Scientific American.

(3549) E. W. M. writes: We have several large plunge batteries for running a motor, and after the solution has been in the cells a long time, the salts settle in the bottom, and we find that it is very hard to remove without breaking the glass jar. Will you please give us a good way to clean the salts out without breaking the jar? A. By filling your cells with water and inverting them in a vessel of water, the salts in the bottom of the cells will be readily dissolved out.

(3550) C. H. C. writes: 1. I have 14 ft. boiler, 54 in. shell, sixty 3 in. flues, 24 in. diameter smoke stack, 60 ft. high; rocking grate 54 in. wide by than in warm water? A. No. 7. What is the ratio of 37 in. deep to bridge wall; engine 10 by 12, speed 180. The draught seems defective, combustion imperfect, consumption of fuel, mostly shavings (some soft coal). excessive, and very hard firing, boiler new. Can you tell me wherein lies the trouble or defect, and suggest remedy? A. Your boiler and engine appear to be well balanced as to power, but the smoke stack is too small for burning shavings, and probably the fire chamber is too small and not arranged for burning shavings and soft coal. See Scientific American SUPPLEMENT, No. 624, for illustrated lecture on boiler furnaces for various kinds of fuel. 2. Name one or two hest works, in plain, simple language, on construction, setting, management, or firing modern steam boilers, with price. Several I have are too English and too algebraic for the simple mind of my engineer. A. "Useful Things to know about Steam Boilers," by Tower, \$2 mailed; also "Steam Making or Boiler Practice," by Smith, \$2.50 mailed.

(3551) E. S. asks: How to make a Use best fish glue (hot) and tie well. 2. Starch, 1/4 oz.; dynamo? Also what fraction of a horse power is rewhite sugar, 1 oz.; gum arabic, 1/4 oz. Dissolve the gum in a little hot water, and the sugar and starch, and what the E. M. F. would be without knowing what tific American Cyclopedia of Receipts, Notes and Queries." In press.

(3552) H. A. A. asks: 1. In making the "Simple Electric Motor," described on page 497, "Experimental Science," does it matter if I use three or four pieces of wire for the armature core, the ends not being joined? A. It is immateral how many pieces of wire you use in the construction of the core of your ether, and on standing the ether will rise to the surface, armature. 2. Would not No. 20 or 22 wire do for wind-carrying much of the coloring matter with it. Draw off ing the armature? A. Yes; provided you use a cur- : the lower solution for use. 2. Also the same inquiry rent adapted to such winding. 3. If the brush-holding as to the sulphate of iron. A. Dissolve carefully disk is made so that the brushes may be placed in dif-scraped bright crystals of ferrous sulphate (copperas) in ferent positions, would it not make the motor run at different speed? A. Yes; but this method of regulating a motor is not economical.

(3553) A. M. asks what platinum silver is? Is it platinized silver? A. Platinum silver is an alloy consisting of platinum 1 part, silver 2 parts.

making a paste for bill posting and paper hanging of all kinds, that will not freeze or get thick in the winter. or tell me where I can get the prepared paste or the freezewhen subjected to a freezing temperature. Make your paste of good flour mixed smoothly with cold water to a thin creamy consistency. Cook over a water bath until it thickens, but remove it from the water bath before it begins to look clear. When nearly cold add from five to ten per cent of alcohol. Also twenty drops of oil of cloves to every gallon of paste. The alcohol prevents freezing, and the oil of cloves prevents it from souring.

(3555) W. F. B. asks if there is any such thing as soluble beeswax, and if so, the formula for making it. If not, could you tell me how I could prepare beeswax, so that I could use it with a small brush to paint letters on brass to etch? A. Beeswax can be dissolved in turpentine, and the fixed and parts of chloroform: The last solution would be suit-

(3556) Librarian asks if there is an article which will restore the color to faded black book covers. I have heard that ether is useful, but hesitate to use it or anything else, except on authority. A. The agent to use, if any can be successfully employed, depends on the nature of the color. A solution of an iron salt in water might be of use, but any such application would tend to impair the finish of the leather. We should advise the use of nothing except bookbinder's varnish, which might be blackened by the addition of nigrosine or aniline black.

preparation or fluid that I can print or write with that I me in 8 parts of water. O. Melt together 1 pound olive will change its color on being moistened. Or is there oil, 1 pound of tallow, and 8 ounces resin. While the any preparation that I can use to make a very delicate mass is still fluid, but has cooled a little, add with conor invisible line with, and on being moistened will stant stirring 1/4 pint of water saturated with sal amshow up very plain? A. Write with an aqueous solu- moniac. tion of tannin, using a gold or quill pen. Develop by moistening the writing with a weak solution of sulphate of iron. The writing when developed will be nearly black.

(3558) J. H. S. writes: I desire to know whether a cellar can be so constructed as to keep out the water: if so, how? The cellar in question is now built, but will not keep out water, though well cemented. A. A cellar can be constructed so as to be waterproof, if the bottom or floor is first covered with cement, the walls built thereon laid in cement, and the exterior of the wall covered with cement. This makes, practically, a watertight basin. The cement used must be the best Portland cement one part, clean sharp sand one part. After a cellar is built it is not so easy to make it waterproof. Still it can be done. Cover the exterior of the wall with the above cement, ditto the bottom, and work the cement in under the bottom of the wall. If these directions are followed, you will succeed. But if cheap materials are used and the work badly done, you will be sure to fail. A drain put around the outside of the wall or even inside below the cellar floor may be efficient in carrying off the water, if you can give it a good delivery.

vacuum, as measured by a mercurial gauge. 2. What kind of air pump 18 used to make the vacuum in incandescent lamps? A. A piston air pump driven by power is often used for the first exhaustion followed by a mercurial pump. 3. How long does it take to make the vacuum? A. No exact time can be given; it depends on the relative size of the lamp or lamps and pumps. 4. Is there any difference between an air pump and a vacuum pump? If so, what? A. No. 5. What motive power is generally used in large establishments, to work vacuum pumps? A. The descent of mercury. 6. Does salt dissolve more rapidly in cold relative brightness used in classifying stars into their different magnitudes? A. The relation of the brilliancy of a star of a certain magnitude and that of the magnitude immediately preceding has been variously determined from 0346 to 0464. Zollner (1865) from magnitudes 1 to 6 gives 0.363, and Rosen (1869) from magnitudes 5 to 9.5 gives 0.398. For an excellent and fully and if any other gas than steam is ever the cause of exillustrated treatise on mercurial air pumps, we refer you to our Supplement, Nos. 629, 630, 631.

(3560) H. W. B. asks: 1. What is the E. M. F. of the small dynamo described in Supplement No. 161, when provided with the drum armature described in Supplement, No. 599? Also what fraction of a horse power is required to drive it? A. The E. M. F. of the dynamo referred to is 12 volts. We do not know that the current from the armature described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 599, has been measured, but it is considerably higher than that of the armature described in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161. 2. What is the E. M.F. of the (3551) E. S. asks: How to make a machine described on page 499 of "Experimental cement which will mend broken minerals, etc. A. 1. Science," when wound with finer wire and used as a quired to drive it? A. It would be impossible to tell boil until the starch is cooked.—From the new "Scien-changes have been made. The difference of one size in the wire makes a great difference in the E. M. F. About 1/8 of a horse power will be required in each case.

> (3561) H. B. M. writes: 1. Will you kindly inform me how a strong aqueous solution of tannin can be rendered colorless without detriment to its chemical properties? A. Use the purest tannic acid and pure water. If this is not satisfactory, agitate with water, covered with a thin layer of olive oil. This will give a nearly colorless solution. In neither case must yon expect a strong, absolutely colorless solution,

(3562) W. L. V. says: One candle is 8 feet in height and I foot in diameter. Another candle 18 8 inches in height and 1 inch in diameter. Their wicks are proportionate. Will they both burn the same (3554) F. D. asks for a receipt for time, or will the larger one burn the longer time? Give reason with answer. Is the focal distance of a lens increased or diminished by the density of the atmosphere? A. The small candle contains 61/4 cubic inches. materials for making same. A. All ordinary paste will The large candle contains 10,848 cubic inches, and would require 1,735 wicks of the size of the small candle to consume it in the same time. The focus of a lens va ries with the density of the atmosphere, but too small for observation.

> (3563) J. E. B. asks whether the armature to motor described in Supplement, No. 641, has to have 12 coils. Can I make it with 8 coils? What size wire required? A. An armature with 8 coils will work, but as a rule the more coils used, the better. The size of the wire depends on the current used. For a battery current such as is recommended, No. 18 wire will

(3564) E. J. B. asks (1) how to cover wood pulleys for making polishing and emery wheels. volatile oils. It dissolves in 35 parts of ether and 11 . A. The best plan for making an emery wheel with a wooden core is to cover the wood with sole leather which contains no oil. The leather can be fastened with glue and shoe pegs. After the glue becomes dry the leather should be turned off and made smooth with sandpaper. It should then be coated with the best white glue and immediately rolled in the emery, which should be warm. When the wheel is dry, brush off the surplus emery. 2. Also how to make a straight magnet, same as magnet used in Bell telephone receiver. A. Harden a bar of steel at the ends, draw it to a purple and magnetize in a coil through which a strong current is passing.

(3565) F. S. asks for a receipt for manufacturing soldering flux for tin. A. We give two re-(3557) F. R. W. asks if there is any ceipts: a. Dissolve 1 part lactic acid and 1 part glycer-

(3566) W. S. M. asks: How many guns did the Monitor use in the engagement with the Merrimac? A. Two 11 inch guns.

(3567) F. D. S. writes: I want to pump up an elevation of six feet, at the rate of 8.200 cubic feet per minute. Would like to know how much power will be necessary, and the best kind of pump to use? A. You will need a pump indicating 125 horse power, and would require two water cylinders each 6 feet in diameter, and 8 feet stroke, if single acting.

(3568) Dr. A. D. asks the quantity in weight or in bulk of carbonate of ammonia used to raise one pound of flour. A. About one teaspoonful should suffice for one to one and a half pounds of flour. It is not generally used.

(3569) R. G. asks: Why do engineers multiply the square of the diameter of cylinder by the decimal 07854 to find the horse power of steam engine? If the steam pump will draw water 33 feet at sea level, how far will it draw when the elevation is 8,000 feet above sea level, and how much should the suction be shortened for every 500 feet, from 8 000 to 13,000 H. H? A. The square of the diameter in inches multiplied by (3559) G. A. asks: 1. How high a 0.7854 equals the area of the cylinder in square inches. vacuum will the best piston air pumo obtain? A. At 8.000 feet the greatest height of pump lift is 23 feet. Within a very small fraction of an inch of a perfect At 9,000 feet, 22 feet. At 10,000 feet, 21 feet. At 11,000

1814 feet.

(3570) J. W. M. writes: I would like to have you give a receipt for a paste for sticking labels on to tin. I have tried a number of receipts, but they are all a failure excepting I use an alkali or acid, either of which will injure colored labels. What I want is a glue, cement, or paste that will stick paper colored labels to highly polished tin and nickel. A. To 2 tablespoonfuls of the best flour add a tablespoonful of brown sugar and a few drops corrosive sublimate, the whole to be boiled and continually stirred, to prevent its getting lumpy, till of the right thickness. To prevent mouldiness add a few drops of some essential oil, as oil of cloves.

(3571) A. V. S. writes: A young student of mechanical engineering would like to know a few of the most common causes of boiler explosions, plosions, and if there is always an explosive increase of pressure at the moment of explosion. A. You will find interesting and valuable information on boiler explosions, their cause and remedy, in Scientific Ameri-CAN SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 463, 456, 581, with illustra-

(3572) R. M. asks: Please give me a preparation of white ink that will adhere to a glazed card and not be easily washed off? A. Use zinc white or white lead, rubbed up with gum water to the proper

(3573) J. M. B. asks whether land will ecome enriched or impoverished if kept bare of vegetation. A. Land becomes impoverished and leached of the necessary constituents to vegetable growth by being kept bare of vegetation. The soluble element of vegetation, carbonic acid, ammonia, phosphoric acid, potash, soda, sulphuric and hydrochloric acids, forming part of the constituents of vegetable life, are kept in circulation by a constant growth of vegetation. An unfed soil becomes barren from exhaustion from leaching, as it will also from overcropping, without artificial restoration of the elements withdrawn, which are necessary to sustain vegetable life.

(3574) P. W. asks: What is the best preparation to cover wood, to prevent horse manure from rotting it? A. Two coats of hot coal tar put on when the wood is dry.

TO INVENTORS.

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

October 13, 1891,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

t		
i	Air brake, C. R. James. Alarm. See Holler alarm. Alloy, steel or metallic, R. A. Hadfield. Amalgamating gold, silver, or copper, steam silver plated plate for, G. H. Chick. Animal trap, Gragg & Wigger. Arnature for electric motors, C. J. Van Depoele. Artist's color box, J. Bicknell. Atomizer, A. Leslie. Awning pole clasp, H. Caspar. Axle box lid, car, R. Soutter. Axle box lid, car, R. Soutter. Axle box lid, car, G., A. P. Mitchell. Azle pindle and box, H. Wallace. Azle vehicle, J. Lewis. B. R. Welte, J. Lewis. B. Defer J. D. Timmerman. Bale tie machine, wire Liaidlaw & Cowley. Baling press, J. H. Pickett. Bar. See Bicycle handle bar. Linoty pe bar. Bart. See Bicycle handle bar. Linoty pe bar. Batterses and D. M. and.	461,243
	Alorm See Holler alorm	201,220
•	Alloy, steel or metallic, R. A. Hadfield	461,333
•	Amaigamating gold, silver, or copper, steam sil-	202,000
ŀ	ver plated plate for, G. H. Chick	460,946
١	Animal trap, Gragg & Wigger	461,079
۱	Armature for electric motors, C. J. Van Depoele	461,079 461,296
ı	Artist's color box, J. Bicknell	461,068
ļ	Atomizer, A. Leslie	461,068 461,349
	Awning pole clasp, H. Caspar	461,069 461,203 461,265
	Axle box lid, car, R. Soutter	461,203
	Axle lubricator, car, F. J. Leibmann	461,203 461,151 461,226 461,266 461,291 461,348 461,157 461,044
	Axie lubricator, car, A. P. Mitchell	401,101
	Axle spinule and box, n. Wanace	461 966
	P. g. bolden T. D. Wimmerman	461 201
	Pala tia machine wire Laidlaw & Cowley	461 348
	Baling nress A H. Brickey	461.157
	Baling press, J. H. Pickett	461,044
ļ	Bank pocket savings, G. Van Zandt	461,176
ļ	Bar. See Bicycle handle bar. Linotype bar.	
ł	Batteries and preparing the same, compound for	
ì	electric, D. M. Lamb	461,026
I	Batteries and preparing the same, compound for electric, D. M. Lamb. Batteries, composition for electric, D. M. Lamb. Battery. See Electric battery. Galvanic bat-	461,024
i	Battery. See Electric battery. Galvanic bat-	
i	tery.	101 400
	Bedstead, folding, E. S. Ticbenor	461,138
	tery. Bedstead, folding, E. S. Ticbenor. Belt, apron, Lang & Evans. Belts, slat fastener for, M. Arnold. Bicycle handle bar, W. J. Matern. Bicycles, spring fork for, W. E. Thompson. Binder, temporary, H. W. Scattergood. Boats, how for transfer, M. H. Murch.	461,128
	Belts, slat fastener for, M. Arnold	401,177
	Bicycle handle bar, W. J. Matern	401,300
	Birden temporary II W Scottor good	461,001
•	Does how for trongfor M H Murch	461 110
	Boiler See Culinary boiler	401,110
	Poilor alarm alactric M Pashama	401 170
•	Boilers grown sheet of steem V Uoner	401,110
	Rook leaf holder H C Johnson	481 341
•	Book time-record, H. W. Scattergood	481008
	Boot tree rest. J. F. O'Brien	481.269
i	Boring engine, A. D. Pentz.	461,202
ı	Boats, how for transfer, M. H. Murch Boiler. See Culinary boiler. Boiler alarm, electric, M. Beckers. Boilers, crown sheet of steam, E. Heuer. Book leaf holder, H. C. Johnson. Book, time-record, H. W. Scattergood. Boot tree rest, J. F. O'Brien. Boring engine, A. D. Pentz. Bottle and stopper, combined, E. V. Clemens Bottle seal stopper, E. V. Clemens. Box. See Artist's color box. Castingbox. Christmas box. Fire alarm box. Knockdown box.	461,259
ļ	Bottle seal stopper, E. V. Clemens	461,258
ĺ	Box. See Artist's color box. Castingbox. Christ-	
ı	mas box. Fire alarm box. Knockdown box.	
į	Letter box. Post office box. Switch box.	
ĺ	Letter box. Post office box. Switch box. Box fastener, W. Beck Bracket. See Curtain Pole bracket.	461,091
į	Bracket. See Curtain Pole bracket.	
i	Brake. See Air brake. Carbrake. Electro-mag- netic brake.	
ı	Prop dust on T. McCill	461 200
ı	Brick mechine 1 U Vonofor	461 022
ı	Broom holder E. M. Wright	461 252
ı	Bran duster, J. McGill Brick machine, J. H. Konefes. Broom holder, E. M. Wright. Buckle, C. C. Benedict. Burner. See Vapor burner. Butter printer, C. M. Buck ingham.	461 009
ı	Burner. See Vanor hurner.	104000
ļ	Butter printer, C. M. Buckingham	460,943
	Butter printer, C. M. Buck ingham Camera roll bolder, T. H. Blair Camera roll bolder, Blair & Kelley Camera shutter, Blair & Crowell Can. See Milk can Can. See Milk can.	461,30S
•	Camera roll holder, Blair & Kelley	461,308
4	Camera shutter, Blair & Crowell	461,307
	Can. See Milk can.	100.07
	Can bodies, former for, Clapp & Emery	460,947
	Car body, G. J. Porter	461,173
	Can. See Milk can. Can bodies, former for, Clapp & Emery. Car brake, G. W. Turner. Car brake, G. W. Turner. Car brake mechanism, Adams & Brill. Car coupling, P. Brown. Car coupling, A. F. Chandler. Car coupling, A. F. Chandler. Car coupling, O. W. & L. A. Clement. Car coupling, P. F. Hutchison. Car coupling, T. A. McBride. Car coupling, T. A. McBride. Car coupling, Patten & Webber. Car coupling, R. G. Russell.	401,107
	Car counting P. Brown	461 319
	Car counting Rugg & Loomis	461.314
	Car counting A. F. Chandler	461.400
	Car counling, O. W. & L. A. Clement.	461.071
	Car coupling, P. F. Hutchison	460,970
	Car coupling, T. A. McBride	461,035
	Car coupling, Patten & Webber	461,043
	Car coupling, H. G. Russell	461,380
	· Car coupling, C. Stilger	460,999
	Car coupling, W. H. Violett	461,299
ı	Car coupling, J. E. M. Yates	461,065
	- Car coupling attachment, W. H. B. Stout	461,288
Ì	Car, complete, S. D. King	460,975
1		
	Car heating apparatus, J. Q. C. Searle 461,360 to	461 999
	Car heating apparatus, J. Q. C. Searle 481,381 to Car motor, electric, G. Willett	461,299 461,065 461,288 460,975 461,283 461,228
	Car coupling, Patten & Webber. Car coupling, H. G. Russell. Car coupling, C. Stilger. Car coupling, W. H. Violett Car coupling, J. E. M. Yates. Car coupling attachment, W. H. B. Stout Car, dumping, S. D. King	461,228
	Car heating apparatus, J. Q. C. Searle401,380 to Car motor, electric, G. Willett	461,228

i	Car, passenger, J. D. S. Reed. 461,132 Car seat, E. L. Bushnell. 461,179 Car see t, F. H. Henry. 461,198 Car stock J. R. Meadley 460,977	
	Car, passenger, J. D. S. Reed. 461,132 Car seat, E. L. Bus binell. 461,179 Car seat, F. H. Henry. 461,193 Car, stock, J. B. Meadley. 460,977 Car vestibule and step therefor, A. J. Barber. 461,156 Cars, trolley catcher for electric, W. L. Browne. 461,361 Carding machine stopping mechanism, J. T. Meatls. 461,711	
į	Carding machine stopping mechanism, J. T. Meats	
	Carding machine stopping mechanism, J. T. 461,771 Carriage canopy holder, child's, A. G. Snell. 461,373 Carrier, See Trace carrier. 461,373 Cart, road, W. Clucas. 469,949 Cart, road, J. Donovan. 461,158 Cart, road, H. & W. C. Smith. 471,395 Cartridge loading machine, W. E. Phillips 461,275 Carving machine, C. J. Carlstrom. 461,215 Case. See Pencil case. 28sh indicator and recorder, F. Kubec. 461,386	
i	Carving machine, C. J. Carlstrom	
	Case. See Pencil case. Cash indicator and recorder, F. Kubec. Cash indicator and recorder, F. Kubec. Caster, furniture, E. G. Hoffmann. Caster socket, G. D. Clark. Casting box, stereotype, W. B. Lewis. McCool. McCool. McCool. Additional cast of the control of the con	
	Chair Cox a reim	
	ples or ornamental cord, tension device for machines for making, A. Urbahn	
	Christmas box, C. L. Lockwood 461,352 Churn, A. Coen 469,951 Churn, C. Mears 461,247	
	Chair seat of reed or similar material, J. A. Staples 461,136 Chenille or ornamental cord, tension device for machines for making, A. Urbahn. 461,462 Chill mould, A. Cordingly. 461,412 Christmas box, C. L. Lockwood. 461,352 Churn, A. Coen. 461,251 Churn, C. Mears. 461,247 Churn dasher, A. J. Apgar. 461,410 Cigar bunching machine, J. Dela Mar. 461,410 Cigar or pipe mouth piece, A. J. Maloney. 461,267 Clasp. See Awring pole clasp. (Feauer. See Gun cleaner.	
	Clock and thermoscope evatem combined electric	
	H. J. Haight. Clock striking mechanism. C. E. Burnham. 461,315 Clothes pounder, W. H. Herrington. 461,315 Clutch, friction, B. S. Lewis. 461,681 Cock, R. N. Fratt. 461,681	
	Commutator brushes, actuating device for mov-	
	Compasses for laying out stair curves, I. J. Falmer. 461,367 Corking machine, A. Siebert. 461,285 Coupling. See Car coupling. 461,286 Cow catcher, J. J. Smith. 461,286 Cremation furnace, S. W. Dixon. 461,286 Crushing machine, W. Schranz. 461,050 Cultivator, E. George. 461,077 Cultivator, J. Porteous. 461,077 Cultivator and plow, combined, H. P. Moore. 461,078 Cultivator, sulky, J. F. Taylor. 461,178 Cultivator, sulky, J. F. Taylor. 461,230 Curtain pole bracket, S. E. Bauder. 447,830 Curtain pole support, H. Taylor. 461,376 Cuttor, T. F. Crary. 461,376 Cutter, See Feed cutter. Stalk cutter. Twine Cutter, Cutter, See Feed cutter. Stalk cutter. 461,345 Cutting blades, making, A. Kraatz. 461,345 Cutting blades, making, A. Kraatz. 461,345 Cutters See Feed cutter.	
	Cremation furnace, S. W. Dixon. 461,327 Crushing machine, W. Schranz. 461,050 Culinary boiler, F. McKinley. 461,120	
	Cultivator, E. George. 461,177 Cultivator, J. Porteous. 461,172 Cultivator and plow, combined, H. P. Moore. 460,983 Cultivator and scraper, Huneycutt & Moseley. 461,115	
	Cultivator, sulky, J. F. Taylor 461,293 Cultivator, wheel, D. Z. Hunting 461,184 Curtain pole bracket, S. E. Bauder 467,939 Curtain pole scalet, H. Taylor 461,273	
	Curtain pole support, H. Taylor. 461,376 Cut-off, T. F. Crary 460,953 Cutter. See Feed cutter. Stalk cutter. Twine	
	cutter. Cutting blades, making, A. Kraatz. 461,345 Cutting machine, J. Garvelek 461,159 Dater, ticket, S. Konigslow et al. 461,344 Decorticating machine, hemp or flax, A. E. Ellin-	
	Decorticating machine, hemp or flax, A. E. Ellin- wood	
	Wood Wilson Wil	
	L. Shorey	
	Drawer guide and stop, combined, H. E. Spaun- horst	
	Dye, blue azo, G. Schultz	
3	Eases, A. Graves. 401,631 Eaves trough, C. C. Moore 60,982 Electric battery, D. M. Lamb 461,023, 461,025, 461,027 Electric conductor, F. A. Perret 461,272 Electric conductors, connection for, J. Dillon 461,135 Electric energy, system of distributing, R. Ken-	
	Electric energy, system of distributing, R. Kennedy	
•	Electric machine, dynamo, R. Kennedy. 461,140 Electric meter, G. R. Baldwin. 461,220 Electric switch, S. P. Van Nort. 461,238	
:	Electric machine, dynamo, R. Kennedy. 461,149 Electric meter, G. R. Baldwin. 461,229 Electric switch, S. P. Van Nort. 461,232 Electric-magnetic brake, A. J. Shaw. 461,052 Electro-magnetic separator, G. M. Gouyard. 460,302 Elevator, J. B. Stoner. 461,306 Elevator wells, device for operating doors to, Craig & Purcell. Engine. See Boring engine. Dental engine. Rotary engine. Steam engine.	
	Craig & Purcell. 461,411 Engine. See Boring engine. Dental engine. Rotary engine. Steam engine. Engraver's vise, W. Faustmann. 461,216	
	tary engine. Steam engine. Dentaring me. Actual tary engine. Steam engine. tary engine. Steam engine. 461,216 Envelope, Thacher & Gifford. 461,020 Envelope fastener. G. H. Randall. 461,143 Envelope opener. 41. L. R. Randall. 461,143 Extractor. See Jelly extractor. 461,235 Extractor. See Jelly extractor. The star extractor. 461,245 Extractor. See Jelly extractor.	
,	Seymour, Jr. 461,051 Farm gate, W. A. Jones 461,220 Faucet tool, T. Dottermann 460,366 Feed cutter and corn husker, combined, G. W. Crosby 461,405 Feed water heater and purifier, A. Krumbolz 461,244	
3	Crosby	
6	File, bill, A. L. Purdy. 461,046 Filter, L. P. Andrews. 461,036 Filter, W. Birch. 461,232 Filter T. H. Rutler 461,232	
3	Filter, A. McCutcheon 460,984 Filter, W. W. Whiddit 461,004 Filters, device for feeding chemicals to, T. H.	
9 3 5 1	Butler. 461,235 Fire alarm apparatus, W. C. Shaffer 461,371 Fire alarm box, non-interfering, F. F. Loomis 461,169 Firearn lock, F. A. Hollenbeck 461,182	
6	Fire escape, C. J. Applequist. 460,938 Fire extinguisher, Wolstemeroft & Soley. 461,039 Fire extinguisher for buildings, electrical auto-	
4	Fish plate, H. W. Libbey 461,887 Fishing rod, C. Oberly 461,106 Float, J. F. Gmid 46,183	
64	Floor or roof, fireproof, T. A. Lee	
8	Lee 461,028 Flushing tank, pneumatic, J. E. Boyle 461,228 Folding rack, W. W. Brnkerhoff 461,256 Fork. See Manure fork.	
7 6 1	Furnace. See Cremation furnace. Welding furnace.	
9	Furnace for heating and other purposes, G. T. Bruckmann	
018	Game apparatus, E. Krebs. 461,346 Game, electric parior, W. L. Gates. 461,076 Garment hook, J. M. Guilbert. 461,332 Garment stays, apparatus for making, F. Cromp-	
ž 9 8	Gas, process of and apparatus for manufactur-	
1	Gas compressor, G. F. Knox	
8	gate. Vertically adjustable gate. Gate, G. W. Bussey. 461,337 Gate, A. H. Cleaveland. 461,033 Gate, G. Hoskins. 460,969 Generator. See Steam generator. Glass polishing machine. A. De Boischevalier. 460,941	
2 2 9	Glove, baseball, A. Haegg	
3 6 8	Gong or bell, J. W. Grantland 461,241 Grain binder spreader, M. Patchin 461,271 Grain in fill, D. C. & W. A. Van Brunt 461,235 Grain meter, H. E. Hawk 461,335 461,335 Gun, air, M. F. Stanly 461,242 Gun cleaner, \(\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\tex{\$\text{\$\exititt{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\text{\$\tex	
7 7 3	Gun, air, M. F. Stanly 661,224 Gun cleaner, Ødell & Ferris 460,886 Hame, C. H. Van Orthwick 461,003 Harness, J. H. Whitaker 461,001	
7 8 2	Harrow and roller, F. B. Harvey. 461,334 Harvester, corn, G. Meader 461,246	
4 0 1	Hay carrier track, H. L. Ferris. 460,959 Hay loader, Hunter & Lakin 461,168	
0 5 3 0 9	Hay rack, folding White	
8 5 8	Hay raking and elevating machine, M. M. Senborger	
5 3 8	man. 461,431 Hides, removing lime from, C. W. Cooper. 461,430	