

New Microscopic Telescope.

Mr. C. B. Boyle recently exhibited before the photographic section of the American Institute, in this city, a new optical instrument, which he called the microscopic telescope.

CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT SPONGES.

With this instrument, although but lately completed, he has already made one curious discovery—that no matter how long a sponge may have been used, no matter how long it may have been kept dry, its life is apparently restored when it is wet.

He has put upon a sponge all sorts of dust, so that they should be under the same circumstances as the pores of the sponge, but nothing but the pores of the sponge appeared to be in motion.

The power of this instrument was forty-two diameters.

IMMENSE PHOTOGRAPHS.—There are now on exhibition in Paris says the Revue Industrielle, the two largest photographs which have been made since the introduction of the art.

DECISIONS OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS-IN-CHIEF. PRESENT: MAROUS, HOPKINS, R. L. B. CLARK & CONCURRING.—APPLICATION OF MILLER T. GREENLEAF AND GEORGE Q. ADAMS FOR A PATENT FOR A CAR COUPLING.

In this case the Examiner admits that the patents of England and Thompson do not present the structure claimed. They do not show the transverse link stop, and are, therefore, not in point.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Brown vs. Selby (9 O. G. Vol. 6, No. 13) held that "the mere fact of having unsuccessfully applied for a patent does not take a case out of the category of untried experiments."

In the case of the Lyman Ventilating and Refrigerator Company vs. the Philadelphia Fire Extinction Company (O. G. Vol. 6, No. 2), a rejected application which had not been withdrawn or formally abandoned, but which was probably an abandoned application by operation of the 3rd and 25th sections of the Act of July 8, 1870, was invoked to defeat a patent.

The language of the court was that rejected applications "lack the essential quality of a publication, in that they were not designed for general circulation, nor were they made accessible to the public generally."

necessarily works the abandonment of the alleged invention it purports to describe. For, necessarily follows that, if the alleged invention is not abandoned, it is not sufficient in the absence of any other evidence, to establish the making of an invention, it cannot be sufficient to establish the abandonment of an invention; because an invention cannot be shown to have been abandoned until it is first shown to have been made.

When an alleged inventor duly files an application for a patent in this Office, he thereby institutes a legal proceeding for the purpose of securing an alleged right. It is essentially an action in rem. The abandonment of the application is merely the abandonment of that proceeding—the abandonment of his attempt to procure a patent, and is not the abandonment of the invention itself.

But the case, if there really be any, which may follow a radical change in the adjudications of the Office, with respect to the holding of rejected and abandoned applications a bar to the grant of patents for the devices they may describe and illustrate, must not be left out of view in this connection.

We have then this case to meet. Supposing it to have been ascertained, to the satisfaction of the Office, that an abandoned application was unlawfully refused to be admitted to patent, we must refuse a present applicant's permission to file a new application for the same invention, unless he can show that the applicant is not the inventor of the invention.

These are our opinions, and we are urged here, with much apparent force of reason, to pass our judgment upon this case without regard to what has heretofore been done in the Office in like cases.

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Recent American and Foreign Patents.

Improved Fastening for Railroad Rails. John L. Stewart, Ellicott city, Md.—The object of this invention is to provide a fastening for railroad rails, in which the use of the ordinary spikes is dispensed with, and the devices so constructed that, the greater the pressure upon the rails, the tighter they are clamped.

Improved Machine for Making Fence Pickets. Isaac Levy, Ellaville, Fla.—The invention is an improvement in the class of machines wherein revolving and vertically adjustable cutter heads are employed for dressing the heads of the pickets.

Improved Door Mat.

Orrin Rice, Adrian, Ill.—The sheet metal plate is perforated with holes, and the tufts of corn husks are inserted through them, one end of each tuft being drawn through one of a pair of holes, and the other end through the contiguous hole, so that the free end portions of the tuft will project on the opposite or face side of the plate.

Improved Cherry Pitter.

William B. Knapp, Tecumseh, Mich., assignor to himself and Frank Bumann, of same place.—This cherry pitter is formed of a tube, open at both ends, having a knob placed at one end, and teeth formed upon its other end.

Improved Handle for Child's Carriage.

Charles F. Lauer, Pittsburgh, Pa.—This is a metal handle for children's carriages, having a concave T-shaped piece for attaching it to the wood frame by which the carriage is propelled.

Improved Atomizer.

Charles E. Robinson, Brooklyn, N. Y.—This invention relates to certain improvements in burners or atomizers for oil-burning furnaces. It consists in the combination of a tubular valve, a stem valve contained inside the tubular valve, and a valve seat, so constructed and arranged that the jets of steam and combustible liquid issuing therefrom form two hollow cones intersecting and inverted with respect to each other, so as to insure the thorough mixture of the two elements.

Improved Oil-Burning Apparatus.

Charles E. Robinson, Brooklyn, N. Y.—The object of this invention is to provide a means for supplying petroleum or other liquid hydrocarbon to oil-burning furnaces. It consists in a large supply tank provided with a steam heating coil, a feed pipe extending below the surface of the oil, and a pipe for admitting direct steam pressure upon the oil for forcing it out, in combination with an oil reservoir communicating therewith by means of a valve, and provided with a level gage and inlet pipes for the oil and steam.

Improved Book of Letter Sheets.

Henry S. Jackson, New York city.—The object of this invention is to provide convenient means for leaving memorandum in the absence of persons called upon, and for preventing trouble and delay in writing notes on various occasions; and it consists in a book having the leaves gummed for sealing, with perforations across the leaves to allow each leaf to be easily torn off.

Improved Lamp Burner.

James Curzon, Darien, Conn.—This is a burner of two wicks, having the wick tubes bent longitudinally, either their upper parts or throughout their entire length, and so arranged as to form a star or similar shaped light.

Improved Bed Pipes for Lead-Corroding Houses.

Peter H. Decker, Morriston, N. Y.—This invention has for its object to furnish ventilating or bed pipes for causing a uniform circulation and the same degree of heat through all the corroding pots of all the tiers of the stack. The invention consists in pipes made tapering and provided with blocks in the interior of their lower parts, with holes in the lower and upper parts of their sides, and with caps at their upper ends.

Improved Fire Box Attachment to Steam Boilers.

John Lee, Hazleton, Pa.—The object is to protect the rivet joint from the direct impingement of heat, so as to avoid the weakening of the seam joint without diminishing the fire surface. This is done by a seamless hollow casting, having projecting tubes which may be forced through and held tightly in holes of the boiler, while they may be readily removed by driving a punch passed through the outer holes.

Improved Thread-Winding Guide.

Eugene L. Manchester and John A. Bolen, Springfield, Mass.—This relates to the thread-winding guide used in thread mills for guiding the thread and laying it on the spools. It consists of a wheel in that part of the guide which is employed for laying and compacting the thread on the spool. The object is to substitute rolling for sliding friction, and thereby economize in the cost of guides by largely lessening the wear.

Improved Ruffler.

James McCullough, Aspinwall, Neb.—The essential feature of this invention consists of the ruffing pawl or plate, mounted so as to work on a pivot, and connected to the bell crank, by which it is worked in such manner that the friction due to sliding in ways is avoided. It is so actuated that, in pushing the cloth forward, it presses harder as the resistance increases, and in drawing back it rises off the cloth and moves back easily; and it also acts as a guide to control the cloth and prevent the ruffle from working laterally out of the ruffler.

Improved Self-Closing Hatchway.

Samuel Lawrence, New York city.—The covers of the several floors are connected. To the upper covers are attached cords which are secured to counterpoised levers. This construction throws the levers back when the covers are raised, so that they will be out of the way of the carriage. To the inner ends of the levers are attached cords, which join a single cord which passes down along the side of the hoisting rope, and its lower end is attached to the carriage.

Improved Bottle Stopper.

Charles De Quillfeldt, New York city.—A stopper-carrying yoke is pivoted at some distance from the ends of a wire lever frame, swinging in eyes of a wire band attached to the neck of the bottle. The elastic stopper is made with disk-shaped base and cylindrical shank, perforated for the passage of the yoke, and is tightly secured to the bottle by a sleeve-shaped and flanged cap piece.

Improved Sewing Machine Caster.

John H. Plank, Bloomfield, Iowa.—This invention consists in combining a lever with the socket plates which receive the feet of the sewing machine legs. Said lever is pivoted and otherwise so arranged that, by a movement thereof, the casters of one end of the socket may be lifted off the floor and the support of the machine transferred to the legs, to hold the machine firmly against shifting about while being used.