

The drying up of the American Falls due to the backing of the water of Lake Erie. An east wind blew up the lake and drove the water back so that the amount ordinarily discharged into the channel which feeds Niagara Fulls was greatly reduced. An ice jam helped to dam the flow.


The American Falls when the flow is normal.

## SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN ESTABLISHED 1845

MUNN \& CO. - - Editors and Proprietors
Publushod Wookly at
No. 361 Broadway, Now York
Charles Allen MUNN, President,
361 Broadway, New York.
Frederick Converse Beach, Sec'y and Treas.
361 Broadway. New York.
TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.
One copy, one year, for tne United States or Mexico.
One copy, one year, for Canada.
One copy, one year, to any foreign country, postage prepaid, 18s. 6d. ${ }^{3.75}$
the scientific american publications.
Scientific American (established 1845).
Scientific American Supplement (established 1876)................. 5.00
American Homes and Gardens .................................. 3.00
The combined subscription rates and rates to foreign countries, includ-
ing Canada, will be furnished upon application.
Remit by postal or express money order, or by bank draft or check.
MUNN \& CO., 361 Broadway, New York.
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1909.
The Editor is always glad to receive for examination illustrated articles on sabjects of timely interest. If the photographs are sharp, the articles
short, and the facts authentic, the contributions will receive special at tention. Accepted articles will be paid for at regular space rates.

## THE NEW STEEL

The recent statement by one of our leading ironmasters that the steel industry of America had progressed to a point where it was secure against foreign competition, and particularly against British competition, has been followed by the announcement of an important discovery by the Sheffield manufacturers, which the British steelmakers regard as one of the most important advances in the art of steel manufacture of recent years. They even go so far as to assert that the new steel will give Great Britain a considerable lead, at least as far as quality is concerned, for some years to come. The announcement, which was made by Prof. Arnold of Sheffield University, had reference to the production of a new tool steel, which is stated to possess from three to seven times the cutting endurance of the best known highspeed steel, and which has the further advantage that it can be water-hardened.
Now, although the new invention cannot be re garded as revolutionary, and, considered in respect of tonnage output, will affect but a very small percentage of the total steel production, it will, of course, have a far-reaching effect upon shop practice, and must greatly reduce the labor cost of the output of the machine shops. Prof. Arnold states that it is a new departure in metallurgy to have produced a water-quenched steel, which will make an all-day run with the cutting edge of the tool at a bright red heat, without the necessity which exists in the present steel of four or five visits to the grindstone.

## AMERICAN AND BRITISH TURBINES.

The fact that the British government has ordered an American turbine for one of its new high-speed cruisers will afford an opportunity for a. test of the two leading types of marine surbines, the Parsons and Curtis, similar to that which was made last summer, in the trials of our scout cruisers "Chester" and "Salem"-a contest which is to be repeated in the forthcoming long-distance trials of these ships. Because of the early start and brilliant record of the Parsons marine turbine, the American type, as designed by Curtis, has a severe handicap to overcome. Therefore, the fact that it should have equaled, and in some respects excelled, the Parsons turbine in the very first comparative test that was made, must be regarded as significant; and the decision of the British government to give the American type a trial was prompted, no doubt, by the excellent results obtained by the turbines of the "Salem." In speed and in steam and fuel economy, the two types of turbines showed approximately the same results; but in con venience of operation the advantage lay strongly with the American type. The Parsons turbines cannot be reversed, the Curtis can; and the former must include a special turbine for driving the ship astern. For ships of large power the Parsons must use six turbines, four shafts, and four propellers. The Curtis gives the same results with two turbines, two shafts, and two propellers. To secure the best results on four shafts, the propellers must be small and must be run at very high speed, and there is a resulting vibration which is very disturbing to the gunner. With the power developed in two shafts, the propellers may be larger; they can be run at a lower rate of revolution; superior propeller efficiency is obtained; and the vibration, as was proved in the trials of the "Salem," is practically negligible-so much so as to win the enthusiastic comments of the naval officers who were on board at the trial. The American type of turbine is now being tested in a British cruiser; in the latest Japanese "Dreadnought" battleships and cruisers; and
in the "North Dakota," one of our "Dreadnoughts." The determination of the relative all-round effi ciency of these two leading representatives of the new type of motive power will afford one of the most interesting competitions in the history of steam engineering.

## THE SECOND SEA POWER-AMERICA OR GERMANY? <br> \section*{F our waish ampata}

The Scientific American has earned the right to be considered an expert authority on naval affairs, and it is so considered both in America and in Eng land, where this article is being written. For this reason it becomes more than ordinarily important that any statement it may make on this subject should be absolutely trustworthy, giving to the nation a reliable guide upon which to base its calculations. It is pro posed by the writer to submit to a close examination a statement, made editorially in its issue of January 23d last, to the effect that the annual construction of two battleships is sufficient to maintain the position of America as the second naval power.

The only other aspirant for that position is Ger many. France may, in the course of a dozen years o so, attain a naval strength which will entitle her to be taken into consideration, but for the present her deficiency in large armored ships of modern type, the slowness of construction, and the inefficiency of her personnel, rule her out of the reckoning. Russia, too, may be ignored for similar, and stronger, reasons while Japan, although strong at sea and contemplating the construction of some very powerful ships, is too handicapped by financial considerations to become a rival candidate for the position for many years. There remains Germany; and her present strength, the effciency of her personnel, and the rapid expansion of her fleet in recent years, all entitle her to be reck-oned-and reckoned seriously-as a candidate for the position now held by our own navy.

What, then, is the position at sea as between Germany and the United States? Here is a summary of the completed armored ships of the two fleets

United Germany.
Battleships less than ten years old
from date of launch.

| 16 | 18 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 9 | 6 |
| -25 | 24 |
| 13 | 7 |
| 2 | 1 |
| 15 | - |

It will be seen from these figures that the United States' superiority in armored ships over Germany is quite appreciable, and it becomes greater as one examines the details. The 25 battleships of the United States have a total displacement of 334,180 tons normal to a total of only 287,140 tor the 24 German vessels, while the figures for the armored cruisers are: United States, 186,915 tons; Germany, 79,030 tons. Further, all the battleships of the former carry either 12 -inch or 13 -inch guns as their main armament, while of the German ships fourteen have 11 -inch and the remainder only 9.4 -inch guns as their principal weapons.

It is, however, when one comes to look at what has been happening within the last two or three years, and, more important still; what is going to happen in the near future, that the inadequacy of the suggested programme of two battleships annually becomes evident. It will have been seen from the analysis given above, that the United States have three more battleships over ten years old than Germany, but that that nation has two more under ten years than we have. This dangerous tendency-vulgarly known as "living on our fat"-is growing, and the following comparison of the programmes of the United States and Germany for the last few years will show how serious it is becoming:
annual programmes, 1904-1909.

|  | United Battleships. | States. <br> Armored Cruisers. | Germany.$\underset{\text { Battle- }}{\text { Bhips. }} \quad$Armored <br> Crnisers. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1904 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1905 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 1906 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1907 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 1908 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| 1909 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
|  | - | - | - | - |
|  | 11 | 2 | 14 | 6 |

These figures show that in six years Germany has laid down three battleships and four armored cruisers more than America. Further, ten of the German battleships and three of the crusiers are of the "Dreadnought" type, whereas only six of our battleships answer to that description. It is interesting to note that in the same period Great Britain (whose programme for 1909, however, is not yet known) has laid down only ten battleships and seven armored cruisers, so that Germany has been building warships even more energetically than the first naval power herself.

A scrutiny of the above figures will show that a yearly programme of two battleships has not been sufficient in the past to guarantee the position of the United States as second naval power; nor will it be in the future, for the enlarged programme upon which Germany embarked in 1908-three battleships and one armored cruiser per annum-is to be repeated again in 1910 and 1911; and although from 1912 onward only one battleship and one cruiser yearly are as yet contemplated, it is confidently expected that a new navy bill will be introduced in two years' time which will keep the rate of construction up to iis present level. If, therefore, we carry our calculations only as far as 1911, it will be found that in that year Germany will possess the following armored ships, built and building:

|  | Battleships. | Armored Cruisers. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Completed by or before 1908. | . 24 | 8 |
| Provided for- |  |  |
| In 1906 | 2 | 1 |
| In 1907 | . 2 | 1 |
| ln 1908 | 3 | 1 |
| In 1909 | 3 | 1 |
| In 1910 | 3 | 1 |
| In 1911 | 3 | 1 |
|  | - | - |
|  | 40 | 14 |

Sixteen of the battleships and five of the cruisers will be of the "Dreadnought" type.
Under the suggested annual programme of two battleships, the increase in and position of the United States navy in 1911 would be as follows:


Of these totals, ten battleships would be of the "Dreadnought" type, but not a single cruiser, so that Germany would have, all told, twenty-one "Dreadnoughts" to America's ten, built and constructing. Already Germany has ten "Dreadnought" battleships and three "Dreadnought" cruisers under construction to our six battleships building and authorized, and it would seem to an impartial observer that nothing short of an annual programme of five "Dreadnoughts" can save the United States from being ousted from her position. Great Britain herself can only maintain a bare "Dreadnought" lead over Germany by laying down seven "Dreadnoughts" this year (according to rumor six will be provided for), so that the serious ness of German naval ambitions and of the position of the United States can easily be seen. For many years the authorities in England have shut their eyes to the marvelous naval expansion of Germany, hoping against hope that something would turn up to nip her ambitious projects in he bud. They have at last been forced to admit the growing seriousness, with the result that the economy of the last three years has got to be made good in one. It is just the same with the United States. If they wish at the same time to reap the advantages of steady shipbuilding and to keep their position as second naval power, then they must formulate their programmes according to the efforts that are being made to eject them from it. Germany-now the third in strength-is building three battleships and one armored cruiser every year; surely the United States cannot be content with a smaller programme than this-not to mention one only half the size.

With regard to the accessories of naval powerscout cruisers and torpedo craft-the following figures summarize the position:
Protected cruisers and scouts of
22 knots and over............ 5
Torpedo-boat lestroyers over
400 tons)
Of the
Of the five American cruisers, the "Columbia" was built in 1892, the "Minneapolis" in 1893, and the "Salem," "Chester," and "Birmingham"' in 1907. None is building. All the German vessels have been built since 1903, and there are under construction six cruisers of 25.5 knots. Fifteen destroyers are building and authorized for the American fleet and twenty-four for the German, while the latter country will lay down twelve every year up to 1917 . It is, therefore, not only in armored ships that Germany is outbuilding the United States, but also in cruisers and torpedo craft; and since no fleet is properly equipped without a full complement of these vessels, it follows that if the United States are to keep their position at sea, they must be prepared to provide a large number of these, as well as an adequate force of armored vessels.

## ENGINEERING.

The engineers who built the Cortlandt Street tunnel below the Hudson River are justly proud of the fact that the whole 5,900 feet of pnuematic work was driven through without the serious injury through air pressure of a single workman. The tunnel was built under air pressures of from 25 to 35 pounds to the square inch, and the enviable freedom of the workmen from attacks of the "bends" is due mainly to a searching medical examination of all candidates for the compressed-air work
The facts regarding the improvement in gunnery in the British navy are readily ascertainable, thanks to the government practice of regularly publishing this information. In 1905 the percentage of hits to rounds fired in the navy was 20.02 ; in 1906 it rose to 34.60 ; in 1907 it was 35.81 ; and last year there was a big jump to 58.32 . The number of hits per gun per minute in 1908 was 0.56 for the 10 and 12 -inch guns; 2.20 for the 9.2 -inch; 2.51 for the $7.5-\mathrm{inch} ; 3.98$ for the 6 -inch, and 3.32 for the 4.7 -inch and 4 -inch.
The January rainfall at the Panama Canal was the heaviest on record for that month since American occupation. The average at fifteen stations was 4.34 inches as against 1.19, 0.87 , and 1.04 inches in the three preceding months. The total excavation for the month was $2,924,551$ cubic yards, which is 391,316 yards less than the December output. There was a temporary disturbance of the work on the central division, due to a heavy freshet of the Chagres River, when a maximum height of 66 feet above sea level was reached. No serious damage was done to the work.
The United States and Canada nave decided to limit the total amount of water that may be taken from Niagara River for power purposes. The average discharge of the river is 250,000 cubic feet per second; and if the total fall from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario were utilized, it would represent about $7,000,000$ horse-power. The total available horse-power at the Falls is estimated at about $4,000,000$. According to the treaty, the power companies on the Canadian side are to be limited to 36,000 cubic feet per sec ond, and those on the American side to 20,000 .
The various steamship companies are taking steps to apply to their wireless apparatus the lessons learned from the "Republic" disaster. It will be remembered that the flooding of the engine room put out of commis sion the generator which supplied the current for the wireless plant of that ship; and this fact has shown the necessity for providing an auxiliary source of current supply, located preferably on one of the upper decks. The North German Lloyd Company use for this purpose two dynamos in separate compartments, and two emergency dynamos located in the Marconi house on the boat deck. To this equipment is added two sets of storage batteries. This is characteristic German thoroughness; it should serve as a model for all transatlantic passenger ships.
Since the London and South-Western Railway Company took over the dock system of Southampton, seventeen years ago, the development of the port has been extraordinarily rapid. Then, 5,000 tons was the displacement of the largest liner entering the port. In a few years the tonnage had increased to 10,000 . It soon rose to 12,000 , and now, with the advent of the White Star Line, the latter figures have more than doubled. Within the next three years, the 25,000 -ton "Adriatic," the largest vessel at present entering the port, will be dwarfed by the two 60,000 -ton leviathans, which are being built for the White Star Line at Belfast.
A large blast-furnace gas engine of the Nürnberg type, recently erected for the Barrow Haematite Iron and Steel Company, is representative of the latest practice in this direction. The engine, which works on the Otto cycle, is double acting, with two cylinders placed in tandem. The gas cylinder is 35 inches diameter by $431 / 4$ inches stroke, and the engine develops 1,100 brake-horse-power at 90 revolutions per minute. The piston rod, piston, and exhaust valve chambers and outlet valves are cooled by water under pressure, and the gas mixture is ignited by current taken from a small accumulator battery. The governor of the blowing engine controls a small safety governor, which throws out the ignition when the engine exceeds 95 revolutions.

One of the limitations set upon the securing of high speed in ships of the navy and merchant marine is the difficulty, particularly on the last day of a run, of getting the coal from the bunkers to the furnaces as fast as the latter require. The best solution of the problem would seem to be the use of some form of mechanical conveyer; and that this mechanism may be successfully applied has been proved in the case of the "Minnesota," one of the largest steamships in the world, which is now running in the service of the Great Northern Steamship Company. A conveyer of the link-belt type has been installed, which is so located as to deliver coal at the rate of 45 tons an hour directly in front of the boilers.

## ELECTRICITY

Visitors to Niagara Falls last summer, who wer enthusiastic in their admiration of the electrical illumination, will be glad to learn that prominent citizens of Niagara are endeavoring to raise a fund to pay for the permanent illumination of the Falls during summer seasons.
In connection with his new system of wireless telephony, Prof. Q. Majorana uses a liquid microphone. This consists of a small tube attached to the diaphragm of the microphone and through which a stream of water flows between a pair of platinum electrodes. The water is slightly acidulated so as to complete the circuit between the electrodes. However, when the microphone is vibrated by the voice the stream of liquid fluctuates, varying the electrical resistance in accordance with the sound of the voice.
A grout mixing machine is in use by the United Railways Company of St. Louis. It consists of an old mail car, one-half of the bōdy of which has been removed to make room for a mixing tank. The latter is furnished with paddles driven by an electric motor, which keep the sand and cement thoroughly mixed while the car is traveling to the point where the grout is to be used. When the car arrives at its destination water is added and the mixture is immediately ready to be discharged through a spout to the desired point.
The Aero Club of New England is fitting the dirigible balloon "Massachusetts" with a wireless telegraph plant so that it can communicate with a land station located in the city. It has often been suggested that wireless telegraphy could be used to advantage in communicating with airships, but the danger of igniting the hydrogen gas of the balloon with the sparks used in the telegraph apparatus has deterred experiments of this sort. However, it would seem a simple matter to incase the telegraph apparatus in such a way as to obviate all danger.

According to daily press reports wireless telephony has not proved an unqualified success on the battleship fleet. It was impossible to send messages over any great distance except under the most favorable conditions, and when the telephone was in use the telegraph had to keep silent. Wireless telephony is still in its infancy and cannot be expected to compete with wireless telegraphy at the present time. The main trouble seems to be the difficulty of controlling in so delicate an instrument as a telephone transmitter the powerful currents necessary in any sparkgap system.

One of the principal objections to the use of the telephone for railroad dispatching is the fact that many vocal sounds are lost or very poorly transmitted by the very best of instruments now in use. For this reason it is often necessary to repeat a word or spell it out before it can be understood. Mr. Edison has recently been endeavoring to improve the telephone so that all sounds can be transmitted with perfect clearness. He is experimenting with a new transmitter of "variable pressure type with novel electrodes," with which he expects to obtain the desired result.
An electrical anemometer has recently been devised which is based on the fact that the resistance of platinum varies in proportion to its temperature. Prof. R. B. Goldschmidt, of the University of Brussels, is the inventor of this apparatus. It consists of two wires, one of which is exposed to the wind, while the other is shielded from currents of air, but yet is subject to the surrounding temperature. The wires form two branches of a Wheatstone bridge, and the galvanometer connecting the bridge is not affected when there is no wind, as the temperature of the two wires must remain the same whether the surrounding temperature rises or falls. In case of a current of air striking the wire, there will be a difference of temperature which will be recorded by the galvanometer. The direction of the wind is indicated by a recording weather vane, which is used in connection with the anemometer.

The principle on which silicon, perikon, and molybdenite detectors operate is discussed by their inventor, G. W. Pickard, in a recent number of the Electrical Review and Western Electrician. He finds that the crystals used act as rectifiers, permitting the current to flow in one direction, provided the contact points at opposite sides of the crystals are unequal in area. In order to get the maximum effect, the crystal is imbedded in lead so as to provide a large contact surface, while the other contact is microscopic in character, consisting of a fine metallic point resting against the opposite side of the crystal. The current then flows from the small point to the large contact area. A hydraulic analogue is adduced to explain the phenomenon. ; It is quite possible that this explanation may clear away the mystery of the electrolytic detector, the precise action of which is still in dispute, some claiming that it is thermal in character, and others that it is electrolytic.

## SCIENCE.

The fineness to which the rags are ground has no direct influence on the durability of the paper, for even broken cells of linen and hemp remain unchanged for thousands of years in favorable conditions. The employment of strong alkalies and of starch size appears to be the cause of rag paper becoming yellow and.brittle, while neutral or mildly alkaline treatment and animal size favor durability. Great discoloration and "water stains" are probably due to excessive rotting and liming. Air drying favors the durability of paper. Even the best rag papers are injured, if not destroyed, by soaking or excessive dampness. It is impossible to speak with certainty of the durability of modern papers containing few or no rags, as the ultimate effect' of the new process of making, sizing, loading, and calendering cannot be foreseen. Many new papers have already proved their lack of permanence. Very few newspapers, for example; are likely to survive many years.
The French physicists Bethisy, Fonchard, and Vignes are said to have succeeded in making an incom bustible substitute for celluloid. The material is made from tetranitrocellulose, containing about 40 to 45 per cent of water; a product of a liquid hydrocarbon. After thorough mixing of the mass, the water is expressed therefrom, and the remaining matèrial changed, by treatment with albumen, vinegar, ether, acetone, amylacetate, and alcohol, into a plas tic mass. After standing twenty-four hours it is worked into rods between hot rolls, until it is of a firm consistence; is then cooled, and next denitrized by suitable means. The working with rollers is then repeated, and the sheets thus obtained are worked for six hours in a steam chamber under a hydraulic pressure of 150 atmospheres ( 2,250 pounds per square inch). The pressure is then increased to 200 atmos pheres; and instead of steam, cold water is employed. This process brings the material into the form of very hard blocks, which are then cut into sheets and dried. In order to make tubes, rods, etc., the material is shaped in suitable molds.
The last year of the American Museum of Natural History has been the most notable in the history of the institution. In the last eight years the museum has expended directly $\$ 932,008$ on its explorations and collections. The estimated total value of the collec tions secured during this period by exploration, by purchase, and by gift to the museum is more than $\$ 2,000,000$. For every dollar which has been expended by the city more than a dollar has been added to the enlargement of the collections. The present endowment fund, including the Jesup bequest, is $\$ 2,048,156.61$. To keep pace with the very rapid growth of the city and the demands it is making for public scientific education, an endowment fund of $\$ 5,000,000$ is sought. In every part of the world the advance of civilization and the spread of firearms are rendering more scarce the objects of natural history of all kinds, including the works of the primitive races of men. It is deemed vitally important to push the explorations of the Museum in all parts of the world, while it is still possible to secure these fast vanishing works of nature and of primitive man.
Recent discoveries in regard to the nature of soil fertility have suggested the employment of various novel fertilizers. Manganese has been applied with success, and now M. Rigaux has published an account of a series of experiments, made in Belgium, in the employment of magnesia as a fertilizer for cereals potatoes, beets, and leguminous crops. The magnesia was applied in the form of kainit, or Stassfurt potash salt, which contains 14 per cent of magnesium sul phate. Rigaux had previously proved that the quan tity of magnesia in arable land is smaller than is generally supposed, and that the surface soil always contains less magnesia than the subsoil. Magnesia is found in plants in considerable quantities, constituting, for example, 13 per cent of the ash of wheat and 8 per cent of the ash of oats. Hence, if no magnesian fertilizer is applied, repeated cropping must exhaust the magnesia of the soil, to the detriment of succeeding cropis. It appeared probable, therefore, that the application of magnesia would produce a beneficial effect. : This theoretical conclusion was fully confirmed by the experiments. The yield of sugar beets was increased by 4,500 pounds per acre, and the percentage of sugar was not diminished. With grains, the increase varied from one-seventh to one-fifth of the total crop. On barley magnesia had the peculiar effect of diminishing the proportion of nitrogenous constituents. This property is of advantage to brewers, who find great difficulty in making beer of good keeping qualities from barley rich in nitrogen. The crop of potatoes was increased from 21,000 to 27,000 pounds per acre and was rendered immune to the attacks of the Peronospora (mildew fungus), which infested the part of the field on which no kainit was used. Finally, the yield of hay from natural meadow land was increased from 3,000 to 4,150 pounds per acre.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUSIBLE CORE PROCESS.
The fusible core process permits the construction of rubber to a desired thickness, and a reinforcement of the rubber with fabric to procure a desired strength upon a core or mandrel that will fuse or melt at a desired temperature, and can be removed from the interior of a rubber article in the form of a liquid after vulcanization.

Previous to this invention, gases had to be relied
buoyancy. By this process it is possible to cast a core of any desired dimension, building rubber to any desired thickness upon the same, and so secure the exact strength required for the gas container of dirigible balloons. Navigation in the air has heretofore been made practical by the construction of balloons by a combination of silk and rubber with lapped seams. The pressure of the atmosphere is such at various altitudes as to rend the
fusible core cast hollow and filled with air or gases. The rubber can then be built to the desired thick ness on the outside, compression used, in conjunction with heat that is not sufficient to soften the core, to compact the rubber by external pressure, and the temperature then raised to a heat necessary to cure the rubber. This heat, radiating as it will to the inside of the core, expands the gases in the core, and when the core liquefies the gases continue their expan-
upon to expand within the rubber under heat. Expansion of this kind was naturally haphazard, and the thickness of the shell of rubber necessarily an unknown quantity.
If a solid mandrel was used to secure proper compression of the rubber, it has heretofore been necessary to cut the rubber to remove the mandrel or core; and revulcanization has had to be relied upon to close up the aperture. Second vulcanization of rubber is never reliable. By this process it is possible to produce, for illustration, water bottles on a core, building them to a desired thickness, compress them with hydraulic pressure, cure from the exterior to the interior, and fuse the core and remove the same through the neck of the bottle in the form of liquid, making a one-piece article built to a proper thickness and desired strength.
A bicycle or automobile tire may be built up in layers around a fusible core, subjected to pressure, cured, and the core fused and removed through the aperture used as a valve stem, in the form of a liquid. Pneumatic recoil cushions can be constructed of any desired strength by building up rubber and canvas around a core to a thickness the strength of which can be mechanically estimated, curing the rubber, fusing, and removing the core in liquid form through the valve stem, which can be afterward used to convey air to the interior of the cushion.

Life preservers can be constructed of a desired thickness to withstand the elements to which they are subjected, and a sufficient aperture constructed in the same to admit such a quantity of air as may be necessary to produce the proper


Model boat afloat in the dammed-up water being propelled up the canal.
A MOVABLE LOCE FOR INCLINED CANALS.
sion, and assist the external pressure by pressing out ward.
Articles cured in this manner have been subjected in the laboratory of the Massachusetts Chemical Company's Walpole Rubber Works to an external pressure of 2,000 pounds to the square inch, and internal gas pressure of 200 pounds per square inch. In this man ner the rubber is compressed from all directions into one solid mass. Compression from all directions is as essential to procure perfect rubber goods as curing is.
Some of the large manufacturers of pneumatic tires have discovered this fact, and at the present day many tires or auto shoes are semi-cured on a solid mandrel, the said mandrel removed from the shoe, and a gas bag replaced where the mandrel is removed, and curing continued, so as to get external pressure followed by internal pressure to compact the rubber.
The fusible core process, as worked out and perfected by Mr. F. J. Gleason, vice-president and general superintendent of the Massachusetts Chemical Company's Walpole Rubber Works, bids fair to revolutionize not only many articles of everyday use, like hot-water bottles, rubber goods of every description, automobile and bicycle tires, but those of a more limited use as well, such as balloons, life preservers, etc.

## $A$ MOVABLE LOCK FOR INCLINED CANALS. <br> by h. prime kieffer, c.e.

 Engineer Giuseppe Bafō. tolomei of Rome, Italsed has recently invented a movable self-propelled canal lock, which forms one of the cleverest and most ingenious advances since the employment of canals for transportation purposes was begun.The movable canal lock as designed by Signor Bartolomei consists primarily of a pad dle wheel placed across the section of the canal, with the axis of the wheel resting on iron rails set into the retaining walls at the sides. It is presupposed that the canal is an inclined one, as otherwise there would be no use for locks. The canal may have an inclination of from 3 to 6 or even 7 per cent, and the grade need not necessarily be constant, but different stretches have different grades.

A clear idea of the system can best be obtained from the accompanying drawings and photographs, which were made from the model of the system which Signor Bártolomei has built near Rome. The writer made a thorough study of the model while on a visit to Rome recently. The model canal is about 80 feet long, the width between the rails 14 inches, while the distance from the base of the canal to the running base of the rails is 6 inches. The sides of the canal are perpendicular, and the bottom in cross section is horizontal. The iron Trails are placed on offsets in the walls, at a distance of about 2 inches from the top of the walls, the base of the rails being placed flat on the offsets. The small boat used is barge shaped, is 3 feet 6 inches long, and draws 4 inches of water. The canal has 25 feet each of 3,4 , and 5 per cent inclines, the remaining 5 feet being open. As may be readily seen from the drawings, the paddle wheel just about closes the canal, the opening below the wheel being about $3 / 8$ inch, or just enough to allow a slightly less quantity of water to pass under the wheel than comes down the canal. The wheel is then locked by a simple device, and the water backs up for a distance of 15 to 20 feet, thus giving a head of about 6 inches. The wheel is then unlocked and immediately begins to revolve, rolling upstream by the aid of the power generated with this head. The greater the head, the faster the wheel moves, thus allowing the water to pass under the wheel faster. When the water has reached its normal head of 6 inches, the wheel assumes its normal speed, which in the case of the model was about one-half mile per hour. It will be seen that the movement of the lock, if it may be so called, is automatic. It should be mentioned that the amount of traffic would make no difference, so long as the boats keep a few hundred feet apart. To stop


The locomotive after the boiler had been blown away.
turn in the opposite direction from that of the water wheel; and as they, and not the water-wheel axis, rest on the rails, the boat and the wheel are propelled downstream, and with the same velocity as in the opposite direction.
The getting of the boats in and out of the canal is done by having slips connected with the canal at certain points, in which the water would be held at a definite level. At the entrance to the main canal there would be no obstruction excepting the rail on one side, and this could be lifted to permit the ingress and egress of the boats. The wheel would be allowed to propel itself down the canal for a short distance, while boats were taken in and out of the canal proper.
Mr. Alexander Potter, the well-known consulting engineer and an expert in the subject of hydraulics, has made an examination of the plans for this type of lock, as well as of the various hydraulic questions which enter into the solution of the problem. . Mr. Potter states: "In a canal built upon a grade of 4 per cent, boats 120 feet long can be passed through the canal where there is an available water supply of 12 cubic
greater force to make it move faster; and when the tendency is for the wheel to move too fast, the head will fall, thus decreasing its speed.
"There are certain problems in connection with this interesting device which have not been worked out by the inventor in sufficient detail; among these may be mentioned a mechanism for arresting the lateral motion of the wheel and for reversing the same; also prompt removal of the water wheel to permit egress from and ingress to the movable canal lock by the boats. While these problems may at first appear difficult, they can be readily mastered. The structural details of the wheel have not been worked out for a large scale, but this also is a problem capable of proper solution.
"In places where this invention can replace a flight of locks, there is no question that there will be a saving in the time of the passage of a boat through the locks, and its adoption would result in an economy of construction. Where ample water is not available, the value of the invention is of course greatly reduced."

EXPLOSIVE ENERGY OF A BOILER.
The accompanying photographs illustrate in a striking manner what a magazine of explosive energy a steam boiler may be. They represent the wreckage of a locomotive, the boiler of which exploded at Beaumont, Cal., on the 12 th of last month.
The boiler was wrenched from the trucks and shot upward and forward, turning end over end several times, according to an eye-witness, before it fell on its forward head 65 yards from its trucks, striking an empty oil-tank car. From this it ricocheted another 30 feet, turning end over end, alighting on its firebox end and again 40 feet before coming to rest in the position shown.

When the boiler struck the oil tank it drove in the head of the latter, twisted its steel frame, and drove two of its truck wheels down through the rails, which were broken in four places.
The front end of the locomotive, with its smoke-box door, was blown clean off, alighting 100 yards ahead of the engine and bounding over a pile of ties onto a side-track.

A small piece of wreckage was shot straight up in the air, and descended upon the tender with sufficieni force to cut a clean, smooth, perpendicular slot, 12


Oil-tank car struck by the boiler in its flight.
or hold the boat at a certain point, it is necessary only to lock the wheel and raise it enough to allow the "rect quantity of water to pass under to keep the .t afloat.
So far we have been concerned only with the movement of the lock up the canal. A separate canal should be used for the traffic in the other direction, but exactly the same principle of the water wheel is employed. The main axis of the wheel for the descent is carried upon a truck supported by four wheels running directly upon the rails. With the action of a hand wheel, the wheels on either side of this truck
meters per second. Comparing this with the amount of water supplied in passing boats on a flight of locks such as those on the Erie Canal at Cohoes and at Lockport, the amount of water required for the Bartolomei system is no more than that required for the operation of the Erie Canal for the same tonnage. "From a theoretical standpoint, there is no question that a movable canal lock designed on the Bartolomei principle will operate satisfactorily. The device will be self-regulating, that is to say, when the tendency of the wheel is to go too slowly, the head of the water back of the wheel will increase, thus creating a
inches long, through the side of the water tank, emptying the tank of water. The force of the explosion wrecked a freight car standing on a siding opposite the engine, although the car apparently was not struck by any heavy part of the locomotive.
A local board of inquiry reported the explosion as being due to low water, stating that the crown sheet of the boiler must have been 7 inches uncovered, although the evidence indicating this is not mentioned and must have been difficult to determine. Evidence of stoppage or other failure of the water-gage was inconclusive, so that it is difficult to see how the en-
gineer, a careful and steady man, who was, unfortunately, killed, could have permitted his water to get so low without being aware of the fact.
The rupture of the crown sheet was, however, sufficiently evident as the probable initial failure; and the turning of the boiler end over end in its fiight is further evidence of one end having been thrown violently upward.

## MORNING AND EVENING STARS FOR 1909

by frederic r. honey, trinity college.
The observer of the heavens whose pur pose is to become familiar with the positions of the stars in their apparent datly revolution around the earth will be greatly assisted by a star map. A star map gives the positions of the fixed stars; the celes tial equator, from which declinations are measured; the first meridian, whose in tersection with the celestial equator is the point from which right ascensions are de termined; and the ecliptic, or intersection of the plane of the earth's orbit with the celestial sphere. It is desirable to locate these circles approximately by actual observation. This is easily done by observ ing a number of conspicuous stars which in the star map are near the circle whose position is sought. For example a line stretched across the heavens from Polaris to $\beta$ Cassiopeiæ will give approximately the first meridian. This is the leader of the five stars which form the irregular $W$. If this line be extended in the opposite direction, it will pass between $\gamma$ and $\delta$ of Ursa Major, and divide the northern heavens into two equal parts. The fixed stars ap pear to revolve around the earth, rising and setting nearly four minutes earlier each day. Their distances from the earth are so great that to the ordinary observer their apparent positions are not disturbed during the year by the motion of our planet in its orbit at the rate of eighteen and a half miles a second; and it is only necessary to observe them often enough to become familiar with their places in the heavens.
The positions of the members of our planetary system are not so easily determined. The planets revolve around the sun with varying velocities, and are continually changing their places relative to each other and to the earth.

The plots herewith presented $h$ ave been designed to assist the observer in seeing at a glance which of the planets are above the horizon before sunrise; and those which are above after sunset. The orbits of the four terrestrial planets are shown in Plot 1; those of the four major planets in Plot 2. The plane of the earth's orbit or the plane of the ecliptic, may for convenience be regarded as horizontal. This is obviously an assump.
ion, because the positions of the heavenly bodies are relative, and there is in reality no plane of reference. It is convenient, however, to place this page horizontally, and to regard it as representing the plane of the ecliptic. When a planet is on one side of this

plot in.-SHOWING the positions of the major planets for THE YEAR 1909.
pane it will be described as above, and when on the other side as below this plane.
THE EARTH.

Since observations of the planets are made from the
earth, a brief description of the terrestrial orbit (Plot


PLOT 1.-SHOWING POSITIONS OF TERRESTRIAL PLANETS FOR 1909.

1) is first in order. It is an ellipse with the sun at one focus. The distance from this focus to $a$, the center of the orbit ( $=e$ ) is a little over one and a half million miles. At $P$, the point of nearest approach, or perihelion, the earth's distance from the sun is nearly $911 / 2$ million miles. At $A$, the other extremity of the orbit's axis when the earth is at aphelion, this distance is increased to nearly $941 / 2$ million miles. Since the earth makes one revolution around the sun in $3651 / 4$ days, the average distance it moves each day is $360 \div 365.25$ deg., or a little less than 1 deg. This average is equal to nearly 1,600 ,000 miles a day, allowing for an increase of velocity at perihelion in January; and a diminution at aphelion in July. The earth's rotation on its axis is absolutely uniform; i. e., the length of the sidereal day does not vary a fraction of a second; but its velocity in its orbit is continually changing. The earth's position is plotted for every fourth day at Greenwich noon; and the date is attached for every eighth day. Intermediate positions, which are omitted in the plot, may easily be interpolated by subdivisions.
MERCURY.

The inclination of the plane of Mercury's orbit and its eccentricity are greater than those of any of the planets except the asteroids or minor planets. The plane is inclined to that of the ecliptic at an angle of 7 deg. The distance from the sun to $b$, the center of the orbit, is nearly $71 / 2$ million miles; that is, when the planet is making the perihelion passage, $P$, at a velocity of 35 miles a second, its distance from the sun is nearly 15 million miles less than at aphelion, when the velocity is reduced to 23 miles a second. Mercury performs his revolution around the sun at a mean distance of 36 million miles in very nearly 88 days ( $=87.97$ ). Owing to the very rapid changes in the planet's velocity, its position is shown at intervals of two days; and the increased velocity at perihelion as compared with that at. aphelion is apparent in the plot. The date is attached for every eighth day; and since Mercury makes more than four revolutions during the year, there are four dates for each position.
venus.
The plane of Venus's orbit is inclined at an angle of 3.4 deg. The distance from the center of the orbit to the sun is about half a million miles, which is barely recognizable in a plot of these dimensions. The planet's mean distance from the sun is 67.2 million miles. This distance is diminished by a half mil lion miles at perihelion ( $P$ ) and increased by the same distance at aphelion. Venus revolves around the sun in 224.7 days, and her posi tion is shown in the plot for every fourth day. On Au gust 13 th the planet wil reach a posi
tion which will nearly coincide with that of January 1st. The distance between the two positions is that traversed in seven-tenths of a day. The dates given without the orbit, are those which belong to the more advanced positions of the first revolution of the planet; those within the orbit apply to the second revolution. Since the eccentricity of the orbit is very small, Venus moves at a velocity which does not vary much from 22 miles a second.

With an eccentricity less than that of Mercury's orbit, the plane of Mars's orbit is inclined at an angle of 1.85 deg. But owing to the increased diameter, the distance from the sun to $c$, the center of the orbit, is over 13 million miles. The length of the major axis is 283 million miles; i. e., the mean distance from the sun is 141.5 million miles, which is diminished by 13 million at perihelion ( $P$ ), and increased by the same distance at aphelion. The mean velocity of the planet is 15 miles a second. That part of the orbit which is above the plane of the ecliptic is represented by a full line; and the part below that plane, by a dotted line.
The point where the planet passes from the space below the plane of the ecliptic to that above is the ascending node $N$; and the point where it passes from the space above to that below is the descending node $N^{\prime}$. The line joining these points is the intersection of the plane of the orbit with that of the ecliptic. This line is not fully shown in the plot except in the case of Mercury's orbit.

## THE MAJOR PLANETS.

The diameter of Neptune's orbit is thirty times that of the earth; therefore it is obviously impossible to include the orbits of all of the planets advantageously in one plot within the limits of this page. In Plot 2 the orbits of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are shown on a very much reduced scale. The earth's orbit 'is' included, and its axis produced, to establish the relation between the two plots; and also to show the continuity of the solar system. The position of each planet is plotted for January 3rd and December 29th. : In Plot 1 the larger scale makes it possible to exhibit the positions as seen from the sun at shorter intervals of time. Jupiter's positions in the heavens are indicated by arrows at regular intervals of 20 days; Saturn's, 60 days; Uranus's, 120 days; and Neptune's, 180 days. Intermediate positions and dates are easily interpolated by subdivisions.

Jupiter's velocity at a mean distance of 483.3 million miles from the sun is a little over 8 miles a second. His orbit is inclined at an angle of 1.3 deg. The distance from the sun to the center of the orbit is more than 23 million miles.

Saturn's orbit is inclined at an angle of 2.5 deg., and the planet's velocity is 6 miles a second at a mean distance of 886 million miles. The distance from the sun to the center of the orbit is nearly 50 million miles.
The velocity of Uranus is nearly $41 / 4$ miles a second at a distance of 1,782 million miles; and the distance from the center of the orbit to the sun is 82.5 million miles. The orbit is inclined at an angle of a little over $3 / 4 \mathrm{deg}$.
Neptune, the outermost planet, has a velocity of 3.4 miles per second; and an orbit which is inclined at 1.78 deg. The distance from the sun is $2,791.6$ million miles; and the center of the orbit is only 25 million miles from the center of our'system.

Plot 1 is the fourth of a series showing the positions of the terrestrial planets for the years 1906, 1907, and 1908; published in the Scientific American on March 17th, February 9th, and February 15th of those years. During this period of four years Mercury makes $161 / 2$ revolutions around the sun; Venus, $46 \frac{1}{2}$ revolutions; Mars, nearly $21 / 8$; Jupiter, nearly $1 / 3$; Saturn, between $1 / 7$ and $1 / 8$; Uranus, less than $1 / 20$; and Neptune, $1 / 40$ of a revolution.

As previously explained in articles on this subject, the morning and evening stars for any day in the year may be ascertained by holding the page in a position when the earth in Plot 1 at the assigned date is between the reader and the sun. The date attached to each of the terrestrial planets may then be read without turning the head; and the planet's position will indicate whether it rises before or sets after the sun, i. e., whether it is morning or evening star. For example, the page should be turned about one-fourth of the way around until the earth is between the reader and the sun on January 6th, the date of the opposition of Neptune. Since the earth rotates in the direction of the arrow (see January 1st) Mercury, which was not far from superior conjunction, evidently set very soon after the sun; and was therefore an evening star. On the same day Venus and Mars rose before the sun, and were morning stars. Neptune was above the horizon beiore and after midnight; and was both morning and evening star.
The page should now be turned round for the date February 28th, when Jupiter came to opposition, and was both morning and evening star. On this day Mercury, Venus, and Mars were morning stars. The
date of the opposition of Uranus will be July 11th, when the planet will be both morning and evening star. On this day Mercury will be morning star; and Venus evening star. On September 23rd Mars will be at opposition, and Mercury and Venus will be evening stars. Saturn will come to opposition on October 13th. Mercury will be very near inferior conjunction, and will be morning star. Venus will be evening star. Prior to conjunction a major planet is evening star; and after conjunction it is morning star. Conjunctions occur in the following order: Uranus on January 7th, Saturn on April 3rd, Neptune July 9th, and Jupiter September 18th. When a planet is near conjunction, while it is either morning or evening star, it is too near the sun for observation, because it is lost in the sun's rays. The directions in which the major planets are seen at the dates of opposition are shown by arrows which are longer than those to which the dates are attached.

## tHE RECENT SUBSIDENCE OF NIAGARA FALLS.

On February 14th, 15 th and 16th, 1909, an east wind blew up Lake Erie and drove the water far back up the lake, greatly reducing the amount which it was possible for the lake to discharge into the Niagara River channel. This condition lasted for a longer period than ever before known; and the failure of Lake Erie to discharge its accustomed flow into the river channel, combined with great fields of ice previously carried down toward the Falls and left to settle on bars and rocks, resulted in Niagara's experiencing what will long be recalled as a truly remarkable spectacle. The ice above Goat Island on the New York side of the river shut off the water supply of the American channel between Goat Island and the New York mainland. This rendered the channel, usually the scene of a frightful battling and tossing of chaotic waters, practically dry. As little or no water passed through the channel, the American $\mathrm{Fa}^{\prime \prime}$ with its precipice face 1,000 feet wide was also left dry. Except for a few struggling rivulets here and there, none were of sufficient quantity to prevent men from walking across the channel from the mainland to Goat Island in rubber boots. Others crossed the channel above the Goat Island bridge, and from Goat Island to the mainland, making their way upstream toward the power intakes. The Horseshoe Fall resembled anything but the robust flood so much admired. Its quantity was reduced by half, and this when it was catching all the water diverted from the American channel. Down in the gorge below the Falls, rocks were bared which had never appeared above the surface before. The Whirlpool rapids and Whirlpool suffered from the holdback of the lake flow, so that all the way from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario the people stood amazed at the strange scene developed by robbing the river of a portion of its flow.

In 1848, on March 29th of that year, it is recorded that a somewhat similar condition existed at Niagara, but words afford the only comparison, for no pictures were handed down from that time. On March 22nd, 1903, crowds hurried to the river to see the American channel dry, while the American Fall was in very similar condition to what it was during the few days in February this year.

For practically half a week the unusual conditions prevailed, and during that time Niagara was only half herself. A change in the wind drove the water back down Lake Erie, and the overflow to the river was increased. This overflow grew in quantity, but the restoration was not immediate, for days went by before the American Fall was anything like its former self.

The power companies on both sides of the river were hampered by the dry spell.

## Death of Carroll D. Wright.

Dr. Carroll D. Wright, well known to political economists as a statistician, died February 20th at Worcester, Mass., at the age of sixty-nine.
Dr. Wright began his career with the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor in 1873. In 1885 he investigated the public records of towns, parishes, counties, and courts, and was appointed United States Commissioner of Labor. That office he held for twenty years, flling it ably. In addition to his duties as Commissioner of Labor, Dr. Wright took an active interest in the eleventh census, of which he had charge. His economic knowledge proved of service to his country when he acted as chairman of the United States commission which investigated the Chicago strike difficulties in 1894. Political economists regarded as authoritative his works "The Factory System of the United States," "Relation of Political Economy to the Labor Question," "History of Wages and Prices in Massachusetts," "The Industrial Evolution of the United States," "Outline of Practical Sociology." and "Battles of Labor." He wrote many special reports for the United States Department of La-
bor, as well as pamphlets and monographs on commercial and economical topics.

## UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING STEAMER "SNOHOMISH.'

The discovery of the mineral wealth of Alaska led immediately to a large development of the coastwise trade along the northwestern seaboard of the United States, and particularly in Puget Sound. Navigators are familiar with the unusual hazards of wind, cur rents, and fog encountered in this locality. The entrance to Puget Sound through the Straits of Juan de Fuca is for six months of the year obscured by fogs and haze which, combined with the erratic and but-little-understood currents, render these waters particularly difficult of navigation. Deep-water soundings extend close inshore, so that the lead cannot be depended upon to indicate a near approach to land; yet it is a fact that this is the most important entrance on the Pacific coast, the amount of shipping that passes through it annually being reckoned at six million tons. . During the past fifty years, nearly 700 lives and many millions of dollars' worth of property have been lost in the Straits and in their immediate vicinity. The greatest disaster of all occurred in a dense fog on the night of January 22nd, 1906, when the coastwise passenger steamer "Valencia" overran her distance, failed to pick up the lights at the entrance to the Straits, and went on the rocks at the foot of the high cliffs of Vancouver Island. Although the ship did not go to pieces for a day and a half after she struck, 136 lives were lost, there being no life-saving station within reach and vessels being unable to approach her because of the heavy sea that was running. Immediately after this disasster, President Roosevelt appointed a commission to investigate the circumstances of the wreck and recommend some means whereby passengers might be saved under similar difficult conditions. After mature consideration the Board, in addition to suggesting the provision of additional lightships, coastwise telegraph and telephone lines, fog signals, wireless telegraph, etc., recommended that "a first-class ocean-going life-saving steamer, or tug, be constructed and stationed at Neah Bay, the only available harbor within flve miles of the entrance to the Straits, and that the steamer be equipped with the best possible appliances of surf boats and lifeboats, and with a wireless telegraph apparatus." Congress appropriated $\$ 200,000$ and provided that the life-saving tug should be constructed 'and operated by the revenue cutter service. In the design of the boat the follow ing conditions were fulflled:

1. The vessel must be sufficiently large to be seaworthy under all conditions of weather.
2. An ample coal supply must be furnished to enable the vessel to keep the sea for a number of days, as it is presumed that she will be quite often called upon to search for missing vessels.
3. Every known provision must be fitted to equip her for life-saving in the open sea, and for rescuing persons from wrecks on the shore.
The new life-saving vessel, which is enrolled in the revenue cutter service, and has been named the "Snohomish," was built by the Pusey \& Jones Company, of Wilmington, Del. In her general design she re sembles the numerous first-class tugs which are to be found on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; and as Neah Bay, the headquarters of the new craft, is a most dreary and unattractive place, considerable attention was given to providing as comfortable living quarters for the officers and crew as could be fitted in the limited space available.
The "Snohomish" is 152 feet in length over all, 29 feet in breadth, and her displacement on a mean draft of 12 feet $41 / 4$ inches with 125 tons of coal and 11,000 gallons of water on board is 795 tons. She is built of mild steel, with an inner bottom extending the length of the boiler space; the scantlings are heavy throughout, and the hull is divided into several watertight compartments.
She is driven by 1,200 -horse-power engines at a speed of between 13 and 14 knots, and her coal capacity will enable her to steam for 3,000 miles at a speed of 12 knots. She carries a crew of sixteen men. The vessel has two self-baling and self-righting lifeboats and a life-raft, besides her regular boats. She is equipped with wireless telegraphy; with the Ardois system of night signaling, and with two searchlights. She also carries wrecking apparatus for pumping out vessels, and a fire-fighting outfit.
The most interesting and novel equipment of the "Snohomish" is the special marine cableway designed for taking passengers and crew from a wrecked ship which it is impossible to approach by lifeboats. It will be seen from the description and from the accompanying illustrations that the apparatus, which was designed by the Lidgerwood Manufacturing Company, is nothing more nor less than the breeches buoy ap paratus modified to meet the special conditions of its use between two ships in a seaway.
The "Snohomish" will steam to within life-line distance of the wrecked vessel and fire a line across the
wreck. By means of this line a stout cable will be hauled aboard and made fast to one of the masts of the doomed ship. On this cable the breeches buoy will travel in the usual way. The chief point of difference between the apparatus as used by a life-saving crew on shore and by the life-saving crew on the "Snohomish" consists in the means taken to provide for the movements of the "Snohomish" in a seaway, and keep the overhead cable at all times taut between the two ships. This is accomplished by leading the main cable through a sheave near the masthead of the "Snohomish," and then down through and around
to it. To insure that a passenger shall land on the deck of the cutter, a haul-down block is secured on the main cable, a short distance from the mast, as shown in our drawing, and the cable is drawn down to the deck by men on the cutter, who haul down the block and tackle. By this means the passenger is kept well clear of the sea until he reaches the "Snohomish." Had the "Snohomish" been in existence and on duty at the time of the wreck of the "Valen cia," it is probable that every one of the 136 people that perished on board would have been saved.
The "Snohomish" left Hampton Roads on December

Production of Radium," "The Dynamics of the Phenomena of Life," and Hudson Maxim's "Warfare of the Future."

## Typhoid Fever and Fishes.

Remlinger and Norris have reported to the French Biological Society the result of their investigation of the possibility of the dissemination of typhoid fever and cholera by fishes. Their experiments, which were made with golden carp, prove that the internal organs, and particularly the alimentary tract, of fishes living in water contaminated with Eberth's bacillus


Sketch showing method of rigging and operating breeches buoy at sea.


GOVERNMENT LIFE-SAVING TUG "SNOHOMISH" TAKING PASSENGERS FROM A DISABLED SHIP THAT COULD NOT BE REACHED FROM SHORE.
what is known as the automatic reel, which maintains a constant tension on the cable, allowing it to run out, if the "Snohomish" surges away, and taking up the slack if she should swing in toward the wreck. The reel will automatically wind in the cable, if need be, at a speed of 1,000 feet per minute. Its operation is so quick and sure that the variation in distance between the two vessels may be rapidly reduced to 300 feet, or increased to 1,200 feet, without in anywise interfering with the passage of passengers from the wreck to the cutter.
When a passenger has been placed in the breeches buoy at the wrecked ship, men on the cutter will haul the buoy by pulling on a manila line attached

10th and should reach her destination early in the present month.

## The Current Supplement

Among the more important articles in the current Supplement, No. 1731, may be mentioned "Dropping Projectiles from Balloons," "Measuring the Efficiency cf Aeroplane Propellers;" "The Rotaplane, an Astronomical Demonstration Apparatus," "Sherard CowperColes's New Process of Galvanizing," "The Aniline Dyes and Their Application to Home Use," "An Inter-nally-fired Helical Furnace," in which wholesale annealing and hardening are done almost automatically, "Earthquake Forecasts." "Uranium Mining and the
and cholera vibriones (for example) may harbor those germs of disease. This fact, however, is of no hygienic importance, for it was proved that even when a fish is cooked whole and without being opened, the interior of the body attains a temperature sufficiently high to kill all microbes. In connection with the spread of epidemics, however, the possible presence of germs of typhoid and cholera in the alimentary canals of fishes is not without interest. It appears not unlikely that fishes may carry disease germs in this manner from a contaminated stream to its unpolluted tributaries and thus aid in spreading disease. The observed cases of epidemics following the course of streams upward are thus explained.

## THE ISNA BARRAGE ACROSS THE NILE.

Upon the completion of the two barrages across the Nile at Aswan and Asyut, experience soon demonatrated the fact that in years of bad Nile flood, such as have prevailed since the completion of these undertakings, there was yet a very large district which was inadequately irrigated, accompanied by a marked deterioration of a considerable area of basin land. This was particularly the case in the Keneh province.
mencing this important work, which in character ranks with those already completed at Aswan and Asyut. The accompanying illustrations convey a further idea of its comprehensive character and completion, which was accomplished well within the stipulated contract time of three years by Sir John Aird \& Co. of London, who carried out the previous works of this character, and to whom we are indebted for permission to reproduce these illustrations.
waters, with battered square ends on the downstream side. On the deck level are three parapets, two on the upstream side, in the space between which are provided the facilities for opening and closing the sluice gates. Each opening has two gates of 9 feet 10 inches depth, working vertically in cast-iron grooves built in the piers.

When the work was commenced, the preliminary operations proved a huge task. Owing to the enor-


In order to remove the disadvantages affecting the above province, which were very marked, the government at once decided upon the execution of another noteworthy piece of work-the throwing of a third barrage across the river at Isna, about 100 miles above the great dam at Aswan. The population of Esneh is about 25,000 ; and as may be gathered, the erection of this work has restored the confidence of the natives in the affected area. This barrage is primarily intended to regulate the flood levels, and will insure in seasons of bad flood, such as have prevailed in Egypt for so many years past, the adequate irrigation of something like 250,000 acres.
Some time ago we described and illustrated in the Scientific American Supplement the task of com.

Isua Barrage ; view from east abutment, upstream.

In addition to the barrage, the works carried out comprise two small canal-head regulators. The dam is erected about half a mile to the north of the town. Its total length from bank to bank is approximately 2,900 feet, and it is pierced by 120 openings or sluices, each being 16 feet 5 inches wide. The barrage is of sufficient width at top level to carry a roadway 19 feet 8 inches wide, with accommodation for a surface railroad of 2 feet gage. There are in all eleven large abutment piers, 37 feet $83 / 4$ inches in height by 13 feet thick, and 108 smaller piers of 6 feet 6 inches thickness. The arches of the sluice openings are of concrete, 20 inches thick, faced with sandstone ashlar on both stream faces, while the piers are rounded to half their radius on the upstream side to form cut-
mous demands for masonry, quarries had to be opened by the contractors, and an extensive fleet of vessels secured for its transportation in sufficient quantities and in such a manner that work once commenced should not be arrested for lack of material. The sandstone had to be quarried at a point 57 miles up the river toward Aswan, while on the other hand the limestone was brought from a point 15 miles distant in the opposite direction. Temporary roads and railroads had to be laid down, the length of the latter aggregating at one time 24 miles, and every type of craft was pressed into service for the transportation of the constructional material.
These preliminary operations occupied several months, but work on the site of the dam was com-


The east bank, looking east.
menced in November, 1906. Actual foundation work was first commenced on the east bank, but at the same time the necessary excavations and sudding of the river on the opposite bank were commenced. The conditions were fortunately such that the bank sections could be carried out in such a manner that upon the arrival of the ensuing flood season work was not stopped, since it had been carried to a point to enable it to be continued during the period of high Nile. A large sandbank had formed adjacent to the east bank, and this facilitated considerably the requisite excavation for the erection of nearly forty piers, while on the opposite side of the river it was arranged to sudd sufficiently to enable foundation work to be carried out in regard to the navigation lock and twenty-six piers, the river traffic being maintained meanwhile in midstream.

In this work the experience gained by the contractors in the carrying out of the former works served them to conspicuous advantage. They were able to calculate very closely the time that would be occupied in accomplishing certain sections of the: work, and this factor appreciably assisted them in the rapid execution of the undertaking. The result was that both sides were carried out to adequate height before the arrival of the flood season, to enable them to continue operations thereon without any delay. The sudding works were built up of hard black soil cored
grouting the joints a $3 / 4$-inch pipe was placed in the latter, and all sand blown out under a water jet having a pressure of 40 pounds per square inch, the cement grouting being run down these same pipes after cleaning had been completed to the base of the piles, the pipe being slowly withdrawn while grouting was in progress, so as to secure a perfect joint. Above foundation level the joint was calked with oakum and made completely water-tight from top to bottom. Each pile, it may be mentioned, weighed 2,184 pounds. To prevent possibility of scouring under the foundations of the first season's work, piles were driven across the scar ends to serve as a cutoff, followed by a pitching on both stream faces to a point about 80 feet back from the extremities of the foundations.
When the river fell the following season, it was found that the sandbank still existed on the eastern side, and operations were soon resumed. At this point there remained 1,280 feet of space between the two projecting ends of the work. But the strength of flow of the river rendered extreme caution to be observed in the progress from the eastern sections. An area 830 feet in length of the line of the barrage toward mid-river was successfully sudded off and pumped dry. This construction of the river imposed a heavy water strain upon the farthest sudd, but by throwing down many thousand sacks to protect the
but it was a task that had to be accomplished with extreme care. When the sudds were finished time was pressing, and only twelve weeks were left in which to carry out the remainder of the foundation work and proceed with the superstructure to a height above flood level to enable work to be continued withcut cessation. It was anticipated that as the area within was cleared of water, the outward pressure upon the sudds might cause some slipping; but, as this developed, boatloads of sacks standing by for such emergencies were cast overboard, and in this manner the task was successfully achieved.
The area clear, it was imperative that all possible labor should be crowded upon the works. At one time over 4,000 men were at work upon the narrow stretch of 450 feet linking up the two progressive arms. To the contractors it was the most anxious period of the whole work. There was a pressure of 17 feet depth of water upon the sudds outside, while the diverting of the river had developed a flow of six miles per hour velocity. "Blows" occurred frequently in the sudds, but the arrangements provided for dealing with them were such that no floodings of the workings arose.
At last the foundations of the two sections were connected, and the masonry was pushed forward so as to get above water level by the arrival of the flood. As the superstructure proceeded, the pumping


## View looking west from downstream.

 THE ISNA barrage across the nime.with bags of sand. As the presence of the sandbank naturally gave rise to the conclusion that water would percolate through to the dam foundations a battery of 12 -inch pumps was erected on the river bank, to keep the foundations dry between the piles. The entire foundations of the barrage are inclosed by two lines of cast-iron sheet piling placed 69 feet 9 inches apart, and stretching in two parallel lines right across the river.
By pushing the work at full speed-the number of men engaged fluctuated between 8,000 and 10,000 -it was found possible to get the works well advanced in height by the time that the water pressure upon the sudds gave warning that the flood season was approaching; and the haste which was exercised in this connection, and the fineness with which the work was gaged, may be realized from the fact that when the sudd was cut, the water was allowed to fiow over the flooring, which had only been completed a $\mathrm{f} \in \mathrm{w}$ days previously.
As the foundations were found to be on wet running sand, extreme care was observed in connection with the protective iron piling. The piles are so driven as to inclose completely the area within, with joints grouted, thereby forming a complete cutoff. They were driven to over 14 feet into the river bed about 20 inches of the heads projecting above the latter, and tied into the superimposed concrete with bolts 3 feet long on the downstream side. Before
toe of the outside slopes the difficulty was overcome. Work then on the foundations proceeded so rapidly that the distance between the ends of the two out-wardly-reaching sections from either bank was reduced to 450 feet by the time the river began to rise again, and foundation work had to cease.
This was the critical point of the whole task. It was realized that as the river had been so narrowed, if the sudds on either arm could be joincd up, the work could be considerably facilitated. Mr. Webb, the Secretary of State for Irrigation and who had designed the barrage, visited the works at this juncture, and it was decided to make the attempt. It was a difficult operation, since it entailed diverting the river from its normal midstream path, and this procedure naturally increased the velocity of river flow. The lock being by this time completed, it was opened to allow the passage of the water. It was an anxious task. Bundles of sacks roped together had to be thrown overboard from boats at those points in midriver where the stream ran strongest, from a point 150 feet upstream, where temporary piles were driven for the purpose. Finally success attended the efforts, and the river was diverted, leaving the remaining central space sudded off. The sudds were then strengthened by boatloads of earth being brought down and dumped on their outer surface, and a substantial temporary embankment thus erected. This accomplished, pumping had to be hurried forward,
operations were gradually suspended, so as to allow the water within the sudded area to rise slowly. Thus by the time the river rose the superstructure was well advanced, and carried to completion without any delay.
It is noteworthy to record that owing to the energy displayed by the contractors the work, despite its magnitude, was completed no less than eighteen months within the contracted time, so that the inhabitants of the province will be reaping the benefits of irrigation a year in advance of the date promised The whole task was finished within twenty-two months from the commencement of the foundation work, which is a record in an undertaking of this caliber.
To gather some idea of the extent of the task, it may be pointed out that the excavations entailed the removal of $1,200,000$ cubic yards of material; the erec tion of the temporary sudds required the use of 550 , 000 cubic yards of earth and sand, while $1,000,000$ sacks were used in their construction. There were $3 ; 950$ tons of piling used, 42,000 cubic yards of con crete, $80 ; 000$ cubic yards of sandstone rubble in the supperstructure, 400,000 cubic yards of ashlar, and 166,000 cubic yards of limestone pitching in the diversion.
The whole of the ironwork was supplied by the Ipswich engineering firm of Ransomes \& Rapier, who carried out all the similar work in connection with the other barrages. The navigation lock on the west-
ern bank is $2621 / 2$ feet long between sills by $521 / 2$ feet wide, fitted with gates 40 feet deep and a swing bridge. On the upstream side the foundations comprise puddle clay topped with limestone pitching 65 feet 7 inches wide; while on the downstream side, to avoid the severe socuring of the water pouring through the sluices, there is a protective apron composed of limestone pitching carried to a distance of $1311 / 4$ feet from the toe of the dam. The floor is built up of concrete, 3 feet 3 inches thick, with a superimposed layer of granite rubble masonry 6 feet 6 inches thick. The total cost of the barrage has been approximately $\$ 5,000,000$ and it was formally opened by the Khedive on February 9th. The provision of this dam will insure a plentiful supply of water for irrigation through a great tract of fertile land, even in the lowest floods, and will remove all apprehensions regarding the safety of the crops within its area for all time. The chief engineer responsible for the works was Mr. Murdoch Macdonald, the Director General of Reservoirs for the Egyptian government.

## IMPROVED VEHICLE WRENCH

Pictured in the accompanying engraving is a wrench particularly adapted for unscrewing the nuts of carriage and wagon axles. The wrench differs from the ordinary in that it securely holds the nut


## improved vehicle wrench

in place, permitting of conveniently starting the nut when screwing it on the axle, and preventing it from falling and being lost when it is removed from the axle. The general form of the wrench is similar to the ordinary, consisting of the usual square socket with an extension at one side which serves as a handle. Fitted in the socket is a spring, the general form of which is indicated in Fig. 3. It will be observed that the spring is bent at its center, and then doubled, so as to provide a portion which extends into the socket and another partion which passes along the outside. The outer portion terminates in a pair of hooks which pass through openings in the wrench just below the handle, and serve to hold the spring firmly in place. When using a wrench of this sort the operator may keep his hands clean, for he does not have to touch the nut. The wrench clings to the nut after it has been removed, and there is no danger of its becoming soiled by falling to the ground. The inventor of this improved vehicle wrench is Mr. Carroll. J. Atkins, Cando, N. D.

## DEVICE FOR OPERATING WINDOW SHUTTER.

In cold weather, or when a rain storm suddenly comes up and it is desirable to close the window shutters, it is rather unpleasant to have to expose oneself to the elements by opening the window and reaching out for the shutter arm or catch. The accompanying illustration shows one method of overcoming this ob-


DEVICE FOR OPERATING WINDOW SHUTTER.
jectionable task by operating the shutter from within the room. A sectional view, in plan, of the mechanism used is shown in Fig. 1. The shutter $A$ is hinged to the outer frame $B$ of the window. Projecting through the inner side of the frame is a hand wheel $C$, mounted on a shaft which carries a pinion $D$. The latter engages a rack $E$, adapted to slide through the stile of the window frame. At its outer end this rack bar is connected by a link to a lever arm $F$. The lever arm is pivoted at one end to a plate $G$ secured to the window sill, while at its opposite end it is connected by a link $H$ to the shutter $A$. When the hand wheel $C$ is turned in clockwise direction, the rack bar $E$ is fed toward the left, causing the lever arm $F$ to swing on its pivot, closing the shutter $A$. The end of the rack bar which slides in a track formed in the plate $G$ engages a hook $J$, carried by the shutter $A$ when the latter is closed, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1. This serves to lock the shutter in closed position. The inventor of this shutter-operating mechanism is Mr . August Weber, of Long Branch, N. J.

## KETTLE STILL.

A simple apparatus for distilling water is illustrated herewith, which should prove quite valuable in districts where the water is so impure that it must be filtered and boiled before it can be used. The apparatus is in the form of a kettle, and, in fact, may be used as a kettle when it is not desired to use it as a still. The body of the kettle, which is indicated by the letter $A$ in the engraving, is provided with a main spout $B$ at one side, and a smaller spout $C$ at the opposite side. The interior of the kettle is divided into two compartments by means of a partition $D$, and the spout $C$ communicates with the upper compartment. The partition $D$ is formed with a central tubular por-


## KETTLE STILL.

tion, opening through the top of the kettle to permit of pouring water into the lower compartment. A bucket $E$ is used with the kettle and is provided with a flanged portion at the bottom adapted to fit into the tubular portion of the partition D. Communication between the interior of the bucket $E$ and the lower compartment of the kettle is had through an opening $G$ surrounded by an upwardly-extending fiange. Adapted to fit into the bucket $E$, or formed integrally therewith, is a second bucket $F$ which is of such dimensions as to provide a narrow chamber between the two buckets. . In use, the lower compartment of the kettle is filled with the water to be distilled, and as this water is brought to a boiling point over a fire, the steam generated passes into the bucket $E$ and is condensed by coming into contact with the bucket. $F$. The latter is filled with cold water so as to keep it cool and insure proper condensation of the steam. The condensed steam cannot fiow back into the chamber $A$, owing to the flange surrounding the opening $G$, but it flows through a small pipe into the upper chamber of the kettle. Thence it may be poured out through the spout $C$ when desired. It will be observed that the spout $B$ is zlmost entirely cut off from communication with the body of the kettle $A$, except for a small aperture at the bottom, the object of this being to prevent the steam from escaping through the spout B. Mr. A. W. Blunden, of Sebastopol, Cal., has rerently secured a patent on this kettle still.

## A NOVEL ELECTRIC MOTOR.

Pictured in the accompanying engraving is an electric motor which is operated by an oscillating armature. The motor is formed with a.C-shaped permanent magnet $A$. The oscillating armature is supported on a shaft $B$ between the poles of the permanent magnet. The armature consists of four electromagnets numbered 1 to 4 in the illustration, and the polarity of
magnets 1 and 3 is of the same sign, but opposite to that of the magnets 2 and 4. By alternately changing the polarity of these electromagnets, a rocking motion of the armature is produced, owing to the action of its poles on those of the permanent magnet. The armature shaft $B$ is formed with an arm $C$, connected by a pitman $D$ to the revolving power shaft of the motor. The latter carries a flywheel at each end. Connected to the power shaft by means of a crank and link $E$, is a crank arm formed on the rock shaft $F$. The latter carries four disks $G$ of insulating material, which are connected by means of rods $H$ and $J$. Bearing against these rods are the contact springs $K$ and $L$, and the


A NOVEL ELECTRIC MOTOR.
circuits are so arranged that as the shaft $F$ is rocked back and forth by the rotation of the power shaft the current is alternated, thus alternating the polarity of the electromagnets. When starting the motor, it is merely necessary to rock the armature out of the neutral position, after which it will continue to rock and acting through arm $C$ and pitman $D$, keep the power shaft in motion. Mr. Gustaf Seidel, of Saunderstown, R. I., is the inventor of this electric motor.

## IMPROVED GARMENT HANGER.

One of the objections to the ordinary garment hanger is the fact that the arms are set at a fixed position which cannot be altered to suit different styles of garments, and the length of the arms cannot be adjusted to meet various requirements. The garment hanger which is illustrated herewith is designed to overcome these faults. The two arms $A$ are formed of sheet metal and are reduced at one end where they are joined by a bolt or pivot $B$. The body of each arm is folded over, forming a fiat sleeve adapted to receive an extension member $C$. The outer end of each member $C$ is shaped to support the shoulder of the garment. At the under side of each $\operatorname{arm} A$ are a number of openings $D$, adapted to receive a projection $E$ on the inner end of the extension member $C$. Thus, when the ex tension member is drawn out to the desired degree it will be held in place by engagement of the projection $E$ with one of the apertures $D$. Each arm $A$, at the pivot end, is provided with an arcuate extension $G$. One of these arcs is provided with a number of projecting teeth which are adapted to be engaged by a single tooth on the other arc, to hold the two arms at the angle at which they are set. The hanger $F$, which is secured to the pivot bolt, is offset so that when the two arms are folded together it may be turned down against their edges (Fig. 2). The inventor of this garment hanger is Mr. Reginald C. Thomas, of 337 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.


IMPROVED GARMENT HANGER.

RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS.
of interest to Farmers.
heat-regulator.-C. F. Rukes, Springfield, Mo. In this case when the temperature in the burner exceeds a predetermined value, thus extending the lazytongs which will move the valve lever, decreasing the supply of fuel Should the incubator become too cool, the bars will contract, thus shortening the lazytongs and move the lever in the opposite direction, to increase the supply of fuel.
STALK-CUTTER.-F. P. Chapa, Eva, Texas. In operation the machine is driven through the field between adjacent rows of stalks which are severed by the engagement of the sharp edge of the blade therewith. The rear end of each of the blades is curved outwardly, the inclined portion of the blade, it will be engaged by the outwardly bent portion. Means permit the side members of the frame to vield inwardly, should they or the blades engage unyielding objects. The arrangement of blades also permits their easy removal for sharpening or inserting new blades.
FERTILIZER-DISTRIBUTER.-J. K. Gourdin, Pineville, S. C. In this case the inven tion pertains particularly to an improved arrangement of means for discharging fertilizer rom the hopper, and to improved means for effecting the broadcast distribution of the fer tilizer after discharge from the hopper. Means ing fine, coarse, or lumpy, and also for dis tributing cotton seed

## Of General Interest

ATTACHMENT FOR TOBACCO-PIPES. . E. Frazee, Perham, Minn. The object of sive to manufacture, which will cause the to bacco in the pipe to burn slowly and evenly
in the wind, and which will obviate the danger of burning ashes being blown back into the ace of the smoker
ATTACHMENT FOR ANIMAL-TRAPS.-M. Gravatt, Port Royal, Va. This invention has reference to attachments for use in animal
traps, and more particularly such as are traps, and more particularly such as are ing saplings or the like, to which traps have been attached, in bent positions until released by the struggles of the animals caught in the traps.
COMBINED RACK AND HOLDER.-O. M. Harding, Winona, Miss. The purpose here is pact, neat a filing cabinet which is portable, that may be placed upon a desk or table for conenient service, which affords separate recepacles for letters, stationery materials and other desk furniture, and provides separate of the desk equipment
Sign.-J. Igelstroem, Massillon, Ohio. The sign is of pyramidal form and adapted to be window of a store, or suspended from a chandelier or other fixture, the object being to pro uce a sign that may be shipped or transported fat and occupy the minimum space, but which matter to persons viewing the sign from any matter to
direction.
GUN-SIGHT.-G. M. Wanee, Red Bluff, Cal. The invention relates more particularly to cov red or tubular sights. An object is to provide a sight which will not only permit the is shooting but will also permit him to take fine sight of any special part thereof It can be readily taken apart for cleaning or re versing of the partition.

## Prime Movers and Their Accessories.

 PACKING-RING EXPANDER. - W. H Richardson, Brunswick, Ga. This practica rated means, that may be readily engaged with split resilient packing ring, and by adjustment thereof quickly and evenly expand the engaged ring, so that it may be slipped upon he periphery of a piston, and when in place channel it is to be seated in.
## Rallways and Their Accessories.

RAILROAD - CROSSING. - G. P. Keith, Rochester, Ind. The crossing can be quickly with an adjacent railroad crossing, without one interfering with the other, since the rails on crossing are elevated above the rails of the other, an opening of sufficient width being provided in the upper track to enable trains to pass upon the lower track.

## Pertaining to Vehicles.

SPEED-RECORDER.-G. A. Lee, New York, . Y. This recorder is more especially de cles, and is arranged to graphically produce and display to the occupant of the vehicle, the speed at the time, and to form a permanent record of the speed of the vehicle while the latter is running, the record showing the time, ileage,
BOLSTER AND STANDARD FOR WAGONS C. M. Shotwell, Fossil, Wyo. The invenobject is to provide adjustable standard $\varepsilon$ which
may be arranged to fit different widths of beds
ar be arranged to it different widths of beds may be inclined with respect to the bolster for
supporting hopper shaped beds and the like. TIRE-PROTECTOR. - G. C. Hoskin, L Mars, Iowa. An object in this invention is to provide a flexible tire protector constructed to obviate any danger of the tires becoming punctured by sharp stones, nails, glass, or the like. Further, to provide a protector that eliminates an danger of skidding on slippery roads or efficiency of the driving wheels.
Note.-Copies of any of these patents will be furnished by Munn \& Co. for ten cents each. Please state the name of the patentee, title of
the invention, and date of this paper.


INDEX OF INVENTIONS
For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued. for the Week Ending February 23, 1909,

AND EACH BEARINGTHAT DATE
[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

 Amusement
Amusement
 913,426
913,048
913,517
913,284
913,325
913,243
913,511
913,567
913,292
913,292
913,263
913,411


 Automobile diriving mechanism support, E .
 Aut
Aut
Awn

Bag | Awn |
| :--- |
| Bag |
| Bail |
| Bal |

 Batteries, method and maste, D. C. Charmois
yying dry cell, $\mathbf{H}$. Baratus for revivi-
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$





```
M,
```




$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## 




Car relea
Car ropt
Car whee

Cars and other velhcles, pealal guard for




## ,

## 

 Curtain pole, F. Wukmanic.
Cutlery,
A.



## 




| Dust collecting and absorbing substance, $\bar{j}$. <br> Dye, ${ }^{\text {A. Ded, }}$, ${ }^{\mathbf{W} y}$. Konig. <br> Dyeing machine, w. Erier |
| :---: |
|  |  |


| Dynamo and motor brush spring, J. H. Pool Electric broiler, G. E. Stevens. |
| :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |


| Electric cord retriever, W. O. Rew. <br> Electric installation tubes, adjustable coup- <br> ling for, W. H. Vibber <br> Electric machine, dynamo, B. <br> G. Lamme |
| :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## 

 <br> \section*{E} <br> \section*{E}
## Envep, J. J. R. Huff.... Envelop, J. Draemel... Envelop for air-prown ders

## 



| 913913912913913913913913913913913912913913 |
| :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |


 Hair
Har
Harrow
Harrow
Harve
Hat
Hat
Heate
Heati
H
Heat
Heat
Heat
H
Heat L. P. Sha
F. Germbon combined,
J. Bradfo

$\qquad$




 913,070
913,311
913,405
 913,657
913,296
913,281
913,214

ury and jury frame for facilitatio.
pedic treat
Knife hant, G. Wivande, Putnam \& Livingston... pedic treatment, G. W. Haas.....
Knife handle, Putnam Livingston.:
Lace fastener, W. H. Fchweitzer





$\qquad$
$\qquad$



## Four-fifths of a Blacksmith's Troubles


come from a faulty fire. How does your fire burn? Is it sometimes hot and sometimes not? Does it come up very fast and then lose its heat? Is the red flame edged with blue? Is the coke formed dark-colored and crumbling? Do you have trouble making good solid welds? Then-

## You're Using the Wrong Coal

Try these simple tests on the coal you are now using:
1-Take several pieces the size of your fist and crack them open. If little white scales or brown deposits appear between the layers, they are sulphur. It is bad for any iron or steel, and absolutely prevents making good weld. Webster Coal contains no such white scales or brown deposits, because it is practically free from sulphur.
2-Look at the coke formed around the edse of the fire. If it is not solid and of a clear gray color, the coal contains a large quantity of dirt. Webster Smithing Coal forms a clear gray coke, of even grain, which when burned over, makes hot, ste
3-A blue edge around the flame indicates a large amount of the injurious sulphur. Webster Smithing Coal being practically free from sulphur, makes a pure red and yellow flame.
4-Look closely at your coal-pile and see how many pieces of dull gray slate you can pick out, just from the surface of the pile. Slate is not coal. It will not burn itself, and it keeps even the coal with which it is mixed from burning the pile. Webster Smithing Coal is not slate. It is pure Coal.
5-If your fire is hot in spots, or for a short time, and then "drops out"-the coal is low in heat efficiency-is not adapted to smithing. Webster Smithing Coal maintains a high, clear heat for a remarkably long time, because it is all pure heat-siving coal, specially selected and specially prepared for smithing.

It pays a blacksmith to use Webster Smithing Coal. Pays him in dollars saved on his coal bills. Pays by avoiding alt those fire troubles and welding troubles which commonly spoil his work and ruffle his temper. Pays him in the quality and quickness of his work.

Webster Smithins Coal is mined in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, risht in the heart of the resion noted for high grade smithin's coal. It is especially adapted for forge use, and its superiority for this purpose is easily shown by comparing it with any other coal. Webster Smithing Coal may be obtained from local coal dealers at points in the United States and Canada in bags, in bulk or car load lots. Write for prices and further particulars, and remember-
It pays every Blacksmith wherever located to use Webster Smithing Coal PENNSYLVANIA COAL \& COKE COMPANY
Boston, 141 Milk Street
Whitehall Building. New York
Philadelphia, Land Title Building


## FLOORS

 GRIPPIN'S FLOOR CRACK FILLERAND FINISHES Sanitary, inexpensive and
simple
A SAMPLEly A SAMPLE showing how
(while they last), anddeccrip-
tive matter FREE.
Write now
GRIPPIN


Learn Automobile Engineering \$ 10
FREE WELSTRATED PAMPLLET-SEND FOR IT.

$\begin{gathered}\text { Byhe's Correnpondence } \begin{array}{c}\text { school of Motoring, } \\ \text { St. Louis, Mo. }\end{array} \\ \text { 801 Bunk Commerce Building, }\end{gathered}$
GAS ENGINE DETAILS.--A VALUAble and fully illustrated article on this subject is con-
tae aned in SUP LEFMENT No. 1.29.. Price 10 cents. For
sale by Munu \& Co. and ail newsdealers.



bultunirs. No. 8868.-Wanted to buy nickeloid for





PATENTS FOR SALE
 Inquiry No. A8s9.-Wanted to buy a machine
which breaks and divides apricot stones.

PARTNERS WANTED
 Inquiry No. 8694.- For manufacturers of an auto
matic camera for ma king photugraphs on pin trays, etc.

HELP WANTED.






| AMPS AND Coins. | Trolley wire turnhickice ii s oilson |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| rat trap springs and wire parts, single machine or full outtit. |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  <br>  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Inquiry No. 890for $v e$ ventian binds. For a dealer in tapes and cords |  |
|  |  |
|  Box 773 , New York |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Untrarian litrerature, including sermons and <br>  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Henairy Notis 918 - - For manufacturers of "Wydt's |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Inquiry No. s921.-For the manufacturers of gilt paper. |  |
| Inquiry No. S@92. - Wanted the address of Worthington Boiler Co. |  |
|  |  |
|  of stel prates which ar: and locked in position. |  |
|  | Vehicle eleietrical control |
|  |  |
| Inguiry No. $\mathbf{L 9 2 8}$ - - For the manufacturers of a steam roary excavator ad describen inAmerical of December 12.148, , pape 347 . |  |
|  |  |
| Inquiry No. 89:3.-For makers of automatic cle eetting out. |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Ingury No. M934--Wanted to buy seal and book |  |
|  | ver |
| Inquiry No. ©936.-Wanted machinery ued to gpin or wrap pap pencilis are made. |  |
| Inguiry No. 8940-Wanted to buy machne orbender for rounding augele iron, fat irn and round end oblong tanks. |  |
|  |  |
|  Inquiry No. 8942.-Wanted to buy apparatus to |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |




INVERNESS, SCOTLAND Notice to Manufacturers and Patentees Eligible Sites for Factories and Works

ENTERPRISING firms are directed to the
Royal Burgh of Inverness (Population
about 25,000) which is situated at the mouth of the River Ness, and has unrivaled
advantajes as a Trade Center. Regular and cheap communication with the principal ports of the United Kingdom, and the Continent
by rail and sea. Direct communication with the West of Scotland by the Caledonian
Canal. Low competitive rates on freisht Excellent harbor accommodation. Ample
water supply. Electric enersy. Cheap coal gas. Labor plentiful. Climate mild. Local rates and taxes are amons the lowest in
Great Britain. Every encouragement and facility given to manufacturers by the Munic pality. Apply for full informatio
Town Clerk, Inverness, Scotland.

## AGENTS $\$$



## Wanted Specialties

## If you have a patented article to be cas

 in Brass or Aluminum and can market proposition.the IDEAL BRONZE CO., Cleveland, Ohio


WRITE FOR BEST BUGGY OFFER

 NATIONAL STAMPING AND ELECTRIC WORKS
ou USE GRINDSTONES


$\qquad$


20 Floor, Wilshire, Cleveland, 0 .




$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
> ${ }_{s}^{\text {sion }}$





.


The chert${ }^{\text {a }}$ "Th
PRINTS.

|  | Figure the Saving <br> on that concrete job of yours when it is built with |
| :---: | :---: |
| EDISON |  |
| Every barrel of "Edison" ( 376 lbs. net) contain or mineral glue, than a barrel of any other brand-every Uniformly 10\% Finest Ground $\qquad$ EDISON PORTLAND C general sales of 932 ST. JAMES BUILDIN | ins $10 \%$, or 37.6 lbs . more cement, ery bag ( 94 lbs .) gives you 9.4 lbs . d-because in the World. rtland Cement, and where used. CEMENT CO. FICE: JG, NEW YORK |
| Yard, Brooklyu, N. Y., March 5. 1999. to fill the a dosition. For appication, and further informatio, | MASON'S NEW PAT. WHIP HOIST for Cutrigger boists. Faster than Flevators, and hoist direct from teams. Saveshandling at less expense Manfl. by VOLNEY W. MASON \& (O.. Inc. |
| LET US BE YOUR FAGTOAY <br> STAMPINGS, MODELS, EXPERT WORK THE GLOBE NACHINE AND STANPING CO. 980 Hamiton St. Clevelind. 0 . | Magical Apparatus. <br> Grand Book Catalogue. Over 700 engravings 25c, Parlor 'Tricks Catalogue, free. MAKTLNKA \& CO., Mfrs., 493 Sixth Ave., New York |
|  |  |
| MODELS $\underset{\text { Inrentions dieveioped. special machinery. }}{\underset{\text { E }}{\text { EXP }}}$ E. V. BAILLARD. 24 Frankiort Street. New York. |  |
| RUBBER $\underset{\substack{\text { Expert } \\ \text { Fine } \text { Jobunufacturers } \\ \text { Fors }}}{\substack{\text { Nor }}}$ <br> PARKER, STEARNS \& CO.. 228.229 South Street, New York |  |
| MOEFT \& COMPANY <br>  |  |
| NODEES |  |
| Experimental \& Model Work $\qquad$ |  |
|  |  |
| formeriy took years. Does away with tedious apprer.- ficeship Mouey earmed while study ing. Positions se. cured. Easy terms. Send for catalog. st. Locis watchmaking school, st. Loule, Mo. | DRYING MACHINES E.s. Stemed ficie paday <br> S. E. WORRELL, Hannibal, Mo., U. S. A. |

## SMALL HOUSE NUMBER of AMERICAN HOMES AND GARDENS

T reason the April,
SMAL HOUSE NUMBER,
THE ARTISTIC EXPRESSION OF THE SMALL HOUSE is well explained in an article by Francis
Durando Nichols, illustrated with fifty engravings showing exterior and interior views and floor plans of
PLUMBING FOR A SMALL COUNTRY HOUSE, by John A. Gade, is a very inportant subject.
part of a house eneeds greater attention than the lautrdry, kitchen a nd bath room.
Hence the economicTHE MAKING OF AN IRIS GARDEN, by Samuel Howe, is an inllustrated

A GROUP OF MODEL MOTOR HOUSES FOR THE SMALL COUNTRY PLACE, by Ralph de
HOME-MADE NOVELTIES FOR THE COUNTRY HOUSE By Mabe Tuke Priestman, treats of
conversion of unikely things into useful articles, and the illustrations show the resills.

A FORMAL GARDEN AND PERGOLA, DESIGNED BY AN AMATEUR, by Alexander R. Holli-
PROPER FURNITURE FOR THE SMALL HOUSE, by Esther Singleton, with illustrations show-
ing
THE USE OF CONCRETE IN THE BUILDING OF A SMAL COUNTRY HOUSE, by Benjaminartistic results. THE APA APPARATUS FR THE SMAL COUNTRY HOUSE, by Allyn Frogner, is the
title of an anticte treating in a practical imanner one of the most important featuresof a small
PROBLEMS IN PLANING THE GROUNDS OF A SMALL COUNTRY PLACE, by Charles D,
Mr Lay has
te planted at a very Iow cost, and enurn
MUNN \& COMPANY, Publishers, 361 Broadway, New York City


THE "SIMPLO" AUTOMOBILE


Look for Yourself in this List


Perhaps You Want to "C.Q.D!"
 20 Years a Favorite!
 Dodds' New Gear Dovetailing Machine

alexatider dodos,

Runing Water Wher You Want It Don't be without the convenience of run
ning water in your hoose beazuse you live
inthe on the ground. install a



Grand Rapids, Mich.




WANTED-A RIDER AGENT Wan fowm








 MEEADCYCLE COMPANY

##  <br> The Leading Engineering Paper of the World. For Civil, Mechanical, Mining and Electrical Enginees If you cannot locate desied engineering equipment write our "Readers Want " department.




Let's Prove It To You
the typewriter exchance, 345 Broadmay, New York
Branches in All Large Cities

