## ENGINEERING INVENTIONS

A car door has been patented by Mr. William J. Keyes, of Wheeling, Ala. This invention relates to im provements expecially adapted for freight car doors, and provides means for effectively securing
the door, and also forreadilyopening and automatically the door, and
closing it.
A car seat has been patented by Mr. ohn O. Buerk, of Red Bank, N. J. This invention covers a novel construction and combination of parts ordinary form of seat may be simply and readily converted into a comfortable reclining seat.
A car coupling has been patented by Mr. Isaac Shotwell, of Bancroft, Mich. This invention for raising and dropping the pin without the necessity of trainmen going between the cars, the improvement being applicable to the ordinary form of drawhead, link and pin.
A car coupling has been patented by Mr.John Clarriage, Sr., of Libertyville, Ohio. In the rawhead is a spring-pressed follower adapted to erse link slot, and there being a the rear of the drawhead recess, the device being capable of use for automatic coupling with the ordinar form of link and pin.

## AGRICOLTURAL inventions

A hand planter has been patented by Mr. Thomas N. Lupton, of Winchester, Va. It is an mproved device capable of use in planting corn, beans, carried by one hand and to have its movable part or parts operated by the handle grasped hy the hand.
A cotton scraper and chopper has been patentedjby Mr. William E. Morris, of Crutchfield, Ey. weeding and freshening the earth at each side of a row of plants, and also to chop the plants to a stand, the craping and chopping devices being detachable to llow plows, harrows, etc., to be used with the sulky.
A combined plow and harrow has been patented by Anna Trexler, of Sabin, Minn. This inven ion provides a simple and inexpensive harrow attach ating to pulverize the earth freshly turned over by the plow, to economically and efficiently accomplish the barrowing while the plowing progresses.

## MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A fire escape has been patented by Mr. Jacob M. Fink, of New York City. This invention provides a ladder of hinged sections, constructed and arranged to be located at the top of a building when and extended down the side of the building.
A bolt has been patented by Mr. John J. Holland, of New Orleans, La. It is for fastening window blinde, doors, etc., and consists of a sliding and a screw fitted to the nut and operative throuch the har hole from outside the bar when the bar is projected
A wrench has been patented by Mr . William H. Brock, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It is of tha class in which a chain is used with a serrated shoe to rip the pipe or other article, a dog engaging the chain, better gripping the pipe, and a more readily operated dog.
A duplex hand stamp has been patented by Mr. Robert Robinson, of Albany, N. Y. This invenor as a check upon salesmen in any mercantile business, providing for the distrihution of coupons to the purpaid for the coupons.
A wagon end gate has been patented by Mr. Ulysses S. Tym, of Ridgeley, Neb. The invention covers a peculiar locking contrivance applied to bottom of the wagonbody, which receives a bevel-ended hook
rising.
A button has been patented by Mr. Isaac Dreichlinger, of New York City. The inventio covers an improvement in britons on a shank having an eye or loop, and is designed to obviate the lateral sway-
ing or hanging down of the button to expose the fastening, by the use of a novel form of doubled wire fastening
shank.

A water elevator has been patented by Mebsra, John W. and John J. Adams, of Charlotte, N C. This invention relates to a form of elevator with a o a bucket, the buckets being arranged to have a re verse motion, the improvements patented consisting in the means for reversing the action of the buckets.
A piano truck has been patented by Messrs. Louis Miller and Thomas A. Wheeler, of Green ville, Ohio. It has a hase frame on rollers, with de brace rods, and other novel features, making a movable caffold for supporting and moving upright pianos on and of a wagon and over steps or stairs.
A straw burning attachment for stoves has been patented hy Mr. Myron T. Andrews, of Iroquois, Dakota Ter. The attachment has a pouch
forming a front extension to the stove to give increased capacity for holding straw or stalks used for fuel, with a novel construction of grate and means for adjusting it, and means for fitting the appliance to stoves of
various sizes.
A reversing switch and rheostat for electric circuits has heen patented hy Mr. Charles G.
Bickley, of New York City. The invention consists in
a three-part switch, a series of adjustable resistanc circuit, with especial reference to use in electroplating,
to avoid reversals of current from polarization of the lectrodes dipping in the electrolyte.
An automatic station indicator has heen patented by Mr. Edward Blamey, of Jersey City N. J. This invention covers a novel construction an
combination of parts, whereby a station or street ma be automatically indicated within a car, or stations on a main and branch road may be indicated, and wherein the apparatus will automatically advance and reverse, with other novel features.
A pipe wrench has been patented by Mr. Beverly Reagan, of Ouachita, La. It has a fixed jaw with ratchet teeth and a block on its shank carryand arrable jaw, a pawl being carried by the block ratchet teeth of the fhank of the fixed and with the struction being designed to facilitate quick and ac curate adjustment of the jaws to clamp and hold pipe of varying diameter.
A rotary corn popper has been pa con by Mr. William C. Moore, of Springfiela, Mo formed with a fixed portion and a portion movable end wise, a fastener for holding the movable purtion in open and closed position, the shank having a crank
handle and a loosely mounted supporting handle and a loosely mounted supporting handle, the holder being grasped in one hand and
rotated by the crank handle with the other hand.

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OCTOBER NUMBER.-(NO. 36.)

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spectively. Sheet of details, floor plans, etc.
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A dwelling for three thousand five hundred dollars. Floor plans and perspective.
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## 12. An English double hous spective and floor plans.

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work. Address, stating experience, C. R. Richards, Pratt Institute, Ryerson St.. Brookiyn, N.
The Knowles Steam Pump Works, 113 Federal St., Boston, and 93 Liberty St.. New York, have just issued a new catalogue, in which are many new and im proved forms of Pumping Machinery of the single and
duplex, steam and power type. This catalogue will be ailed free of charge on application.
Link Belting and Wheels. Link Belt M. Co., Chicago Presees \& Dies. Ferracute Mach. Co., Bridgeton, N. J The Holly Manufacturing Co., of Lockport, N. Y., will send their pamphlet, describing water works maLockwood's Dictionary of Terms used in the practice of Mechanical Engineering, embracing those current in the drawing office, pattern shop, foundry, fitting, turn-
ing, smith's and boiler shop, etc., comprising over 6,000 ing, smith's and boiler shop, etc., comprising over 6,000
defnitions. Edited ob a foreman patternaker. 1888.
Price, \$3.00. For sale by Munn \& Co., 361 Broadway, New m
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## NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

nklin's Handy Mandal OF Useful
Information. Chicago: Laird \& Lee. Pp. 440. Cloth, 50 cents.
This little pocket reference book is closely crowded with matters both curious and useful, such as all sorts
of people are likely to ask questions about. The book has had a phenomenally large sale.
Poor's Manual of the Railloads of THE UNITED STATES. 1888.
York : H. V. \& H. W. Porr.
This publication, which has now been issued annually for 21 years, brings together in one large volume a vast amount of information of the utmost importance ness. The general exhibit given shows that the total length of railroad lines in the United States laid up to the close of 1887 was 149,912 miles, the mileage of the va rious roads having been increased during the last cal-
endar year by 13,080 miles. The equipment consisted endar year by 13,080 miles. The equipment consisted
of 27,850 locomotive engines and 983,805 cars, of which 20,582 were mail cars, and 956,631 freight cars. The total length of track footed up 189,346 miles, and of this amount 129,959 miles was laid with steel rails, and 60,387 miles with iron rails. The manual also includes the railway of Canada and Mexico, and a directory of the various tramways in the cities of the United States, but, large as is the amount of valuable information furnished in
publishers could have included in the scope of their work a summary of the railway construction and busiadd to the value of the work.
Turning Lathes. By James Lukin.
New York and London : E. \& F. N. New York and London : E.
Spon. Pp. 16u. Price $\$ 1.00$.
This is a manual for technical schools and apprentices in turning, screw cutting, metal spinning, etc., being an elementary work, presupposing no knowledge
of tools or lathes. It has numerous illustrations of tools and lathes, and descriptions of various kinds of work, the directions being such as will be most simple to a young beginner.
The Mechanic's Workshop Handy
Book. By Paul N. Hasluck. LonBook. By Paul N. Hasluck. Lon-
don : Crosby, Lockwood \& Son. Pp. 136. Price 80 cents.

This book is especially for young mechanics interested in the manipnlation of metal. There are special
chapters on iron, steel, and brass working, and on the chapters on iron, steel, and brass working, and on the
principal alloys, on solders and soldering, files and filing, tool grinding, drills and drilling, abrasive and finishing processes, etc. The book has a greater variety
and extent of matter than is ordinarily found in such manuals, together with a good index.

The Sheet Jobbing and Plate Roller's Assistant. By C. H. Kauf-
man. Wheeling: West Va. Publishing Co. Pocket book form. Pp. 267 . Price $\$ 3.50$.
This is a book full of tables designed to assist manuacturers and mill managers in saving time and labor nd sheet iron worker, and the iron roofer, in making stimates for work, and to be of advantage to any one handling sheet iron.
Three Kingdoms. A hand book of the Agassiz Association. By Harlan H.
Ballard. New York: The Writers'
Publishing Co. Pp. 167. Cloth.
Price 75 cents.
The Agassiz Association has a memhership all over the United States, and to some extent in Canada and England. It is organized in nearly one thousand
chapters,having a membership of some fifteen thousand persons, young and old, the object being the systematic ersons, young and old, the object being the systematic
tudy of elementary botany, entomology, geology, anatomy, physiology, etc.. under the leadership of competent teachers. This book is designed to answer inguiries concerning the association and its work, and has much valuable information on the collection, pre-
servation, and study of insects, plants, minerals, etc.

Seaside and Wayside. No. 2. By Julia McNair Wright. Boston : D. C. Heath \& Co.
This is the second of a series of "nature readers," nd describes ants and their work, the earth worm, the wase fly, the bectle, the dragon fly, etc., and all in a delightfully entertaining to the little folks.
William Shakespeare portrayed by
Himself. By Robert Waters. New
York: Worthington \& Co. Pp. 347. This work is styled by its author "a revelation of ramatic heroes," and the effort is made to show that Shakespeare is none other than King Henry V.

## 4 Midatumis

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Names and Address must accompary all letters,
or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our or no attention will be paid thereto.
information, and not for publication.
Referencen, to former articies or answers should
give date of paper and page or number of question. give date of paper and page or number of question.
nquiries not answered in reasonable time should nquiries not answered in reasonable time should
be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that
some answers require not a little research, and some answers require not a little research, an
though we endearor to reply to all. either by let
or in this department, each must take his turn.
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personal rather than general interest cannot be cientilte American Supplements referred
to may be had at the oflice. Price 10 cents each. Books referred to promptly supplied on receipt of price
Minerala sent for examination should he distinctly
marked or labeled.
(1) B. J. asks (1) a process by which a wrought iron rod can be converted into steel. A. Your iron rod may be made into steel on its surface only by
packing it in an iron tnbe with horn shavings, closing acking it in an iron tnbe with horn shavinge, closing the ends with clay, and heating the whole to a full red for four hours. If kept too long, it will be of little coarse in grain and blistered on the surface which black enamel for bicycles. A. Use black japan varnish and bake in an oven at about $270^{\circ}$ Fah.
(2) C. J.-Compressing two volumes in ne of air or any gas, starting at atmospheric pressure. nch. Electricity cannot be utilized as a motive power xcept through the aid of mechanical appliances. It can only be generated for power purposes by chemical means (a battery) or by the expenditure of power which may be produced through the agency of steam,
water, or wind through engines, water wheels, or wind mills.
(3) W. E. L. asks the process of tempering needles-what kind of oil is used, and what
degree of heat is required? A. Use clear lard oiland herry red heat for the needles See Scientipic american Supplement, No. 54, for the process of Ambrican Sur
manufacture.
(4) J. D. B. .asks : 1. Why is it true that, if the direct rays of the snn are permitted to enter darkened ron the foor a waure the tigure will be impinge upon the floor or wall. the tigure will be
round? A. The sun, having sensible magnitude, produces a penumbra. This prevents the reproduction with sharp outliues of the aperture, and hence it is somewhat confused in shape, tending toward a circle. This refers to an opening of large size. If the opening is very small, not muoh larger in area than a pinhole, then
a "pinhole "image of the sun will be produced. The production of such an image depends on the practical cutting off of all except one set of rays emerging from
the sun. 2. Do motions possess the quality of cothe sun. 2. Do motions possess the quality of co-
hesive attraction? A. No. 3. Is it not true in physics, as in physic and in politice, that we are expected to ac cept the dictum of some man as leaving nothing further to be said, and whose ipse dixit it were rank heresy to question? A. We know of no ipse dixit in physic, politics, or physics. The assertion of the highestanthority is open to contradiction or discussion.
(5) R. Y. asks : 1. Is it necessary for the discharge end of a siphon pipe to be submerged in water to insure a continuous flow? A. No; provided
the pipe is unobstructed for its full length. If partially stopped, so that there is a slow discharge. air may en ter and stop the siphon from working. 2. What is the theoretical difference in the length of the pipe from the apex to the fountain, and from the same point to the discharge in order to insure a continuous flow? A. longer leg. The height must not exceed 33 feet, as this is the limit of action.
(6) F. T. P. asks (1) how salicylic acid is made. A. Salicylic acid is made by treating so
dium phenol (carbolic acid and soda) with carbonic acid gas. Caustic soda solution is evaporated with a proper amount of carbolic acid to a dry powder, and carbonic acid gas is passed over it while warm, the temperature being gradually increased from $212^{\circ}$ Fah.
to $482^{\circ}$ Fah. Carbolic acid is made from coal tar. 2. to $482 \cdot{ }^{\circ}$ Fah. Carbolic acid is made from-coal tar. injurious effect upon the system vhen taken in sufficient quantities. The effect of minute amounts
(7) Shep asks what commercial value (if any) soldififed petroleum or solidified kerosene has,
and also mentiou some of the uses to which it could be and also mentiou some of the uses to which it could be
put. A. It is impossible to say what value solidified put. A. It is impossible to say what value solidified
petroleum would have. It is mainly as a method of preparing it for transportation that inventors have worked upon the problem. It has been suggested that it might e used as a fuel.
(8) R. B. H. asks : At what distance (in feet) would an iron steamship cause a deflection of a sensitive compass needle? A. The exact distance can-
not well be sta:ed. Probably a distance of one hundred feet would practically prevent deflective influance.
(9) F. L. writes: A sheet of zinc about Will it poison or iujure the water, so as to make it unfit for drinking purposes? A. While it is doubtful if he zinc will seriously contaminate the water, it would be good policy to remove it.
(10) J. J. B. asks : What will remove oda. If this is not strong enough, use caustic soda These solutions will spot any other paint that they may fall upon
(11) J. P. S. asks: 1. If there is a emedy to stop show windows from sweating in cold weather. A. Ventilation from the tnp is the mos away or kill cockroaches that infest dwellings? A
(12) R. W. W. writes: I wish to make a balloon of 4 or $43 / 6$ feet in diameter, suitable to raise a two-pound detective camera. What would be the what), and how should the seams be cemented? Wha dimensions would be necessary if coal gas was used instead of pure hydrogen? A. If filled with pure hy a lifting capacity of about $21 / \mathrm{lb}$.: as it would have to carry the weight of the balloon as well as camera, it would be far too small. With coal gas it would have about one-half the above lifting power. Silk varnished with a mixture of India rubber, linseed oil, dissolved in essence of turpentine, would be a good material. In storing it, the balloon should be suspended to pre vent the varnish from heating. Your balloon should be about 8 feet in dlameter for hydrogen, and 10 feet or coal gas, and even then unless the silk was ver
light and the varnish very thin, it is doubtful if would have enough ascensional power.
(13) A. C. S. asks: 1. How to make asbestos a conductor of electricity. A. Soak it in nitrate of silver, dry, and expose to hydrogen gas, or
ignite at a red heat. Or you may dip it in bichloride of platinum solution, then in chloride of ammonium, and ignite. 2. If a disk of any light material, about twenty feet in diameter, rests on a fine pivot (on the style o
a compass dial), and the pivot is revolved very slowly will the disk make as many revolutions as the pivot or will there be a constant slip between the pivot and
the disk? A. If the point is the disk A . If the point is sharp and has a hard
smooth bearing, there will bea constant slip.
(14) D. D. C. asks: 1. Can brass o coppar be silver plated without a battery, if so, how
A. Not very satisfactorily. 2 . Will it be durable? A A. Not very aatisfactorily. 2. Will it be darable
Tbe coating will be thin and not very durable.
(15) J. N.-Block tin is the only com mercially successful lining ever used for soda wate fountains. Glass fountains inclosed in fron or stee bands or cases have been used, but are very heavy an iron, though it may affect the color and taste of the lightly
(16) H. P. asks : Can you tell me if. any one in this country has tried to get the coating
tin off the scrap from can and tinware factories? If a
what process is used, and oblige? A. This has neve been successfully accomplished, though many attempts be very valuable.
(17) F. E. W. asks: What is the process and apparatus used in the manufacture of gas retort carbon black? A. The material in question is formed minous coal. The hydrocarbons are decomposed by the heated walls of the retort, and carbon separates and deposited in hard masses upon the back and uppes
(18) S. W. R. writes : Replying to a query in your issue of September 1 , youl say that there is no substance that if placed between the poles on magnet and its armature will counteract or insulate principle of the "magnetic watch shield." Sunderstand the that I had a proper grip on this law of magnetism, Ihave that I had a proper grip on this law of magnetism, Ihave
always held that these "shields " are frauds, but I find that their popularity is increasing, and that many of the case makers make their cases so fitted or not a ordered, and I notice also that some of the railroads that require a certaingrade of watch to be used by their employes, specify the "magnetic shield" among other requirements. If you can enlighten me as to the fompossition of these "shields," and their general usefulness and the principles involved theren, it will be They operate, not by insulating the magnetism, but being made of iron they practically absorb it, acting like an armature of any neighboring magnet, and disposing of the lines of force before they can reach the
inclosed watch. These lines of force are principally kept within the metal of the shield, so that the watch partially protected.

## TO INVENTORS.

An experience of forty years, and the preparation of tents at home and abroad, enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all
foreign countries may be had on application, and persons contemplatingthe securing of patents, either at home abroad, are invited to write to this office for prices, which are low. in acoordance with the times and our extensive facilities for conducting the business. Address
MUNN \& CO., office Scientiric Ammrican, 361 Broadway, New York.

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Fare
Fare
Far
Fal


