in the pipe except where it turns the pipe. Do you know of any way that we can conisfactorily, would also interfere with the action of a pump. If the pipe is of wrought iron, not galvanized, 'the objective with a meniscus of the same focus. it is liable to rust and form nodules on the inner surface throughout its length, which decreases the area and increases the friction. By raising the pipe at the river end and connecting with the water works pipe at insulator glasses? A. Yes. the factory end, giving the full pressure on the pipe pushing a smaller pipe through with a sharpened coupinch pipe. If there should be a full, strong flow from the pipe, the next possibility will be air leaks. To ascertain the fact, arrange the steam jet so as to discharge from an open pipe and start the jet. If there is air in the pipe or airleaks, the discharge will sputter, or become intermittent, possibly stop altogether. This is supposing that the start is made with the pipe fully charged with water. There is also a possibility that the separation of the air from the water by the partial vacuum in the siphon suction pipe may cause some trouble by accumulating at the apex and separating the water in the pipe. By your statement, your siphon has a probable lift of 26 feet or nearly its limit, and it e that this is the source of your trouble. You can transmit power to drive a pipe pump by a wire rope system from a pulley in the factory to a pulley at the river with a couple of supporting pulleys at prope distances to keep the wire rope from vibrating.

(4519) G. J. asks: 1. Is there in existence a perfectly working long-distance pneumatic ary 22. The projectiles were fired from the best breech tube system? A. No; probably a mile or less. 2. 5 or 6 miles. 3. What are the prospects of a near adoption of electricity on the steam railroads? A. The prospect is very distant. The system of wiring would be too intricate for the immense traffic and yard switching of our great railways.

(4520) Reader writes: Some years ago I saw at this place an exhibition wherein apparitions were made to appear on the stage by what was said to be the manipulation of mirrors under the stage of the theater. A form of a woman would appear, first in a transparent mist, and then would assume a perfectly lifelike appearance. A. The illusion to which you refer is produced by a plate glass mirror crected upon the stage at such an augle as to reflect the image of the figure below the front of the stage, a strong light being thrown upon the figure. This illusion is known as " Pepper's Ghost."

(4521) W. G. S. asks: For bathing purposes is artesian well water healthful or unhealthy? A. Artesian well water is healthy for bathing as much so as for household purposes. The wells that furnish hard water do not afford the satisfaction to bathers as the soft water wells. A little ammonia in the hard water makes a satisfactory and healthy bath. The mineral constituents of the hard water from artesian wells are principally lime and magnesia, with their various combinations. Some wells furnish water of decided sanitary properties.

(4522) E. G. A.—The following is a receipt for berb beer: Pour boiling water on 21/2 ounces sassafrass; 11/4 ounce wild cherry bark; 21/4 ounces allspice; 21/2 ounces wintergreen bark; 1/2 ounce hops; 1/2 ounce cortander seed; 2 gallons molasses. Let the mixture stand 1 day. Strain, add 1 pint yeast, enough water to make 15 gallons. This beer may be bottled

(4523) C. C. asks how to harden a chisel for chipping casehardened iron. A. Heat the chisel after sharpening to a low cherry red and then plunge it in a saturated solution of chloride of zinc. The chisel must be rebardened whenever it is sharpened.

(4524) F. S. B. writes: 1. It is said that if balls of wax and lead are dropped from the top of a Air, apparatus for heating compressed, R. A. building, they will fall together. Do you think this is wrong? A. There would be a difference, but it would be almost imperceptible. In a vacuum, both bodies would fall in the same time. 2. How do scientists explain that capillary attraction is not a case of work being done without an apparent loss of energy? A. In rising in a moisted tube water obeys the force of cohesion exercised over space, which represents the expenditure of energy. To extract the water from the tube, an exact equivalent of work would have to be done Potential energy is represented by the separation of the water in mass from the water wetting the walls of the tube, or by the separation of the water in mass from the dry walls of the tube, if we assume a dry tube to be used, and adhesion to be one of the actuating

(4525) W. E. P. asks: How should the 8-light dynamo be connected for the best results, when used for charging storage batteries, and how many will it fill; hatteries to be connected in series, and using a 1-horse power Shipman engine for power? Dynamo is now connected as shown in Fig. 1 (large cut) in SUPPLEMENT 600. A. The 8-light dynamo should be connected in series for use in charging storage cells. You should connect your cells in series. The dynamo will charge from 10 to 20 cells. The rapidity of charging diminishes with the increase in the number.

(4526) J. M. writes: 1. Please give some antiseptics for a gelatine emulsion for dry plates? A. SUPPLEMENT No. 541 contains full instructions for making mulsons, 2. Where may the wooden valves used in the air pump, Experimental Science, p. 92, be bought? A. These valves are not on sale. They are easily made, and with very little effort you can make them yourse'f. 3. How could the motor, on p. 498 of the same book, he best converted into a dynamo, and what would be the power of the same? Also name books con- Car brakes, slack djuster for, F. J. Cole....... 481,784

work any better than the jet. We use the city water taining instructions for making simple dynamos, withworks for cleaning out the pipe when it gets dirty. out the need of lathes or special tools. A. Make the field magnets of cast iron, and wind the field magnet down in the well; all other turns were made by bending and armature with No. 20 or No. 22 wire. 4 I have a lantern which is identical with the one described on vey power to the river, such as compressed air or some | p. 594, but have not changed it in any way. It shows other way, by which we can force the water up to fac- colored slides quite well, but will not show a good tory without too much outlay? A. The obstruction in picture off a photo, slide. How could I change it? A. the pipe that prevents the jet pump from working sat- Modify the lantern in the manner described in Experimental Science, that is to say, replace the front lens of

> (4527) J. F. R. asks: Is it safe to fasten a lightning rod to a wooden house with staples, without

(4528) W. C. Moore writes: I inclose. would show by the stream at the river end whether the you will find, a leaf of a plant found in west North pipe is permanently obstructed. If found to be ob- Carolina the natives call "gall of the earth" or "ratstructed, the pipe should be taken up and cleaned by tlesnake's king," the milk white juice of which is said to be an immediate and sure cure for rattlesnake bites. I ling on the end, a little smaller than the bore of the 116 have made some notes on the subject. So please let me know if it is generally known to the scientific world, and what its analysis is, and I will be pleased to furnish you specimens and what information I can procure. Answer by Prof. C. V. Riley: The leaf accompanying Mr. Moore's letter is what is known as rattlesnake root, Prenanthes altissima, Hook. It is referred in the botanies to the genus Nabalus, and is popularly known as white lettuce, rattlesnake root, etc. There may be some foundation for the belief your correspondent refers to, and the common name of the plants of the genus would indicate such a property. I cannot find, however, any authorities which accord to it this power of curing rattlesnake bites. It is used as an astringent in dysentery, and an analysis of the plant which has been made indicates that it contains tannin and various inert properties.

(4529) G. C. H. writes: I send you by mail to-day, under a separate cover, two bullets which were picked out of the snow after a target shoot Februloading target rifles with beavy charges of powder, What is the longest electric railway in existence? A, and, after flight of (200) two hundred yards, passed through a paper target backed by one thickness of cotton cloth (sheeting), then entered the snow, penetrating but a few inches, and were picked up with the points marked as you now see them. The feature to which I specially desire to call your attention is this peculiar marking upon the point. It is a reproduction of the surface of the cloth, in which you can trace every thread of the fabric. It is possible that the tremendous velocity of the bullet made the impact equivalent to the blow upon a stationary and immovable object, or that a small piece of the cloth may have been ' punched out, and, going forward with the bullet, was impressed between the bullet and the snow. The matter may be sufficiently interesting for you to express an opinion upon. A. Your first explanation appears reasonable.

An ex erience of forty years, and the preparation of more than one hundred thousand applications for patents at home and abroad, enable us to understand the laws and practice on both continents, and to possess unequaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere. A synopsis of the patent laws of the United States and all foreign countries may be had on application, and persons contemplating the securing of patents, either at home or abroad, are invited to write to this office for prices which are low, in accordance with the times and our extensive facilities for conducting the business. Address MUNN & CO., office Scientific American, 361 Broad-

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

August 30, 1892,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE

481,639

[See note at end of listahout copies of these patents.]

	Parke	481,623
ł	Air brake coupling, J. T. Hayden	481,651
ł	Air compressor, M. Dillenburg	481,850
ı	Air ducts, sheet metal, J. N. Lake	481,620
ı	Alarm. See Door alarm.	
ı	Anchor, R. S. R. Chrietzberg	481,782
ı	Animal shears, C. & H. Burgon	481,844
÷	Animal trap, C. B. Trum ble	481,707
	Anchor, R. S. R. Chrietzberg Animal shears, C. & H. Burgon Animal trap, C. B. Trumble Armatures, device for removing, S. H. Sharp-	
1	steen	481,833
	Axle bearing, S. S. Arnold	481,545
	steen Axle bearing, S. S. Arnold Axle bearing, T. J. McGee. Azimuth circle, E. S. Ritchie	481,911
	Azimuth circle, E. S. Ritchie	481,625
	Baby walker, P. Wiberg Balance, proportional, O. H. Jadwin	481,609
	Balance, proportional, O. H. Jadwin	481,618
١	Balance, recording, C. F. Ames	481,543
١	Band cutter and feeder, Johnson & Phillips	481,570
١	Barrel stand, C. Rettig. Basic lining, J. Reese. Battery. See Galvanic battery. Secondary bat-	481,640
١	Basic lining, J. Recse	481,869
÷	Battery. See Galvanic Dattery. Secondary Dat-	
•	tery.	104 000
	Bedstead brace, J. Gribben	481,628
	Bedstead, folding, F. Hamblin Beer, ale, etc., chip for, J. J. Wolf	481,757
	Beer, are, etc., chip for, J. J. Wolf	481,774
	Bicycle, F. Jewett	481,569
	Bicycle, F. Jewett Bicycle, L. J. Phelps Bicycle carrier attachment, M. E. Blood Bicycle supporting frame, R. A. Engler.	481,734
	Bicycle carrier attachment, M. E. Blood	481,890
	Bicycle sup porting frame, R. A. Engler	481,751
	Board. See Keyboard.	
	Boarders and distributing oil, apparatus for re- pelling, F. Eyle	401 615
ď	Boat. See Life boat.	401,019
	Boiler. See Steam boiler.	
	Pollon C T Diren	481 PoQ
	Rookhinding machine R. Rurnet	481 194
	Boring machine work holder F. Scheidt	481 737
	Rottle stopper W. J. Ferris	481 616
	Boiler, G. E. Dixon Bookbinding machine, R. Burnet. Boring machine work holder, F. Scheidt. Bottle stopper, W. J. Ferris. Bottle stopper and cover, automatic, C. Weine-	3014010
	del	481.644
	del Box. See Butter box. Letter box. Mail box.	-02,022
	Box board matcher and jointer, E. Fischer	481,752
	Rrake See Magnetic brake	
	Brace. See Bedstead brace. Brick, P. S. Loveridge	
	Brick, P. S. Loveridge	481,700
•	Bullets. machine for swaging and creasing, J. F.	•
	McGrail Bureau and washstand, combined, H. Couillard	481,731
	Bureau and washstand, combined, H. Couillard	481,848
	Burial apparatus. J. B. Beugler	481,840
	Burner. See Lamp burner.	404
	Butter bax, Meloney & Criswell	481,801
•	Butter box, Meloney & Criswell	481,767
	Button attaching machine, C. M. Platt481,587,	481,588
	Buttons, sale card for, C. F. G. R. Schwerdt	481,832
	Calendar, C. N. Hoyt. Camera plate attachment, G. L. Minear	481,563
	Camera plate attachment, G. L. Minear	481,602
•	Can. See Roving can.	401 WC+
	Can testing machine, Kendall & Schaake	481,764
	Can testing machine, Kendall & Schaake	401,626

Car coupling, T. J. Booz	81, 1	Lightning arrester cut-out, J. P. Freeman 481,617
Car coupling, J. S. Hunter	1,567	Lock, W. H. Blaney. 481,889 Lock, J. Roche. 481,736
Car dump, J. Odorizzi	1,811	Magnetic brake, A. de Bovet
Car, step, extensible, W. H. Voss. 48 Car, street, J. A. Mehling. 48 Car, vestibule, G. Hancock. 48	31,658 31,800 31,902	Mail bags, crane for suspending, E. A. Ray. 481,673 Mail box, G. S. Light 481,621 Malt drying kiln, C. G. Bosch 481,687
Car wheel, H. Guels	81,862 81,829 81,749	Match safe, automatic, G. W. Heffner
Carrier. See Reel carrier. Cart, dumping, W. H. & H. S. Bowler	1,843	Meat cutter, O. D. Woodruff 481,882 Medical compound, Page & Apfel 481,815 Meacher Edward Page & Apfel 481,815
Case. See Watch case. Cash register and indicator, E. F. Roberts 48	31,824	R. H. Little 481,908 Mossenger's picket, J. C. Hays. 481,867
Beck	31,777	Lightning arrester cut-out, J. P. Freeman. 481,617 Liquid dispensing apparatus, R. H. Little. 481,688 Lock, J. Roche. 481,785 Lock, J. Roche. 481,785 Lock, J. Roche. 481,785 Lock, N. G. Sorensen. 481,597 Magnetic brake, A. de Bovet. 57 Magnetic brake, A. de Bovet. 481,812 Mail bags, crane for suspending, E. A. Ray. 481,613 Mail bags, crane for suspending, E. A. Ray. 481,613 Mail box, G. S. Light. 481,621 Malt drying kiln, C. G. Bosch. 481,621 Match safe, automatic, G. W. Heffner. 481,687 Match safe, automatic, G. W. Heffner. 481,687 Measuring device, liquid, J. Roos. 481,812 Measuring device, liquid, J. Roos. 481,812 Meat cutter, O. D. Woodruff. 481,822 Medical compound, Page & Apfel. 481,815 Merchandise, apparatus for dispensing articles of, R. H. Little. 481,867 Metal plate fastening, W. C. Hunter. 481,568 Molet rap, Oerther & Dillingham. 481,562 Molet rap, Oerther & Dillingham. 481,563 Motor. See Car motor. Electric motor. Spring motor. Music leaves, rap for C. E. Pidgin. 481,735
Beck New Yorking metals, apparatus for use in W.E. May Casting maching type, T. K. Kinshillwood	31,760	motor. See Car motor. Electric motor. Spring motor. Music leaves, tab for, C. F. Pidgin
Celling, consister combined inter, K. Guastevino, 42 Celery digging machine, M. M. Ranney, 45 Chains, machine for making sheet metal, Austin & Lewis, Jr. 42	31,755 31,813 31,819	Music leaves, tab for, C. F. Pidgin. 481.735 Musical instrument, J. B. Galloway 481.634 Musical and making the same, artificial, A. Baur. 481.685 Nailing machine box. B. M. Gunston. 481.685 Oil upon water, device for distributing, S. I. Pres-
Chains, machine for making sheet metal, Austin & Lewis, Jr	81,776	Oil upon water, device for distributing, S. I. Prescott
Chair, J. W. McDonough 48 Chandelier, extension, F. Overholt 48 Chonning machine G. W. Mason 48	31,582 31,814 31,766	cott
Chains, machine for making sheet metal, Austin & Lewis, Jr. 4 Chair, J. W. McDonough 48 Chair, J. W. McDonough 48 Chapping machine, G. W. Mason 48 Churn, G. S. Agee 46 Churn, G. S. Agee 46 Cigar bunching machine, F. & E. H. Thompson 48 Cleaner See Gun cleaner Clock, electric central, N. Prokhoroff 48 Closet See Water closet	81,542 81,564	Packing metallic rod, J. C. Chapman 481,662 Pad. See Dress pad.
Cigar ounching machine, F. & E. H. Thompson 48 Cleaner. See Gun cleaner. Clock, electric central, N. Prokhoroff 48	31,722 31,916	Pad See Dress pad. 481,688 Paddele wheel for steamers. J. Howard. 481,651 Padlock, combination, H. H. Daniels. 481,551 Pantograph tracing and cugraving machine, Bryce & Knox. 481,651 Paper bag machine, A. C. Getten. 481,652 Paper holder, toilet, M. A. Brown. 481,612 Paper roll holder and cutter, knockdown, Beach & Booth. 481,620 Paper, safety, A. Schlumberger. 481,730 Pavement, brick, J. R. Haldeman. 481,736 Plckle lifter, J. A., Jr., & J. W. Currie. 481,639 Pin. See Safety pln. 481,746 Pipe. See Stove plpe. 481,746
Clothes drying machine, F. Schilz et al	31,738 31.80 6	Bryce & Knox
Clutch, friction, W. Kershaw	8 1,794 81,775	Paper roll holder and cutter, knockdown, Beach & Booth
Coal screen, S. Griffiths	31,754 31,769	Pavement, brick, J. R. Haldeman 481,756 Pickle lifter, J. A., Jr., & J. W. Currie 481,691 Pin Se Safety nin
Boice 48 Cojn-controlled mechanism, H. E. Perry 48 Combing mechanism of Zigeler 46	81,547 81,816	Pin sticking machine, E. A. Burgess
Clutch, friction, W. Kershaw Coal, electrically driven machinery for cutting, L. B. & C. W. Atkinson. L. B. & C. W. Atkinson. L. B. & C. W. Atkinson. 4. Coal screen, S. Griffiths. 4. Coffee pot. R. F. Randall. 4. Coffee pots, etc., sediment gatherer for, J. C. W. 4. Composition of the control of the control of the composition of the composition of the composition of the composition of the control of the composition of the control of the composition of the control of	1,773 31,837	Pipe. See Stove pipe. 481,544 Plicher, ice, R. Arnold. 481,852 Planter, corn, H. H. Dougherty. 481,862 Planter, potato, S. C. Schoñeld. 481,642 Plow, O. T. Jensen. 481,633 Plow, J. F. B. Lorentzen. 481,633 Plow, E. L. Ward. 481,791 Pole tip, vehicle, T. J. Houghton. 481,791 Post hole digger, W. Z. Brown 481,638 Pot. See Coffee pot. 481,638 Potato cutter, F. Jackson. 481,629
Corn popper, D. Swenson	31,877	Plow, J. F. B. Lorentzen. 481,633 Plow, E. L. Ward. 481,708
nned, W. C. Huss. Coupling. See Air brake coupling. Car coupling. Universal coupling.	81,568	Pole tip, vehicle, T. J. Houghton. 481,791 Pole, vehicle, J. P. Johnson. 481,698 Post hole digger, W. Z. Brown 481,698
Universal coupling. Cultivator attachment, A. S. Gilkey. Curtain fixture, C. M. Banks. Curtain rod, S. R. Scottron. Cut-off, rain water, W. C. Maxfield. Cut-out, ceiling rosette, Pass & Seymour. 48 Cutter. See Band cutter. Meat cutter. Potato	81,667 81 684	Pot. See Coffee pot. Potato cutter W Jackson 481.629
Cut-off, rain water, W. C. Maxfield	81,635 81,624	Press. See Letter press. Pressure regulator, fluid, W. B. Mason
cutter head and knife, C. Grotz	81,861	Puller. See Sprout puller. Pulley, split, D.G. Reitz. 481,871
et al	81,656 81,608	Punching machine, J. Long. 481,574 Puzzle, J. W. Hale. 481,561
Dental burring tool, R. G. Stanfrough	81,711	Quoin, C. W. Waldron
Door closer, A. D. Lodge	81,798 81,727 81,853	Radiator, graduating steam, J. T. Hawkins
cutter. Cutter head and knife, C. Grotz. Cutter bead and knife, C. Grotz. Cutter or drill applicable to coal, etc., H. Renold et al. Cyclometer, F. C. Weston 4 Dental burring tool, R. G. Stanbrough 4 Digger. See Post hole digger. Potato digger. Door alarm, electric, M. W. Bessey. 4 Door closer, A. D. Lodge. 4 Drainage trap, E. E. Gold 4 Drawer pull, R. Eichstaedt. 4 Dress pad, E. Goldman. 4 Drill. See Rock drill. Dyeing with alizarin, H. N. F. Schaeffer. 4	81,788 81,591	Rail joint spoll for forming connecting plates for, Lentz & Thompson
Election booth, J. Jones. 48 Electric circuit connection, A. Noll 48 Electric conducting wires sefety attachment for	81,571 81,914	Railway, electric, R. M. Hunter
Electric conductor conduit, A. Noll481,912, 49	81,666 81,913	Railway signal, automatic mechanical block, Young & Willever
Furgang 4.	81,665 81,785	Railway time signal, A. H. Thorp. 481,723 Rake. See Hand rake.
Electric machine, dynamo, Andrews & Spencer (r)	11,266	Ratchet wrench, P. Cossette
Electric motor and regulating device therefor, F. J. Sprague	81,739	Potato digrer, P. J. Wilborg 481,645 Press. See Letter press. Printing and adding machine, check, C. W. Weiss Printing and adding machine, check, C. W. Weiss Printing and adding machine, check, C. W. Weiss Puller. See Sprout puller. Puller. See Sprout puller. Puller. See Sprout Puller. See Sprout Puzzle, A. C. Proctor 481,563 Puzzle, A. C. Proctor 481,561 Puzzle, A. C. Proctor 481,651 Puzzle, A. C. Waldron Radiator, graduating steam, J. J. Sullivan Radiator, graduating steam, J. T. Hawkins 481,789 Radiator shield, G. E. Dixon 481,797 Rail chair, C. E. Mark 481,578 Rail chair, C. E. Mark 481,578 Railway signal, automatic mechanical block Young & Willever 481,566 Railway time signal, W. D. & E. L. Mitchell 481,561 Railway time signal, A. H. Thorp 481,723 Rake, See Hand rake 481,630 Raccord, diary, and ledger, combined, H. Meyer 481,663 Raccuster, J. F. Schneider 481,660 Refisse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J. J. Refuse of cities, apparatus for treating the, J.
Electric conductors, safety attachment for, R. Furgang	81,701 81,577 81, 5 80	Storer See Cash register. 481,680 Register. See Cash register. Regulator. Repulator. See Pressure regulator. Rheostat, C. E. Carpenter 481,781 Rock drill, steam actuated, S. & W. R. Lloyd 481,632 Rock drilling machine, W. X. Stevens. 481,588 Rock drilling machine, N. Widman. 481,610 Rod. See Curtain rod.
Embroidering machines, fabric holder for, T. D. Elsner	81,553	Rheostat, C. E. Carpenter. 481,781 Rock drill, steam actuated, S. & W. R. Lloyd. 481,632 Rock drilling machine. W. X. Stevens. 481,598
Embroidering machines, fabric holder for, T. D. Elsner. Engine. See Compound engine. Engine. See Compound engine. Envelope machine. L. F. Bouvier. Evaporating apparatus. portable, T. E. Richard. Exercising machine, C. G. Miller. Fan, electric, F. H. Berrs. Fence wire tightener, B. C. Wickers. Fencing, die for use in machines for making metallic. T. V. Allis. Ferrule, W. H. Gaskill. Fifth wheel, H. Olsen. File, document, E. A. Sharp. File, revolving paper, R. E. Ferguson. Filter, J. M. Wasson. Filter, J. M. Wasson. Fire seape, Bergeron & Bedard. Fire secape, Bergeron & Bedard. Fire secape, J. A. Hunt. Fishing real, J. Borchardt. Flush tank, Williams & Poore. Fly trap, mechanical, E. Rathgeb. Frame. See Bicycle supporting frame. Furnace. See Open hearth furnace. Smelting furnace.	81,779 81,675 81,730	Rock drilling machine, N. Widman
Fan, electric, F. H. Beers. Fence wire tightener, B. C. Wickers. Fencing die fornse in machines for making me-	81,646 81,880	Roller See Shade roller
tallic, T. V. Allis 4 Ferrule, W. H. Gaskill 4 Ferrule, W. H. Gleskill 4	81,918 81,753	Roving can, A. B. Fisher 481,554 Saddle, harness, D. F. Maine 481,765 Saddle, harness, D. F. Maine 481,765
File, document, E. A. Sharp	81,593 81,857	Sail, A. S. Comstock 481,614 Sash fastener, C. O. Birney 481,546 Open 481,546
Fire alarm system, auxiliary, J. Sachs	81,590 81,888	Sash holder, S. B. Morss
Fire escape, C. M. Fowler Fire escape, A. B. Criuckshank 4 Fire escape, J. A. Hunt.	81,618 81,849 81,565	Saw swinging, B. Bronson 481,44 Saw tooth, J. W. Todd 481,836 Sawing machine drag, L. Forsman 481,555
Fishing reel, J. Borchardt. 4 Flush tank, Williams & Poore. 4 Fly trap, mechanical, E. Rathgeb. 4	81,743 181,710 81,820	Sawing machine, rail, Smith & Brady
Frame. See Bicycle supporting frame. Furnace. See Open hearth furnace. Smelting furnace.	•	Seving machine tai, 18,1892 Sereen See Coal screen. Seal, B. J. Brooks
Furnace grate, E. C. Sooy	81,596 81,831	Secondary battery, W. W. Griscom
Galvanic battery. W. J. Engledue. 4 Game apparatus, J. W. Buck. 4 Came apparatus, A. Scholz	81,664 81,548	Shutterworker, N. Saltmarsh
Game counter, Sturgls, Jr., & Peck. 4 Game, parlor, S. George. 4	81,657 81,859	Signal timing apparatus, H. A. Chase 481,613 Sled, bob, S. F. Sparr 481,643
Gas heater or radiat or, A. Wolff	81,742 81,604	Smoke consumer, J. Sargent. Matney 481,705 Soap, Gray & Simmons 481,860
Gases, impregnating liquids with, U. Bachmann. 4 Gate, G. W. Spidel	81,838 : 81,876 : 81,805 :	Sole, H. W. Merrill
Glycerine, apparatus for rectifying, R. O. Unglaub	81,879	Spinning and twisting machines, traverse motion for, R. Dawes
glaub. Gold and silver from their ores, method of and apparatus for extracting, Aylsworth & Payne 4 Grain drier conveyer, E. M. Parker. Grating, Jail, G. L. Norrman. Grinding mowing machine knives, machine for, M. Balmes. Guest call, electric, F. Benner. Gun cleaner, W. H. Ferris. Guns, apparatus for moderating the recoil of, L. Denoyelle. Gymnastic apparatus, C. C. Neily. Hame fastener, R. G. Armstrong. Hand rake, T. Coldwell. Harross, hanger for swinging, R. G. Armstrong. Harrow for listed corn, R. Lyons.	81,683 81,672 81,915	Spring. See Vehicle spring. Spring motor Lang & Roper
Grinding mowing machine knives, machine for, M. Balmes	 81,886 81.919	Sprout puller, G. T. Cull
Gun cleaner, W. H. Ferris. 4 Guns, apparatus for moderating the recoil of, I	81,858	Stand. See Barrel stand. Stapling machine attachment, H. E. Cunningham 481,786 Stapling haller G. Lentz.
Gymnastic apparatus, C. C. Neily	81,807 181,725	Steam trap, C. Taylor. 481,601 Stitching with staples, machine for, R. Burnet 481,747 Stopper. See Bottle stopper. Stove and draft regulatortherefor, heating, Riepe
Harness, hanger for swinging, R. G. Armstrong. 4 Harrow for listed corn, R. Lyons.	81,627 481,634	Stove and draft regulatortherefor, heating, Riepe Jr., & Hilgeman
Harness, hanger for swinging, R. G. Armstrong. 4 Harrow for listed corn, R. Lyons. 4 Harvester and binder, J. M. Trier. 4 Hay and grain loader, F. J. Lovell. 4 Heater. See Gas heater. 4 Heater for food, etc., G. L. Hinderer. 4 Holder. See Paper holder. Paper roll holder. Sash holder. Sash holder.	81,699	J. F. Myers
Hinger. See Paper holder. Paper roll holder.	181,759 181,732	Sulky, E. S. Frazier
Sash holder. Honey cells and combs, making artificial, Mason & Moskovits	481,578	Tank See Fiush tank Tank Cank Tank See Fiush tank Tank Cank Tank T
Horse boot, J. Hoar	181,790 181,716 181,603	Telephone exchange, C. E. Scribner. 481,679 Telephone exchange system, multiple switch board, C. E. Scribner 481,678
Indicator. See Valve motion indicator. Inkstand, Foster & Farrell	181,649 181.600	Telephony, system of, E. Thomson
Sash holder. Honey cells and combs, making artificial, Mason & Moskovits Horse boot, J. Hoar. Horseshoe, H. Olson Hub attaching device, I. Van Winkle. Indicator. See Valve motion indicator. Instand, Foster & Farrel. Instand, C. R. Straughn Instruction in reading and calculating, device for W. W. Hallett. Insulator, pipe, G. E. Dixon Iron and steel, manufaccture of, J. P. Witherow.	481,728 481,800	Stopper. See Hottle stopper. Stope and draft regulator therefor, heating, Riepe Jr., & Hilgeman. 481,870
Iron and steel, manufacture of, J. P. Witherow. 4 Jack. See Wagon jack. Joint. See Rail way joint. Railway rall joint.	81,881	& Hamill 481,793 Tire, pneumatic, Wellstein & Maxfield 481,881 Toe weight for horses H Armstrond 491,793
Jack. See Wagon jack. Joint. See Railway joint. Railway rall joint. Keyboard, transposing, R. E. Bell	481,778 481 500	Tool, C. E. Harris. 481,865 Toy mortar, G. B. Nichols. 481,808 Trescipt tool T. E. Sive. 481,808
Knife blade machine, T. R. Moore Knitfe blade machine, electrically controlled stop motion for, V. S. Clute	481,804	Tracing tool, T. E. Sipe. 481,721 Track sanding apparatus, C. W. Sherburne481,594 Transom lifter, J. F. Wollensak. 481,917 Trap. See Animal trap. Drain trap. Fly trap.
		1 34-1-4 044
F. Lasher. Labeling machine, can, P. Crittenden. Lamp, argand, F. Rhind. Lamp burner, B. P. Luce. Lamp burner, R. A. Wentworth. Lamp, duplex arc, C. E. Scribner. Lamp, electric cigar lighting, W. J. Eastman. Lamp wick lift, H. L. Clark. Lamps, wick raiser for central draft, W. L. Upson fatch. Gampton & Lefebyre.	181,896 181,674 181,729	mole trap. Steam trap. 481,817 Trolley carriage for conduits, S. L. Platt. 481,817 Trolling spoon, H. Loftie. 481,652 Truck gear, car. E. Peckham. 481,704 Truss, J. M. Oakey. 481,564 Tübe. See Glass tube.
Lamp burner, R. A. Wentworth	481,607 481,677 481,692	Tube. See Glass tube. Turning machine, bandle, W. D. Snyder
Lamp wick lift, H. L. Clark. Lamps, wick raiser for central draft, W. L. Upson Latch, Canguon & Lefebyre.	481,748 481,741 481,557	Type bars, machine for producing, J. C. Fowler. 481,920 Type writing machine, L. P. Diss. 481,750 Type writing machine. A. M. English 481,750
Latch, C. W. Monroe Lathe, C. G. Richardson. Laundry drying soom I E Chappall	481,910 481,717 481 945	Unicycle, A. & F. Yost. 481,883 Universal coupling, R. S. Brown. 481,780 Urn, coffee, F. Doesing
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Lifter. See Pickle lifter. Transom lifter.		Mills. 481,671

Vehicle sand band, W. Klockau
Vohicle seats lazy back for Brunsman & Hekotter 481.745
Vehicle spring, G. T. Glover
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Washer, See Ore washer.
Washing machine, R. Bitner
Watch care V Nivots 48LXIII
Water closet S E Hughes 481.761
Water closet, S. E. Hughes 481,761 Weigher, automatic grain. D. J. O'Connor 481,810 Weil boring apparatus, D. L. Monroe 481,636
Well boring apparatus D. L. Monroe
Wheel. See Car wheel. Fifth wheel. Paddle
wheel.
Wheel, J. Rees. 481,821 Wheel, J. W. Rhodes. 481,822
Wheel J W Rhodes 481.822
Windmill, G W. Campbell 481,712
Windo w seat, W. Engler
Wire tightener, L. M. Johnson
Wood, tool for ornamenting the surfaces of, C. M.
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Wrench. See Carriage wrench. Ratchet wrench. Yoke, neck, L. W. Rothrock
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Button, campaign, W. S. How	21,81
Car body, railway, Sloan & Gallagher	21,82
Carpet, P. C. Chambellan	21.82
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Whin I Pomery	21 81

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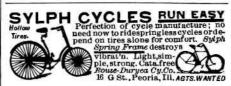


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