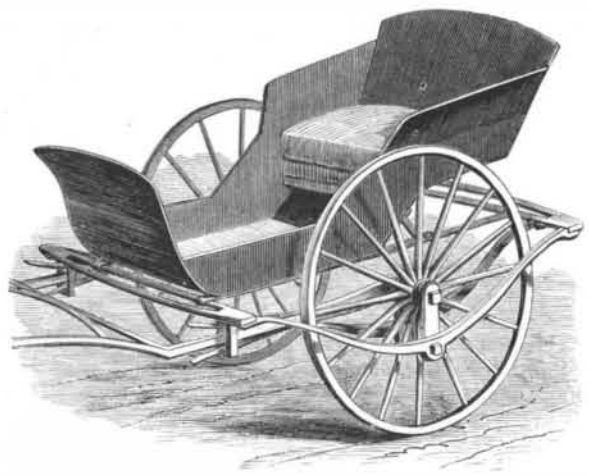
A NEW WAY TO HANG VEHICLES.

The manner of suspending vehicles illustrated herewith forms the subject of a patent recently issued to Mr. Henry J. Diggles, of Fort Jones, Cal. The main frame consists of downwardly curved side strips on either side of each wheel, secured to double forward and rear cross bars, and in connection with the hubs of each wheel there is a short shaft passing through eyes in the rear ends of the thills, there also being links thereon, to the lower ends of which the side bars are connected. Springs are connected above and below to the rear portion of the thills, and extend through loops projecting downward from the under side of the forward cross bar, the springs being intended to hold the thills in about the position shown in the illustration. The vehicle body is mounted upon longitudinal

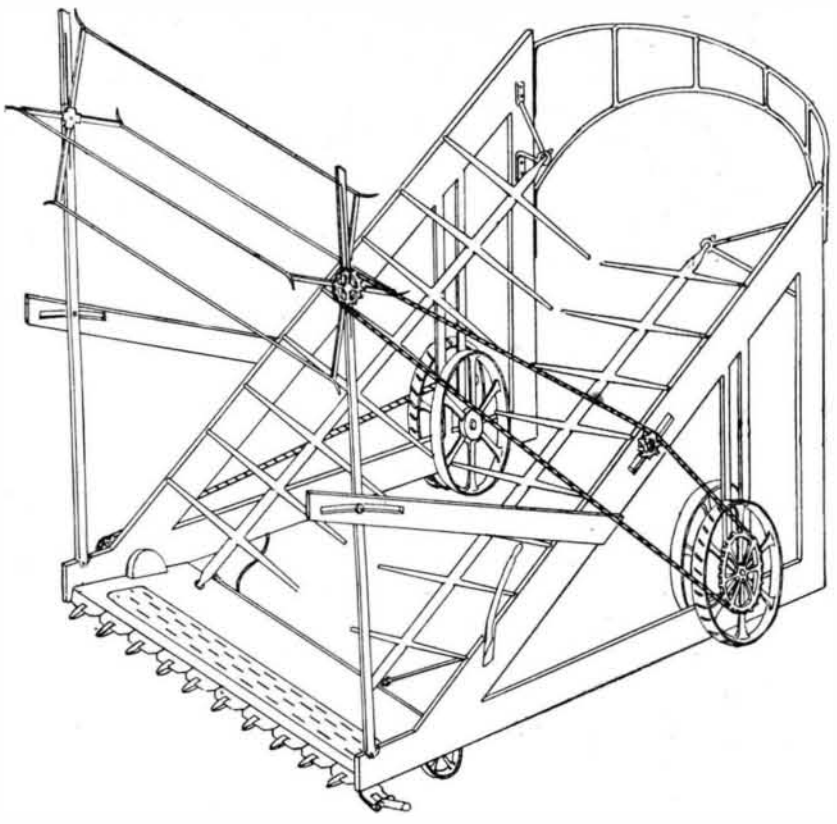


DIGGLES' NOVEL VEHICLE.

springs, the ends of which are hooked, and engage the inner lengths of the double cross bars. With this construction the vehicle body will tend to adjust itself in about a horizontal plane in going up or down hill, and severe jolting and jarring of the occupant are avoided, while the weight of the body, being suspended from, instead of being arranged above, the hubs of the wheels, it will be difficult to overturn such a vehicle.

CORN AND SUGAR CANE CUTTER.

The apparatus illustrated in the cut is for use in connection with an ordinary mowing machine. When attached to and working in combination with one of



THOMPSON'S CORN AND SUGAR CANE CUTTER.

these machines, it converts it into a corn and sugar cane reaping machine, that cuts the stalks, gathers them into bunches, and deposits the bunch as soon as it has attained a proper size upon the ground between the rows and under the apparatus. A framework is attached above and back of the finger or knife bar of a mowing machine. The open center of this frame is filled by two inclined bars arranged to rotate when desired, bearing long teeth arranged at right angles to their axes. Immediately back of the finger bar is a corrugated roller or apron, whose surface is even with the knives, and which continually rotates. As the machine is moved along, the reciprocating cutters cut off the stalks. These fall back on the teeth of the two inclined bars. A horizontal rotating reel or vane assists them in falling backward, while the corrugated roller or apron feeds the lower ends continually backward. The machine cuts two or more rows at once. In a short time enough of the stalks will have accumulated upon the teeth of the inclined bars to form the requisite quantity for a bundle. The operator then pulls the handle seen at the left side, and the rotating bars are both turned inward by connecting rods. The fingers are thrown into vertical planes, and, rotating thus, gather the material together and drop it in the center at such point as the operator may desire. Among the advantages of the machine are the following: It can be attached to any mowing machine; it enables the operator to drop the stalks whenever he desires, in bundles of any desired size; in dropping the stalks, it gathers them into a compact bundle ready for tying or loading; the reel or vane can be adjusted to any height of corn, and makes it possible to cut leaning or standing corn with equal facility.

This apparatus has been patented by A. W. Thompson, of Burlington, Iowa.

A DEVICE TO FACILITATE THE HEATING OF SAD IRONS.

A simple means of bringing the irons to be heated closer to the fire of an ordinary stove or range, so that they will be more quickly heated, without contact with soot, smoke, or gases, and without disturbing the fire, has been patented by Mr. Joseph H. Watson, No. 9 West Broad St., Savannah, Ga. As will be seen by the illustration, the heater consists of a box adapted to receive the iron, with its top shaped to fit a stove top hole in the same way as an ordinary cover. The shape of this box is generally that of the bottom of the iron, but it has a depression forward, giving room for the iron to be easily placed therein, its bottom mainly resting on the bottom of the heater and slightly inclining from rear to front. The top of the box or heater has rabbeted or undercut lips or studs to receive a slotted cover plate, which fits around the handle part of the sad iron, and by the cover handle the heater may be lifted from the fire whether the iron be in it or not.

A Simple Cure for Rheumatism.

A correspondent of the *English Mechanic* says: Let all of "ours" know the following. My wife has suffered occasionally with acute rheumatism in her feet, with painful swelling, completely taking her off her feet for many days at a time.

The following remedy was recommended recently and tried, and took away the agonizing pain in less than fifteen minutes, and she can now walk very fairly, and in a couple of days she will be able to button her boots, and walk without a stick or crutch.

One quart of milk, quite hot, into which stir 1 ounce of alum; this makes curds and whey. Bathe the part affected with the whey until too cold. In the mean time keep the curds hot, and after bathing, put them on as a poultice, wrap in flannel, and—go to sleep (you can). Three applications should be a perfect cure, even in aggravated cases.

The Eskimos.

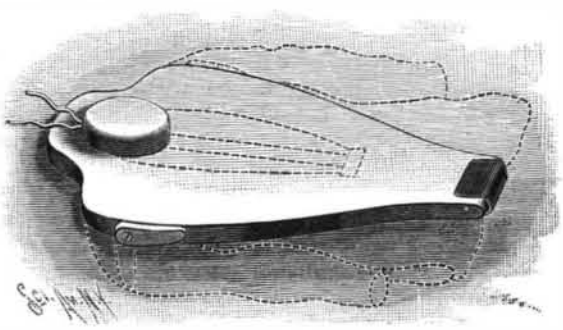
In the *American Naturalist* there is an article by Mr. John Murdoch on what he calls "some popular errors in regard to the Eskimos." One of these "popular errors" is the notion that the Eskimos pass the winter "in a sort of hibernation, in underground dens, living in enforced idleness, and supporting life by stores of meat laid up in less inclement seasons." Mr. Murdoch, who spent two winters at Point Barrow, says this is a wholly mistaken impression. In spite of the extreme inclemency of the climate, the winter, he asserts, is passed by the Eskimos "in one continued round of activity," and he gives a very interesting description of the manner in which they occupy themselves. Another "popular error" on this subject is the idea that the Eskimos always eat their food raw, and devour enormous quantities of blubber.

At Point Barrow, Mr. Murdoch found that food was habitually cooked, although certain articles, like the "black skin" of the whale, were usually eaten raw. Taking into account the fact that the Eskimos have no butter, cream, fat, bacon, olive oil, or lard, he doubts whether much more fat is consumed by them than by civilized peoples.

At Point Barrow the fat of birds and the reindeer was freely partaken of, but comparatively little actual blubber either of the seal or whale was eaten. "Seal or whale blubber was too valuable, for burning in the lamps, oiling leather, and many other purposes, especially for trade."

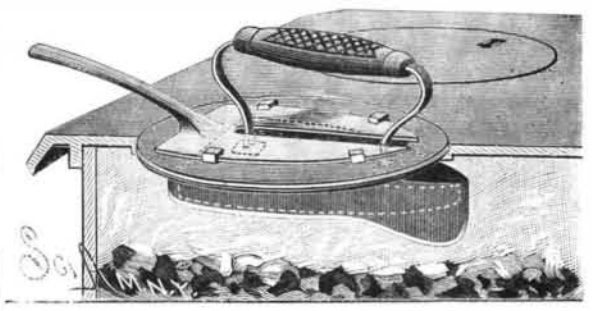
AN IMPROVED IRONING BOARD.

A board designed to hold a shirt while its front and back are being ironed has been recently patented by Mrs. Harriet B. Mavis, of Burlingame, Kansas, and is shown in the accompanying illustration. Its general form is such as to adapt it to be readily placed inside



MAVIS' IRONING BOARD.

the garment, spreading the latter out pretty well toward the shoulders, and on its face is a circular boss, in position to receive the neck band. To the back of the boss, secured by a staple, is attached a cord designed for insertion in the rear button holes of the neck band, thus holding the garment in place. For this purpose, also, a clamp is made to fit on the narrower end of the board, but with sufficient space between its arms to receive and hold to the board the portion of the garment below the bosom. To opposite portions of the board, near the shoulder, are pivoted legs, which lie parallel with the edges of the board

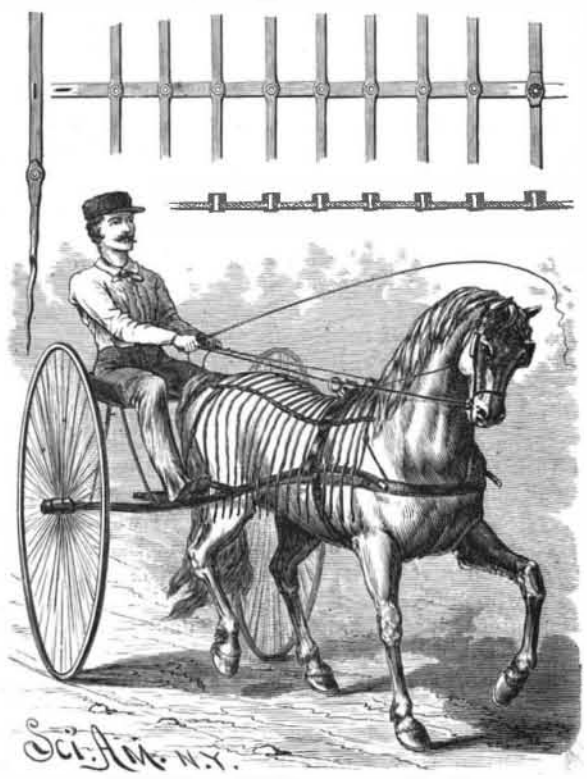


WATSON'S SAD IRON HEATER.

when the front is being ironed, but are pivoted to support it when it is reversed for ironing the back.

IMPROVED FLY NET FOR HORSES.

The invention herewith illustrated is intended to facilitate the production of inexpensive and durable fly nets, and has been patented by Mr. Frank S. Weaver, of E. Weaver's Sons, Moundsville, West Va. The net is made by slitting the lashes and the ribs or bars, respectively, where they intersect, then laying the lashes on top of the ribs and inserting an eyelet through the slits, clinching it at the back or under side



WEAVER'S FLY NET FOR HORSES.

of the ribs. The detail sketch at the top of the picture shows the way in which it is done, one figure showing a longitudinal section. When a lash is to be joined or spliced, the slit ends of its two parts are to be lapped on each other over the slit of the rib or bar, and the eyelet will then pass through three thicknesses of material. In this way of making nets, nearly the full strength of the material is retained, which is not the case when holes are punched in the lash or rib, and by this method of splicing the lashes short strips can be used up, when desired, to utilize material that would otherwise be of no value.