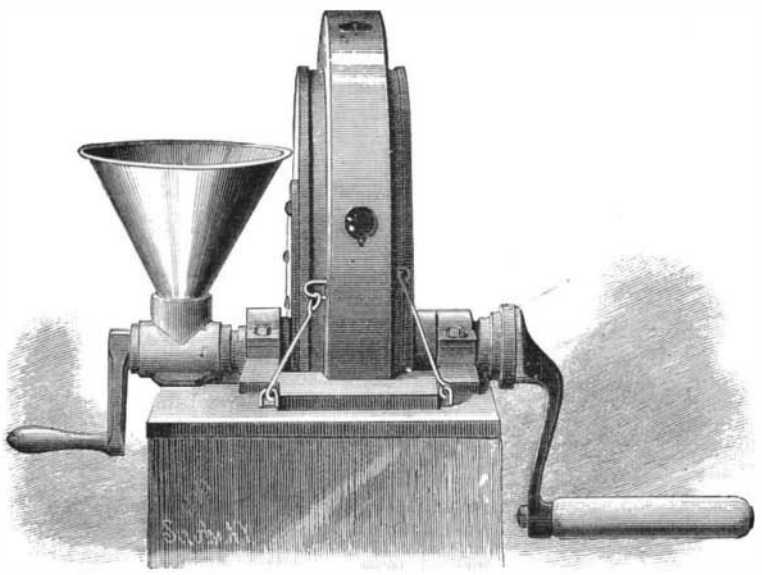
NEW POLISHING MACHINE.

We give an engraving of an improved machine for polishing knives and other similar articles, recently patented by Mr. M. R. Chase, of Warren, R. I. The machine consists of two disks of yielding material having radial grooves in their adjacent faces for conveying the polishing powder from the tubular shaft outward. These disks are inclosed by a circular casing having openings through which the articles to be polished are thrust. On one side of the machine there is a crank for turning the polishing disks, and upon the opposite side there is a smaller crank for turning a worm which carries the polishing material from the hopper into the shaft, whence it passes through lateral holes to the radial grooves in the polishing disks. To render the grooves more effective in feeding the polishing material they are slightly curved, and the grooves of one disk alternate with the grooves of the other. By this arrangement all of the polishing surface is utilized and the best distribution of the polishing powder is insured.

The polishing material used with this machine consists of any suitable polishing powder mixed with cork sawdust and moistened with soap and water. The powder thus prepared, when dry and evenly distributed on the polishing disks, forms a soft pliable surface, which is very effective in polishing all parts of the surface being operated on.

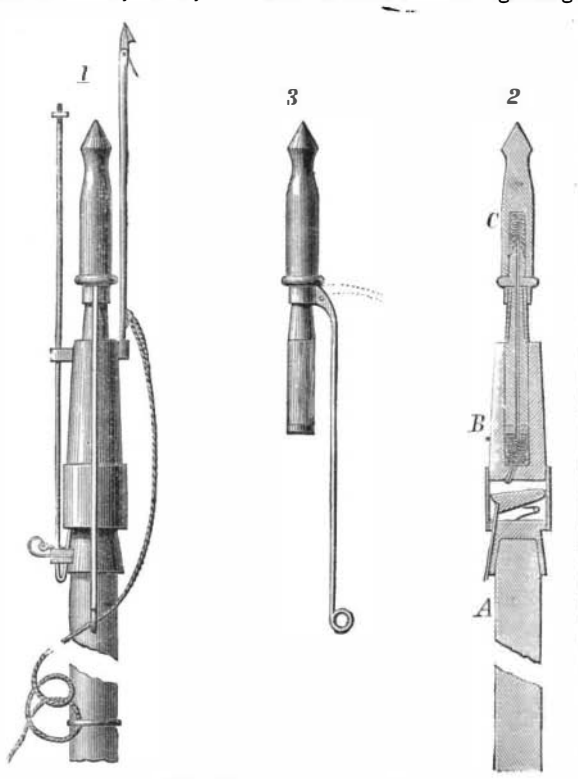
The pressure between the disks may be easily regulated, and only a few turns of the machine are required to give a knife a fine polish. The machine may be run by hand or foot or by any other convenient power.



CHASE'S POLISHING MACHINE.

IMPROVED BOMB LANCE.

An improved bomb lance, patented by Mr. E. Pierce, of New Bedford, Mass., is shown in the annexed engraving.



PIERCE'S BOMB LANCE.

Fig. 1 is a side elevation, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section, and Fig. 3 shows the bomb lance detached from the gun.

The invention consists of a gun mounted on a suitable shaft and adapted to the bomb lance shown in Fig. 3. The gun has a lock which is operated by impact against the body of the whale. The bomb lance has a cavity for receiving a charge of powder, and is provided with a wooden staff through which a fuse passes. The staff of the lance is received by the gun barrel. On throwing the lance the lock of the gun is released and the gun discharged as the point of the lance touches the body of the whale; the fuse of the lance is at the same time ignited, so that immediately after the lance enters the body of the whale its charge of powder is exploded, killing or injuring the whale. The bomb lance is provided with a rod having an eye in the end for receiving the line.

The Rarity of Food Adulterations.

In awarding the prizes offered by the National Board of Trade a year ago, for essays in relation to the adulteration of food, the committee makes the gratifying announcement that none of the competing essayists produce any definite or satisfactory evidence as to the widespread existence of very dangerous adulterations in this country. Such dangerous adulterations appear to be mainly in the form of poisonous colors or coloring matters, as, for instance, in confectionery, and even these are rare. The question of the adulteration of food, with, perhaps, the exception of milk, should therefore be considered not so much from a sanitary standpoint as from that of commercial interests, as being in the nature of a fraud, in aiding the sale of articles which are not what they are represented to be. The committee is of the opinion that there is much more danger to health and life in this country from adulterated drugs than from adulterated food, and that any legislation which is to deal with the one should also deal with the other. A Board of Health is recommended for each State, and both State and national legislation on the subject of adulteration is deemed desirable. The committee will endeavor to prepare and place in the hands of the President of the National Board of Trade, as soon as possible, drafts of acts prepared in accordance with the general principles contained in its report.

NEW CISTERN FILTER.

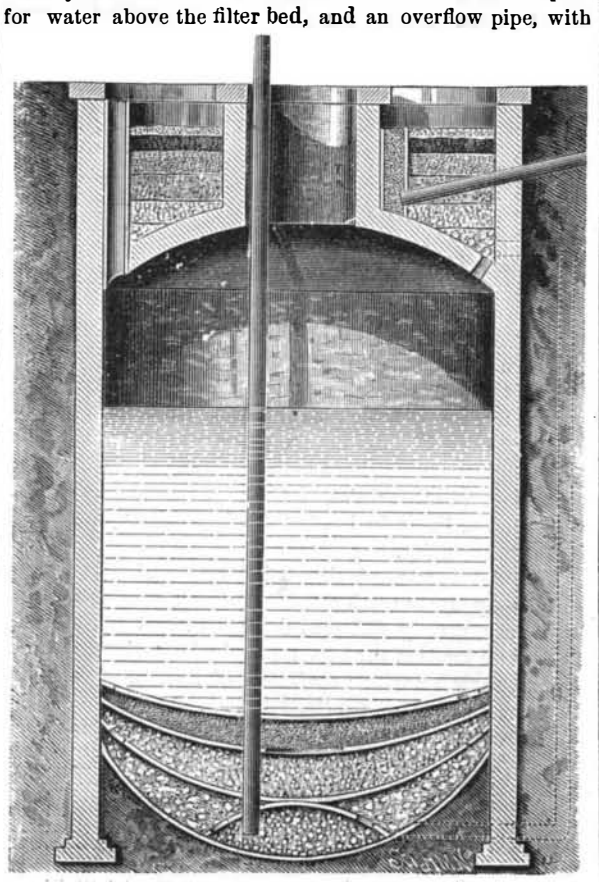
The engraving shows a filter designed to secure in any given cistern space a more thorough removal of suspended matter than is effected in the ordinary cistern filters, to eliminate from the water matters harmful to health by a process which depends mainly on the concentration of atmospheric oxygen and in part by oxygen dissolved in water.

The process of oxidation is carried on during the passage of the water through a finely divided and aerated filter bed, the aeration of which takes place during fair weather.

The filter bed in which the oxidation and aeration take place is not constantly submerged, as are those now used, but is open to air pressure, to the action of light and heat in summer, and to the disinfecting, cleansing, and healthful influence of cold and frost in winter, agencies essential to secure good water.

A tonic or mineral quality can be given to the water by the introduction of iron filings or small scraps of iron in the filter bed, when desirable.

The engraving is a vertical section of the filter, with its walls extending from base of arch to ground surface. It has on its arch a main aerated filter bed, and on its bottom four more filter beds. In the main aerated filter bed there are six layers, as follows: First, gravel stones or pebbles at the bottom, to allow free drainage; second, a layer of coarse gravel; third, one of finer gravel; fourth, one of sand; fifth, one of coarsely granulated charcoal and fine sand; sixth, one of small pebbles on top, to keep charcoal in place and allow it to dry out between showers in fair weather. There is a space for water above the filter bed, and an overflow pipe, with top below outer cistern wall, is provided to take water not passing through the main filter by a direct passage into the cistern; there is also a pipe to allow water discharged from conduit pipe, to come from main aerated filter bed to its surface, and then spread over it. Through the arch there is an opening to carry the water into the cistern after it has passed through the filter bed in a circuit around the man-hole.



DAY'S CISTERN FILTER.

The arrangement and composition of the four filter beds on the bottom of the cistern are as follows:

The hemispheroidal filter on bottom of cistern is composed of granulated granite, or limestone, or cleanly-washed pebble stones. This is gravel concreted an inch thick, and perforated, before concrete sets, with twenty-five to fifty small holes midway between its base and top. Around this there is a filter bed made of coarse gravel and gravel concreted in form of an inverted arch, with fifty to seventy-five small holes near its outer edge, and above this there is a filter bed made of fine gravel and gravel concreted in form of an inverted arch, with a twelve inch opening at the center. The upper filter bed is made of closely compacted clean and sharp sand, and concreted with gravel an inch or more in thickness, with fifty to seventy-five small holes near its outer edge.

It will be noticed that the water is filtered as it enters the cistern, and filtered again as it is pumped out.

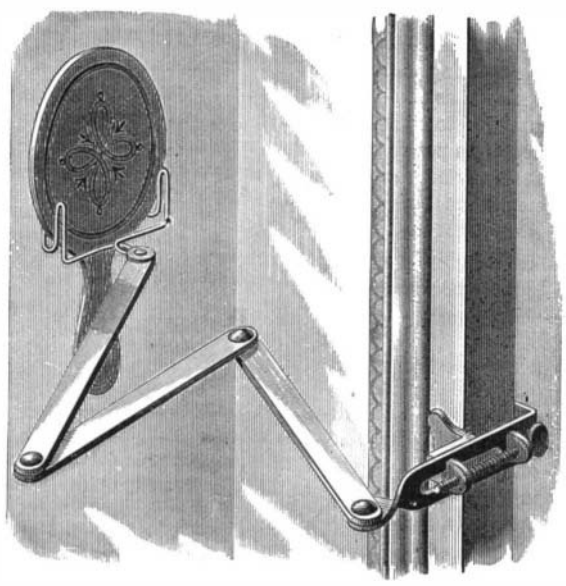
This invention was lately patented by Mr. Samuel Day, of Ann Arbor, Mich.

A Steel Steamboat for Venezuela.

A steel steamboat in sections was recently sent from this port to Lake Maracaibo, to be used in the transportation of coffee and other products of Northern Venezuela. The Zulia and other rivers of that fertile basin are apt to be very shallow during the dry season, making transportation by the river craft there in use not only uncertain but expensive. The design is to substitute therefor a fleet of steamboats, of which the one lately sent is a pioneer.

HAND MIRROR HOLDER.

The engraving shows a simple and very convenient device for holding a hand mirror when it is desirable to use both hands in making the toilet. The bracket is readily clamped to the frame of the mirror, and may be extended sufficiently for ordinary purposes.



HAND MIRROR HOLDER

This invention was recently patented by Messrs. Webb & Myrick, of Stockton, Cal.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A check row corn planter, so constructed as to drop the seed at uniform distances apart, and at the same time mark the position of the hills, so that the planting can be done in accurate check row, has been patented by Messrs. Alfred A. McIntosh and Lysander J. Lishness, of Pontiac, Ill.

Mr. Edson M. Gaskill, of Edenton, Ohio, has patented a churning machine so constructed that it will be operated by giving oscillating movements to the chair upon which the operator sits.

An improved manure fork has been patented by Mr. George P. Ruble, of Swengel, Pa. This invention relates to certain improvements on the combined scraper and fork for which Letters Patent No. 223,390 were granted to the same inventor January 6, 1880, and it has particular reference to the construction of the fork.

An improved check row corn dropper, or device for automatically planting corn in perfect check rows, has been patented by Mr. Alonzo J. Simmons, of Pana, Ill. It comprises the following features: Means for rendering the distance between the hills dropped uniform and independent of the rough character of the surface of the soil; in a peculiar mechanism for converting the rotary movement of the driving shaft into the reciprocating movement of the seed slide; and in the peculiar construction and arrangement of the marking devices.