

A Careless Meteor.

In the northwest corner of Emmett county, in the township of the same name, State of Iowa, bordering Minnesota State line, a meteor of unusually large dimensions recently fell. A correspondent of one of our Western contemporaries, who has visited the place, thus describes the meteor and the scene attending its descent:

It was about 5 o'clock in the afternoon that a terrible, indescribable noise was heard, scaring the cattle and terrifying the inhabitants for twenty miles about. There was a line of yellow-red smoke-colored haze, inside of which was an infernal rumble, as, at the rate of fifty miles a second, this strange, howling monster, or wonder, came toward the earth with a roar and a crash that fairly shook the earth.

Before it struck there was an explosion terrible, to hear and suggestive of the final dissolution of all things, and then, with a shock and a thud, something struck. Men ran to the spot to find that, at a point within thirty feet of the county line, the soil had been torn as though ripped by lightning, and that a hole was left in proof that something had gone in there out of the way. Chunks of soil were thrown forty rods away from the hole, which, on being dug into to the depth of fifteen feet, ten feet of which distance was in solid blue clay, revealed a lump of metal resembling iron mixed with silver. The hole was dug larger, and by means of chains the mineral was taken out and found to weigh 431 lb. It is two feet long and about sixteen inches square, if a ragged chunk can be called square. Another chunk, weighing 32 lb., fell not far distant, plowing up the soil within twelve rods of the school house near the residence of John Barber. Another piece, weighing 156 lb., was found bedded five feet in blue clay.

There is trouble here over the find. One man, who owns the land, declares that the property is his, while the man who first found it says it is his by right of discovery. The same is the case in each instance. Suits at law have been entered by the owner of the soil against the men who dug them out, and who have hidden their treasure where the officers of the law, as yet, cannot find them.

These are the facts. Now what is the thing that fell, and where did it come from? S. N. R.

To this the editor of the *La Crosse Democrat* replies that it was undoubtedly a meteor, or a fragment of a comet thrown out by explosion: and following its orbit perhaps for thousands of years, till, losing its momentum, it came within the atmosphere of the earth, and was then, cooling as it whirled through space, attracted to the earth, and, rushing with terrible speed, drove itself into the soil, as above described. The material of which meteors is composed is known as meteoric iron, a useless, burned metal, resembling cinder of iron, but utterly useless, except as a curiosity.

Simple Treatment for Sciatica.

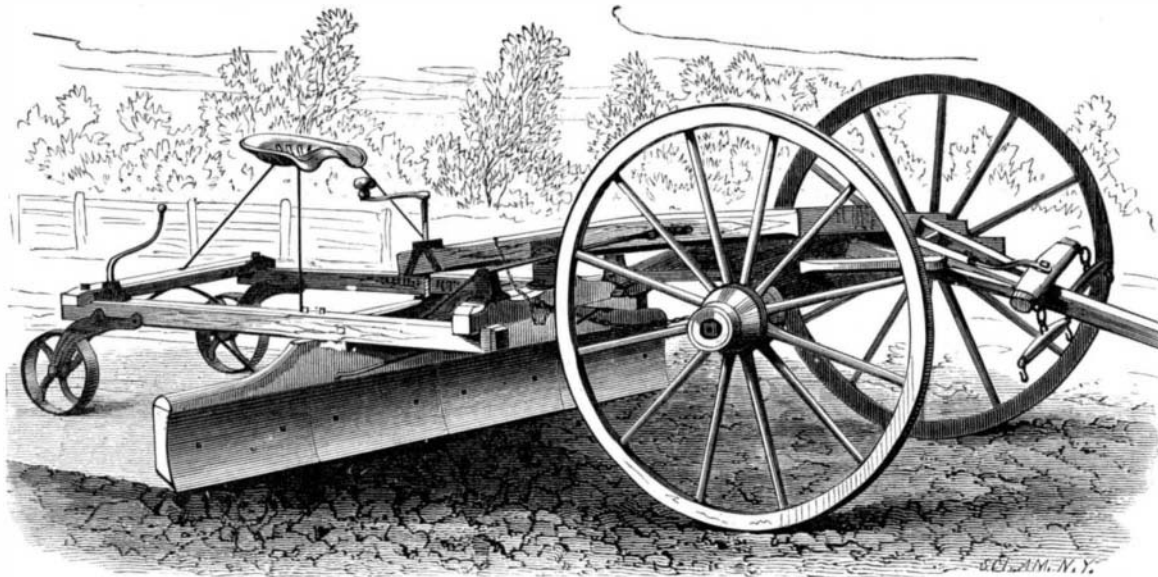
Dr. Ebrard, of Nimes, states that he has for many years treated all his cases of sciatica and neuralgic pains with an improvised electric apparatus, consisting merely of a flatiron and vinegar, two things that will be found in every house. The iron is heated until sufficiently hot to vaporize the vinegar, and is then covered with some woolen fabric, which is moistened with vinegar, and the apparatus is applied at once to the painful spot. The application may be repeated two or three times a day. As a rule, the pain disappears in 24 hours, and recovery ensues at once.—*Jour. de Méd., etc., de Bruxelles.*

IMPROVED ROAD PLANE.

We give herewith an engraving of a simple and easily operated implement for planing, leveling, and smoothing roadways, boulevards, etc.; removing the earth or gravel from the high to the low places, filling them, and carrying the remaining earth toward the center of the road.

It consists of a curved blade suspended diagonally from the under side of a rectangular frame supported at the rear on wheels, and at the front pivoted to a coupler or reach, one end of which is connected with the planer frame by an elevating and depressing screw, while the opposite end, when the implement is in use, is supported on the axle of the front wheels of an ordinary wagon. In connection with the right hand hind wheel there is a screw, by which the ends of the planer blade may be raised or lowered, so that if it is desired it may scrape hard in the drain at the road or track side, passing the dirt under the blade, and spreading it before it gets to the opposite end of the blade.

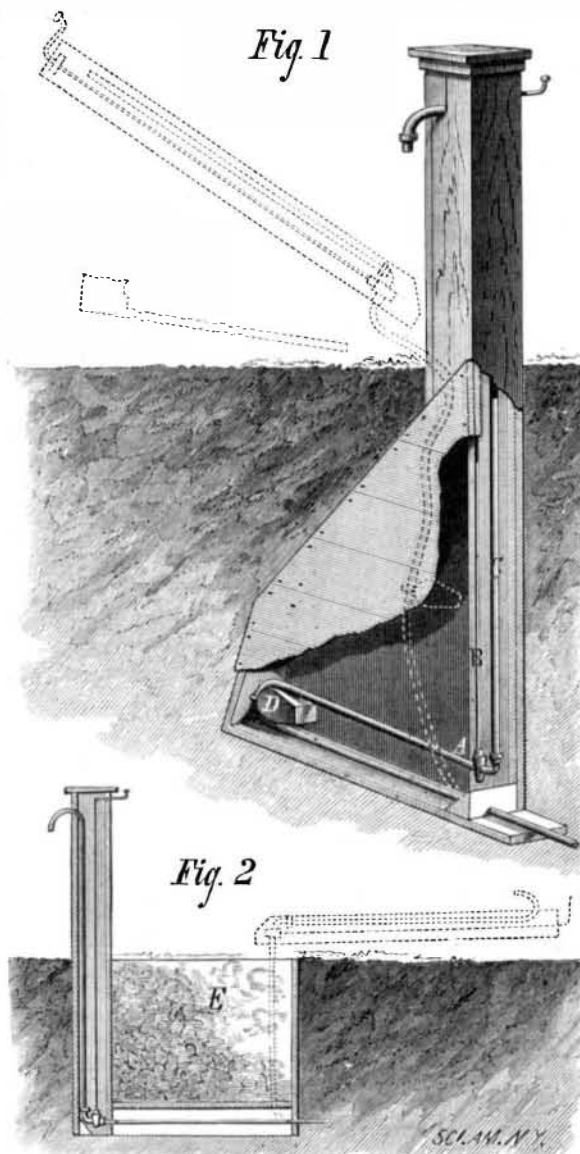
This implement was recently patented by J. P. Lafetra, of Shrewsbury, N. J.

**LAFETRA'S ROAD PLANE.****IMPROVED HYDRANT.**

The great difficulty in removing, replacing, repairing, or changing the ground faucets or valves of hydrants as ordinarily constructed, has led to the improvement which is shown in our engraving, and which was recently patented by Messrs. Benson & Rose, of Detroit, Mich.

The invention consists essentially in a box or casing of novel form, and in an arrangement of the water pipes, which permits of the examination or repair of the faucet or pipe.

The box or casing (Fig. 1), the upper portion of which may be of any of the usual forms, is enlarged below the

**BENSON & ROSE'S HYDRANT.**

ground and made in approximately triangular form, one side being vertical and a continuation of the upper portion. This peculiar form provides for the accomplishment of the main object of the invention, which is the arrangement of the water pipe, C, so that it may be raised to permit of the examination and repair of the faucet, A. The water pipe, C, is carried along the lower horizontal portion of the casing to the angle, where it is bent double and carried back nearly to the vertical side, where it is bent at a right angle and carried vertically to the top of the casing, where it terminates in the usual bibb or nozzle.

At the point where the pipe is bent double it is provided with a semi-elliptical block, D, attached to it in any suitable

the faucet or valve, D, is desired, the cover and side of the box are removed, and the carrier piece, by which the pipes and valve rod are supported, is raised vertically until its lower end clears the enlarged portion of the casing. It is then inclined, as indicated in dotted lines. The pipe is sufficiently flexible to admit of straightening it out. The valve, A, may then be inspected or repaired, and the whole may afterward be readily replaced.

Fig. 2 shows a modification of the device already described. The box, instead of being triangular, is square and the pipe is straight. The pipe is raised up in the manner indicated in the engraving, when it is desired to examine the valve. To prevent freezing, the box is filled with straw, tan bark, or earth. This is readily removed with a small hoe when occasion requires.

Further information concerning this invention may be obtained from Messrs. Benson & Rose, No. 539 Mallett St., Detroit, Mich.

RECENT AMERICAN PATENTS.

Mr. Jacob J. Boyer, of Hebron, Neb., has patented an improved bag fastener, which consists of a metal chain having a split ring for connecting the chain to the bag, and provided with a number of rings and with a hook for engaging the rings when the bag is fastened.

Messrs. L. B. Schaefer and H. Hennings, of Baltimore, Md., have patented an improved scholar's companion, which consists in an arrangement of a receptacle for containing various small articles, and two crossed straps for securing the books, an arm strap being provided for convenience in carrying.

An improved stand for ice pitchers has been patented by Mr. Thomas Leach, of Taunton, Mass. It consists mainly in an annular seat adapted to receive the base of any kind of pitcher. This seat is hinged to a segmental support which admits of tilting the pitcher.

Mr. John Askwith, of Chicago, Ill., has patented an improvement in cans, which consists in feet formed of a cup and stem, the object being to prevent any oil or other liquid that may be upon the bottom of the can from spreading to the lower end of the feet.

An improved switch board, which is so arranged that a message may be transmitted on any two wires simultaneously, and which admits of working either wire separately and independently, has been patented by Messrs. W. E. & J. W. Busby, of Shamong, N. J.

An improved boot strap, which consists of a metallic strap or ear provided with a loop for the finger, and a plate with projecting points which pass through the boot leg and are bent down to secure the strap to the boot, has been patented by Mr. William Smith, of Eaton Rapids, Mich.

A neat and easily arranged clothes horse that can be fixed to the wall of a room and adjusted to receive a larger or smaller quantity of clothing, has been patented by Mr. Thomas W. Green, of Philadelphia, Pa.

An improvement in bakers' ovens has been patented by Mr. George Brake, of Lansing, Mich. The sides, ends, and roof of the oven are of brick, and the bottom, which is of stone or some refractory composition, is supported on central arches over an end fireplace and on projections or recesses at the ends and sides.

Mr. Frederic Jensen, of Seattle, Washington Ter., has devised an improved convertible chair, which may be used as a bed. It is so contrived that the supports for the bed are out of sight when the device is used as a chair.

An improved hold-back for vehicles, patented by Mr. Hermon F. Morse, of East Foxborough, Mass., consists of a flat steel spring, fixed to the shaft by the shank of the breeching hook with its free end bearing against the open end of the hook.

An improved attachment for organs, pianos, melodeons, and other keyboard instruments, by which any one, though wholly unacquainted with music, can play music of any kind, has been patented by Mr. E. F. O'Neill, of Storm Lake, Iowa.

Mr. James K. P. Pine, of Troy, N. Y., has patented an improved check rein guide, which supports the check rein so as to prevent the hurting of the horse's head at the front or rear, and it admits of the use of an overhead check rein.

An improved apparatus for steaming printed fabrics has been patented by Mr. James Smith, of Thornliebank, North Britain. For the fixation of the colors on printed goods, such as calico, it is necessary to subject them to the action of steam. The invention referred to pertains to an improved apparatus for carrying such fabrics into and through the steam-filled chamber.

A chocolate breakfast powder, consisting of sugar coated with chocolate, and in granulated form, has been patented by Mr. J. G. Finke, of New York city.