

PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS IN ENGLAND.

We have been favoured with the following copy of a letter lately received by one of our correspondents, from the Chief Clerk of the English Patent Office. The information may be useful to many of our readers:—

“SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS,
LONDON, 13th August, 1855.

SIR,—The Lord Chancellor has transmitted to me your letter of the 30th ultimo, addressed to him on the subject of Patents for Inventions.

In answer to your first question I beg to inform you that copies of drawings accompanying specifications required by the public are made out of the office by draughtsmen employed by me, and are examined and duly certified by a clerk in the office; however, such copies are rarely asked for, and for this reason: Every specification filed under the Act of 1852, is printed, published, and sold at the cost price, within three weeks of its deposit in the office.

The specifications emolled previous to the Act of 1852, fourteen thousand in number, are also in course of publication in subjects; and it is expected the whole fourteen thousand will be finished within six years from this time.

In answer to your second question: There is no such office as Examiner of Patents in England, nor is there the most remote chance of any such officer being appointed. It would be worse than useless. The indexing, printing, and publication of the specifications according to subjects, affording the person applying for the patent, full and sufficient means of reading, examining, and understanding all that has been previously done upon his particular subject. If he does not choose to read and understand, he simply wastes £25 upon a useless and valueless patent: others interested will read and understand, if he does not; and no one is injured by his folly except himself. This is undoubtedly the only true examination. An official examination to be of any service whatever, would require an officer for each particular subject: an engineer for steam engines, for who else could touch such a subject; a gunsmith for fire-arms; and so on.

The system of official examination, lately got up in the United States, is, I understand, found to be both useless and obstructive. The arrears are very large, and are daily increasing; and there can be no doubt that official examination will be very shortly abolished; and that the English plan of publication,

leaving each inventor to examine for himself, must be adopted.

The Commissioners of Patents have given copies of all their publications indexes, specifications, reports, rules, &c., to the public libraries of all the principal towns in the United Kingdom; and they propose very shortly to send the same to each of Her Majesty's principal Colonies, to be placed in the Public Library of the principal towns of the Colony.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

L. EDMUNDS,
Clerk of the Patents.

ALEX. KIRKWOOD, Esq.”

—♦♦♦♦♦—
AN AMIABLE GOBBLER.

(To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*.)

SIR,—The following trait of paternal solicitude may, perhaps, merit a corner in your journal, affording, as it does, a somewhat curious freak in natural history:—

My neighbourhood is much infested by vermin, such as kites, polecats, &c., and the rearing of poultry is attended with many hazards and losses. To afford some better chance of escape to the turkey department, the eggs were placed under some motherly Dorking, and the waudering turkey hens were left to their own pursuits. The old gobbler kept a close eye upon these proceedings, and, as turkey chicks came forth, strenuously claimed them as his own. He took no notice whatever of common poultry, but would bear no refusal from his own tribe, and eventually secured nine turkey chickens, over whose growth and welfare he has watched with a tender mother's care,—nestling them at night under his wings, and anxiously guarding them from all danger during the day. It is perhaps not a very generous return, to add, that his young family are now in the highest perfection making their appearance from time to time upon our family board.

Yours truly,

ADAM FERGUSON.

Woodhill, Nov. 8, 1855.

SAUSAGE MEAT is best preserved in cotton bags a foot long and two or three inches in diameter, which, after filling, are dipped in and coated with melted lard. When used, the bag is sliced off with the meat, as it is much easier to make new ones than to preserve the old.