Dur Debe to Inventors-Shall we Discourage 'Them?
Dr. R. H. Thurston, director of Sibley College, Cor nell University, contributes to the May Forum an able and interesting article under the above title, from which we make a few abstracts
"In a single generation, it is agreed among statisticians, the inventors have promoted the efficiency of human labor, and have diverted to the use of man such enormous amounts of Nature's energies that production has been increased fifty to seventy-five per cent more rapidly than population, and wealth has been correspondingly augmented. A day's labor produces two-thirds more in agricultural implements, or in carriages, and a half more in machinery, and eighty per cent more in boots and shoes, than in 1860. One dollar has been made capable of buying fifty per cent more of cloth, a quarter more of every kind of staple
food; five men do the work of eight, and both wages and the purchasing power of the dollar have increased together. Labor can to-day produce twice as much in a given time, and secure more than twice as large a share of the product, as in the days of the origin of our patent law. In the time of Watt and Fulton, six weeks were required to cross the Atlantic, and the in ventor and the mechanic and the engineer now send the steamship across in six, and will soon make the vorage in five days. They transport a ton a mile at sea with the combustion of the amount of fuel repre-
sented by a single one of the millions of letters in the sented by a single one of the millions of letters in the modern foreign mail bags. They have reduced the cost of transporting wheat from New York to Liverpool from twelve cents a bushel to four cents, and of meat from absolute commercial impracticability to one cent a pound. They have given the world nearly a halfmillion miles of railroads, and transport $150,000,000,000$ tons a mile each year. Without protection of the inventor's rights to his own absolute creation and brain property, we should to-day not have the aid of the fifty or seventy-five willions of horse power of the steam engines of the world and their equivalent aid-that of three or four times the working power of the whole population of the globe.

The telegraph and the telephone, those great 'monopolies' so mnch inveighed against at the moment, have not only presented the world with the grandest illustrations of the helpfulness of modern sci-
ence in promoting commerce and the industries of production; they promote also, directly and indirectly, duction; they promote also, directly and indirectly,
and in a thousand ways, the intelligence and culture and in a thousand ways, the intelligence and culture gave the world, as a contribution to education and a
stimulus to moral growth, inestimable profit upon all its patrons have paid into the treasury of the telegraph companies-to be redistributed to the world. The telephone, however 'business-like' its management. is a gift from the inventor of vastly greater worth to the world than all the dividends ever declared by the tele phone companies. Edison, and Thomson, and the General Electric and the Westinghouse companies, representing contributions to the world of invention and the mechanic arts, as a limited tribute, have given handsome profits to the world of users of their inven tions and products.
"The steam engines of James Watt, of Frederick Sickles, of George Corliss, which constitute the foundation of the whole system of modern industries, and fur nish, practically, the whole sum of the mechanica power which has built up existing material civilization, were given to us by their inventors in response to the inducements held out to them by tiue patent law-itself the most important invention of all.

It has been universally admitted that the United States has owed to the simple and inexpensive and effective action of the patent law system, as well as to the freedom of its political institutions-the two form ing units of a whole-the mighty march of its develop ment and civilization. The blessings of the patent law have been inconceivably great
"But a spirit diawetrically opposed to the spirit in which the patent system was conceived and enacted has within a few years sprung up, and its malevolent influence has been promptly seen and felt in the tone of legislation and in the decisions of the courts. The old feeling of indebtedness and of gratitude to the in ventor and to the exploiter of inventions has become tempered by criticism and by a caviling spirit, which seeks to deprive these greatest of benefactors of the race of the intellectual property which they create and the material benefits which they, in comparatively slight
degree, share with the world. In many ways both legisdegree, share with the world. In many ways both legis
lation and the decision of the courts are curtailing their rights and depriving them of the just share, which was formerly cheerfully granted to them, of the gains made by the world through their inventions. The inventive genius and his wholly beneficent work are now too often looked upon with suspicion. jealousy, and a mean opposition, which are in strange contrast with the legislative and judicial act early in the century, and which pervaded the whole people of the United States from the time of Watt to the time of Corliss, of Fulton, of Stephenson, of Howe, and of Morse.

The killing of the goose that lays the golden egg is contemplated even by 'statesmen' and by the court with complacency. They would nullify the paten system and put a summary end to this era of progress. They would terminate the period of supremacy of heir country in all the industrial arts.
"When the United States loses its regard for the ights and privileges that were justly and fairly accord ed to inventors in our earlier life as a nation, and, in stead of gratitude and generous reward, gives them grudgingly less than a fair and liberal shareof the pro fits which they so lavishly secure for the world, a long step will have been taken toward thatdecadence which historians are accustomed to assure us, inevitably ooner or later, comes to every people. The immediat and complete repeal of every obstructive law and the nauguration of a new period of good-will and generous encouragement of that highest of industries is the right way and the only way to insure permanence of that growth in material prosperity which has for a hundred years, and until the present moment almost, been the most marked characteristic of our history.
"The promotion of the arts and manufactures by suitably rewarding inventors and providing that they shall be permitted to collect profits, as in all other departments of business, as large as the business wil yield, and in due proportion to the value to the coun try of the invention or discovery, is one of the mos mportant features of an enlightened public policy and it is the duty of every intelligent and patriotic citi zen, and especially of every one in any manner con nected with any department of engineering, of manu factures, or of the mechanic arts, to exert every power and to apply all his influence to promote the perfecting of the patent system, to increase the facilities of the Patent Office, and, especially, to insure to the invento of new and valuable devices a liberal period of posses sion of the products of his genius.'

## Canadian Natural Gas Lines.

The Detroit Gas Company has made arrangement with the Ontario Gas Company for a new pipe line be ween the natural gas fields of Kingsville and Walker ville and a third pipe line across the river to Detroit Although that city was supplied by only one line las winter, it was considered safer to have three lines than two in case of a break. The expenseof construct ing the line from Kingsville to Detroit will be $\$ 200,000$ and it is expected that the work will be finished b next October.

## RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS.

 Engineering.Steam Condenser and Oil Separa or.--Edward Rowe, Indiana, Pa. This is a simple con struction more especially designed for condensing ex
haust steam from engines, returning the water of con densation to the feed pump, at the same time purifying the water to prevent incrustation of the boiler. The in vention consiste principally of a series of connected ves sels, of which the first receives the steam, and each vessel
has air tubes for the circulation of air to condense the has air tubes for the circulation of air to condense the steam circulating in the vessel, no water jackets or other
circulating devices being necessary. The impuritiee of circulating devices being neceasary. The impurities of the water of condensation are skimmed off in a separater
tank to which the water of condensation flows befor passing to the feed pump.

## Railsvay Appliances.

Car Fender. - Charles E. Montell, White Plains, N. Y. According to this improvement frame is attached to the car platform, and to this frame is pivoted an auxiliary or receiving frame, there being a
bed of yielding material attached to the upper portion of the fixed frame and the outer front portion of the receiv ing frame. There is a sprocket wheel and chain connec tion between the two frames, whereby the forward frame may be lowered by the motorman pressiug upon a lever This frame has wheele adapted to travel on the rails or on the surface. When the receiving portion of the fender
strikes an object in the path of the car, the object is strikes an object in the path of the car, the object is
thrown back into a cushioned section, and the forward portion of the fender rises, forming a pocket which will
out.

CENTER BEARING FOR RAILROAD CARs. - Samuel Walters, Warren, Pa. This bearing com
prises a bottom plate to be fastened to the truck bolste and a top plate to be fastened to the car body, a center
pin in the bottom plate engaging the top plate, while a slide or lock bar locks the center pin in position to hold the top and bottom plates in a united position. With this improvement the car body may be conveniently lifted o
the truck without lifting the body very high, and accithe truck without lifting the body very high, and acci vented. The center pin does not pass through the truck bolster, weakening the latter, as is so frequently found in the usual practice.
Continuous Drambar.-James Seath, Terre Haute, Indiana. This is an attachment for railway equipment which is simple and durable, and capable of
application readily to any form of drawbar. Combined with a yielding drawbar having straps attached to its op posite sides is a thimble secured to the straps, a draugh rod passed around the thimble being adapted for con-
nection with the draught rod of another coupler, and the nection with the draught rod of another coupler, and the
thimble having a sliding movement between the members of the draught rod. The device can be used with single or
with multiple buffing springs, or it may be used in conwith multiple buffing springs, or it
nection with other spring devices.

Car Air Pipe and Steam Pipe Coup cing.--Robert L. Munson, Silver City, New Mexico couplings of the hook and catch type, in which automati interlocking connection is made and the engaged coupings may be detached from either side or the roof of the car. The improvement provides for the simultaneous
coupling of air brake pipes and steam heat pipes, the coupling of air brake pipes and steam heat pipes, the of couplings for the air and steam pipes, thus effecring aving of time and labor.

Mechanical.
Wrench. - Frederick J. Bourn and William R. Hale, Gualala, Cal. This is a wrench especially adapted for uze on vehicle wheels. It will simulta-
neously clamp the hub of the wheel and the lock nut of he axle, so that when the wheel is removed the lock nut and its washer will be held in their proper relation to the hb, and will not fall to the ground or be lost, and on beng again returned to position the nut will engage wit iling or lubricating of the axle.

Mining, Etc.
Amalaamator. - George W. Downs, ort Townsend, Wash. This invention relates to gold vides a simple form of portable amalgamator, conve niently operated by hand power, to readily save the floa gold in river or beach sand. It comprises a casing with emovable sides in which are journaled wheels geared to gether, each wheel having amalgamating wings so ar
ranged that the sand rolls down from one wing on th next following wing, while a hopper at the top of the aces of the wings of the first wheel.

Agricultural,
Hay Rake.--Isaac G. Lunday, Hubbard, Texas. This invention covers an improvement in which is free to move backward without danger of injur ing any of the parts, the rake head and teeth turning reely, and whereby, with a simple arrangement of leve mechanism, the ground pressure of the teeth can be in tantly regulated. The machine is of simple and inex disposed near the driver's seat, facilitating the easy ope ration of the machine.

## Miscellaneous.

Bicycle Attachment - Charles A. Coey, Fairfeld, Wash. This is a simple and inexpensive wheel $\omega$ be run with speed aud safety by an inexper enced rider on the raile of an ordinary railway track.
consiste of a third wheel, with concave rim, connected
with the frame of the bicycle by removable and adjustable braces, constituting a rigid framework for spanning the track, while being very light. The attachment may be quickly applied to or removed from an ordinary bi cycle, and
Roller Skate.-Richard H. Lahey, Canadice, N. Y. A skate which may be readily and and easy support, has been devised by this inventor. It is provided with a ratchet device to prevent the wheels from turning backward, and a brake which is actuated sutomatically or by a hand line or cord. The foot rest consiste of a front portion and a heel portion, the two portions being sildable in relation to each
tbe rest to be easily fastened to the foot.
Tap and Faucet.-Jacob Siebert, Jr., Yonkers, N. Y. This is an inprovement in faucet taps barrel, and provided with a valve opened by the aid of the faucet introduced into the tap aud through which the liquid is to be drawn. The invention simplifes the construction, and provides a tap in which the faucet may be readily inserted, and when the faucet is manipulated to secure it in the tap, the valve of the tap will be multaneously and automatically opened, the valve be ing also automatically closed when the faucet is and receiving chamber for the faucet.
Flue Stopper.-Louis J. Haberkorn and Edward O. Beckman, Chatsworth, III. This device comprises a head with a segmental slot, a collar on the end an arm projecting through the slot of the head, with means for locking the arm in the slot. It may be conveniently applied and locked in place in any sized thim-
ble or fue body, effectually preventing smoke from ble or fue body, effectually preventing smoke from
entering a room. It also has a scoop section which will entering a room. It also has a scoop section which will
recelve the soot which may accumulate in the thimble, and when the stopper is removed the soot will not be spilled upon the floor
Machine for Raising Liquids.Richard Wegner, Neu-Britz, Germany. This is a siphon apparatus working on the principle that the variations in combustion, are utilized for raising the liquids without the assistance of a plunger or pump. A burner making constant flame in a closed vessel causes a partial vacuam, and the suction pipe for raising the liquid enters this communication between the interior of the vessel and the uutside air when the vessel is filled with liquid to a predetermined level. Another float-controlled mechanism closes the communication when the vessel is essenthe liquid.
Apparatus for Separating Heavy
prom Liget Materials.-Ftank Pardee, Hazleton, Pa.

For the separation of coal from slate, and ores aud other
materials from impurities, this inventor provides a tank with inclined bottom, in which is a dirt receptacle and be swung bye parallel to the bottom being supported to heavier material is carried up and delivered into the chute, and the lighter material travels downward. The material is carried through water, and simuitaneously
subjected in the water to a shaking motion, a traveling motion, and a tioating action, to effect the separation.
Wire Fence Sta y.-Solon M. Thompon, Whitesville, and William H. Bulla, Empire Prairie,
Mo. For the staying of the strands in wire fences at points between the main posts, these inventors have devised a novel and simple form of bent wire braces, adapted to be removably connected with a series of fence wires, to hold them spaced apart and stiffened, and also afford ground conductors for electricity. The brace or stay comprises two nearly parallel members connected together at or near their ends and having an eye at each wires, and a lockingrod passing through the eyes.
Pencil Sharpener.-Oliver J. Lane, Chicago, Ill. The body of this device has a transverse having side flanges, and a slotted curved bit being pivoted between the side flanges and extending thoough the throat. A screw extends through the bit slot into the apper side of the back, the head of the screw bearing on the upper convex side of the blade. A pencil of any size Lamp Wick Trimmer.-William Chandler, North Bend, Canada. In lamp wick trimming shears this inventor has devised improvemente wherebs the shears will retain the charred wick or snuff that has
been trimmed off, while the upper blade has a spring action rendering the device more efficient in use, making altogether a superior device which will be cheap to construct. The blades are preferably formed of sheet steel or by drop forging, or they may be cast, and both blades
are curved and flanged, the guard flanges extending are curved and flanged, the guard flanges ext
around the curved outer terminal of both blades. Combination Kitchfn Cabinet. John Tischer, St. Joseph, Mo. This inventor has combined in one article of furniture a table, safe, flour bin, with a sink, soap box, and various compartmente for the storage of pote, pans, etc., to facilitate kitchen work. With this cabinet, all the things required by one working in a kitchen will be at hand, and dishes may be washed and placed in the cahinet without crossing the room or moving away from the tray
Co m B I
Combined Couch and Storage Cuest.-Robert A. Caruthers and Charles P. Savage,
Waco, Texas. According to this improvement the main couch section forme a hinged cover fur hollow main and this section has wheels to run on suitable tracks connected with the body, and adapted vhen in closed position to be moved longitudinally in either direction,
and projected beyond the end of the hollow body, afford-
ing ready access to the interior. The head piece is hinged at oneend to the end of the body, the sides of the sides of the body when swung downward on its hinged

Screen Door.-Albert Schreiner South Evanston, IIl. This door has a panelattached its free vertical edge and located at an angle to the door,
the panel extending from cop to bottom of the door, and a horizontal panel connecting the door of the door, and at the top, a caster being carried by the vertical panel is designed to prevent the entrance of insects into the room when the door is opened.
Invalid's Table.-Max Lesser, Dun cansby, Miss. This is a simple form of table arranged to use the table when eating, drinking, reading, etc. without the assistance of a nurse or others. Projecting from a support are vertical rods on which slides an ac justable bracket carrying the table, there being an adjusting me
table.

Bed.-Alonzo R. Turner, Spragueville N. Y. According to this improvement the bed botto cross at right angles, each section having parallel side members and two upright undulating bow springe formed n each end. Supports for each spring section project ${ }_{i}$ nwardly from the side rails of the bedstead frame and engage the upper ends of
of the spring bed bottom.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS. Theoretical and Practical ammoni

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wood. With 25 pages of tables. Ne
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Pa ing importance of a knowledge of the la ittle manual is to be recommended as this acceptab ood time. It seems to be written throughout in very practical way, and to be decidedly to the point. I ompact

SLIENTIFLC AMERICAN
building edition

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elevations and floor plans. A most picturesque residence, with many artistic features. Mr. Henry P. Clark, architect, Boston, Mass.
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4. A cottage at Park-Hill-on-Hudson, N. Y., recently erected for Geo. L. Rose, Esq, at a cost of $\$ 12,000$
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ing, illustrated.-A hoist for use over hatchways, illustrated.- Ventilating the school room.-Gas burning range, illustrated.
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 Books
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(6523) A. H. P. writes : Please answer which can be umed on a stern or side wheel steamboat I mean some paddle that can go in the water and come out with less resistance than old style stationary padale Entific Amprican of a cut of a sound ste, imer that was so equipped. A. The feathering paddle wheel is an old ${ }^{\text {6524) H. C. P. asks : What is the }}$ Also of the same size, of pure gold dust ? Also the length over all of the new steamship St. Louis? A. The weight of the box of gold as stated, $111 \cdot 44$ pounds
avoirdupois, of gold dust about 36 that amount. The st. ouis is 554 feet over all. See Scientific America ugust I 1, 1894, for illustrated descripuo
(6525) C. S.
(6525) C. S. writes: 1. I have a private telephone line about $23 / 4$ miles long, on which are four make, as described in the Scientific American some years ago, called the bipolar telephone; the receivers and magnetic call bells I bought of an electric company. frst put up the line only one mile long, and since adding wo more instruments and lengthening the liue, the call speech is about as good as before, which is quite satisthink the instruments would herk as well if the line were lengthened one or more miles, and another instrument added \& A. The telephones probably would; the bells would not. 2. Would it improve the working of the telephones if the ground wire at the terminals were as they now are 9 A. It might, especially as regards the bells. It all depends on how, bells. It all depens on how good a ground the light-
ning rods have. 3. The line comes in contact with a good muny branches from trees. Would it improve by rimming the trees so as to leave the wire perfectly free A. This would tend to improve the service. 4. Would it
transmit the sound louder and clearer to add stronger, transmit the sound louder and clearer to add stronger, larger, horseshoe magnets or batteries? A. Not necessarily; it might or might not.
only be found by experiment.
(6526) W. M. B. asks: 1. Please menion a good book (late as possible) giving rules for size ture, etc., in constructing a motor or dynamo to be run by given current, or to furnish given current 9 A. We recommend and can supply Sloane's "Arithmetic of Electricity," $\$ 1$ by mail. 2. Can two small motors in of 114 volts, and how must $I$, connect same ? A. You will require about 7 ohms resistance in circut with the storage battery plates \& What good book treats of subjects ? Is there any solution into which I might put the plates to harden the red lead without injuring its efficiency P. Make it into a paste with dilute sulphuric
acid. Roughen well the surface of the plate. There is no such solution. For storage battery management, we cumulators"" can supply, "The Management of Ac cumulators," by Salomons, pric
"Voltaic Accumulator," price $\$ 9$.
(6527) D. J. S. asks if there is anv rule height, viz., if a drop hammer on a derrick weighed 3600 pounds, and bas a drop of 15 feet,what would be the
ing the force of the fall of a weight, as a pile hammer by
gravity, or the force of a blow, as with a hand or ammer. See scesta now, as wilh a hand or steaw 862, on "Impactor the Force of a Blow," in which the details of computation for various percussive forces are 54,000 foot pounds, and if the fall of the weight is ar rested within three inches after contact, the impact force equals $54,000 \times{ }^{\frac{y_{3}^{2}}{3}}=216,000$ pounds static load, less the loss by friction of air and slides on the falling welght.

| An experience of nearl $y$ fift $y$ years, and the preparation tents at home and abroad, enable us applications forstand the equaled facilities for procuring patents everywhere nopais of the patent laws of the United States and all oreign countriesmay be badon application, and persons <br>  |
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| splay device, i: Von Ori | Refrigerator' and freezer. coiubinied, |
| oor opener, L. Dunn. | Register. See Cas |
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| crio machine dynamo, A. G. Water house...... 5388,767 | , |
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| gine brake. road, E. T. Wright |  |
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| biting samples of garments, ssstem of, M, |  |
|  | Sewink machine, Diehl a G̈riei......................... 638.66 |
| acet, automatic. |  |
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