depths of the ocean, and lately the proposition has been revived with a venturesome and true American spirit. It does not appear in any way impracticable to stretch a wire from the American continent to England; and in the waveless depths of the interminable waters, the wire would be more secure from depredation than upon *terra firma*. From its weight, it would sink beneath the realms of the living monsters, and lie far out of reach from the ruthless hand of mischief or speculating avarice. But the insulation of such a wire is a thing not easily conceived of in the present state of our knowledge. Besides the mechanical niceties required to obtain a complete insulating covering for the wire, we should have to contend against the corrosive action of the sea water, and this, too, at a point where its greater density would exalt its chemical agency. Much has been expected and promised from gutta percha as an insulator, but we have not been long enough acquainted with this curious substance to test its value for this purpose. It is indeed a most excellent electric and insulator, but I have seen several instances of its decomposition when exposed to air and moisture, and some cases of its entire destruction when in thin sheets. I have been recently informed that the decay of thin sheets of gutta percha is attributed to caustic materials used in preparing it; however this may be, I have seen supports for telegraphic wires made from the pure gum, undergo in one season decomposition to such a depth as to form a bibulous mass upon its surface, and materially impair its non-conducting property. It resists, however, to a remarkable degree the action of strong acids, and may be used with great convenience for funnels, syphons, &c., for transferring and holding even strong nitric acid. It may not be out of place here to mention its unfitness, when in very thin sheets, for models of patented inventions. During the past year a patent was granted for a surgical instrument, an essential part of which was a sac of gutta percha. In the course of a few months the entire sac had disappeared, having crumbled into powder.

American Indicating Disc Telegraph.—An instrument under this name has been patented, which presented some ingenuity and novelty in the mechanical arrangements, and also in the selection and use of signals. It is an optical or indicating telegraph, as its name purports, and in this particular must yield to the recording telegraphs. The signs are indicated by the figures 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, these being the only symbols used. These stand for the vowels, and the remaining letters are represented by combinations of these figures. The figures are arranged in four sets, upon the face and near the circumference of a disc, which revolves by means of a novel internal escapement, which is moved by a lever attached to the armature of an electro-magnet. Its language is less complex than that of other indicating telegraphs.

Pen Telegraph. — When Professor Morse's telegraph was first essayed in this city, it recorded the signs upon a moving fillet of paper by means of a pen charged with ink, the pen being supplied from a reservoir or fountain. It was found difficult to regulate the flow of the ink, more especially as the motion of the pen was apt to *throw* the ink, as it was termed, and the pen was accordingly dispensed with, and a contrivance substituted, by which marks corresponding with those made by the pen were indented upon the fillet of paper. This required some mechanical force, and it became necessary to have a local registering magnet, as it is called, of some power to supply this force. In the new pen telegraph the inventor has ingeniously reversed the order of Morse's telegraph, and moves the paper to the pen, which is kept stationary, thus obviating the difficulty of throwing the ink, and requiring a slighter force to move the paper than is now required to indent the paper. The pen is also fed by an ingenious contrivance. A lever