## ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

A track lifter has been patented by Mr. James W. McDonald, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The invention consists of one or more jackes attached
to a plank and onerated by levers, a device for raising to a plank and operated by levers, a device for raising
the plank and jacke, and an automatic grip, all mountthe plank and jacks, and an automatic grip, all mount-
ed on a hand car, and adapted for raising railroad ed on a hand car, and adapted for
tracks in repairing and constructing.
A boiler or tube covering has been patented by Mr. William M. Suhr, of New York city. It consists of a ahell with solid annular strips resting on
the boiler or tube, covered and placed a suitable dis. the boiler or tube, covered and placed a suitable dis
lance apart from each other to form separate closed an nular air spaces between the boiler or tube covered, th shell, and the strips.
A car coupling has been patented by Mr. John L. Setty, of North Uniontown, O. The invention consists of a aliding plate moved forward to come beneath the point of the coupling pin by the action of
the lever employed to raise the pin, with other novel details, designed to make an automatic coupling, and one which may be used with other couplers.
A car coupling has been patented by Mr. Alexander H. Stephens, of Thompson's Station,
Tenn. It is so constructed that an approaching link will strike a trip projection and adjust a arapple paral el with the drawbar, which latter is pushed back until held by a detent, with other details, whereby an auto-
matic matic coupling and uncoupling of parts is effected without involving the necessity of the operator going be
tween the cars.
A railway signal has been patented by Messrs. Clement P. Willshaw, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Alexander Willshaw, of New York city. A shaft that
operates a gong striking mechanism is is cononstructed gong, in case the swich operating connections are gong in case the swich operating connections ane
broken or get out of position or release the switch, the signal being adapted to be sounded by passing trains.
A tunneling machine has been patented by Mr. Frank O. Brown, of New York city. It is a silel of piate iron bolted together, its forward end bev-
eled with longest side upward, having an airtight transeerse partition with man holes and pierced by a conveyer tube with spiral flange projecting beyond its forward end, with other novel features, whereby the ma-
chine can be forced forward through the ground and chine can be forced forward through the ground and
allow brickwork to be readily laid.

## miscellaneots inventions.

A lining for refrigerators has been patented by Mr. John S. Fairly, of Charleston, S. c. The invention consists in the use of an insulating illing con-
sisting of cottonseed hulls, and the making of a refrig. erating package with such flling.
A wind wheel toy has been patented by Mr. Frank G. Gollon, of Hoboken, N. J. It is a device of tube in place of the stick on which a child's pin
wheel is usually held, so arranged that the wheel may be revolved by blowing in the tub
A mechanical toy for children has been patented by Mr. Peter J. Owens, of New York city. It
consists of a rectangular oscillating tray mounted at a suitable iocline upon a stand or support, with hinged strips, so that a ball starting from the bottom may be
made to ascend to the top of the tray, when it will reach made to ascend to the top of the tray, when it will reach
a return channel to conduct $i t$ again to the bottom.
A plumb level has been patented by Mr. Michael S. Weller, of Charlestown, W. Va. Combined
with an index and pivot shaft is a tubular bearing havwith an index and pivot shaft is a tubular bearing hav
ing a glass lining, the device being an improvement on carpenters' levels where the spirit bulb is more com nonly employed.
A music leaf turner has been patented hy Mr. Louis L. White, of Portland, Oregon. It has a 'h fft, cogwheel, and a series of pinions carrying each a
rod, a paper holding clip, and other features, making a convenient device for turning the leaves of sheet music canvenient and perfectly.
A ruling machine has been patented by Mr. James W. Dickieson, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is for producing diagonal lines at any desired inclination over
the usual ruling, to effect which the invention covers a the usual ruling, to effect which the invention covers a
construction involving a novel combination of parts and details.
A wagon box brace has been patented by Mr. Matt. F. Allen, of Nashville, Tenn. It is a double fastening bolts or screws, so made as to hold the sides and bottom of the box more frmly topether, to keep
them straight, and prevent the timber from warping.
A syringe attachment for bottles has Falls, Dakota Ter. It is somade that when not in use rubber cap covers. the bottle, the tube and nozzle being
sheathed therein, while the device furnishes a syringe and stopper for bottles or vials of any size.
A dry closet has been patented by Mr. George F. McMurry, of Eureka Springs, Ark. It is
made of strong tin, sheet iron, or zinc, but light enough to be conveniently carried from room to room, and has some novel features, making it eepecially applicable
use in hospitals, prisons, and private dwellings.
A trunk lock hasp has been patented by Mr. William H. Plant, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is of novel construction to the end that hasps so made will
accommodate themselves to the esrinkage of the trunks and ullow their hooks to be readily inserted in the aperture of the lock, while being strong and durable.
A wagon axle nut has been patented by Mr. Frank O. Slanker, of Pomona, Cal. It has a engage the interior of the wheel retaining nut, thus pro viding a simple and inexpensive device whereby th
screwing and loss of the nut will be prevented.
A school desk has been patented by Mr Joseph A. Willon, of Hood River, Oregon. It has
ovel combination of parts for holding the cover raised red angle for more convenient use in reading, writing. rawing, etc.
A folding baby carriage has been patented by Mr. Charles Haller, of New York city. This invention covers various novel details of construction whereby a baby carriage so made can be completely folded, to be readily taken in and out of houses and up
and down stairways, and be storedin a comparatively mall space.
An ice planing and ridging machine has been patented by Mr. Stephen L. Smith, of St.Louis, Mo. It is for planing the snow and soft ice from the
tops of ice blocks, and ridging the top faces so the locks will not freeze together, being an improvement a machine for this purpose formerly patented by th
Artificial fruit making forms the sub ject of a patent issued to Marie Ginoris, of New York
city. The process consists in forming a mould of the ruit to be imitated, covering the surface with cloth we ith cement, drying and removing the cloths and ce nd painting the body.
A rein ring has been patented by $\mathbf{M r}$. Julius C. Hobbs, of Hobton, N. C. It consists of a frame of peculiar and novel construction, in which the line or rein may be readily inserted, when it will be prevented from being chafed, fretted, or worn by being

Paper making devices form the subject o patent issued to Messrs. Frederick W. Miller and ade a part of a paper machine for applying paraffine, wax, or other substances to and incorporating them into and through a web of paper durin
finishing, to make it waterproof, etc.
A bark mill has been patented by Mr. Benedict Ott, of La Crosse, Wis. It is of that class in
which the bark is rapidly revolved by a carrier operatwhich the bark is rapidly revolved by a carrier operating within a cylinder with radial openings and cutters, repaired while the other is in use, and the mill thus actically run all the time.
A riding saddle has been patented by Mr. John W. Newman, of Decatur, Tex. This inven tion relates to devices intended for use in coupling or connecting girths to saddles where it is desirable to of a stampede of cattle, providing an efficientand econoof a stampede of cattle, pro
A truss has been patented by Messis Edward Williams, Jr., and Ralph M. Lashell, of Centra lia, Pa. It consists of a rod or wire curved to encircle
the body, having at the back two eyes carrying pads, with an adjusting strap and buckle, and at the front wo or more loops inclosed by the truss pad, being de-

A domestic hand press has been patentby Mr. John. Con tc., and has a hase plate with vertical overhanging standard carrying a screw shaft which bears upon a
platen to fit inside a perforated chamber, the parts beug readily detachable for easy cleansing.
A self-fastening skate has been patentd by Messrs. Eugene M. Florentin and Albert T. Falvey, of Taunton, Mass. The skate stock is a metal plate
with a curved flange on its rear end, and clasps on its orward part which slide in keepers and are held apar y a spiral spring, with other novel features, whereb the skate will fasten itself to the shoe as soon as put on.
A plumber's trap has been patented by Mr. Frederick S. Gerstenberg, of Astoria, N. Y. It is a
D-trap, open at one side, with a rabbet around the edge its open side, a horizontal valve and weighted bell crank lever, to close the valve when there is little or no pressure of water, and so arranged that any pressu
sewer gas will tend to close the valve more firmly.
A machine for separating flaxseed has A patented by Mr. Jeremiah Bates, of Sherburne,
Minn. It has a vibrating box with inclined sieve, the wer end forming a spout, a particion extending in an partition extending under the sieve, and other novel tures, for separating fiaxseed according to its si\%e.
An explosive compound has been pat ented by Mr. Max Bielefeldt, of Kalk, near Cologne nitrate of ammonia in water of ammonia, or of nitro lycerine and nitro-cellulose with nitrate of ammonia in ater of ammonia, prepared after a special manner and with varying proportions for differences of explosive

A fire arm has been patented by Mr. Salvatore J. Buzzini, of New York city. It has novel means for securing the barrel in its place, and for its curate return of the barrel to its normal position than is rewing it into the stock, without having recourse to unsmith or other skilled artisan
A lamp extinguisher has been patented y Mr. Jacob Philippi, of New York city. The conweight causes a plate to swing over the upper end of the wick tube, and the flame will be immediately extinguish, with other novel features, the invention being an im

A baker's oven has been patented by
A baker's oven has been patented
Mr. Solomon M. Raines, of Logansport, Ind. The grate is on a level with the bottom of the oven, a wall prothe vent pipe extends from directly over the grate to the outside of the oven, and thence across to the chimney, making an
bakea rapldiy.

A star time chart has been patented by disk divided by radial lines into twelve equal space representing the months of the year, the twelve spaces be the day, with a movable index, pointer, etc., for deter-
mining meun time by an observation of one of the cirumpolar constellations and the pole star
A band cutter and distributer for thrashing machines has been patented by Messrs. Benja $\min$ F. Applegate and Benjamin F. Lagel, of New Al bany, Ind. The feed board of the machine has a feed ing chute extend a ranged over each cutter, on which guards the attendan places the bundles, so the bands will be cut, and at the same time pushes the bundles along the chute to th
thrashing cylinder. thrashing cylinder.

## NEW books and publications

Kroeh's Drill Books. III. The Pro nunciation of French. IV. The
French Verb. By Professor Charle ology. Hoboken : Published by the author.
The French student is at present offered the choice of two methods-the conversational, in which he ac quires a knowledge of the language simply by prac o the rules and structural part before attempting t converse. Both methods have their advocates. It depends largely upon the age and mental habits of th depends largely upon the age and mental habits of the
student which would be the more suitable, but i seems to us that a mixture of the two is the tru
method. We therefore find much to commend in Professor Kroeh's drill books, for he has endeavoren to combine the ready facility of the one with the precision of the other. It is too often the case tha the conjugation of the verbs is memorized as a whole, and the student inds it. inposible to employ the pro pause. It is a distinguishing feature of these little tex books that the idea is always inseparable from the words. To accomplish this, the verbs are taught by persons instead of tenses, which we can easily imagin
will produce happier results than the older method oin tabular instruction. The study in pronunciation will be found equally practicable.
Insects Affecting the Orange. By
H. G. Hubbard. With plates and wood cuts. Washington: Govern ment Printing Office. 18805.
For nearly four years Mr. Hubbard has devoted his ree, and has given particular attention to practical experiments for counteracting their injuries. The trees belonging to the Citrus family are specially sub-
ject to the attack of insect pests, and so extensive are their ravages that it has been stated there are absolutely no orange trees in the whole state of Florida which are entirely free from their presence. The present re port is a special one ordered by Congress, and ha been prepared with the sole purpose of affording a practical guide to orange growers. While it is based
almost entirely upon observations made in Florida almost entirely upon observations made in Florida,
this being our largest orange-growing State, much this being our largest orange-growing State, much of the information will be equally applicable to other dis
tricts cmertaking the culture of the fruit. The work also contains several handsome colored plates and numerous wood cuts. Those desiring copies of the ture, Washington, D. C
The Suburban Cottage : Its Design AND Construction By W. B. Tut
hill. New York: William T. Com stock.
This is a brief treatise, intended to lay before the ame time process of systematic design, and at the and finish. The scope of the volume is not a very wide one, but those who have the designing and
building of summer houses will flnd here some important suggestions, and the author's views are

The New Agriculture; or, The
Waters Led Captive. By A. N.
Cole. New York: 1'he American
Angler. Angler.
The author describes in this volume a success which oems almost wonderful in overcoming the sterility
of forbidding location, and making his "home on the hillside,", in Allegany County, N. Y., one of
the most productive spots anywhere to be found. He the most productive spots anywhere to be found. He
has done this by a system of underground irrigation which he has patented, whereby the natural length of the season is prolonged from forty to sixty days, the crop yield of everything grown is greatly
and the quality correspondingly improved.
Food Materials and their Adul-
terations. By Ellen H. Richards. TERATIONs. By Ellen H.
Boston: Estes \& Lauriat.
The author is an instructor in sanitary chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and al much of a statement of the subject, all that is here given is valuable, and presented in a plain and sensi-

## le manner.

Alpine Winter in its Medical Aspects is the title of an attractive pamphlet by Dr. A. Tucker
Wise, touching the curative and health-giving proper ties of the air and springs of that locality for various kinds of invalids, the whole being written with especial reference to the facilities afforded in this
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And all mankind turn with it, beads or tails;
And live and die, make love and pay our taxes,"
the way Byron looked at it ; but "it is not all of life to is the way Bron looked at it ; but "It is not all of life to live. A healthy life is the only one worthiving for,"
and that "ldepends on the liver." If the liver is not in
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marked or labeled．
（1）M．W．writes ：1．I have not met with success in bleaching dark nettle－tree wood（Celtis
australis），by using muriatic acid and water or calcium chloride，etc．，at 3 to matianic acid and water or calcium chloride，etc．，at 4 to atmospheres pressure．How can
bleach this dark wood？A．Saturate the wood as com－
pletely as possible with a clear solution of $171 / 4$ ounces pletely as possible with a clear solution of 1714 ounces
chloride of lime and 2 ounces soda crystals in 101／2 pints water．In ihisy liguid the wood is steeped for half an hour，if it does not appear to injure it
texture．After this bleaching，it is immersed in a solution of sulphurous acid to remove all traces of chlorine，and then washed in pure water．The sul
phurousacid，which may cling to the wood in spite of phurous acid，which may cling to the wood in spite or
washing，does not appear to injure it，nor alter the colors which are applied．2．What kind of cement is
ased by the ferule makers for brass and copper ferules to put on walking canes and whip sticks？ How are they soldered？A．As a general thing，no
cement is used，brit $y \% 13$ can use glue or shellac．See cement is used，bit，yqu can use glue or shellac．See
also＂Ceracnta，＂in Scientific Ambrican Supple ient，No． 158.
（2）G．S．F．－The force required to over－ come gravity on an inclined plane＝weight $\times$ height－－
length．Thus an 800 ton schooner on a marine railway with an incline of 10 feet in 100 feet will require 80 ton force to overcome gravity，to which must be added the
friction ofthe rollers．We do not apprehend the man riction ofthe roliers．We do not apprehend the man have a leverage of 1 to 100 on the combination，which
will make the force on the last turn of the rope about 1132 tons including friction．
（3）J．W．P．asks：What is meant by frrst，second，etc．，dilutions，in homœopathy？A．The frrst dilution consists of one grain of the crude drug
triturated with nine of milk sugar or dissolved in nine drops of alcohol．It is also called the first decimal at tenuation．The second dilution or first centesimal
dilution is one part of the drug mixed with 99 of the dilution is one part of
milk sugar or alcohol．
（4）T．W．S．－An excellent plan to polish brass consists in using oxalic acid and whiting mixed
and applied wet，with brush，and brushed again and applied wet，with brush，and brushed again
when dry with soft plate brush，to polish with dry whiting．The ozalic acid removes the dirt and the whiting does the polishing．
（5）J．B．J．asks（1）the method used
by engineers to determine whether the steam from a
boiler is wet，saturated，or superheated．A．A dry
cloth held in a jet of dry steam will not become moistened，or but very slightly；in wet steam it will superheated steam will become dry．All these methods in which a jet of steam is tested are imperfect，because the air alters the condition of the steam．2．How to
determine the percentage of water in steam？A．By passing it through a condenser maintained at its own temperature，and collecting and weighing the water that accumulates．The steam that has passed must be separately condensed and its weight determined． 3 ．
How？many heat units in a pound of hydrogen？A．One pound of hydrogen in its combustion will raise the temperature of 34,000 pounds of water one degree Centigrade or one and four－fifths degrees Fahrenbeit．
（6）K．J．asks：1．What is the opposite adjective of slippery？A．Sticky，adhesive．2．Does the increased size of an animal or a person increase
the sensibility of pain？A．It does not as far as we know．3．Why does a person see sparks or flashes of light in the eyes when the head is struck or receives a sharp blow？A．Professor J．G．McKendrick，of Glasgow University，says：＂A luminous sensation may be excited by various modes of irritation of the retina or optic nerve．Pressure，cutting，or electrical shocks may act as stiumuli，but the normal excitation is the influence of light on the retina．＂It is generally be－ noved that it is the flaments of the optic nerves，and
not the retina，that receive the effects of these ab－ normal disturbances．
（7）J．A．R．asks：What can I use for ink to print with a rubber stamp on hard wood and washing it will not be easily effaced？A．We would
（8）J W P Wen （8）J．W．P．－Lozenges consist princi－ pally of powdered sugar，made into a mass with some
glutinous liquid，such as gum arabic，thin isinglass size，etc．，without the aid of heat，and dried．The lozenges mentioned by you are probably similar，and
（9）J．D．
（9）J．D．asks：1．To mix Venetian red paint with oil，what measure or weight of dry color should be used to the gallon of oil，to give the best
satisfaction on weather－beaten boards of barns？Should the first and second coats be mixed the same？A．The proportions are about seven pounds of the dry color to six pounds of oil．The two coats are generally the same．2．To reburnish a Darlot photo lens．A．The re－
burnishing of the lens will be a difficult operation，in the same way as the original grinding and burnishing． 3．Also to reblack the same inside．A．Use gum （ $1+$ ）F．S．W．－To clean marble，mix quicklime with strong lye，so as to form a
having the consistency of cream，and apply having the consistency of cream，and appl

ately with a bruch．Let this composition | soap and water． |
| :--- |
| somain on a |

（ii）P．E．writeo．We have ari fliandt fan belted direct from engine，and when run to high
speed the belt faps badly．Would a fly wheel set in speed the belt flaps badly．Would a fiy wheel set in
same shaft as fan prevent the flapping？A．The flap in the belt may be due to the irregular motion of the en－ gine，in which case a fly wheel could be better applied
to the engine；or，if the engine has a small sized fiy to the engine；or，if the engine has a small sized fify
wheel，make one very much larger in dianneter，but not
necessarily heavier．It is the large timenter fin a fiy wheel that gives regularity of motion．We would not recommend a fiy wheel on the fan until you are sat1s－ fied that the fan is at fault．
（12）J．K．B．asks a rule for finding strength or size of wrought iron sheets in water tanks
standpipes，say when diameter or area is given，and or standpipes，say when diameter or area is given，and
height or depth of water to be carried．For instance， ihickness of plates needed for wrought iron tower， 25 feet diameter and 125 feet high．A．For the strength proceed as in the case for the safe strength for boilers nder various pressures，adding a requirement for sup－ porting extra high towers．Thus you would have a hdrostatic pressure at the bottom of your tower qual to 53 pounds per square inch．You should pro－ ide for stability or safety，wear and tear by oxidation， and loss of strength by riveting，at least four times the bovestrain，or say 200 pounds，which，multiplied by diameter in inches $=300 \times 200=60,000$ pounds ten． on on each verticalate iron cannot be trusted 5,000 pounds tensile strain，you will require not less than $11 / 4$ inches for the above allowed strain．This，di－ ided by 2 for the two sides，calls for the lower sheets to be $\%$ inch thick，say for 30 feet，$\frac{9}{16}$ inch for the next 30 feet， $1 / 2$ inch for the next，for inch for the next 30 feet， $3 / 2$ inch for the next 20 feet，and $1 / 4$ inch for the lat．
15 feet．This will make a substantial tower for a life－ 15 feet．
time．
（13）E．R．S．asks the best method of tempering an anvil．I have tried it once，and I cannot seemed not to affect it．A．We know of nothing better than giving the anvil a pull cherry red heat and the surface．It is the steam hanging on the under sur face that prevents hardening．
（14）A．P．H．－Hard wood floors may be nished with beeswax or paraffine by rubbing the wax pad．Floors are painted with various colors．Prince＇s metallic paint is a red oxide of iron．and is mixed with boiled linseed oil．It will make the fioor red．Chrome yellow with a little Prince＇s metallic paint make a bright orange much in vogue for country houses．You
will require no license for your boat on waters that are will require no license for
（15）Gyp．－Will you please inform me， by your paper，what gold is worth a carat，also the or alloy used in reducing both fine and sterling to coin？A．Gold is worth per ounce $\$ 20.67183$ ；per carat in ounce，直 of this sum．Silver varies in price con－
tinually．Coin silver and gold of this country contain

I\％of the pure metal．Silver 999 fine is worth about contains H gold，$\frac{1}{12}$ alloy．Sterling silver or English coin silver contains 222 silver to 18 of copper．The he above figures．
（16）O．A．asks：Why is the sun marked our almanacs＂past＂from April 15 to June 15 and rom September 1 to December 25 ，and＂slow＂the remainder of the year，while the angle passed over by
the radius vector is greatest January 1 and least July 12 A．The phenomenon of the fast；and slow sun arises from two causes，viz．，the unequal motion of the earth in its elliptic orbit and the obliquity．of the ecliptic， which latter gives much the largest element in the va riation of the sun＇s appa
（17）W．H．B．asks：1．What will pre－ vent worms from eating hickory handles？A．Most so－ lutions adapted for this use are somewhat poisonous， mersion in hot solution of carbolic acid with some pre sure after thorough kiln drying would seem safe，and would be effectual provided it did not deteriorate th fiber of the wood．Linseed oil is recommended．See Scientific American，May 8，1886，p．289．2．Will teaming them prevent it！A．Steaming will not pre
（18）W．M．B．asks：1．Can a quantity 1． feet by $21 / 2$ or 3 inches thick，be pressed dry in half minute？If so，what is the weight required？A．Cider presses cannot be worked quickly．It takes time for the apple juice to work out．The whole pressure should not be put on at once．2．Can wood be finished to imitate marble？A．To some extent．3．How are gold？A．Inlaying in gold and silver on gun barrels is done by etching the design with acid and undercut－ ting the edges with a graver，then hammering the soot gold or silver into the design and dressing the surfac with file and polisher．
Minerals，etc．－Specimens have been received from the following c
amined with the results stated．
C．H．G．－The sample is anocher or clay containing ground in oil．In its present condition it is of no and it lacks body，although apparently free from grit．－ R．W．S．- The sample of clay sent is altogether to small to form any sort of an estimate concerning its
value．As it is somewhat gritty，it can scarcely be used for anything except common purposes．If it will stand heat，it might be used in the manufacture of freclay bricks．－F．M．B．－The specimen is syenite smilar in composition to the obelisk in Central Park
and consists of the minerals feldspar，hornblende，and quartz．It is of no value．

## INDEX OF INVENTIOINS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted，

April 27，1886，

## AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE

［See note at end of list about copies of these patents．］

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Agricultural boiler ${ }_{6}$ C．Heftr．
．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．

Air ship，steam，W．Patterson．
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Animal trap，J．C．Gould．．．．
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Bark mill，B．Ott．
Basin，sanitary catch， F ．C．Budenenberg． Bed，folding．W．A．Brown．．．．
Bed，folding，I．R．Van Slyke．
Bed slat fastener，W．J．Ackerman．．．
Beer cooling apparatus，J．\＆J．Stuber
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t．．．．．．．．．．．．
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Box．See Paper box
Brace．See Wagon box brace．
Brake．See Car brake．Wagon brake．
Brewing and distilling．
for preparinstiline，process of and apparatus
Perry et al．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．
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Can．See Paint can．Plaster can．
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