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flesh and smoke well; the squaws, who always do this work, being obliged to work the skins with great thoroughness.

(12) J. B. F. M. asks: 1. Is the Blake transmitter as good as any? A. For general purposes, yes; it, however, lacks power for long distances.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted February 5, 1884, AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

Aerial cable, W. R. Patterson 292,847 Air apparatus for producing compressed, J. Schweizer 292,967 Air compressor, hydraulic, C. H. Hill 292,814 Alarm, See Burglar alarm.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

BLEACHING, DYEING, AND CALICO PRINTING Edited by John Gardner, F.I.C., F.C.S. P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price, \$1.75.

This book presents mainly a condensed summary of what has heretofore been presented in more elaborate works. It will make, however, a convenient manual for practical workers who do not wish to give the time and trouble required for more extended research.

THE MODERN HOUSE CARPENTER'S COMPANION AND BUILDER'S GUIDE. By W. A. Sylvester. Cupples, Upham & Co., Boston. Price, \$2.00.

This is a standard book of its kind, and has reached its third edition. It is written for workmen, by one who commenced his preparation for the task in the memoranda made during early experience at the trade.

HINTS ON THE DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE OF DWELLINGS. By William Paul Gerhard, C.E. William T. Comstock, New York. Price, \$2.50.

Every topic of importance touching dwelling house sanitation here receives some attention. Illustrations are given of many different kinds of closets, traps, sinks, piping, etc., with practical directions for securing good plumbing and detecting that which is bad.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALABAMA, 1881-82, WITH AGRICULTURAL FEATURES. By Eugene A. Smith, Ph.D., State Geologist.

This is an eminently practical book, containing a great deal of what might be styled basic information for all present or would-be agriculturists in the State of Alabama. So far as the geology of the State is concerned, there are, perhaps, no points of especial scientific interest to be developed.

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) G. H. B., Cleveland, O., asks how skins are dressed to render them soft enough to make clothes of, and what is the Indian process? A. Most of the buffalo robes and other heavy skins are either lightly tanned in bark liquors, or tawed with alum and salt, and well worked and dressed with oil.

(3) J. T. asks: How can I unite by casting a piece of mshett steel to the end of a piece of cast iron 1 1/2 square by 7 in. long? The steel is 1 1/2 square by 1/2 in. thickness. A. Make a core print to correspond with the steel, lay the steel in the mould, gate beneath to allow the iron to escape, and pour and waste perhaps one or two pounds so as to heat the steel; then plug up the waste gate and fill the mould.

(4) C. A. K. asks: What kind of liquids or gas are fire extinguishers charged with, especially the new hand grenade of Chicago, Ill.? A. Fire extinguishers are generally charged with carbonate of lime or carbonate of soda and water, with a combining quantity of sulphuric acid in a position to be discharged into the water at the required time.

(5) H. B. C. says: In answer to D. D. L., query No. 19, Dec. 22, I clean my mica as follows: Take them out of stove, lay on a smooth board, and with a stiff bristle brush dipped in concentrated ammonia brush the surface until it feels smooth and glossy, then wash off the dirt and rinse with soft water.

(6) W. H. writes: Will you tell me the reason that an ax at one corner and sometimes both cracks in tempering it, and how to prevent? Also a good receipt for small springs, such as main spring to gun locks, and other small springs? A. To prevent the cracking of an ax in hardening, have the iron poll split to receive the steel bit; not the bit to receive the poll.

(7) J. W. H.—Inquiry No. 8, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of Dec. 1, 1883, concerning quantity of water for boiler. In our reply we should have said cubic foot instead of gallon. The inquiry and answer as corrected stand as follows: How many gallons of water are required for a steam boiler per horse power, say at 60 pounds pressure? A. At the Centennial Exhibition and tests, 30 pounds steam per horse power per hour was taken as standard; this is a little less than half a cubic foot of water, but it depends much on the character and condition of the engine through which the steam is worked.

(8) S. R. asks: Will any fellow reader acquaintance with any cheap liquid that will keep an even temperature (or nearly so) the year round? What are the non-conducting properties of oils or water glass? (9) H. S., of Russell, Kas., asks the specific gravity of pure milk by a lactometer? A. The specific gravity of milk varies with the different breeds and age of cattle, the season of year, and kind of feed.

(10) H. W., of Frankfort, Ky., asks about ventilating a drying room 8 x 12, and 6 ft. high, in which there are 400 ft. 1 in. pipe for heating, present arrangement not working well? A. The steam coil should be 5 or 6 in. above floor; the flat kinds are the most efficient. The ventilation inlet should be under the coil so as to spread the air as much as possible; the outlet also should be at several places, so that the current through the room will be nearly equal in all parts.

(11) W. T. says: I am told that a thermometer in which, on being inverted, the mercury breaks in running to the top of the tube is not reliable; that instead it should form a vacuum in the bulb. Is this right? A. Theoretically, and with an absolute vacuum above the mercury, the latter should, when inverted, fill the tube. But when the latter is very small a slight cause, a little roughness, or obstruction too diminutive to be seen with the naked eye, may cause a parting, and the instrument still be practically useful.

(12) J. B. F. M. asks: 1. Is the Blake transmitter as good as any? A. For general purposes, yes; it, however, lacks power for long distances. The Hopkins transmitter, by actual test, has proved the best for long distances. 2. Is the induction coil in the Blake transmitter composed of more than one sized wire, and what sizes and amounts are used? A. Yes, two layers of Nos. 16 and 18 insulated copper wire are wound in a coil 1/2 in. diameter by 1 1/2 in. long for the primary, and over that is wound from five to six layers of No. 34 silk covered wire for the secondary wire.

(13) A. S. P. writes: I have been trying to electroplate with two jars, Grenet battery, 7 in. high, object about 1 1/2 in. square. I get a deposit of copper, but it takes a long time and consumes too much zinc. What is the fault? Can I not get good effects with that battery? A. Use two or three cells of gravity battery. The Grenet is not well adapted to electroplating.

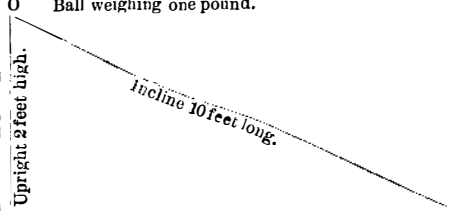
(14) W. W. M. says: I have a glass wheel, the remnant of an old electrical machine. It is about 2 ft. in diameter and 3/4 in. thick. Can it be utilized in making a Holtz machine? If so, what thickness would be best for the additional wheel? A. It is a curious fact that plate glass is worthless for a Holtz machine. The natural surface of ordinary blown glass seems to be necessary to the successful working of the machine. Your plate would answer for a frictional machine.

(15) J. H. B. asks: 1. Is not properly secured cistern or rain water the best for drinking and cooking purposes? A. We do not consider that cistern water in its best condition is equal to water drawn from sand or rock beds, but is no doubt better than the water of many wells. 2. Is there any danger arising from the use of water in brass or copper vessels? A. Brass and copper vessels that are kept scrupulously clean are suitable for cooking in or holding water for drinking. Brass pipe for conveying water is now much used, and is not considered more dangerous than lead pipe. 3. What effect, if any, has the rubber pipe upon water secured through it, such as our lawn and sidewalk hose? A. Rubber hose has no deleterious effect upon water. 4. Where is the best water found when exposed to the sun and air, and standing in open vessels—at the top or bottom of the vessel? A. We do not know that there is any difference in the quality of water drawn from the top or bottom of an open vessel, provided both vessel and water are clean.

(16) W. W. asks: What is the best material to mix with gas tar to form a durable waterproof coating for tin, shingle, or paper roof? A. Boil the tar with lime, stir in powdered slate, and then apply.

(17) F. T. K. G. writes: I was much interested in the article entitled "The re-enforcement of deficient water supply in wells," which appeared in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of November 10, but it does not explain how to manage where there are large quantities of granite bowlders, which is the case in many parts of the country. A. The deepening or re-enforcing of wells located in bowlder strata is not easy work. It requires much judgment and patience to bore out the sand and fish out the bowlders as they are laid bare. The strainer pipe should be much larger than those used for wells in clear sand strata. Sounding the substratum of the well with a small iron rod pointed and driven down several feet at different places close together and near the center of the well will generally reveal its condition as to the number and size of the bowlders, and will suggest the size of the strainer, which should be large enough to allow the bowlders to be drawn up with a finger grapple. The sand may be taken out as in the process before described. The bowlders can be loosened with a hook and taken up with the finger grapple. If the bowlder catch under the edge of the tube, bore down near it and below it and work the bowlder toward the center with a hook, where it can be caught with the grapple.

(18) E. D. C. asks for a rule by which he can solve the following problem:



Question: With what force will the ball weighing one pound strike an upright at D, having traveled the ten foot incline? A. A body acquires the same velocity in descending any inclined plane as by falling freely through a distance equal to the height of the plane minus the friction due to the manner of moving down the plane. The impact in foot pounds equals the velocity multiplied by the weight. To get the velocity, multiply the space fallen through by 64.333, and the square root of the product will give the velocity acquired in feet per second. In your case 1/2 x 64.333 = 11.334 feet per second. 11.334 x 1 lb. = 11.333 foot pounds. In practice this has been exceeded under favorable circumstances 4-426 times, so that you may obtain in practice any value in pounds for a one pound ball, from 11 to 44 pounds.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents, and examined, with the results stated:

J. N. T.—The specimen is probably infusorial earth, but it is too gritty to be of much use for polishing purposes. It has no commercial value in New York.

Coupling for propeller and other shafts, J. Kelly... 292,823
 Crusher. See Clay crusher.
 Cultivator, B. Brix... 292,979
 Cultivator, J. Divora... 292,996
 Cultivator, W. M. Harris... 293,017
 Cultivator, F. T. Verharen... 292,877
 Cultivator shovel, W. F. Dickson... 292,795
 Cultivator, tongueless wheel, T. B. Jewett... 293,030
 Curtain fixture, C. H. Miller, Jr... 293,188
 Curtain roller, C. H. Miller... 293,187
 Curtains, supporting rod for window and door, J. A. Browne... 292,982
 Cutter. See Wire cutter.
 Deoxidizing iron ores, apparatus for, J. Bridgford... 292,758
 Desulphurizing furnace, Parson & Northey... 292,944
 Digger. See Potato digger.
 Doors and gates, automatically operating, Norton & Sherman... 292,845
 Dovetailing machine, J. Schmidt... 293,097
 Draft equalizer, W. P. Grannis... 292,008
 Draft equalizer, D. F. Robbins... 293,086
 Draft regulator for pipes, flues, and ventilators, L. Y. Lenhart... 293,043
 Drier. See Fruit drier. Grain drier.
 Drill. See Grain-drill.
 Drills, machines for operating, M. C. & C. E. Baker... 292,888
 Drinking glass, E. L. Moore... 293,190
 Dust excluder and window fastener, combined, F. H. Moore... 292,839
 Ear ring, B. Hartmann... 292,810
 Egg beater, W. Johnson... 292,821
 Egg carrier, G. A. Chapman... 292,986
 Electric circuit protector, J. W. Dyer... 292,796
 Electric motor, A. E. G. Lubke... 292,930
 Electrical devices, apparatus for operating, A. L. Bogart... 292,785
 Elevator, R. L. Davis... 292,995
 Elevator, A. Kleckhefer... 293,038
 Elevator, T. McAdoo... 293,050
 End gate, wagon, J. D. Mack... 292,931
 Engine. See Gas engine. Gas motor engine. Hot air or gas engine. Rotary steam engine. Traction engine.
 Eyeglasses, J. S. Spencer... 292,959
 Fastening for wearing apparel, P. Laflin... 293,041
 Feed bag, J. W. Gedney... 293,004
 Fence, iron, E. S. Garrett... 293,003
 Fence, iron, T. Rogers... 292,859
 Fence wires and boards, fastener for, C. E. Grifth... 293,000
 Fertilizer distributor, A. Reger... 292,852
 Filter, water, J. E. Heath... 292,912
 Finger ring, O. Thie... 292,963
 Finger ring, adjustable, B. Lewkowitz... 293,044
 Fire escape, D. Bennett... 293,137
 Fire escape, T. Brooke... 292,981
 Fire escape, R. P. Clark... 292,989
 Fire escape, J. T. Guthrie... 292,803
 Fire escape, G. J. Joyce... 293,177
 Fire escape, S. M. Kim... 292,825
 Fire escape, T. B. Peacock... 293,072
 Fire escape, Richberg & Brobston... 292,855
 Fire escape bracket, C. Murdock... 293,191
 Fire escape ladder, A. M. Downing... 293,153
 Fire pot and lining, S. T. Bryce... 292,983
 Folding box, G. Lusty... 292,833
 Fruit drier, T. J. Pearce... 293,073
 Fruit picker, F. A. Moore... 292,936
 Furnace. See Coking furnace. Desulphurizing furnace. Gas retort furnace. Metallurgical furnace. Roasting furnace.
 Gage. See Boring gage.
 Game apparatus, T. Davies... 292,899
 Gas engine, J. Charter... 292,894
 Gas engine, King & Cliff... 293,179
 Gas motor engine, J. Schweizer... 292,864
 Gas purifier screen or grid, J. Cabot... 292,984
 Gas retort furnace, Stanley & Stedman... 292,107
 Gasoline vapor burner, T. Johnson... 293,032
 Gate. See End gate.
 Gearing, R. Campbell... 292,791
 Glass. See Drinking glass.
 Glass globe, J. Locke (r)... 10,446
 Glove, S. O. Parker... 293,068
 Gold and silver ores, roasting and amalgamating, E. O. & C. Francke... 293,157
 Grain binder, Guyer & King... 292,907
 Grain drier, W. H. Applegate... 293,133
 Grain drill, A. N. Norris... 293,062
 Grain scourer, C. M. Gilbert... 292,159
 Grindstone truing machine, F. Trier... 293,203
 Hair spring studs, gage for, J. P. Wathier... 293,127
 Handle. See Saw handle.
 Harness loop, E. R. Northcutt... 292,844
 Harrow, E. V. Caldwell... 292,985
 Harrow tooth, F. C. Merrill... 292,836
 Harrow, wheel, A. Scheaffer... 292,955
 Harvester, C. S. Stickle... 293,202
 Hat case, J. Luker... 293,153
 Hat pouncing machine, F. F. Campbell... 292,892
 Hat sizing apparatus, N. Harper... 293,015
 Hay rake, horse, J. M. Clark... 292,988
 Hay stacker, J. H. Johnson... 293,031
 Heel burnishing machine, H. Bond... 292,787
 Hobby horse, M. Bohlig... 293,139
 Hoisting machine, W. L. Beatty et al... 292,781
 Holder. See Map holder. Tool holder.
 Hook. See Screw hook. Trace hook.
 Hoop pole splitting machine, J. Winterbotham... 292,973
 Hopper, feed, J. T. Walter... 293,126
 Horse detacher, W. M. Walker... 293,125
 Horse power, A. Robinson... 293,087
 Hot air or gas engine, H. S. Maxim... 293,185
 House cleaning implement, L. F. Johnston... 293,034
 Huller, cleaner, and separator, W. W. Jackson... 292,029
 Hydro transmitter, reciprocating, V. Baxter... 292,779
 Hypotenuse calculator and indicator, D. Patten... 293,069
 Indicating lock, E. C. Nichols... 292,939
 Indicator. See Speed indicator.
 Ink or color fountain, stencil, L. R. Rockwood... 292,856
 Invalid lift, G. J. Goodhue, Jr... 292,801
 Iron wheel, L. H. Goodwin... 293,006
 Ironing board, R. W. Ferguson... 292,904
 Ironing machine, C. O. White... 292,983
 Ironing machine roller, H. E. Smith... 292,958
 Jack. See Boot and shoe lasting jack.
 Journals, alarm signal for hot, Cornelius & Turner... 292,992
 Knife. See Planer knife. Pocket knife.
 Ladder, adjustable step, E. Markwick... 292,932
 Lamp, electric, Piette & Krizik... 293,076
 Lamp, voltaic arc, O. A. Moses... 292,840
 Last, A. W. Cox... 292,792
 Lathe, pulley, G. T. Reiss... 292,948
 Leg, artificial, J. Furrer... 292,800
 Leggin, J. H. Howarth, Jr... 292,819
 Life protector for railway rails, E. J. Hoffman... 293,024
 Lifting or hoisting machine, T. Thomas... 292,114
 Lock. See Indicating lock.
 Lubricating device for wheels, G. Peacock... 293,070
 Lubricator. See Pulley lubricator.

Magnet and annature, electro, Timmis & Currie... 293,116
 Magneto electric machines, driving gear for, E. T. Gilliland... 293,160
 Mail bag, W. A. Van Camp... 293,123
 Mail bag catcher, W. Angle... 292,975
 Manikin, automaton, or jointed doll, C. A. Kihlgren... 292,919
 Map holder, J. W. H. Doubler... 292,902
 Mash cooling apparatus, J. Woolner... 292,885
 Mechanical movement, C. A. Bentzen... 292,876
 Mechanical movement, M. J. Lawlor... 292,928
 Mechanical movement, G. Yeomans... 292,974
 Metal bars, machine for drawing, P. M. Haas... 293,167
 Metal drawing dog, P. M. Haas... 293,166
 Metallurgical furnace, J. Altmeyer... 293,131
 Mill. See Rolling mill.
 Milling apparatus, F. M. Mackey... 293,047
 Milling machine, universal, C. E. Lipe... 292,928
 Milling machines, index head for, C. E. Lipe... 292,927
 Mirror and photographic album, combined toilet, L. Wolf... 292,884
 Mouldings, etc., application of fabrics to, A. Preschl... 293,158
 Motor. See Electric motor. Sewing machine motor. Spring motor.
 Mowers, grass collecting attachment for lawn, J. H. Wymys... 293,208
 Musical instrument, mechanical, N. R. Marshman... 293,184
 Necktie fastener, J. Lochman... 292,929
 Necktie holder and fastener, H. F. Miller... 292,837
 Nut lock, E. H. Ringer... 293,085
 Nut lock, G. W. Tegg... 293,113
 Package box, T. Schmidt... 292,863
 Packing for stuffing boxes, A. Beldam... 292,783
 Packing, metallic rod, E. P. Monroe... 293,189
 Pad. See Corset pad.
 Paging and numbering machine, C. Seybold... 293,199
 Paint, mixed, H. Little... 293,043
 Paper box, Gowdy & Russell... 292,802
 Paper box, H. S. Munson... 293,061
 Paper cutting machine, E. R. Sheridan... 293,200
 Paper pulp saving machine, J. T. & H. A. Porter... 292,947
 Paper stock, method of and machinery for treating rags for, C. F. Taylor... 292,873
 Pen, shading, R. H. Bezley... 292,782
 Pencil case, J. C. Harin... 292,909
 Pendulum escapement, torsion, C. Stahlberg... 292,870
 Photographic camera, G. S. North (r)... 10,448
 Piano bell attachment, W. Hofer... 292,815
 Pianos, stringing, C. E. Rogers... 293,088
 Pipe wrench, J. Jewell... 293,175
 Pitman box, F. Darling... 292,994
 Plaiting machine, R. W. Ferguson... 292,905
 Planer knife, E. Benjamin... 293,125
 Plow, J. T. Elyson... 292,998
 Plow, W. E. Venable... 292,876
 Pocket knife, F. W. Kaldenbach... 292,917
 Pool rack, Farley & Trowbridge... 292,903
 Post driver, E. Hiatt... 293,021
 Postal bag rack, C. R. Harrison... 292,011
 Potato digger, L. Habeck... 292,804
 Power. See Horse power.
 Press. See Baling press.
 Press, C. Kimpfen... 292,920
 Printing machine sheet delivery apparatus, L. C. Crowell... 292,993
 Printing machine sheet delivery apparatus, S. D. Tucker... 293,120
 Pulley lubricator, loose, L. E. Kane... 293,036
 Pulley, screw, C. F. Pope... 293,078
 Pulley, self-shipping belt, H. P. Christie... 292,987
 Pulverizer, soil, Rankin & Knox... 293,080
 Rack. See Pool rack. Postal bag rack.
 Radiator for hot air furnaces, C. S. Hood... 293,025
 Railway frog safety guard, J. Lynch... 292,854
 Railway switch mover, G. W. Horne... 293,026
 Railway tracks from spreading, preventing, J. Reven... 293,194
 Railways, operating trains on cable, P. H. Mayor... 293,049
 Rake shoe or runner, C. O. Dennen et al... 293,210
 Ratchet wrench, C. Wechsler... 293,123
 Reels, skein lacing and tying attachment for, G. Grimshaw, Jr... 293,164
 Reflector and globe for lamps and lanterns, combined, B. D. Stevens... 292,871
 Refrigerating dish cover, A. C. Pecor... 293,074
 Refrigerating machine, C. B. Lee... 292,925
 Refrigerator, J. Linsley... 292,926
 Register. See Automatic register. Bottle register. Regulator. See Draft regulator.
 Ring. See Ear ring. Finger ring.
 Roasting furnace, Foss & Gray... 293,002
 Rolling mill, F. M. Haas... 293,165
 Rolling mill, D. B. Oliver... 292,943
 Rolling mill reversing mechanism, T. A. Weston... 292,968
 Rotary steam engine, L. D'Andree... 292,898
 Rubberwaste, treating fibrous, A. O. Bourne... 292,891
 Sash cord fastener, W. A. Sinsel... 293,100
 Sash, window, W. A. Sinsel... 293,099
 Saw, G. W. Willis... 293,130
 Saw handle, R. E. Poindexter... 292,946
 Saw handle, C. Richardson... 292,951
 Saw mill dog, J. J. McGillis... 293,186
 Saw tooth, E. Harris... 292,809
 Sawing machine, band, A. L. Gray... 293,163
 Sawing machine, circular, G. J. Kautz... 293,037
 Scaffolding bracket, M. N. Knight... 293,040
 Scarf retainer, J. Sandilands... 293,033
 Scissors, ripping attachment for, F. S. Lockerman... 293,182
 Screw clamp, F. A. Moore... 293,058
 Screw hook or ring, C. F. Pope... 293,079
 Screwing machine, metal, A. Johnston... 293,176
 Seeding machine cup, R. S. Carr... 292,893
 Seeding machines, spring hoe for, R. B. Sheldon... 292,868
 Separator. See Cocker separator.
 Sewing machine binding attachment, R. Hilgner... 293,022
 Sewing machine frame, S. C. Tatum, Jr... 293,109
 Sewing machine foot, J. H. Crandell... 293,149
 Sewing machine ruffler, J. Heberling... 292,813
 Sewing machine ruffling attachment, J. S. Sackett... 293,091
 Sewing machine ruffling attachment, C. C. Seebold... 292,867
 Sewing machine tension device, J. Thomson... 292,964
 Sewing machine tuck marker, J. S. Sackett... 293,092
 Shaft coupling, J. Braun... 292,978
 Shaft hanger, J. Walker... 292,879
 Shafting box and oil reservoir, combined, C. B. Moulton... 292,841
 Shafting coupling, P. Brotherhood... 293,148
 Sheet folding and delivery apparatus, S. D. Tucker... 293,122
 Shoe, F. Packard... 293,064
 Show box and tray, E. Todd... 292,875
 Silk cleaning machine, J. N. Leonard... 292,830
 Sleigh, W. H. Winne... 292,972
 Sleigh, bob, H. Detamble... 293,152
 Skate roller, E. C. Phillips... 292,850
 Skate roller, J. V. Rowlett... 292,862
 Soap, C. F. Broadbent... 292,890

Spading machine, D. F. Spangler... 293,104
 Speed indicator, T. W. Harling... 292,808
 Spike setting machine, J. H. Hubert... 293,174
 Spring motor, J. B. Powell... 293,193
 Spring motor, Whittaker & Godley... 292,970
 Stalk chopper, W. H. Mercer... 293,085
 Stapes, tool for driving, F. W. Nevius... 292,842
 Steam boilers, preventing incrustation in, E. J. Hoffman... 293,172
 Steam generator, T. C. Joy... 292,822
 Steam trap, J. C. Hendry... 292,914
 Stone dressing machine, H. D. Wallace... 292,880
 Stone, manufacture of artificial, R. C. Wittmann... 293,207
 Stop box and fresh air conduit, combined, L. O. Howell, Jr... 292,927
 Store service apparatus, Hayden & Giles... 292,812
 Store service apparatus, W. S. Lamson... 292,923
 Stove, C. A. Hamlin... 292,805
 Stove, J. A. Miller... 293,057
 Stove and heater, open fire, A. R. Morgan... 292,937
 Stove, cooking or heating, J. A. Miller... 293,056
 Strap clamp, E. R. Menzel... 292,934
 Straw cutter, D. M. Cummings... 293,150
 Street sweeper, J. P. Herron... 293,209
 Submarine boat, J. J. Fanning... 292,916
 Switchboards, condenser and test circuit for multiple, C. E. Scribner... 292,865
 Switch boards, testing apparatus for multiple, C. E. Scribner... 292,866
 Switch stand, P. Coleman... 292,897
 Tag, key, J. C. Russell... 292,954
 Telegraph, automatic, T. F. Taylor... 293,110
 Telegraph cables, terminal box for, W. R. Patterson... 292,848
 Telegraph keys, circuit closer for, S. J. Spurgeon... 293,105
 Telegraph, printing, H. Van Hovenbergh... 292,966
 Telegraph system, automatic, T. F. Taylor... 293,111
 Telegraphs, marking stylus for automatic, T. F. Taylor... 293,112
 Telephone, D. Drawbaugh... 293,154
 Telephone apparatus, E. T. Gilliland... 293,161
 Telephone cable terminal, W. R. Patterson... 292,849
 Telephone call bell switch, L. Townsend... 293,118
 Telephone case, P. Benjamin... 293,136
 Telephone circuit changer, C. D. Haskins... 293,171
 Telephone exchanges, looping-in mechanism and operator's apparatus for, E. M. Wilson... 293,206
 Telephone exchanges, night signal circuit for, C. E. Scribner... 293,196
 Telephone, pipe, J. H. Rogers... 292,858
 Telephone, speaking, F. Ware... 292,881
 Telephone switch, C. E. Scribner... 293,198
 Telephone system, gas and magnetic, J. H. Rogers... 292,857
 Telephonic and telegraphic circuits, signaling apparatus for, L. S. Fairbanks... 292,909
 Telephonic transmission, apparatus for, J. F. Mehren... 292,835
 Thill coupling, E. Hoxie... 293,173
 Thrasher and cotton opener, pea, C. H. Simmons... 293,098
 Thrashing machine, A. T. Hawley... 293,019
 Thrashing machine band cutter and feeder, B. Driller... 293,155
 Ticket case, A. R. Burdick... 292,789
 Tile or block for finishing inside walls, J. Austin... 292,887
 Tile perforating machine and perforated drain-tile, grain, H. P. Stafford... 293,106
 Tobacco houses, apparatus for heating and moistening, M. Tobin... 292,965
 Tool holder, E. D. Moss... 292,938
 Tool holder, cutting off, C. E. Billings... 292,784
 Toy, L. F. Fallon... 292,798
 Trace hook, O. Lampe... 292,922
 Traction engine, Leach & Olds... 292,924
 Traction engine, J. F. Palmer... 292,965 to 292,967
 Trap. See Steam trap.
 Traveling bags, safety attachment for, F. A. Nickerson... 292,940
 Treadle and crank movements, device for poisoning, J. H. Whitney... 292,969
 Trough. See Animal trough.
 Truck, hand, Burleigh & Abbott... 292,790
 Truck, harvester, A. E. Potter... 292,851
 Trunk, H. E. Gilson... 293,005
 Trunk catch, J. Wayland... 292,967
 Tug for harness, shaft, P. McFadden... 293,052
 Type writing machine, H. B. Richardson... 292,854
 Vehicle running gear, W. A. Dawson... 292,900
 Vehicle seat, A. M. Plimpton... 292,945
 Vehicle, two wheeled, F. Coleman... 292,896
 Vehicle, two wheeled, Heeb & Schonert... 292,913
 Vehicle, two wheeled, Sargent & Farrell... 293,094
 Velocipede, Hadley & Overman... 292,908
 Vise, bench, J. Thomson... 292,874
 Watch, C. D. Leger... 293,042
 Watch balance, compensation, G. E. Hart... 293,169
 Watch dial, G. E. Hart... 293,170
 Watchman spring barrel, D. A. A. Buck... 293,142
 Watch movement, D. A. A. Buck... 293,143
 Watch movement box, E. A. Locke... 293,046
 Watch plate, G. E. Hart... 293,018
 Watch, stem winding, G. E. Hart... 293,168
 Watch winding mechanism, R. F. Mitchell... 292,838
 Water closet, J. Kelly... 292,918
 Water closet cistern, J. Demarest... 292,901
 Weights and measures, manufacture and proportioning of, C. A. L. Totten... 293,117
 Wheel. See Car wheel. Iron wheel.
 Wheel locking device, W. L. McDougall... 293,051
 Wheel barrow, folding, L. H. Goodwin... 293,007
 Whip socket, F. A. Bradley... 292,977
 Window screen, G. L. Reynolds... 292,082
 Window, ventilated show, S. E. Hyndman... 293,028
 Wire cutter and shaper, B. E. Ball... 293,134
 Wire, machine for coloring covered, W. H. Sawyer... 293,095
 Wire, making, Hall & Watson... 293,011
 Wire rods, apparatus for making, F. H. Daniels... 292,794
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 Wool washing, scouring, and burring machine, J. E. Sinclair... 292,869
 Wrench. See Pipe wrench. Ratchet wrench.
 Yoke, neck, C. D. Zellner... 292,866

Overshirt, lady's, L. Tully... 14,689
 Sconce frame, A. Patitz... 14,619
 Sewing machine cover, P. L. Donato... 14,602
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