

RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS.

Mechanical.

HAND PLANER.—Samuel M. Neely, Smith's Turn Out., S. C. This is a machine with a frame in which a carriage is adapted to travel, there being attached thereto saw or planer bits, the carriage being conveniently and expeditiously manipulated and the knives being adjustable to operate on boards of varied thickness.

DIE FOR MAKING ROCK DRILLS.—John Cahill, Tarrytown, N. Y. Combined with hinged die sections oppositely and longitudinally channeled to produce a circular aperture are four spaced guides, with die keys made to slide between them, and other novel features, whereby a steam hammer may be utilized to rapidly and perfectly form the wings and cutting edges on a rock drill.

Agricultural.

HARROW.—Niels L. Beck, Brayton, Iowa. The frame of this harrow is preferably made of iron or steel, broad at the rear and narrow in front, and having forwardly projecting teeth attached to the bars of the frame in such a manner that they will be held and firmly braced therein, while the construction is designed to be simple, durable and cheap.

PORTABLE CORN CRIB.—Charles I. Cook and Henry M. Britton, Odebolt, Iowa. The body of this crib is composed of vertical slats united by twisted wire bands, the body having a side door, and there being a detachable chain for connecting the edges of the body, the whole having a conical top and removable cover, making a cheap and strong crib to build where lumber is scarce.

RICE MACHINE.—Squire A. Pickett, Crowley, La. This machine consists of a drum or casing having its lower portion divided into compartments and its upper portion provided with partition plates with depending stop ribs, and a shaft having arms or beaters, the machine being adapted for both hulling and scouring rice.

Miscellaneous.

GATE.—William H. Clay, Paris, Ky. This invention relates to road or farm gates designed to open in either direction by a traveler on horseback or one sitting in a vehicle, the gate being operated by simply pulling on one end or the other of a rocking beam to release the gate from its latch and so that it will be tilted out of the perpendicular, swinging open by its own gravity, while it may be closed with equal facility.

INDICATOR FOR DUMB WAITERS.—Louis Friess, New York City. This is a device to be placed at the bottom of the shaft to automatically indicate the location of a dumb waiter or elevator at any point from the bottom to the top of the building, the invention covering various novel features of constructions and combinations of parts.

SPIRALLY CRIMPED HOOP.—Leonard L. Frost, Barada, Neb. This hoop is formed with a spiral groove which extends in an unbroken or in broken sections from end to end of the band from which the hoop is formed, the crimp preferably commencing above the vertical center of the band and ending below the center, the object being to prevent the displacement of the hoop in case of the shrinkage of the staves.

FIRE ESCAPE.—Adolph Boettcher, South Stillwater, Minn. Combined with a truck mounted on inclined ways, and carrying a drum, is a ladder arranged to pass over the drum, a reel to which the ladder extends, and other novel features, the apparatus being designed to facilitate escape from a burning building, while the parts are so arranged that they will be concealed when not in use.

PORTABLE CHUTE.—James Musgrave and Joseph P. Clarke, Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, S. A. The chute sections are combined with cables, and have transverse strips and hooked irons, the irons being arranged to engage the cables, making a readily movable and very flexible chute, which may be adjusted with facility to deliver the material with which a vessel is loaded to any one of the hatches.

PULP MACHINE.—Charles S. Bucklin, Keyport, N. J. This is a machine with curved and channeled ribs and fine and coarse sieves, to facilitate the reduction to pulp of tomatoes, pumpkins, and other vegetables, and also grapes, currants, berries, and other fruits, and separate the pulp from the seeds, skins, etc.

PORTABLE BLACKING STAND.—George W. Browne, Brooklyn, N. Y. This device has a folding casing, with a base having a back and hinged top and sides, wheels being secured to the rear face of the back, with other novel features, whereby the stand may be readily set up or closed and moved from place to place on the wheels.

RETAINING DEVICE FOR OVERSHOES.—John A. Patton, San Diego, Cal. This device consists of an S-shaped strip of spring metal, adapted to be readily applied to the top rear part of the overshoe, and afford means for convenient attachment thereto of a cord to be passed around over the instep, whereby the shoe will be prevented from being drawn from the foot by suction or otherwise.

CORNET.—John F. Stratton, Brooklyn, N. Y. This is a French or Pyrenet piston valve cornet, the mouth piece being of uniform diameter and leading to the first one of the valves, while an end pipe having a bell leads from the third of the valves, gradually increasing in size from the third valve, the improvement being designed to increase and beautify the tone.

VEHICLE SEAT TOP.—Henry McCurry, Chicago, Ill. This is a top which may be adjusted forward or backward to shield the driver from rain or sun, and in which the bows may be folded to not interfere with the loading of the vehicle, the invention

covering various novel features of construction and combinations of parts.

LUMBER MEASURING DEVICE.—Thomas Newnam, Columbia, Fla. This is a machine for automatically measuring the contents of boards as they are passed through an edger or planing machine, and consists of a roll mounted to turn in a slotted box, with longitudinally extending graduations indicating board measure appearing through the slot in the box.

COMPOSITION FOR RAZOR STROPS.—Henry A. Parker, Shiloh, Tenn. This is a composition to be applied with a sponge or otherwise to cypress wood or other material of an absorbent character, the compound soaking in so that it will not need renewal, and being designed to put a very fine cutting edge upon a razor or other edged tool or piece of cutlery.

BRECH LOADING ORDNANCE.—Anthony Victorin, Troy, N. Y. This invention covers an independent removable annular breech plate, means for rotating the breech block and locking the crank handle, an improved rotatable translating roller for forcing in and withdrawing the breech block, automatic means for locking and releasing the pivoted latch that secures the swinging breech block, and an improved automatic cover or guard for the vent that prevents premature insertion of the primer, with other novel features.

PADLOCK.—William M. Brooke, New York City. This is a permutation lock so made that the shackles may be engaged and locked without adjusting the rings to form the combination, the means not being apparent to the ordinary observer, the lock consisting of flanged rings with registering notches in the flanges, and letters, figures or symbols on their periphery, the rings arranged to rotate about a vertical support, in connection with a shackle with double arms, one of which has locking teeth, and other novel features.

LAMP SHADE.—James P. Boesen, Hoboken, N. J. This is a translucent shade, made of a series of vertical single folds and a series of intersecting transverse double folds, giving the shade a conical shape, slightly curved inward in the direction of its lower edge, the shade being constructed of a single piece and designed to show upon its outer and inner faces an alternate dark and light tint.

GATE.—Philip O. Hirsch, Grand Island, Neb. This invention relates more particularly to what are known as "tilting gates," the gate being designed to be readily opened by a person approaching on horseback or in a vehicle, without dismounting, and conveniently closed after passing through.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

BUILDING EDITION.

MAY NUMBER.—(No. 55.)

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1. Elegant plate in colors representing a tasteful cottage of moderate cost at Buffalo, N. Y. Perspective elevation, floor plans, sheet of details, etc.
2. Colored view of a residence at St. George, Staten Island, N. Y. Estimated cost \$20,000. Floor plans, perspective elevation, sheet of details, etc.
3. Stone residence, corner of St. Nicholas Place and 150th Street, New York city. S. Burrage Reed, architect.
4. New buildings at Eastgate and Bridge Streets, Chester.
5. Engravings of the residence of J. M. Johnson, Binghamton, N. Y. Perspective elevations and floor plans. Cost \$19,000 complete.
6. Perspective view of the office buildings of the Gotthard Railroad in Lucerne.
7. An English cottage. Perspective and floor plans.
8. A cottage recently erected at Binghamton, N. Y., cost complete \$8,800. Plans and perspective.
9. A residence in the Gothic style erected at New Brighton, S. I. Floor plans and perspective.
10. Excellent design of a country house recently erected at Belle Haven, Conn. Cost \$14,250. Oscar S. Teale of New York, architect. Perspective views and floor plans.
11. A double dwelling at Yonkers, N. Y., erected at a cost of \$8,000. Plans and perspective.
12. Residence of Chas. Kapps, Esq., at Stapleton, Staten Island, N. Y. Cost complete \$4,000. Perspective elevation and floor plans.
13. Cottage at Greenwich, Conn., erected at a cost of \$7,250 complete. Floor plans and perspective.
14. Miscellaneous Contents: High buildings.—Bad flues.—Imitation ebony.—Destruction of asphalt pavement by gas.—Art of building.—Improved dumb waiters, illustrated.—An improved skylight, illustrated.—Rogers miter planer, illustrated.—Dumb waiters and hand power elevators.—A fine window in the Convent of the Sacred Heart, illustrated.—Improved sash pulleys, illustrated.—A hot air and hot water heater, illustrated.—Colors for mortar.—Improved adjustable grooving head, illustrated.—An improved window screen frame, illustrated.

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Notes & Queries

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Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information, and not for publication.

References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all, either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn.

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Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(2172) T. H. B. asks (1) how to make an electric deposit of gold, silver, nickel, copper, etc., directly on a plaster of Paris cast. A. Coat the image with plumbago, brushed on with a hard brush; sprinkle with a little metallic iron in powder (iron reduced by hydrogen) before putting in bath, then plate by battery. 2. What is the most fusible metal at the lowest fusible point? A. Bismuth 50 parts, lead 25 parts, tin 12 parts, cadmium 13 parts. This is about the most fusible of alloys without mercury. 3. Will copper plate deposit on any metal? A. With enough battery it will on all the common metals. 4. Does the lowest fusible metal shrink in cooling? A. Yes; as it cools it contracts, though with enough bismuth it will tend to expand as it solidifies, contracting as it cools.

(2173) Mrs. W. E. asks: Can I, through the aid of your most valuable paper, find out whether cyclones, or such storms as visited our northwest during the last days of March, occur in Europe? And if not, why not? A. The regions of concentration of tornadoes and whirlwinds seem to be located in or near the meridians of greatest magnetic intensity, which may be drawn from the American magnetic pole through the Mississippi valley and Gulf of Mexico, and appearing on the opposite side of the globe from the Siberian pole through Tibet, Hindostan, and the Indian Ocean, the home of the simoons. The intermediate meridians of Europe and America, although not free from hurricanes, are less afflicted than regions on or near the meridians of magnetic intensity.

(2174) Tattoo asks: 1. What kind of ink is used in tattooing? A. India ink. 2. How can tattoo marks be removed? A. See SUPPLEMENT, No. 685.

(2175) G. W. C. asks how the noses of animals prepared for museums are kept from shriveling or puckering up while drying. A. For preventing shrinkage remove all glutinous matter by curing in a bath of 1 part salt, 3/4 part alum, in a barrel of water (salinometer 30°), soak and cleanse skin of all adherent fleshy matter. In the use of this prescription experimentation and caution are necessary.

(2176) R. B. asks for something which will be likely to prove effective in removing from a rather light-colored carpet the stain of red ink? The ink does not appear to be an aniline ink. A. Possibly alcohol with some oxgall may prove of use, but success in removing it is very doubtful.

(2177) W. W. J. writes: Can you tell me how long it will take a current of electricity of 50 volts to decompose a gallon of water? Is the water heated by the process? Can you tell where I can get information to perform the experiment? A. An electric current is not measurable in volts. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, February 8, 1890, page 91. The water is not sensibly heated. The rapidity depends partly on the size of electrodes and connections, partly on the electromotive force. A difference of potential of two volts is sufficient. For illustrations and descriptions of apparatus, see the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, May 12, 1888, page 295.

(2178) F. M. N. writes: 1. Can you give me the formula for a good and durable violin varnish? A. The true Cremona varnish is of unknown formula; its preparation is a lost art. Varnishes in general are trade secrets. The following is a formula for an oil varnish:

Amber fused.....2 oz.
Oil of turpentine.....5 "
Dryinglinseed oil.....5 "

The following is for a spirit varnish:

Mastic.....1 dr.
Sandarac.....1 "
Lac.....6% "
Alcohol.....5 fl. oz.

To tinge with yellow, annatto, aloes, gamboge, or turmeric may be used; for red, dragon's blood or red sanders wood. By mixing the above, intermediate shades may be obtained. The formula is only half the art; much depends on the application, treatment between coats, etc. It should be done by an expert.

2. Can the pinhole be substituted for the ordinary lens photographing machine by removing the lens? A. Yes; but it needs an exposure of several minutes. 3. How can I make a piece of ground glass for a camera obscura? A. Rub with a cork, water, and sand, or better, grindstone grit from the trough under a grindstone. 4. Are the photographs taken on a pinhole camera of any value? Also please give names of chemicals for either pinhole or other cameras, their proportions and how to use them. A. Treat pinhole exposed plates as you would others. Many formulae are given in our back numbers for developers, etc. 5. Is the lens used in a camera obscura a double convex or plano-convex? A. The lens varies according to its work, whether view, portrait, wide angle, etc. 6. Would like to have instructions as to how to make a good frictional electrical machine? A. Induction machines are now universally used. See our SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 278 and 584. 7. Would like to be informed if I could make concave and convex mirrors for reflection of light or heat. A. It depends on your mechanical ability. Consult SUPPLEMENTS 139 and 318, Lens Grinding. 8. Would like to have the formula for a good liquid glue, to be used on wood and the like. A. Mix good glue with water, heat until dissolved, and add half its volume of acetic acid. 9. What kind of wire would you advise for making a spiral spring for an air gun. It requires a good spring. A. Steel is the best, next comes spring-tempered brass.

(2179) J. L. S. writes: How can I remove stains of smoke and soot from granite? Of course I could do it by chiseling over the surface, but that would not be convenient. What acid or wash would answer the purpose? A. You may have much trouble in doing this. Try the following on a portion where the stain is bad. Mix 1/4 pound of soft soap, 1/4 pound whiting, 1 ounce of washing soda, and a piece of sulphate of copper as big as a walnut. Rub it over the surface and let it stand 24 hours, and then wash off. This and similar compounds are recommended for marble, and may effect a cure in your case. Thus a paste of 1 ounce ox gall, 1 gill of lye (caustic soda solution, strong), 1 1/2 tablespoonfuls of turpentine, with enough pipe clay to make it of thick consistency, may be applied as above described.

(2180) T. H. writes: 1. Natural carbonic acid gas will settle in the bottom of a well and remain there unless forced out, being heavier than air. I have seen it stated also that it could be poured from one vessel to another, same as water, displacing the air. I filled a tin can with artificial gas, and it disappeared in 3 minutes. Is there a difference between artificial or manufactured gas and the natural? A. Both are identical, and neither will remain in an open vessel indefinitely. Artificial gas can be poured as described, but there is always a loss. 2. Fine furniture is made with wood as dry as it can possibly be made, yet in a room where natural gas is used as fuel it will still shrink. Can this be explained? A. What you see is due to deterioration of the glue rather than shrinkage of the wood. When glue becomes perfectly dry, it loses its strength. Glycerine might improve it in this regard.

(2181) J. S. F. asks: 1. Is there a patented device whereby the engine of a factory can be immediately stopped by electricity from any floor, in case of accident? A. Yes. 2. Would not the inhalation of pure oxygen mixed with air, or with nitrous oxide, be of probable benefit in chronic disorders of the nervous system, where a general condition of debility is the main trouble? A. Oxygen inhalation is now a part of regular medical practice. Nitrous oxide has anæsthetic properties that necessitate care in its application. It is used principally as an anæsthetic, but can be applied as a remedy.

(2182) W. E. A. asks: 1. What fraction of a horse power would be required to properly run a propeller six inches in diameter? A. One-eighth horse power. 2. What size should an aggregate of say eight electro-magnets be to attract with a force equal to one-fifth horse power. i. e., what length and diameter the cores and number and length of wire? A. Magnets do not attract with horse power; the weight sustained varies with the current. 3. Can an ordinary bolt be softened sufficiently to be used in the construction of electro-magnets? If so, by what process? A. Yes. Heat to white heat and bury over night in forge cinders to a good depth. 4. How many hours will a chloride of silver battery last on a closed circuit, having about