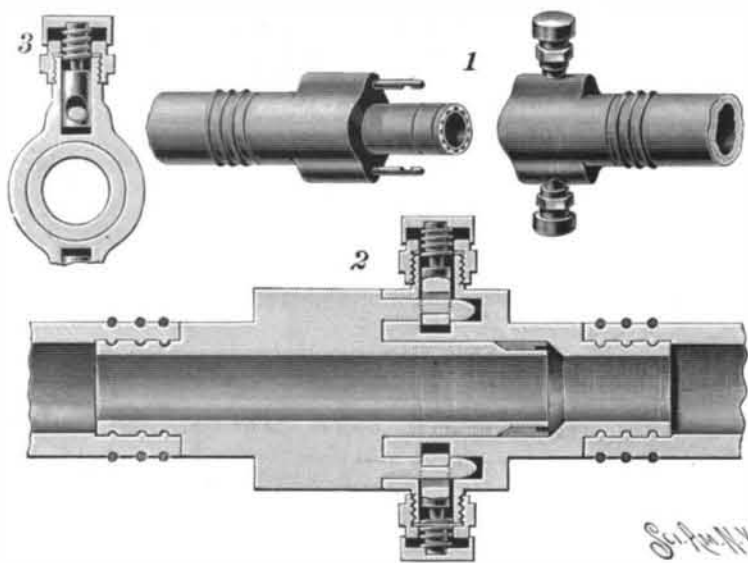


AN AUTOMATIC HOSE COUPLING.

The illustration represents a hose coupling by means of which the sections of hose are automatically locked when brought together, the coupling being readily and conveniently effected even while the pressure remains on the hose. The device may also be used with a nozzle, enabling the hose to be broken at any joint and the nozzle put on as quickly as a coupling would ordinarily be effected. The improvement has been patented by Thomas A. Oothouse and Albert E. Bohlen, of Mount Olive, Ill. Fig. 1 is an exterior view of two sections of the coupling uncoupled, Fig. 2 being a sectional view of the parts coupled, and Fig. 3 being a transverse section. In an offset at each side of the head of the female coupler section is a longitudinal bore and annular chamber, each chamber being extended through the offset and having an exteriorly threaded thimble. Sliding in each chamber is a spring-pressed latch, and the outer end of each latch shank is provided with a cap, the springs normally carrying the bottom portions of the latches outward to position to interrupt the bore. The male section of the coupling has a central tubular tongue adapted to enter the body of the female section, and projecting studs adapted to enter the longitudinal bores in the sides of the offset, there being in the studs latch-receiving recesses which engage with the spring-pressed latches when the parts are moved into engagement, thus securely locking the two sections together. To effect an uncoupling, it is only necessary to press inward upon the two caps, by which the latches are released from engagement with the studs. To prevent the caps being unintentionally pressed inward, a nut is



OOTHOUSE AND BOHLEN'S HOSE COUPLING.

screwed outward on the exteriorly threaded thimble to engage with each cap.

Queen Victoria's Real Estate.

The announcement that Queen Victoria is to leave, by will, Osborne House to one daughter, the lease of Abergeldie House to another, and Balmoral, the royal residence in the Highlands, to the Duke of Connaught, recalls the fact that the man who would devour this particular widow's houses must make an uncommonly full meal. It was discovered a few years since that the Queen owned six hundred houses in various parts of England, not royal residences, but rent-yielding property, and that about six thousand houses had been built by crown lessees on building leaseholds held of the Queen. She then had also rents from markets and tolls from ferries, besides the proceeds of mines and other works upon her property or the crown property. She had large estates in Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, and Berks. valuable lands in the Isle of Man and in Alderney, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Of the New Forest there are two thousand acres of absolute and sixty-three acres of contingent crown property. Her Majesty enjoys income from the Forest of Dean, from several other forests, and from rich properties in and about London. Osborne, on the Isle of Wight, and Balmoral, in the Highlands, are the private property of the Queen, and are maintained out of her own income. But she has the use of a few royal palaces besides, and these are maintained by the nation at an annual expenditure ranging from \$2,500 to \$50,000. The Queen is in the occupancy of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the White Lodge at Richmond Park, and part of St. James's Palace. The remainder of the last named palace is occupied by other members of the royal family. Other royal palaces maintained as such, although not in the occupancy of the Queen, are Kensington Palace, Hampton Court—which, according to a recent estimate based on the statistics of eight or ten years, costs the nation on the average over \$70,000 a year—Kew Palace, Pembroke Lodge, the Thatched Cottage and Sheen Cottage, Richmond Park, Bushy House in Bushy Park, and Holyrood Palace. When she visits the Continent, she has one great house or another, with whatever repairs and refurnishing are

necessary to fit it for a temporary royal occupant, although for all this she pays out of her own income. Bagshot House, Gloucester House and Clarence House are palatial dwellings, occupied by various members of the royal family. The Queen has four rather old-fashioned yachts, on which she makes her sea journeys, although the oldest of them probably is used seldom or never. The four cost originally about \$1,375,000.—Boston Transcript.

Longevity and Activity.

Great men usually carry their full mental vigor and activity into old age. M. Chevreul, M. De Lesseps, Gladstone and Bismarck are evidences of this anthropological fact. Pius IX, although living in tempestuous times, reached a great age in full possession of all his faculties, and the dramatist Crebillon composed his last dramatic piece at 94, while Michel Angelo was still composing his great canvases at 98, and Titian at 90 still painted with all the vigor of his earlier years. The Austrian General Melas was still in the saddle and active at 89, and would have probably won Marengo but for the inopportune arrival of Desaix. The Venetian Doge Henry Dandolo, born at the beginning of the eleventh century, who lost his eyesight when a young man while on an embassy to Constantinople, through the treachery of the Greek Emperor Manuel, was nevertheless subsequently raised to the highest office in the republic, managed successfully to conduct various wars, and at the advanced age of 83, in alliance with the French, besieged and captured Constantinople. Fontenelle was as gay-spirited at 98 as in his fortieth year, and the philosopher Newton worked away at his tasks at the age of 83 with the same ardor that animated his physical prime. Cornaro was as happy at 90 as at 50, and in far better health at the age of 95 than he had enjoyed at 30. These cases all tend to show the value and benefits to be derived from an actively cultivated brain in making a long life one of comfort and of usefulness to its owner. The brain and spirits need never grow old, even if our bodies will insist on getting rickety and in falling by the wayside, but an abstemious life will even drag that old body along to centenarian limits in a tolerable state of preservation and usefulness. The foregoing list can be lengthened out with an indefinite number of names, but it is sufficiently long to show what good spirits and an active brain will do to lighten up the weight of old age. When we contemplate the Doge Dandolo at 83 animating his troops from the deck of his galley, and the

brave old blind King of Bohemia falling in the thickest of the fray at Crecy, it would seem as if there was no excuse for either physical, mental or moral decrepitude short of the age of fourscore and ten.—National Popular Review.

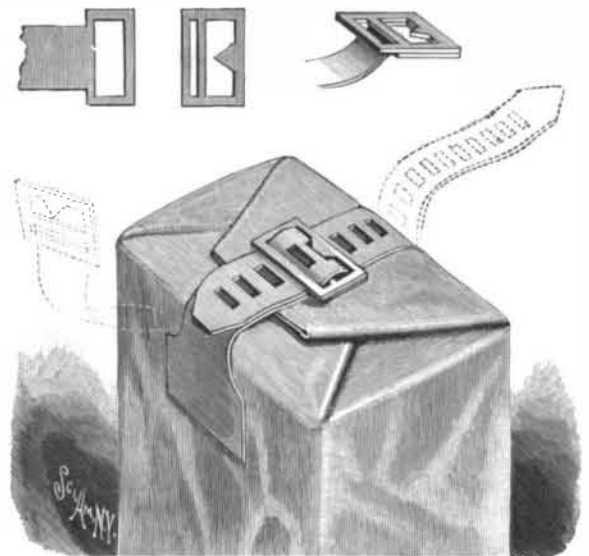
AN IMPROVED WINCH.

The illustration represents a winch which may be placed and operated in any position, and especially designed for use on shipboard in hauling braces, halyards, etc., as it may be attached to the railing, bulwark or mast, or other convenient support. In the back plate is a central interior chamber, and on its front face are top and bottom horizontal arms in whose outer ends are bolt cavities, the outer ends of the bolts being bent to form hook arms. The drum or barrel is toothed centrally on its inner surface, and around the central shaft, journaled in the back plate, are four stationary shafts, screwed or otherwise firmly secured at their rear ends in the back plate. On these shafts are collars at the rear side of the teeth on the central inner surface of the drum, and on the collars rests a rear guide plate having openings to receive all the shafts, as shown in Fig. 2, there being a similar front guide plate, and adjustable sleeves being fitted to all the shafts to engage the outer face of the forward guide plate. The central shaft has a pinion adapted to engage pinions loosely mounted on the stationary shafts, the latter pinions engaging the teeth on the inner face of the drum, to impart a rotary motion thereto. The improvement has been patented by Harry Ekrem, of San Pedro, Cal. The guide plates, with the collars and sleeves, prevent end movement of the shafts, and the front plate is held in position by top and bottom yokes or links, the plate being readily removable by turning the hook ends of the bolts. The central shaft is prevented from unwinding by a ratchet wheel engaged by a gravity pawl in the chamber in the back plate, as indicated by the dotted lines. This winch may be readily taken apart and put together, and

is designed to enable one man to develop great power in pulling on a rope, chain or cable.

AN IMPROVED BAG TIE.

The illustration represents a tie especially adapted for use in connection with paper bags, and consisting of two straps, each designed to be secured to the bag, one of the straps carrying a peculiarly constructed buckle with which the other strap locks. A patent has been granted for this improvement to Walter P. Scofield, of Cedar Key, Fla. One of the straps has an opening in its enlarged free end, where a buckle is



SCOFIELD'S BAG TIE.

attached having two transverse openings, as shown in the small views, the buckle being preferably secured by gluing where the device is used on paper bags. Projecting into one of the transverse openings of the buckle is a tongue adapted to engage one of several slots in the other strap, thus locking the bag, as shown in full lines in the large view, the dotted lines indicating the position of the straps before they are locked together to tie the bag.

Speed of Atlantic Passenger Ships.

Following is a list of the principal Atlantic passenger ships, with their best average time on voyages during 1895:

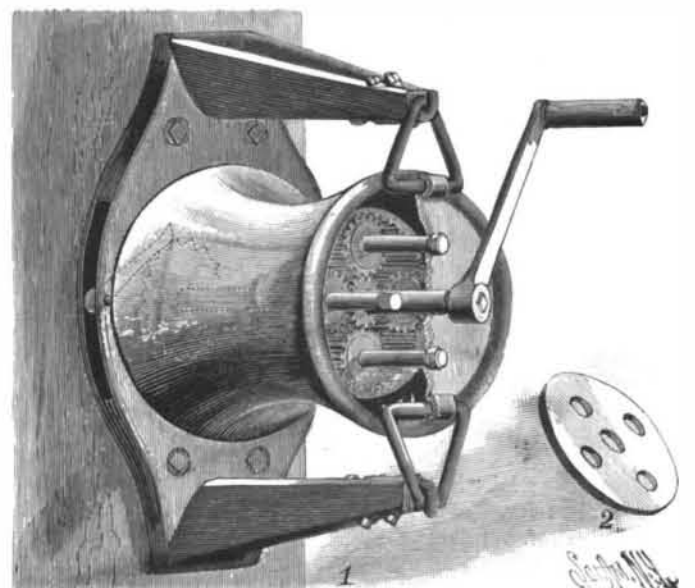
Name of steamer.	Best average time in knots.	Name of steamer.	Best average time in knots.
Lucania.....	22 01	St. Paul.....	19 45
Campania.....	21 33	St. Louis.....	19 56
Teutonic.....	20 35	Columbia.....	19 18
Majestic.....	20 41	Paris.....	19 37
Etruria.....	19 37	Augusta Victoria.....	18 40
Umbria.....	19 56	Havel.....	18 78
Germanic.....	16 94	Lahn.....	18 36
Servia.....	16 30	Spree.....	18 65
Anrania.....	17 00	Aller.....	17 74
Britannic.....	16 00	Trave.....	17 46
Fuerst Bismarck.....	20 14	Ems.....	17 01
New York.....	20 26	Saale.....	17 46
Normannia.....	20 23	Fulda.....	16 66

—Marine Review.

Not a Bad Idea.

A gentleman once asked a lawyer what he would do provided he had loaned a man \$500, and the man had left the country without sending any acknowledgment.

"Why, that's simple: just write him to send an acknowledgment for the \$5,000 you lent him, and he will doubtless reply stating it was only \$500. That will suffice for a receipt and you can proceed against him if necessary."



EKREM'S WINCH.