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Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as 'Acid, sulphuric, New Zealand', 'Bill, patent, questionable', 'Bridge, Hudson River', etc., with corresponding page numbers.

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Table listing contents of the supplement by category: I. AGRICULTURE, II. BIOGRAPHY, III. CIVIL ENGINEERING, IV. ELECTRICITY, V. MINING ENGINEERING, VI. MISCELLANEOUS, VII. ORDINANCE, VIII. PHARMACY, IX. PHOTOGRAPHY, X. PHYSICS, XI. TECHNOLOGY.

A QUESTIONABLE PATENT BILL.

Many bills have from time to time been introduced in Congress, but not as yet passed, having for their object to crush the patentees of new inventions and benefit pirates and infringers...

It is common for wealthy corporations and others, who find infringements of patents to be profitable, to band together in supplying money and lawyers for their mutual defense. If, for example, John Doe, the inventor and patentee, finds several different parties infringing his rights...

There is another aspect of the subject which makes it questionable whether this proposed law ought to pass: for while it might tend to assist the honest and humble inventor plaintiff, it might also be used with disastrous effect by a rich and powerful corporation plaintiff for the purpose of distressing and compelling the surrender of innocent defendants.

Why should the law make it a crime for a poor defendant to call in aid for his defense while it regards as innocent the powerful plaintiff who does the same thing in the prosecution? Under this law the plaintiff is at liberty to make as many combinations with individuals and corporations as he chooses...

A New Vacuum Pump.

An exhibition of the vacuum pump of Mr. Adolph Berenberg, of Somerville, Mass., was given recently in Boston. The pump is intended specially for use in producing the vacuum in the globes of incandescent electric lamps...

Exhibition of the power of the pump was first made in exhausting about 20 globes, this being a convenient

number to handle, though it is claimed that only an extension of the apparatus would be required for a pump of this size to do the work on 500 or 1,000 at the same time. The globes were mounted on glass tubes, so that they could be easily sealed and taken from the pump...

The next experiment was to show how quickly the current could be let on to a lamp after exhaustion had begun without burning the carbon, it being explained that in ordinary manufacture at least one hour was allowed to elapse...

The World's Fair in Chicago.

The bill authorizing and indorsing on behalf of the United States the holding of a World's Fair in Chicago in 1892-93 has finally passed both houses of Congress and received the signature of the President.

The possibility of a high degree of success in such endeavor is, moreover, greatly increased by the fact that Congress has virtually given another year for preparation—that is, although there will be exercises commemorative of the landing of Columbus in October, 1892, the fair proper will not be opened until the spring of 1893.

Electric Light Wires in Montevideo.

Early in March one of the electric wires at the corner of Calle 18 de Julio broke and fell on the road. Two horses in a market cart passing by were thrown down by the electric current the moment they touched the wire...

AN excellent and quick way to mend broken plaster casts and impressions is to paint the broken surfaces over two or three times with very thick shellac varnish, and at each application to burn out the alcohol over a flame.