A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ART, SCIENCE, MECHANICS, CHEMISTRY, AND MANUFACTURES.


IRON WORKS OF THE SYRACUSE MAKLEABLE IRON COMPANY.
The introduction of malleable castings to take the place of drop forgings is one of the features of modern metallurgy. The adoption of this process has enabled the metallurgist to produce much more ornamental designs than could be produced by drop forging without the use of the most expensive kinds of dies.
Malleable castings combine the qualities of wrought and cast iron. As intricate designs as can be produced by the highest grades and most liquid running cast iron are here made of a metal possessing the strength, malleability, and other qualities of wrought iron
We illustrate in the present issue the works of the Syracuse Malleable Iron Company. This is one of the great netal works of the United States. In it upward of 225 workmen are employed in conducting the various operations incidental to the production of every variety of malleable castings. A general view of the works, which cover an area of four and a half acres, is given. In the background is the foundry, in area $100 \times 200$ feet. In front of this is the main building, which is $60 \times 235$ feet. The latter is devoted to the operations of annealing, tempering, pattern making, trimming, etc. It also contains the shipping room, in which the finished castings are packed in barrels for transportation by rail or canal, the pattern vault, engine, boiler, and office. The engine is a 60 horse power straight line engine, one of the leading high speed engines of the country. The boiler is of 100 horse power, and is of the Abendroth \& Root manufacture. Two large chimneys rise from the main chimneys rise from the main
building, which produce the building, which produce the
draught for the annealing kilns, as their draught is entirely a natural one. The taller chimney is 150 feet high. The right hand portion of this building is divided into three stories. In the background is seen the stable in which the horses are kept, while on the banks of the canal, to the left, are three coal sheds. The longer one of these is $110 \times 30$ feet, the


THE ANNEALING KILNS.


GENERAL VIEW OF THE WORKS.


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## SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

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1. ARBORICULTURE.-Barberries-A -Aaluable and beautiful late

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## THE COPYRIGHT QUESTION.

There is a decided inclination among our legislators to regard the international copy right question from a purely mercantile point of view rather than from the moral one, which has been recommended them. They discovered that such a law would give the foreign publisher a great advantage over the American publisher without in any way furthering the interests of the American reader, and that was, to their minds, a sufficient reason for refusing their assent to its passage. Without desire to give an opinion as to the truth or allacy of the reasoning and its conclusion, we propose to review the main arguments. Hand labor in Europe is, of course, much cheaper than here; typesetting, the most costly part of making a book, is done in England for example, at about half our rates, and other labors pertaining thereto in somewhat similar proportion. Under a copy right law, a foreign work, even if it were neces sary to republish it here, according to the provision made in Senator Hawley's amendment to the original bill, could only be sold to the American reader under the restrictions as to price made by the foreign publisher, which, there is little doubt, would make it far nore expensive than now, if it did not take it altogether out of the reach of the general public. Without the amendment referred to, many great publishing houses on this side the water, which employ thousands of workmen, would, it is said, be driven from the business, and the American market flooded with cheap reprints of foreign works. Thus the general public, though able to get old works sufficiently cheap to prevent competition from American publishers, would be forced to pay an exorbitant rate for new books or go without hem.
Mr. Andrew Lang, the writer, in an article on International Copyright in Longman's Magazine, says "For my own part, I cannot pretend to care much about the matter as [here he refers to an American cheap publisher] does not sell my engaging works on the "Evolution of Ritual," and so forth, at sixpence Perhaps it would not remunerate him to do so. But the person one is sorry for is the American novelist How can the young and ardent literary 'schoolmarm hope to sell her 'Popsy's Ways; a Connecticut Idyl, for $\$ 1.50$, when you can have 'Treasure Island,' ' Kid napped,' and the 'New Arabian Nights,' all in one hideous pamphlet for ten cents? The native American producer is ruined by English cheap labor, by kidnapped labor, by labor which is not even paid for its keep, though the laborer has one of the privileges of slavery, and is both flogged and preached at, some times, in the land of his captivity."
Mr. Lang makes a good argument, but of a kind which rarely, if ever, appeals to the consciences of legislative economists, whatever their nationality. Such persous invariably seek to discover on which side a favorable or unfavorable decision would bring the balance of trade, taking less account, perhaps, than they should of what the severe moralist would regard as international justice. In the present case, our legislators believe that, whereas an international copyright law might bring a few more dollars to a handful of American authors, it would deprive thousands of American workmen of remunerative employment.
As to the piratical incursions of the American publisher, Mr. Brander Matthews has shown in a recent paper that the British publisher goes a peg further in literary effrontery. The American cheap reprint of the foreign author's work invariably bears his name and reports him verbatim, whereas in England the pirated editions of American authors frequently bear fistitious names and suffer various forms of mutilation. Those portions which are supposed not to be suitable for English reading are cut out, changed, or rewritten, and American scenes are changed to English. Sometimes the whole tenor of the story is changed, and in the case of Dr. Holland's "Arthur Bonnicastle," the last chapter was altogether rejected, a new one, written by some unknown person on the other side of the water, taking its place. Gen. Lew Wallace, on a recent visit to England, discovered that an English publisher had issued his "Ben Hur" under another title, and with a new preface, to which his name was affixed. Many similar instances could be cited.

## Casting a Great steel Gun.

On Wednesday, January 11, the largest gun ever made by direct steel casting was cast of Bessemer steel at Pittsburg, Pa. Sixteen thousand five hundred pounds of melted iron were charged into the converters. After the blow the fluid steel was run into the mould. The latter stood on end in a casting pit. Two minutes sufficed for pouring the metal into the flask. All went well apparently, but it was only after its removal from the mould that an opinion as to the success of the operation could be pronounced. On Monday, January 16, it was takeh from the mould, and the casting was pronounced perfect, both by Superintendent Hainsworth, of the Pittsburg Casting Co., and by the government representatives. The gun is to be of 6 in. caliber, with $71 / 2 \mathrm{in}$. powder chamber; largest diameter, 23 in., and outside diameter of muzzle, 10 in.; ini-
ber, 15 tons. Its total weight when finished will be $51 / 2$ tons. After completion it will be subjected to xtremely severe tests at Annapolis, Md.
The casting of this gun is an event of much importance. If the piece proves a success, it may revolutionize the construction of guns in this country. It will do much to put the great question of supremacy beween cast and built-up guns to the test of practical trial. It also is a step that may bring about the trial of aluminum-bronze guns. Should it be shown that casting can produce a satisfactory cannon, then an additional inducement will be created for trying alumi-num-bronze, a metal that is much easier melted than steel, and that in strength and generally resistant qualities equals or surpasses it.
The progress of the new piece will be watched with much interest both here and abroad. It is satisfactory to feel that the United States may yet inaugurate a new departure in heavy ordnance. We have already described the casting of the great guns in the South Boston Iron Works.* The process described and illustrated will give a pretty accurate idea of the manipuations to which the new steel gun has been and will be subjected. It seems evident that if cast metal guns are to be satisfactory weapons, the proof will be given in this country. In thus casting guns the saving in expense is very great. The new piece will cost but a fraction of the sum which would be expended upon a built-up gun of like caliber.

Protection for Horses against Fire
It is to be hoped that before long some simple and practical way will be arrived at for preventing, or at east lessening, the terrible loss of life among the horses which has hitherto attended every stable fire of importance.
A device intended, in case of fire, not only to release simultaneously all the animals, but to turn them out of the building, has recently been put on trial in a New York stable, and seems simple enough. In the principal alley way leading into the stable is placed a wheel about three feet in diameter, which is connected by shafts with the stalls. A heavy weight is suspended from the circumference of the wheel. Delicate thermostats placed about the ceiling of the stable are arranged so that a very slight increase of temperature will, by expansion, complete an electrical circuit which will loosen the weight suspended from the wheel, and thus set the machinery in motion. A bell will ring, the bolts of the stall will be drawn, the halters of the horses will be loosened, and lastly, a double stream of water will be thrown into the face of each horse from two jets placed over the head of the stall. The effect of his shower bath will be to cause the horse to back out of his stall. He will find himself free, the doors of the stall and the stable open, and, in his fright at the fire and the unusual commotion, will naturally secure his own safety-at least that is the inventor's programme, though whether it will be carried out in practice remains to be seen. Besides, this doesn't dispose of the question of how to save the poor beasts stabled on the second floor, and until that problem is solved we may look at any time for a repetition of the shocking scenes which attended the burning of the Belt Line stables in New York and of those in South Brooklyn a few weeks ago.-Fire and Water.

## Preservation of Meat by Sugar.

It results from a special report made to the French Minister of Agriculture that sugar is an excellent agent for preserving meat, and possesses some advantages over salt. In fact, salt absorbs a portion of the nutri tive substances and of the flavor of meat. When an anal ysis is made of a solution of the salt dissol ved by water contained in meat, we find albuminoid bodies, extractive substances, potassa, and phosphoric acid. Salt deprives meat of these substances so much the more readily in proportion as it enters the tissues more deeply or acts for a longer time. It then results that the meat, when taken from the saline solution, has lost nutritive elements of genuine importance.
Powdered sugar, on the contrary, being less soluble produces less liquid. It forms around the meat a solid crust, which removes very little water from it and does not alter its taste. Thus preserved, it suffices to immerse the meat in water before using it. Although this treatment costs a little more than preservation by salt, account must be taken of the final result and of the loss prevented, which offsets the difference in cost between the two preservative agents. We think that na,vigators might profit by this.-Revue Generale de la Marine Marchande.

We have received from James A. Alexander, 68 Wall Street, New York, General Agent of the ※tna Insurance Co., of Hartford, a statement of its condition December 31, 1887. It has a net surplus of over $\$ 3,300,000$, or larger than the capital of any fire insurance company in this country, and has paid in sixtynine years losses exceeding sixty-one million six hund red thousand dollars.
*See Scientific Ambricaív, Vol, 65, No. 13, pp. 191, 197.

## POSITION OF THE PLANETS IN FEBRUARY. JUPITER

is morning star, and is perhaps the most interesting member of the sun's family during the month, rising earlier and growing brighter as he approaches the earth, a superb object in the sky from the small hours of the morning till dawn. He is in quadrature with the sun on the 24th. An observer commanding a view of the southeastern sky will recognize him at a glance. Jupiter rises on the 1st at 2 h .28 m . A.M. On the 29th, he rises at 12 h .51 m. A.M. His diameter on the 1 st is $33 \cdot 4^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Scorpio.

## venus

is morning star. Her luster diminishes as she approaches the sun, but she is still fair to see in the morning dawn. Observers will note the rapidly increasing distance between Venus and Jupiter, the former rising on the 1 st 2 h .10 m . before the sun, and the latter rising 4 h .30 m . before the sun. Venus rises on the 1st at 4 h. 48 m. A.M. On the 29th, she rises at 5 h .8 m. A.M. Her diameter on the 1 st is $15 \cdot 2^{\prime \prime}$, and she is in the constellation Sagittarius.

## MARS

is morning star. He may easily be recognized as a bright, ruddy star northeast of Spica, rising on the 1st an hour before midnight, and remaining near his bright neighbor during the month. Mars rises on the 1st at 11 h .11 m. P.M. On the 29 th , he rises at $9 \mathrm{~h} .48 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{P}$. $M$. His diameter on the 1st is $9 \cdot 4^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Virgo.

## dranus

is morning star. He is near Spica, on the northwest. A telescope will bring him to view as a small sphere of a delicate green color. Uranus rises on the 1st at 10 h .35 m. P.M. On the 29 th , he rises at 8 h .43 m. P.M. His diameter on the 1 st is $3 \cdot 8^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Virgo.

## SATURN

is evening star. He is now in fine condition for observation, having just passed opposition. Any one can find him who knows Pollux and Procyon, for he is east of them, and forms a triangle with them. He is visible in the northeast as soon as it is dark enough for the stars to come out. Saturn sets on the 1st at 6 h . 44 m. A.M. On the 29th, he sets at 4 h .48 m. A.M. His diameter on the 1st is $19 \cdot 2^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Cancer.

## MERCURY

is evening star. He reaches his greatest eastern elongation on the 17 th , and is at that time, and for a few days before and after, plainly visible to the naked eye. He sets on the 17 th an hour and three-quarters after the sun, and must be looked for in the west, three-quarters of an hour after sunset, about $8^{\circ}$ north of the sunset point. Mercury sets on the 1 st at 5 h .53 m . P.M. On the 29th, he sets at 6 h .18 m. P.M. His diameter on the 1st is $5 \cdot 2^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Capricornus.

## NEPTUNE

is evening star. He is in quadrature with the sun on the 16 th. Neptune sets on the 1 st at 2 h . A.M. On the 29th, he sets at 12 h .10 m . A.M. His diameter on the 1st is $2 \cdot 6^{\prime \prime}$, and he is in the constellation Taurus.
At the close of the month, Venus, Jupiter, Mars, and Uranus are morning stars ; Mercury, Saturn, and Neptune are evening stars.

## Cardiff Water Works.

About two years ago the work of laying down thirtyone miles of large water pipes between Llanishen and Cwmtaff, as a necessary means of water passage from the Breconshire watershed for the supply of Cardiff, was commenced. The whole line of conduit is now nearly completed. A supply of water could now be sent to Llanishen for use at Cardiff. This water could be taken $\because \supset m$ the river after proper allowances are
made for Cyfarthfa Steel Works and other establishmade for Cyfarthfa Steel Works and other establish-
ments. The balancing reservoir at Rhubina, the nearest of its kind to Llanishen, is practically complete. It is at high level, and is intended for the future high level service of Cardiff, Penarth, Ilandaff, and Whitchurch. Blackbrook balancing reservoir is nearly finished, and that at Cefn will be ready in about a month. These three balancing reservoirs are arched over. The upper section of the pipes where the No. 2 -or Cantreff-reservoir is being constructed is $1,000 \mathrm{ft}$. above the Cardiff level; Llanishen is 150 ft . above Cardiff, and Rhubina is about 100 ft . above Llanishen. The Cantreff reservoir will be completed in about two years, and its capacity will be about $300,000,000$ one of which will be located above and the other below one of which will be located above and the other below
the No. 2 works, which are being constructed at the root of the upper portion of a drainage area of 4,000 acres. The pipes have been obtained at an aggregate cost of about $\$ 600,000$, and the laying of the pipes in three sections has been carried out at a cost of above $\$ 150,000$. As to the pipes, it may be observed that they are usually about 12 ft . in length. They vary in thickness according to the pressure resistance required at various points. They
$11 / 2$ tons each.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC NOTES.

Intensifying Lantern Slides.-Sometimes, by quick and too short development, the image of a lantern slide will fix out too weak. Various methods for intensification have been recommended, but the latest and simplest is that detailed by Mr. A. R. Dresser in the Amateur Photographer, as follows: If any negatives or lantern slides are too thin, they can be brought up to nearly any density by first bleaching with mercury (as usual) and then redevelop them with the hydroquinone developer (in place of ammonia). I find that you can redevelop to nearly any extent. One need not use new developer (unless the image is very thin), as the used developer does very well and saves having to throw it away. I always use this developer for lantern slides, and find it all that can b wished, but for ordinary use it is very slow.
I am not aware that any one has used hydroquinone for intensifying before. For under-exposed neg atives it works very well, and so far I have found no stain from using it.
To Obtain Black Prints on Bromide Paper.-Mr. Dresser, in the same journal, says: Develop with fer rous oxalate as usual. Give a short exposure and use strong developer.
After developing wash with acetic acid water, then well wash and pour over the print a solution of mercury (sat. sol. bichloride mercury 1 part, water 3 parts). The image will gradually fade away. When it has nearly done so, wash it carefully, and pour over a saturated solution of sulphite of soda. When it has reappeared, wash for one minute and then put in the hypo. solu tion (half saturated), leaving it there for ten minutes. Wash thoroughly. The print, when looked at by day light, will be a rich brown, but it will dry black and white.
Improved Method of Burning Magnesium Powder.In the Scientific American for May 3, 1884, page 275, we give an illustration of a method of burning magnesium powder, in which an alcohol lamp projecting a horizontal flame is held underneath a funnel into which is poured, at the time when it is desired to make the picture, magnesium powder mixed with fine sand. Quite recently this method appears to have been re versed by Mr. William Bishop, who demonstrated the working of his apparatus before a meeting of the North London Photographic Society.
We take from the Br. Jour. of Photo. the following description of his lamp :
"A square metallic spirit lamp, having a flat top, is fitted with two wicks, one in front of the other, and separated by two or three inches. Immediately behind this lamp is a short wide-mouthed bottle containing magnesium in powder. Dipping into this powder is a glass tube, the other end being carried up through the
cork and bent toward the flames of the spirit lamp, cork and bent toward the flames of the spirit lamp, which are in a line with the direction of the blowpipe. A second short piece of tube is passed through the cork, its outer end being connected with the rubber tube of a pneumatic ball. On giving this ball a quick, sharp squeeze, a small quantity of the powder is suddenly ejected from the blowpipe nozzle against the flames, this being attended by a dazzling flash. This is capable of being repeated as long as any of the magnesium powder remains in the bottle.
"Two spirit flames are employed instead of one in order to insure the complete combustion of all of the metallic powder that is ejected.
"From a knowledge of and practical acquaintance with all the systems previously employed for producing the flashing light under the most comfortable and effective conditions, we place this, the latest, at the head
of them all. It is free from association with either of them all. It is free from association with either pyrotechnic compounds or gun cotton. Its portability is such as to leave nothing to be desired. Methylated spirit is so cheap as to amount practically to nothing when being occasionally used, and a pinch of a small rubber ball forms the whole means by which the light is started into action over and over again."
It will be noticed from the above description that the appearance of this apparatus is somewhat like the ordinary atomizers which are now in use. Pressure on the bulb forces a fine horizontal stream of magnesium powder directly through two flames of alcohol placed one behind the other. The apparatus is very simple, and undoubtedly will be of much service in photographing interiors and in making portraits by night.
Improved Pyro Developer for Lantern Slides.-Mr.
John G. Cassebaum, in the American Journal of Photography, relates his experience with an improved pyro. developer, which is particularly recommended for its excellent keeping qualities and for the remarkable clearness of the shadows and brilliancy of high lights it produces in a transparency or lantern slide.
The formula stands as follows :
$a$ Hydroxylamine


For negatives add 2 to 4 drachms of $a$ to 8 ounces of For negatives add 2 to 4 drachms of $a$
$b$, according to the nature of the subject.

For lantern slides, in which too much density should be a voided, $11 / 2$ drachms of $a$ or the pyro. will be sufficient.
The use of hydroxylamine, as far as my experience goes, communicates virtues which are greatly to be desired.
There is obtained by its use a depth of bluish black tones, rich in gradations, soft and pleasing to the eye, which are notlost when the image is projected upon the screen.
I prefer the hydroxylamine and pyro. development to the ferrous oxalate, not only for the increased beauty of the tones, but also for the degree of intensity obtained without danger of clogging the shadows or making too dense the high lights. The process of development can be watched more readily and the proper degree of strength determined much and the proper degree of strength determined much
better than with oxalate. I have a mixture of the hydroxylamine and pyro. which I have kept for more
dran with oxalate. I have a mixture of the hythan two months without the slightest indication of discoloration.
Prevention of Blisters on Albumen Paper.-Mr. Ellerslie Wallace, in the same journal, says that the chief cause of blisters is the extreme dryness of the paper at the time it is silvered. The paper, prior to silvering, should be stored in a damp place, like a cellar, or in a dampened room, so that the albumenized sheets will become somewhat limp, or will refuse to curl up when laid out flat on a table. After fixing, the prints should be at once immersed in a solution of common salt, about the same strength as the fixing bath. It is also advisable to gradually dilute the salt solution after the prints have been soaking some minutes.

## The Great Bear Valley Dam,

Leaving the small settlement of Crafton, we wind hrough the Mill Creek canon, and then climb over the San Bernardino Mountain at an elevation of 5,600 feet above the sea, or 4,100 feet above Redlands. Then we go down and through the Santa Anna Valley and cross the next ridge at an elevation of 7,600 feet. Then we descend 1,200 feet and ride three miles further, when we come to the great Bear Valley Dam, which backs up the Bear Valley Lake or great reser voir, as it may now be called. One is spellbound when he examines this stupendous piece of work and realizes the labor that it cost. All of the cernent and other materials, excepting the granite, which was quarried near by, was carried by teams and pack mules 100 miles, and each barrel of cement cost $\$ 13$ when delivered at the dam. It took a team two weeks to reach the Colton Railroad station, and the engineers and laborers lived in rudely constructed log huts for six months. From Colton the route was up the Cajou Pass, thence over the Mojave Desert, then through "Lucky "Baldwin's silver mine trail to the end of the dam. The dam is built of big blocks of granite, ranging from a half ton to ten tons in weight, the majority being about four tons weight each. Its base rests upon a solid rock foundation and its present height is about sixty feet, though it may be increased twenty feet without any risk of weakness. It is a curved dam, its length of arc being 300 feet and its radius 345 feet. Its base is twenty feet wide, and from this it slopes to three feet wide at the top. Its average coefficient of safety is 25 , and it would stand twenty times its present pressure. The engineer was F. E. Brown, a graduate of Yale College and of Yale Scientific School, and one of the largest property owners in the county. The State engineer of California has pronounced the work not only efficient, but a remarkable piece of engineering. The lake or reservoir receives the drainage of 200 square miles. It covers an area of 4,000 acres, three fourths of which around the old lake was used as a sheep ranch until purchased by the Bear Valley Company. At the present height of water, fifty-three feet, at the dam there is a supply of nearly $10,000,000,000$ gallons, covering an area five miles in length and a half mile in width an average depth of fifteen feet. With the dam at its full contemplated height the lake will hold $40,000,000,000$ gallons, and at sixty-five feet $21,000,-$ 000,000 gallons. Before the dam was built this water was allowed to flow in winter torrents to the sea. It is now capable of irrigating 50,000 acres of land in the frostless foothills, once supposed to be beyond the pale of irrigation, and to supply a population of 500,000 for domestic purposes. It at present irrigates the lands in cluded in the towns of Redlands, Lugonia, Crafton, and Highlands, and is to be extended to San Bernardino.

The Travelers Insurance Company, of Hartford, has just issued its twenty-fourth statement, which shows a gratifying increase in the amount of business, both in the life and accident departments. Nearly $\$ 7,500,000$ of new life insurance was written, or double the amount
it was doing four years ago. Its claim payments it was doing four years ago. Its claim payments its organizati, The accident department shows an increase of over 3,000 policies over 1886 , and the increase in volume of premiums much heavier still. This company has the reputation of liberal dealing that entitles it to the large share of public confidence it possesses.

IRON WORES OF THE SYRACUSE MALLEABLE IRON COMPANY.
(Continued from first page.)
are received and are bedded in the green moulding sand which is contained in snap flasks. The latter are boxes that are secured together by detachable fastenings at the corners. The models are of a peculiar type, as they generally represent small articles. A single sheet will of ten contain a number of small models separated by gateways. The models are frequently made of metal and are embedded in the sand, the latter being rammed around them while contained in the snap flask. The model is removed, and the whole is then transferred to the floor where the casting is to are generally shipped in barrels, as these are more be executed. The sides of the flask are separated, and the mould is left standing by its own consistency, the wooden bottom board, however, not being removed. This effects a great economy in flasks, but the full number of bottom boards have to be used. The moulders can be seen surrounded by piles of these boards, while on the floor the moulds with the flasks removed are standing. The furnace is tapped, and a long row of workmen with ladles stand in line to catch the metal. The ladles are made of iron, and hold from 35 to 40 pounds of melted iron. They are lined with sand, to prevent the ladles from being perforated. On an average, each ladleful can fill five flasks. The iron used, it should be observed, is charcoal pig. Before pouring the mould a cast iron weight is placed on its top, through whose center is a hole corresponding with the apertures in the mould. This holds the sand down against the hydrostatic pressure of the melted metal during the filling. Owing to the quality of the iron employed, these castings, when finished, are as hard as glass and nearly as brittle. If dropped on a stone floor or iron slab, they would break.
After cooling, the articles are removed from the moulds and taken to the annealing department. Here they have to be treated department. Here they have to be treated to heat in the presence of oxide of iron. The effect of this process
is to gradually decrease the percentage of carbon by the oxidizing action of the cementing material, so as to ultimately reduce the brittle casting to the condition and toughness of wrought iron. If necessary, the castings are first chipped, so as to remove all fins, gates, etc., before being delivered to the annealers. By the annealers they are packed away in iron vessels called pots, and as fast as they are stored away in these, rolling mill scale is shoveled in among them, the object being to lay them in even layers without touching, so as to have earh piece completely surrounded by scale. The pots are $18 \times 22$ inches in area and 16 inches deep. They are stacked three and four high and are luted with clay at the joints, and clay and sand are placed on top of them.
In this way pot after pot is stored full, and they are placed on top of one another to the height of four tiers. These are then taken up on a suitable truck, which is seen in the background of the cut, and are rolled into the kiln. These pots deteriorate very quickly, and part of the work of the foundry is devoted to the manufacture of the same. The iron for these, as it need not be of pure quality, is melted in a cupola furnace, which can be seen on the right hand of the foundry. The annealing kiln is filled with these pots. It can hold from 64 to 140 , according to the size, averaging from 6 to 12 tons of castings for the small kilns and as high as 18 for the large. The firing then commences. For four days the pots are exposed to a red heat, and for two days the kilns are allowed to cool, then the pots are removed and their contents discharged on the floor. The castings are removed from the scale and are ready for cleaning by the tumbling process. The scale is placed to one side. In each annealing process the oxygen of the scale is, of course, exhausted. In order to regenerate it a solution of sal ammoniac is sprinkled upon it. This reoxidizes it and brings it again to the condition of peroxide. The tumbling department contains a series of cylindrical vessels which are kept rotating. These are charged with castings, and by their rotation the objects are perfectly cleaned. The tumbling process is executed dry.
A very characteristic department is the core making roow. For such small objects which bave to be cast in such large quantities, an enormous quantity of cores are naturally required. They are manufactured cores are naturally required. They are manufactured
in moulds by boys, and as fast as they are dried in $\begin{aligned} & \text { loose sands at least two gallons. When water presents } \\ & \text { itself in any part of such material, it readily diffuses it- }\end{aligned}$
rom one-half pound to three hundred pounds. They
the kilns-which can be seen in the back of the coreside. For every casting which includes a perforatio a core is, of course, used, and this gives some clew to the immense number which are required for such an establishment.
The works were started by W. B. Burns, in 1882, and are still under his proprietorship. Mr. A. W. Dowsland is the superintendent. The work is generally skilled labor, such as pattern making, moulding, and the like.
The castings made in these works vary in weight


CORE MAKING. The works annually consume 3,000 tons of coal and 15,000 fire brick are used every year. Of the forge cinders but little is required each year, as they are used over and over again.

## Washable Walls in Cottages.

E. Chadwick, in the Architect (London), says: As a principle, all interior cottage walls should be made washable. Besides the evil arising from absorbency of the animalized gases of walls of the common construction, there is another great source of evil attaching to walls of the common soft stone construction-the ab-
sorbency and retentiveness of water or damp. In England the common bricks absorb as much as a pint or a pound of water. Supposing the external walls of an ordinary cottage to be one brick thick, and to consist of 12,000 bricks, they will be capable of holding 1,500 gallons, or $61 / 2$ tons of water. To evaporate this amount of water would require nearly a ton of coal, well applied. The softer and more workable stones are of various degrees of absorbency, and appear to be more retentive of moisture than common brick.


THE TUMBLING DEPARTMENT.
Professor Ansted states that the facility with which sandstone absorbs water is illustrated by the quantity it contains both in its ordinary state and when saturated. He states that even granite always contains a certain percentage of water, and in the dry state is rarely without a pint and a half in every cubic foot. Sandstone, however, even that deemed fit for building purposes, may contain half a gallon per cubic foot, and
self by the power of capillary attraction, by which, it is observed on some walls in Paris, it ascends 32 feet from the foundations. Walls of such absorbent constructions are subject to rising wet by capillary attraction, as well as to the driving wet of rain or storm. To guard against the driving wet on the coast expensive external coverings of slate are used. But these do not stay the rising wet. This wet, having to be evaporated, lowers temperature. Damp walls of houses cause rheumatism, lower strength, and expose the system to other passing causes of disease.
In London it is admitted that houses, even of the better class, cannot safely be inhabited in less than nine months. Indeed, registrars of deaths are aware that an extra death rate is, after all, usually attendant on their first occupation. The majority of bent figures in our villages are due to the infliction of rheumatism from damp.
In Paris, notwithstanding its peculiarly dry subsoil and its drier climate, the sanitary, or insanitary, evils of the common architect's constructions appear to be even greater than in London. I was assured by a Parisian builder of considerable experience that it was unsafe to occupy any new house in Paris in less than a year after its construction, and that there were houses in Paris which would never be dry "in their lives," and would always afflict their occupants.

## Electrical Attraction of Quartz

by alex. hodghinson, m.b., b.sc.
Quartz, like most other substances, becomes electrified by friction, and also possesses the property of remaining in an electrified condition for a period varying from ten minues to half an hour after the friction has ceased. When this medium is used as a cover for compasses, this electrical property may manifest itself in such a marked manner as to render the readings of the instru ment utterly unreliable, and more especially conveniently moved than square boxes. Each barrel is this the case where the instrument is provided with a holds from 100 to 800 pounds. quartz cover back and front. In the compass exhibited

## A GUARD RAIL FOR VEHICLE WHEELS.

A device to be attached to the thill and axle of a buggy or other vehicle, not to interfere with the free turning of the wheel, to prevent damage from collision with other vehicles by the wheels becoming interlocked, has been patented by Mr. John C. Tatman, of Mount Vernon, Dakota Ter., and is illustrated herewith, Fig. $\mathfrak{\sim}$ showing a horizontal sectional view of a portion of


TATMAN'S GUARD RAIL FOR VEHICLE WHEELS.
the axle with the guard rail in place thereon, and Fig. 3 a view of the thill attachment. The guard rail has a circular opening in its rear end, behind which is a hollow or cup-shaped boss, adapted to fit upon the usual screw-threaded spindle of the axle. The guard rail thence extends forward and slightly inward, with a gradual sweep to a suitable point on the thill, where, through a transverse hole in its end, it is bolted by a pin to a drilled lug or web upon the under side of the thill. This guard rail not only precludes danger of the wheel becoming injured by collision or interlocking, but braces and strengthens the vehicle.

## an improved thill coupling.

A simple and inexpensive thill coupling, designed to prevent rattling and be durable, is illustrated herewith; and has been patented by Messrs. Henry and John Knupp, of Warren, Pa. Fig. 1 shows a side view in section and Fig. 2 a front view, there being combined with the pivoted thill iron an elastic or compressible anti-rattler, placed next the thill iron eye. A clamp comprising opposite plates, hinged together at one side, bears upon the anti-
KNUPP'S THILL COUPLING. rattler, and a screw passing through the opposite plates holds it in position. One of the clamp plates has a lug overlying the head of the thill iron pivot, and all the parts are cheaply and easily made, though forming a most efficient coupling.

A COMBINED RAILWAY RAIL CHAIR AND TIE.
A railway rail support that is designed to be durable, stable, adjustable, elastic, and economical is illustrated herewith, and has been patented by Mr. Nicholas M. Marks, of Quanah, Texas. The base plate has its edges turned down to form flanges, and to the upper face of this foundation seat are secured four upwardly extending standards, in the form of angle irons, the outer faces of the standards being ribbed, the upper faces of the ribs extending outward from the standards at


MARES RAILWAY CHAIR AND TIE.
about right angles. To these standards are connected a rail support, formed from a blank having a central section with apertures, with arms bent down to extend at right angles from the central section, the space between the arms being such as to freely admit the standards, the arrangement being such that the rail support may be adjusted toward or from the base to such position as may be required to bring the rail to a proper level. Two such supports are connected by a cross bar, the ends of which are wider than its main portion, in such way as to make an exceedingly firm connection between the parts, but so that a proper adjustment of the supports and the parts by which they are carried may be readily made. The construction is such that the foundation, once in place, need not afterward be disturbed, but vertical and lateral adjustments can be easily effected.

## Magnesium in Electric Batteries.

M. Heim, of Hanover, has lately made a series of observations on the increased electromotive force obtained by substituting magnesium for zinc in various well known cells. As anticipated, from the known fact that the heat of combination of magnesium with oxygen is greater than that liberated on the oxidation of zinc, the electromotive force of the cells in which the substitution was made experienced in every case a notable increase. Thus the electromotive force of a Daniell cell, the positive electrode of which was a copper plate immersed in a solution of sulphate of copper, was measured, first, when the negative electrode was a zinc rod plunged in dilute sulphuric acid; secondly, when a magnesium plate was substituted for the zinc, the solution remaining unchanged; and, thirdly, with a magnesium electrode in a solution of magnesium sulphate, and under these conditions the following figures were obtained : $1 \cdot 185$ volts, 2.033 volts, and 193 volts-results which were very favorable to magnesium. Nearly as striking figures were obtained in making the charge in a Bunsen cell, the positive electrode of which was a rod of arc lamp carbon. In this case, using both metals under similar conditions, the electromotive force was 22 per cent greater with the magnesium than with the zinc plate. With a Leclanche cell the electromotive force was raised by the charge from 1.5 volts to $2 \cdot 3$ volts, or upward of 53 per cent. These facts seem to show that considerable advantages would follow the use of magnesium in primary cells generally, if the metal could at any time be produced at a cost approximating to that of zinc.

## Preserving Telegraph Poles.

Telegraph poles are preserved in Norway by making an auger hole, about an inch in diameter, in each post, about two feet from the ground, and pointing down at a small angle till the center of the stick is reached. From four to five, ounces of sulphate of copper, in coarsely powdered crystals, is inserted, and the opening is stopped with a plug, which projects so that it can be pulled out to admit of replacing the chargeevery three or four months. The chemical is gradually absorbed by the wood, which, it is said, permeates to the very top of the pole, the whole outside surface assuming a greenish tint, due to the presence of copper in the pores. This simple means of preservation suggests the application of the same material to other purposes than telegraph poles.

## The New Gas, Hydride of Nitrogen

The discovery of a new gas is reported in Germany by Dr. Theodore Curtius, who has succeeded in pre paring the long sought hydride of nitrogen, amidogen, diamide, or hydrazine, as it is variously called. This remarkable body, which has hitherto baffled all attempts at isolation, is now shown to be a gas perfectly stable up to a very high temperature, of a peculiar odor-differing from that of ammonia-exceedingly so luble in water, and of basic properties. In composi tion it is nearly identical with ammonia, both being compounds of nitrogen and hydrogen.

## AN IMPROVED MASON'S FLOAT HANDLE.

A handle which may be detached from one float and attached to another in a short space of time, but one tool being required to make the transfer, has been patented by Mr. Edward M. Van Duzer, of No. 98 Thomas Street, Newark, N. J., and is illustrated herewith, in perspective and transverse sections. The handle has the usual grip and standards, with ears integral with the ends extending outward at right angles, the ears being apertured between the ends and the standards. A screw passes loosely through the aperture in each ear, and is provided with a winged lock nut having a centrally rectangular recess to receive the rectangular head of the screw, the nut to act as a wrench or lever to turn the screw. The other end of the screw is flattened and beveled upon opposite sides to form a wide cutting edge, wider than the diameter of the aperture in the ear. This handle can be readily and expeditiously detached from a mason's float that is unfit for use and attached to a new one, or with such handle a new float can be quickly and efficiently made from a rectangular
board of suitable size.

## AN IMPROVED FAUCET.

A faucet especially adapted for use with stationary basins, whereby either hot or cold water, or both may be made to flow from one spout and be controlled by one handle, has been patented by Mr. William B. Rodman, of Noriolk, Va., and is illustrated herewith, Fig. 2 showing a partial vertical and longitudinal section and Fig. 3 a front elevation, partly broken away, of a modified form of faucet. Separateinlets are provided for cold and hot water, with a single outlet upon the opposite side, there being an interior pin near the forward end, and a plug having a reciprocating and rotary motion, provided with an elongated diametrical aperture having tapering ends adapted to register with the inlets, singly or collectively,


RODMAN'S FAUCET and with the outlet, there being a segmental peripheral recess adapted to receive the pin. By this device the flow may be in creased or diminished as desired, or any wished for proportion of hot or cold water be obtained.

## an apparatus for testing seeds.

An apparatus for determining the vitality or germinative qualities of seeds, to enable both the dealer and the purchaser to judge more accurately than is ordinarily possible, has been patented by Mr. Henry A. Goetz, of New Albany, Ind., and is illustrated herewith. It has a lamp chamber at one end, and a flue leading therefrom in such way as to diffuse an equable warmth through the compartment in which is located the seed pan. The seeds are placed in the pan on a bedding of cotton or other fibrous material, in rows which are properly labeled, and then water is poured in the pan at one edge of the cotton, so as to float the cotton and the seed placed thereon, the compartment


GOETZ'S SEED TESTER.
being closed by glazed doors to allow of raising the temperature as desired. The moisture supplied to the seeds at the same time assists the heated air in the chamber in causing the good seeds to sprout, while the operation has little or no effect on poor and worthless seeds.

## Total Eclipse of the Moon

Our readers must not forget the eclipse of the moon which will occur on January 28, beginning at 5:30 P.M. The full data will be found in our issue of January 7,1888 , page 2 , of the present volume, to which we refer for particulars of the different phases. The interest of the phenomenon will be enhanced by the fact that it occurs at so convenient an hour.

van duzer's mason's float handle.

Fire Precautions an to Woodworking Shope in
$\begin{gathered}\text { Berlin. }\end{gathered}$
The police authorities of Berlin, Prussia, have pub lished the following ordersregulating the arrangements where fires are used in woodworking shops in that city. These orders are founded on the building inspection ordinance of January 15, 1887, for Berlin and its environs.

1. The wood shops must have solid principal walls of brick or stone.
2. When there are persons dwelling over wood work ing shops, the floors of such dwellings must be fireproof (feuerfest), and any wooden floors must have ceiling below piped and plastered, and the plaster covered with corrugated sheet iron.
3. In arrangements for heating woodworking shops during winter, or for drying purposes, no kind of metallic stoves or pipes for the same shall be used. Stoves must be of stone or tiles, and so arranged that they can be supplied with fuel on the outside only of the wookrooms, or in a fireproof projection at last 59 inches in height and 20 inches in depth. Any iron covers which may be upon such stoves must be protected with at least two thicknesses of tiles or slates laid in mortar. For conducting smoke from stoves to chimneys, only flues built in walls shall be used. Woodworking shops having in one or in several rooms a superficial area of 9,700 feet must conform to the following prescribings
(a.) Among dwellings, woodworking shops and the needful storage room therefor shall be permitted only when they are entirely isolated from the dwellings that may be located above them, by fireproof floors (as before stated), and when the dwellings have one or more staircases separated from the workshop by substantial walls.
(b.) The stairways to such workshops must be fireproof, and doors leading therefrom to interiors made of iron. Doors must open outward, and be self-closing. Such doors are not to have wooden cases, or other wooden supports.
(c.) For each workshop there must be a separate glue heating room, having thick brick walls, ceiling vaulted, and floor and ceiling below of non-inflammable materials. There must be an iron door at the entrance to this room, and between the door, when open, and the heating furnace a distance of at least 20 inches. Socalled "glue heaters" are not permitted.
(d.) Every workshop must have a separate shavings bin, located in the cellar, or upon selid ground outside -constructed on the four sides of thick walls, vaulted above. This bin must have a separate entrance from the courtyard, closed by an iron or an iron-plated door. -Assecuranz (Vienna).

## The Baku Naphtha Springs.

Although within the last two years intelligence has frequently reached Europe of extraordinary outbursts of mineral oil on the Apsheron peninsula, near Baku, nothing has yet equaled the astonishing outbreak which the Northern Telegraph Agency telegraphed a few days ago. Their telegram was to the effect that near the petroleum works of a certain M. Arafeloff a fountain of oil was throwing out over 2,400 tons daily, that this had been continuing without intermission for four weeks, and that more than the half of this enormous output was going to waste. It is to this loss of the oil that attention is now being directed. Not only at Arafeloff's fountain, but at almost every large fountain in the Balakhan-Sabuntchin district the waste of this most valuable product has been enormous. Millions of pools of oil have been lost, owing to the inefficient way in which it is reservoired and stored. It is now understood that the government will take immediate steps to prevent this ruinous waste and to compel the owners of oil springs to adopt more scientific methods of boring, collecting, and storing.

## Reciprocal Influence of Sense Organs.

Some interesting experiments on the reciprocal influence of organs of sense have been recently made by Herr Urbanschitsch, of Vienna. His general concluis, says Nature, that any sense excitation has for result an increase of the acuteness of other senses. Thus, sensations of hearing sharpen the visual perceptions. If colored plates are placed at such a distance that one can hardly distinguish the colors, and various sounds are then produced, the colors become generally more distinct the higher the sounds. Similarly, one can, while a sound affects the ear, read words which one could not read before. Again, the ticking of a watch is better heard when the eyes are open than when they are closed. Red and green increase auditive perceptions; but blue and yellow weaken them. Several musicians, however, were agreed that red, green, yellow, and blue caused an intensification of sound about one-eighth; while violet had a weakening effect. Taste, smell, and touch are under like laws. Light, and red and green color, increase their delicacy; while darkness, blue, and yellow diminish it. Under the influence. of red and green, taste extends from the anterior border of the tongue to the whole surface. On the other hand, a strengthening of smell, taste, or touch
xalts the other sensitive perceptions. Specially in teresting is the reciprocal influence of touch and the sense of temperature. If one tickle the skin with a hair, and plunge the hand in hot water, the tickling sensation ceases; on the contrary, if the hand be placed in cold water, and a part of the body tickled, the temperature is felt more vividly. Herr Urbanschitsch finds in this reciprocal action an explanation of sup posed double consecutive sensations on excitation of one sense.

## AN IMPROVED RATCHET AND LEVER MECHANISM.

A device, consisting of a ratchet sleeve or teeth held on a shaft and operated upon by one or more rat chet levers, with a pawl held in a ring or carrie through which the ratchet sleeve passes loosely, has been patented by Mr. John Bayet, of O'Fallon, St Clair County, Ill., and is illustrated herewith, Figs. 1 and 3 showing sectional views of the carrier and pawl, and Fig. 4 a plan view of a modified form of the im provement.
The shaft carries one or more ratchet sleeves, or the teeth of the ratchet may be directly cut on the shaft, a lever or pawl being provided with a head, which has its bearing in a recess formed in a carrier having a renovable front plate, so that the head of the lever can


BAYET'S RATCHET AND LEVER MECHANISM.
easily be placed in the recess. On the head of the lever is a semicircular projection which is the fulcrum of the lever, and on the head is also formed a jaw adapted to engage or disengage the teeth of the ratchet sleeve. The motion of the ratchet lever is limited by the peculiar shape of the recess, so that it is practicable to impart a partial rotary motion or a continuous rotary motion to the shaft, increasing at the same time the power of the latter. The number of levers and ratchet sleeves can be varied according to the work to be done, and the length of the levers is determined according to the space in which they are to be used or the amount of power they have to communicate.
The device is applicable to a wide variety of shop machinery, and may also be used in running thrashing machines and for other purposes.

## Effect of the Atmosphere on Bricks.

Atmospheric influence upon bricks, tiles, and other building materials obtained by the burning of plastic clays depends very much on the chemical composition of the clays and on the degree of burning. Thus any distinct portions of limestone present in them would be converted into quicklime in the kiln, and when the bricks were thoroughly wetted would expand in such a manner as to disintegrate the mass. If the clay used is too poor-that is to say, if it contains an excess of sand-the bricks will not become sufficiently fused, and upon exposure to the weather their constituent parts will separate. It is to be observed that in bricks, as in stones, decomposition does not take place with the greatest rapidity where constant moisture exists, but rather where, from the absence of capillarity, variable according to the moisture furnished by the atmosphere, either directly or indirectly, a series of alternations of dryness and humidity prevail.
The foundation walls of buildings do not in fact uffer so much in the parts immediately upon the ground as they do in those at a height of from one to three feet, according to the permeability of the materials employed. When bricks made of clay containing ree silica are laid in mortar, and moisture can pass freely from either one or the other, it may be observed that the edges in contact become harder than the body of the bricks. No doubt this arises from the formation of a silicate of lime and alumina, the lime being furnished by the passage of the water through the bed of mortar.-G. R. Burnell, in the Architect (London).

## The German Corn Laws.

The German Reichstag has, after a long and exremely animated discussion, in which the Free Trade party made its influence strongly felt, raised the import duty on cereals, in response, says Industries, partly to the clamor of the agriculturists for further protection, and partly in satisfaction of a revengeful feeling evoked by the fiscal policy of Russia toward Germany. The annual consumption for the whole of the German empire has now reached, in round numbers, $400,000,000$ cwt. Down to the year 1866, the home production exceeded the requirements, but since that date an important import trade has sprung up, and has grown so rapidly that German agriculturists have been driven into adverse circumstances.
In the period between the years 1881 and 1884, incluively, the imports of cereals, about one-half of which were derived from Russia, increased, on an average, by $40,000,000 \mathrm{cwt}$. annually, or about one-tenth of the total consumption. As the tendency of this foreign trade manifestly was to grow at a still more rapid rate, the agricultural party became alarmed at the prospect, and raised an outcry against the insufficiency of the existing tariff laws. Pressure was brought to bear upon the government to raise the duty on wheat to 3s. per cwt. The result is not quite up to this high level, but the compromise that has been effected between the xtreme and the moderate parties fixes the duty henceforward at 2s. 6d. Under these amended laws, Germany has the highest import duties for cereals of any country in Europe. The following is a comparative table of the rates now in force per cwt.

|  | Wheat. s. d. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Rye. } \\ & \text { s. } \end{aligned}$ | Barley. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oats. } \\ & \text { s. d. } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Germany. | 26 |  | 11.5 |  |
| France | 20 | 073 | 073 | $2 \cdot 6$ |
| Spain. | 19 | 135 | 13.5 | 35 |
| Austria. | 16 | 16 | 09 | 09 |
| Italy. | 126 | 12.6 |  | 97 |

## The Sewers of Paris.

The idea of a pleasure excursion through a sewer must seem to a denizen of any of our large cities, who has never visited Paris, a most singular event.
A visit to the catacombs which extend under a large section of the city, and an excursion through the sewers, which a correspondent of a Chicago paper very faithfully describes, affords to strangers probably as much interest as anything they will see in the great French metropolis.
We started, says the writer, from the Palace Chatelet at three o'clock, and descended a little winding staircase, the steps and walls of which were covered with a green cloth fringed by a red border. There was not the slightest danger of soiling our clothes or of en countering the least disagreeable odor. On arriving at the foot of the stairs a fine display of fruits and vegeta bles was the first thing to greet our eyes. These products were from Gennevilliers, and were grown in gardens that are watered by the sewers. We got into a wagon in which were seats for twenty persons. Off we went, shoved along by solid-looking fellows, all neatly dressed. Above us was a mass of tubes and pipes. They are the water pipes, the two largest con taining our drinking water from the Vanne and the water from the Ourcq, which latter is used for washing the streets and sidewalks. Then there were the pneumatic tubes, in which we could hear the rattle of the dispatch boxes.
Soon we reachcd the crossing of the Pont Neuf. This tunnel was lighted from end to end with garlands of colored lamps. The effect was fairy-like. The same effect was produced under the Rue de Louvre, the Rue de Richelieu, and the Place des Pyramides, where precisely under the statue of Joan of Arc appeared in luminous glass the arms of the city of Paris. We passed along, still following the Rue de Rivoli, where each house has its number in the sewer, just as in the street, until we reached the Place de la Concorde. There the electric lights, crossing the fires with the reflection of the Venetian lamps, turn the square into a sort of ball room. Nothing was wanting, not even music. We all got out of the wagons to embark in boats, furnished with cushioned seats. The music was in the first boat, which was decorated with flags and lamps. The boats were started. We followed the entire route of the Rue Royale by the light of fifty dazzling electric lamps. After a quarter of an hour in this boat we landed at the foot of a staircase, which we mounted, and in three minutes we were above the ground at the Madeleine.

The Billings \& Spencer Co., of Hartford, are using from two to three tons of copper monthly in making drop-forged commutator bars and segments for electric generators and motors. Among the electric light companies for whom they are furnishing this line are the Edison, Thomson-Houston, Westinghouse, Waterhouse, Fort Wayne, Jenney, Electro-Dynamic, Richter, and Western. They have recently brought out carbon tongs for handling the carbons in are lights, which are being largely used, and are furnishing drop-forged eye bolts in ten sizes, from three-eighths up to and including two inches diameter of shank.

## ©orresponderce.

## Preservation of Iron.

To the Editor of the Scientific American
The author of the article entitled "The Preservation of Iron and Steel Ships" (which appears in the Scientific American of December 17, credited to the Engineer), in the course of his remarks upon oxidation of iron (and steel), says: "Oxidation engenders further oxidation. Hence the necessity of frequently scaling the surface of iron which is permitted to oxidize at all."

The old-time shipmasters were aware of the fact mentioned in the foregoing quotation. Witness the ancient doggerel, descriptive of a sailor's duties: "Six days shalt thou work, and do all that thou art able; and on the seventh, scrape the anchor and pound the cable."
J. M. G.

## Dumb Bell Therapeutics.

To the Editor of the Scientific American
In your issue of January 7, you refer to Dr. Sohli's favorite prescription for habitual constipation. Dose for an adult, one 4 lb . cannon ball to be rolled about upon the abdomen in the morning, say 5 or 10 minutes, or until it produces the desired effect. This is better than medicine, but cannon balls are not easily procured.
Hence, I would suggest that a dumb bell will serve as well or better, and can be obtained at any hardware store. And the dumb bell gets in more work, because, having two butt ends, it kneads in two places at once. Should weigh 6 to 8 lb . The dumb bell-the great blood purifier, mental stimulant, and moral restorative -also gets other exercise out of the man, because he is of ten tempted to pick it up and go through the dumb bell motions.
S. N. Stewart.

PhiladeIphia, January, 1888.

## Prof. Swenson's Sugar Patent

To the Editor of the Scientific American:
If patent No. 371,528 was granted to Prof. Swenson for the device of neutralizing the organic acids in the juice of the sorghuin plant with lime, it might possibly be revoked on other grounds than those mentioned in the United States Senate the other day.

As early as the summer of 1881, H. A. Weber and M. A. Scovell, professors of chemistry at the Illinois State University, made substantially the same discovery, and during the years 1882-83 superintended the construction of factories at Champaign and Hoopston, III., and at Sterling, Kan.
The writer was engaged at the Champaign factory in neutralizing the juice, and knows whereof he speaks. The juice was pumped to tanks in the upper part of the factory, where it was treated with sufficient lime water to exactly neutralize the acids present, the tests being made with litmus paper. The invention was a decided success, and several hundred barrels of sugar were produced from each of the factories. The article produced was nearly pure sucrose, and sold readily as C sugar. The reduction of the tariff, however, so reduced the price as to render the business unprofitable and all the factories were closed.

In the Weber-Scovell process the juice was removed from the cane by means of crushers, but whether this fact has any bearing on the question of priority of invention I know not. Certain it is that the Weber Scovell process was much discussed at the time, and one man came all the way from Russia to learn it. -

Sadorus, Ill., January 3, 1888.
H. P. Little.
[Prof. Swenson's patent, as we understand it, covers the use of lime in the diffusion baths. If this is not original with him, the patent would fall. The use of lime for correcting the acidity of expressed juice has long been practiced, and this is not claimed by Prof. Swenson.-ED.]

## Use of Lime to Neutralize Sorghum Juice.

 To the Editor of the Scientific A merican :I read in the Scientific American of December 31 1887, an article on Prof. Swenson's patent for neutralizing the acid in sorghum cane juice by the use of lime. Have also read numerous articles in different papers on the same subject, but have looked in vain for the statement of a fact which I should think would have found its way into the papers before this. The fact is this, namely, that Prof. Swenson is not the first to use lime to neutralize the sorghum juice. Lime was used for this purpose by Profs. Weber and Scovell at the Champaign (Ill.) sugar factory in 1882, and again the Champaign (III.) sugar factory in 1882, and again
by Prof. Scovell at Sterling, Kan., during the fall of by Prof. Scovell at Sterling, Kan., during the fall of
1883. I was night engineer in the Sterling factory, and know whereof I speak.
My recollection is that Profs. Weber and Scovell secured a patent on this very idea of using lime. At any rate, they took out some patent for making sugar from sorghum, and for that reason their connection with the State University at Champaign was severed. It was quite a surprise to me to learn that Prof.
a little investigation will show that it is valueless, to him as least.
Prof. Weber is now professor of chemistry at the Ohio State University, Columbus, O., and Prof. Sco vell occupies a similar position at Nashville, Tenn., I think. A correspondence with either of them will de velop whether I am mistaken about their patent cov ering the ground claimed by Prof. Swenson or not. About their using lime to neutralize the acid in the juice I am positive, for I have seen it done many times. The juice was always tested afterward with litmus paper.
Whether Profs. Weber and Scovell's patent did or did not cover the use of lime, they and a number of others can testify that they used it long before Prof. Swenson, though not on diffusion juice. But would that make any difference?
I trust that my statement may interest you sufficiently to investigate, and see if I am not right in surmising that Prof. Swenson's patent is invalid.

Jefferson, Cook County, Ill.
[In Professor Swenson's patent, the claim covers the use of lime with the chips in the diffusion bath. If this is not new, the claim falls. As we understand the patent, no claim is made for the broad or general idea of neutralizing sorghum juice with lime.-Eds.]

## Six Years, Labor Troubles.

The Boston Herald presents the following abstract of Commissioner Carroll D. Wright's third annual report of the Bureau of Labor, which relates entirely to strikes and lockouts for the period of six years ending December 31, 1886. It gives the result of the first general investigation ever made by any nation of the facts concerning strikes and lockouts for any extended period or for any wide extent of territory. The report period or for any wide extent of territory. The report
covers about seven hundred printed pages, and gives the covers about seven hundred printed pages, and gives the
details of each strike and lockout occurring in the details of each strike and lockout occurring in the
United States during the period named. It exhibits the facts belonging to each industrial disturbance for each locality where trouble was found, without attempting to establish or decide upon the connection between them. The following table shows the number of strikes occurring during each of the last six years, the number of establishments involved, and the average number of establishments involved in each strike :

| Years. | Strikes. | Establishments involved. | Average no. of eatab lishments involve in each strike. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1881.. | 471 | 2,928 | $6 \cdot 2$ |
| 1882. | 454 | 2,105 | 46 |
| 1883. | 478 | 2,759 | $5 \cdot 8$ |
| 1884. | 443 | 2,367 | 53 |
| 1885 | 645 | 2,284 | $3 \cdot 5$ |
| 1886.. | . 1,412 | 9,893 | 7 |
|  | . 3,903 | 22,336 | 5.7 |

In 1887 there were, according to the best information obtainable, 853 strikes, details of which are not available. The report shows that during the six years covered by the investigation, New York had the largest number of establishments affected both by strikes and lockouts, there being for the former 9,247 and for the latter 1,528 .
The building trades furnished 6,060 of the total number of establishments engaged in strikes. The total number of employes involved in the whole number of strikes for the entire period is shown to have been $1,318,624$. The number of employes originating the strikes was $1,020,832$. The number of employes in all establishments before the strikes occurred was $1,662,045$, while the whole number employed in the establishments involved after the strikes occurred was $1,636,217$ -a loss of 25,798 . There were 103,038 new employes engaged after the strikes, and 37,483 were brought from other places than those in which the strikes occurred. In 2,182 establishments lockouts were ordered during the period named. In these there were 173,995 employes before the lockouts occurred and 169,436 after, while the number actually locked out was 159,548 . There were 13,976 new employes secured at the close of the lockouts, and 5,682 were brought from other places than those in which the lockouts occurred.
"It should be remembered, however," says the report, " that these figures do not represent the actual number of individual establishments or different employes engaged, as in many cases there have been two or more strikes or lockouts affecting the same establishment in the same year. In such cases the establishments and the number of employes engaged are duplicated."
Of the whole number of employes involved in strikes during the six years, 88.56 per cent were males and 11.44 per cent females. Of those in lockouts during the same period, 68.78 per cent were males and $31 \cdot 22$ per cent emales.
An examination of the tables appended to the report shows that New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Illinois represent 74.74 per cent of the whole umber of establishments affected by strikes throughout the country and 90.80 per cent of the lockouts. These five States, it is stated, contain 49 per cent of all the manufacturing establishments, and employ 58 per cent of the capital invested in mechanical industries in cent of the capital invested in mechanical industries in
the United States. Of the 22,336 establishments in
which strikes occurred, in 18,342 , or $82 \cdot 12$ per cent of the whole, strikes were ordered by labor organizations, while of the 2,182 establishments in which lockouts oc curred, 1,753 , or 80.34 per cent, were ordered by combinations of managers. Of the whole number of establishments temporarily closed for business, 13,443 , or $60 \cdot 19$ per cent, were on account of strikes; on account of lockouts, $62 \cdot 60$ per cent. The average duration of stoppage on account of strikes was $23 \cdot 1$ days, and for lockouts 28 days.
The results of the strikes, so far as gaining the objects sought are concerned, are shown to be as follows Success followed in 10,407 cases, or 46.59 per cent of the whole; partial success in 3,004 , or 13.45 per cent of the whole; and failure followed in 8,910 cases, or $39 \cdot 89$ per cent of the whole. By lockouts, 564 establishments, or 25.85 per cent of the whole, succeeded in gaining their point; 190, or 8.71 per cent, partly succeeded; and 1,305, or 59.80 per cent, failed.
As to the causes or objects of strikes, it is shown that increase of wages was the principal one, $42 \cdot 44$ per cent. The other leading causes are given as follows : For re duction of hours, $19 \cdot 45$ per cent ; against reduction of wages, 7.75 per cent; for increase of wages and reduction of hours, $7 \cdot 67$ per cent ; against increase of hours 62 per cent. Total for the five leading causes, $77 \cdot 83$ per cent. All other causes, $22 \cdot 17$ per cent.
Disclaiming absolute accuracy, the report gives the osses of employes and employers resulting from strikes and lockouts as follows: Losses to strikers during the six years, $\$ 51,816,165$; loss to employes through lockouts for the same period, $\$ 8,132,717$, or a total wage loss to employes of $\$ 59,948,882$. This loss occurred for both strikes and lockouts in 24,518 establishments, or an average loss of $\$ 3,445$ to each establishment, or nearly $\$ 40$ to each striker involved. The assistance given to strikers for the same period, as far as ascertainable amounted to $\$ 3,325,057$; to those suffering from lock outs, $\$ 1,105,538$, or a total of $\$ 4,430,595$. These amounts, however, the Commissioner says, are undoubtedly too howe
low.
The
The employers' losses through strikes for the six years amounted to $\$ 30,732,653$; through lockouts, $\$ 3,432,261$; or a total loss to the establishments involved of $\$ 34,164,914$.
The tables also show that the chief burden of strikes was borne by 13 industries, viz.: Boots and shoes, 352 establishments; bricklaying, 478 ; building trades, 6,060 ; clothing, 1,728 ; cooperage, 484 ; food preparations, 1,419 ; furniture, 491 ; lumber, 395 ; metals and tions, 1,419 ; furniture, 491 ; lumber, 395 ; metals and
metallic goods, 1,595 ; mining, 2,060 ; stone, 468 ; tobacco, 2,959 ; transportation, 1,478 . These represent $89 \cdot 35$ per cent of the whole number subjected to strikes. In lockouts, five trades bore 80 per cent of the whole burden, as follows: Boots and shoes, 155 establishments; building trades, 531 ; clothing, 773; metals and metallic goods, 76 ; and tobacco, 226 ; or a total of $1,761$.
Besides completing the field work for this report and the compilation of the information, the bureau has carried on almost to completion the investigation begun last year concerning the moral, physical, and economical conditions of the workingwomen of greatcities, and has continued its investigation into the cost of the distribution of great staple products. It has also undertaken, according to congressional instruction, the collection of statistics of marriage and divorce in the United States, a report of which may be submitted before the close of the present session of Congress.

## Myopia.

A very sensible decree has just been issued by the Austrian minister of public instruction, forbidding the use of books printed with small type in public schools, as shortsightedness is so prevalent among school children in Austria. Scientific supervision might very properly be given to school books in this country, attention being especially directed to the size of the type, length of line, and spacing of letters and lines. In the works published by the Clarendon Press no fault can be found in these respects, and speaking generally the school books of this country are well printed. The chief fault in German books is their adherence to the very dazzling Old English shape of the letters, which certainly severely tries the eyes by necessitating very close attention, and the evil effects of this is aided by the paper being coarse and by the light supplied being usually insufficient.-Lancet. 1

The total wheat crop of the world is about $2,000,000$, 000 bushels, and at least $1,500,000,000$ bushels are consumed in the countries in which it is grown, leaving a balance of $500,000,000$ to supply countries growing no wheat or growing less than they consume. Speculation deals only with this balance that goes into general trade, and the speculators of the world in a single year will sell or transfer in their peculiar way forty or fifty times $500,000,000$ bushels of wheat. In New York a single day sometimes witnesses a sale or transfer of $30,000,000$ bushels of wheat. The damage done by speculation consists in lowering the price of the whole amount of actual wheat by this enormous inflation of "paper wheat," not a bushel in a thousand of which is ever delivered.-Milling World.

## THE MORRIS TYPE WRITER.

We illustrate in this issue the Morris type writer. It is a machine designed to supply the want so much felt for a portable and low priced machine which in quality of work and rapidity of execution should yield to none of the higher priced and heavier ones. The machine was invented by Mr. Robert Morris, of Kansas.


## MORRIS TYPE WRITER IN CASE.

In 1885 he constructed or had constructed a number. These he sold, and although they were by no means the finished product we illustrate, yet so valuable were the features they embodied, that they worked successfully and to the satisfaction of their purchasers. In 1886 the inventor introduced them in the East, and after several hundred had been sold here, the manufacture was intrusted to the Hoggson \& Pettis Manufacturing Company, of New Haven, Conn. The entire management was placed in the hands of this firm, and they a ${ }^{\dagger}$ once set about improving the model, and by a process largely of simplification arrived at the present form.

The present model is in many respects an advance on the old one. As the machine from the first did good work, still better is to be looked for from the improved construction designed by the experienced firm. who are its proprietors and who superintend its manufacture, on which a high grade of skilled machinists are employed.
The general features of the type writer are well brought out in the cuts. A swinging and reciprocating platen carriage carries the type, which are made of India rubber. When depressed sufficiently, one of the type is pressed against the paper which rests upon a roller. In order to guide the type to its place a guide pin is provided. This projects upward and enters a countersunk hole in the platen. There are as many of these holes as there are letters and characters. Each hole corresponds to a particular character, and the platen cannot be depressed without the pin entering the proper hole. The countersinking guides the pin, and the effect of the arrangement is that each letter can only be printed accurately in place and in alignment with the rest. In the view of the machine showing the platen turned back, the series of guiding holes can be seen to the right of the type.
Immediately above the type on the upper face of the platen the characters are engraved, and a finger points out the letter that will be printed on depressing the platen.
Underneath the type is an inking pad. At every depression of the platen the type are pressed upon this,


ADJUSTING PAPER IN MORRIS TYPE WRITER.
so as to keep them charged with ink. Through the center of the pad an aperture is formed, large enough to permit one type to pass through, and through this the impression is given. The depression of the platen by a-rack and pinion movement advances the type an exact distance for each impression.


UNDER VIEW OF PLATEN AND SHEETS OF TYPE OF MORRIS TYPE WRITER.


PLATEN AND CHARACTER PLATE OF MORRIS TYPE WRITER.

The operation from the illustration and description will be clear, and will be seen to be simple, rapid, and effectual. The operator holds the little knob with the f fingers of the right hand. The platen is moved thereby he milled head on the right of the machine. A top motion is provided to secure perfectly accurate stop
feed.
All in until the proper letter comes under the indicator, when the platen is pressed downward. The guide pin enters the countersunk hole, the type descends exactly in its proper place, and the impression is made. At the same time the other type are brought in same time the other type are brought in
contact with the inking pad, so asto keep them in condition for printing. The platen after printing is pressed up to its original level by a spring. As it rises, the feed motion acts and the carriage advances one letter space. Between words or at the ends of paragraphs, different spacing can be produced by the operator. The thumb and finger pieces, seen projecting forward from the front of the carriage, are provided for executing these movements.
As the carriage bearing the platen approaches the end of its course, it rings an alarm bell to notify the operator. Forty-five charac-|dressed to the Hoggson \& Pettis Manufacturing Comters, including the alphabet, numerals, punctuation, per pany, New Haven, Conn.
cent, and dollar marks, are contained on each sheet of type. Different and interchangeable styles are provided for use on the same machine. The strength of the rubber backing is not, however, relied on to secure rubber backing is not, however, relied on to secure
accurate placing of the type. Their faces project


Four Things Worth Knowing.
Chas. Reiss gives in the American Jeweller the folowing useful receipts :
Immerse steel or iron in a solution of carbonate of potash for a few minutes, and they will not rust for years, not even when exposed to damp atmosphere. To restore the luster of dead silver work, gilt clock cases, etc., dissolve one ounce of cyanide of potash in one quart of pure water, empty it into a bottle, and label it "poison." When to be used, place the article in an earthen vessel, cover it over with the solution, and in five minutes the lusterless appearance will be removed. Preserve the fiuid for future use.
The following method for bluing small steel pieces evenly will prove satisfactory: You first blue the object without any special regard as to uniformity of color. Should it prove to be imperfect, take a piece of clean pith, or a piece of dead wood that will not crumble too easily, and whiten the surface with rouge without letting it be too dry. Pieces when thus prepared, if cleaned and blued with care, will assume a very uniform tint.
To prepare a beautiful gold beetle colored bronze, use the following method : Mix equal parts of chromate of potash and table salt. After the powder is fintly mixed, let it pass through a sieve, then put this powder into a crucible and cover it with a layer of salt. Cover the crucible and allow the contents to boil half an hour. After cooling, wash out the contents carefully with water, and the mass on being rubbed will show a beautiful bronze.
Platinum can be made to adhere through holes in a metallic plate, so that they cannot |to gold by soldering, in the following manner: A sinall move laterally. The type plate is always in full sight, quantity of fine or eighteen carat gold should be never being covered by the operator's hand. Its area is so small that all the characters are kept easily within the limits of most distinct vision. The guide pin, after passing through the guide holes, strikes the upper plate of the platen carriage. This contact takes place every time a letter is printed, and insures a perfectly even pressure, so that all the characters are printed with equal distinctness. Every portion of the machine, except the type plate and rolls, is of matal with interchangew it $h$ interchange-
able parts throughable parts through-
out. Its weight is out. Its weight is
four and a quarter four and a quarter pounds, and with its box and appurtenances. seven pounds.
It will be noticed that it is not a ribbon printing machine, but that it does its work by direct contact between paper and type. The feed of the paper is managed by the rotation of the bed roller, effected by

the morris type writer in use.

## AFRICAN SHEEP IN THE BERLIN ZOOLOGICAL

 GARDENS.Their essential characteristic is that they are not covered with wool like their European relatives, but have stiff, coarse hair. There is a diversity in their size and shape, which varies according to the food and climate of the different places in which they are raised.
Sometimes the profile of the forehead is straight, then again it is more or less curved. The ears vary in length and breadth, sometimes standing out and sometimes hanging down; while the body is more or less curved on the sides. The length and strength of the legs and tail are likewise varied, the latter sometimes showing a tendency toward clumsiness in size.
The color of these sheep is always black and white, the white forming the groundwork for the black, round spots, which are found upon the nose, the eyes, ears, and just above the hoofs.
The shape of the specimens here illustrated is rather small and graceful, the profile is straight, the finely shaped ears stand out horizontally from the head, the line of the back is even, and the tail is of medium length. The body is curved, the limbs are slender, very similar to those of a deer.
the flesh seemed to be pushed down almost to the bone The old woman's hand was then held above her head for a brief interval. Then the bandage was quickly uncorded and rewound about the member. This was repeated three times, and finally it was found upon uncovering the finger that it was small enough to admit of the ring being removed with ease.
"I have never failed but once," said the jeweler, and I have removed many rings from fingers even nore swollen than yours. Do I charge for it? Oh, yes. I ask the same amount that I would get if the ring were left to be mended after being cut. One dollar Thank you!" and as he turned to his bench and the old woman left the store, he added: "But after all, she might have done the same thing herself. It's not the work, however, I charge for. It's the 'know how.'"

## Naval Engineers.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following rules concerning the examination of applicants for the position of second assistant engineer in the United States revenue marine.
A candidate for an appointment as second assistant
antedate or be acquired subsequent to an examinaanted.
No person will be originally appointed to a higher grade than second assistant engineer, nor until he shall have passed a physical and professional examination. The physical examination shall precede the professional, and if a candidate be rejected physically, he will not be examined further. All professional examinations will be competitive in character, and applicants who pass the minimum standard required in the several subjects will be placed upon the list of persons eligible for appointment, in the order of the excellence of their examinations, respectively. From this list appointments will be made in regular order, as vacancies may occur, until another examination.
No person will be designated for examination until he has filed in the department the necessary certificates showing his proper qualifications as to character, habits, and time or times of service, and the ability that has been displayed during such service.
Any person producing a false certificate of age, time of service, or character, or making a false state ment to a board of examination, will be dropped immediately.


AFRICAN SHEEP IN THE BERLIN ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

The hair is short and even, except on the buck, and |engineer must be not less than twenty-one nor more even then it grows long only on the under side of the neck. The large colored spots which are distributed about the body are essentially black and characteristic.
The Cameroon sheep are only useful as food, but they are considered of great importance among the black population, on account of their easy fattening qualities. -Illustrirte Zeitung.

## Removing the Ring.

"Will you please saw this ring off my finger?"
It was an old woman who made this request of a Broadway jeweler, and as the worker in gold and silver took the wrinkled, though fat and shapely, hand in his it trembled violently; and a tear dropped upon the counter.
" Excuse me," continued the old lady, "but it is my wedding ring. I have never had it off since $I$ was married-forty-five years ago. I have refrained from having it cut, hoping that my finger might get thinner and that I could take it off without breaking it."
"And what if I can remove it without cutting?" inquired the jeweler.
"But can you?" said she, looking up in a credulous way. "If you can, do it by all means."

Then the jeweler took the swollen finger and wound it round from the top downward in a length of flat rubber braid. The elastic cord exerted its force upon the tissues of the fingers gently and gradually until
than thirty years of age; he must be of good moral character and correct habits; he must have worked not less than eighteen months in a machine shop and have had responsible charge of a steam engine, or else have served not less than that period in charge or assisting in the care and management of the machinery of a steam vessel in active service. Upon examination, he must be able to describe and sketch all the different parts of the marine steam engine and boilers, and explain their uses and mechanical operation, the manner of putting them in action, regulating their movements, and guarding against danger. He must write a fair, legible hand, be well acquainted with arithmetic, simple mensuration, English orthography and composition, also with rudimentary mechanics and its practical applications; he must possess some skill in the use of ordinary hand tools, and have a fair practical knowledge of the nature of heat and steam, of the general laws in relation to the expansion of steam, of the use of the indicator and interpretation of diagrams, of the chemistry of combustion and corrosion, of the composition of sea water and use of the salinometer, and of the usual calculations to determine loss by blowing, gain by heater, and water necessary for condensation.
No person otherwise qualified will be commissioned as an engineer before he has shown his ability to perform duty at sea in a satisfactory manner for a period of at least six months. This service may either

Any person who, subsequent to his examination, nay become disqualified from moral considerations will not be appointed.

Crys'rallized tin plate has a variegated primrose appearance, produced upon the surface by applying to it in a heated state some dilute nitro-muriatic acid for a few seconds, then washing it with water, drying, and coating it with lacquer. The figures are more or less diversified, according to the degree of heat and relative dilution of the acid. The Iron and Steel Trade Journal (London) tells its readers how this crystallization is produced. Place the tin plate, slightly heated, over a tub of water, and rub its surface with a sponge dipped in a liquid composed of four parts of aquafortis and two of distilled water, holding one part of common salt or sal ammoniac in solution. When the crys talline spangles seem to be thoroughly brought out, the plate must be immersed in water, washed either with a feather or a little cotton, taking care not to rub off the film of tin that forms the feathering, forthwith dried with a low heat, and coated with a lacquer varnish, otherwise it loses its luster in the air. If the whole surface is not plunged at once in cold water but is partially cooled by.sprinkling water on it, the crystallization will be finely variegated with large and small figures. Similar results will be obtained by blowing cold air through a pipe on the tinned surface, while it is just passing from the fused to the solid state.

## Tricks of Memory.

Memory, which differs so greatly among individual men, varies also in such marked degree in thesame per son at different times that we are all interested in the inquiry how far wemory is a measure of mental strength. In childhood and boyhood we find memory occupying so high a position among mental qualities that the idea grows up with most of us that he who has the best memory has also most talent, if even a remark able memory be not regarded as of itself proving abso lute genius. At least this is so in most of our schools where the boy who remembers his lessons best take highest position, not he who best understands them.
I learned very early that memory and mental power, though they may be associated together, are yet very different things. I valued my memory, which had often stood me in good stead in examinations, the only test with which boyhood is apt to be acquainted; but valued more the power of understanding and enjoying the reasoning of dear old Euclid, the one geometrician with whom, in those days, English school lads could be come acquainted. Soon after I had left school-and when I was a freshman at college -I made the acquaint ance of a young man of about my own age who possessed a most marvelous memory, while he also showed most marvelous mental density. He had occasion to pass ex aminations in Euclid, and one would have said that he would have been singularly successful in these exam inations, for though he had only read through our col ege Euclid once, he could recite or write out the whole of it. Or, if preferred, he could begin at any point where one might start him and reproduce any quantity ver batim et literatim-atque punctuatim, so far as that was concerned. But not only was he utterly unable to understand a word of it all-he had not even brains enough to keep his real ignorance of Euclid to himself. He was always forgetting the good old rule ne quid mimis; and as he did not know where to stop in his narvelous recitations, the examiners naturally came to the conclusion, perfectly justified by the facts, tha though he knew his Euclid by heart, he knew nothing about geometry. His knowledge was akin to that of one who should repeat by rote a number of Greek or Hebrew words, the meaning of which was unknown to him ; or like that of a tutor I once had, who, when hearing me deal with a problem in Euclid, would send me back to relearn my lesson if I called a triangle A CB instead of ABC, as the book showed it.
We need not then either despair of our mental pow ers when we hear of marvelous feats of memory, or think that our minds are failing because with advanc ing years our memory may occasionally play us false Memory, as Dr. Diordat, of Montpelier, long since pointed out, and as hundreds of facts show, is rather the offspring of the vital force than of the intellectual prin ciple; and it is not surprising if in old age, when the vital force diminishes, memory should sometimes fail, even while the intellectual power preserves its full in tegrity. As for marvelous feats of memory, though they certainly indicate possibilities of future developments which would greatly increase man's grasp over mental problems, they need no more discourage those who feel incapable of any achievements in this line than the mental powers of Blind Tom should cause those who see his performances to despair because they can never hope to do the like.
The examples themselves which most strikingly dis play the capacity of special brains for remembering words and syllables show also how little this capacity has to do with intellectual power-some of them indeed seem almost to suggest that a very keen memory may be a mark of disease. That excessive keenness of mem ory may result from a diseased cerebral action is indeed certain; but, fortunately, we are not obliged to regard this fact as giving any unpleasant significance to exceptionally good powers of remembrance. If foolish or even idiotic persons, or persons in the delirium of fever, have manifested remarkable memories, men like Macaulay, Prescott, Euler, and others have had marvelous memories without being feeble-minded and without the aid of disease.

Pepys tells us of an Indian who could repeat a long passage in Greek or Hebrew after it had been recited to him only once, though he was ignorant of either language. 'I'his man would doubtless have been able to repeat (so far as his vocal organs would permit him to imitate the sounds) the song of a nightingale or lark, through all its ever-varying passages, during ten or twenty minutes, and with as much understanding of its significance as of the meaning of the Greek and Latin words he recited so glibly. We certainly need not mind," though as certainly the power he possessed would be of immense value to a philosopher.

If any one is disposed to believe that perhaps, after all, that Indian may have been a man of powerful understanding, a case of even more wonderful recollection of mere sounds will at least dispose of the idea that the man's peculiarly retentive memory proved mental power. Coleridge relates in his "Literaria Biographia" that in a Roman Catholic town in Germany a young woman who could neither read nor write was seized with il fever, du $\cdots$ ng which, according to the priests, she was
possessed by a polyglot devil. For she talked Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, besides uttering sounds which, though not understood by her hearers, had doubtless meaning, but belonged to languages unknown to them. Whole sheets of her ravings were written out," say Coleridge, "and were found to consist of sentences intelligible in themselves, but having slight connection with each other." It appeared rather inconsistent with the theory of demoniac possession that some of these sentences were biblical; but as it is proverbial that the devil can quote Scripture for his purpose, this evidence night not have availed to save the girl from such rough treatment for her "possession" as would probably have served very ill for her fever. Fortunately, a physician who, being skeptically inclined, was disposed to question the theory of a polyglot spirit, "determined to trace back the girl's history. After much trouble, he discovered that, at the age of nine, she had been charitably taken by an old Protestant pastor, a great Hebrew scholar, in whose house she lived till his death. On urther inquiry it appeared to be the old man's custom or years to walk up and down a passage of his house into which the kitchen opened, and to read to himself in a loud voice out of his books. The books were ransacked, and among them were found several of the Greek and Latin fathers, together with a collention of rabbinical writings. In these works so many of the passages taken down at the young woman's bedside were identified that there could be no reasonable doubt as to their source.
If the girl had remembered these passages in a norma way, and had merely uttered them during her sickness, the story would have been remarkable enough, since she was altogether uneducated. But, as a matter o fact, she remembered none of them in health, either before or after her sickness. It was doubtless the ac ivity of the circulation during the access of fever which brought out, as it were, the impressions of sounds really ecorded in the brain, but so lightly that except during
such situation she remained unconscious even of their such situation she remained unconscious even of their istence.
A case cited by Dr. Abercrombie confirms the suggestive theory that the stimulus which fever gives to the circulation (sign of disease though it is) may bring dornant mental impressions into temporary activity. A boy at the age of four had undergone the operation of the trepsan, being at the time in a stupor from a severe fracture of the skull. After his recovery he retained no recollection either of the accident or of the operation. But at the age of fifteen, during an attack of fever, he gave his mother an account of the operation describing the persons who were present, and even renembering details of their dress and other minute par iculars.
Even an accident may stimulate the memory in such sort as to recall long-forgotten neutral impressions, and so to convey that the mind is regularly retentive. Dr. Abercrombie relates a case of this kind which suggests nany perplexing problems in regard to merrory. A man who had been completely stunned by a blow on the head remained still partially out of his mind when he had recovered from the first effects of the blow. In his unconscious state he spoke a language which no body in the London Hospital, to which he had been removed, could understand, but which was presently
found to be Welsh. It was subsequently discovered that, though Welsh by birth, he had been thirty year away from Wales when the accident occurred, and had quite forgotten his native tongue. On his restoration to full consciousness he lost his Welsh again completely, but recovered his English
The effects of an accident in destroying temporarilyor, so far as it appears, wholly-all neutral impression enough Thus Dr Carpentr, aresonetimescurious friend of his-a clergyman-who was pitched out of phaeton, and received a severe concussion of the brain On recovering he found that he had forgotten all that had happened, not only when the accident actually took place, but during some previous time. The last
thing he remembered was that he had met an acquaintthing he remembered was that he had met an acquaintdent.

An access of fever may produce, as we have seen, a local disturbance of brain functions. It is further worthy of notice also that the recollection a man ha of events preceding intoxication is apt to be similarly limited in a definite but not readily explicable manner
I remember a Cambridge man who, though not given to drinking. and now "a sober man among his sons," was more than once overtaken by liquor during the time when I e had yet to learn his brain's exceptionally limited power of resisting the action of intoxicants This man would not only be unable to recall what had happened during the time when he was intoxicated but a number of preceding events which had taken
place while he was still perfectly sober. His friends would tell him of things which had happened a full hour before he was "overtaken" (as the quaint expres sion has it), which had altogether passed from his re membrance. He used to say that his recollection was clear up to a certain point, beyond which everything

But it was clearly shown by an experiment which he rranged for his own satisfaction-being one of the inquisitive sort-that the veiling was, as it were, extended backward from the time of actual intoxication, for whereas his forgetfulness extended over the whole interval from the first glass of wine (which he always remembered drinking) to the sixth or seventh, at which intoxication began, he could remember with accustomary readiness all that happened at a sitting where he had drunk four or five glasses of the same wine. Of course he had to trust to his friends to note for him at what stage intoxication began. In fact, until he had learned this from others he could know little about it, because of the peculiar veiling of past events which took place after he had passed that stage. But his triends not being of the sort who rejoice to see a man under the influence of liquor, he had confidence in them; and besides, he could prove so much as this for himself, that whereas he could never remember more than the first glass if he drank too much, he could drink four or five glasses safely, remembering all that happened. What he could not learn for himself was, how many more glasses he could take without intoxication. At last he could only obtain this knowledge in such sort that he was conscious of it while intoxicated; for his friends found that after the sixth or seventh glass, which produced intoxication, he could always remember every detail of what had happened during previous accessions of the temporary insanity we call drunkenness.
The way in which this man's mind came out from the "veiling" was as strange and as suggestive as thèway in which it was thrown under that veiling. I remember being present at the moment when consciousness or sanity (whichever we choose to call it) came back to him. He was a mathematician, and a man had put in his hand to test his condition a mathematical treatise on mechanics, over which my friend had maundered, as drunken men will. Suddenly his mind seemed to traighten up, and, in response to a remark that he was screwed," he turned to the pages in the book dealing with the screw, and said quaintly, "See here, A. You're classical man, and know nothing about mathematics ; but these angles, alpha and beta" (showing a diägram) "represent the pitch of these screws. Now you needn't pitch into me about being screwed, for if I'm screwed t an angle alpha, you're screwed at an angle beta.' A. really was at the time the worse for liquor, but the ther, who had been so a moment before, was, from the noment he had opened the book, perfectly clear-minded, and a few minutes later was at his mathematical studies.)-Knowledge.

## The Parkes Smelting Process.

A method of treating the concentrated pyritic products obtained in the working of gold and silver bearing quartz has lately been perfected by Mr. Alexander Parkes, the well known inventor of the process of desillead by means of zine, which has now almotenirely replaced the Pattinson process both in Europe and America. These concentrates, which even in their most enriched forms are very siliceous, contain iron pyrites and other sulphides and arsenides so intimately ssociated with the gold and silver that they can as a rule only be very imperfectly reduced by amalgama tion, even after undergoing a preliminary calcination. Mr . Parkes proposes to treat them by a concentrating fusion resembling the Swansea coarse metal process, for which purpose they are fluxed in a reverberatory furnace, without previous calcination, with a mixture of ferric oxide, lime, sulphate of soda, fluor spar, and carbon, the ore and fluxes being finely reduced and intimately mixed. The charge is completely melted in about three hours and a half, giving as products slag and regulus. The latter, which is exceedingly fluid, is essentially ferrous sulphide, and contains practically the whole of the valuable contents of the ore, while the slag, from the diversity of the fluxes employed, being comparatively low density, and fusing easily, is suf ficiently free from interspersed regulus to be regarded as clean, and may be thrown away. The regulus contains a small quantity of sulphide of sodium, and falls to powder when damped with water, in which state it is subjected to a partial calcination until about half the sulphur is expelled, when it is run down with lead in order to collect the gold and silver for cupellation. The latter stages of the process may, however, be varied according to circumstances; the essence of the method being the retention of the whole of the original sul phur in the material, and utilizing it as a vehicle for the collection of the metallic contents, instead of getting rid of it by a preliminary calcination. The London Engineer says: The process has been carried on ex perimentally for some time at East Greenwich, where a large number of samples of refractory concentrates from many of the principal gold and silver producing ocalities in America and Australia have been treated with considerable success, the assays of the slags made by Messrs. Johnson, Matthey \& Co. showing that very complete separation has been effected in most cases The first practical trials of the method are to be made in New Zealand under the personal supervision of the veteran inventor, now in his 74th year, who sails for that colony in February next.

## Stolen Secrets.

One hundred years ago, before the day of protection by patents, what a man discovered in the arts and mechanics he concealed. Workmen were put on oath never to reveal the process used by their employers. Doors were kept closed, artisans going out were searched, visitors were rigorously excluded from admission, and false operations blinded the workmen themselves. The mysteries of every craft were hedged in by quickset fences of empirical pretension and judicial affirmation.
The English Mechanic relates the following: There used to be, close by Temple Bar, in London, an old chemist's shop. The proprietor of it, in days gone by, enjoyed the monopoly of making citric acid. More favorably circumstanced than other secret manufactures, his was a process that required no assistance. He employed no workmen. Experts came to sample, and assort, and bottle his products. They never entered the laboratory. The mystic operations by which he grew rich were confined to himself. One day, hav ing locked the doors and blinded the windows, sure, as usual, of the safety of his secret, our chemist boy disguised as such, wide awake in chemistry was on the watch. Following the secret-keeper so far on his way to Charing Cross as to be sure he would not return that day, the sooty philosopher hied rapidly back to Temple Bar, ascended the low building, dropped down the flue, saw all he wanted and returned, carrying with him the mystery of making citric acid. The monopoly of the inventor was gone. A few months after, and the price was reduced by four-fifths. The poor man was heartbroken, and died shortly afterward, ignorant of the trick by which he had been victimized.

The Secretion of Pure Aqueous Formic Acid by Lepi-
dopterous Larvæ for the Purposes of Defense.* by e. b. poulton.
It has long been known, that the larvæ of the genus Cerura (Dicranura) have the power of ejecting a colorless fluid from the mouth of a gland which opens on the prothoracic segment. The latter segment is dilated when the larva is irritated, so that the fluid is thrown in a forward direction, and for a distance of several inches. When the larva is touched, the head and anterior part are immediately turned toward the source of irritation, and the fluid is thrown in this direction.
In 1885 I found that the secretion was strongly acid to test paper, and that it caused very strong effervescence when placed upon sodium bicarbonate; while a little later I showed the fluid to Prof. Wyndham Dunstan, who told me that the characteristic smell of formic acid could be plainly detected. This opinion was further confirmed when it was found that silver nitrate was readily reduced by the secretion (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1886, part ii., June, pp. 156-57).
In 1886 I obtained a larger number of larvæ, and with the kind help of Mr. J. P. Laws I was enabled to show that the secretion contains about 33 per cent of anhydrous acid. All the well known qualitative tests were applied to the secretion and to the alkaline salts obtained by neutralizing with standard alkali. Among other tests, the secretion was found to dissolve the oxide of lead, a white crystalline salt being deposited.
Although only a very minute weight of this was obtained, Prof. Meldola kindly offered to estimate the amount of lead present in the salt. The weight was found to correspond to one of the basic formates of this metal formed by the action of the normal formate upon the excess of oxide. During the past summer I have had a very large number of these larva, and the investigation has been continued with larger amounts of secretion. The pipette has been applied for the removal of secretion between 500 and 600 times, and between twenty and thirty volumetric determinations have been made.
A mature larva which has not been previously irritated will eject 0.050 gramme of secretion, containing about 40 per cent of anhydrous acid. Half-grown larvæ eject nearly as much, but the fluid is weaker, containing about 33-35 per cent of acid. The rate of secretion is comparatively slow-e. g., two days and a half after ejection, two large larvæ only yielded together 0.0 .25 gramme of secretion. Two captured larvæ, to which the eggs of parasitic Ichneumonidæ had been affixed, only ejected 0.035 and 0.045 gramme of secretion; having incompletely made up the amount lost during the attack of the Hymenopterous insect.
Starvation lessens the amount of secretion, and also decreases the proportion of acid; but probably both these effects are due to general health, and do not imply the direct formation of the acid from the food. The different food plants-poplar and willow-do not make any difference in the amount or strength of the secretion. About half the total quantity of secretion obtained was made use of in preparing a relatively large amount of the normal formate, which is now in Prof. Meldola's possession. The weights of the consti
tuent elements will be determined by combustion. The rest of the secretion has been used for other exact methods of estimation and analysis under the kind direction of Mr. A. G. Vernon Harcourt, the work having been conducted in his laboratory at Christ Church.
Mr. Harcourt suggested that it was most important to prove that the amount of acid shown to be presen by volumetric analysis is formic acid, and nothing else. This proof was obtained in two ways: (1) A cer tain weight of the secretion was divided into two parts the amount of acid in one of these was determined by the volumetric method, while the other was decompos ed by strong sulphuric acid, and the carbon monoxide which was evolved was exactly measured in the apparapresent $n$ as The two percentages nearly corresponded, and, as the latter was the higher, it was obvious that no other acid could be present. (2) A certain weight (0.186 ramme) of secretion was heated in a tube over a wa ter bath, and, after drying at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. , only 0.0004 gramme of solid residue remained, and this was pro bably accidental. The rest of the fluid was distilled into a tube containing carbonate of lead, and this was afterward heated to $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$., and the water collected in drying tubes.
As a result, the ingcrease in weight of the latter, and he tube containing lead carbonate, the weight of for mate of lead obtained from the latter, and of sulphate of lead obtained from the formate, all corresponded almost exactly to the weights which would have been given by pure aqueous formic acid having this composition : water, 62.5 per cent; formic acid, 37.5 pe ent.

Since writing the above I have received the result of Prof. Meldola's analysis, from which he concludes that the secretion consists of aqueous formic acid almost in a state of purity.

## The Typhoid Poison

Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, Professor of Physiological and Pathological Chemistry in the University of Michigan, has announced to the State Board of Health the result of a series of experiments, which have ended, he claims, in the confirmation of the germ theory in cases of typhoid fever. The fever was produced in a cat, with more completeness and success than has ever before attended such endeavors; and those of Dr. Vaughan's friends who have witnessed the experiment and their results declare that the germ theory in typhoid fever is now a settled fact. The cat inoculated showed all the symptoms of the disease, especially that of a greatly heightened temperature, a symptom here tofore lacking in all other cases of inoculation. Dr Vaughan, in reference to his discovery, said :
"Last August there was an epidemic of typhoid fever in the village of Iron Mountain, a place in north ern Michigan of about 4,000 inhabitants. Part of the town was supplied with water from a mountain spring and part from private wells from six to twenty feet deep. It was noticed that all those who used the spring water escaped the disease, while those who depended upon the shallow wells were generally stricken down. In all, there were many hundred cases from the forty deaths. I secured some of the wate upon a number of cats, finally obtaining, after labor protracted over a period of six months, the result which I announce to the State Board of Health.'

It is estimated that the air in a room becomes distinctly bad for health when its carbonic acid exceeds one part in 1,000. An apparatus has been recently patented by Prof. Wolpert, of Nurnberg, which affords a measure of the carbonic acid present. From a vessel containing a red liquid (soda solution with phenolphthalein) there comes every 100 seconds, through a siphon arrangement, a red drop on a prepared white thread about a foot and a half long, and trickles down this. Behind the thread is a scale beginning with "pure air" (up to 0.7 per 1,000 ) at the bottom, and ending above with "extremely bad" (4 to 7 per 1,000 and more). In pure air the drop continues red down to the bottom, but it loses its color by the action of carbonic acid, and the sooner the more there is of that gas present.

AN example of deterioration in values is shown in the sale of the Great Eastern for less than $\$ 100,000$. The original cost of the vessel was three and a half million dollars, but she was a gigantic failure from the start. The building of this ship, however, was of value in demonstrating that there was a limit in steamships in the direction of size. She has been of use also in the laying of the Atlantic cables. While those who invested their money in building this ship lost heavily in the venture, they can console themselves with the fact that their loss was not altogether in vain. The last report is that Barnum is trying to negotiate for its purchase, with a view of converting it into a mammoth floating show.

## Drawing on Glass.

To write or draw on glass, it is necessary to impart to the surface a certain degree of roughness. This may be done by grinding or etching, but muci more easily by applying some appropriate varnish. A good matt varnish is made by dissolving in two ounces of ether 90 grms. of sandarac and 20 grms. mastic, and adding benzol, $1 / 2 \mathrm{oz}$. to $11 / 2 \mathrm{oz}$., according to the fineness of the matt required. The varnish is applied to the cold plate after it has set. The glass may be heated to inure a firm and even grain. To render the glass again transparent, after writing upon it, apply with a brush solution of sugar or gum acacia
Still better as a surface for writing or drawing is a varnish of sugar. Dissolve equal parts of white and brown sugar in water to a thin sirup, add alcohol, and apply to hot glass plates. The film dries very rapidly, and furnishes a surface on which it is perfectly easy to write with pen or pencil. The best ink to use is India ink, with sugar added. The drawing can be made permanent by varnishing with a lac or mastic varnish.
Greenish-Brown Patina for Brass and Bronze.
The bronze industry has long been devoting itself to the improving of the various processes by means of which art bronzes are given that "patina" so much admired by connoisseurs. In Germany much admiration is expressed for the rich tints that bronzes of Parisian make exhibit, and that usually vary from light yellow-brown to dark red-brown, frequently touched up with gold. Among these patinas, the one called in commerce Barbedienne bronze is among the most esteemed.
The "Portefeuille Economique des Machines" copies rom a German journal a process devised by Mr. R. Hampschulte for obtaining a very beautiful and durable patina of a brown color, with greenish reflections, which may be applied without any expense, so to speak, other than that of manual labor, to all objects of bronze or brass.
Before all else, the surfaces to be treated must be perfectly cleaned and polished. Then the objects are mmersed in a bath composed of $\mathbf{6 0}$ grains of sulphide of potassium to 5 quarts of water, to which dissolved potassa has been gradually added until the liquid is slightly mucilaginous to the touch.
After remaining in this bath for a few seconds, the objects are taken out and immediately put into another bath, very slightly, acidulated with sulphuric acid. The proportion of the acid is not given by the author, who confines himself to the statement that the water should have a slight acid taste.
As soon as the surface begins to verge on brown, it is rubbed with a metallic brush, under the action of which the patina reveals itself. If it be desired to deepen the tint, the object is passed through the two baths in succession again, and afterward vigorously brushed. This process is applicable to small objects chiefly.-Revue Industrielle.

## A Practical Man's Experience with Steel.

Twelve or fifteen years ago, writes G. W. Tinsley, to the Scientific American, when I wanted cast steel for any purpose, I went to the hardware merchant and purchased a piece that would serve my purpose best with the very least forging, that is, I got the nearest size to the one I wanted, which I could find. If too small, I could "stove" it a little; if too large, it was drawn. But after a while I found that some steel would make springs for gun locks, knife blades, surgical instruments, etc., with but a few failures, probably one in one hundred; while with other pieces I could not make one spring in a dozen stand. The first fact I was able to discover was that every piece of steel that gave me trouble was clean and new.
For a year or two after, I avoided this clean pigeon blue colored article; and I bought anything that was rusty, regardless of size. This naturally led me to suppose that my trouble was all located in an article lately put upon the market. But as time corrodes all things, all the pieces of steel kept by the dealers became more or less rusty, and I was no longer able to pick out the rusty steel that used to be good, or discard the clean and bright blue as bad; and so my rule that had served me well died a natural death. At last it occurred to me to examine the qualities of steel under a glass. This I did, and found the one that gave me trouble was coarse in grain, showing large crystals, with spaces between (like those in burnt steel): while that which gave no trouble was fine in grain and seemingly perfectly homogeneous throughout.
When I go to buy steel now, I carry my little glass in my vest pocket. I don't know the power of it, but I do know that it saves me a power of work and vexation.
Firemen Clothed in Asbestos.
The London firemen are about to be uniformed for duty in asbestos cloth, a material which has already been adopted by the Parif fire brigade with satisfactory results. Equipped in this incombustible apparel, tory results. Equipped in this incombustible a
the fireman is practically master of the flames.
enginkering inventions.
A rail joint has been patented by Mr. George H. Williams, of Nashville, Tenn. This inven parts to secure a perfectly rigid joint, as solid as the rail ltself, in which the jarring and jolting of cars passing over the joint is prevented and the wear of the ing over the joint is prevented and
A railway tie has been patented by Mr. Joseph W. Smith, of Mount Carmel, Penn. The invention covers a novel construction and combination of parts to provide a secure fastening for the railis, and
which, while holding the rails securely in position, will which, while holding the rails securely in position, will
be sufficiently elastic to admit of rapid traveling withbe sufficiently elastic to admit of rapid traveling with-
out injury to the rolling stock or discomfort to passengers.
A car coupling has been patented by Mr. Charles G. Crosse, of Sun Prairie, Wis. The coup-
ling hook is automatically thrown into engagement with ling hook is automatically thrown into engagement with
a link or bar brought to bear against i , and is unto thed herefrom by to bar and to the hook and extending to the car, the device being riage.

A car coupling has been patented by Mr. Jonathan Hendershot, of Evelyn, West Va. By
this invention the drawhead of the car is provided with a vertically swinging member, having at its free end a vertically swinging member, having at its free end a
downwardly projecting coupling lag, which, after the downarayly projecting coupling yag, which, after the
entrance of the coupling link, may be locked against upward movement by a block sliding in the top of the drawhead.
A mechanical movement has been patented by Mr. James F. Hanley, of Charleston, S. C. A double crank shaft is combined with a vibratory lever pivoted coincidently with the centered axis of the shaft, the lever being connected upon opposite sides of
the shaft by links and rocking arms, and also conthe shaft by links and rocking arms, and also connected with a rotary shaft, making a compact, evenly high speed, and apply power in both directions.

## AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A cotton chopper has been patented by Mr. William P. Clark, of Elberton, Ga. This invention covers a novel construction and arrangement machine is being drawn forward, a gear is operated to work a chopper with revolvng knives, but such gear
may be thrown out without stopping the machine, hich is simply and strongly built.
A compensating clutch for corn planters has been patented by Mr. John S. Johnson, of Waukon,
Iowa. It is an improved gear for connecting the heels and axles with the seed-dropping device, by which the latter will be governed by the wheel having he slowest movement, and disconected from he fast moving wheels, in movin

## MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS

A drawbridge has been patented by Mr. Oscar F. Balston, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It has tubes apported upon the masonry, in combinution with a briage having trucks, making a longitudinally moving and so that vessels can lie close to the bridge.
A bolt has been patented by Mr. Jonas Potter, of Morrellville, Pa. It has a spring yoke connection, with means for detaching the bolt from its connection, and is designed to dispense with the use of ion, while the bolt may be quickly and easily detached
en though badly rusted
A box for the sale of goods has been patented by Mr. Charles T. Rosenthal, of Batesville,
Arik. It is made up of and fitted with a series of partiioned receptacles or compartments, arranged in rows one in front of the other, and designed to be placed in
glass-covered show cases, to conveniently hold and dis-glass-covere
A feed for stone saws has been pa ented by Mr. Neil McIntyre, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It i for saws armed with diamonds or other hard stone ased as cutting tools, and the invention provides is designed to cut equally well upon the forward and back stroke.
A press has been patented by Mr. Lorenzo D. Gordon, of Tenaha, Texas. This inventio pecially for presses for baling cotton, hay, etc., or fo expressing cotton seed, castor bean, and lard oil, th contrivance being one which can be worked or applied either horizontally or vertically
A check hook has been patented by Mr. Wiliam R Moore, of Unionville, Pa It consist of a peculiarly shaped spring, formed of a single piece
of spring wire, applied to the hook by means of the of spring wire, applied to the hook by means of the
same bolt that secures the hook to the saddle, making a check hook from which the check rein cannot b accidentally disconnected.
A chicken coop has been patented by Mr. George W. Brown, of McNairy, Tenn. The inven tion covers a novel construction of coops especially light, inexpensive, and strong structure, in which the stock will have plenty of air and can be convenientl
A punch has been patented by $\mathbf{M r}$ Albert Burrowes, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I is for panching oblong apertures in belts to facilitate lacing their ends together, and has a straight shank with a semicircle at one end, which semicircle con-
tinues into parallel sides, forming a U-shaped cutting tinnes into parallel sides, forming a $U$-shaped cutting
edge at the lower end of the shank.
A water cock has been patented by Mr. Henry D. Medrick, of Port Jervis, N. Y. It is es
pecially adapted for the water supply pipe of a loc
motive, and is designed to filter the water before passes to the injector, and also to provide means for
preventing the cock from freezing up in cold weather and for quickly and conveniently cleaning it.
A washing machine has been patented by Mr. George F. Dunning, of Deep Water, Mo. It designed to afford a simple and effective machine, to be operated with economy of time and labor, and is ar-
ranged to give easy access to all its parts for handling the clothes or washing fluid, and for cleaning the ma
A liquid measuring faucet has been patented by Mr. Herman M. Nye, of Corydon, Ind. I is a combined supply and discharge faucet, in connec men with an intervening reservoir, on which is marke measung scale, win various novel details, making cask or receplacle.
A combination tool has been patented by Mr. James Angus, of St. Catharines, Ontario
Canada. The body of the tool is of malleable iron steel, and it is made of few and simple parts, to be used as a saw set, stove cover lifter, pot hook, can perforator and can opener, screw driver, corkscrew, tack $p$.
stand.
A method of and apparatus for pro ducing animated pictures of natural scenery and lif has been patented by Mr. Augustin Le Prince, of New
York City. It consists of a photo-camera and stereo ticon adapted to show pictures in the order and time in which they were taken, in quick succession, on a finel ground plate glass, to
themselves in motion

A carburetor has been patented by Mr. Frangois J. Lothammer, of Paris, France. Co pine is a carbureting chamber withir and its supply valved pipe leading from the reservoir into the chamber near its bottom, a hydrocarbon receplacle su other novel features.
An automatic device for shutting wate cocks, etc., has been patented by Mr. James W. Brook, combination and arrangement of parts whereby drip ping water, as it freezes in cold weather, will operate balanced mechanism to close a valve in the servic pipe, or the device may be used to open or close

A folding fire escape has been paten by Mr. Ira B. Stillman, of Wellsville, N. Y. It is sectional folding ladder, the side lengths made of shor lengths of wire cord connected by rivets, the rivets con ofuting the rounds of the ladder, the apper section of the ladder having means for connection with the from a bolt, the whole being adanted to pack in a small space.
An automatic cut-ofif for water tanks has been patented, by Mr. James Pocknell, of Jersey City, N. J. It consists of a backet on one end of a bel
crank lever, in which discharges the overflow pipe of the tank, another weighted bell crank lever being connected therewith, the weight adapted to actuate a leve pump, or with a shifting lever connected with the driv ing belt of the pump.
A safety inkstand has been patented by Mr. Louis B. Prahar, of Brooklyn, N. Y. This invention relates to inkstands wherein the bottle is inand provides for forming the springs and stripe carry ing the hinges as part of a metal frame shasped to em brace the inner casing, to act on its opposite side whereby the inkstand cat be made almost entirely by
machinery, ${ }^{- \text {and will be practical, durable, and com- }}$ machinery,"and
paratively cheap.
An envelcpe for newspapers, etc., has been patented by Mr. Robert $\mathbf{W}$ Macgowan, of New York City. The invention consists in making two row of perforations in the wrappers for artiche porm, as newspapers, engravings, etc., the rows of perforations converging to make a central tapering strip which is readily torn out when started at one edge, thus easily loosening the wrapper without risk of the pape or article contained being torn or inju red in removing the envelope or wrapper.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS
Home Experime its in Science for Old AND YouNG. By T. O'Conor
Sloane, A.M., E.M., Ph.D. Illus trated by 97 engravings. Philadel-
phia: H. Carey Baird $\&$ Co. 1888.
Pp. 261. Price, $\$ 1.50$. Pp. 261. Price, $\$ 1.50$.
Those of our readers who have followed the series of rticles published in our columns during the last year, the author of the above work, will doubtless be glad o find them arranged in book form. Bat while the ery far from constituting the whole. Mnch new er is added, the experiments are placed in systematic order, and the work is brought into such shape that it really to some extent a manual of physics. In the pening portion the manufacture of apparatusis spoken The subjects of wood, metal, and glass working
re treated, with the limitation of processes to what are treated, with the limitation of processes to what
the unskilled worker can do, as one great object of the book is to bring experiments within the reach of the teacher, amateur, and youth. The subject of experi is also treated of. Then the main portion of the book begins with a chapter on mechanics. This is replete ith experipents and examples of the laws of force, The principal laws of mechanics being disposed of, the divisions of physics are 'attacked. Gravitation, hy araulics, and pneumatics comprise the next series of experiments, with many instances of the application of
laws, and practical remarks. Atoms and moleculen
re treated by themselves, and introduce the sabjec nolds' new and celebrated experiments in dilatancy ar described in extenso, so that any child of intelligence
can perform them sucessfully. Capillarity is fully reated, some entirely new examples and cxperiment being presented. The illustration of the constitation of water drop, and the formation of bubbles of metallic
mercury, are two specially interesting experiments. mercury, are two specially interesting experiments
Soap bubbles come next, and an exhaustive series of illustrations of the phenomena of films, all performed with almost no apparatus, except a few pieces of wire affords probably the fullest treatment of the sabjet accessible. Formulæ for various soap bubble solation re collected and given here. Heat, sound, and ligh ollow, with a quantity of experiments, and a chapte on scientific lecturing closes the work. In this las portion the suggestion is made that science lecture take the place of charades and dramatic performances This certainly opens upa new field for the energies of he young lover of science. The work is beautifully ound in ornamental cloth gilt, and is very fully illus rated with nearly one hundred cuts, and has an exten sive table of contents and index. It is emphatically what its title indicates, a manaal of experiments. Th publishers send free to all who apply by letter, a larg with semples of the cots, It wil be a with samples of tre post free to any address by Mann
lishers on remittance of the price.

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buILDINa EDITION

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MUNN \& CO., PUBLISHERs,

Special.

## AN UNPUBLISHED AND UNRECORDED RECORD.

-Really, how well you look! You are much stouter, ad look ten years younger than when $I$ saw you a few ears ago. Then I did not think you were long for this
orld." "No," my friend replied, "four years ago I litle expected to be in the land of the living at this time. thad for many years seemed unavoidable that I should have a sick spell in the latter part of January. So requarly had this been the case that my family looked for it.
cour years ago an attack of pneumonia in Januars was ollowed in February by an attack of neuralgia of the eart. So violent and sudden was the attack, that each it, and was carried into a house near where I had een standing. I soon rallied and was carried home. This was succeeded by two lighter attacks. After re-
covering so I could be about, I was taken down with overing so I could be about, I was taken down with
hree successive attacks of renal calculi. Recovering rom these, I was prostrated with a long siege of diarhoea, from which the attending physician had little hope of my recovery. I had little strength left; little vital; recuperative:powers seemed gone; felt completely
rostrated. No life, no ambition, no power. I then comenced the Home able to try work again, although quite feeble and not ble to endure fatigue or much labor. I resorted to the Compound Oxygen more regularly, and to my surprise an the old bad feelings gradually disappeared. Life as-
sumed a brighter aspect. Strength and the elasticity of youth in a great measure returned. And now, though
of threescore and four years, I feel younger, brighter, d more active than I did twenty years ago. To Comound Oxygen I kive all the credit; and I would recom-
end all chronically afflicted to try it. Tell all such for me that it will be greatly to their interest if they will
call at the office of Drs. Starkey \& Palen, 1529 Arch treet Philedice of Drs. Sal pecial cases, which is given free."
A volume of two hundred 'pages on "Compound Oxyree to all on receipt of address.

## ZBusiness and 2persomal.

The charge for Insertion under thes head is One Dollar.
a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line for each insertion; about eight words to a line. as early as Thursday morning to appear in next issue.

## A Link Belt Testimonial <br> The Edison Electric Illuminating Co.

 New Orleans, La., Dec., 22, 1887Gessrs. Chas. A. Schieren \& Co., New York. Dear Sirs:-I. am in receipt of your inguiry as to our
experience with the Link Belt which you sent us on I have great pleasure in saying that it has given, and is iving, the greatest possible satisfaction.
I was greatly surprised on coming to this country, in 1885, to find that Link Belts were unknown, as I had had the Edison Company, and nearly all the other companies, had adopted them and used them exclusively for all Sints of any considerable size.
Since 'your Link Belt has been running here it has en and practical achinists who have seen it We are now putting in an additional engine, and shall eglad if you will send us for the same two Link Belts.號 ng. Fach 10 inches wide.
You are at liberty to make
You are at liberty to make any use you may desire of ng your Link Belts to any inguiries. Yours very truls,
for THE EDISON Or THE EDISON ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING CO.,
WM. T.
The Partz Electric Battery Co., of 1723 Chestnut St., hiladelphia, Pa., undoubtedly manufacture the most eries upon the market. Dr. Partz is one of the world's cknowledged scientists, and his batteries are neither off nor experiments, bat are practical, constant, and
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or
We are sole manufacturers of the Fibrous Asbestos emovable Pipe and Boilen Coverings. We make pure 19 and 425 East 8th Street, New York.
$\$ 250$ will buy patentNo. $299,805-\mathrm{key}$ holder for locks. good thing. J. J. Knapp, Bichlands, W. Va
Pattern letters and figuros to place on patterns fo
castings. H. W. Knight \& Son, Seneca Falls, N. Y. Wh. H. W.
Wanted.-We want to buy one $36 /$ and one $16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{sec}$.
nd hand screw-cutting engine lathes. They must be ond hand screw-cutting engine lathes. They must be
first class tools. We want to sell one No. 1 Bell steam hammer, in use but
Sprout, Muncy, Pa.
Wanted-Second hand screw-cutting lathe, about 12 36. Address 17 James St., Auburn, N. Y

Wanted-By a practical machinist, draughtsman (apprenticeship at the Pratt \& Whitney Co.), and business nusiness, or to take charge of wholesale or retail house for a substantial concern. Best of references given and e safe and proftake pecuniary interest, i. drawer 7 Hartford, Conn.
Short line telephones. See illustrated adv., page 28 , Nickel Plating.-Manufacturers of pure nickel an-
des, pure nickel salts, polishing compositions, etc $\$ 100$ des, pure nickel salts, polishing compositions, etc $\$ 100$
Little Wonder," gents of the new Dip Lacquer Kristaline. Complete outft for plating, etc. Hanson, Van Winkle \&
ark, N. J., and 92 and 94 Liberty St., New York.
Burnham's New Improved Turbine. Sold at cos
advertisia. Ac all purposes. The Perforated metals of all kinds for all purposes.
Robert Aitchison Perforated Metal Co., Chicago, ill For the latestimproved diamond prospecting drills, Chicaso, ill.
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sopies tree. send for catalogue of railroad books.

The Knowles Steam Pump Works, 113 Federal
St., Boston, and 93 Liberty St., New York, have just isSt., Boston, and 93 Liberty St., New York, have just is-
sued a new catalogue, in which are many new and imroved forms of Pumping Machinery of the single and
uplex, steam and power type. This catalogue will be mailed free of charge on application.
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cities. Send for catalogue. Cushman Chuck Co., Hartcities. Send for catalogue. Cushman Chuck Co., Hart The Improved Hydraulic Jacks, Punches, and Tube Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-of Couplings. D. Frisbie \& Co.. 112 Liberty St., New York. Tight and Slack Barrel Machinery a specialty. John
Greenwood \& Co., Rochester, N.Y. See illus. adv., p. 28 . Quints' patent automatic steam engine governor. ile governor ongines. Leonard \& McCoy, 118 Liberty treet, New York.

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ood work. Address J. S. \& Co., lock box 25 , Manchester N. H.

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HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(1) Slip of Car Wheels.-Allow me to make the following remark as to your explanation in re colved in your issue of 17 th Dec. I claim that in ever case the inner wheels will slip, for this reason: For in tance, the locomotive is running over a short curve o long curve at their general speed, as whatever it may be, of course its tendency while it met with the curve
was to go in a straight line. Now, the change of its diection is due to the curve of the rails in combination with the flanges on the driving wheels (that is, on the oater ones). Thereby more friction is created on them will slip easier. The elevation of the outer railis sup posed to partially compensate for the centrifugal force tending to throw the fianges against the outer rail, and as only the fiange of the forward driving wheel impinges against the outer rail, there is no reason for concluding that the inner wheels always slip. Th whole weight of the locomotive is tended to go in a
straight line, as before stated. Now, by meeting with straight line, as before stated. Now, by meeting with
tine curve its tendency is being brought in a centrifugal the curve its tendency is being brought in a centrifuga
motion, and hence the force being sustained by the of the locomotive on the inner ones, and adding equally as much on the oater. Consequently the inne wheels will slip easier. This is what is claimed in No 10, Notes and Queries, for a locomotive when drawing When running under momentum only, the tilting of the angular position of the track tends to prevent nudue friction on the flange of the forward driver. When the locomotive runs on to a curve reversed, the slip ne
(2) W. H. D. asks how to make a can vas bag to hold hydrogen or oxyyen gas under pres for this parpose, and you can most conveniently make
a canvas bag air-tight by coating it with a layer of
rubber cement or a solution of rubber in carbon disul phbber
(3) C. E. asks: What will be the best method to clear a waste pipe where mucus is forming
has formed from waste of beer or water, or what or has formed from waste of beer or water, or what
would be best to run through it in order to clear itself? Use a strong hot solution of soda
(4) J. H. A. desires a receipt to stain wite pine cherry and rosewood color. A. For cherr stain, take of rain water 3 quarts, annatto 4 ounces,
boil in a copper kettle till the annatto is dissolved, then put in a piece of potash the size of a walnut; keep to bottle for use har an hour longer, and it is ready rallon, camwood 2 ounces; set them in a warm pol gallon, camwood 2 ounces; set them in a warm place
24 hours, then add extract of logwood 3 ounces, aquafortis 1 ounce, and when dissolved it is ready for
(5) H. M. P. asks : 1. What battery, hat size, and how many cells will it require to run o 7 .ohms, requiring 9 to 15 volts E. F. and $1 \cdot 40$ ampere current? A. A series of twenty bichromate cells would give you voltage enough for your lamp. Taking a quart battery, you might allow $1 / 2$ ohm to each cup. This would give ten ohms internal resistance and would
give through a 6 ohm lamp a low lighting current, sa give throngh a 6 ohm lamp a low lighting current, say
$1 \cdot 25$ amperes. 24 square inches of zinc in a porous 125 amperes. 24 square inches of zinc in a poroa
cup cell are allowed by some per ampere on short circup cell are allowed by some per ampere on short cir
cuit. 2. Would this lamp be sufficient candle power to light a room 17 by 17 feet? A. The light would be eries be connected! A. The batteries in above calculation are connected in tension. The more you use in parallel, so as to bring down the resistance, the less acid and zinc will be used. See Scientific american, vol. 57 , No. 2, page 16, for article on this subject. 4. What would probably be cost of maintenance per hour? $A$ The cost per hour depends on so many factors that an hour in chemicals and zincs, irrespective of the rouble. 5. Is it possible to run the lamp with gravity battery? If so, how many cells? A. A gravity battery is not, available for this work. 6. Will these lamps develop the power as given by manufacturers? A. The lamps can be ran far over the rated power, but they wear out sooner. 7. If this lamp is too small for practical purposes, please give battery, etc., required for in series would answer.
(6) F. M. W. writes : Describe the process of polishing horn. A. It must be rubbed first
with fine glass paper and then with a piece of wet linen cloth dipped $\ln$ powdered pumice stone. This will give a very fine sarface, and the final polish may a piece of cloth wetted with soapsuds. Care must be taken in this, and in every instance where articles of different fineness are used, that, previous to applying a finer, every particle of the coarser material is re(J), and that the rags are free from grit.
(7) J. G. M. writes : I bave recently fitted my main building, $100 \times 40$ feet and 35 feet high, with lightning rods, having 4 points 8 -feet high and having two connections to the ground. Will you kindly
tell me therequired size and thickness of copper plate tell me the required size and thickness of copper plate
for ground connection, whether it should be soldered for ground connection, whether it should be soldered
to the rod or not and whether it should be put at lower to the rod or not and whether it shonld be put at lower
end of rod, 6 feet down, or higher up? A. Use a copper plate having about 20 square feet area. Ordinary sheet ture of culinary vessels, will answer. The lower end of the rod should extend across the plate and be soldered. The piate should be buried in earth that is always moist. Another way to make a good ground connection is to dig a trench 10 feet long in earth that is constantly moist. Put a layer of coke on the bottom of the trench; oop the rod and lay it on the coke. Cover the rod with lanch should extend away from the building
(8) H. W. K. asks for a cement which can be used to stick art tile to iron. A. Try a gatta parts of common pitch and 1 part of gutte percha parts of common pitch and 1 part of gutta percha ind them weur the liquid into cold water. When cold is black, solid and elastic; but it softens with heat, and at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{Fah}$. is a thin finid.
(9) C. A. F. desires a receipt for pre aring white linen cloth so that it can be written on lossy and to cut without fraying. A. Varnish the loth with Canada balsam dissolved in turpentine which may be added a few drops of castor oil, but do ot add too much, or it will not dry. Try a little piece irst with a small quantity of varnish. The kind of oth to use is fine linen. Don't let the varnish be
(10) J. H. R. desires a receipt for a wash any other preparation for the hair that will make it arl. A. Take borax 2 ounces, gam arabic 1 drachm, dd hot water (not boiling), 1 quart; stir, and as soon the ingredients are dissolved add 3 tablespsoonfuls with the above liquid.
(11) E. H. D. desires (1) recipes for makng purple, green, and black copying type writer inks. iseolved in 15 ounces pure acoho and 15 ounce, lycerine, then apply to the ribbon. 2. Do strong lectric or calcium lights produce sensible effect on hotographic preparations? A. Calcium light has little fffect, but electric light has an effect which, under suffient exposure, is as great as sunlight.
(12) H. B. asks (1) for directions for aking effervescing solution of citrate of magnesia.
a. Dissolvecitric acid 400 grains in water 2,000 grains add carbonate of magnesia 200 grains; stir until dissolved. Filter into a 12 ounce bottle containing sirup of citric acid 1,200 graing. Add boiled and intered water to
crystals 30 grains and immediately cork. Shake until
bicarbonate of potash is dissolved. The sirup of citric spirit of lemon 4 carts, sitap 980 parts, water 8 parts
2. How much power should I get from a bichromate of potash bat ary with a zinc plate 3 inches long, 2 inches wide, an arc light carbons 3 inches long and $1 / 2$ inch in diameter
two on each side of zinc, and what is its resistance? Your battery wouid give about $1 / 2$ ampere, with resist ance of 4 ohms.

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United States were Granted
January 10, 1888,

## AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE

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