

plastic method, finally electroplating the copper copy, using a cyanide solution of silver.

(3268) H. C. J. asks (1) if there is any chemical that paper can be saturated with—and not be discolored—so that an electric current will burn it black as soon as it touches it. A. We know of no chemical that could be used on paper in the manner suggested without producing some discoloration. Iodide of starch is probably the nearest approach to it. 2. Please tell me if there is any kind of ink which will fade in a short while, and also an ink which will appear on paper after being exposed to the light. A. Weak purple aniline ink will fade in a short time if exposed to light. An ink formed of a weak solution of nitrate of silver will turn brown on exposure to light.

(3269) C. S. W. S. writes: The speed of electricity was a subject for discussion lately, but the exact rate could not be arrived at. According to a recent article it should require only one-half second to transmit a signal through the Atlantic cable, even less for 3,000 miles. Can any rate be given? A. No exact rate can be given. The electrostatic conditions regulate the practical velocity of transmission of an electric signal. Electric impulses theoretically may travel with the velocity of light. The article referred to relates to the following. Experiments now in progress at McGill College, Montreal, under the auspices of the British and Canadian governments, to ascertain the longitude of Montreal by direct observations from Greenwich, have led to the accomplishment of a remarkable telegraphic feat. The first thing to determine was the length of time it took a telegraphic signal to cross the Atlantic. An automatic contrivance, whereby the land line could work into the cable, was provided, and a duplex circuit was arranged, so that the signal sent from Montreal would go over the land lines to Canso (Nova Scotia), thence over the cable to Waterville (Ireland), and return to Montreal again. Attached to the sending and receiving apparatus was a chronograph, which measured the time. Out of a couple of hundred signals sent, it was found that the average time taken to cross the Atlantic and back again, a distance of 8,000 miles, occupied a trifle over one second, the exact time being one second and five one-hundredths.

(3270) S. W. R. asks: 1. Please give me formula for making carbon plates for batteries. A. You will find a simple process of making carbons on page 307, vol. 60, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, also in "Experimental Science." 2. Is there a cement by which carbon plates can be joined together and retain the connection? A. Carbon plates may be cemented together by using a mixture of very finely pulverized carbon and flour paste, afterward carbonizing in the usual way. The joint may be strengthened by saturating it with sugar sirup and recarbonizing. 3. Where can I procure carbon plates? A. From manufacturers and dealers who advertise in our columns.

(3271) J. F. B. writes: 1. Please describe a cheap dry battery with an E. M. F. of about 1.50 volts that would do for closed circuit work. Would a dry battery made as follows do for a 6 candle power incandescent electric light?—for the positive, a copper plate 2x3 inches; upon that are two blotters, between which is sprinkled powdered blue stone; on that is placed a 2x3 inch zinc plate. A teaspoonful of water is poured over the whole. If so, how many would it take? A. The battery you describe would soon become inactive. The Trouve battery is constructed something upon the same principle. It yields a small current, but will maintain it for a very long time. This battery is formed by separating a zinc and a copper plate by many thicknesses of blotting paper, enough to make the distance between the plates say 1 1/2 or 2 inches. The blotting paper is divided into two equal portions; one part is saturated with a saturated solution of sulphate of copper, the other portion is saturated with a solution of sulphate of zinc. The part saturated with sulphate of copper is placed in contact with the copper plate, and that saturated with the sulphate of zinc is placed in contact with the zinc plate. An element of this kind inclosed in an air tight jar remains in working order for several years. Gassner's dry battery is described on page 306, vol. 61, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. It has an E. M. F. of about 1.5 volts. 2. What is the E. M. F. of a bichromate battery 2 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep with 2 carbon rods 1/2 inch in diameter and 1 zinc rod 3/8 inch in diameter? A. The E. M. F. of all bichromate batteries is about 2 volts, without regard to the size of the carbon or zinc plates.

(3272) G. V. writes: I have made a motor like the one described in 641, and in "Experimental Science," and I have used 18 bell wire, but the motor would not go. Could you tell me in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN the reason why, and if bell wire is the cause? I have put 8 pint glass jar bichromate cells on it, and would you please tell me how many cells of that kind I would need? A. The insulation on the bell wire is too thick to permit of winding on the required length. Use double cotton-covered magnet wire. Your battery cells are rather small. Connect them 4 in parallel, and use 8 such groups in series, or use 8 large cells with plates 6x8 or 8x10 inches.

(3273) W. R. asks: What makes the two halves of a Gramme ring armature in multiple arc when the wire is in series? Is it caused by the brushes or by the induction of the field magnets? How could it be arranged in series? A. The current flows from the neutral point in each half toward the brushes. In a motor the current entering the ring from the brushes flows in opposite directions. There is no way of arranging the two halves in series.

(3274) G. H. G. asks: 1. What is the best method of making oxygen gas? A. Probably for small amounts from the ignition of a mixture of chlorate of potassium and binoxide of manganese. Many other methods have been proposed and tried. On the large scale Brin's process, described in our SUPPLEMENT No. 623, seems to have met with success in England.

(3275) C. T. asks: Can real ebony be glued to mahogany or other hard woods with a certainty of preserving a fast joint? A. Use the finest white glue or gelatine dissolved in acetic acid or strong vinegar. The surfaces of the wood must be roughened.

(3276) B. S. W. asks whether the accompanying specimen of lime rock is of a water or volcanic formation. A. The sample sent is carbonate of calcium or calcite, and is unquestionably a deposit from watery solution. Volcanic or thermal action may have had an agency in effecting its deposition.

(3277) A. W. asks (1) how the dry developer put up in powder form is made. A. Use any formula for a developer. Powder the substances and place them in paper cartridges in the proper proportions; separate the different ingredients by wads of cotton. 2. Is common powder used in the manufacture of these-called cannon fire crackers? A. Meal powder is used in fire crackers.

(3278) C. H. G. asks: What is the speed of light? Also what is the speed of electricity? A. The speed of light and electric waves are about the same, that is, 186,000 miles per second. The speed of electric signaling through a wire depends on many factors and varies greatly for different lines.

(3279) W. W. says: I have four conical wall tents which are good except for small spark holes. Can you tell me of a cement or glue that will stick on small patches of canvas, and will resist the rain? A. You can cover the holes with patches of canvas cemented by means of leaf gutta percha such as the tailors use. A hot pressing iron is employed to melt the gutta percha.

(3280) N. N.—For table of freezing mixtures see SUPPLEMENT, No. 551, page 8800.

(3281) J. R. G. says: Please give directions for making cement walks, also asphalt walks. Will the cement for sidewalks be suitable for cellars? A. For cement walks use one part best Rosendale cement and two parts clean sharp sand. Make a stiff mortar, mix thoroughly, spread three inches thick. Excellent for cellars. Asphalt requires heat.

(3282) H. H. H. asks: How many degrees Fah. melt platinum? A. 3080° Fah. It can be melted by the oxyhydrogen blowpipe on charcoal or in a lime crucible.

(3283) L. B. M. asks: 1. How much ascensional power does one cubic yard of hydrogen gas have? A. Pure hydrogen can lift 500 grains per cubic foot or one and nine-tenths lb. per cubic yard. 2. Does the form of the receptacle affect the lifting power? A. No.

(3284) E. M. H. asks: 1. In using the oxyhydrogen light for stereopticon purposes, the gases being compressed in cylinders at a pressure of 225 pounds to the square inch, is there any danger of an explosion occurring from the admixture of the two gases, or from other cause, in the use of light, and if so, how could such an explosion occur? A. If the gases are pure when compressed, and if the cylinders are strong enough to withstand the pressure, and if oxygen cylinder contain no hydrocarbon, and the hydrogen cylinder is free from oxygen or air, there will be no danger of an explosion so long as the pressure in both cylinders is greater than the pressure in the burner. If however one cylinder becomes nearly exhausted while the other has considerable pressure, and if the burner from any cause becomes stopped, so that gas may escape from the cylinder having the greater pressure to one having the least, there will be danger of an explosion on relighting the burner. 2. Is there any book published on the magic lantern that is reliable, that will be of assistance to any one in using the magic lantern, and if so, what is the name of it, and where can I purchase same? My reason for asking the question in regard to the oxyhydrogen light is that I would like to be satisfied one way or another in regard to it, and appeal to you as the best authority. A. "Experimental Science," price \$4 by mail, contains a long chapter on "Optical Projection," which is very complete. We can also recommend Wright's "Optical Projection," price \$2 by mail, and Dolbear's "Art of Projecting," price \$2.

(3285) C. C. asks: 1. Supposing a current from a battery would exert an attractive force of five pounds on a single electro-magnet, how much attractive force would be exerted on each of six electro-magnets whose coils are wound seriatim with the same wire, the wire to be continuous from first to second, and so on, and then returned to battery? A. It is a question of ampereturns. If you get the same number of ampereturns, and the conditions are otherwise the same, the results will be alike in both cases. 2. How does the current in an electric motor act on the field magnet and armature to produce the force that revolves the armature? Is it attraction or repulsion, or both acting alternately? A. In a drum or ring armature motor the poles are constantly being displaced in one direction, while the material of the armature is being drawn forward by the field magnet in the opposite direction. It is attraction mainly that is concerned in the rotation of the armature. 3. What cheap book explains all these matters and gives an insight into the elementary and practical principles of electricity and magnetic forces? A. We know of no very cheap book that would be of use to you; we can, however, recommend "Experimental Science," price by mail, \$4.

(3286) P. D. asks: 1. Has the phonograph been developed to a degree which warrants its extensive use in the displacement of stenographers? A. The phonograph can be used in lieu of a stenographer, and is so used by many. 2. Please give recipe for a good furniture polish. A. Try the following: 4 ounces of orange shellac dissolved in 2 pints of alcohol; add to this 2 pints of linseed oil and 1 pint of spirits of turpentine. Mix thoroughly and add 4 ounces of sulphuric ether and 4 ounces of ammonia water. Apply with a sponge or cloth.

(3287) W. C. R. asks: 1. In referring to George M. Hopkins' motor, No. 611, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, what kind of wood is best suited for the armature and other parts? A. Hard, well seasoned maple is a good wood for this purpose. 2. What is that part on the armature that divides the hub from the collar? A. It is a space. 3. Concave face 2 1/4 inches across, is that right, on top and bottom? A. Yes. 4. What kind of battery is best suited for the motor mentioned? If you have among your papers how to make

such a battery, it would like to know the number, or more of same. A. Consult SUPPLEMENT, No. 792, also "Experimental Science."

(3288) W. W. T. asks how to prepare strawberry extract. A. Harrop's "Monograph on Flavoring Extracts," etc., \$2 by mail, contains numerous formulae of this character. A receipt for strawberry essence is the following: Glycerine 2 parts, nitric ether 1 part, ethyl acetate 5 parts, ethyl formate 1 part, ethyl butyrate 5 parts, methyl salicylate 1 part, amyl acetate 3 parts, amyl butyrate 2 parts. Other formulae are given in the above work.

(3289) L. F. M. writes: 1. In winding the armature core for the motor in SUPPLEMENT, No. 641, what is done with the ends of the wire after it is wound? A. The ends of the wires are connected with the screws which take the place of commutator bars. You will find this feature described in the article referred to. 2. Can you give me a formula of substance or a liquid that when applied to the gum of the teeth it will cause the teeth to become loose? A. We know of no substance that would accomplish what you describe without, at the same time, doing great physical injury.

(3290) S. D. M. G. says: On page 49 of the issue of July 25 of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, I noticed a platinotype printing process which is new to us and which I do not thoroughly understand. Will you please answer the following questions through your paper for the benefit of our camera club? 1. In what proportions should solutions A and B be used? A. Mix equal parts. 2. Will any paper, such as is used for blue prints, do, or does the process require a specially prepared paper? A. Use plain photographic paper, to be had of photo dealers. 3. Is any toning solution necessary? If so, what is the formula? A. No. See SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT, No. 711. 4. Is there any simple process by which blue prints may be turned brown or black? A. Make a solution of

Borax..... 2 1/2 oz.
Hot water..... 38 "
Add sulphuric acid in small quantities until blue litmus paper is turned slightly red. Then add a few drops of ammonia until red litmus paper turns blue. Then put into the solution 150 grains of red crude gum catechu, and allow it to dissolve, with occasional stirring. To tone a print, immerse it a minute or longer until the desired tone is obtained. The solution will keep indefinitely. Gum catechu can be obtained from drug stores.

(3291) W. J. B. asks what kind of carbon to use for a bottle battery or cup for a dry battery, and give names of necessary address for a dry battery. A. Use plates prepared for the purpose and sold by dealers, or use carbon rods such as are employed in electric lighting. If the rods are coppered, the copper should be removed with nitric acid. You can use an ordinary porous cell. You will find Dr. Gassner's dry battery described on page 306, vol. 61, SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, also in "Experimental Science."

(3292) J. H. H. asks: 1. What number of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN or SUPPLEMENT explains how to make an induction coil? A. See article on this subject in SUPPLEMENT, No. 160. 2. How can I make a good dry battery? A. For information on dry batteries see SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, vol. 61, page 306. Dr. Gassner's dry battery.

(3293) E. E. T. asks: Can No. 27 double silk-covered copper wire be used instead of bare wire as given in directions about induction coil in chapter xx of "Experimental Science"? A. Silk-covered wire can be used, but it should be No. 36. 2. How is the current in above coil regulated, as it has no regulating tube? A. The secondary current is regulated by varying the primary current, either by plunging the elements of the battery more or less. This mode of regulation, however, is not very firm. In a spark coil firm regulation is seldom required.

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INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

August 11, 1891.

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

Table listing inventions and their dates, including items like Annunciator, Anti-corrosive and anti-fouling compound, Dejeonge, Wagon compositions, making, Harris & Wass, and many others.

Table listing inventions and their dates, including items like Boiler cleaner, Bolt setting, steam, W. B. L. Van, and many others.

Heater. See Wall heater.
 Heating by electricity, apparatus for, R. Kennedy 457,561
 Heel nailing and trimming machine, Glidden & Elliott 457,492
 Heel protector, Ayres & Foster 457,384
 Heel stiffener machine, A. H. Thompson 457,412
 Hinge, F. W. Hoefler 457,721
 Hinge, lock, R. G. Pike, Jr. 457,556
 Hinge, spring, F. W. Hoefler 457,720
 Hoisting mechanism, automatic stop device for, H. Lechtenberg 457,730
 Holdback iron, A. Kerry 457,715
 Holder. See Book leaf holder. Book or copy holder. Disinfectant holder. Mop holder. Music holder.
 Hook, J. L. Bucknam 457,524
 Horse attaching device, F. J. Sheppard 457,568
 Horse detacher, H. F. Garner 457,346
 Horse power, Ambrose & Haddick 457,627
 Horsehoe stand, A. Fox 457,345
 Hose coupling, W. L. Johnson 457,714
 Hot water or steam boiler, C. H. Moss 457,522
 Hub, machine for boring spoke holes in, W. Hillman 457,719
 Injector, W. B. Mack 457,514
 Iron. See Holdback iron.
 Ironing machine, H. P. Smith 457,676
 Ironing table, W. G. Lindsay 457,742
 Ironing table and rack, J. S. Cole 457,704
 Joint. See Sewel joint.
 Joists of buildings or other structures, brace and support for, W. Paine, Sr. 457,664
 Kiln. See Pottery kiln.
 Knife. See Fruit knife. Tobacco knife.
 Knitting machine, circular, J. E. Gearhart 457,643
 Label case, R. M. Floyd 457,681
 Lamp, Argand, T. Hipwell 457,817
 Lamp, Argand, J. H. White 457,571
 Lamp linings, die for forming carriage, F. C. Cannon 457,557
 Lamp, spray, A. Shedlock 457,573
 Lamps, means for suspending and controlling electric, S. Bergmann 457,573
 Lantern, magic, A. W. Armstrong 457,573
 Lantern, tubular, C. J. Higgins 457,573
 Lathe, pivot, J. Schwizer 457,580
 Lathes, center, center for, J. Webber 457,580
 Leaf turner, E. Sippach 457,675
 Letter box, house door, W. O. Taylor 457,497
 Letters in buildings, apparatus for distributing, C. Dannenberg 457,577
 Lock, S. P. Stein 457,677
 Lock, W. H. Taylor 457,758
 Loom, J. Leeming 457,731
 Loom, W. Talbot 457,411
 Loom reed, C. S. Strowbridge 457,409
 Loom take-up mechanism, G. F. Hutebins 457,451
 Loom temple, W. H. Sadler 457,451
 Lubricator, F. P. Clark 457,683
 Lumber stacker, H. W. Clark 457,611
 Match box, E. Jungner 457,569
 Matrix making machine, electrical, W. W. Street 457,732
 Measure, bottomless, J. C. Dawes 457,488
 Measuring can, F. C. H. Strasburger 457,536
 Meter. See Electric meter.
 Milk cooler, Heulings, Jr., & Evans 457,533
 Mill. See Cane mill. Rolling mill.
 Miner's squib, J. R. Powell 457,499
 Mining drill, J. M. A. Ball 457,425
 Mop holder, A. H. Jackson 457,425
 Mortising machine, Passel & Sofge 457,368
 Motor. See Car motor. Electric motor. Gas motor.
 Music boxes, safety check for, J. Billon-Hallor 457,574
 Music score holder, P. O'Carroll 457,574
 Musical instrument, mechanical, W. O. Spaethe 457,445
 Musical instrument, valved, F. Basson 457,337
 Nail cutting machine, E. H. Bissett 457,416
 Nails, making furniture, J. Berbecker 457,597
 Needle threader, J. Parling et al. 457,474
 Noodle cutting machine, Schuermans & Fuldheim 457,624
 Oil, bow facing, G. R. Merrell 457,655
 Oil projectile and distributor, E. D. Moore 457,554
 Ore grinding and amalgamating apparatus, Stahl & Rew 457,541
 Organs, wood chest for, C. G. Weigle 457,688
 Oven, electrically heated, W. Mitchell 457,745
 Package carrier, S. R. Dummer 457,499
 Packing, stuffing box, H. S. Ross 457,566
 Pad press, M. V. B. Bean 457,636
 Pad pressed, finishing plate for, M. V. B. Bean 457,637
 Padlock, S. P. Stadel 457,637
 Paper, automatic machine for inserting and looping wire in packages of, W. M. Hunt 457,571
 Paste-making machine, J. W. Meyer 457,616
 Pea sheller, E. C. Moulton 457,538
 Pen, fountain, L. Woolfolk 457,470
 Pen rack, L. Coleman 457,759
 Pencils, means for attaching rubber tips to, E. Faber 457,579
 Phonogram blanks, smoothing tool for, T. A. Edison 457,344
 Photographing, H. H. Hamburger 457,712
 Piano action, A. H. Hastings 457,714
 Piano action, S. R. Perry 457,666
 Pianoforte action, W. Rohling, Jr. 457,590
 Piano pedal, S. Seeley 457,592
 Picture frames, manufacture of, F. Koskul 457,478
 Pin. See Clothes pin.
 Pictures, auto for, A. M. Herring 457,716
 Planter, Bourrel & Harrison 457,699
 Planter, corn, G. J. Cline 457,388
 Plow attachment, F. R. Winter 457,689
 Plow, cotton, J. J. Leviston 457,454
 Plow, wheel, J. M. A. Ball 457,622
 Plow, marker attachment for, I. D. Marley 457,633
 Pocket guard and pen and pencil holder, M. Brewer 457,340
 Pottery kiln, J. McCloskie 457,465
 Power. See Horse power.
 Preserving apparatus, L. Brogha 457,471
 Press. See Hand press. Hay press. Pad press.
 Printer's quoin, A. B. Wilson 457,501
 Printing machine gripper mechanism, J. T. Hawkins et al. 457,715
 Printing machine, multi-color, F. F. W. Oldfield 457,693
 Propeller, C. F. Littlejohn 457,513
 Propelling vessel, H. H. Olds 457,430
 Propelling vessels, machinery for, H. P. Holland 457,437
 Propelling vessels, means for, C. J. Menges 457,426
 Protector. See Heel protector.
 Puddler's balls, making, H. A. Jones 457,332
 Pulley, J. Hampton 457,644
 Pump machine, automatic covering device for, O. J. Thomas 457,467
 Pump, electric air, Dittmar & Falkenhausen 457,762
 Pump, steam and vacuum, E. Korting 457,729
 Rack. See Cheese rack. Pen rack.
 Radiator, W. Burlington 457,601
 Radiator, W. L. Johnson 457,649
 Railway, electric, R. M. Hunter 457,736
 Railway, electric, M. H. Smith 457,382
 Railway fastening for metallic ties, R. Morrell 457,580
 Railway rail brace, W. Goldie 457,585
 Railway rail fastening for metallic ties, R. Morrell 457,518
 Railway rails to longitudinal sleepers, attaching, J. P. C. Stromeier 457,735
 Railway spike, W. Goldie 457,582
 Railway switch, automatic, J. McCarthy 457,547
 Railway switch, street, H. H. Olds 457,404
 Railway tie, H. R. Morrell 457,517
 Railway tie plate, W. Goldie 457,584
 Railway track clamp, J. F. Adams 457,586
 Railway trolley, electric, S. H. Short 457,377
 Railway trolley pole, electric, C. A. Lieb 457,356
 Railways, pole, trolley and stand for electric street, H. E. Adams 457,334
 Rake. See Hay rake.
 Register. See Cash register.
 Rein fastening, C. F. Harlow 457,532
 Rock drill, G. M. Githens 457,348
 Rolling mill, H. H. J. H. Bickley, Jr. 457,437
 Rolling mill, H. H. J. H. Bickley, Jr. 457,437
 Roof truss, H. C. Hodges 457,418
 Rotary furnace for burning cement, lime, etc., J. F. De Navarro 457,589
 Rotary trimmer, A. S. Vose 457,589
 Roundabout, V. Peter 457,619
 Ruby pin setter, W. R. Johnson 457,492
 Saddle, harness, M. M. Green 457,613
 Sash fastener, F. A. Marcell 457,615
 Savings receptacle, C. O. Burns 457,576
 Saw set, I. Smith 457,549
 Screen. See Extension screen.
 Sewing machine, P. Duocet 457,578
 Sewing machine feeding mechanism, Robinson & Stephenson 457,521
 Sewing machines, tension releasing device for buttonhole, G. S. Hill 457,463
 Shears. See Metal shears.
 Sheet metal can, Reiset & Waeber 457,456
 Sheller. See Pea sheller.
 Shoe, V. Straub 457,408
 Sky rocket, miniature, P. J. Sprague 457,383
 Snow and ice from railway tracks, apparatus for removing, N. H. Bruce 457,702
 Soldering iron and pot heater, portable, Nichols & Birnbaum 457,661
 Specimen box, C. M. Bryant 457,758
 Spikes or nails, manufacturing, W. Goldie 457,583
 Spoon, W. S. O'Brien 457,748
 Spoon, orange, A. F. Jackson 457,723

Spring. See Door spring. Vehicle spring.
 Sprocket wheel, T. J. Neave 457,420
 Stamp, hand, T. Wray & Pickup 457,432
 Stand. See Horsehoe stand.
 Stave sawing machine, J. Carter 457,386
 Steam engine, J. T. Williams 457,551
 Steam generator, E. A. Doty 457,640
 Steam generator and heater, electric, W. Mitchell 457,362
 Stone polishing machine, G. W. Stinebring 457,496
 Store service apparatus, D. Lippy 457,495
 Store service apparatus track, C. C. Rogers 457,689
 Stove, G. K. Chapman 457,433
 Stove attachment, H. E. Squires 457,751
 Stove, cooking, M. N. Piedra 457,667
 Stove, gas cooking, C. F. Spaulding 457,406
 Stoves or ranges, oven bottom plate for, D. G. Littlefield 457,403
 Street sweeping machine, C. C. Anderson 457,633
 Street sweeping machine, M. Hagarit 457,586
 Street sweeping machine, T. C. Myers 457,746
 Subaqueous structures, construction of, R. Hunt 457,438
 Suspenders, S. Clawson 457,448
 Switch, electric, for switching electric circuit switch, Railway switch.
 Switch, S. Bergmann 457,572
 Swivel joint, A. Ball 457,543
 Table. See Extension table. Ironing table.
 Target trap, P. North 457,442
 Telegraph for cable railways, signaling, T. A. B. Putnam 457,545
 Telephone system, automatic, Hayes & Sears 457,477
 Tellurian, C. A. Bowsler 457,487
 Tilt coupling, A. Niekamp 457,632
 Tie. See Railway tie.
 Timekeepers, balance staff for, J. E. Swarthout 457,631
 Tire, wheel, Sticht & Broecker 457,539
 Tobacco cutter, Harding & James 457,531
 Tobacco cutting machine, G. E. Le Clair 457,402
 Tobacco knife, W. S. Terrell 457,385
 Tobacco reweaving device, B. Martin 457,464
 Tool, combined, A. G. Armstrong 457,526
 Top, detonating, E. D. Pike 457,530
 Toy apparatus, G. A. Spence 457,533
 Toy figure, W. Church 457,397
 Trap. See Target trap.
 Trimmer, rotary trimmer.
 Trolley wire hanger, N. Newman 457,378
 Trousers flap supporter, C. S. Terpening 457,682
 Truck car, M. G. Hubbard 457,740
 Truck for electric motors, G. M. Brill 457,539
 Truss, J. MacArthur 457,747
 Typing machine, J. B. Odell 457,575
 Typing machine, Birch & Dancel 457,575
 Typing machine, J. G. & Becker 457,536
 Typing machine, C. S. Booth 457,575
 Typing machine, B. Metz 457,563
 Typing machine, W. S. Scudder 457,673
 Typing machines, cleaning attachment for, A. Pursell 457,620
 Typewriting machines, type cleaning brush for, F. Van Fleet 457,684
 Umbrella or parasol, J. H. Clogg 457,449
 Umbrella tip cup, A. Revel 457,607
 Valve, E. W. Bennett 457,526
 Valve and valve mechanism, P. J. Steinmesse 457,524
 Valve for steam engines, cut-off, E. Hill 457,568
 Valve, globe, S. C. Berry 457,629
 Valve mechanism for air brakes, auxiliary regulating, A. F. Riggs 457,670
 Vapor or gas burner, P. W. Way 457,680
 Valve, steam-actuated, A. Ball 457,585
 Vehicle, J. J. Gilbert 457,530
 Vehicle running gear, Warenskjold & Burgess 457,388
 Vehicle, short turning, C. Comstock 457,508
 Vehicle spring, D. Lippy 457,737
 Velocipede, A. H. Dobbie 457,425
 Velocipede saddle, G. Meader 457,654
 Vending machine, coin-operated, A. Brau 457,700
 Vise, R. W. Kenyon 457,353
 Vise, H. E. Long 457,419
 Vise, bench, J. F. Emme 457,710
 Wagon brake, F. E. Dobbie 457,544
 Wagon brake, M. Shive 457,544
 Wardrobe and desk, combined, T. A. Galt 457,450
 Washing machine, D. H. Mathias 457,452
 Washing machine, G. D. McIlvay 457,428
 Watch case hinge, G. Newton 457,739
 Waterways, balance lock for, C. N. Dutton 457,620
 Well boring apparatus, L. B. Hart 457,713
 Well drilling machine, C. E. Wyman 457,552
 Wheel, electric oil, C. W. & S. D. Robison 457,457
 Wheel. See Car wheel. Sprocket wheel.
 Wheel, E. G. Latta 457,494
 Wheel, J. F. Emme 457,668
 Wheels, sand band for vehicle, S. J. Gelusha 457,511
 Wick raiser, T. Hipwell 457,585
 Windmill, E. L. Stoner 457,384
 Window cleaning chair, A. Barnhart 457,685
 Window frames, machine for the manufacture of, J. Booth 457,698
 Window glass, operating bar for, G. H. Moll 457,427
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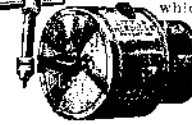
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