

## ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

An injector has been patented by Mr. Ferdinand Brunbauer, of Vienna, Austria. It is so constructed as to be always gradually started, no matter how it may be operated, having a fixed outer steam tube, a concentric endwise movable inner steam tube, forming a ring-shaped passage between them, a valve within the inner tube, and other novel features.

A railway signal has been patented by Mr. Pierson J. Wicks, of Greenpoint, N. Y. The invention relates to electric signals for block systems, and consists of three conductors, of which one is continuous and supplied from a central station, supplying current to the propelling motor and also for operating the electric signal to sound an alarm when two or more trains are in adjacent sections.

A portable switch table and car replacer has been patented by Mr. Arthur Durieu, of New Orleans, La. It is for facilitating the replacing of cars and locomotives on the tracks in case of derailment, and is to be carried on all trains; it consists of simple devices to be placed on the sleepers at the sides of the rails, and firmly clamped thereto, on which the wheels will run up and down, as on an ordinary rail.

A car coupling has been patented by Mr. James H. Davis, of Danville, Ky. The construction is such that the end of the link may be held at any angle, and when the cars come together to be coupled a lever brings the pin instantly to position, locking the link in the drawhead, while the uncoupling may be done from the top or sides, the invention also covering various other novel features.

A water heater for cars has been patented by Mr. William A. White, of Staatsburg, N. Y. A casing of two metallic shells, with a non-conducting filling between them, incloses a fire box with grate bars, upon which a fuel cylinder discharges, a heating chamber located near communicating with the fire box, coils of pipe extending therefrom, and a water boiler located above, with other novel features, making a construction in which it is intended the fire shall be extinguished when the car is upset.

A railroad spike has been patented by Mr. Thomas A. Davies, of New York City. This invention relates to a former patented inventor of the same inventor, and consists in a spike having the under surface of its head formed with two flat faces, adapting the spike to have a broad bearing upon the base of the rail, whether driven vertically or at an inclination in the cross tie, and also facilitating drawing out without bending.

A railway fish plate has also been patented by the same inventor. It is an angle fish plate made to be bolted to the webs of the rails, and to have a bearing at the outer edge of its base flange upon the cross ties, being slotted beyond the edges of the base of the rails, so that there is no lateral contact with the spikes, but the rails themselves are held from lateral movement by the direct contact of the spikes, and the fish plates have what is called "repose bearings."

A rock drilling machine has been patented by Mr. John Jennings, of Canon City, Col. This invention covers an improvement on a former patented invention of the same inventor, in a machine designed to be especially useful in drilling vertically downward, or nearly so, in which case the drill carriage may be lowered at intervals, or left to fall by gravity, as found necessary or desirable.

A car coupling also forms the subject of two patents issued to the above inventor. In one of them the drawhead has spring-actuated anchor bars, which open to receive and close upon the drawbar automatically, as the cars come together, or may be opened to uncouple the cars by an operating cam, which is worked by a shaft supported in bearings toward either side of the car, so that the coupling or uncoupling can be readily effected without going between the cars. In the other patent the coupling hook is pivoted near its rear end within the drawhead, and has its front end formed with a hook proper for engaging a shoulder on the drawbar, the coupling hook being yieldingly held down by a spring, but so as to admit the entry of the drawbar for coupling as two cars come together, there being levers extending to the sides and top of the car for working the device.

## AGRICULTURAL INVENTION.

An improved plow jointer, for cutting off the edge of the furrow slice and depositing it in the previous furrow, has been patented by Mr. Thomas Lowden, of Lowell, Mich. The invention covers a simple construction, whereby it is intended that the draught of the plow shall not be sensibly increased, and the jointer will act substantially in the ordinary form, and it is so made that it can be used as an attachment for any form of plow.

## MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A folding top for camera stands has been patented by Mr. William H. Lewis, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is so constructed that it may be folded into a vertical position and made to occupy a very contracted space, and so that great stability and strength are secured and great convenience is afforded for attaching and detaching the camera and legs of the tripod or stand.

A stringed instrument holder has been patented by Mr. Rodolphus T. Fiorini, of New York City. It is an internally threaded socket adapted to be fixed to the bottom of the instrument case, with a standard having a fork adapted to receive the neck of the instrument, and a clamping device for holding the same, being especially calculated for holding violins, guitars, etc., and upon music stands used in orchestras.

A remedy for hog cholera has been patented by Mr. George H. Beckwith, of Charlestown, West Va. It consists of mandrake, sulphur, charred coffee, chlorate of potash, and other materials, prepared and administered in a prescribed way, in connection with certain simple details of treatment which the patentee has found highly effective in years of experience.

A vehicle gear has been patented by Mr. Luther Stouffer, of St. Joseph, Mo. Bolster plates or posts are secured to the head block and the rear axle, perches being supported by the bolster plates and secured to the reaches, springs connected with the perches supporting the wagon box or bed, whereby side bars are dispensed with, cross braces may be used, and the wagon wheels can turn under the reaches.

A filling apparatus has been patented by Mr. John C. Collins, of Chillicothe, Ohio. It is for filling hot salt water or other liquids into cans holding corn or other vegetables, and consists of a sliding frame holding a tray, in combination with a stationary reservoir, filling tubes extending therefrom, with valves which can be opened and closed automatically, and other novel features.

An end gate for wagons has been patented by Mr. Charles F. Bassett, of Hillsdale, Ind. It is so made that it may be applied to either or both ends, will act either as an end gate, scoop board, or dump gate, may be held or placed at any desired angle, is capable of being removed or applied at will, will prevent the sides of the wagon from spreading, and also prevents the contents of the wagon from spilling out.

A fruit drier has been patented by Mr. Sylvester Stigler, of Claysville, Ohio. Combined with apartments open at both ends are horizontal partitions with transverse slots and rearwardly and upwardly bent flanges, with drawers having upwardly bent front ends, for drying fruit, preferably by hot water, and also by steam, drying it quickly, evenly, and so that it will retain all that is possible of its fresh flavor.

A weather strip has been patented by Mr. William R. Allan, of Pittston, Pa. It consists of a weather strip hinged to the door, in one end having a roller journaled, so that as the door is closed the roller travels upon the saddle, carrying the weather strip in advance of the door, and as the door latches, the roller drops into place, the weather strip fitting so as to form a complete seal.

A chimney cap has been patented by Mr. Hiram F. Henry, of Gowanda, N. Y. It consists of a section of pipe with outwardly and upwardly projecting branches having their angle of meeting directly over the center, with imperforate deflecting cones, and other novel features, offering the least possible resistance to the smoke and products of combustion, while effectually preventing the entrance of the wind.

A door check has been patented by Messrs. Elver H. Shaw and Justin D. Wixom, of Clay Center, Kansas. It consists of a latch device to be attached to the base board or wall and a catch to be attached to the face of the door, whereby as the door is opened its catch will be automatically engaged by the latch, and may be readily disengaged to allow the door to be closed, the device being simple and inexpensive.

An apparatus for drying and cleaning ramie and other fibers has been patented by Mr. Christian C. Kauffman, of New Orleans, La. It is for use after decortication, and embraces a hot air drying chamber to solidify the gum or sap in the fiber, with cleaners adapted to mechanically remove the solidified material, and feeding devices to pass the fiber through the drying chamber and the cleaners.

The treating of ramie and other fibers also forms the subject of a patent granted to Messrs. Christian C. Kauffman and John Austin, of New Orleans, La. The invention consists in treating the fiber in a continuous manner, first to a decorticating operation, then to a drying one by artificially heated air, and afterward to a mechanical cleaning, all being performed while the fiber is in motion, and saving rehandling.

A portable stationery case has been patented by Mr. Joshua F. Tannatt, of Springfield, Mass. This invention covers a novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, in a case forming a general receptacle for articles used by letter writers and others, and adapted for use either on the table or by suspending it from the wall, so that no matter how it is thrown about or handled, the articles will always remain in place.

A spectacle joint has been patented by Mr. Paul Moews, of New Castle, N. Y. The invention consists of end pieces, each having a trunnion formed on its face, a temple disk having a central aperture fitting over the trunnions and a screw for holding the parts together located between the inner ends of the end pieces and the temple disk, being durable, easily manufactured, and giving a fine appearance to the spectacles.

A hand pasting machine has been patented by Messrs. Ezra T. Hazeltine and John J. Benzino, of Warren, Pa., and Frank A. Weld, of Stanton, Neb. It has a sliding table with a swinging paste box, with a disk for distributing paste on a line across sheets held on the sliding table, and arranged that the paste box may be held raised so that the sheets can pass under it during the movement of the table in one direction without receiving any paste.

A system of aerial navigation has been patented by Mr. William Beeson, of Dillon, Montana Ter. This invention covers various novel features of construction and combinations of parts relating to a system of aerial navigation, comprising a balloon and attached propelling or flying sail-suit aerial motors, whereby the influences of wind currents and gravitation may be utilized to good advantage in navigating the air.

An adjustable window screen has been patented by Messrs. Forest M. Sampson and George W. Hogben, of Ripon, Wis. This invention covers improvements on a former patented invention of the same inventors, so that guide pins separate from the springs by which the adjustable strips or plates are forced outward may be dispensed with, and the spring-pressed plates will be held snugly to the face of the main screen frame.

A carding engine has been patented by Messrs. Benjamin A. Dobson and William J. Brom-

ley, of Bolton, Lancaster County, Eng. This invention is designed to provide improved means, where the revolving flats travel upon flexible bands, for one or both bands to be adjusted separately or simultaneously, and also to provide for automatically adjusting the front and rear carrier shafts or rollers around which the flats pass when the flexible bands are adjusted, so that the flats may be accurately adjusted at all points with reference to the main cylinder.

Interlocking bolts form the subject of two patents issued to Mr. Thomas J. Bush, of Lexington, Ky. The inventions relate to former patented inventions of the same inventor, in the first place covering straight bolts, notched to interlock, in a tie having diagonal intersecting holes, and blocks against which the nuts of the bolts bind, being especially adapted for railway ties and rails, bridge timbers, scaffolding, etc., and in the other case the improvement consisting in so forming the interlocking recess and the lower portion of one member of each pair of bolts that they shall intersect in the same plane and be locked by imparting a quarter turn to one of the pair, they being then tightened by means of screw nuts at their outer ends.

A fiber cleaning machine has been patented by Mr. Arthur W. Savage, of New York City. The material is drawn by an upper gripper from a delivery chute to a carrier belt continually advancing toward a macerating roller, and after the material has been acted upon by the roller it is drawn back against the action of the roller, the cleaned ends being caught by a lower set of gripper fingers, and the uncleaned ends thrown over upon the endless carrier belt to be advanced thereby to the macerating roller; these ends having passed between the roller and its bed, the material is again drawn back against the action of the roller and automatically dropped from the machine, while a second lot of material is drawn from the chute to be operated upon.

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