

Fall of Aerolites.

A dispatch in the New York *Tribune* from Ossawatomie, Kan., states that an aerolite fell near that town in the afternoon, April 8, striking the monument to John Brown, "Ossawatomie Brown," as he was sometimes called, erected to him by private subscription originated by Horace Greeley in 1863. The meteor broke off the left arm of the statue. It passed through the dome and nave in a slightly southeasterly direction, and through six feet of clay just south of the crypt, stopping only at bedrock. Experts say the aerolite is composed of metal supposed to exist only in the sun.

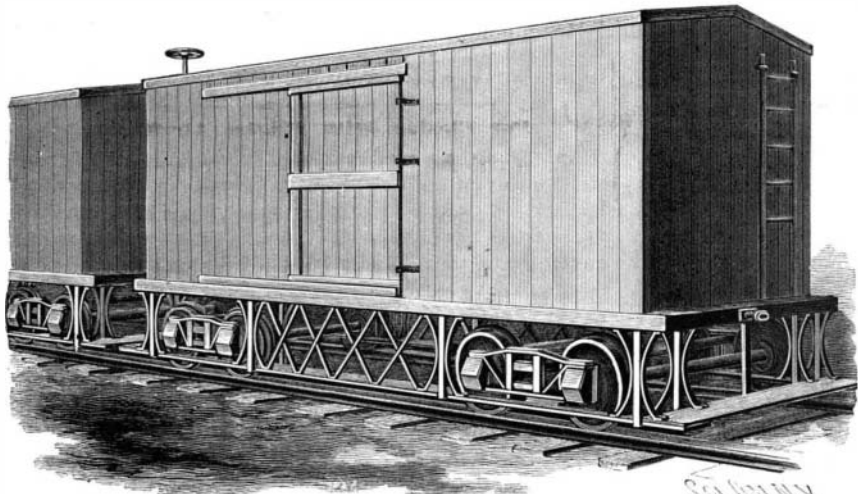
The Cleveland, O., *Leader* states that on April 4, at Washington, Oregon, a meteorite, weighing about 80 pounds, was excavated by workmen employed by the Rev. T. B. Collins, a former citizen of this place. Mr. Collins, at the request of a Chicago college, set men to work making the excavation.

Ever since the night of May 12, 1886, it has been the opinion of our citizens that at a spot beneath a large oak tree, near the corner of Main and Temple Streets, a meteoric stone was embedded in the earth. On that night a terrific electrical storm was raging, when citizens in that part of town who happened to be looking out of their windows saw an immense ball of fire traveling at an incredible speed toward the earth. It came crashing down through a large tree, struck the curbstone, and scattered portions of it fifty feet around. Window lights were broken in the houses throughout that locality, and the report sounded like the report from a big cannon. A large hole was made in the earth, but, strangely, it was left to this late day to discover the meteorite.

On April 4 the workmen discovered a soft streak in the earth, and followed it to the depth of nine feet. There, embedded in the earth, was a meteorite several feet in circumference and oblong in shape.

A RAILWAY CAR LIFE GUARD.

The life guard attachment shown in the illustration extends all round the car, so that there is no liability of a person getting under the wheels in falling at either side or end of a car, or between cars. The im-



HENTHORNE'S CAR ATTACHMENT.

provement has been patented by Mr. Henry Henthorne, of No. 345 North Fourth Street, Newark, O. The guard preferably extends to within about three inches of the rails, its bottom boards being located directly in the line of the car wheels, and extending somewhat beyond the car ends, where there are transverse end boards. In the bottom boards are openings of just sufficient size to accommodate the wheels, and the device is supported from the trucks by stirrups or hangers, strengthened by oppositely disposed braces. At each side of the car between the trucks is also a latticework, serving not only to prevent a person getting under the car between the trucks, but to give additional strength to the guard. The end members of the guard project far enough out from the end of the car to permit of their use by the trainmen as a step or platform in coupling cars, the guards of two cars provided with the improvement coming so close together that there will not be room for a person to fall between them.

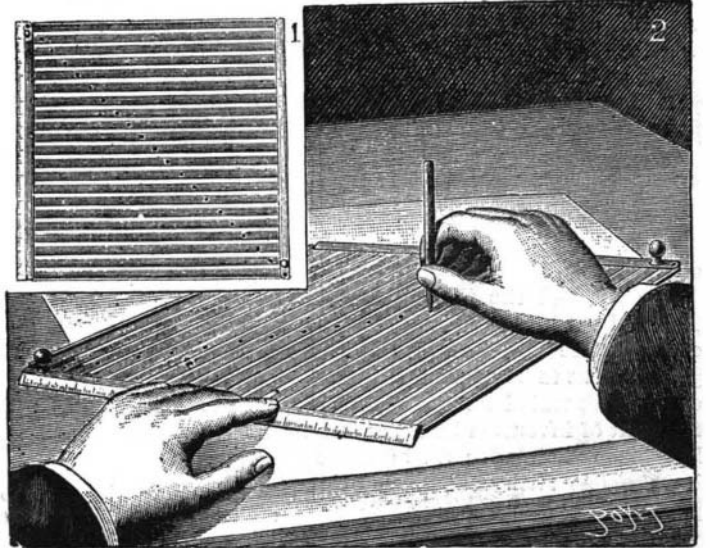
A Mosquito Exterminator.

The *Indian Medical Record* for March 16 says that a Bombay newspaper calls attention to the virtues of the castor oil plant as a means of protection against mosquitoes. In Egypt it is planted about houses to drive the insects away. In towns, a better plan is to have the young plants in pots, and bring them into the house for a day or two at a time, but they must not be kept too long in the shade, for the *Palma Christi* is a sun-loving plant. A writer is cited as saying

that the mosquitoes are killed by a poison that they find on the lower side of the leaf, but it is stated that, if a dozen leaves are placed about a room that swarms with mosquitoes, they will disappear without leaving any dead ones lying about.

THE INSTANTANEOUS DIVIDER.

The instantaneous divider devised by Mr. Robert Personne, of Sennevoy, consists of a jointed parallelogram, in the interior of which, and parallel with one of its sides, are arranged small rules equally spaced and jointed at their extremities. Each rule contains, according to its longitudinal axis and to one of the diagonals of the parallelogram, a small numbered aperture designed for the passage of a pencil point, in order to mark the divisions. In order to divide any line into a certain number of equal parts, 17, for example, it suffices to place the zero of the instrument upon one of the extremities of the line, and to bring to the other extremity the aperture marked No. 17, and then to point off through all the apertures from 0 to 17. It is clear that, in cases in which it would not be possible to bring the aperture carrying the number chosen to the extremity of the line to be divided, it will suffice to replace such number by one of its multiples. For example: In order to divide a line of 20 centimeters into 3, it will be easy to point off 5, 10, 15, or else 4, 8, 12, etc. The principal figure in the engraving indicates the *modus operandi*.—*La Nature*.



INSTANTANEOUS DIVIDER.

1. View of the apparatus. 2. Method of using it.

Effects of Heat and Cold on Canned Foods.

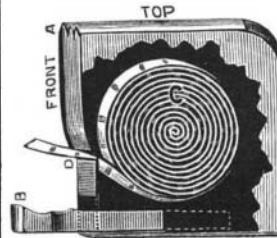
In a recent army circular, Adjutant-General Williams repeats the information heretofore published in the *American Grocer* concerning the keeping qualities of canned foods under exposure to extremes of heat and cold. General Greeley, of Arctic fame, says:

"Apples, peaches, pears, rhubarb, green peas, green corn, onions, potatoes, and tomatoes were all subject [at Lady Franklin Bay] to extreme temperatures (over 60 degrees below zero), and were solid for months at a time. The second summer they thawed, the following winter froze solid again. All the articles named presented the same appearance as though freshly canned, and their flavor was as good when the last can was eaten as in the first month. It should be understood that these were first-class canned goods and from dealers of standing and reliability. Cranberry sauce, preserved damsons, preserved peaches, and fruit butters suffered certain changes from candying, etc., which detracted somewhat from their flavor, though not materially so. Dealers in such preserves predicted that such conditions

"The only class of provisions that, in my experience, suffers from great heat is that of uncooked articles, such as butter, cheese, and some forms of potted meats."

THE MAGIC WAX LIGHTER.

The small, thin, self-lighting pocket device shown in the illustration is designed to be a good deal more of a convenience generally than the ordinary cigar lighters, although its use for such purpose is very obvious. A readily removable slide of the casing contains a roll of wax-coated tape, shown in one of the views, and this tape has along its surface a series of igniting pellets, at short distances apart. When the lid or



THE MAGIC WAX LIGHTER.

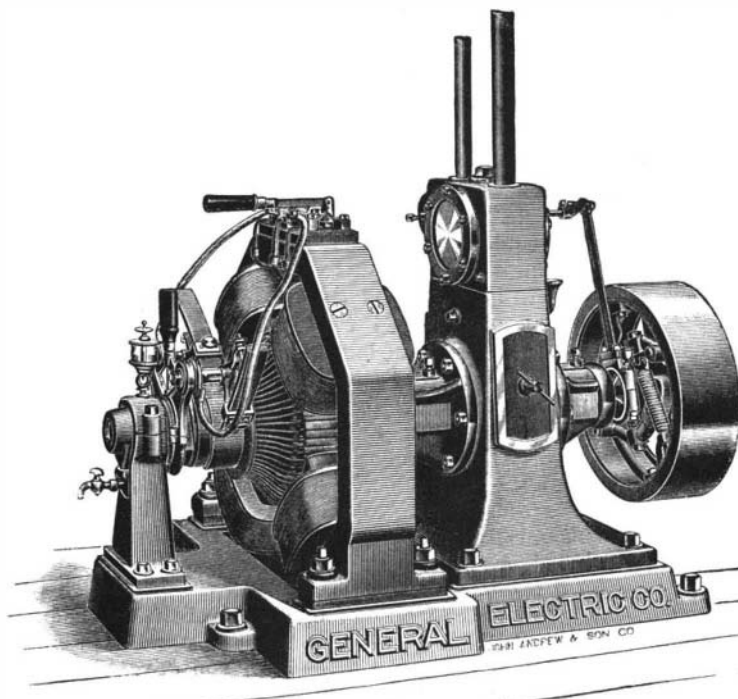
cover is opened, by depressing the key at the side, the exposed wax taper is at the same time automatically lighted. Should light be desired for more than the brief period during which the exposed portion of the taper is burning, a further depression of the key, bringing forward a fresh surface, will effect the object, and this may be repeated as often as required.

The construction is such that there is no possibility of chance ignition. The Magic Introduction Co., of No. 321 Broadway, New York City, is introducing this improvement, and the company has ready also a further novelty in the adaptation of the device to an umbrella or cane head.

A SIMPLE AND COMPACT ENGINE AND DYNAMO.

The direct coupled generator and engine, in one compact set, is, under conditions of restricted space and position, the ideal electrical plant. We illustrate a small, direct coupled generating set, recently perfected and manufactured by the General Electric Company, New York. It forms part of their display at the Columbian Exposition. As perfected, it represents the result of two years of careful practical experience.

For marine installations, where a separate engine is indispensable to drive the generator, these sets are especially adapted, being as cheap as, if not even less expensive than, belted plants, while they can be readily fitted to positions where a belt-driven dynamo and engine could not find a sufficiency of space. Compact and simple in arrangement, their suitability for small isolated plants in hotels and buildings where belting is objection-



A SIMPLE AND COMPACT ENGINE AND DYNAMO.