattens may receive the colors desired. The plattens work in grooves in the sides of the press frame, and rest upon stops placed at sufficient distances apart to allow the different ink rollers to pass over all the plattens at the same time. The plattens, when the frame is inked, are operated upon and pressed against the sheet simultaneously by a movable bed which works underneath them.

granted to David Baldwin, of Godwinsville, | in a single sheet of paper at once, by lifting | around which one of the reefing lines passes, N. J., for such a machine, the patent of which it from a table, and throwing it forward by was obtained through this office; the inven- | a vibrating frame, having a number of tubes tor having come off successful in competition on it, by forming a vacuum in the tubes, by with a number of other applicants. The working model of that invention has been in operation in our office, and we have seen it | and then is dropped on the proper place, operate satisfactorily. Its principle of oper- by simply destroying the vacuum in the ation is by working an air pump, and feeding tubes.

which means a sheet of paper flies up and sticks to them, until it is fed into the press,



was granted to James Curtis, of Chicago, Ill., on the 23rd of last May. Figure 1 is a perspective view, and figure

2 is a section through one of the hollow bearings.

The nature of the invention consists in the so hanging of the pairs or sets of sails upon one shaft extending both ways from the center shaft, as that when one sail of the pair partial turning of their common shaft, turn and aid its fellow in so doing. Also in the hollow bearings upon which the sails pivot, or turn, so that the lines by which the sails are reefed may pass through them.

A represents a hollow shaft, supported in

The accompanying engravings represent | up to the wind by braces, H H H H, an improved wind mill, for which a patent which extend from the shaft to the extreme ends of the sail frames, serving the double service of braces and guides to the turning of the sail frames; d d d, are hollow bearings, to which the sail frames are pivoted, so as to turn thereon, and e e e e are similar hollow bearings on the sail frames; I is a shaft extending from the inside to the outside pieces of the sail frames, and which might be considered as a part of the turns to the wind, its fellows shall, by the shaft, G, for said shaft, G, instead of terminating at the frame, (as represented) may extend edgewise to prevent resistence to the wind, to the outer extremity of said frame. But one shaft, I, is shown to the sail, F, a precisely similar one being connected to the other sail F', of the pair; f f are the outer bearings on the sail frames, and g g the outer J. L corresponding bearings on the extremes of

so as to draw their sails out to their extreme distance, the other line is for taking them in. The sail frames are hung to their shafts with the greater portion below said shaft to aid in turning them, and cause the turning of one to aid the other. Means have been essayed to cause one sail to turn the other, in which a system of lines and levers were combined for the purpose. But in that method one sail must of necessity use or exert all the force required to turn the other one, whilst in this arrangement each of the pairs aids the other in coming to its place, whether fair up to, or horizontal to the wind.

The sails in this wind mill may be framed or pannelled like a door, and when so constructed can be used for a tidal water wheel. The shaft, A, may extend down through the building, and on it may be placed a large gear wheel or pulley, to gear with other wheels, or by belting to gear with other pulleys for driving a saw, grist mill, pump, &c. This horizontal wind mill can be attached to any building which is made strong to receive it. It will turn with the wind to any quarter. Mr. Curtis intends to try this wheel on a propeller, so as to try what wind can do with his sails in moving a vessel directly against itself.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. Curtis.

Folding Life Boat.

Since the sad calamity of the Arctic, a great many plans of life boats and life preservers have been suggested, and brought before the public. Among the former means of saving life, the folding life boat of C. Locher, of this city, for which a patent was obtained on the 2nd, has claims to public attention. It consists of a folding frame, which supports and sustains a covering of sheet india rubber, or other water proof fabric, so that it can be folded into a very small space, or spread out-and this in a very short time-to form a very buoyant and strong boat. The frame has movable ribs hinged to its central part, and to these ribs and the central part of the frame there is attached a chain or chains, by which all the ribs are spread at once, and when extended are properly stayed and kept in position.

Employment for the Poor.

There is a Society formed in this city com posed of some of our most respectable citizens, the object of which is to find employment in the country for persons out of work in the city. The object is a good one; there are far too many strong healthy laborers out of work in our city at present, and it is believed that great numbers of these are wanted in various parts of our country, for hard and heavy labor. Any of our subscribers who require such help, may find it by describing the qualifications and character of the person or persons they wish to employ, and forwarding the same to Mortimer De Motte, Corresponding Secretary, No. 13 Astor Place, or 27 Greenwich street, rooms of the Society.

| 1 | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | | - | |
| I | Money Paid | on Prizes. | |
| | MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, | Louisville, Ky., | \$1 00 |
| 1 | M. KELLOGG, | Batavia. N. Y., | \$75 |
| | W. D. WHALEN, | Northville, Mich., | \$6 |
| | A. N. NEWTON, | Richmond, Ind., | \$55 |
| | J. LANE. Jr., | Lockport, Ill., | \$50 |
| | We are anxious to pay | y over the remain | ning |
| 1 | amounts to those who a | no optitled to th | hom |

Feeding Paper to Printing Presses. In the month of October, 1853, M. S. Beach, proprietor of the New York Sun, offered a reward, which was to stand open until the first of this month, for a machine to feed paper into his printing press. No inventor has come forward to contend for the reward, but on the 2nd of this month a patent was changes. The sails are caught when fair small friction roller, as seen in figure 2, miles from New Orleans!

a step, B, at its base, and a sleeve or boss, B', attached to an arm, D, of the fixed upright, E, above the step, to give the shaft other set or pairs of sails, similarly rigged support. F F' are one of the sets or pairs of | in all respects with the pairs, F F', except sails, attached to the extreme ends of a common shaft, G, so that said shaft shall turn with the sails. The frames of the sails are oblong or square, and composed of the metallic pieces, $a \ a \ a \ a$, and the sails have rods or stays, b b (in dotted lines,) passing through with eyes, c c, turned on them to keep them, and allow them to move or slide on two of the opposite pieces, a a, of the frame. These sails are set at such angle or inclination to arranged a platform for the attendant to each other, that when one is fair to the wind. as F, the other, F', shall be nearly horizontal, and one aids the other in making the

the sail shafts, both being hollow, as in the case of the inner bearings. J J' are the

that their common shaft, J", is bent upwards, so as not to interfere with the shaft, G, of the other set. In these sets or pairs, K corresponds to the shaft. I, of the other set. The reefing lines pass through the hollow bearprize with Mr. Inger. ings, thence down through the hollow shaft, and out at the openings, *i i*, in said shaft, and are secured to the blocks, K K, on said shaft. At or below this point on the shaft may be

On the 1st inst., the celebrated aeronaut, Mons, Godard, left New Orleans in his balloon, and in three hours and a half afterstand on, so that he may stand thereon and wards, landed safely at Amite settlement in reef the sail whilst the wind wheel is in mo-East Feliciana, La., one hundred and ninety tion. In the outer bearings are arranged a

amounts to those who are entitled to them. The parties will please send their orders as soon as possible.

CORRECTION-J.S. Tuthill, of Tipton, Iowa, has called our attention to the fact that he has sent the same number of subscribers as J. Inger, of Waterford, N.Y., viz., 25. Upon examination we find this statement correct. therefore he is entitled to share the 14th

Rapid Traveling.

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Scientific American.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 27, 1855.

Seward's Speech on the Steam Engine. The speech of Senator Seward, referred to in the patent case of Sickles vs. Corliss, on another column, contains either some misprints, or errors of its author. In one part steam engine in 1840 was of two and distinct kinds; the puppet valve engine chiefly a marine power, and the sliding valve engine a stationary or land power. In each of these two kinds the steam engine was yet a very expensive power, although Watt had diminished by three fourths the quantity of fuel which it consumed. It was still the cost of fuel that mainly prevented the steam engine from going into universal use as a prime moving power on sea and land." Senator Seward is greatly mistaken in making such assertions. The steam engine in 1840 had gone into universal use, and the slide valve, not the puppet, was the kind generally used in marine engines. Regular ocean navigation had been established between New York and Liverpool for three years before, and in that year the Cunard line commenced to make semi-monthly trips between Liverpool and Boston. The slide valve is the kind in use in the British steamships, while the puppet valves are used on the Collins and other American steamships. Mr. Seward, it appears to us, wished to convey the idea that but for improvements made in the cut-off of valves since 1840, by his client for slide valve engines for land, and Sickles for marine engines, the steam engine would not have come into such general use as it has. In this he greatly errs, as but very few engines having these cut-offs have come into use. Engineers will have their preferences, and there will always be a difference of opinion respecting their merits in comparison with the older plans for cutting off the steam. It is our opinion that no improvement of any consequence has been made in saving fuel in steam engines since 1840, by devices for working the valves. The greatest improvements have been made by a more general use of tubular boilers, an invention of more than fifteen years of age. We would not be understood as speaking a word against the importance of the *devices* embraced in the patents of Sickles or Corliss, for operating the valves of steam engines to cut off the steam, we only wish the fact to go forth that these improvements exerted no general influence to extend the use of the steam engine, the idea which Mr. Seward certainly intended to convey.

In another part of his speech he says, "a cut-off adjusted by hand is practically sufficient in marine engines, because the work to be performed by the engine remains the same during the voyage, in other words, the work of the marine engine is not intermittent." He certainly never was in the engine room of a steamship crossing the Atlantic, with a high fair wind, and a rough sea. He never made a greater mistake than to assert the working of the marine engine was uniform -not intermittent. It is the most unequal and intermittent of all engines; it is even frightfully so, when the paddles plunge one minute henesth the wave and the next has the air. The man who first invents a perfect automatic cut-off for marine engines, will certainly make a fortune and receive the thanks of the whole engineering world.

centrated in one sentence, namely, the ma- | needs when exposed to the cold) over a fire jority of the Board of Regents have decided made of a few chips, in ten minutes. We that the expending of the donation of Smithson to erect and maintain a huge library in Duke of Newcastle and the Emperor Nicho-Washington would be a violation of the will las also. Russia, we believe, would profit of the donor. The Board is right, as any uninterested man of common sense must allow | land, inasmuch as beef is much cheaper in who reads that will.

The Tribune says, "The one-sided and narrow character of the Institution is to be carefully maintained, of course as a part of it; the vicious system of publication hitherto in vogue, is to be continued. Books which have so little real value that they could not find a private publisher-works on the minutiæ of ichthyology, geology, antiquities, or whatever other subject-are to be printed in small and costly editions for distribution among European libraries, possibly endorsing one or two names with a sort of remote eclat, but genuine science will be as little advanced by them as by their predecessors. In a word, the Smithsonian Institution is to remain a sort of lying-in asylum for luxurious authors, where their still-born offspring are arrayed in useless splendor, at the expense of a fund given for no such purpose."

We sincerely wish that this Institution had published more works of a practical useful character than it has; still it has published some very valuable and cheap works. We believe that we can assert positively, that the charge against luxurious authors is unfounded. The author of the work on antiquities, published by the Institute, we have been told, possessed but a very moderate amount of this world's goods when his work was issued. It would appear as if the Tribune considered geology something outside the pale of genuine science. We look upon it as a very useful science, and we regret that the Smithsonian Institute has not published more on its minutiæ. Ichthyology and antiquities, however, should form but a small part of the Smithsonian publications. A number of eminent professors should be appointed to this Institute-one for each branch of science-and one or two free lectures should be delivered in the Institution at certain hours every five days in the week, during five or six months in the year, commencing in December. During the other six months, these professors should be allowed quietness to pursue investigations in science -each in his separate department—and all the new discoveries made by them should be published annually. By this plan the will of Smithson would be carried out in a manner worthy of our country. By this means know ledge would be increased, and by cheap publications of the Professors' Reports, it would be diffused among men. A library confined to any locality cannot increase knowledge, and certainly it cannot diffuse it to a large extent. Smithson's will was made to increase knowledge among men-all nations-and he left it to the United States to do this as trustees. We hope the Smithsonian Institute will do this more thoroughly hereafter than it has hitherto done, but if it had published such works as those of Audubon, which would have done it honor, it would have come under the lash of the Tribune, for he had to get them published abroad, not being able to find a private publisher in his own country.

Meat Biscuit-Extract of Beef.

hope this will attract the attention of the more by adopting the meat biscuit than Engthe former country, and it only requires to be condensed, as in the meat biscuit, to feed the Russian soldiers in the Crimea far better than those of the Allies'; it is stated in recent accounts that they are not so well fed, and this affords a key for their not fighting so well. Give them plenty of meat biscuit to make soup to eat with their coarse bread, and their courage and endurance will rise fifty per cent. Sagacious and experienced surgeons have long ago endeavored to procure a more extended application of the extracts of meat; and, as it relates to its use in armies, Parmentier says, " extract of meat would offer to the severely wounded soldier a means of invigoration which, with a little wine, would instantly restore his powers, exhausted by the great loss of blood, and enable him to be transported to the nearest field hospitial." Dr. Proust says, "he cannot imagine a more fortunate application. What more invigorating remedy; what more powerfully acting panacea than a portion of the extract of meat dissolved in a glass of noble wine. Ought we to have nothing in our field hospitals for the unfortunate soldier, whose fate condemns him to suffer, for our benefit, the horrors of a long death struggle amidst snow and the mud of swamps.' It would seem to us as if these eminent army surgeons were reproaching, when they wrote, years ago, the conduct of the British government of the present day, for the very suffering their soldiers are now enduring. amid snows and swamps, for the want of such a useful article of diet as the meat biscuit,

Soup as Food. In an article on the "Management of Chil dren, and their food," which appeared in the Country Gentleman, and which has been somewhat extensively copied, we find the seal of condemnation set upon soup as food for children, in the following language :--

"Soup, with the exception of the vegeta ble matters and shreds of meat that float in it, is asserted by a late authority (and doubtless correctly) to be entirely indigestiblethat children would starve to death iffed on it alone. The stomach digests only solid food, even milk being coagulated into a curd to undergo this process, and yet there are many farmers who have long since given up the idea of raising fine calves on hav tea, who give their children soup for dinner, under the idea that it is very nourishing."

We venture to say that there never was a more foolish statement put forth than that embraced in this paragraph. What in the name of common sense is soup but vegetables and meat boiled in water, therefore all that said "with the exception of the vegetable matters in pudding, all the rest is indigestible-that children would starve to death if fed on it," what would any one think of the author but that he was talking nonsense, and yet this language is as applicable to pudding as soup. It is also stated in the above paragraph, that "the stomach digests only solid food, even milk being coagulated into a curd

The whole anger of the Tribune may be con- an excellent mess of soup (the very thing he | incombustible matters, which constitute upwards of one-fourth of the weight of the dry extract of flesh," (page 419, letters on chemistry). On page 421 he again says "The juice of flesh contains the food of the muscles; the blood, the food of the juice of the flesh. From this view it is easy to explain the effect of soup; soup is the medicine of the convalescent. No one estimates its value more highly than the hospital physician, for whose patients, soup, as a means of restoring their exhausted strength, cannot be replaced by any other article in the pharmacopœia. Its vivifying and restoring action on the appetite, on the digestive organs, the color, and the general appearance of the sick, is most striking."

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If soup were indigestible would it be given to hospital patients to restore their strength and exhausted energies? We trow not. That they do give it, is a proof of its superiority as an article of diet; it being the very opposite of indigestible-the most digestible of foods. However, as common sense teaches all observing men, the health and strength of man are best maintained by a variety of food. It would not be wise to feed on soup alone, nor upon bread, nor beef, but, in opposition to the above extract, we believe that soup made of barley, and good beef or mutton, is a most healthy and nourishing article of food for children, and it would be well if it were more generally used.

Hydraulic Cements.

There are quite a number of natural hydraulic limestones—experiment alone is the true test of their quality, but artificial hydraulic cement can be made, and is made, and used extensively in many countries. Slacked lime, when mixed with a certain proportion of clay, then burning this, and reducing it afterwards to powder in a grinding mill, makes an excellent hydraulic morwhich is composed of the extract of meat. tar, both portable and convenient for use, by simply mixing it with cold water until it acquires a proper consistence, to be applied with the trowel like common mortar. About twenty-four parts of dry clay are mixed with about eighty parts of pure rich lime, to make this cement. Another kind is made by mixing one hundred and forty parts of chalk with twenty parts, by measure, of clay, and then reducing the whole to a paste, by grinding them together in a pug mill. This latter hydraulic cement is manufactured in great quantities in Paris. The chalk is divided into pieces about the size of a man's hand, and mixed with clay in the proportion of four of the former to two of the latter, and ground in a mill, with a plentiful supply of water. The liquid mixture, as it is ground, is allowed to flow over a lip of the mill, and run into four or five troughs placed at successive differences of level, where the matter held in suspension by the water is deposited. The water is run off these troughs alternately, and the sediment is molded into small blocks, and allowed to dry in the air on platis indigestible must be the water. If it had forms, until they have attained to the dryness of freshly quarried limestone. They are then put into a kiln and burnt like lime, then ground into powder, in which state it is ready to be used as has been described. The famous Portland Cement of England is made in this manner, excepting that the burning is conducted further than in the case of Paris cement, the contents of the kiln being heated to vitrification. Great care must be exercised in the burning and grinding of In 1851, a prize medal was awarded our to undergo this process." Milk, like soup materials. unfit for the food of either children or calves, Hydraulic cement can also be made in a more simple manner (but it is not quite so and only solid food should be given them. good) by mixing two parts of well burned This would be a fine argument for the use of lime, slacked and in powder, with one of charcoal, nitre, and the phosphate of lime as brick dust, and mixing them well together food, as these solid substances contain the into mortar with cold water. The brick for elements of which our bodies are formed. Good soup is excellent food for both young this purpose should be pounded and passed and old as a part of their diet. This is abunthrough a fine sieve. Hydraulic cement can be made of a putty dantly verified in all those who use it. All composed of linseed oil mixed with fresh food requires water to make it digestible; slacked lime, into which is stirred some solid food, that is food containing no moisture, is unknown. Soup is just the extract coarse cotton; this is simply a cheap substiof flesh and vegetables, and finely adapted tute for white lead, and is principally used for the action of the minute battery cells of for cementing the joints of pipes laid underground, but is also very excellent for the the stomach. "The juice of flesh or the

The Smithsonian Institute.

The New York Tribune has lately been somewhat violent in its attacks upon the above named institution, but while it is right with regard to one view of the question, it is essentially wrong in another. It finds fault with the regents of the Institute because they held a secret session and excluded reporters. This may be right and it may be wrong. They are a public board, to be sure, but no more so than the Senate, which sometimes finds it necessary to exclude spectators. I ter and a quart tin pan, a soldier could make | soup," says Liebig, "is particularly rich in | outer coating of water cisterns.

countryman, Gail Borden, Jr., of Texas, at then, on the same principle of reasoning, is the World's Fair in London, for his patent meat biscuit, and it received the highest commendations by Lyon Playfair, the chemist who analyzed it. Yet although it was so prominently brought before the British government on that occasion, and its admirable qualities and adaptation for soldiers' and seamen's food pointed out, so far as we can learn no effort has been made by that government to introduce it into the army and navy. We know of no article of food that would prove so beneficial to the army in the Crimea. It is so compact and nutritious, that one ounce of it would suffice for a comfortable meal for a soldier. With a little wa-



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[Reported Officially for the Scientific American.]

LIST OF PATENT CLAIMS Issued from he United States Patent Office.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 16, 1855.

FIRE ARMS-T. H. Barlow, of Lexington, Ky. : I claim, first, constructing the chamber of the cannon nearly square, and winding, so as to give the projectile the motion and ac-curacy of the rifle ball.

SEED PLANTERS—Jarvis Case, of Springfield, Ohio: I laim the agitation of the seed slide. I, by means of a rockclaim the agitation of the seed slide, I, by means of a rock-er, G, wire, S, and levers, g and x, for the purpose of filling the seed hole with a uniform amount of seed, as set forth. Second, I claim the elastic cut-off plate, t, in combination with brush, v, arranged and constructed in the manner and for the purpose described.

WATER METER—J. S. Barden, of New Haven, Conn.; I claim, first, the two heads being secured one to each end of the cylinder by means of bolts in the form of —, for the purpose of collecting all sediment that may be drawn into the cylinder through the passages, and is not thrownout. Or the collection of sediment upon their sides deposited from the water itself, without which the machine would, in a short time cease to operate

from the water riser, without which the machine words, in a short time, cease to operate. Statched in combination with the guides and -, O P, the latches, q R, suspended from above by the hinge joints, S T, and the bumper attached, the latches failing of their own

I, that the bunner statement, the factnes failing of their own gravity. Third, the construction of the valve, c, suspended upon the two arms in connection with the hanger, L, the two box-es, 5, 6, the two spiral springs within the same, and resting upon the top of the said boxes with the cross bar, 7, and screw, D, for regulating the pressure of the valve, also in having the cross bar an elliptic spring resting on the boxes themselves, and finally the entire combination of the above parts for the object described.

SEWING MACHINES-J. S. Conant, of New York City : I claim, first, an endless rotary cloth feeder, in combination with a reciprocating needle or needles, substantially as de-

BERGH PLANE-W. C. Hopper, of Pittsburg, Pa.: I claim the constructing of planes with the chisel or bit set in front of its wedge, in combination with the use of a mouth piece, substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

substantially in the manner and for the purposes described. FIRE ARMS-E. H. Graham, of Biddeford, Me. : I claim so attaching the tubes or sh rt barrels in which the charges are placed, to a revolving plate, as to addmit of their being separately and successively elevated into a horizontal posi-tionin a line with, and so as to form a continuation of the grin ularfie; while the others retain a vertical position, as set forth and for the purposes specified. Takis of thim the lever, m. a arranged and operating as de-scribed, for elevating and low oring the tubes, which hold the charges, and for cocking the gun, as set forth.

TEMPERS, and to correspond to guide guid, as set for the TEMPERS FOR LOOMS-J. H. Allen, of Biddeford, Me. : I claim arranging the turning joint of the temple about mid way between the ends of the shaft of the inner jaw, incom-bination with applying the spring, G, so that Itshall rest at or near its middle against the adjusting screw, k, and at its ends against the two arms from the said shaft, the same ena-bling me not only to nearly if not entirely balance the tem-le and prevent it from undue pressure on the cloth, but to obtain from the spring a double action on the shaft or an ac-tion on each side of the turning joint, by which the advan-tages in operating the temple and preserving it in correct operation are obtained, as specified.

GOLD WASHER AND AMALGAMATOR-John S. Addison, of lew York Oity : Though I do not claim the employment of

GOLD WASTER AND AMALGAMATOR—John S. Addison, of New York (Dity : Though I do not claim the employment of a trunk into which the ore dity or silicious matter containing the metal to be extracted, is fed, to meet an ascending col-unn of water, as described, nor the operating of the scraper by a water wheel driven by the entrance water, either of it-self, or connected with other devices. But I claim, first, placing such a trunk, I, above a box, D, which forms a receptacle for the gold or other metal separ-ated to the trunk, and which contains a proper quantity of quicksilver for amalgamating the said gold or metal, and al-so a water wheel, G, which is driven by the entrance into the said box of the water, which is to form the upward cur-rent in the trunk, for the purpose of giving motion into a scraper, H, to agriate the quicksilver to promote amalgama-tion, all substantially as described. Second, I claim the arrangement around a trunk into which the pulverized ore, quartz, &c., is fed, to meet an as-cending current of water which flows through and over the trunk of one or more troughs, K M, to contain quicksilver, and a corresponding number of over hanging rims, J L, sit-uated above them in such a manner, substantially as de-scribed, that the flow of water, ore, &c., over one rim falls into the middle of the quicksilver into the trough below it, ind keeps the same properly agitated to amalgamate with it the whole or some portion of the gold or metal contained in the overflow, as fully set forth.

PLUGS FOR LUBRICATING AXLES—Alfred C. Garratt, of Hanover, Mass. : I claim the chambered screw plug open at its lower end, and having a passage made through its side, and applied for removing the accumulated wheel grease, as described.

LAMP SHADES—M. B. Dyott, of Philadelphia, Pa. : I claim the arrangement of the shade, A, shield, B, and wires or their equivalent, C, with the intervening space, substantial-ly as described, for the protection of the shade, as specified.

Door LATCH LOCKS-J. C. Kline, of Pittsburg Pa.: 1 claim the arrangement in double key-holed right and left hand locks of the key tumbler, C, with its noses or projec-tions, g.g., in relation to the spring receiver, D, and the shoulders, d.d, of the bolt, as set forth.

Shoulders, a d, of the bolt, as settorth. PLOWS-Arnton Smith, of Scottville, Ill.: I do not claim any of the separate parts of my plow as new, and I am aware that two plows have been united somewhat like mine, but so that both must advance together, and one must, when raised alone, rotate upon and effect the other, whilst my sep-arate plows may move freely. Therefore I claim the manner of coupling plow 1 with plow 2, by means of hinged slide rods, D, bar, E, and rod, F, for the purpose of allowing each plow a somewhat free and independent motion, and yet bring the plow, under the control both plows, as set forth.

thenipple, thus simplifying the mechanism for automatic

thenipple. thus simplifying the neclambul for automator capping. I also claim the use of an eccentric or its equivalent, as specified, in combination with the capping tube and nipple on the movable breech, as specified, for the purpose of forc-ing the caps to their proper place on the nipple, as thebreech is brought in line for the discharge, as specified. And I also claim pivotting the trigger to the lever for oper-ating the breech, as described, so that the trigger shall be carried in and out by said lever, and shall not be brought in to a position to act upon the lock until the breech is in a line with the barrel, as set forth.

BakE BLOCKS FOR RAILROAD CARS-Lucius Paige, of Gavendish, Vt. : I claim the placing the shoes in sockets or boxes, wherein they remain permanently fixed until worn up so as to be useless. But I claim the improvement of so constructing the shoe, and the socket or bearing thereof, and applying them es-sentially as described, that the shoe may extend entirely through and out of the socket in opposite directions, and be capable of being moved up to the wheel as fast as occasion may require, until it, the shoe or rubber, is worn up or ren-dered until tor further service, my improvement being one of great practical importance and utility.

SCALES-J. L. McPherson, of New Vienna, Ohio : I claim the concentric loaded rims, a and b, in combination with the attachment of the dish, constructed, arranged, and operating substantially and for the purpose specified.

substantially and for the purpose specified. SEWING MACHINES-H. B. Smith, of Lowell, Mass. : I do not claim at two pointed needle, having an eye in its center, as this has been patented to J. J. Greenough ; neither do I claim any other part, device, or thing claimed or patented in said Greenough's patent. But I claim a slit or fissure formed in a needle, so as to be opened by any proper pointed instrument, and the thread inserted in this fissure, and then moved near to one end of it, then by removing the pointed instrument, the two elastic or spring sides of this fissure close together, and pinch and hold the thread so that the needle can be operated to sew a curved or straight seam, and a through or back stich, essentially in themanner and for the purpose set forth. Scond, I claim the stop, T, or otherwise), as to draw the thread through the cloth, so as to draw up the stitch and then let go of the thread by the revolving or moving of this finger, and the arm, s, or equivalent, essentially in the manner and for the purpose set forth. MOLDING MACHINE-C. B. Morse, of Rhinebeck, N. Y. : I

MOLDING MACHINE-C. B. Morse, of Rhinebeck, N. Y.

MOLDING MACHINE—C. B. Morse, of Rhinebeck, N. Y. : I disclaim constructing a cylindrical rotating cutter head with a separating joint athwart its middle, as such its not new. I claim constructing the cutter head of two flanged disks, with slots or openings, g, through one of the disks, to admit of cutters, e, being attached to the other part, ahd partially masked by the flange of the perforated disk, as described, in combination with cutters, i and i, in openings through the composite of the performance of the second seco

SPRING BALANCES—E. P. Beckwith, of New London, Ct., I claim the employment or use of the cylinder, A, surround-ing the spring balance and divided into parts or graduated, substantially as zhown, so that by the aid of the index rod G, or its equivalent, not only the weight but also the whole oraggregate cost of any article may be determined at a giv-en price per pound.

en price per pound. STEERING APPARATUS—A. R. Tewkesbury, of Boston, Mass. : I claim arranging the rudder head within a concen-tric or surrounding frame or case, C, fastened to the deck, and applying on the top of the rudder head and within the case, as described, a driving shaft gearing, and one or more curved racks, of internal cogs, the whole to be operated by a hand wheel applied to turn the shaft, substantially as speci-fied, the said arrangement of parts rendering their combina-tion not only exceedingly efficient and compact, as a steer-ing apparatus, but one wherein the lifting or raising of the rudder by a wave orse is not liable to injuriously derange the machinery.

HAND TRUCK—Parley Hutchins, of Norwich, Mass. : I claim the elevator, constructed and combined with a hand truck, substantially as described, whether operated by a vitalias or any other device commonly employed for raising weights.

GRAIN AND GRASS HARVESTERS-O. B. Judd, of Little Falls, N. Y.: I claim, first, the employment or use of the rotating cutters, M, and stationary cutter, N, arranged sub-stantially as shown and for the purpose set forth. Second, I claim attaching the connecting rod, G, to the outer end of the sickle, H, as shown, for the purpose of be-

ing enabled to employ a long straight rod with a compac

mothine. Third, I claim attaching the sickle bar, I, to the finger bar, F, by hinges, as shown, whereby the sickle and con-necting rod are kept properly in place, and the sickle readi ly attached to and detached from the machine, as described.

STRAW CUTTERS—J. A. Pitts, of Buffalo, N. Y.: I claim so combining the cutting wheel and bar, as that the edges of the cutters must always pass the bar at a fixed adjustable distance, whether the tendency to force the cutters from the straw be great or not.

MAKING BOXES OF PAPER-R. L. Hawes, of Worcester, Mass. I claim, first, the pasting apparatus, consisting of rollers, 2021, working in the open bottoms of vessels con-taining paste or other adhesive material, said rollers having cavities or cells to receive paste from the paste vessels, and transmit it to such parts of the roll or piece of paper or oth-er material as may be necessary, as the paper passes between them beforeentering the machine, substantially as described. Second, I claim the employment of a series, consisting of any suitable number of molds, GH to G6, of proper form for the boxes, arranged so as to work radially or nearly so on or within a revolving mold wheel, I J, outside a series of ta-bles. N N, in such a way that a piece of paper or other thin material to form a hox, is taken between each of the several molds and their respective tables, and drawn between the edge of a projection, C, and of a clamp, t, or other edges at-tached to or forming part of the wheel, for the purpose of bending the paper up the sides of the mold, substantially as described, and thus forming three sides of the box. Third, I claim attaching to the mold wheel between the mold a number of blades, c c, corresponding with the number of molds, so arranged at equal distances spart and at equal dis-tances from the axis, E, of the wheel, that the distance be-tween their cutting edges shall be equal to the required length of paper to form the box, and that they are severally and successively caused by the revolution of the mold wheel to act in combination with a fixed knife, d, suitably arranged in any way substantially as described, and cut the paper or material from the roll in proper lengths to form the boxes. Fourth, I claim the clamps, t, r, arranged, one at the side of each mold, and actuated and operating substantially as described for the purpose of lapping the part, 37, of the pa-per or material over the mold, to form part of the fourthside of the box. MAKING BOXES OF PAPER-R. L. Hawes, of Worcester

Eleventh, I claim the shears, 62 69, arranged and operating as described at the end of the table, 61, along which the print-ed string of labels passes from the printing apparatus in combination with the intermittent motion of the said print-ing apparatus for the purpose of moving forward the labels at proper intervals, and cutting them off one by one, as re-quired to be presented to the boxes. Twelfth, I claim the table 71, attached to or supported above the shear blade 60, so as to move with if or the pur-

quired to be presented to the boxes. Twelfth, I claim the table 71, attached to or supported above the shear blade, 69, so as to move with it for the pur-pose of receiving the cut label, and applying it to the box, as set forth. Thirteenth, I claim the arrangement of and mode of oper-ating the tongs, 7475, substantially as described, that is to say, the said tongs being arranged so that each box will pass them after being completely formed, and being operated to move towards the mold wheel with open jaws, and to close upon the box when it is between them, so that the mold, by a movement in the direction of its length, may be withdrawn from the box, and then to move with closed jaws from the mold wheel to carry the box to a trough or box of sand. Fourteenth, I claim the hokok, 88, attached to one jaw of then ippers, and operated upon substantially as described, so that as the said jaws descend with the box towards the sand box, it throws up the mouth of the box to bring it to a nearly upright positien, to dip the bottom in the sand, substantial-ity as set forth.

box. Sixteenth, I claim the general arrangement, and combina-ion of the several portions of the machine, as described either with or without the labelling and sanding apparatuses, and their appendages.

and their appendages. SEED PLANTERS—Elijah Morgan, of Morgantown, Va.: I claim, first, The combination of the stationary protecting bar and the reciprocating feed bar, when the latter operates within a groove in the former, substantially in the manner described. Second, I claim the combination of the V shaped forms of the bottom of the hopper and the bottom of the reciprocat-ing bar, when said bar is provided with openings from both sides, which meet and vibrate over the holes, c, in the bot-tom of the hopper, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

purpose set forth. , STEREOSCOPIC MEDALLION—J. F. Mascher, of Philadel-phia, Pa.; I am aware that a daguerreotype case has been converted into a stereoscope by constructing it with a sup-plementary flap or lide containing two lenses; a patent hav-ing been granted to me for such an arrangement in 1853, therefore I do not claim the use of a supplementary lid, as used in a daguerreotype case for such a purpose. But I claim constructing a medallion or locket, A B B, with two supplementary lids, C C, containing each a lens, D, and arranged so as to fold within the picture lids, B B, and in such relation to the same that upon being opened and properly adjusted they shall cause the lenses to stand opposite said lids, and thereby convert the medallion into a steroescope, said arrangement also rendering the medallion useful as a microscope and sunglass, substantially as de-scribed. scribed.

MOLDS FOR CASTING PROJECTILES—Hezekiah Conant, of Hartford, Conn.: I claim the arrangement of molds in the periphery of a wheel combined with a stationary band, which also forms part of each mold, the whole operating as escribed.

LUBRICATOR FOR STEAM ENGINES-John Sutton, of New LUBRICATOR FOR STRAM ENGINES—John Sutton, of New York City: I do not claim the employment of a cylinder and a solid piston combined with a grease reservoir to force grease into steam cylinders and other parts of engines and other apparatus while in operation, as I am aware that such a combination has been before made use of, but with cocks or valves not only in the discharge passage but into the pas-sage communicating between the reservoir and cylinder. But I claim arranging the passage or passages between the grease reservoir and forcing cylinder, substantially as described, so as to be opened and closed by the movement of a solid piston, thereby dispensing with a valve or equiv-alent, either in the piston or in the said passage, and only requiring one valve or cock in the discharge passage.

SEED PLANTERS-S. L. Stockstill and P. H. Humes, or Brandt, Ohio: We claim, first, the converging openings of the gauge board, enabling the graduation of the amount of eed, without narrowing or circumscribing the passage with respect to the size of grain, which is thus preserved from outting or indury.

respect to the size of grain, which is thus preserved from cutting or injury. Second, the dividing ridge or flange around the perimeter of the feed wheel at its midwidth, enabling the same wheel to score two exactly equal rows, and at the same time serving to stir the grain, and to shift out of the way any tailings or other obstructions thus would intercept the discharge. Third, the beveled or flaring axial mortise through the feed wheel, preventing any uneveneness of the axle from wabbling or elogging the wheel or disturbing the feed.

ARRANGEMENT OF FILTERING APPRARTUS TO PREVENT INCRUSTATION IN STEAM BOILERS—Gustavus Weissenborn, of New York City : I make no claim to the idea of purifying water before it enters the boiler for the purpose of preventing incrustation, for that has been done before. I claim the arrangement of the exhaust chamber, D, gir-dled at its lower part by the cold water, B', with the basin chamber, F, and filters, G H K, in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

Dies FOR MAKING BOLTS-J. T. Willmarth, of North-bridge, Mass. : I claim the dies, as' constructed as descri-bed, or in any manner substantially equivalent thereto, for the purpose of operating, simultaneously upon both sides of the head, as set forth.

CONNECTING PIPES FOR STEAM BRAKES-Wendell Wright of New York City : I claim providing each end of the sev-eral lengths of pipe for conveying the steam or compressed air under the cars, with a valve k, and an elastic or mova-ble tongue, I, applied substantially as described, so as to al-low the valve to be closed by the pressure of the steam or air, when the end of the pipe is disconnected, but to be caused to epen the valve by the entrance of the end of the pipe, into the month piece of the connecting tube, D.

BUILDING BLOCK-Elizabeth A. Messinger admrx. and William Spencer, adm. of the Estate of John A. Messin-ger, dec., of Milwankie, Wis, assignors to Ambrose Foster, of Portland, Wis. : The building block described is claimed as a new memfecture

r ortinant, when the bulk me bolk described is trained a new manufacture. NorE—This building block is composed of sand and lime, the proportions of 12 parts of sand to one of lims—mixed gether and pressed in molds. No in th

Doors Knops-Wm. Leighton, (assignor to the New Eng-land Glass Co.) of Cambridge, Mass. : I am aware that hol-low glass knobs have been lined with quicksilver, and that glass has been coated with pure silver for various uses, but I am not aware that a cheap door knob has ever been produced having the color and brilliancy of polished silver rendered durable, and free fromilability to tarnishing orabrasion, by protection from the action of chemical or mechanical agents. Therefore I claim the hollow silvered knob sealed up and protected, as set forth, as a new and highly ornamental man-ufacture.

RE-ISSUE

RF-ISSUE. SPARK ARRESTERS—James Radley and John W. Hunter of New York City. Patented originally Jan. 2, 1850 : We claim, first, the arranging of a series of chambers and chan nels between two conically shaped plates, the chamber being so formed as to cause the products of combustion to impinge against that side of each of the dirt chamber which has the openings and caps, and thereby force the

tiffs claim that the Norcross machine infringes the Woodworth patent, and pray for an injunction and an account. The suit being at issue, the plaintiffs moved for a trial by a jury on the question of infringement, which motion was opposed by the defendants. The Court has granted the motion, and made an order that an issue at law be framed in the suit, and be tried by a jury, at the next April Term of the Court, to ascertain and determine whether the Norcross machine infringes the rights of the plaintiff's under the Wood worth patent.

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The parties in the case were Jas. G. Wilson one Wm. Van Hook vs. John B. Church and Jas. W. Ogden.

We will look forward to April with some anxiety, as this trial at law will perhaps be the most important that has ever taken place in our country.

Important Patent Case.

On the 13th inst. a very important patent case was decided in this city, in the U.S. Circuit Court, Judge Betts presiding. The parties were William B. Sickles and others, against Youngs and Cutter, on the complaint of an alleged infringement, by the defendants, of the patent known as "Sickle's Cut-Off," for operating the valves of steam engines, they having been using the engine of Corliss & Nightingale, of Providence, R. I., eight of which are in use in this city, and on which are used the cut-off of Mr. Corliss. also secured by patent. The defendants principally relied on the defense of non-infringement-that the Corliss cut-off was entirely different from that of Sickles. It was therefore a question of opinion given by different expert witnesses, upon which the jury was called to decide, and they did so, in favor of the plaintiff. Their decision was to the effect that the cut-off of Corliss was equiva lent, although very different in form, to that of Sickles. Another jury would, perhaps. under the same circumstances, have made a contrary decision. William H. Seward was counsel for the defence, and made a great speech, but it did not save his client. The defence which he made was published in the Tribune in full. C. M. Kellar, who replied to Senator Seward, made an able defence, but the daily papers did not publish it, so that only one side of the question, as presented by counsel, has been placed before the public. We suppose Mr. Keller does not care about this, the gaining of his important case being enough to satisfy him.

Extension of Patents.

WOODWORTH'S PLANING MACHINE-As petitions are now circulating throughout the country, especially in the west and northwest of several States, against the extension of the Woodworth patent by Congress, we hope they will be very generally signed and promptly forwarded to Washington. The people of each Congressional District should forward their petition to their Representative, and request him to interest himself personally against movements for craftily extending this patent at the present session.

McCormick's Reaper-The Senate of this State passed a resolution on the 15th inst. requesting Congress not to grant the extension of McCormick's patent for his reaper. Great complaints have been made against McCormick's agents in this State, for being so exacting. How true such complaints are we have not had personal opportunities of

h plows, as

LIME KILNS-S. H. Robinson, of Baltimore, Md.: I am aware that a series of kilns have been built in one stack, one placed over the other, and burned from the same or separate fires. These I do not claim. But I claim the arranging of a series of side kilns around a central kiln, as that the waste heat from the former may be used for burning the lime stone in the latter, substantid-ly as described, whereby a great saving of fuel and labor is attained, a more regular disposition of the heat made avail-able, and either of the surrounding kilns stopped off, cooled and drawn, without interfering in the least with the others of the series, as set forth.

MOLDING MACHINE-G. M. Ramsey, of New York City : I do not claim the mere fact of working the two opposite sides of the same piece of stuff by once passing to and through the medicine.

sides of the same piece of stud by divergence of the machine. But I claim the automatic reversible feed, or its equiva-lent, whereby the two opposite sides of the same piece of stuff is worked, as described, by the double action of one cutter head, by once passing the stuff to and through the machine; also the arrangement of the cone, and fan, all op-erated and operating substantially in the manner and forthe purpose set forth.

FIRE ARMS-A. D. Perry, of Newark, N. Y. : I claim the arrangement of the tube in the stock for containing the caps, and a spring to force them forward in a line radiating from the axes of motion of the turning breech, and placing the hipple also in a line radiating from the axis of motion of the breech, so that when the breech is opened to receive a charge, the hipple will be brought into the same radial line with the cap tube, so that the same spring which forces the caps forward in the tube may also force one of them upon

described for the purpose of lapping the part, 37, of the pa-per or material over the mold, to form part of the fourth ide of the box. Fiftly, I claim the presser, R, arranged relatively to the mold wheel, and operating substantially as described, for

mold wheel, and operating substantially as described, for laying down the edge of the part37 of the paper or material, and confining it till the part 38 is lapped over it. Sixth, I claim the presser, R, arranged relatively to the mold wheel, and operating substantially as described, to lap the part 38, of the paper or material over the part 37, to complete the fourth side of the box, and at the same time lap the part 40, over the end of the mold to commence the end of the box.

Complete the fouring side of the modified comments the end of the part 40, over the end of the modified comments the end of the box. Seventh, I claim the lever, V V, working as described on or within a wheel, or its equivalent which rotates with the modified of the part 40, as represented. End the machine during the revolution, that each at the each of the machine during the revolution, that each at the part of the machine during the revolution, that each at the part of the machine during the revolution, that each at the part of the machine during the revolution, that each at the part of the machine during the revolution, that each at the part is over one side of the part 40, as represented. Eighth, I claim the term, U, arranged as described, carry-ing the plate, 15, by coming in contact with which the part 42, of the paper or material is folded and lapped over the op posite side of the part 40, to that covered by the part 41, also carrying the plate 14, which is caused by the action of studs, 11, on the wheel, H, or its equivalent, to be moved from the central shaft to lap the part 43, owr the part 40, 41, 42, and thus complete the formation of the bottom of the box. Ninth, I claim the arrangement and mode of operating the roller, 44, to take the glue or adhesive material from a tixed trough, 47, and distribute it over the bottom of the box to prepare the same tor sanding.

The infinge game that out or the set of the set of the sparks, dirt, &c., into them in the manner desbribed. Second, we claim the piece, p. suspended in the central aperture at the top of the spark arrester, arranged and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as described. Third, We claim the double cover or top for the formation of a second series of dirt passages, arranged and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as described.

NOTE-One third of the entire number of patents granted as above, were obtained through the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Patent Agency. The great success which has attended out fforts in getting patents through, renders it certain that those inventors will promote their own interests by commit ting their business to our care. Our charges for making ap plications for patents are always reasonable and satisfacto ry, and anything entrusted to our care will be promotiv at ded to. Direct letters and models to Munn & Co., SCIEN TIFIC AMERICAN Office, 128 Fultonstreet, New York,

Woodworth Planing Machine. On the 19th inst., before Judge Betts, this city, a suit was brought in equity by the owners of the Woodworth Patent Planing

knowing.

We hope that no patent will be extended by act of Congress during the present session. It would be very wrong for it to do so. No patent can be extended by the Commissioner without advertising and notifying the public of the application for the extension, in order that any person who has objections to the extension, may present them. or forever hold his peace. This is a fair and honest method of dealing with the public, as well as inventors. Ought Congress to do less? No. It should even be more particular, in order that those who are engaged in the business of manufacturing patent articles, or who have made improvements in Machine, in New York, against parties using patents which have expired, may be allowed the Norcross Planing Machine. The plain- to appear and tell their side of the story.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Cart and a state

J. S., of N. Y.-Connecting a gas apparatus with a cook ing stove is not a new idea : it is not adopted, owing we believe to the disagreeable odor that invariably accompanie its use.

S. C., of Va.-Your scheme for propulsion is neither new nor patentable ; it is attractive in theory, but good for noth ing in practice. Don't spend time or money upon it ; your other matters will receive due attention when the models ar rive.

A.S. R. of N V - A caveat does not secure an inver tion from infringement by others ; the privilege consists in your being advised, for the space of 12 months, of any ap plication for a patent for the same thing, which is found upon examination to possess the subject matter of a patent.

W. W. A., of Ind .- We have never known any other thing applied to a slate to cure its defects in pencil marks than good ink; wash the slate well with soap and water, then apply the ink and let it dry. Are you not mistaken about ' 'Rabate," there is no substance of that name? Good black paint is the best thing you can use for painting blackboards.

R A N of Tenn - Vourinvention consists in an alleged method of constructing mechanical letters of the alphabet for the purpose of teaching children more rapidly. The idea is new, and we should think a patent might be secured for letters made as shown and described ; sample let. ters are necessary.

E. M. C., of R. I.-Your alleged invention is n and could never be made of any practical use whatever ; we speak plainly because we always dislike to see an inventor wasting his time and money upon grovelling and useless devices

M. J., of Tenn.-We have received and carefully examined the sketch of your method of operating saws by attaching them directly to the piston rod, and we regret that we can-not encourage you to make an application for a patent; the same thing is illustrated in Vol. 3, SCI. AM., as the inven-tion of A. H. Ward, of York, Pa.; you stand no chance whatever.

S. B. C., of Pa.-There have been several attempts to produce a practical machine for distributing printers' types, but as yet without success. The "requisites" are, to pro duce a machine capable of performing the work with econo my and success; this is all the information we can give or this point.

C, & W., of N. Y.-We do not perceive the slightest chance for a patent on your print dryer. Several pertinent references could be given, but we presume it is not necessarv: you are advised not to apply for letters patent.

D., of Mass.-The process for obtaining chromates consists in reducing the oxyd of iron or chrome ore, either wholly or in part, by means of carbon in any of its several forms or by means of any of its compounds, which are or may be employed as fuel, such as carbonic oxyd or carburetted hy drogen as the first stage of the manufacture ; it is Booth's patent.

E. A., of Va.-In Vol. 7 of the Sci. Am., page 320, we pub-lished an engraving of a safety lamps, the invention of Eloin of Belgium. It is constructed on the same plan as yours. You can procure Vols. 6 and 7 bound for \$2,75 each.

W. H. S., of Pa.-We are not M. D.'s, therefore your an plication to us for advice in respect to your complaints is not exactly appropriate. You say you are troubled with the dyspepsia, and feel irrascible ; you are unfortunate indeed or the first difficulty we would recommend coarse substan tial food, cold water bathing about once a week, plenty of open air exercise, chopping wood, or something of that sort; cup of weak tea or coffee with your breakfast, and toast or some light article for supper; or, what is better, no suppe at all. For the second difficulty, perhaps we cannot do bet ter than to advise with Punch-perfect freedom from the worry of children, drinking, smoking, snuff taking, card playing, talking politics, and arguing with an Irishman.-These are all excitants and should be avoided.

J. C. T., of Geo.—The powder you have sent us has very few of the qualities of good black lead, but exhibits those of an aluminous shale.

G. W., of Phila .- We do not know whether your plan would be patentable or not, as we do not know what it is but the management of the batter to render the deposited metal hard or soft, is well known to electricians.

C. J. B., of Pa.-You say the pump will only be required to fill one bucket of the wheel at once as it (the wheel) revolves, while it will have all the buckets on one side (twen ty) going down continually, and you therefore expect to get twenty times the power from the water to the quantity you have to supply; you can get no more power than what you supply. You forget that to raise the water by atmospheric pressure you have to remove the pressure from the oneside of the column, which requires a force equal to that of the atmosphere. You never can drive a water wheel with a pump, and make the wheel work the pump.

A Subscriber-Should have signed his name to his letter but as he appears to be candidly ignorant upon the point of his inquiry, we will answer his question, as it interests many foreigners. The fee required of an English subject on application for a patent, is \$500, all other foreigners \$300, a most miserable system of throwing stones at foreign inventors. If a foreigner comes to this country, resides one year and makes oath of his intended citizenship, the fee is \$30. The law requires that the applicant make oath that he verily believes himself to be the original and first inventor and also of his citizenship, therefore it is impossible to evade the high fee by assigning the invention to a citizen. Foreign inventors must either pay the high fee or reside in this country one year, and make oath of his intention to be-

PATENT LAWS-The demand for copies of the Patent Laws has been so great latterly, that our last edition pub lished is all exhausted. Trusting that our Congress will en act some amendment to the present statutes, during this Session, we do not choose to publish another edition until we can embody the amendments, therefore those who have remitted for copies will be kind enough to wait paitently for month or two, and they will probably receive the Neu Laws. Circulars pertaining to the procuration of patents are furnished gratuitously upon application to this office.

Money received on account of Patent Office busin the week ending Saturday, Jan. 20 :-

J. B., of O., \$30; A. & T., of R. I., \$250; C. E. S., of O., \$25; C. M. E., of Pa., \$30; A. J. B., of Mich., \$25; P. & B., of O., \$20; T. M. C., of Me., \$25; R. S., of N. Y., \$25; T. M., of Canada, \$530; M. D. DuB., of N. Y., \$20; C. I., of Ct., \$25; W. T., of N. Y., \$35; S. J. C., of S. C., \$55; L. R., of N. Y., \$150; A. B., of N. Y., \$55; C. W., of Tenn. \$55; H. W. P., of N. Y., \$75; B. & S.: of Ct., \$30; W. H Z, of N. Y., \$30; J. G., of Ct., \$30; T. A. C., of N. Y., \$25; J. R. H., of Ind., \$37; R. W., of O., \$25; T. W. L., of Va. \$30; A. C. F., of Pa., \$55; R. W., of Ct., \$100; G. M., Jr. of Ill., \$35; A. D. R., of N. Y., \$50; S. P. C., of Wis., \$30; E. W., of N. J., \$30; J. T., of Pa., \$25; A. B., of N. Y., \$25; W. L., of Md., \$500; J. J. T., of N. J., \$45; J. McM., of Ky., \$35; W. S., & Co., Mass., \$25; St. Jos. J. Co., of Ind., \$55; J. G. L., of Iowa., \$30; J. C. D., of N. J., \$250; S. & W., of N. J., \$55; A. M., of N. Y., \$30; B. H., of N. Y., \$250; A. Van D., of N. J., \$10; J. C., of N. Y., \$55; J. J. B., of N. Y., \$25; W. F., of N. Y., \$25; I. W. McG., of N. Y., \$30; M. M. & J. C., of Mass., \$30.

Specifications and drawings belonging to parties with the ollowing initials have been forwarded to the Patent Office during the week ending Saturday, Jan. 20 :--

J. J. B., of N. Y.; R. S., of N. Y.; T. M. C., of Me.; M. F. R., of O.; J. H. K., of Pa.; C. E. S., of O.; A. J. B., of Mich.; W. F., of N. Y.; C. I., of Ct.; W. T., of N. Y.; M. & C., of N. J.; A. B., of N. Y.; J. T., of Pa.; W. L. of Md. ; J. R. H., of Ind. ; T. A. C., of N. Y. ; H. & M. B., of Vt. ; J. McM., of K. ; W. S. & Co., Mass. ; M. M. & J. C. R., of Ct.; J. C., of N. Y.; T. M., of Canada; A. Van D., of N. J.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. Washington, Jan. 11, 1855. THE PETTION of Loring Coes, of Worcester, Mass, praying for the extension of a patent grant-ed to him on the 16th day of April, 1841, for an im-provement in "screw wrenches." for seven years from the expiration of suid patent, which takes place on the 15th day of April, 1855. It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Pat-ent Office, on Monday, the 2nd of April next, at 12 o'clock. M.; and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted. Person Sopposing the extension are required to file in the Patent Office their objections, specially set forth in writing, at least twenty days before the day of hearing; all testimony filed by either party to be used at the said hearing must be taken and transmitted in accordance with the rules of the office, which will be furnished on application. The testimony in the case will be closed on the 22nd of March; depositions and other papers relied on as testimony, must be in the office on or before the days thereafter. Ordered, also, that this notice be published in the Union, Intelligencer, and Evening Star, Washington, D. C. Evening Argus, Philadelphia, Pa. : Scientific Amer-ican, New York, and Boston Post. Boston, Mass., once a week for three successive weeks previous to the and day of April next, the day of hearing. PLANEES MASON. Commissioner of Patents. P. S.-Editors of the above papers will please copy, and send their bills to the Patent Office, with a paper

Commissioner of Patents. P. S.—Editors of the above papers will please copy, and send their bills to the Patent Office, with a paper containing this notice. 20 3

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, Washington. Jan. 8, 1855 OMASS., praying for the extension of a patent grant-e1 to hum the 16th day of April, 1841, for an improve-ment in "Pumps," for seven years from the expiration of said patent, which takes place on the 16th day of April, 1855;

of said patent, which takes place on the 16th day of April. 1855: It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Pat-ent Office on Monday, the 2nd day of April next, at 12 o'clock M. and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted. Persons opposing the extension are required to file in the Patent Office their objections, specially set forth in writing, at least twenty days from the day of hearing-All testimony filed by either party to be used at the said hearing must be taken and transmitted in accordance with the rules of the Office, which will be furnished on application. The testimony in the case will be closed on the 22nd

All testimony filed by either party to be used at the said hearing must be taken and transmitted in accordance with the rules of the Office, which will be furnished on application. The testimony in the case will be closed on the 22nd day of March. 1855; depositions and other papers relied upon as testimony must be filed in the office on or be-fore the morning of that day; the arguments, if any, within ten days thereafter. Ordered, also, that this notice be published in the Union, Intelligencer, and Evening Star. Washington, D. C.; Pennsylvanian, Philadelphia, Penn.; Scientific American, N, Y.; and Boston Post, Boston, Mass., once a week for three successive weeks previous to the 2nd of April next, the day of hearing. CHARLES MABON, Commissioner of Patents. P. S. Editors of the above papers will please copy and send their bills to the Patent Office, with a paper con-taining this notice Depresent the batters between Streen

NOTICE—The connection in business between SHER-Ry & BYRAM is hereby dissolved by mutual con-sent. JOHN SHERRY is fully authorized and empow-ered to settle all out-standing claims, and to whom all bills must be presented for payment. JOHN SHERRY. EPHRAIM N. BYRAM. Sag Harbor, Jan. 1st, 1855. 19 3

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DUFFALO MACHINERY DEPOT-Terrace St. and 36 Lloyd st., Buffalo ; J. W. HOOKER, Proprie-tor, H. C. Brown, Superintendant, offers for sale Ma-chinists' tools of all kinds : Engine Lathes, Planers, Drills, Chucks, Boring Mills ; also machinery of all kinds on hand or furnished to order. 7tf

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| | er part is dependent upon the other for its perfect success. | mon use. At THE WELLS MACHINE WORKS, 29th st. and 11th ave., New York. | mechanics to be the best machine in use; is adapted to all | ······································ |
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| | operation is performed separately. | -Log, scroll, circular, and reslitting saw mills, to- | eight ordinary machines, can be set in one minute for boring or squaring the ends of stuff for rights or ma- | Cases. Refers to Messrs. Munn & Co., Scientific Ameri- |
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| | procure it. | TEVIS & BARBAROUX , LOUISVILLE, KY.— Manufacturers of Steam Engines, Mill Machinery, | ner of West Broadway and Thomas street, New York. | 8 1y* LOGAN VAIL & CO., 9 Gold st., N. Y. |
| | J. G. H., of FlaWe notice nothing patentable inyour | superior Force and Lift Pumps, cast iron Screw Pipes for | 19 4* | |
| | cigar machine. Your Temperator, we think, is patentable. | gas, steam, or water, largely used by railroads in sup- | | NORTHVILLE MACHINE WORKS-Manufacto- |
| | You are right as to the meaning of "taking measures," &c. | plying water stations, or suction pipes for pumps, etc., etc., being cheaper and better than copper or lead. To- | NAMELLED CA'ST IRON HOLLOW WARE | Power Planers, Hand Lathes, Engine Lathe for turning |
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| 68 | and somme your myoneous. | ings for railroads, and general job work. 20 4* | am Square P. O., New York. 19 2* | 9, 1854. TAFT & GLEASON. 50 1y* |
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Science and Art.

Brass Formed by Galvanic Agency.

Copper is more electro-negative than zinc, and separates more easily from its solution than a metal less negative. If then, in order to obtain a deposit of brass by galvanic means, we employ a solution containing the two component metals, copper and zinc, in the proportions in which they would form brass, there will only be produced by the action of the battery a deposit of real copper; the zinc, more difficult of reduction, remains in solution. What must be done, then, to obtain a simultaneous precipitate of the two metals in the proportions required, is either to retard the precipitation of the copper, or to accelerate that of the zinc. This may be effected by forming the bath with a great excess of zinc and very little copper. Dr. Heeren gives the following proportions as having perfectly succeeded :-

There are to be taken of sulphate of copper, 1 part; warm water, 4 parts; and then sulphate of zinc, 8 parts; warm water, 16 parts; cyanide of potassium, 18 parts; warm water, 36 parts.

Each salt is dissolved in its prescribed quantity of water, and the solutions are then mixed; thereupon a precipitate is thrown down, which is either dissolved by agitation alone, or by the addition of a little cyanide of potassium; indeed it does not much matter if the solution be a little troubled. After the addition of 250 parts of distilled water, it is subjected to the action of two Bunsen elements, charged with concentrated nitric acid, mixed with one-tenth of oil of vitriol. The bath is to be heated to ebullition, and is introduced into a glass with a foot, in which the two electrodes are plunged. The object to be covered is suspended from the positive pole, whilst a plate of brass is attached to the negative pole. The two metallic pieces may be placed very near.

The deposit is rapidly formed if the bath be very hot; after a few minutes there is produced a layer of brass, the thickness of which augments rapidly. Deposits of brass have been obtained in this way on copper, zinc, brass, and Britannia metal; these metals were previously well pickled. Iron may, probably, also be coated in this way; but cast-iron is but ill adapted for this operation. [London Mining Journal.

Elder Flower Ointment and Oil.

In the London Pharmacopœia the flowers are directed to be boiled with the lard, in making unguentum sambuci. By this process the odor of the flowers is entirely destroyed, and the ointment acquires an empyreumatic smell from the action of heat on the flowers. To obviate this result, and to make an ointment possessing the pleasant odor of elder flowers, I beg to suggest the following process, which I have found effectual.

Melt the lard at the lowest possible temperature at which it assumes the fluid form, and introduce into it as many flowers as the melted lard will cover. Macerate them at the above temperature for twelve hours, and then strain off the lard through a piece of linen, without the least pressure. By this down the cut grain in bundles, operated by means an ointment will be made, when the certain devices. lard is cold, which represents that which the

Scientific American.

History of Reaping Machines.-No. 16.

On the 7th of August, 1847, Obed Hussey, of Baltimore, Md., obtained a patent for fastening the upper piece of the guard to the lower piece, only at one point, leaving the back end unconnected, the space between the lower and upper pieces of the guard, through which the blade vibrates, is open behind to prevent choking, as stated on page 120. On the same date a patent was granted to D. A. Church, and L. H. Obert, of Friendship, N. Y., and W. W. and O. F. Willoughby, of Chicago, Ill. The claim is for making the cutting knives solid at their inner angle. On the 23rd of October, same year, C. H. Mc-Cormick, obtained another patent for placing the gearing and crank forward of the driving wheel, for protection from dirt, to carry the driving wheel further back than before, to balance the rear part of the frame, and the raker thereon, when this position of the parts is combined with the sickle back of the axis of motion of the driving wheel, by means of the vibrating lever : also the arrangement of the seat of the raker over the end of the finger piece, which projects beyond the range of fingers, and just back of the driving wheel, in combination with and placed at the end of the reel, whereby the raker can sit with his back towards the team, and have free access to the cutorain. &c. On Nov. 4th, 1848 Francis S. Pease, of Buffalo, N. Y., obtained a patent embracing claims for a combination of levers to operate a rake; also for a toothed blade case, made in uniform sections, each section having a tooth cast in one piece with it, and the whole attached to a rack bar by screws or otherwise; also a means of changing the point of draft by slides and clamp screws.

On the 21st of November, same year, a patent was granted to Wm. Boone, of New Hope, Mo., for a rotary reaper, the claims being for a combination of hinged scythes and radial boxes, the scythes being so made and arranged as to form a circular cutting edge, each scythe being a segmental cutter, so arranged as to be easily disengaged for sharpening. The vertical axle of the cutters was revolved by cog gearing.

Uriah H. Goble, and Alex. Stuart, of Urbana, Ohio, obtained a patent on the same date, for a rotating rake, which was made to pass horizontally across the platform, and giving it an unequal motion, for the purpose of raking the cut grain in an effectual manner.

Daniel Cushing, of Aurora, Ill., also obtained a patent on the same date, embracing three claims. First, making vibrating cutters sickle-edged, moved as set forth. Second, arranging the double cranks and axles of the rakes to cause them to turn together and turn two endless rakes. Third, the arrangement of the transverse revolving rakes with another rake for delivering the cut grain upon the platform.

On the 16th of January, 1849, Oliver Barr, of Aurora, Ill., obtained a patent, in which was claimed the form of the fixed sickles, with curved edges, in combination with triangular sickles attached to a vibrating bar; an arrangement of guide rail with the reel heads. a chain band, a revolving rake, and an inclined platform; also a trap door or folding platform, for folding and dropping

Jonathan Haines, of Union Grove, Ill., ob-

Hinton, for constructing the platform separate from the other framework, to convert the machine easily into a mower or reaper, as required.

On the 12th of June following, a patent was granted to Nelson Platt, of Ottowa, Ill., which was assigned to W. H. Seymour and D. S. Morgan. Figure 44 is a view of his novel cutters. They consist of a series of short sections, E, of uniform shape, and corresponding in length with the links of an endless chain, N, to which they are attached by bolts, e. By this arrangement each cutter tooth can be readily renewed for sharpening or repair, and as the cutters form no part of the chain, but are merely carried by it, they are not subjected to so much strain as they would be, if they formed the links of the chain. The edges of the cutters are serrated like a sickle. One end of each section is sharpened, so as to cut off any straw or obstructing substance that happens to intervene between the sharpened edge, and the corner of the next adjacent section. The inventor regards this feature as one of much importance, since it renders the sections capable of freeing themselves from all choking substances, the presence of which would be likely to break the machine.





The chain with its cutters, is stretched around a pulley and a cog wheel, the teeth of which bite into the interstices between the chain links, so that when the cog wheel revolves, the chain is carried with a similar velocity.

The grain is pressed up against the cutters by means of a reel. The claim on this portion of the improvement is the combination of a series of removable cutters, with the link of an endless revolving chain, which carries them successively into contact with the grain or grass. Also for making one end of the sections sharp, for the purposes we have described.

The patent also embraces claims for raking the grain, and placing the grain in bundles at right angles to the path of the machine. This patent was surrendered and reissued on the 23rd of last May, (1854.) We have been informed that these cutters operate well.

CORRECTION.—MESSRS. EDITORS—The figure No. 41 and 42 in your paper of the 13th January, under the head of History of Reaping machines, you say illustrates McCormick's patent of 1845. This is a mistake, and we wish to have the matter placed right before the public. These plates represent McCormick's reaper as he made it in 1852, or possibly as early as 1851, but not before that. This is as early as he used the zig-zag edged sickle. We had used it one or two years before; his patent of 1845 was for the straight edged sickle teeth, reversed every one and a-half inches in order to cut both ways, and for the spear pointed fingers. (We refer you to his patent.) Moore & Hascall are entitled to the credit of the invention of the zig-zag edged sickle, and also the identical straight sickle as claimed by McCormick. They made and used the straight sickle teeth, reversed

in 1835 and 1836, and in 1838 or '39 the zig- FESSION IN LIFE, will find the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

A Large Gun.

The largest cannon in the world is in Bajapoor, India, and weighs forty tuns ; a seat in the interior accommodates five persons, without much crowding. It is formed of mixed metal, of which there is said to be some portions of gold, and a considerable quantity of silver. Upon being fired off as a salute on one occasion, though not charged with more than half the weight of powder which its chamber could contain, the concussion was awful; it shook many of the buildings to their foundations, and the terrified inhabitants, as the reverberation rolled along, expected to see the domes and towers, survivors of former shocks, come tumbling about their ears.

Spanish Sweet 'Potatoes.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Examiner says, over eight hundred bushels of the Spanish variety of sweet potatoes have been raised by Mr. Edward Shepherd, on two acres of land, near Columbus, Ga. He is reported to have discovered a mode of cultivation by which such large crops can be raised as a general thing.

LITERARY NOTICES.

AMERICAN ALMANAC FOR 1855.—This Repository of Use-ful Knowledge, published by Phillips, Sampson & Co., Bos-ton, has attained to its 26th volume. Besides containing a useful calendar for every month of the present year, it is packed with other interesting matter. It has a chapter on Atmospherical Electricity, by Prof. Lovering, of Harvard University : it contains much that is useful on astronomy, by Prof. Bond, of Cambridge. All the finances of the dif-ferent States are given, school funds, railroads, canals, the officers of the General and State Governments, the judi-ciary ; in short everything. The American Almanac has a high character for correctness, and a large store of neces-sary information, for the every-day use of every person. It is for sale by J. C. Derby, this city.

AMERICAN ENGINEERING—We have received the first part of a new work bearing the above name, by G. Weis-senborn, C. E., of 131 Fulton street, this city; it is illustra-ted by two very large sheets of good working drawings of beaam engine, constructed by Hogg & Delameter, for the New YorkSteam Sugar Refinery. The price per part is \$11. We hope this work will meet with a successful patronage.

SERIALS RECEIVED—The National Magazine, an excellent monthly, published by Carlton & Phillips, N. Y. The Aca-cia, a Masonic magazine, ably edited by W. P. Mellen, Natchez, Miss. Journal of the Franklin Institute, Philadel-phia, Pa., old, faithful, and well tried. The American Cot-ton Planter, a monthly publication of rare merit, edited by Dr. Cloud, Montgomery, Ala. The Schoolmate, edited by Dr. Cloud, Montgomery, Ala. The Schoolmate, edited by . Learner, a monthly publication of rare merit, edited by r. Cloud, Montgomery, Ala. The Schoolmate, edited by P. Phippen, New York; a good work for youthful schol



Inventors, and Manufacturers

The Tenth Volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN comnenced on the 16th of September. It is an ILLUSTRAT-ED PERIODICAL, devoted chiefly to the promulgation of information relating to the various Mechanic and Chemic Arts, Industrial Manufactures, Agriculture, Pat-ents, Inventions, Engineering, Millwork, and all interestswhich the light of PRACTICAL SCIENCE is calculated to advance.

Its general contents embrace notices of the

LATEST AND BEST SCIENTIFIC, MECHANICAL, CHEMICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL DISCOVERIES, -with Editorial comments explaining their application notices of NEW PROCESSES in all branches of Manufactures : PRACTICAL HINTS on Machinery : information as to STEAM, and all processes to which it is ap-plicable; also Mining, Millwrighting, Dyeing, and all arts involving CHEMICAL SCIENCE; Engineering. Architecture; comprehensive SCIENTIFIC MEMOR-ANDA: Proceedings of Scientific Bodies: Accounts of ons,-together with news and information upon THOUSANDS OF OTHER SUBJECTS.

Reports of U.S. PATENTS granted are also published every week, including OFFICIAL COPIES of all the PA-TENT CLAIMS; these Claims are published in the Sci entific American IN ADVANCE OF ALL OTHER PAPERS.

The CONTRIBUTORS to the Scientific American are among the MOST EMINENT scientific and practical men of the times. The Editorial Departmentis universally acknowledged to be conducted with GREAT ABIL-ITY, and to be distinguished, not only for the excellence and truthfulness of its discussions, but for the fearlessness with which error is combated and false theories are exploded.

Mechanics, Inventors, Engineers, Chemists, Manufacturers, Agriculturists, and PEOPLE IN EVERY PRO-

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