

Business and Personal.

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Catalogues free.—Scientific Books, 100 pages; Electrical Books, 14 pages. E. & F. N. Spon, 35 Murray St., N. Y.

Wanted to sell on commission on the road, engine and boiler supplies. Box 127, Painesville, O.

For Sale.—Clock maker's wheel cutting engine, dial, 24 inches; fly and mill cutters. J. L. Finn, Elyria, O.

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Fire Brick, Tile, and Clay Retorts, all shapes. Borgner & O'Brien, M'f'rs, 23d St., above Race, Phila., Pa.

Peck's Patent Drop Press. See adv., page 365.

Diamond Tools. J. Dickinson, 64 Nassau St., N. Y.

Steam Hammers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks, and Tube Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St., New York.

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For Pat. Safety Elevators, Hoisting Engines, Friction Clutch Pulleys, Cut-off Coupling, see Frisbie's ad. p. 364.

Gould & Eberhardt's Machinists' Tools. See adv., p. 365.

Barrel, Key, Hogshead, Stave Mach'y. See adv., p. 366.

For Mill Mach'y & Mill Furnishing, see illus. adv. p. 364.

Mineral Lands Prospected, Artesian Wells Bored, by Pa. Diamond Drill Co. Box 423, Pottsville, Pa. See p. 366.

Upright Self-feeding Hand Drilling Machine. Excellent construction. Pratt & Whitney Co., Hartford, Conn.

For best low price Planer and Matcher, and latest improved Sash, Door, and Blind Machinery, send for catalogue to Rowley & Hermance, Williamsport, Pa.

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Curtis Pressure Regulator and Steam Trap. See p. 349.

Lightning Screw Plates, Labor-saving Tools, p. 248.

Engines, 10 to 50 horse power, complete, with governor, \$250 to \$550. Satisfaction guaranteed. More than eight hundred in use. For circular address Heald & Morris (Drawer 127), Baldwinville, N. Y.

Metal Patterns, Punches and Dies to order. Geo. Van Sands, Middletown, Conn.

C. B. Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., Wood Working Machinery of every kind. See adv., page 333.

The Sweetland Chuck. See illus. adv., p. 334.

Knives for Woodworking Machinery, Bookbinders, and Paper Mills. Taylor, Stiles & Co., Riegelsville, N. J.

Best Squaring Shears, Tinners', and Canners' Tools at Niagara Stamping and Tool Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

Lewis' Combination Force Pump makes three machines made of brass throughout. See Adv. page 317.

Saw Mills, Hauck & Comstock, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Stenographers, type-writers, clerks, and copyists may be obtained free of charge at the Young Women's Christian Association, 7 East 15th Street, New York.

Lathes 14 in. swing, with and without back gears and screw. J. Birkenhead, Mansfield, Mass.

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The Best.—The Duerber Watch Case.

If an invention has not been patented in the United States for more than one year, it may still be patented in Canada. Cost for Canadian patent, \$40. Various other foreign patents may also be obtained. For instructions address Munn & Co., SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Patent Agency, 261 Broadway, New York.

Farley's Directories of the Metal Workers, Hardware Trade, and Mines of the United States. Price \$3.00 each. Farley, Paul & Baker, 530 Market Street, Phila.

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Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No attention will be paid to communications unless accompanied with the full name and address of the writer.

Names and addresses of correspondents will not be given to inquirers.

We renew our request that correspondents, in referring to former answers or articles, will be kind enough to name the date of the paper and the page, or the number of the question.

Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them.

Persons desiring special information which is purely of a personal character, and not of general interest, should remit from \$1 to \$5, according to the subject, as we cannot be expected to spend time and labor to obtain such information without remuneration.

Any numbers of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT referred to in these columns may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each.

Correspondents sending samples of minerals, etc., for examination, should be careful to distinctly mark or label their specimens so as to avoid error in their identification.

(1) W. A. P.—Lacquer for brass: Dissolve good clear shellac half an ounce in one pint 95 per cent alcohol, in a bottle, corked; put in a warm place and shake occasionally for a day or so. Then let it settle; pour off the clear transparent part for use. If too thick, thin with 95 per cent alcohol. If more color is required, add a little dragon's blood for red and turmeric for yellow.

(2) A. W. W. asks: Where can I find data relating to the number of units of heat that will be radiated from steam pipes? A. The following formula is given by Haswell, and may answer your purpose:

1.7 l (T-t) = R = Radiation in degrees per second. l=length of pipe in feet; T=temperature of surface of pipes; t=temperature of the air; d=diameter of pipe in inches; v=velocity of the heat in feet per second.

(3) H. C. asks if it is possible for water to be forced through rubber which is warranted to be waterproof, supposing that the rubber is supported by a hard substance so as to prevent its stretching; or suppose it to be stretched, how thin a piece would prevent the water from penetrating it? If it will penetrate a thin piece and not a thick one, how thick should it be in order to prevent water from coming through it? A. It is probable that rubber that is warranted waterproof is waterproof under ordinary circumstances. Water under pressure will pass through many substances that are considered waterproof when no pressure is applied. You may possibly obtain pure gum that will stand considerable pressure if it is properly stored or backed.

(4) S. S. M. asks how to make a paint for blackboards. A. To make one gallon of the paint take 10 ounces of pulverized and sifted pumice stone, 6 ounces powdered rotten stone (or infusorial silica), three-quarters pound of good lampblack, and alcohol enough to form with these a thick paste, which must be well rubbed and ground together. Then dissolve 14 ounces of shellac in the remainder of the gallon of alcohol, by digestion and agitation, and finally mix this varnish and the paste together. It is applied to the board with a brush, care being taken to keep the paint well stirred so that the pumice stone will not settle. Two coats are usually necessary. The first should be allowed to dry thoroughly before the second is put on. The second coat should be applied so as not to disturb or rub off any portion of the first. One gallon of this paint will ordinarily furnish two coats for sixty square yards of blackboard. When the paint is to be put on plastered walls, the walls should be previously coated with glue size—glue, 1 pound; water, 1 gallon; lampblack, q. s. to color; put on hot.

(5) B. G. writes: I want to know how to tan skins so as to leave the fur on. Can you give this information? A. Wash the skins in water, and cleanse them thoroughly by scraping or rubbing. Then rub well into the flesh side of the skin the following mixture: Alum, powdered, 2 1/2 pounds; salt and coarse wheat meal, each one pound; sour milk, q. s. to form a thin paste. When the skin will absorb no more of this preparation, spread a layer of the latter over it (on the flesh side), and fold up the skin with the flesh surfaces together and put it away in a cool place for a day. Repeat this pasting and rubbing each day for a week, washing out and half drying the skin every third day. Finally, thoroughly wash the skin in running water, drain, brush over it (flesh side) a strong solution of alum in water, and hang it up to dry. The dry skin is softened by rolling and pounding it with mallet or rubbing and stretching it with a flexible tool. It is commonly finished by rubbing down the flesh side with pumice stone.

(6) E. A. Y. asks: Can any injurious effects result from having plants in living or sleeping rooms? A. It has been fully proved by chemical examination and otherwise that plants in living rooms or

in bed rooms rather purify the air than otherwise. Yet they may in some cases prove injurious in sick rooms, when the odor is offensive to invalids. Whatever annoys the sick does harm to a greater degree than healthy persons can understand.

(7) L. B. D. asks how to remove black worms from the face. A. The black points, flesh-worms, or comedones, which are found in the face, and especially near the nostrils, are not at all produced by the accumulation of the particles of dirt or dust, as has generally been believed, but by pigmentary matter which is soluble in acids. The following treatment has been recommended: Kaolin, 4 parts; glycerine, 3 parts; acetic acid, 3 parts, with or without the addition of a small quantity of some ethereal oil. With this pomade cover the parts affected in the evening, and if need be during the day. After several days all the comedones can be easily expressed; most of them even come out by washing the parts with pumice stone soap. The same results can be obtained by bandaging the parts affected for a long time with vinegar, lemon juice, or diluted hydrochloric acid. The acids act like cosmetics, as they transform the black color into a brown and yellow shade and destroy it gradually altogether.

(8) J. asks how to produce artificial marble. A. Reduce marble dust or white limestone to a very fine powder by grinding and sifting, mix with it intimately about one-fourth its weight of zinc oxide (zinc white) and one-eighth its weight of Portland cement, and mix thoroughly into a thick paste with a sufficient quantity of a hot aqueous solution of waterglass, containing about 40 per cent of the glass. Mould the paste under pressure while warm, and expose the moulded form for a week or ten days to warm dry air, before finishing.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

May 29, 1883,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. [See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Advertising fan, C. De Quillfeldt... 278,410
Air engine, H. H. Burrill... 278,397
Alarm. See Fire alarm. Fire and burglar alarm.
Aire condenser, J. W. Evenden... 278,525
Auger, Halligan & Rugg... 278,539
Axle, vehicle, M. E. Burris... 278,396
Baby carrier, J. H. Lancaster... 278,437
Bagasse furnace, I. A. Hedges... 278,547
Baling press, J. A. Spencer... 278,371
Barrel cover, F. G. Lane... 278,593
Barrel cover, expandible, A. Swoboda... 278,670
Bed bottom, M. E. Graves... 278,330
Bed bottom, spring, A. F. Purefoy... 278,362
Bed, folding, L. Leeds... 278,564
Bedstead fastening, B. A. Wilton... 278,649
Belt fastener, Budlong & Talcott... 278,393
Bessemer process, basic, J. Reese... 278,363
Bevel, carpenter's, Cumming & Van Amringe... 278,405
Bicycle saddle, T. J. Kirkpatrick... 278,560
Board. See Bulletin board. Electric switch board. Boat. See Life boat.
Boiler furnace, steam, E. W. Vanduzen... 278,637
Boot or shoe, Belknap & Fye... 278,398
Boot or shoe clamp, O. T. X. Adams... 278,385
Bottle carrying box, J. C. Cary... 278,604
Bottling liquids, device for, W. T. Ferre... 278,661
Bouquet holder, J. Darrach... 278,514
Box. See Bottle carrying box. Match box. Paper box. Wagon box.
Box covering machine, Manneck & Witte... 278,442
Bracket. See Lamp bracket.
Braiding machine, E. & E. Rafer... 278,669
Brake. See Locomotive brake. Locomotive or car brake. Wagon brake.
Branding device, J. S. Smithson... 278,621
Bride bit attachment, D. C. McCoy... 278,576
Brushes, manufacture of, A. C. Estabrook... 278,660
Buckle and trace carrier, W. S. Brown... 278,501
Building, fire proof, W. L. Black... 278,491
Bulletin board, C. H. Tessa... 278,630
Burner. See Gas burner. Oil burner.
Bushing for tube sheets, J. Strachan... 278,625
Button, J. Costello... 278,314
Button, R. H. Isbell... 278,356
Button fastener, G. W. Prentice... 278,360
Button holes, making, J. Ware... 278,473
Button or stud, I. S. Burke... 278,995
Cake, jumble, and snap machine, M. De Tammel... 278,318
Can. See Ice machine can.
Can opener, O. R. Webster... 278,379
Car brake, C. W. Smith... 278,616
Car buffer, A. Gallinat... 278,528
Car buffer, J. T. Schaffer... 278,606
Car coupling, N. P. Cowell... 278,403
Car coupling, H. E. Hawk... 278,334
Car coupling, C. E. Mark... 278,573
Car coupling, J. Rhule... 278,598
Car coupling, C. H. Schaff... 278,605
Car coupling link, F. Sweetland... 278,626
Car door and fastening, W. P. Senour... 278,611
Car door catch, grain, D. F. Van Liew... 278,377
Car, dumping, S. D. King... 278,343
Car starter, C. P. Warnick... 278,378
Carbon plates, apparatus for making, Molera & Cebrilan... 278,355
Card grinding machine, C. Schreiber... 278,908
Card, playing, A. Dougherty... 278,412
Carriage, jump seat, O. Morrill... 278,583
Carrier. See Baby carrier. Cash and parcel carrier. Straw carrier.
Cartridge primer, J. H. Bullard... 278,394
Carving fork, C. L. Butler... 278,398
Cash and parcel carrier, G. R. Elliott... 278,658, 278,659
Cash carriers, drop cradle and elevator for, J. C. Coram... 278,510
Casting steel ingots having iron centers, method of and mold for, J. Pedder... 278,598
Casting stereotype plates, C. Baechler... 278,652
Celluloid, etc., apparatus for producing rods or tubes of, A. Olszewski... 278,667
Celluloid, etc., mold for forming articles of, A. B. Diss... 278,321
Chain, dredger, H. B. Angell... 278,432
Chain, ornamental, J. B. Peck... 278,454
Chandelier, extension, D. W. Parker... 278,359
Check rower, smooth rope and knotted wire, D. Spooner... 278,622
Churn, M. A. Briggs... 278,391
Clamp. See Boot or shoe clamp.
Clasp. See Corset clasp.

Clevis, plow, A. Patton... 278,453
Clock springs, maintaining power for, F. T. Marchand... 278,572
Clothes pounder, Elliott & Lloyd... 278,522
Clutch and brake, combined, C. H. Rohde... 278,601
Coach, H. F. Stahmer... 278,468
Condenser, injector, J. Wheelock... 278,476
Cooling or drying granular materials, apparatus for, Niese & Dinkel... 278,356
Coping for walls, E. C. Clark... 278,656
Cord, tape, etc., device for holding, C. F. Sleeper... 278,615
Core or center, contractible, Hoopes & Paist... 278,551
Corks from bottles, drawing, J. E. Berlien... 278,388
Corset clasp, M. W. Henius... 278,490
Cotton gin feeder, W. O. Coleman... 278,402
Cotton separator and cleaner, seed, W. O. Coleman... 278,401
Coupling. See Car coupling. Harness coupling. Thill coupling.
Covering, non-conducting, G. Kelly... 278,559
Cultivator, E. R. Ham... 278,541
Cultivator, G. W. Hammond... 278,548
Cultivator, J. T. McIntire... 278,577
Cultivator, H. H. Sater... 278,366
Cultivator, D. Unthank... 278,672
Cultivator and planter attachment, J. Palmer... 278,452
Dental engine, E. T. Starr... 278,464
Dental lip and tongue holder, J. H. Doyle... 278,590
Disintegrating fibrous plants, machine for, D. Prieto... 278,668
Disintegration of bagasse and other vegetable matter, apparatus for the, T. Barang... 278,445
Doll, S. Eldridge... 278,420
Domino, R. H. Williams... 278,646
Electric currents from high to low tension, apparatus for translating, T. A. Edison... 278,418
Electric light conductors, support for, L. Steiringer... 278,465
Electric machine, dynamo, A. F. Delafield... 278,516
Electric machine, dynamo, T. A. Edison... 278,419
Electric machine, dynamo, E. Weston... 278,641
Electric machine regulator, dynamo, T. A. Edison... 278,413, 278,414
Electric machine regulator, dynamo, E. Weston... 278,640
Electric switch board, W. J. McElroy... 278,353
Electrical conductors, protector attachment for, W. E. Townsend, Jr... 278,635
Electrical connector, H. E. Long... 278,346
Electrical distribution, system of, E. T. Greenfield... 278,535
Electrodes for secondary batteries, making, W. Wallace... 278,638
Elevator. See Water elevator.
Elevator safety dog, G. Pilson... 278,595
Emery wheel, J. McLaughlin... 278,578
Engine. See Dental engine. Gas engine. Hot air engine.
Excavator, Simar & Dale... 278,368
Excavator and loader, D. I. Calhoun... 278,399
Extractor. See Stump extractor.
Fabrics, uniting, S. Arnold... 278,484
Faucet, self-closing, Prier, Doherty & Everett... 278,597
Feed water heaters, overflow for, G. A. Otis... 278,590
Fence, barbed wire, G. C. Bigelow... 278,389
Fence wire, machine for manufacturing barbed, D. C. Stover... 278,624
Fencing, machine for manufacturing barbed, Ellwood & Upham... 278,523
Fertilizer, J. R. Young, Jr... 278,883, 278,384, 278,430
Fertilizer distributor, J. R. Anthony... 278,433
Fire alarm, G. W. Nason... 278,586
Fire and burglar alarm, B. J. Antrim... 278,386
Fire alarm, magazine, W. H. Elliot... 278,324
Fire arms, extractor for, G. H. Fox... 278,424
Fire arms, fore end for breech loading, G. H. Fox... 278,423
Fire escape, A. L. Aldrich... 278,651
Fire escape, C. F. Bierbach... 278,310
Fire escape, W. Chase... 278,655
Fire extinguisher, automatic, C. E. Buell... 278,654
Fire extinguishing apparatus, D. Beck... 278,307
Fire extinguishing compound, G. J. Crikelair... 278,315
Firekindling composition, W. M. Koon... 278,436
Flour from grain, manufacture of, L. Gathmann... 278,531
Flue plugging device, F. Sharp... 278,612
Fluting iron, R. Young... 278,650
Fork. See Carving fork.
Form or stand, dress, G. M. Rockwell (r)... 10,334
Fruit jar, L. Gallaher... 278,530
Furnace. See Bagasse furnace. Boiler furnace.
Furnace for ingots, soaking, T. Critchlow... 278,512
Gag runner, G. M. Hubbard... 278,554
Gage. See Water gage.
Garment supporter, W. L. Braddock... 278,493
Gas burner, A. B. Lipsey... 278,568
Gas engine, J. A. Ewins... 278,421
Gas engine, J. Robson... 278,600
Gas or vapor, apparatus for producing illuminating, E. J. Frost... 278,529
Glass articles, manufacturing, W. M. Wallace... 278,422
Governor for railway heads, hygrometric, G. A. Ayers... 278,488
Governor, steam engine ball, W. E. Badger... 278,387
Grain binder, J. W. Webster... 278,639
Grain binding machine, G. Esterly... 278,524
Grinding minerals, etc., machine for, T. O. Cutler... 278,407
Gun barrel, auxiliary, L. S. Harrison... 278,546
Hammock, C. E. Hiester... 278,431
Handle. See Pestle handle.
Hanger. See Shaft hanger.
Harness coupling, adjustable, L. Wartenberg... 278,474
Harrow, J. A. Thomson... 278,632
Harvester binding attachment, E. Ebi... 278,521
Harvester platform adjustment, D. R. Preston... 278,596
Harvesters, grain adjusting device for, M. E. Blood... 278,492
Hat curling machine, G. Roth... 278,458
Hat sizing apparatus, N. Harper... 278,333
Hat sizing machine, A. T. Clark... 278,509
Hat sizing machine, N. Harper... 278,332
Hat starting and sizing machine, W. Simmonds... 278,614
Hats in the process of manufacture, machine for washing, E. B. Taylor... 278,467
Hauling upon slipways, apparatus for, J. Thompson... 278,631
Hay knife, J. C. Moss... 278,584
Hay rake, horse, M. Hallenbeck... 278,538
Head rest, portable, E. F. Prescott... 278,361
Heat of furnaces, utilizing the waste, W. H. Brooks... 278,496
Heater, L. Stockdale... 278,466
Heater and oven, combined, J. H. Lindsay... 278,567
Heating apparatus, steam and hot water, F. Tuor... 278,636
Hoist, barrel, W. Mack... 278,570
Hoist or elevator, T. McDonough... 278,445
Hoistway covers, closing and controlling, D. Fraser... 278,528
Holder. See Bouquet holder. Pillow sham holder. Sash holder. Spooling machine bobbin holder.
Hook. See Snap hook.
Hose, C. Callahan... 278,812
Hot air engine, T. McDonough... 278,446
Hub attaching device, J. Curtin... 278,513
Hydrant, W. Kaiser... 278,455

Ice creeper, N. C. Jones..... 278,387  
Ice machine can, H. F. Fordham..... 278,527  
Indicator, See Station indicator.  
Ingot manipulator, T. Critchlow..... 278,511  
Insulating material, electrical, J. Greives..... 278,536  
Insulator brackets, machine for making telegraph,  
J. B. Smith..... 278,618  
Insulator pins, machine for making telegraph,  
J. B. Smith..... 278,619  
Iron. See Fluting iron.  
Jack. See Lifting jack. Wagon jack.  
Jar. See Fruit jar.  
Journal box lubricator, N. M. Bergqvist..... 278,309  
Key. See Watch key.  
Knife. See Hay knife.  
Knit goods, manufacture of, S. Arnold..... 278,496  
Lamp, F. A. Taber..... 278,373  
Lamp bracket or fixture, incandescent, E. Weston  
Lamps, manufacture of incandescent electric,  
T. A. Edison..... 278,415 to 278,417  
Lantern, C. T. Ham..... 278,340  
Last, C. W. Glidden..... 278,426  
Leg, artificial, W. D. Lewis..... 278,566  
Life boat, T. Hamilton..... 278,542  
Life preserver, J. N. Hoeflich..... 278,432  
Lifter. See Sash lifter.  
Lifting jack, J. Dawson..... 278,317  
Lock. See Nut lock.  
Locomotive, E. A. Trapp..... 278,470  
Locomotive brake, W. B. Turner..... 278,471  
Locomotive or car brake, Guernsey & Turner..... 278,429  
Manual power, J. Bates..... 278,306  
Match box, H. E. Hutchinson..... 278,565  
Mechanical movement, J. T. Wickersham..... 278,644  
Mechanical power, B. R. Trull..... 278,376  
Metal surfaces, ornamenting, E. Horton..... 278,552  
Millstone dressing machine, C. S. Hoover..... 278,335  
Mirrors, transoms, etc., friction supporting device  
for, M. Safford..... 278,364  
Motor. See Spring motor.  
Mowing machine, C. W. Cheney..... 278,508  
Necktie fastener, R. E. Kelsey..... 278,342  
Needle, sewing, Rusling & Odell..... 278,459  
Oil burner, C. Tondeur..... 278,374  
Ore concentrator, dry, W. B. Farwell..... 278,325  
Orphan swell, reed, C. H. Davis..... 278,515  
Oversalls, C. O. Cole..... 278,313  
Packing ring for pumps, W. E. Karns..... 278,557  
Paddle wheel, E. L. Williams..... 278,477  
Paint for roofing and other purposes, F. Jones..... 278,664  
Paper box, J. Feibel..... 278,526  
Paper, coating or waterproofing, C. A. Maxfield..... 278,443  
Paper felting, manufacture of, F. J. Mather..... 278,350  
Parker, apple, L. H. Scott..... 278,460  
Pestle handle, G. Maris..... 278,575  
Pile driver, J. Roy..... 278,608  
Pillow sham holder, J. H. Miller..... 278,581  
Pills with gelatine, machine for coating, G. W.  
Platt..... 278,456  
Pipe. See Stove pipe.  
Pipe, molding apparatus for the manufacture of,  
Luton & Whitlock..... 278,663  
Printer, J. S. Detroit..... 278,518  
Planing machine, R. B. Jones..... 278,338  
Planter, head, A. A. Stearns..... 278,372  
Planter check rower, corn, G. W. Brown..... 278,500  
Planter check rower, corn, Brown & Tunnickliff..... 278,653  
Planter check rower, corn, Litterer & McKinniss..... 278,441  
Planter, corn, G. W. Brown..... 278,497 to  
278,499  
Planter, corn, F. J. Perkins..... 278,455  
Plow, ditching, J. D. Hobbs..... 278,549  
Plow landside, G. B. St. John..... 278,623  
Plow, sulky, G. Ward..... 278,643  
Plow, wheel, D. R. Dodge..... 278,519  
Plumber's trap, P. Connolly (r)..... 10,323  
Pocket, R. Nicol, Jr..... 278,587  
Pool apparatus, lawn, W. H. Kelly..... 278,341  
Power. See Manual power. Mechanical power.  
Press. See Baling press.  
Privy sink, T. Keely..... 278,568  
Pulley, Fulton & Olsen..... 278,425  
Punch, sheet metal, F. W. Toedt..... 278,633  
Puzzle, J. U. Mackenzie..... 278,571  
Railing for cemetery plats, V. T. Meredith..... 278,579  
Railway spike, W. Goldie..... 278,428  
Railway switch, J. Gibbon..... 278,533  
Railway switch, J. L. Hill..... 278,548  
Railway switch, Leet & Isreal..... 278,844  
Rake. See Hay rake.  
Reflector and signal frame for car lamps, H. Roth..... 278,602  
Reflector, lamp, H. F. W. Seele..... 278,610  
Refrigerator, J. Castell..... 278,507  
Regulator. See Electric machine regulator.  
Ring. See Packing ring.  
Rock drilling apparatus, G. M. Derby..... 278,517  
Rolling axes, die for, L. Hammond..... 278,544  
Rolling tubes, columns, etc., machine for, C. Kel-  
logg..... 278,340  
Roofing material, S. M. Allen..... 278,481  
Saddle, harness, S. A. Marker..... 278,349  
Sash balance, J. W. Lyons..... 278,348  
Sash holder, S. Lear..... 278,439  
Sash lifter and lock, automatic, C. W. Elliott..... 278,323  
Scarf, F. O. McCleary..... 278,444  
Scarf, neck, C. H. Crossette..... 278,316  
Scarf, neck, I. Noar..... 278,598  
Seal lock, S. E. Nutting..... 278,450  
Seals, tool for compressing, W. Johnson..... 278,434  
Separator. See Cotton separator. Thrashing ma-  
chine separator.  
Sewing machine, M. H. Pearson..... 278,592  
Sewing machine shuttle, G. W. Burgess..... 278,503  
Sewing machine tucker attachment, Fisher &  
Hurt..... 278,422  
Shaft hanger, H. C. Crowell..... 278,404  
Sheet metal vessel top, H. B. Dewey..... 278,319  
Shelf support, E. E. Cassell..... 278,506  
Shovel. See Snow shovel.  
Shutter worker, Murphy & Johnston..... 278,585  
Signal. See Telephone time signal.  
Skate roller, parlor, E. B. Mansfield..... 278,666  
Sleigh, M. J. Ferguson..... 278,326  
Sleigh, C. Harrigan..... 278,662  
Sleigh, A. M. Mitchell..... 278,447  
Snap hook, S. E. Thompson..... 278,469  
Snow shovel, steam, W. A. Woods..... 278,382  
Soldering machine, can, J. J. Jr., & E. J. Glackin..... 278,329  
Spike, H. T. Russell..... 278,604  
Spike, W. Taylor..... 278,628  
Spikes and bolts, machine for making, W. Taylor..... 278,629  
Spinning machines, bobbin for silk, G. P. Van  
Riper..... 278,673  
Spool blanks and braid roll blanks, device for  
feeding, I. Dimock..... 278,320  
Spooling machine bobbin holder, J. M. Curtice..... 278,406  
Spooling machine thread guide, Atherton & Newby..... 278,437  
Spring motor, Godley & Whittaker..... 278,427  
Starch, manufacture of, L. P. Best..... 278,490  
Station indicator, C. O. Ball..... 278,489  
Steam superheater, W. H. Burnet..... 278,311  
Steam trap, White & Huse..... 278,381  
Steam trap, drain and returning, J. H. Blessing..... 278,390

Stone, artificial, J. H. Thorp..... 278,671  
Stone dressing machines, cutter holder for, A.  
McDonald..... 278,352  
Store track switch, J. C. Coram..... 278,657  
Stove leg, L. S. Hoyt..... 278,433  
Stove lid and pan lifter, W. H. H. Smith..... 278,369  
Stove lids, pattern for molding, W. H. Smith..... 278,370  
Stove, oil, J. Marion..... 278,574  
Stove pipe, adjustable, D. A. Smith..... 278,617  
Stove pipe fitting device, M. J. Robinson..... 278,589  
Straw and other board, machine for lining, G.  
Munro..... 278,448  
Straw carrier, J. Ridenour..... 278,457  
Stump extractor, W. Smith..... 278,620  
Sugar, method of and apparatus for converting  
amylaceous and ligneous substances into  
grape, Landry & Lauga..... 278,562  
Sugar mixing apparatus, J. H. Brookmire..... 278,392  
Superheating pipes, protecting, M. Gross..... 278,537  
Supporter. See Garment supporter.  
Switch. See Railway switch. Store track switch.  
Telephone switch.  
Tag, jeweler's, J. Wiesbauer..... 278,674  
Tan vat and wheel, combined, D. Halsey, Jr..... 278,331  
Tea kettle, W. S. Liscomb..... 278,569  
Telephone circuit, J. A. McCoy..... 278,351  
Telephone exchange circuit, C. E. Scribner..... 278,367  
Telephone exchange system and apparatus, Shaw  
& Childs..... 278,613  
Telephone signaling apparatus, W. J. Dudley..... 278,322  
Telephone switch, H. W. Breckenridge..... 278,494  
Telephone time signal, J. M. Oram..... 278,357  
Telephonically, system and apparatus for commu-  
nicating, C. T. Dickson..... 278,411  
Thermometer, H. Weinbagen..... 278,380  
Thill adjuster, C. H. Myers..... 278,449  
Thill coupling, J. W. Kelley..... 278,389  
Thrasher and huller, clover, E. B. Jones..... 278,336  
Thrashing machine separator and cleaner, W. C.  
Buchanan..... 278,502  
Tongue, vehicle, T. P. Case..... 278,505  
Tooth, artificial, W. H. Taylor..... 278,468  
Toy, C. F. Shourds..... 278,462  
Toy bird, S. R. Screven..... 278,461  
Toy, electric, R. Lemboke..... 278,565  
Trap. See Plumber's trap. Steam trap.  
Trimming and sewing fabrics, method of and ap-  
paratus for, S. Arnold..... 278,495  
Truck, car, A. A. Brooks..... 278,495  
Truck for moving plows, J. L. Trexler..... 278,375  
Trunk tray, S. M. Michelson..... 278,580  
Tug, hame, E. P. Waters..... 278,475  
Underground line, Taaffe & Koyl..... 278,627  
Valve, balanced rotary, A. E. Wilson..... 278,648  
Valve gear, steam engine, E. O'Neill..... 278,451  
Valve seats of globe valves, device for dressing,  
Wright & Rust..... 278,478  
Varnishing machines, automatic hanging up at-  
tachment for label, Schmidt & Rahskopf..... 278,607  
Vault, grave, F. Miller..... 278,354  
Vehicle, two wheeled, C. K. Paddock..... 278,358  
Vehicle wheel, F. M. Gideon..... 278,534  
Vehicle wheel, J. Lane..... 278,438  
Vehicle wheel, A. Wyckoff..... 278,479  
Violin bridge, P. Topham..... 278,634  
Wagon, R. Dalton..... 278,608  
Wagon bolster, A. O. Wilbur..... 278,645  
Wagon box, P. Sames..... 278,365  
Wagon brake, C. Olmstead..... 278,589  
Wagon jack, A. E. Petticrew..... 278,594  
Warping machine drop wire, G. S. Follansbee..... 278,327  
Washing compound, J. G., E. P. & D. W. Davis..... 278,409  
Watch case, J. E. Searing..... 278,609  
Watch key or holding tool, G. L. Holt..... 278,550  
Watches, device for fitting hair springs to, C. H.  
Lucas..... 278,347  
Water elevator, J. E. Morgan..... 278,582  
Water gage, F. H. Lincoln..... 278,345  
Water proof compound of mangrove resin, or  
cattivo, and caoutchouc, C. C. Parsons..... 278,591  
Weaner, calf, W. F. Geissler..... 278,532  
Wheel. See Emery wheel. Paddle wheel. Ve-  
hicle wheel. Wind wheel.  
Whistles automatically, device for blowing loco-  
motive, E. A. Leland..... 278,440  
Wind wheel, R. G. Kirkwood..... 278,561  
Wood polishing machine, J. Willis..... 278,647  
Wrench, J. Houlehan..... 278,553  
Yokey, neck, E. B. Childs..... 278,400

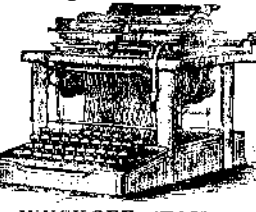
DESIGNS.

Carpet, E. A. Crowe..... 13,929 to 13,939  
Carpet, E. Fisher..... 13,941 to 13,947, 13,965  
Carpet, E. Poole..... 13,952, 13,953  
Carpet, C. W. Swapp..... 13,955 to 13,964  
Fabric, C. R. Hieronymus..... 13,949  
Inkstand, J. Gibbins..... 13,948  
Lamp, incandescent electric, T. A. Edison..... 13,940  
Type, font of printing, H. Ihlenburg..... 13,950  
Type ornaments, font of, H. Ihlenburg..... 13,951  
Upholstery trimming, G. H. Prindle..... 13,954  
Ale, ginger, Bewley & Draper..... 10,304 to 10,306  
Beverage, gentle sparkling liquid used as a, J. A.  
Lomax..... 10,311  
Cigars, cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco,  
and snuff, S. Belmont & Son..... 10,318  
Dyspepsia, remedy for, J. S. Hall & Co..... 10,308  
Filters, water, McBride & Co..... 10,312  
Flour, patent process, W. M. Galt & Co..... 10,313, 10,314  
Laxative, Kilmer & Higgins..... 10,309  
Medical remedy for the diseases of women, J. S.  
Hall & Co..... 10,307  
Medicine for nervous and other diseases, G. W.  
Bible..... 10,319  
Sheet metal utensils and articles, enameled, La-  
lance & Grosjean Manufacturing Company..... 10,322  
Soap, laundry and toilet, Schultz & Co..... 10,324  
Starch, A. A. Hovey..... 10,320, 10,321  
Tonic, Lincoln & Brown..... 10,323  
Watches, L. Strasburger & Co..... 10,315  
Whisky, Lang, Bernheimer & Co..... 10,310  
Wines and brandies, Hungarian, L. Reich..... 10,317  
Wines, Hungarian, L. Reich..... 10,316

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