MAY 15, 1875.]

NOVEL DEVICE FOR PREVENTING RUNAWAY HORSES. | also red. In the contour of the bill, the form and position

The annexed engraving, for the description of which we are indebted to the Pesth Wochenblatt für Land und Forstwirthschaft, represents an ingeniously simple device for checking runaway horses. A A are stout rings, of sufficiently large diameter to slip over the fore legs of the animal and close up to the body. They are held in the last less pigeon. mentioned position by lines, B, which lead up through lead-

vice forms no impediment to the horses' motion, as the rings, though connected together between the legs. are joined by a sufficiently long bond. In case of the animals' running away, however, the driver has merely to lift the ring for the hook, C, and allow the large rings, A, to descend lower down on the legs. This of course interferes at once with the horse's stride. If it be necessary to bring them to a sudden halt, to avoid immediate danger, the supporting lines are let go altogether. The rings then fall to the horses' feet, restricting their further progress, and perhaps throwing the animals. This would probably result in injury to the latter, but it would not be employed except to prevent instant accident to the occupants of the vehicle; and it is possible their lives would be more imperiled by the sudden stoppage than if the appliance were not used. But the idea is novel, and some one, no doubt, considers it practicable, and perhaps it is.

The Tallest Chimney in the World.

The tallest chimney in the world is the Townsend chimney, Glasgow, Scotland. It was built by Robert Corbett, of Glasgow, for Joseph Townsend, of Crawford Street Chemical Works. The total hight from foundation to top of coping is 468 feet, and from ground line to summit, 454 feet; the outside diameter at foundation being 50 feet, at ground surface 32 feet, and at top of coping 12 feet 8 inches. The number of bricks used in the erection were as follows: Common bricks in chimney, 1,142,532; composition and fire bricks for inside cone, 157,468; common bricks for flues, etc., 100,000; total, 1,400,000. The weight of bricks at 5 tuns per 1,000 is equal to 7,000 tuns. When within 5 feet of completion, the

caused it to sway 7 feet 9 inches off the perpendicular, and it stood several feet less in hight than before it swayed. To bring back the shaft to its true vertical position, "sawing back " had to be resorted to, which was performed by Mr. Townsend's own men, ten working in relays, four at a time sawing, and two pouring water on the saws. The work was done from the inside on the original scaffolding, which had not been removed. Holes were first punched through the sides to admit the saws, which were wrought alternately in each direction at the same joint on the side opposite the inclination, so that the chimney was brought back in a slight. ly oscillating manner. This was done at twelve different hights, and the men discovered when they were gaining by the saws getting tightened by the superincumbent weight.

THE LITILE DODO OR DODLET.

A great many very interesting additions have recently been made to the collection belonging to the Zöological Society of London, and are now to be seen in their renowned not unlike a small potato.

gardens in the Regent's Park. Among them is a bird variously styled the didunculus, dodlet, little dodo, and toothed billed pigeon, the scientific name for which is the didunculus strigirostris, which was brought from the Samoan Islands. The bird was not unknown in Europe, a specimen having been sent thither in 1864; and from its size, dark plumage, and terrestrial habits, it might be mistsken, at a little distance. for some sp of moorhen, but a closer inspection of its structure convinces one of its relationship to the pigeons. The head and upper portion of the neck and breast, says the London Field, to which we are indebted for the annexed engraving, are of dark slaty green color, the primaries the same, but somewhat paler; the rest of the plumage chocolate brown; the face and throat bare, and of a dark flesh color in the young bird, approaching to orange in the adult. The bill, which is remarkably deep. and with the upper mandible dentated, is orange yellow in the young bird, and red in the adult. The legs and fest are

of the nostrils, and several other characters, the didunculus differs from any other living species at present known; and, although a smaller bird in size, it approximates most nearly, in all its characters, to the extinct dodo, and, like it, combines the character of a rapacious bird with that of the harm-

It will be seen that the mandibles of the didunculus are ers on the saddle, and are joined to a single ringwhichslips powerful in structure, yet, according to Dr. Bennett, the beak



DEVICE FOR CHECKING RUNAWAY HORSES.

chimney was struck by a gale from the northeast, which | placed in the cage, or the bird is seized for removal from one cage to another, it never attempts to bite its captor, but, on the contrary, is so timid that, after fluttering about or running into a dark corner of the cage in its efforts to escape, it soon becomes subdued, and is easily taken. This statement, however, requires some modification; for, according to the Rev. S. J. Whitmee, a resident at Samoa, who has kept the bird in confinement there, it is sometimes "exceedingly savage. When any one approaches the cage," he says, "it ruffles its feathers, trembles, apparently with rage, and tries to bite. If it gets hold of one's finger," he adds, "I know from experience that it gives a severe gripe.'

In size, the bird may be compared to a large pigeon, which it resembles in some of its habits, and in the nature of its food. Like some of the Australian pigeons, it flies with a loud noise, which is especially noticeable as the bird rises on the wing. Like the ground pigeon, it nests or roosts on bushes or stumps of trees, and feeds on the ground. Its food consists of plantains and the fruit of the soi, a kind of yam,



Preventable Diseases.

It being conceded by every sensible person that good health is paramount to all other human blessings, we take frequent occasion to transfer to our columns (from reliable sonrces) practical information tending to promote and preserve the blessing so essential to all. To The Herald of Health, for April, we are indebted for the following:

"The range of what are called preventable diseases is now known to be very wide, and all such diseases it should over a hook, C, on the dashboard. Thus arranged the de is never used as an offensive weapon; for when the hand is be the first duty of man to prevent. Much of this-that for

> which I especially wish to ask attention-isnot only preventable disease, but is disease that is called into existence only by the act or by the neglect of man; and it is not too much to say (after the thorough investigations of the subject that have been made by sanitary authorities) that there has never been a case of typhoid fever that was not almost directly caused by the ignorance or by the criminal neglect of some person whose duty it should have been to prevent it. Such disease never comes without cause; and its cause is never anything else than organic poisoning, arising from organic decaying matter or from the spread of the infection directly from a patient suffering from the disease.

> Typhoid fever has many names, all of which are suggestive of its origin. It is called "drain fever," "sewer fever," "cesspool fever," " foul well fever," "nightsoil fever," etc.; and it is never caused except by the introduction into the system of the germ of the disease-which can originate only through the operation of neglected organic wastes, or by communication through the lungs or stomach by means of foul air or foul water, or from germs arising from the persons or from the excreta of typhoid patients. So far as its contagion is concerned, ample ventilation of the sick room and the immediate removal or disinfection of the feces are ample preventives. It is not contagious, as smallpox is, but is spread by the action of germs which infect the locality of the patient, and extend more or less widely according to the precautions used to confine it. There is not necessarily the least danger that the disease will attack even the constant attendant of the patient, if proper care is taken. With the householder himself rests the entire responsibility of the origin of every first case

breaking out in his household. This is a certain and thoroughly well established fact, and there attaches tohim the full measure of guilt for every such case. This is a responsibility for which the community should hold him strictly accountable. It would really be as correct to ascribe a redhanded murder to Providence as to attempt in this way to console ourselves for a fatal attack of typhoid fever. We are taught that we shall not cleave our child's skull with an ax, and that if we do, death will surely result; but we are no less absolutely taught that we shall not poison our child's blood with the foul emanations of our house drains and with the contamination of our drinking water wells, lest the same fatal result follow. We may ignorantly load the water with which our families are supplied with lead poison, and so be without the guilt of intention; or we may ignorantly poison our wells by the infiltration of infected organic matter, and in this case, as in the other, be acquitted of the charge of criminal intent. But in these days, when so much has been published concerning the origin of diseases of this class, however free we may be of all criminal intent,

the serious charge of criminal neglect must surely lie at our door.

It may be assumed, without hesitation, that, whenever pronounced case of typhoid breaks out in an isolated country house, or when any form of low fever occurs, though it may fail to assume a distinct typhoid character, there is in that house, or about it, or in eonnection with its supply of drinking water, some accumulation of neglected filth, some pile of rotten vegetables in the cellar, some overflow from a barnyard, some spot of earth saturated with the slops of the kitchen or some other form of impurity, to which the origin of the disease may be distinctly traced. The spread of typhoid is very generally occasioned by germs contained in the bowel discharge of fever patients; but the disease is constantly originating itself where no such cause exists, and every first attack is a plain indication that either at home or in some house at which the patient has visited, one or two things has occurred: (1) there has been an exhalation of poi-

THE LITTLE DODO (didunculus strigination)

Scientific American.

cellar, or from some other source of bad air, which has entered the lungs and planted there the germs of the disease; or (2) either in the food or in the drink of the patient, these germs, originating in the same organic putrescence, have found their way to the stomach. In either case the blood is attacked; the subject may have been sufficiently robust and vigorous, or sufficiently unsusceptible to infection, to have avoided a serious or fatal illness; but in every instance the danger has been incurred, and, when incurred, the risk must be the same as intaking any other form of slow poison. This is not theory, but simply a well established fact, demonstrated by long, careful, and frequently repeated investigation. The precise character of typhoid infection and the exact manner of operation when introduced into the blood, are not known; but that it always originates in the way described, and that it may invariably be prevented by the use of proper sanitary precautions, is absolutely known.

This being the case, it lies perfectly within the province of every farmer (and if the farmer will not attend to such matters of his own accord, his wife has a way of urging him into it) to remove, while it is yet time, any source of infection to which his house may be liable. Vegetables in any considerable amount should not be kept in the house cellar, and at least once a week the floor of the cellar should be swept and every shred of waste vegetables removed. Even when this is done, the cellar should be ventilated by a window or other small opening toward the quarter least exposed to cold winds (and in summer on every side); the privy, if a privy is used, should be well away from the house, and especially far from the well, unless its contents are received in a tight box and entirely absorbed by dry earth or ashes, and even then frequently removed; the chamber slops of the house should never, under any circumstances, be thrown into the privy vault, nor into a porous cesspool, from which they can leach into the ground and through the ground for a long distance into the well, or into and around the foundation of the house. The same disposal of the liquid wastes of the kitchen is desirable, but not so absolutely important. It is, however, important that this should be led by an impermeable drain to a point well away from the house and from the well; swill and all manner of nondescript refuse material, such as is sloughed off by every household in the ordinary course of its living, should be removed at least daily from the near vicinity of the dwelling, and the vessels in which it accumulates should be frequently cleansed and aired : manure heaps should not be left to ferment and send off their exhalations at a point whence frequent winds waft them toward and into the dwelling, nor should the barnyard be al lowed to drain (either over the surface or through a porous so l) to ward the house or well. If all these precautions are taken, the well will be tolerably safe, and in most cases absolutely safe; but if there is any doubt on the point. then let no well water be drunk except after boiling; or the drinking water of the house may be taken entirely from a filter. ing cistern, of which the filtering bed is sufficient to hold back all organic matter.

If all these points are well attended to, and if the ordinary rules of cleanliness be observed in the household, the members of the family may be considered as safe against attacks of typhoid fever.

THE MEIDINGER BATTERY.

The Meidinger element is a modification of the Daniell battery; but it has no porous cell, and possesses greater durability and constancy of current. It consists, as shown in

the engraving, of a glass vessel, A A, 8 inches high and 5 inches wide, in the bottom of which is placed a small glass vessel, d d, of half the dimensions of the larger glass, cemented in with rosin. A zinc disk, Z Z, which is supported upon a ledge of the outside vessel, surrounds the smaller glass. The inside wall of the smaller glass, d d, is covered by a sheet of copper, e, on the lower end of which an insulated copper wire, g, is The mouth of the riveted.

vessel is closed by a wooden or tin plate having an opening in the center for the reception of a glass cylinder, h, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 8 inches bigh, narrowing towards

sonous organic gases from a kitchen yard, from a neglected per, ck, soldered to the zinc disk, we obtain a galvanic current having an electromotive force equal to that of a Daniell cell, and it remains constant as long as there is sulphate of copper in the glass tube, h; and the zinc, Z, is not dissolved. During the activity of the battery, in fact, the solution of sulphate of copper increases a little in quantity, in consequence of a diffusion which is caused by the overflowing (in the smaller glass, d d) of the heavier sulphate of zinc solution formed by the dissolution of zinc. By the action of the current, the greater part of the copper is deposited on the upper half of the copper plate. A trace of copper, however, appears upon the zinc, but frequently this is after several weeks operation. The duration of the battery depends on the size of the glass vessel. A battery of the size described (according to Meidinger's statement) ought to be taken to pieces and the solution of Epsom salt and sulphate of zinc drawn off, and pure water put in it as soon as it has consumed 3 lbs. of sulphate of copper, which, however, may take a year.

The resistance of this cell considerably exceeds that of the Daniell battery with porous cells; but for a line battery, where the resistance in the wire is very considerable, this is of no special importance. Meidinger recommends, for main lines, cells 5 inches high and 3 inches wide; while the battery of the size depicted in our engraving is intended for local use and for line batteries of small resistance. As a local battery for the Morse telegraph, it is best to use six cells. two of which are connected with like poles, so that we have, practically, three elements with enlarged surface and conductivity.

Generally, in charging the Meidinger element, a solution of 1 part Epsom salts to 4 or 5 parts of water may be used. In proportion to the activity of the battery and the consumption of the sulphate of copper, fresh crystals of this salt should be added to the contents of the glass funnel. But when the surface of the fluid has sunk by evaporation, soft water only need be added to the glass funnel. An improvement has been obtained in this element by having the funnel-shaped sulphate of copper vessel entirely closed at the top. After the jar, h, has been charged with crystals of sulphate of copper, a solution of Epsom salts (sulphate of magnesia) is added thereto

The Meidinger battery is valuable wherever long dura tion and a current of moderate but constant strength is required, and especially for operating the Morse telegraph, electrical clocks, hotel telegraphs, and electric bells. The chief condition for its successful use is that it shall not be shaken, as shaking causes a mixture of the fluids, and in this way destroys its action and the constancy of the current. Its faults consist in the liability that the tube, h, may be filled up with sulphate of copper (either from impurities of the salt or from precipitation of metallic copper) or crystals of sulphate of zinc, so that the action of the element ceases; and partly because the flow of the solution of sulphate of copper from the tube to the lower edge of the zinc cylinder rises, and then, at the least diffusion, the sulphate of copper at tacks the zinc. When this happens, the sulphate of copper is decomposed by the zinc, a superfluous quantity of sulphate of zinc is formed in the fluid, and metallic copper is precipitaved in the form of a brown, spongy powder upon the zinc cylinder. This battery is extensively used upon the Austrian telegraph lines.

Useful Recipes for the Shop, the Household, and the Farm.

Beef bones, boiled in water for some hours with rock salt and a little alum, yield a size which can be used in the preparation of cotton and silk goods.

The clatter and risk of glass in carriage windows can be prevented by placing, at the bottom of the casing, an arched piece of india rubber.

Unless the mouth is frequently and carefully cleansed, it becomes infested with vegetable and animal parasites. These cause decay of the teeth. Soap is the best material for preventing the development of the fungi and for neutralizing the acid. Precipitated chalk mixed with the soap assists the cleansing action.

The following practical hints on ballooning are published by Donaldson the aeronant, in a little paper edited by him and named the Aerial. The lifting strain of a balloon is principally on the net. If a balloon will stand inflation, it is safe in mid-air. In winter, the atmosphere is warmer one mile above the clouds than it is at the earth's surface. The weight of a balloon to carry one man, including net and basket, should not exceed 80 lbs. A cotton balloon will last for about sixty ascensions. A balloon thirty feet in diameter undergoes a strain of 14 lbs. to the square foot of surface. Gas, which at the earth fills the bag only half full, will, at an elevation of 31 miles, expand so as to fill it completely. One thousand feet of coal gas will raise 38 lbs. Gas which gives a poor light is the best for aerostatics. Kites can be used to steer balloons by sending them up or lowering them into currents of air traveling in different directions from that in which the balloon is sailing.

DECISIONS OF THE COURTS.

United States Circuit Court---District of New Jersey.

COATENT HARNESS THEMMING - WELLAM M. WELLING CO. THE RUBDER-COATED HARNESS-TRIMMING COMPANY, ANDREW ALBRIGHT, AND LUTHER . YOORHEIS

[In equity.-Before Nixon, J.-Decided May, 1874.]

COATED HARVESS-TRIMMING COMPANT, ANDREW ALBRIGHT, AND LUTHER

 YOORHEIS
 [In equity.—Before Nixon, J. —Decided May, 1874.]

 NIXON, J.:

 This is a suit for an alleged infringement of letters patent. No. 33, 941, and bearing date March 17, 1885, granted to the complainant for "a new and useful improvement in rings for martingales." and the questions in issue are determined by the construction and scope to be given to the specification of the specificatin specification of the specification of the specification of

PATENT HARNESS TRIMMING. - WILLIAM M. WELLING CS. THE RUBBER-COATED HARNESS-TEIMMING COMPANY, ANDREW ALBRIGHT, AND L. C. VOORHEIS. [In equity.-Before Nixon, J.-Decided February, 1875.]

NIXON, J.: This is an application for ana trachment against the defendants for violat-Ing an injunction issued by this court, June 12, 137, restraining them from making, using, or vending to others to be used, any harnessor carriage trimmings containing the invention of the plaintiff, and secured to him by letters patent, to wit, " a ring manufactured as set forth substantially," with " a metal ring enveloped in composition, as and for the purpose spe-cined."

with "a metal ring enveloped in composition, as and for the "purpose spe-cided." The injunction followed the decree of the court, sustaining the validity of the complatant's patent, No. 37,941, for 'an improvement in rings for may ingales '' and the question now suggested is the scope of the said pat-

maritualizes:" and the question now suggested is the scope of the said pat-tal. In the course of the accounting before the master, it was insisted by the defendants that the patent of complainant referred only to the use of cer-tal n compositions in the manufacture of rings for marilugales, and hence that the derive compaled them to account only for the manufacture of rings; whereas the complainant claimed that all the articles used in har-ness and carriage trimmings which have been treated by the process included by the master. Thave examined the bill, answer, proofs, arguments of counsel, and the opinion heretofore given in the case, and this examination has confirmed the strong impression in my mind, when this application was made, that the complainant is asking that a wider scope the allowed to the claims of the some and meaning; but that the question has not been presented, and that the patent has not been considered in reference to such construction. * All that the complainant is permitted to claim, under the decisions of the court as it stands, is a specific article of manufacture, to wit: A metal ring, coated with any plastic composition capable of beins of the pressed and solidified by the use and action of dies, whereby a ring is pro-duced with an exterior surface more durable and more...;hy pollshed than has before been obtained by different processes of manufacture and at greater cost.

spreater cost. Such a construction, obviously, relates to the product. The complain ant's patent is he id to be good for the product resulting from a new com-bination of old instrumentalities. His claim on this application is under-stood to be for the process, and that the invention includers that as well as the product. Doubtless both may be covered by one patent, as was held by Judge Frier, in this court, in the case of poodycar rs. The Kallroads, (2 Wall, p. 35) but insuch a case the description of the invention in the spe-cification and claims should disclose that the inventor had both results in his mind.

cification and claims should disclose that the inventor has been actively the mind. But the grave doubt here is whether the specification and claim of the complainants's patent are broad and full enough to cover a new process as it is a well settled principle that a patentee mays olimit his claim as to deprive himself of the full benefit of his invention or discovery. It was to remedy such a difficulty or omission that the privilex of the realize any substantial advantage from some of the most userial inventions, and reissue hare been made. The complainant is entitled to be protected only in the rights which the the set of the set

their too narrow claims, until such surrender, amendments, and reissue have been made.
The complainant is entitled to be protected only in the rights which the letterspatent cover and secure to him. I notine to the oplinion that the specification and claim of the patent under consideration will be found too limited in their scope to admit of the construction now claimed for them by the shie counsel for the complainant; but without expressing any decided conviction on the subject, I shall, at this stage of the case. deny the application for an attachment, and direct the master to proceed with the accounting.
Under the referenceal ready ordered he may take an account—
Of the rings coated and finished by the defendants, according to their methods as described in the profs.
Of the terrets, buckles, and hooks, as claimed by the complainant.
He will make up the two accounts separately, so that the aggregate of each may be readily distinguished; and when hisreport is made, the parities will have the oport.
The ter the reference fully presented, as they may be, on exception to the report.

lon to the report. [F. H. Betts, for complainant. J. C. Clayton and A. Q. Kazsbey, for defendants.]

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE PHILADELPHIA LEDGER ALMANAC. G. W. Childs, Philadelphia, Pa.

At the commencement of the year 1870, Mr. Childs, publisher of the dally Philadelphia Ledger, issued an almanac which contained not only the calendar and a great deal of statistical information of a local interest, but alsoseveral pages of practical household recipes, and other information of general value. One hundred thousand copies were printed and presented to the subscribers of the Ledger in that year. The firstissue proving so acceptable as a book of reference, Mr. Childs was induced to continue the publication and gratuitous distribution among the Ledger's patrons, and each successive year has the work improved. By the favor of the publisher, we have before us, nestly bound, six years' numbers of his almanac, which make a handsome volume of 350 pages of very valuable information, on both local and general subjects, not attainable in so completes form in any other work. LEFFEL'S MILLING AND MECHANICAL NEWS. Fifty cents per annum. James Leffel & Co., Springfield, Ohio. To persons interested in milling machinery or water power, this paper ued each month, possesses especial interest. The editor is an admirer o the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, and in his April number promulgates the fact as follows: " It is a matter of just congratulation to Americans that, whatever may be the assumed superiority of European standards in art and literature, this country has at least one scientific journal which so signally eclipses any foreign publication of the kind that a comparison can scarcely be made. We refer, of course, to the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, published by Mesers. Munn & Co. 37 Park Row, New York city. Besides being a recog nized authority and inexhaustible medium of information in the whole domain of practical science, it is faultiess in its appearance, and its illustrations are works of art. Its subscription price is \$3.20 per annum, postage prepaid, and the immense circulation it has reached is a proof of the advan cing intelligence of the American people."

the lower end, which is rounded and in which a hole is made. This tube is sunk to the center of the small glass, d d. The entire vessel is filled up to the zinc disk, about 11 inches below the upper brim, with a diluted solution of Epsom salts. The glass cylinder, k. in place of which a glass funnel can be used, is filled with crystals of sulphate of copper, forming a concentrated solution, which, being a heavier fluid, sinks down through the small hole in the glass tube, and fills the small glass, d d, to the center.

There is very little diffusion of the copper solution upwards, or out of the little glass vessel, d d, to the zinc disk, Z, even when the battery is not in operation; so that, after the lapse of several weeks, the zinc scarcely shows any signs of being affected by the copper. The battery is therefore much superior to the ordinary Daniell battery, which, when the circuit is open, produces a great diffusiou of the sul phate of copper through the porous cup.

The zinc is usually amalgamated on its inner side enabling its impurities to be easily removed, which would otherwise form a hard crust. If the copper wire, gf, which is riveted to the copper sheet, e, is connected with a small strip of cop. talllow one ounce.

To make green gold, melt together nineteen grains pure gold and five grains pure silver. The metal thus prepared has a beautiful green shade.

The following recipes for metals resembling gold are said to produce a metal which will so nearly approximate the genuine as almost to defy detection without a resort to thorough tests: Fuse, together with saltpeter, sal ammoniac, and powdered charcoal, 4 parts platinum, 24 parts pure copper, 1 part pure zinc, 2 parts block tin, and 14 parts pure lead. Another good recipe calls for two parts platinum, 1 part silver, and 3 parts copper.

Cement for sealing fruit cans is made of resin one pound,