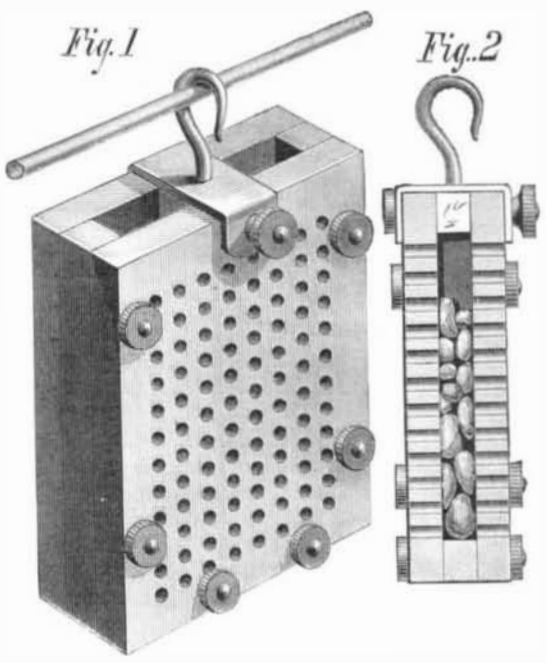
WENZEL'S NICKEL ANODE.

The difficulty that attends the operation of making plates of pure nickel for battery anodes has rendered it imperative that something should be devised which would render possible the use of ordinary grain nickel for such a purpose. A very effective little device for containing grain nickel is shown in perspective in Fig. 1, and in section in Fig. 2, in the accompanying engraving. The nickel holder consists of a flat box made of ordinary battery carbon, and having perforated sides, between which the grains of nickel are held loosely, so that the bath solution may come into contact with



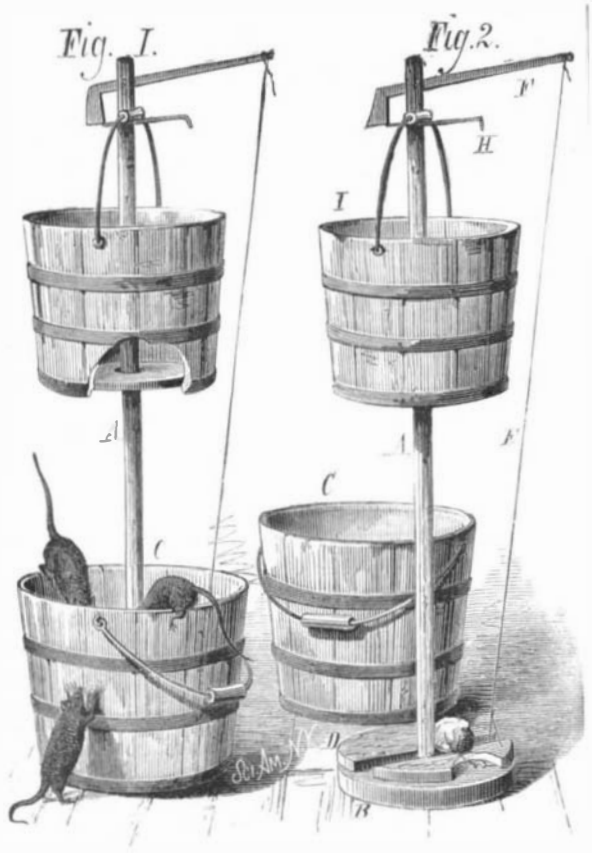
WENZEL'S NICKEL ANODE.

the entire surface of each grain. The holder is provided with a hook by which it is suspended from the battery wire. The perforated carbon plates and the strips that separate them are clamped together by rubber bolts, which are provided with milled nuts, so that the holder may be readily taken apart for cleaning, and as the top of the holder is open the grains of nickel may at any time be readily removed for washing. This anode is practically indestructible, and we are informed by the inventor that its use insures a solid coating of metal and effects a considerable saving in time.

This invention was recently patented by Mr Adolph C. Wenzel, of New York city, from whom further information may be obtained.

A NOVEL ANIMAL TRAP.

The accompanying engraving represents a novel rat trap, which consists of two pails, one suspended over the other by



HOY'S ANIMAL TRAP.

mechanism that is released by the entrance of a rat into the lower pail.

The inventor prefers to use two ordinary pails, such as are in common use for household purposes, as the rats would be more readily deceived by the appearance of on article with which they are familiar; and the efficiency of the trap is enhanced if the pails have previously been used for holding kitchen refuse and retain some of the odor, as rats are accustomed to forage in vessels of that character.

The standard, A, has a circular base piece, B, which is fitted to the pail, C. A second board or disk, D, is hinged to the lower board, and is apertured to admit the standard and also the tripping cord, E. A trigger, F, is pivoted in the upper end of the standard, A, and its shorter arm, which is bent downward, is roughened and engages the roughened end of a pin, H, which projects through the slot in the upper end of the standard and supports the pail, I, by its handle. The bottom of this pail is apertured so that it may slide easily on the standard. The tripping cord, E, is attached to the longer arm of the trigger, F, and extends downward through the aperture in the disk, D, through a staple in the base piece, thence upward through the disk, where it is attached to the bait. A short piece of cord is attached to the cord, E, and also to the disk, D.

Fig. 1 in the engraving shows the trap set, Fig. 2 shows the trap removed from the lower pail. When the trap is set the weight of a rat entering the lower pail depresses the hinged disk, and thus by drawing on the cord, E, moves the trigger, F, so as to release the pin, H, and permit the upper pail to descend and crush the rat in the lower pail. Should the weight of the rat prove insufficient to disengage the trigger, then the pulling at the bait will accomplish it. The upper pail may be weighted or any suitable follower may be substituted for it.

This invention was recently patented by Mr. Albert H. Hoy, of Racine, Wis., from whom further information may be obtained.

Recent Inventions.

Mr. William C. Freeman, of Louisiana, Missouri, has patented an improved Scoop, made of a semi cylindrical bowl of steam bent wood, glued and tacked in a circumferential rabbet on a concavo-convex circular head piece, in which the handle is screwed and glued obliquely above the center in about axial line with the point of the scoop bowl, the latter and the head piece being further secured together by a metal strap on each side, and trimmed to the desired shape.

Mr. Thomas C. Knox, of New York city, has patented an improved Aerated Liquor Apparatus, which is particularly intended for use in connection with fountains, barrels, kegs, or other vessels containing ale, beer, or other aerated or carbonated liquors used as beverages, for the purpose of drawing the liquor for immediate consumption.

Messrs. Dallas M. Killian and Reloy Humbert, of Sioux City, Iowa, have patented a Combined Cradle and Table. It is a table which, by detaching the top, inverting the frame, and applying rockers, may be converted into a child's cradle. When used as a table, the rockers are placed in a cavity in the top; when used as a cradle, the top is detached, the frame inverted, and the legs folded.

Mr. Wade P. Wood, of Leon, Iowa, has patented an Automatic Brake for Wagons and other vehicles, which is so constructed that a rise of the forward end of the tongue, such as occurs in going down hill, will apply the brake to the wheels; a forward pull of the team will move the brake away from the wheels; when not pulling, the brake will resume its normal position; and a backward movement of the wheels (as in backing out) will cause the brake blocks to rise and be released from the wheels.

An improved Shoe has been patented by Leopold Graf, of Newark, N. J This invention relates to the manufacture of shoes, especially those known as "gaiters," and which are buttoned or otherwise fastened on the side. The quarter has its lower front corner cut away to receive an elastic gore piece for the purpose of allowing the shoe to be easily put on the foot.

Mr. William B. Romig, of Lehighton, Pa., has patented an improved Iron Platform for Wagons, which is formed by the combination of the two iron bars with a spring block, and three connecting blocks, a socket plate, and a fifth wheel.

Mr. Dominic Burke, of New York city, has patented an improved Stationary Wash Tub for household and laundry purposes, and it consists in a tub made of hydraulic cement. The object of the invention is to provide a tub that is impervious to water, and will not decay or become leaky.

A NEW CANDLESTICK.

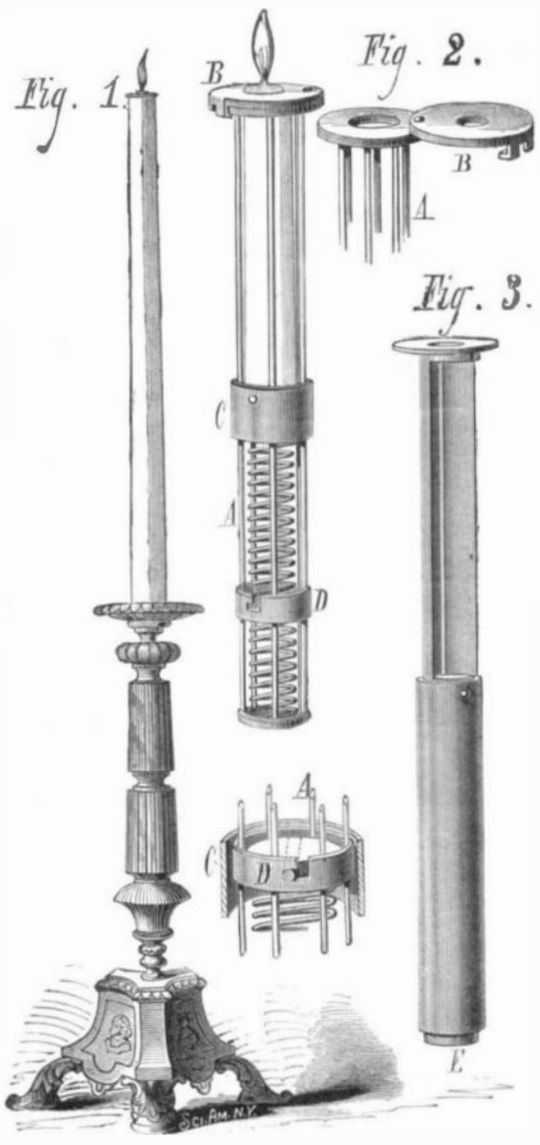
We give herewith several views of an improved form of candlestick, the invention of Mr. Thomas H. Shahan, of 74 Harvard street, Boston, Mass.

This candlestick is made in various forms for different purposes, but the principle is the same in all.

Fig. 1 represents a high altar candlestick, which has the usual external appearance, having a casing for containing the candle, which is made in imitation of a candle of large size.

The details of the interior construction of the candlestick are shown in Fig. 2. The skeleton casing, A, is made of parallel wires secured to head plates, the upper head being apertured, and provided with an apertured pivoted lid plate, B, which has a hook or nib which engages the upper head plate when the candle is in place, and prevents the lifting of the lid plate. The skeleton casing, A, contains a spring acted follower, which is connected with the sleeve, C, by means of a transverse rod, which also serves as a means of holding the spring under compression while the candle is being inserted, the rod being placed in L-shaped notches in a collar, D, attached to the wires of the skeleton frame, and turned. When the follower is thus secured, the candle is placed in the skeleton casing through the aperture in the head, and the lid plate, B, is closed over it. The tip of the candle protrudes through the lid, and as the candle burns the spring follower carries it upward, so that the tip is always in the same position.

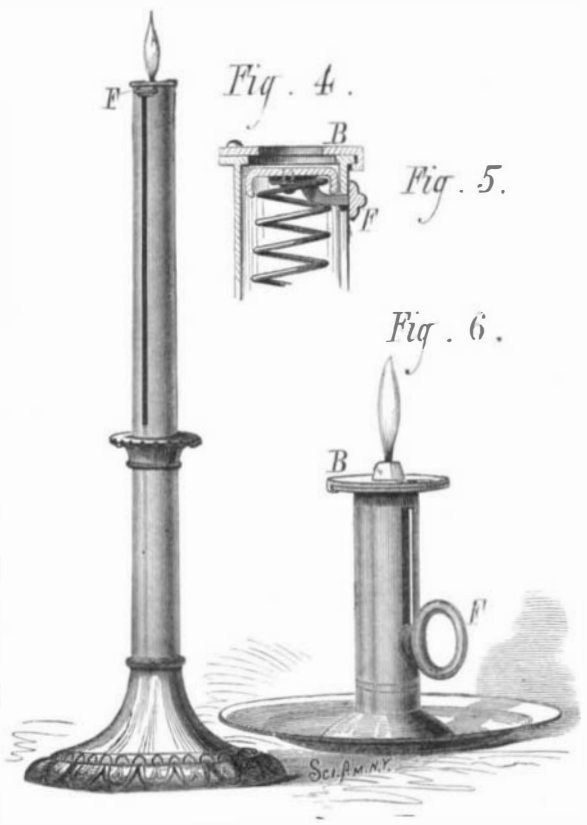
The modified form shown in Fig. 3 is substantially the same in principle as that just described. A long tube, E, is substituted for the skeleton casing, A, and one side of the upper half of the tube is removed to receive the candle. The upper head is apertured for the candle tip, the tube contains



HIGH ALTAR CANDLESTICK.

a spring-acted follower that is connected with a sleeve fitted to the outside of the tube by means of a rod which serves as a fastener, being secured by L-shaped notches, as in the other case.

Figures 4 and 6 exhibit the device as applied to common portable candlesticks, and Fig. 5 represents in detail the arrangement of the spring follower and the pivoted lid piece.



PORTABLE CANDLESTICKS.

In this case the follower is provided with a thumb piece which projects through a slot in the side of the candlestick. The candle is inserted through the apertured upper head, as in the device first described.

For further particulars address the patentee as above.