

ENGINEERING INVENTION.

A steam generator has been patented by Mr. Alfred Musil, of Steyr, Austria-Hungary. It is a rotatory generator, in which the water is subjected to the action of the heat in comparatively thin layers within receptacles presenting extended heating surfaces, there being but few joints requiring to be made steam tight, and the configuration of the parts being such that they will best resist strain.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTION.

A fender has been patented by Messrs. Walter McCoy and James McArthur, of Miltonvale, Kansas. It is an improved fender for corn, comprising a draught bar and a shield loosely connected therewith, a chain or similar support sustaining the weight of the draught bar and relieving the shield of the pressure, efficiently protecting the plants over which the shield or fender passes.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A staple driver has been patented by Mr. Willis W. Bloodworth, of Molino, Fla. The invention covers a novel construction and arrangement of parts in a device for driving staples when building wire fences, the wire being held in position while the staples are driven over it.

A grinding and polishing material has been patented by Mr. Charles M. Lindsey, of Pittsburg, Pa. This invention covers a process of making such material of pulverized steel, the steel being first heated to a high temperature, then immersed in a bath of water, salt, and soda, and the crystals subsequently pulverized.

A toggle fastening for buttons, etc., has been patented by Mr. Charles V. Richards, of Skowhegan, Me. It is a needle-pointed toggle, so made as to not only form a slotted and crooked fastening, but also to puncture and make its own passage through the garment or fabric when attaching the button or article to its place.

A process of making pyrosulphates has been patented by Mr. Heinrich Baum, of Mannheim, Germany. It consists in heating the acid sulphates of the alkali metals, as also of ammonia, in a vacuum, to temperatures below brown heat, or between 200° and 400° C., it being feasible to perform the operation in cast iron vessels.

A bow resining attachment for violins has been patented by Messrs. Edwin M. and Ernest S. Comstock, of Cascade Valley, N. Y. It consists in a resin dust box supported near the strings of the violin, so that its vibrations when in use will cause the resin to fly on to the strings and bow, and make the usual resining by hand unnecessary.

A bobbin catch for spinning machines has been patented by Mr. Isaac L. Allen, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is a thimble-like catch inserted within or through the head of the bobbin, and having an interior flange on its outer end, reducing the cutting and wear of the button and its catch, while the catch or thimble may be turned in its seat to change the weaving surfaces.

A carpet stretcher has been patented by Mr. Andrew McFarland, of Thomaston, Me. Combined with a lever and brace having a longitudinal slot, with a guide bar mounted to ride in the slot, is a spring-actuated clamp with an eye embracing the guide bar, a shoe and slip ring, with other novel features, whereby great power, efficiency, and convenience in use are obtainable.

A gauge attachment for scroll sawing machines has been patented by Mr. Frank R. Schloer, of Baltimore, Md. It is adjustably supported in accordance with a novel construction above the work passage or support, and adapted for use in sawing circular and irregular forms, being calculated to save time and labor and insure greater accuracy and neatness of work.

A tapered nail has been patented by Mr. John Hyslop, Jr., of Abington, Mass. This invention covers a new article of manufacture consisting of a nail having the longer dimension of its point about parallel with the longer dimension of the upper part or head portion of the nail, so the nail can be driven easily and truly without splitting the work, and will hold well.

An oil vapor heater has been patented by Mr. William W. Batchelder, Jr., of Boston, Mass. It is of that class in which a wick draws up the oil, which is vaporized at the wick by a small initial flame and then passes as unconsumed vapor to the burner proper, the device preventing the escape of bad odors, increasing the heating capacity, and regulating the vaporization of the oil.

An elevator hatchway has been patented by Mr. Edwin Spencer, of Brooklyn, N. Y. This invention provides a series of plates or platforms beneath the car, and independent thereof, adapted to close the hatchway at each story as the car ascends, and a second series of plates carried by the car, independent of the first series, adapted to cover the hatchway at each story as the car descends.

A thill coupling has been patented by Mr. Frank L. Burton, of Erie, Pa. It has an anti-rattler and pivot-holding device of an elastic plate or plates placed between the coupling clip or axle and the thill iron eye and forcing the eye to the pivot, a flange plate connected to the elastic plates bearing against the end and side of the pivot to prevent endwise displacement and rotary motion thereof.

A thill coupling has been patented by Messrs. Henry and John Knupp, of Warren, Pa. Combined with a pivoted thill iron and anti-rattler placed next thereto are opposite plates clamping the anti-rattler, one of the plates having a lug overlying the head of the thill iron pivot, the device obviating rattling, preventing loss of the pivot, and promoting the durability of the entire coupling.

A bailer has been patented by Mr. David F. Brown, of Washington, Pa. This invention relates particularly to bailers with a body or tube the lower end of which has a valve-seated opening, a valve for closing the opening, and a dart or stem fixed to the valve and extended out of the tube or body, being especially designed for bailing the sediment out of oil and artesian wells.

A drag saw machine has been patented by Mr. Cornelius W. Wright, of Democracy, Ohio. It is a portable device having a longitudinal beam having a pin at one end to engage the log, and supported by hinged legs at the other end, an operating lever being pivotally supported in the hinged legs, and standards pivotally connected to the beam supporting the saw in working position.

A machine for making paper tubes has been patented by Mr. Thomas Granger, of New York City. Combined with a mandrel having one end unsupported and an endless belt arranged in connection therewith are fixed rollers and rollers carried by swinging arms, one pair of the arms having extensions carrying a paste-applying roller, with other novel features, the machine being of simple construction and designed to make paper tubes quickly.

A clock has been patented by Mr. Henry A. Russell, of Boyne City, Mich. The invention covers a novel attachment adapted to carry multiplying gearing, whereby clocks made to run only a short period can be readily made, at but slight expense, to run for a much longer time without winding up, as, for instance, a thirty-hour clock can be made into an eight-day clock, or longer, and the attachment can be applied to clocks run by springs or weights.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BUILDING EDITION.

DECEMBER NUMBER.

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The Holly Manufacturing Co., of Lockport, N. Y., will send their pamphlet, describing water works machinery, and containing reports of tests, on application.

Lathes for cutting irregular forms a specialty. See ad. p. 349.

Iron, Steel, and Copper Drop Forgings of every description. Billings & Spencer Co., Hartford, Conn.

Curtis Pressure Regulator and Steam Trap. See p. 364.

Steam Hammers, Improved Hydraulic Jacks, and Tube Expanders. R. Dudgeon, 24 Columbia St., New York.

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NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

TWELVE TIMES TWELVE. By Miss M. A. Lathbury. Worthington & Co. Price, \$1.75.

This consists of illustrations of child life in facsimile water color prints. The drawings are accompanied with well selected verses from the best poets.

CANADA STATISTICAL ABSTRACT AND RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1886. Published by the Department of Agriculture. Ottawa. 1887. Pp. 467.

In this work, compiled by Mr. Sydney D. Ropes, a very full statement of data referring to the Dominion is given. History, constitution, finance, tariff, arts and products, and many other topics are treated. To those interested in our neighbor, the work will be of great value. The cheerful statement of her net public debt—\$23,159,107 on June 30, 1886, making an increase of

\$26,751,415 since June 30, 1885—offers an argument that annexationists should ponder well over before desiring to take possession of so encumbered an estate. The fisheries for 1885 are put at a produce value of \$17,722,973, and for 1886, \$18,979,288. The full statement of fish produce is given in great detail. These figures show that Canada has a very big bone of contention for her interests to be settled by Mr. Chamberlain and his conferees.

NATURAL LAW IN THE BUSINESS WORLD. By Henry Wood. Boston: Lee & Shepard; New York: Charles T. Dillingham. 1887. Pp. 222. Price 30 cents.

This is a cheap reprint of what has proved a very popular book. The author deals with questions of economic science, and treats them largely from the conservative side. A special appeal for the increase in its circulation that appears on the cover makes it clear that it was designed for a special purpose—the confutation of some of the theories that have within the last few years been offered to the world. The work is acceptable, and well worthy the perusal of all interested in the maintenance of the present order of things.

A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY. By W. Jerome Harrison, F.G.S. New York: Scovill Manufacturing Company. 1887. Pp. 136.

This interesting work deals with the history of the photographic art from the earliest times. The dry plate and the many efforts at the production of a dry plate process receive much attention. The work done in color photography, and the probable outcome for the future, are fully treated by the author. Paper negatives and built-up prints from several negatives are described. The subject of orthochromatic photography and the more recent achievements in composite portraiture and in instantaneous work, involving the systematic study of the motion of animals, by Marey and others, seems to be outside of the author's scheme, and little or nothing is said of them. It is a work which every intelligent worker should possess and study. It has as frontispiece a characteristic portrait of the author reproduced by Moss type from a negative by Harold Baker, of Birmingham, England.

THE CHILDREN OF SILENCE; OR, THE STORY OF THE DEAF. By Joseph A. Seiss, D.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates. 1887. Pp. 208.

This little work is a succinct account of the world of the deaf and dumb. The census of the deaf mute population of different countries discloses who are the subjects of the treatise. The causes, congenital and adventitious, of deafness are fully considered. The sad condition of those thus affected is eloquently depicted. The labors of the early instructors in this field are summarily given, from the 13th century down. Modern institutions are catalogued in tabular form; their size, method of teaching, and other particulars are given, and a synopsis of the more extended tables closes the work.

SPON'S HOUSEHOLD MANUAL. A Treasury of Domestic Receipts and Guide for Home Management. E. & F. N. Spon, London and New York. 1887. Pp. vii, 988.

The title of this work pretty well indicates its scope. The dwelling and its surroundings, water supply, sanitation, ventilation, lighting, etc., its furniture and decoration, are fully treated. Thieves and fire, the larder, cooking and preserving food, the management of the nursery, and all imaginable home topics, are all among its subjects. Home recreations and medicine, games, the playground, workroom, library, and laundry, receive attention, while in out of door operations the farmyard and garden are included. A chapter on domestic law, landlords and tenants, lodges, servants, etc., is calculated more for the English horizon than for our country. Where needed, illustrations are given, and the book may safely be recommended to all householders.

Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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.

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Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(1) F. T. asks: What is the best and most simple method of lining brass boxes (such as car journal bearings) with lead or a low grade of Babbitt metal, without the aid of grooves or holes in the brass, so that the lead, etc., will adhere firmly to the box? A. There is no way known to us of lining a brass journal box, except by tinning or employing the grooves and holes as suggested by you, nor do we see the value of building up a car journal box with anything but the best Babbitt, which will hold by flushing with tin.

(2) S. asks how window glass is measured in the box. A. A box of window glass contains 50 square feet of glass without regard to size.

(3) A. L. F.—Gas and electric light fixtures can only be brightened by taking apart and dipping in boiling caustic soda to remove dirt and old varnish. Wash in hot water, then dip in strong nitric acid for a few seconds, wash in boiling water, dry in