

**Hardening Small Tools.**

It is said that the engravers and watchmakers of Germany harden their tools in sealing wax. The tool is heated to whiteness, and plunged into the wax, withdrawn after an instant and plunged in again, the process being repeated until the steel is too cold to enter the wax. The steel is said to become, after this process, almost as hard as the diamond, and when touched with a little oil or turpentine the tools are excellent for engraving, and also for piercing the hardest metals.

**NEW TICKET OR CANCELING PUNCH.**

The superiority of this punch over others consists in the manner in which the dies are inserted in the punch and the interchangeability of the various parts, as illustrated in the accompanying engraving. Canceling punches are usually made with one or both dies cut out of the jaw of the punch itself, thereby necessitating the purchase of a new punch when the dies become worn, or a change in the die is required. In the punch illustrated the dies can be easily and cheaply repaired, or changed to a different design.

The uses to which the canceling punch can be applied are already very large and daily increasing. There are over three thousand railways in the United States, all using some sort of a canceling punch. Banks, counting-houses, grocers, eating houses, and all branches of trade in which canceling punches can be used to advantage, are adopting them.

All the detachable parts of the "Aiken ticket punch" are made of the finest cast steel and carefully tempered, thereby guaranteeing the longest wear that is possible to be obtained. The punches are highly finished and nickel plated. Many of the first railroads in the country have adopted them, and we are informed that all without exception pronounce them to be the best punch in use. Further information may be obtained from the patentee, Mr. J. B. Aiken, Franklin, N. H.

**Consolation for the Bald.**

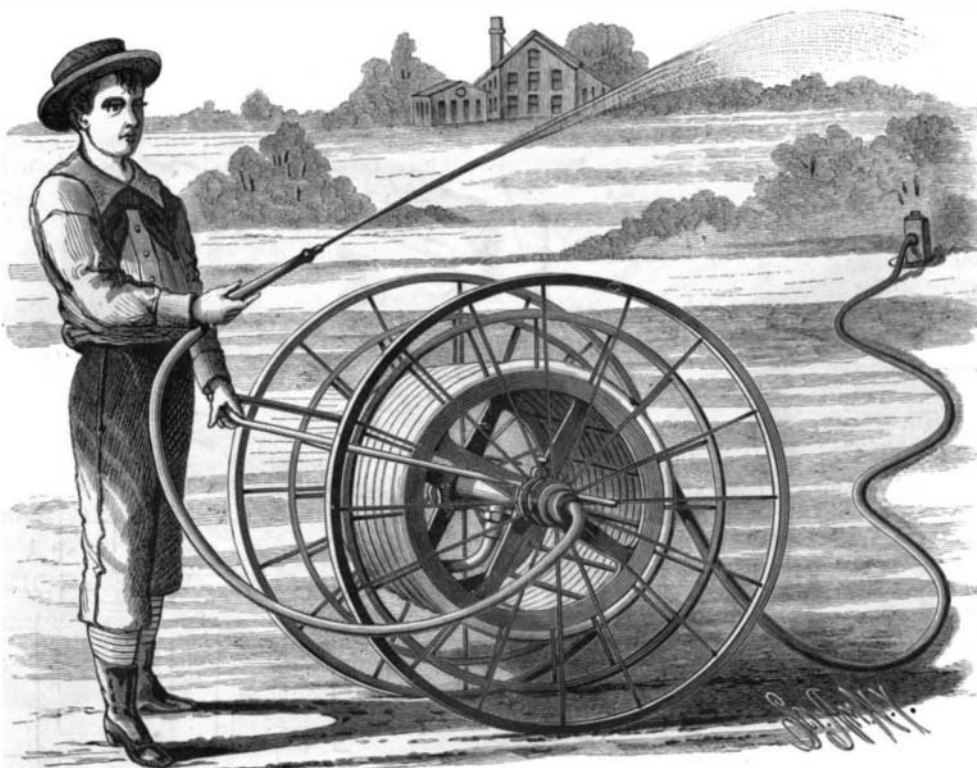
Professor Fournier, in a lecture on alopecia, says of baldness: "There is nothing ridiculous or malformed about it, and it confers upon the physiognomy an expression of wisdom, experience, and venerability. It adapts itself marvelously to certain heads which would be deformed by a wig, and is the severe beauty represented in sculpture by the classic head of *Æschylus*."

**NEW HOSE CARRIAGE.**

Any one fortunate enough to possess extensive grounds knows only too well the difficulties of keeping the lawns and gardens in prime condition; one of the principal troubles experienced is that of properly irrigating the grounds. The device shown in the annexed engraving fills a need that has been long felt, and supplies a means of watering grounds thoroughly and conveniently.

The novel feature of this carriage is the arrangement by which water is conveyed through the hose connected with the hydrant to the hollow axle of the carriage, and the manner in which it is distributed by means of the short service pipe held in the hand.

The reel on which the hose is wound is secured to the hollow axle of the hose carriage, and when the reel is revolved in winding up or unwinding the hose, the hollow axle turns in the hubs of the hose carriage wheels. The inner end of the hose is connected with a nipple projecting from the hollow axle. The outer end of the hose is provided with a union or coupling for connecting it with a hydrant from which the water is taken. The water passes through the hose as it is wound upon the reel, thence to the hollow axle, and out through the service pipe. The latter is connected with the axle by a swivel joint, so that the turning of the axle does not affect the service pipe. By taking the handle of the hose carriage in one hand and the service pipe in the other, one may walk along watering flowers, plants, or grass, on either side, as far as the force of the water will carry the spray. In this way one section after another may be watered without difficulty. The inventor informs us that a child ten years old is capable of using one of these carriages and taking the entire charge of it. The hose carriage has been thoroughly and practically tested, and has proved itself a complete success. A carriage of the size illustrated will hold 400 feet of three-quarter inch hose, or 300 feet of one inch hose; with these lengths a plot from 600 to 800 feet in diameter may be irrigated without disconnecting the hose from the hydrant.



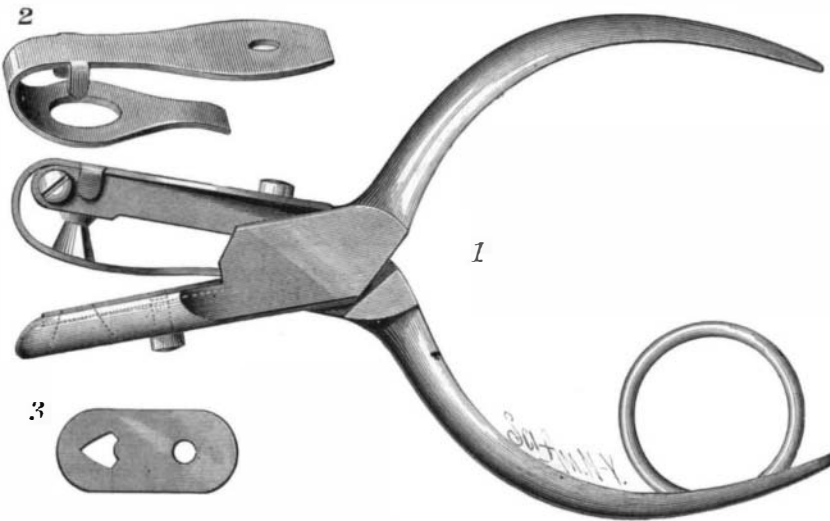
**AIKEN'S NEW HOSE CARRIAGE.**

Where this hose carriage is adopted dragging the hose is entirely avoided, and the hose never kinks, but is always laid smoothly, and may be taken up very easily without the usual wear and tear of the usual methods of handling.

The wheels of the hose carriage are 36 inches in diameter. The reel wheels are made somewhat smaller, so that they will not touch the ground. The entire carriage is made of steel, iron, and brass, and is practically indestructible. They are made in various sizes to suit the requirements of different users. Further information may be obtained by addressing the inventor and patentee, Mr. J. B. Aiken, Franklin, N. H.

**A New Compound.**

A new metallic compound, applicable to many artistic and industrial purposes, has been recently announced in



**AIKEN'S TICKET PUNCH.**

England. The substance belongs to the class known as the thiates or sulphur sulphides. Nearly a year ago Mr. J. Berger Spence discovered that sulphides of metals combined with molten sulphur formed a liquid. This liquid on cooling became a solid homogeneous mass, possessing great tenacity, and having a peculiarly dark gray, almost black color. It has a comparatively low melting point, namely, 320° Fahr., or rather more than 100° above the temperature of boiling water. It would thus require only a small amount of fuel to reduce or to melt it. The new compound also expands on cooling—a property not shared by the majority of other metals or metallic compounds. For such purposes as joining gas or water pipes this expansion is of great importance. It is also claimed that the new compound resists favorably atmospheric or climatic influences, as compared with bronze or marble, and that its resistance to acids

**A New Way of Heating Railway Carriages.**

French railway cars are warmed by means of hot water bottles; that is to say, cases made of iron, about three feet long, six inches wide, and four inches thick, which are filled with hot water and put on the bottom of the car for passengers to place their feet upon.

It is reported from Lyons that the Compagnie Paris-Lyon-Méditerranée is now trying a new method of heating in express trains. The method was proposed by M. Ancelin, an engineer, and consists simply in the use of acetate of soda in the foot warmers. The substance has considerable latent heat; dissolving at a certain temperature, it thus absorbs a large quantity of heat, which becomes sensible during crystallization in cooling. All that is required is to fill the ordinary cases with a sufficient quantity of the acetate, close them, and place them in a stove at about 100°. The cooling of a case thus charged and heated takes twelve to fifteen hours. The warmers are thereafter taken from the compartments and placed in a stove (where the crystals of soda acetate are re-dissolved); they are then ready for fresh use. The advantages of such a system are obvious—no necessity of changing warmers every two or three hours, or of maintaining a numerous body of men at stations to attend to them; economy in cost of heating, etc. Moreover, most of the existing foot warmers can be utilized. Acetate of soda is not very expensive, and it could easily be manufactured in much larger quantities than at present if the demand required it. The new system has been tried on the express train No. 5, leaving Paris at 7:15 and reaching Perrache at 4:31. The compartments were each supplied at starting with two warmers containing acetate of soda. At Perrache most of the warmers were still so hot that one could not apply the back of the hand to them. From Lyons to Marseilles the train was heated on the ordinary system.

**Charles T. Chester.**

Charles T. Chester, inventor and electrician, died recently at his residence in Englewood, New Jersey, at the age of fifty-four. Mr. Chester was for a number of years engaged in the manufacture of electrical apparatus in this city. He is best known as the inventor of the fire-alarm telegraph and originator of the law-telegraph system. At the time of his death he was electrician to the National Electric Light Company.

**Mycenæ.**

With respect to Dr. Schliemann's discoveries at Mycenæ, the Russian *savant*, M. Stephani, has expressed opinions which have attracted considerable attention in Germany. The learned academician by no means disputes the great antiquity of many of the individual objects unearthed by Dr. Schliemann, but he holds that the remains include objects belonging to very different eras of history. He contends that the date of the tombs must be determined by the latest products of art or industry which have been discovered in them. The seal ring is especially important in this respect, as, according to his view, it is executed entirely in the style of the New Persian art. He is of opinion that the tombs originated with the barbarians who invaded Greece in the third century B. C., and made the citadel of Agamemnon one of the chief centers of their dominion. Here he believes they buried their chiefs, and decorated the tombs partly with such ancient relics of an earlier date as had fallen into their hands and partly with ornamental objects produced in their own times.

**A Town Lighted by Electricity.**

Wabash, Ind., boasts of being the first town to adopt the electric light for general illumination. A beginning was made March 31, with four Brush lamps of 3,000 candle power each suspended on the flagstaff of the court house. A seven horse-power generator supplied the electricity. The contract called for a light equal to a gas burner at a distance of 2,640 feet from the lamps. The tests were said to be satisfactory. Many visitors from adjoining towns were present to witness the first trial of the new method.

The following is the way the newspapers in the mining regions talk to their readers:

"A man at Dutch Flat picked up a rock, the other day, to throw at a cow. The weight of it attracted his attention, and on examination it was found to contain over a hundred dollars in gold."

**A California Tunnel.**

The longest of the series of tunnels on the South Pacific Coast Railway, in the Santa Cruz mountains, California, has just been completely pierced. The tunnel, which is over a mile in length, was begun a little over two years ago. The presence of petroleum in the formation has resulted in several disastrous explosions, involving many delays and considerable loss of life.