## engineering inventions.

Mr. Walter L. Pbelps, of Wortendyke, N. J., has patented an im proved railroad torpedo. The invention relates to the construction and shape of the
plate to which the torpead, is attached, and to the provision which is made for attaching two or more
does on one plate, so as to innure an esplosion.
Mr. Arthur G. Leonard, of New York city, has obtaired a patent for an improved railroad signal which consists in a novel mechanism by which when a semaphore is raised will deposit a torne which the track. In this way a double safeguard is provided, for in case the engineer from any cause fails to observe the semaphore his attention will bedrawn to the signal
by the exploding of the torpedo.
ay the exploding of the torpedo.
A very simple and inexpensive steam whisthe has been patented by Mr. Frank McCabe, of Provi-
dence, R. I. The steam is admitted into the steam chamber by depressing an ordinary check valve, and for the escape of the steam. By increasing or dimin. for the escape of the steam. By increasing or be produced in the whistle, and in order to enable the size of this aperture to be varied the inventor has provided
the whistle with a movable lip plate which may be adjusted in the desired position.
Mr. John Houpt, of Springtown, Pa., has patented an improved compound feed pump for steam
boilers. In this invention the force pump which supboilers. In this invention the force pump which sup-
plies the water to the boiler has combined with it an plies the water to the boiler has combined with it an
ausiliary pump, with check valve between them, the ausiliary pump being arranged between the first named pump and the heater, and both pumps workingsimul-
taneously in like directions to produce an artificial pulsation and overcome any undue back pressure in the cylinder and supply pipe. This invention is antor in August, 1882, and the especial feature of the improve-
ment consists in using elongated plungers in the pump ment consists in using elongated plungers in the pump
instead of pistons with valves in them.

## MECHANICAL INVENTIONS

Mr. William Lane Hutson, of St. Lawrence, N. C., has patented a lever wagon brake, the simple
mechanism of which keeps the brake applied to the wheel without effict on the part of the driver, and by
which the brake is instantly released by a movement of the lever precisely like that which engaged the brak thus greatly simplifying the operation of the brake.
Mr. Joseph W. Davis, of Port Jefferson N. Y., has obtained a patent for a very efficient road scraper. This scraper is mounted upon wheels and is
so arranged that the scraper may be raised or lowered by means of a windlass, so as to avoid any obstructions
that may be in the way, and so that the machine will not do any work while passing from place to place.
Mr. Matthew Newlove, of Grand Island, Neb., has patented an improved chain saw, which is es-
pecially adapted for cutting mortises. This invention consists in an endless chain composed of links or sec-
tions having teeth or cutters at their outer edge, and tions having teeth or cutters at their outer edge, and
united together by pivotal connections, and driven by a sprocket or notched wheel, with which the chain saw
engages.
A new lever cotton and hay press is patented by Mr. Thomas G. Holloway, of Boston, Ga., in
which two combined levers act, the long ends of the which two combined levers act, the long ends of the
levers being connected and moving through the same levers being connected and moving through the same
arc, the radius of which is greater than that of the shorter, unconnected ends. An immense advantage is thus
gained over any toggle lever whose unconnected ends An improved grinding attachment for valves has been patented by Mr. A. Wells Case, of valve head constructed with a square recess in its face to receive the square end of a rod which slides longi-
tudinally through a stuffing box in a screw plag oppo site the face of the valve head, thus enabling the engi neer to grind the valve heads to their seats without re
moving thew from the valves. An improved flour and meal bolt bas re cently been patented by Mr. William Mosher. of
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. In this machine the coarse par Poughkeepsie, N. Y. In this machine the coarse pa nary revolving bolt, and in consequence the large fakes which commonly cover the meshes, and prevent
the escape of the finer particles will be disposed of at first, whereby the separating will be greatly expedited An improved evaporator is the subject of letters patent recently issued to Mr. T. L. West, of
Palatine, IIl. The improvements consist in the construction and arrangement of the evaporating pan, the means of supplying the sirup to the pan, the means of
regulating the application of theheat, and for the management and action of the sirup, and the separating o it from the semisirup, as well as discharging it from the pan. The inventor claims it is more economical in the
use of fuel and is better in its application of heat than the evaporators now in genaral use.
Mr . John Spengler, of Clarion, Iowa, is the patentee of a car mover adapted to move railroad cars
by means of a lever power applied to the railway track at one end, and to a frame beam of the car at the other
end. The lower end of the implement grasps the head of the rail by means of jaws and a chisel edgedlever, and
the upper end is attached to the floor beam of a car the upper end is attached to the floor beam of a car
A horizontal lever with connecting bars is used to work the device, and it may be used atrached to the stands outside of the track.
An improved annealing furnace bas been patented by Mr. Daniel G. Barnard, of Winslow, N. J. signed to reduce to a minimum the breakage of the glass while it is being carried through the tunnel. The glass rests upon a series of parallel bars while a secondary set are so arranged that they may be raised be-
tween the stationary set, and thus will carry the glass tween the stationary set, and thus will carry the glass
once more upon the stat:onary set, anll then are 1:owci
back again to the position they were in at frst, and
then the glass will again be raised and carried forward back again to the position they were in at first, an
then the glass will again be raised and carried forwar
as before. The invention consists in the improved ar rangement of the mechanism.

## AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS

Mr. G. W. Hunt, of Muscatine, Iowa, has patented an improved wheel plow by which the drive
can instantly adjust the depth of the plowshare with out leaving his seat, and without interfering with th management of the team. The plow beam holding th rigidly in any position by a very simple device that is elf-locking, and thatm
ment of a simple lever.
Messrs. Louis C. Rummel and Emil J. Fiedler, of Ledbetter, Texas, have invented a new and object of which is to facilitate the baling of cotton as it comes from the gin. The invention consists in a cot ton press constructed with a pivoted double baling box, a pair of rolls and their driving mechanism for packing the cotton into the baling box automatically, and a screw drive
into bales.
A combined barrow and clod crusher bas been patented by Mr. Samuel Miller, of Moweaqua, patent No. 188,379 were issued to him and Mr. W. H. Kuhn. The machine consists of a series of independen rames carrying the harrow teeth and suspended side verticallv. Each frame acts independently of the others, thus adapting the harrow to of the entire harrow and of the driver seated upon it.

## miscellaneous inventions.

A simple and efficient device for cleaning sinks has recently been patented by Mr. C. R. Turner, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It consists of a suitable brush or
scraper for collecting the refuse in the sink, combined with a shovel for scooping it up.
Mr. Elijaì Tolman, of Taunton, Mass., has invented an improved form of spoons and forks intend ticles. Insted of more heavily plating these portions or of forming projections at their points, he flattens the portions slightly, so as to give greater area of wearing
When wash tubs are packed for transporta ion there is often some difficulty in getting them in compact shape, owing to the awkward shape of thei handles. Mr. W. H. Parrish, of Richmond, Va., has
avoided thisohjection by an improved metallic handle avoided thisohjection by an improved metallic handle
made of such a shape that the sections of the tub may e packed with the greatest facility
Mr. J. W. Page, of Rollin, Mich., has patented a wire lock which relates to locks for worm rail
fences, in which wire is drawn around the rails to preent the fence from being blowu down or from being pushed down by animars; also provision is made for
tightening the lock from time to time, as shrinkage or
A patent has recently been issued to $\mathbf{M r}$. . S. Gulick, of Bolivar, N. Y., for an improved stove pipe holder, which consists of an exteusible hanger
and an extensible hoop, contrived in a simple arrange ment for suspending stove pipes from the ceiling in ment for suspending stove pipes from the ceiling in
better way than by the wire suspenders commonly em ployed.

An improvement in table casters for bolding condiment bottles is the subject of a patent by Mr. Orin F. Bacon, of Taunton, Mass., which provides
an anti-friction bushing, or collar, for the holder, or or the standard, by which the wear of the holder on whentle and the consequent rattling of the caster caster is greatly extended
A fire escape bas been patented by Mr. Richard E. Andrew, of Shepherdstown, West Va, which
is intended to lower, by weights, one or more ladders from the eaves of a building to the ground. The entire bechanism, and the laddersthemselves (which are flexiin the attic of the house, and the ladders pass out hrough openings under the eaves, the openings being
A gate has recently been patented rovided with a long arm, so arranged that by raising this arm the gate itself will be raised in the post
rails upon which it is hung. This enables the gate to be swung out readily in snowy weather, and the invention recommends itself on account of its simplicity and the readiness with which the contrivance may be applied to an ordinary gate. The inventor of this device
s Mr. Bernard Selting, of Dyersville, Ia.
Mr. P. T. Forsyth, of Memphis. Tenn., has held to the end of a rope passingover a pulley, and through a sleeve of pliable material provided with a
fap. The flap is passed around flap. The flap is passed around the strands of the rope
when a person is using the fire escape, which sleeve aud lap are pressed more or less firmly against the strands of the rope, to increase or decrease the friction, so as to regulate the rapidity of the descent.
Mrs. Augusta Netzner, of New York city, has pateuted a very strong suspender end. This suspender end is provided wih a cord between the two
strands of each strap, which cord has its lower end secured at the lower end of the strap, and its upper end
secured to the upper part of the strap. This cord is hus made to bear the greater part of the strain and the nds thus rendered exceedingly durable.
Mr. William Gosshorn, of W
Mr. William Gosshorn, of Waterloo, Pa., has obtained a patent for $a$ very convenient gate for use
where pedestrians and horses and carriages are likely
sliding section where it is hinged is provided with compelled to open the whole gate in order to pas through. The gate is further arranged so that it may be raised at its hinges in order that it may be swung nut readily even if the ground be covered with snow.
Mr. Emil C Eyl, of Jefferson City, Montana Territory, has patented a combined folding fire net work frame of iron or steel, hinged against the house in such a position that when lowered it forms a
platform just helow the window sill, a chain ladder at platform just helow the window sill, a chain ladder at
the same time unfolding from it to the ground. When no in use the ladder is folded into the frame and the frame is turned up against the wall of the house and

An improved gate has been patented by Mr. J.L.James, of Forsyth, Ill. This gate is constructed in two sections, only one of which is swung
open under ordinary circumstances, but the whole being so arranged that in case the opening is too varrow the two gates may be swung open as one. Further, a long crossbeam is provided carrying pulleys at the ends over which pass ropes arranged conveniently, so that a person riding or driving in a wagon
without being compelled to alight.
Mr. Lorenzo D. Cather, of White Pigeon Mich., has patented an improved "stake and rider fence for farms, the supports of which are two braces
crossing each other, with a vertical binding stake which with longitudinal riders are held securely by wires, forming a fence so rigid that it may be moved
bodily without falling apart. It has no stakes or posts bodily without falling apart. It has no stakes or posts
inserted in the ground, but the leaning stakes may rest upon blocks or stones. It may be put up by unskilled dogs, and other small animals.
Mr. Edward A. Hemphill, of Elizabeth N. J., has invented a new and improved memorandum book, having its covers stitched to each other a shor
distance from the back, forming a pencil pocket along the back of the book. Preferably both covers are made in one piece, and the pocket is formed by stitches a
short distance from the back, and the book is then pasted to the covers. The pencil in the pocket stiffens the book and prevents it from being doubled over or bent, and does not interfere with using the book and
turning the leaves, and is entirely out of the way when not in use.
Mr. Walter S. Bishop, of New Haven, Conn., has obtained a patent for some improvements
relating to polishing wheels. The object of this invenrelating to polishing wheels. The object of this inven-
tion is to construct polishing wheels in such a manner that they will not become changed in shape from dampness, and will be strong and durable, and Mr. Bision metallic rim this by providing the emery wheel with covering the rim of the wheel with a leather band and covering this band with a second band cemented there-
to, and sewed together at the ends. A wheel thus conto, and sewed together at the ends. A wheel thus
structed will not bechanged by swelling or warpirg.

## NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

A Summary of the Law of Patents for Useful Inventions, with Forms. By New York: L. K. Strouse \& Company
This is an enlargement of a volume issued by the an thor as a manual in 1874, which combined the laws retion of rulings und present volume may be considered a compendium o patent law and patent law practice, being intended, $n$ only as a guide to patentees, but as a help to patentees
attorneys. The volume, which is neatly bound in sheepattorneys. The volume, which is neatly bound in sheep
skin, is provided with a copious index which enables it skin, is provided with a copious inde

Finland : Its Forests and Forest Man AgEment. By John Croumbie Brown,
LLL.D. Oliver \& Boyd, Edinburgh;
Simpkin, Marshall \& Company, and Wil
liam Rider \& Son, London; Dawso: liam Rider \& Son, London; Dawson
Brothers, Montreal.
The first fifty pages of the book are taken up by de-
scriptionsof the lakes and rivers of the country, but a scriptionsof the lakes and rivers of the country, but a
serious mistake was made by omitting an examination serious mistake was made by omitting an examination
into the relations they bear to the climate. This branch of the subject was treated very cursorily. The old practice of clearing the land by burning the forests, the custom being known in Finland as Svedjande, is described at length, together with the methods pursned in the practice in India and an account of the merits an demerits of the practice as now pursued in France Sinistration, protection, exploitation, and the linds of trees. A valuable account is given of the school of forestry, its management, method of instruction, an
work it accomplishes: and also of ship work it accomplishes; and also of ship and house The last part of the volume treats of the physical geo graphy of Finland and its flora, fauna, and climate.
The author has contributed a valuable book to the literature of forestry, and his work clearly shows much
study and an intimate acquaintance with the labor of study and an intimate acquaintance with the
those who have preceded him in similar paths.
The Machinist's and Steam Engineer's
Practical Calculator.
Dy D. B.
Dixon. D. Van Nostrand, New York
City. Price, $\$ 2.00$.
The author, recognizing the need of a rudimentary has succeeded in producing a book admirably filling the want. The ground is very thoroughly covered,
and yet no useless subject is admitted. Algebraic formulasand technical phrases are entirely avoided, and all the rules laid down are illustrated by examples
worked out in plain arithmetic. The language is well worked out in plain arithm
chosen, simple, and direct.

## 

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Safe Deposit Vaults and Locks. See adv. p. 190 .
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ibitions. Send for catalogue. Queen \& Co., Phila. Am. Twist Drill Co.,Meredith, N. H., make Pat. Chuck American Fruit Drien Fre Pamphlet. See ad., p. 221 Drop Forgings. Billings \& Spencer Co. See adv., p. 189 Brass \& Copper in sheets,wire \& blanks. See ad.p. 220. The Chester Steel Castings Co., office 407 Library St.,
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Machinery of every kind. See adv., page 221

Straight Line Engine Co., Syracuse, N. Y. See p. 220. Lightning Screw Plates, Labor-saving Tools, p. 220.

## Wides Moneries

HIN'S' TO CORRESPONDENTS, No attention will be paid to commumcations unless
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## Names and addr given to inquirers. <br> given to inquirers.

 to former answers or articles, will be kind enough to name tbe date of the paper and the page, or the number of the question.a reasonable time shoud quiries do not appear after lished, they may conciude that, for goot reasons, th Editor declines them.
Persons desiring special information which is purely of a personal character, aud not of general intere should remit from $\$ 1$ to $\$ 5$, according to the subject, as we cannol be expected to spend time and
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Any numbers of the Scientiric Ameiican sumatioffice. Price 10 cents each
Correspondents sending samples of minerals, et
for examination, should be careful to distinctly mark label their specimens so as to avoid error in their ident fication.
(1) H. W. writes: I bave some gutta percha chips; how cau I soften them and then makethem hard
again,like gutta percha buttons? A. Soak the fragments in hot water. It will quickly soften them, and
they will become hard on cooling.
(2) J. R. H.-The ordinary solid bluing consists of indigo and starch, or of artificial ultrama rine. To make liquid bluing the following is a good
receipt: Powder one ounce Prussian blue very fine, receipt: Powder one ounce Prussian blue very fine,
add it to one quart of very pure water, to which add one-fourth of an ounce of oxalic a
powerful. The oxalic acid is poison.
(3) O. T. asks: Can you give me a formula or two for brilliant, quick drying furniture polish? A
The following will dry in a moderate time: 4 ounces shel lac is dissolved in2 pints strong alcohol; to this is added pints linseed oil and 1 pint spirits of turpentine. When mised, add 4 ounces common ether and 8 ounces ammonia water. Apply with a sponge. For French poi-
ishing, shellac varnishes are often used. The followis good: Shellac 2 pounds, mastic and sandarach, each 1 ounce, copal varnish 12 ounces. Alcohol 1 gal lon. Make in the cold in a stoppered can or demijohn,
and do not filter. This is for use in French polishing and do not filter. This is for use in Fre
(4) W. L. T. asks for a receipt for gilding and silvering on wood. A. The woo must be coate with size. To make this shavings with three quarts of water, constantly stirring.
This gives a clear solntion of gelatine, which must be ough a sieve. Paint over the wood with this and while it is still moist apply gold or silver leaf o should see the exact details practiced by a gilder. You may also gild wood by mixing bronze powder with
copal varnish and painting it with the mixture. Finally, gold paint may be bought all ready for use and this (5) E. G. H.-To prevent the rotting of seines, we would suggest the use of raw linseed oil, ap (d)
(6) A. R. J. writes: How can I remove the gold gilt and name from the cover of a book that is
pressed in one-sixteenth of an inch? Can the indentation be entirely taken out? Also, is there any preparation to renew the muslin or leather covers of old booiss?
Also can the stains of dampness, mould, or other discolorations be removed from the cover and leaves be removed. It would also be very difficult or impo ssible to remove the discolorations you speak of.
(7) D. J. P. asks: 1. Is there any solvent of coal tar other than heat or "dead oil"? A. 'Turpen
tine, naphtha, kerosene, benzine, and many other simi tine, naphena, kerosene, benzine, and many other sim
lar liquids will dissolve coal tar. 2. How may the odor lar liquids will dissolve coal tar. 2. How may the odor
of coal tar be destroyed or disguised? A. It is extremely hard to remove
found by experience.
(8) T. F. asks (1) what two colorless or nearly colorless liguids when,mixed will become black,
A. Mix a dilute solution of copperas with an infusion of nut galls. 2. What colorless or nearly colorles vegetable or mineral solution will become dark by con
tact with a metallic soiid, and what metal will effect the change? A. Mix a dilate solution of nickel sulphate with a very little hydrochloric acid and add sulphide of the acid and cause a black precipitate of sulphide of nickel which will color the solution before settling out
(9) E. C. S. writes: 1. I bave a lot of sur geon's isinglass adbesive plaster which is not very
proof against water or moisture. What should I apply
to the silk side to render it entirely waterproof, so
won't wash off when slightly wet? A. After applyin it give it a coat of shellac dissolved in alcohol, or coat it and the skin surrounding it with collodion. 2. What is the liquid used on muslin drilling, or cotton duck to
make it waterproof, and fit for coats, horse and wagon covers, etc.? It gives the material a slightly yellowish int. A. Linseed oil.
(10) H. C. W. writes: 1. Please give us in Notes and Queries "the formula for a good liquid shoe dressing; one that will not injure the leather and will also answer for harness? A. Many receipts are piven will also auswer for harness? A. Many receipts are given.
We give the following, as it contains no oil of vitriol, and can be tried cheaply. Ivory black, 1 pound; molasse $3 / 4$ pound; sweet oil, 2 ounces. Mix well, and rub together, then add beer, 1 pint, vinesar, 1 pint. Also see
Scientific American, Vol. 48, No. 10. 2. Can you also give the formula for Day's liquid blacking, an Engliss preparation? A. The formula for Day \& Martin' English blacking is thus given: Fine bone black is mix
ed with sperm oil until a thorough mixture is effected. ed with sperm oil until a thorough mixture is effected
Sugar and molasses is mixed with a little vinegar, and add ed to the mass. Oil of vitriol is next added, and then effervescence has ceased vinegar is poured in un
til a proper consistence is attained. The quantities ar not given; they probably run about as follows: Bone black, 1 pound; sperm oil; $1 / 4$ pound, or enough to mix
molasses, 1 pound ; oil of viriol, $\frac{1}{8}$ pound; vinegar molasses, 1 pound ; oil of virriol, $\frac{\text { on }}{\text { on }}$
enough to secure proper consistency.
(11) C. F. S. asks: Is there any way we can seep glue from getting thick after reducing down very thin? What can we put in it to destroy the offensive odor while cooking? A. Add acetic acid to the glue $\mathrm{Tr} y$ also muritic
(12) E. Bros. ask if this is intended to make a first class mucilage for gumming large sheets of
paper which may be kept for use without curling, and stick well on glass or other substances when wet, viz


Dísolve the gum, add the sugar, and boil until the starch is cooked. A. This seems to be a good paste Try the following, said to be that used on postage Water, 5 parts. Dissolve in a water bath and add alcohol, 1 part.
(13) J. W. R. asks how to make green japan
for tin, such as is used on toy cups, bird cages, etc. She japan green by adding a mixture of King's yellow or other good yellow) and Prussian blue: also try ani-
(14) F. W. writes: 1. Will you please answer the following questions, and oblige: At what de gree of heat will platinum melt. ? A. 4,5910 Fabr. 2
Has it a clear ring like silver? A. It is not nearly so Has it a clear ring like silver? A. It is not nearly so
sonorous as silver. 3. What is it worth per pound? A A bout \$155.00.
(15) L R. G. writes: I forward you with this a sample of white quartz sand from a deposit in
this state. Would you inform me whether the sample is of a kind suitable for fine glass manufacture, and also if it is likely that the sand would find a market as a commercial article if suitably prepared? Would you
also acquaint me through the Scientricic Americas what are the requirements of manufacturers in their what are the requirements of manufacturers in their
choice of sand for different classes of articles, and The value of san for manufacturers in general consists especially in its freedom from iron. The sample you send seems very pureand well adapted for glassmaking. Correspond with some of the large glass factories, and end them samples if they ask for them.
(16) G. W. H. writes: Will you please informme in your answers to correspondents how stee plate engravings can be traneferred to vases and other
rticles for ornament. Some method by which the ink can be softened and transferred to any kind of hara surface? A. Varnish the surface to which the engrav-
ing is to be transferred with copal or dammar varnish. After it has dried for six hours and is still sticky, After it has dried for six hours and is still sticky, wet
or soak (if necessary) the engraving, using soft water for the purpose. Then press the engraving well npon the varnished surface, carefully avoiding the formation of bubbles. Let the whole dry perfectly (which will take a day more). Then with a wet sponge and the and the lines of the engraving will be left upon the glass porcelain surface. This must then be revarnished. (17) A. A. R. asks: Can you give a process
whereby empty ink bottles can be sufficiently cleaned, so that they may be used without injury to health in bottling and preserving catsup, table sauce, etc.? A Muriatic acid followed by water will answer we think, (18) A. G. asks: Are the colors used in making pastel pictures durable, or will they fade aft
time? A. Most of the colors are very permanent.

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