

ENGINEERING INVENTION.

A system and apparatus for heating and lighting cars has been patented by Mr. George Smith, of Rochester, N. Y. A compressed air reservoir is connected with a naphtha tank, a pipe from which leads to the heater and lamps for supplying carbureted air, while there is an automatic cut-off by which the supply of gas is cut off to prevent danger from fire in case of accident.

AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A corn harvesting and husking machine has been patented by Mr. John A. Hilbert, of Carroll, Iowa. This invention covers an improvement on a former patented invention of the same inventor, the machine cutting the stalks, separating the ears and husking them, and delivering them to a wagon traveling with the machine, while the stalks are placed in a row or a pile on the ground.

A mower has been patented by Messrs. Robley D. Hoke and Isaac A. Harris, of Wessington, Dakota Ter. It has an improved driving mechanism, and an adjusting mechanism designed to drive the sickle bar with a sufficient number of strokes to secure a perfect cut of the grain in proportion to the advance of the machine, the machine also having a simple and practical means of adjusting the shoe of the sickle bar.

MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A button has been patented by Mr. Charles A. Peirce, of Dover, N. J. It is a collar button having attached means for securing and engaging the necktie, and consists in a hinged pointed pin combined with a collar button.

A shoe fastening has been patented by Mr. George H. Course, of Baltimore, Md. It is made of a sheet metal strip, bent and closed for attachment to a shoe or other article of wear to make an eye-like fastening, adapted to receive a lacing cord or shoe string freely through it.

A cement has been patented by Mr. Isaac C. Hatch, of Santa Cruz, Cal. It is made of stated proportions of lime, sand, coralline, and sugar, finely ground and thoroughly mixed, and is said to be particularly well adapted for building heavy walls of either brick or stone.

A stove has been patented by Mr. Hans Linds, of Stoughton, Wis. This invention relates to parlor stoves adapted for heating separate rooms, and wherein provision is made for cooking or baking, and is designed to afford an improved construction in which the smoke is utilized as a heating factor.

A commode has been patented by Mr. William R. Wythe, of Santa Barbara, Cal. This invention covers a novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, constituting a commode easily discharged of its contents, not liable to become offensive, and which is protected against freezing.

A coffee pot has been patented by Mr. William Racer, of Harrison, Ark. A funnel with cylindrical lower end and strainer in its bottom is supported inside the pot, in combination with an interior perforated cylinder, holding the ground coffee, affording a pot specially designed for making coffee by percolation.

An ore jigger has been patented by Messrs. William B. Hodgson and Truman C. Safford, of Lyon Mountain, N. Y. This invention covers an improved screen to facilitate the sizing of wet and dry ores, the screen being convex or conical, and supported directly over the upper end of a hopper by a vertical shaft revolving in the casing.

A rowing apparatus has been patented by Mr. Robert Masay, of Nashville, Tenn. Combined with a frame or support are pivoted bearing plates to which oars are held, the frame having a sliding bar and means for locking the parts in position, with other novel features, whereby boats may be propelled and steered without directly handling the oars.

A cut-out for electric light circuits has been patented by Mr. Charles D. Wright, of Petersburg, Ill. It is designed to throw a suitable amount of resistance into the circuit when the current therein becomes abnormal, and before the regulating devices connected with the dynamo can act, thereby avoiding the burning out of the armature of the machine.

A composition for roadways has been patented by Mr. Louis N. Beauchemin, of Hancock, Mich. It is intended for use as a top layer or facing upon other layers of other materials, and is made of specified proportions of black pitch, coal tar, resin, copper moulding, stamp sand, and other materials, compounded and applied as described.

A combined school seat and desk has been patented by Mr. Albert Landon, of Rutland, Vt. The seat is located in front of the desk, which forms a back for the seat, the seat being adapted to fold up beneath the desk and behind its back, the seat being easily adjustable in and out of position to afford a passageway between rows of desks.

A hand punch has been patented by Mr. William Yates, of New York City. It is for canceling, numbering, dating, or otherwise marking railway tickets, etc., and the invention covers novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, whereby a great variety of combinations for marking and punching may be effected.

A combined freight bucket and truck has been patented by Mr. Louis A. De Mayo, of Jersey City, N. J. This invention provides a novel construction whereby freight may be conveniently carried from one portion of a warehouse to another, wheeled along a dock, or be hoisted from floor to floor, etc., or may be readily dumped from the bucket without moving or tilting the truck.

A tool post ring has been patented by Mr. William S. Cobb, of Philadelphia, Pa. The invention consists in a series of three inclined face rings or plates fitted around the tool post and on to the tool block and on each other, and relatively adjusted to give the required set of the tool, making an attachment to tool posts or holders of lathes or shaping machines.

A nail cutter has been patented by Mr. Terence F. Curley, of Brooklyn, N. Y. It consists of a handled plate having unsharpened edges, one or both of which are provided with a V-shaped notch, the plate being sharpened at the sides of the notch to adapt it for cutting the ends of the nails, and so the nails may be trimmed without danger of cutting the flesh.

A lemon juice extractor has been patented by Mr. John L. Easley, of New York City. It has a rotary frame with vertical curved arms or ribs between which a lemon may be wedged, with openings by which the skin may be dislodged, and other novel features, whereby the juice extracted will be free from the oil of the skin, and the pulp and seeds will be caught without impeding the flow of the juice.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN BUILDING EDITION.

JULY NUMBER.—(No. 33.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- 1. Elegant plate in colors of a cottage of moderate cost, with floor plans, details, etc.
2. Plate in colors, with floor plans, details, etc., for a suburban dwelling. Cost, six thousand dollars.
3. Floor plans and perspective view of a suburban cottage erected at Fordham Heights, New York City. Cost, five thousand dollars.
4. A Queen Anne, lately erected at Asbury Park, N. J. Cost, complete, fourteen hundred dollars. Perspective and floor plans.
5. Design and floor plans for a carriage house and barn.
6. Perspective of an attractive cottage at Jekyl Island, Ga.
7. Design for a small cottage costing two thousand dollars. Perspective elevations and floor plans.
8. A church at Nashville, Tenn.
9. Illustration of the Chapel of Pocito, Mexico.
10. Lich gate or cemetery entrance.
11. Page of engravings showing some attractive dwellings in Connecticut.
12. An attractive cottage lately erected at Asbury Park, N. J., at a cost of eighteen hundred and fifty dollars, complete. Plans and perspective.
13. A row of twelve hundred dollar houses lately erected at Kingsbridge, New York City. Plans and perspective.
14. Illustration of U. S. Court House and Post Office, Troy, N. Y.
15. Design for the new U. S. Court House and Post Office at Williamsport, Pa.
16. Engraving of the new U. S. Court House and Post Office, Chattanooga, Tenn.
17. View of the oldest cottage at Asbury Park, N. J.
18. Plans and perspective view of a cozy little seashore cottage lately built at Ocean Grove, N. J. Cost four hundred dollars.
19. A modern house built at Asbury Park, N. J., at a cost of two thousand dollars. Plans and perspective.
20. Illustration of the new U. S. Court House and Post Office at Oshkosh, Wis.
21. Perspective and floor plans for a pleasant cottage to cost from eighteen hundred to two thousand dollars.
22. A cottage lately built on Monroe Av., Asbury Park, N. J., for one thousand and fifty dollars. Plans and perspective.
23. Perspective view of a design for a museum, Pelz and Griebel, architects. Full page engraving.
24. Miscellaneous contents: Riche's pantograph, illustrated.—Areas of different parks.—Paint work.—Sawdust.—The chimney shaft.—The age of stars.—Wood that will not blaze.—Bricks of blown glass.—Turning and polishing marble.—Decorative joinery.—Villas and their doorways.—The law of trespass.—Water for household use.—Hydraulic mortars and cements.—The Durango tunnel.—Slate bricks.—Houses in Seville.—Shells as a decorative element.—Ancient and modern mortars.—Treatment of hardwood floors.—A selection of lilies.—Undesirable town houses.—Richmond's Victor steam heater, illustrated.—Cheap buildings in China.—Improved fans, ventilators, etc., for buildings and for mechanical uses, illustrated.—An economical steam and hot water heating boiler, illustrated.—An improved dumb waiter, illustrated.—A composite steel wire door mat, illustrated.—Domestic conveniences possible with a hand force pump, illustrated.—New variety moulder and shaper, illustrated.—How to fit up a recess.—The Boynton furnaces, ranges, and heaters, illustrated.—Cook's new extension beam trammels illustrated.

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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.

Lockwood's Dictionary of Terms used in the practice of Mechanical Engineering, embracing those current in the drawing office, pattern shop, foundry, fitting, turning, smith's and boiler shop, etc., comprising over 4,000 definitions. Edited by a foreman patternmaker. 1888. Price, \$3.00. For sale by Munn & Co., 361 Broadway, New York.

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Friction Clutch Pulleys. The D. Frisbie Co., N.Y. city. Tight and Slack Barrel Machinery a specialty. John Greenwood & Co., Rochester, N.Y. See illus. adv., p. 28.

Rotary veneer basket and fruit package machinery. I. E. Merritt Co., Lockport, N. Y.

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NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING FOR AMATEURS. By S. R. Bottone. London: Whittaker & Co.; and New York: D. Van Nostrand & Co. 1888. Pp. 183. Price \$1.20.

This new edition, enlarged by a chapter treating of the telephone, and by various other minor features, brings this convenient manual up to date. The description of the pocket accumulator, practical notes on electro-magnets, etc., are most acceptable. We have already noticed in these columns the first edition. We can only add that we consider it a good augury that a second edition has so soon been called for.

MANAGEMENT OF ACCUMULATORS AND PRIVATE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLATIONS. By Sir David Salomons, Bart., M.A., A.I.C.E. London: Whittaker & Co. New York: D. Van Nostrand & Co. 1888. Pp. 176. Price \$1.20.

The results of the experience of this distinguished electrician, one who has made the study of electric lighting and home appliances a true labor of love, are in this volume given freely to the public. The work purports to be and is a practical one. No obnoxious quantity of theories and formulas encumber its pages, but what to the practical man is the real meat of the question is given by itself. It is well illustrated, and should be in the hands of every one interested in the subject of small electric plants.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

July 10, 1888,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

- Acetone, manufacture of, G. Rumpf..... 385,777
Air compressor, W. A. Pitt..... 386,028
Alarm. See Burglar alarm.
Album, photograph, H. Boussemaere..... 385,838
Alloy, D. O'Hara et al..... 385,945 to 385,955
Alloy of copper, nickel, and gold, D. H. Church..... 385,909
Animal trap, L. Beversdorf, Jr..... 385,788
Animal trap, W. D. Heltsley..... 386,009
Annunciator, electrical, M. M. Wood..... 385,894
Atomizer and inhaler, combined, A. J. & G. H. Palmer..... 386,025
Axle, vehicle, E. Firth..... 385,798
Baling press, G. Ertel..... 386,063
Ball curver, base McKenna & Baker..... 385,816
Band cutter and feeder, E. P. Killinger..... 386,017
Battery. See Electric battery.
Bed, folding, F. H. Walker..... 385,736
Bedstead's lat lock, R. D. Martin..... 386,022
Beer cooler, A. Aufrecht..... 385,986
Bellows, valve for, J. H. Chase..... 385,999
Belt shipper, R. H. Hurlbut..... 385,718
Belting, J. B. Forsyth..... 385,703
Bicycle, G. T. Warwick..... 386,097
Bit, countersink and screwdriver, combined, F. B. Carpenter..... 385,791
Blacking box, W. K. David..... 385,916
Blinds, etc., cord holder for holding the cords of, E. Tonks..... 385,829
Blowpipe flames, saturator for the production of vapor, F. E. Ives..... 385,934
Board. See Drawing board. Multiple switch board.
Board of composite material, A. Mack..... 386,102
Boat. See Life-saving buoy boat.
Boat detaching apparatus, A. McCrackin..... 385,866
Boiler. See Locomotive boiler.
Boiler, C. Wheat..... 385,830
Boiler feeder, J. E. Winder..... 385,893
Boot and shoe nailing machine, L. Goddu..... 385,802
Boot, button, F. J. Hastings..... 386,069
Boots or shoes, manufacture of counter stiffeners for, P. Cox..... 385,746
Bottle closure, W. Edmundson..... 385,852
Bottling apparatus, S. Bunting..... 385,840
Box. See Blacking box. File box. Sluice box. Tobacco box.
Box, J. D. Griswold..... 385,924
Boxes, manufacturing, F. A. Jones..... 386,074
Brake. See Car brake.
Brake shoe, F. L. Sheppard..... 385,966
Brick masonry, F. W. Gordon..... 385,804
Brick mould sanding machine, J. A. Buck..... 385,790
Bridges, cable system for draw, Boegen & Tepporten..... 385,743
Bucket and truck, combined, freight, L. A. De Mayo..... 385,849
Buckle, C. Kromberg..... 386,075
Buckle, harness, J. A. Hollenberger..... 386,070
Burglar alarm, R. H. Umbenhaur..... 386,045
Button, C. A. Peirce..... 385,876
Button attaching machine, E. H. Taylor..... 385,794
Button, collar, E. T. Dahlberg..... 386,002
Cable stop, slack, F. B. Graves..... 385,754
Cake or pie pan, M. Littleton..... 386,077
Can. See Refrigerating can.
Can machine, E. F. Verdel..... 386,096
Car brake, I. Nicholson..... 386,024
Car coupling, C. A. Bond..... 385,994
Car coupling, A. P. Brewster..... 385,789
Car coupling, C. W. Deboard..... 386,060
Car coupling, J. Helm..... 385,929
Car coupling, J. G. Hornbarger..... 386,012
Car coupling, F. L. McNab..... 385,868
Car coupling, J. Shultes..... 385,731
Car heater, E. Himm..... 385,932
Car spring, N. H. Davis..... 385,917
Car spring, T. C. Davis..... 385,918
Car starter, R. O. Gercke..... 385,800
Cars by electricity, device for lighting and heating, D. C. Roberts..... 385,774
Cars, driving mechanism for electric railway, E. E. Ries..... 386,086
Cars, electric motor for street, W. S. Salisbury..... 385,727
Cars, system and apparatus for heating and lighting, G. Smith..... 385,882
Carriage, self-propelling, J. F. Sinkler..... 385,881
Cartridge magazines, load indicator for, W. R. Miller..... 385,942
Casket, Gould & Baldwin..... 386,707
Casks and barrels, machine for making, A. Dunbar..... 385,850
Casting ingots, C. C. Currier..... 385,749
Cement, I. C. Hatch..... 385,859
Chair, W. H. Walker..... 385,890
Chimney top, A. Herendeen..... 386,010
Chuck and attachment for turning treenails, lathe, F. Cumming..... 385,793
Churn, J. C. Cole..... 385,686
Churn, J. Ingalls..... 385,714
Churn, W. H. H. Spradlin..... 385,828
Churn dasher, J. Davis..... 385,688
Cistern, Miller & Hochetuhl..... 385,972
Cistern cleaner, F. E. McNall..... 385,869
Clamp. See Extension clamp.
Clamp, P. A. Whitney..... 385,963
Clasp. See Corset clasp.
Clay, treating, S. Friend..... 385,750
Cleaner. See Cistern cleaner. Comb cleaner.
Cloth, machine for unwinding drawing off, and cutting, N. Harris..... 386,068
Cook, gas, T. Maguire..... 385,719
Coffee pot, W. Racer..... 385,880
Column, plate metal, Mesker & Edwards..... 385,762 to 385,763
Comb cleaner and comb, combined, W. M. Dixon..... 385,796
Cooker, steam, J. W. Davis..... 385,794
Cooler. See Beer cooler.
Cork extractor, G. W. Engel..... 386,005
Corkscrew, W. N. Barrett..... 385,834
Corn from the cob, machine for cutting green, G. L. Merrill..... 385,871
Corset clasp, M. W. Henius..... 385,710
Cotton gin, P. V. Westfall..... 385,982
Counter stiffeners, mechanism for forming, P. Cox..... 385,745
Coupling. See Car coupling. Pipe coupling. Thill coupling.