

and the young lions were offered to her tender care. The gentle mastiff immediately fondled them and assumed the charge, and has since, for a number of weeks, nursed them with affectionate attention.

There are frequently unpleasant deformities in the lions born and bred here. Their legs are too short and are sometimes bowed very noticeably.

Beside the common spotted hyena there is a striped species in the collection, which is regarded as new to Science. This creature has a stiff mane, which is erected at every movement.

THE "HAY CRITTERS."

The young camel was one of the most interesting of the creatures born in the Park. Then there are Cape buffalo calves, and the beautiful Zebu calf, and the bison calf, and several others.

Since the completion of the large new house for ruminants, or "hay critters," as they are familiarly called, the exhibition has been very fine.

THE SEA LIONS.

A recent improvement in the treatment of the sea lions is worthy of notice. The pond in the rear of the carnivorium, which has heretofore been used for the great wading birds, has been surrendered to the seals and such creatures.

Poetical Soap.

Messrs. Water and Oil One day had a broil, As down in the glass they were dropping.

DECISIONS OF THE COURTS.

United States Circuit Court—Fifth District of Louisiana.

PATENT STEAMBOAT STAGING AND DERRICK.—C. K. CONVERSE AND OTHERS vs. JOHN W. CANNON AND OTHERS.

WOODS, Cir. J.: The complainants allege that they are the assignees of a patent issued to one A. John Bell, dated January 22, 1861, for an "improvement in steamboat staging" that they are also the assignees of two patents issued to one Hannibal S. Blood, the first dated June 7, 1876, being a new and useful improvement in derrick or hoisting crane, and relating particularly to a means for avoiding the labor and delay incident to handling and manipulating heavy landing stages used on steamboats and water craft by manual labor.

Applying these principles to this case in hand, there can be no doubt that the defendants have appropriated the invention covered by the patent of A. John Bell.

The variations which have been made in the method of attaching the rope in the form of the derrick in the position in which the stage is placed on the deck are immaterial variations, which do not affect the question of infringement.

Supreme Court of the United States.

OCTOBER TERM, 1875.—PATENT SAWMILL.—CALEB IVES AND GEORGE B. CROCKER, PLAINTIFFS, vs. PALMER HAMILTON, DECEASED.—IN ERROR TO THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

Mr. Justice BRADLEY delivered the opinion of the Court. This was an action brought to recover damages for the infringement of certain letters patented to Hamilton, the plaintiff below, for an improvement in sawmills. The defendants pleaded the general issue, with notice of special matter, setting up several prior inventions, amongst others that of one Isaac Straub.

Recent American and Foreign Patents.

NEW MECHANICAL AND ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED ISTLE MACHINE.

Guillermo Roberto Welke, Parras de la Fuente, Mexico.—The object of this invention is to produce an improved machine for making istle, or the fiber of the lechugilla, which is applied in Mexico to the manufacture of a large number of articles, as hammocks, sacks, ropes, nets, cotton bagging, wagon sheets, carpets, and similar objects.

IMPROVED WIRE STRETCHER.

Seman Taber, Russel Taber, and Charles M. Morgan, Hesper, Iowa, assignors to Seman Taber, Darius F. Morgan, and Charles M. Morgan, same place.—This device is for tightening wires that have been strung up, and especially fence wires.

IMPROVED ROTARY PUMP.

William O. Crocker, Turner's Falls, Mass.—There are two toothed pistons engaging the one with the other. The peculiar construction of the teeth of the pistons enables the said teeth to be made so small that at least one tooth may always be in contact with each abutment, while at the same time having sufficient water space.

IMPROVED TACK MACHINE.

Charles P. Weaver, Norristown, Pa.—This invention relates to machines with two cutting jaws for making tacks or small nails, and consists in so combining the header lever with the crank pitman by a lever, pin, and link, that the power can be applied directly in the line of the work, thereby avoiding all lateral strain.

IMPROVED CAR COUPLING.

Peter C. Murray, Sloatsburg, N. Y.—This invention consists of a centrally recessed drawhead, with a stationary link attached thereto, that is coupled by the laterally sliding cross pin of the connecting drawhead, the pin being guided and locked in open or closed position by a side standard and pin rod.

IMPROVED GAS GOVERNOR.

David B. Peebles, Edinburgh, Scotland.—Between two half cases, made of cast iron, a flexible diaphragm is fixed, and a passage for the gas is made between the upper and lower chamber through the projecting part of the case. In the lower half a recess is made to receive a disk of metal not acted on by gas.

IMPROVED AUTOMATIC TELEGRAPH KEY AND REGISTER.

Lucien S. Crandall, New York city.—This is an improved automatic telegraph key and register, by which, it is claimed, the manual and mental labor in transmitting telegraphic signals are facilitated and simplified to a considerable degree.

reference by insulated and non-insulated portions and separating recesses, to correspond to the characters of the Morse alphabet. A number of spring keys are arranged around the letter ring, and lettered alphabetically, to correspond with the Morse letters of the ring.

IMPROVED MILLSTONE DRESSING MACHINE.

William B. Chase, Faribault, Minn.—This is an improvement in the class of millstone-dressing machines in which a pick or cutting tool is operated by a vibrating lever, and caused to travel over the face of the stone by means of pawl and ratchet mechanism.

IMPROVED LEVELING AND TRAMMING APPARATUS FOR MILLSTONES.

James T. Beckwith, Cameron Mills, N. Y.—This consists of a frame suspended from another frame, on which the stone rests, and is leveled by screws from below. On the suspended frame are screws, which, being adjusted in the frame when the stone is first leveled by its face, serve afterward to level the stone at any time without removing the runner.

IMPROVED MACHINE FOR BORING AND WALLING WELLS.

Charles B. Stough, Monticello, Ill.—A wheeled frame supports a circular way, beside which is a toothed rim, which gives rotary motion to a horizontal shaft, which is mounted in a frame, the said frame being rotated by suitable power.

NEW WOODWORKING AND HOUSE AND CARRIAGE BUILDING INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED SLED PROPELLER.

William H. Shelton, Jr., New York city.—The sleigh is provided at both sides with slotted guides, and fulcrum lever handles slide loosely therein. Said handles have end claws that take hold of the ice or ground, and produce, by the weight of the body, the forward motion of the sleigh or carriage on the fixed lever fulcrum.

NEW CHEMICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED OILER.

George W. Parsons, Salisbury, Md.—The construction of this oiler is such that it may be overturned without spilling any of the oil, and the amount of oil discharged can be readily controlled. There is an ingenious arrangement of rack and pinion mechanism inside, which ordinarily keeps the nozzle shut, but which opens the same to a degree corresponding to the distance in which the bottom of the can is pressed inward.

IMPROVED STEAM RADIATOR.

George P. Jacobs, Brooklyn, N. Y.—This is a one-piece radiator tube, having four steam ducts surrounding the central air tube, said ducts being in pairs, the two of a pair being connected, but each pair being independent of the other.

IMPROVED LEACH.

Marion P. Wolfe and Edwin M. Henke, Crawfordsville, Ind.—This consists essentially of an ash receptacle and leach having an inclined and channelled bottom, and a top reservoir with perforated bottom to distribute the water and draw off the lye.

IMPROVED STREET SPRINKLER.

William Westerfield, New York city.—This is a piston shaped valve located in the main pipe connected with the sprinkling tube. The pipe which leads water from the tank enters the main pipe, and as the valve is adjusted, one or the other side of the aperture of the former water is shut off or admitted to the sprinkler.

NEW AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

IMPROVED CHURN.

James L. Sprague, Hermon, N. Y.—This invention includes propeller shaped paddles which draw the cream to the center of the churn, and through suitable apertures in which air is forced through the cream. Devices are added to prevent clogging of the cream at the corners of the churn.

IMPROVED GRAIN HEADER.

Charles K. Myers and John W. Irwin, Pekin, Ill., assignors to Peter Weyrich and C. K. Myers, of same place.—In this apparatus the cutter bar can be adjusted for cutting the grain higher or lower, and can be regulated to suit varying heights of grain.

COMBINED SCRAPER, CHOPPER, AND DIRT-ER.

Arthur L. Spence, Alma, Ark.—This machine scrapes the cotton plants, chops them, and then, by means of plows, dirt them as it advances. The new feature introduced is a device in connection with the choppers which, should they strike an obstruction, allows them to stop their motion, while that of other parts of the apparatus continues.