

ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

A railroad switch has been patented by Messrs. George Bennett, George Dike, and William W. Rich, of Lincoln, Neb. This invention relates to the class of triple or "three-throw" switches, and has but a single spring, being extremely simple and comparatively cheap, while embracing novel features, which assure easy working with little chance of derangement.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A combined ice pick, chisel, and mallet has been patented by Mr. Henry M. Dixon, of New York city. The invention consists in the construction and combination of the various parts of the implement, so that it can be conveniently used in either capacity.

A snap hook has been patented by Mr. George A. Shamberger, of Mound City, Mo. It has a swinging tongue, with notch and arm, in combination with a pawl, and with a thumb piece and spring, and is so made that the tongue cannot be pressed open except by the action of the operator, the tongue, when left free, seating itself and becoming locked.

A hand grenade has been patented by Messrs. Charles W. Fowler and Edward H. Shelman, of Brandenburg, Ky. It is for fire extinguishing purposes, and is adapted to receive a detachable handle, and a handle for holding and applying it for use, so that it may be carried to otherwise inaccessible points, and there broken.

An abdominal bandage has been patented by Messrs. Wilhelm and Julius Teufel, of Stuttgart, Germany. It has an elastic cord girth attached to the front part of an abdominal belt, and the bandage may be closed at the sides of the body instead of the back or front, with various novel features to adapt it for effective use for various maladies.

A scythe fastening has been patented by Messrs. Henry B. Robertson and Charles Danker, of Havensville, Kan. It consists of a snath iron attached to the handle and provided with a wedge shaped opening of a square scythe heel, with set screws to fasten and adjust the scythe blade to the snath iron, by which the operator can adjust the scythe to any desired angle.

An illuminated clock hand and dial has been patented by Mr. Alfred Speer, of Passaic, N. J. Combined with each of the hands of the clock is a series of lights to be carried by the hands, together with reflectors, arranged to throw the light outward from the hands, in such way that the position of the hands may be accurately located at a long distance from the clock.

A feed bag for animals has been patented by Mr. Franklin P. Eastman, of New York city. It has an outer compartment for holding and feeding the grain to a central or inner compartment that receives the animal's nose, the arrangement being such that the central part can never be more than partly full of grain, and the animal will have plenty of breathing space.

A miner's candlestick has been patented by Mr. Thomas Cox, of Gloster, Montana Ter. This invention covers improvements on a former patented invention of the same inventor, bettering the mechanism for preventing the candle from slipping out of its holder; the candlestick has a bar with pointed end, which may be thrust into the heading, or a hook by means of which it may be suspended when desired.

A die for lead presses has been patented by Mr. John Hooper, of New York city. The die plates are adjustable, being offset at their meeting edges to form, when placed together, a narrow slot, whose length may be increased or diminished by sliding the die plates in opposite directions in the bed plate, so that sheets of lead of different widths may be made with the same set of die plates or keys.

A cylinder printing machine has been patented by Mr. Jacob C. Rairigh, of Brockwayville, Pa. It has a traveling cylinder arranged to roll over the frame and carry the paper over the type supported by the bed, together with novel means for inking and distributing the ink, for operating the paper nippers, and for lowering the bed on the return movement of the cylinder, and raising it afterward.

A motor has been patented by Mr. Isaac St. Clair Goldman, of Pasadena, Cal. It consists of two endless traveling chains or belts and a power wheel held loosely in and engaging both, and adapted to rise and fall in and between the chains or belts, whereby the power transmitted to one belt by a prime mover will be transmitted through the wheel and the other belt to a driving mechanism.

A wrench has been patented by Mr. Willis H. Bradley, of Rockford, Ill. It is so made as to be readily adjustable for either a large or small nut, and after the nuts have been removed from the axle they will be retained within the recess of the wrench, so that the whole device may be laid upon the floor or ground without bringing the nut in contact with sand or grit.

A collar or cuff button or stud has been patented by Mr. Read Benedict, of West New Brighton, N. Y. It is a button with a shank formed with outwardly inclined sides or edges near the head of the button to spread the button hole, so the head of the button may be easily slipped out, the shank being made flat to permit the button hole to close under the head of the button, with other novel features.

A cultivator bar and cultivator clip has been patented by Messrs. William Zehner and Martin A. Eisenhour, of Plymouth, Ind. The bar is detachable and adjustable, with the clips holding the cultivator teeth bolted to the upper side of the bar and in the line of draught; a universal clip is produced adapted to suit various forms of spring teeth, spike teeth, and cultivator teeth, and it may be secured to either side of the bar.

A window washing machine has been patented by Mr. Richard H. Schenck, of New York city. Connected with a standard adapted to be fitted to a raised sash is a combination lever which holds a head block in such way that it can be brought to any desired position against the outside of a window, and raised or

lowered by a cord passing to the hand of the operator, to facilitate cleaning the outside of windows from within an apartment.

A metal faced fabric or material for interior decorations has been patented by Messrs. Theophilus and James Millot, of New York city. It is made by precipitating upon a previously prepared glass plate a thin sheet of metal, then applying a thin coating of glue, gelatine, or other sticky substance on the metal or on the material to which the transfer is to be made, in such way that the thin film of metal can readily be stripped off upon the article or fabric to be coated.

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Curtis Pressure Regulator and Steam Trap. See p. 142.

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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, 361 Broadway, New York.

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Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information, and not for publication.

References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all, either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn.

Special Written Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration.

Scientific American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each. Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price.

Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(1) W. H. K. asks: How many pounds pressure to a square inch is required to compress two cubic inches of air (at the sea level) into one cubic inch? A. A pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch in addition to the atmospheric pressure.

(2) S. K. M. asks: 1. How many Grenet battery cells, each having two carbon plates exposing a surface 3 by 1 inch, and one zinc of the same size, will work two gallons of nickel plating solution? A. Half a dozen such batteries should give fair results. 2. About what proportion, by weight, of nickel salts will water at 60° Fah. dissolve? A. Use for plating 10 parts by weight of distilled water and 1 part by weight of double sulphate of nickel and ammonium. 3. Can nickel plating be done easily and well by amateurs? A. It is far from easy for an amateur to nickel plate satisfactorily. We recommend as text-book, Electrolysis, by Fontaine, which we can send for \$3.50.

(3) J. B. A. asks: 1. If a rifle ball is discharged perpendicularly, will the ball descend to the earth with the same force that it had when it left the gun? A. It will not, owing to the resistance of the air. 2. If a body is dropped from a very great distance (say from a balloon), is there no limit to the velocity of the body? Is it not possible for it to drop so very fast that the resistance of the air prevents it going any faster? A. If the body did not burst into fragments or become otherwise destroyed, there is a maximum of velocity that it could not exceed.

TO INVENTORS.

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