

One Hundred Thousand Butterflies.

None but those who have seen a hundred thousand butterflies, each differing from the other in some particular, can have the faintest conception of the wonderful beauty of many of these most delicate creations of nature. Nothing in art can approach them in delicacy of color, or equal their exquisite coloring.

Almost the finest collection of butterflies in the world is owned and has been made by Berthold Neumoegen, of the New York Stock Exchange. Only two collections in the world can compare with it. One of these belongs to the British Museum, the other to a public institution in Paris.

Mr. Neumoegen has spent twenty years and \$35,000 in making this collection. It has been enriched by the efforts of some member of nearly every exploring expedition that has been organized during the last fifteen years. Specimens have been contributed by Livingstone, Stanley, Schwatka, and members of the Greely relief expedition. Gorgeously hued victims from the Victoria-Nyanza to Lady Franklin's Bay, from Borneo to Labrador, from Cape Colony to Kamtchatka, and, in fact, from every country between "Greenland's icy mountains and Africa's coral strand," are crowded into this army of 100,000 strong.

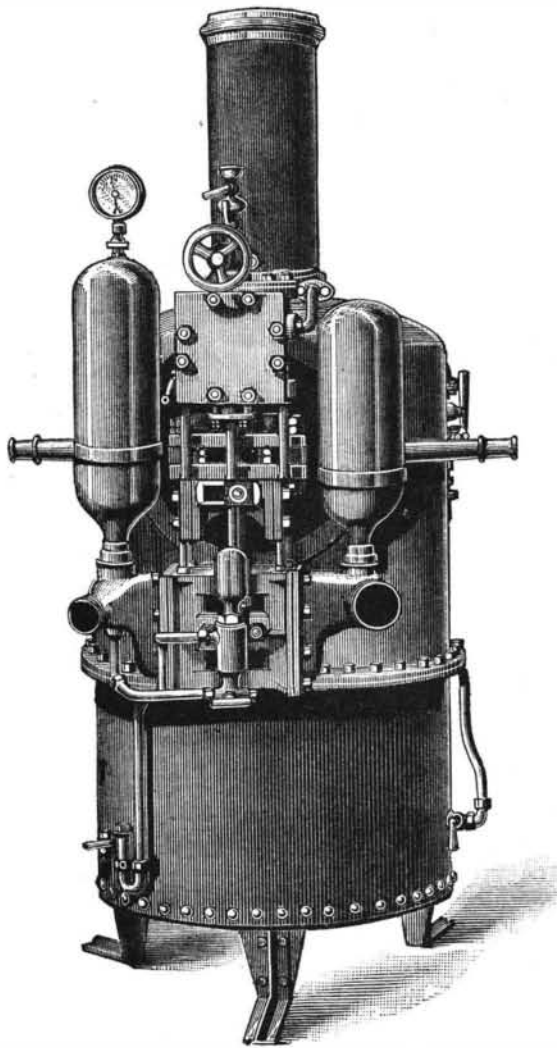
To every specimen is attached a card, giving its name, sex, family, and the name of its discoverer. Several new butterflies have been named after this enthusiastic collector.—*Agassiz Companion.*

How True It Is.

You can get all the opinion you want on both sides of a question nowadays. Oatmeal had not long ago been reported to be a healthful food, when some physician arose to deny it and to assert that it produced dyspepsia. Allowance is always to be made in such a question for the variations of human stomachs and constitutions, so that what may be a good food for one person may not be for another. The truth about oatmeal for the generality of persons (and they are the only persons you can speak for) is that, if it is eaten in only a partially cooked condition, it is not healthful; and neither is flour, corn meal, and many other articles of food. Indigestion and acidity of stomach are caused for some people by the eating of sugar or other sweets on oatmeal, and they get the same effect if they eat these sweets on rice or bread. Cream, too, may be too much fat for a sensitive stomach if put on oatmeal. In these cases it is not the oatmeal, but either its insufficient preparation or the addition of an improper food that causes the stomach trouble. If a person will eat a moderate amount of oatmeal, cooked and prepared as his needs may demand, there can be no question that it is healthful, digestible, and highly nutritious.—*Good Housekeeping.*

A HAND CART STEAM FIRE ENGINE.

The little machine we illustrate has been brought out by the Sphincter Grip Hose Company, of London, and is described in the *Engineer*. It consists of a little



HAND CART FIRE ENGINE.

steam pump of the drag-link type, mounted on a vertical cross-tube boiler of the standard description. All the parts usually made of gun metal or brass in the best practice are here of gun metal or brass. The entire machine in all its details is exceedingly well got up. This we can assert as the result of personal inspection; nothing has been left undone to make this little machine efficient and trustworthy.

It is conveyed to a fire on an ingenious hand carriage

with high wheels. It is carried between the wheels, as shown, by trunnions. When it has arrived at a fire the carriage is removed, by taking out two pins, which permits the trunnions to slip out of their bearings in the carriage, which is then wheeled away, and the engine then stands on three supports, as shown in the detached view. It is then used like any other fire engine, and will throw a powerful $\frac{3}{4}$ in. jet. The boiler pressure is 100 lb. on the square inch, and steam can be got up in seven minutes from cold water.

It might be supposed that the engine would be unsteady when put down to stand on three legs, so to speak, in the street; but we are assured that this is not the case, and that no trouble is experienced from this cause. The engine will do much more work than a manual driven by thirty men, and at much less cost. It appears to us to meet a want in a very satisfactory manner.

Electric Prostration.

New conditions develop new diseases.

The "railway spine" has taken its place in medical nomenclature, and the "caisson disease" has also been recognized. Now a third has been added to the list, in a condition which has received the name of "electric prostration."

This is a disorder, says the *Medical Era*, of Chicago, that affects those who work under strong electric lights. After an exposure of one or two hours the workers have a painful sensation in the throat, face, and temples, the skin becomes of a coppery-red color, there is irritation of the eyes, with profuse lachrymation, lasting forty-eight hours. After five days there is desquamation of the discolored skin.

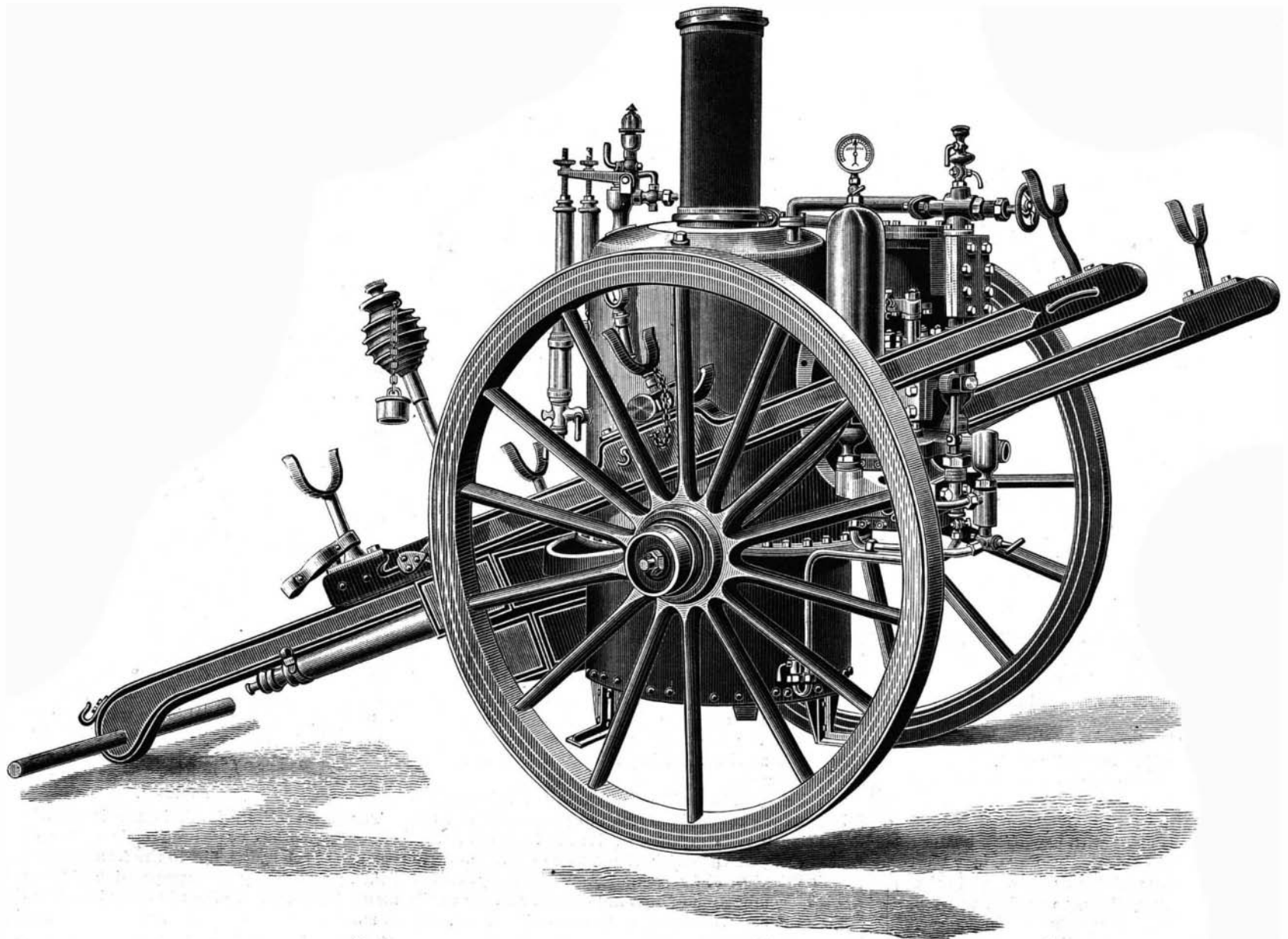
These symptoms do not follow exposure to the ordinary Edison light, but to one of excessive strength, such as is used in electric furnaces for the quick heating of metals. Some mitigation of the symptoms may be procured by the use of dark colored glasses, but not entire immunity. The effects seem to follow exposure, not to the heat, which is not great, but to the intensely brilliant light.

Thus has a new industry created a new disease, for which the profession will be called upon to find a remedy.

Curiosities of the Phonograph.

Subscribers to whom are rented machines can have left at their door every morning the waxy tablets known as phonograms, which can be wrapped about a cylinder and used in the phonograph.

On these tablets will be impressed from the clear voice of a good talker a condensation of the best news of the day, which the subscribers can have talked back at them as they sit at their breakfast tables.



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