ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

An elevated railway has been patented by Mr. James M. Hannahs, of Chicago, Ill. Combined with a special construction of transverse arched trusses are longitudinal girders with steps resting on upper and lower angle irons of the trusses, with other novel features, designed to make a light and stable structure, the invention being an improvement on a former patented invention of the same inventor.

A railway rail bender and straightener has been patented by Messrs. Emory M. Woodin and Frank J. Gibbs, of Tyrone, Pa. The invention covers a novel construction and combination of parts, making a simple and powerful device whereby a rail may be quickly and effectively curved, or a curvature in a rail in position on the ties may be taken out and the rail straightened.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A machine for distributing fertilizers has been patented by Mr. James R. McCord, of Jackson, Ga. It is for distributing manures wet or dry, adapted for two rows at the same time, and to be adjusted for rows a greater or less distance apart, and to automatically follow irregular rows.

A cultivator has been patented by Mr. Jacob Shuck, of Blue Springs, Neb. It is applicable either as a corn cultivator or as a flat cultivator for wheat, is designed not to clog, and to automatically adjust itself to the contour of the ground over which it is passing.

A corn shock tyer has been patented by Mr. Uriah B. Watkins, of Barclay, Kansas. It is made with a sharpened pin, a metal stock being fixed to the shank, in connection with a knotted cord tightener, and has other novel features, to facilitate tying shocks of corn or other grain to protect them from storm.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A soap compound has been patented by Mr. Frederick C. Bauer, of Philadelphia, Pa. The invention consists in combining with finely granulated porous material, such as sawdust, a quantity of soap of any approved manufacture.

An automatic damper has been patented by Mr. William A. J. Beauchamp, of Orange, Texas. By this invention an expansion bar is arranged in connection with a series of levers connected to the damper, whereby the fire may be controlled as desired.

A shirt has been patented by Mr. Jacob Falkenberg, of New York City. It has a front piece stitched by seams between the center of the form piece and its side edges to form two flies, adapted to be folded to form a single, or opened out to form a double breasted front.

A sulky has been patented by Mr. Moses McCormick, of Calverton, Md. The invention relates to trotting sulkies, and provides an improved construction and arrangement of parts whereby the horse may be hitched closer to the driver's seat, and the sulky made lighter, less complicated, and stiffer.

An advertising stand has been patented by Messrs. Moses D. Greengard and Fradelshon Harris, of St. Louis, Mo. The invention covers a peculiar construction and arrangement of parts in a stand for holding goods to be displayed, and provided with an advertising plate.

A mop wringer has been patented by Mr. Henry I. Hotchkiss, of South Ryegate, Vt. It is designed to have a substantial support on and in a pail or tub, to balance the strains incident to wringing the mop, and prevent upsetting of the vessel, while allowing mops to be quickly and easily wrung.

A tag hook or needle has been patented by Mr. Oliver H. Hunter, of Warren, Pa. The invention covers a peculiar construction of needle for attaching a string ticket to the inner fold of a roll of goods, so as to avoid cutting off the ticket before the last yard of the piece is taken.

A salt making apparatus has been patented by Mr. Richard G. Peters, of Manistee, Mich. The invention covers a novel construction designed to utilize the waste heat from the vacuum pans to heat the grainers, which are of the ordinary type, instead of employing live steam for such purpose.

A sad iron has been patented by Mr. August F. Chable, of Evansville, Ind. It is of that class which rotate or are made resversible, so that different faces or irons may be used with one frame or handle, and is adapted to be evenly and quickly heated by any suitable hydrocarbon, such as naphtha at 74°.

A rubber dental plate has been patented by Mr. Ezra W. Talbott, of Napoleon, Ohio. The invention mainly consists in the use of two plates in manufacturing and finishing rubber dental plates, by a novel method of operation, to economize rubber and save much of the labor now required in their manufacture.

A sweat pad hook has been patented by Mr. Charles J. Gustaveson, of Salt Lake City, Utah Ter. It is attached to the pad so as to be attachable and reversible, and so formed as to embrace the rim of the collar and be tightly held between the rim and the harness, to support the pad and also prevent the hames from slipping forward.

A driving mechanism for elevators has been patented by Mr. Joseph P. Bower, of Des Moines, Iowa. The invention consists of a belt pulley having internal gear teeth meshing into a gear wheel rotated by a train of gear wheels connected with the main driving shaft, a double flanged pulley forming part of the support for the belt pulley.

A head rest for barbers' chairs has been patented by Mr. Charles W. Delaney, of Hammond, Ind. A pivot projects from a circular plate secured to the back of the chair, a slotted head rest bar being held upon the pivot, the bar being turned outwardly to form a shoulder to which is hinged a pillow, which may be turned to different positions.

A transom lifter has been patented by Mr. Albert Langstrom, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Combined with a transom window is a lifting rod having notches, and sliding in fixed brackets at the side, making a simple and easy means for opening and closing the window, or for locking it in an open, partially open, or closed position.

A hair clipper has been patented by Mr. John Bestgen, of Boston, Mass. It has a fixed comb plate, with cutting knives and a cutter plate, operated through a gear connection by turning a handle, with various novel features, making a device designed not to tire the operator, while being very quick and accurate.

An amalgamator has been patented by Mr. Nathan L. Raber, of Corvallis, Oregon. The construction provides a check valve for preventing the immediate contact of the feeder and the mercury, and the flowing of the latter from the motion of the former, a perforated partition plate for partially breaking up the circulation, with a concentrator at the upper end of the pans and means for oscillating it.

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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.

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NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES. Calendar year 1886. David T. Day, Chief of Division of Mining Statistics and Technology. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1887. Pp. viii, 813.

We welcome the appearance of this interesting volume, that each year gains in character and value. A short summary of statistics of the mineral products of the United States in general opens the body of the work. This is by the editor. After this the various products are treated *seriatim*. Iron, copper, lead, nickel, and the other leading metals, mineral products, and coal, are each written about by leading specialists. Not the least interesting part of the present large volume is the treatise by E. R. L. Gould upon mining law. To this nearly seventy pages are devoted, so that a treatment at once comprehensive and concise is guaranteed. As we so often have occasion to remark in these columns, want of space inevitably prevents us from giving a review, properly speaking, of so extensive a work. It may be correctly said that the book is its own best review, so little does it lend itself to summarizing or abbreviation.

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