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A NEW USE FOR MACHINE GUNS.

It is gratifying to know that the machine gun, hitherto exclusively devoted to the deadly purposes of war, may possibly find place among the useful arts of peace.

This indicates that perhaps the machine gun could be used in felling forest trees in place of saws and axes.

ACCIDENTS ON TROLLEY CAR LINES.

It is a fair general assertion that of all forms of energy and of all methods of transfer and transformation of energies those dependent on electricity approach the nearest to perfection viewed from the standpoints of adaptation to varying conditions.

An electric road receiving its energy from a distant station through miles of aerial or underground wire offers, it would be supposed, exceptionally favorable conditions for control from the central station.

There have been many suggestions made for preventing this loss of life. Under present conditions it is invented. An engine of many horse power, capable of moving at twenty miles an hour or more, is put into the entire control of a motorman of not the highest grade of intelligence.

Inventors have designed fenders for the purpose of saving life and limb of foot passengers crossing trolley car tracks. Many are tolerably effectual, and occasionally we hear of some one whose life was saved by the fender.

If it was an affair of steam street cars running over people, and automatic devices were to be asked for to prevent it, inventors would at once seek to utilize the electric current for the purpose.

than the electric current itself. At present it is the instrument of constant transgression. The braking of the cars could be effected by electricity even more effectually than by air.

As the electric street car only became a success when money was put into the systems, so will they be rendered safe only by the use of more refined appliances.

Amateur Blacksmithing.

The amateur light blacksmith, says the N. Y. Sun, may get from his work a deal of discipline and pleasure. It requires for success moderately strong hands, a certain mechanical deftness that is instinctive with many persons, a degree of taste, and a true eye.

The outfit of the light blacksmith costs from \$3.50 to \$10, and includes a vise of peculiar pattern, a binding tool, a pair of pliers, a pair of shears for cutting iron, and half a dozen smaller tools, together with the necessary materials.

The amateur may buy his designs or may invent them from such hints as he may get out of his own brain. One amateur in fifty perhaps can be trusted to design. As a matter of fact, any man with an eye for form and detail can easily evolve effective designs by the aid of the thousand and one objects wrought in the style of the Venetian blacksmiths now to be seen in nearly all parts of New York.

Brass, copper, and aluminum are used by amateurs in the same way as iron, either alone or in composition. Sometimes a general design of black iron is relieved by a line of brass or copper here and there, and occasionally a design mainly of brass or copper is heightened by the presence of black iron.

The Venetian iron work craze has the merit of being inexpensive and of enabling a really tasteful and skilled amateur to give highly individual and effective decoration to an otherwise commonplace room.

A New Method of Silvering Mirrors.

MM. Lumiere Brothers find that one of the most expeditious and, at the same time, a very simple and economical method of silvering mirrors is to utilize the well-known reducing properties possessed by "formalin," which, as pointed out some months ago in these pages, is a strong solution of formic aldehyde.

M. DIEULAFOY, who with his wife explored the ruins of Susa, has been elected to the French Academie des Inscriptions. Mme. Dieulafoy not only received the Legion of Honor for her share in the work, but also the right to wear men's clothes in public.