

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

ONE THOUSAND POINTERS FOR MACHINISTS AND ENGINEERS. By Charles McShane. Chicago: Griffin & Winters. Pages 342. Price \$1.50.

This book is by a practical machinist, and relates especially to work on locomotives. It is designed to be an efficient guide and teacher for the apprentice, and a ready reference book for the machinist, as it gives a digest of the points gained by a modern progressive machinist in a great variety of work during many years.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. By Henry Robinson, C.E. New York: Spon & Chamberlain. Pp. 192. Price \$3.50.

The author of this book is a well known English engineer who treats the subject from a thoroughly scientific standpoint. The work has chapters on House Drainage, River Pollution, Irrigation, Ensilage, Precipitation, Sewage Sludge, and Filtration. The book has elaborate calculations of flow in sewers, and of discharges and velocities in oval and circular sewers.

THE HOUSE WARMING MANUAL. Compiled by Sidney P. Johnston, Chicago: The American Artisan Press. Pp. 270. Price \$3.50.

This is a compilation of prize essays on the best method of heating a special house, the plans of which are given, by hot water, steam, and warm air. The different essays give dimensions of pipes and the location of the various parts of the apparatus, with detailed estimates of cost. One of the valuable points of the book is the discussion of the subject of ventilation.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND SUPERINTENDENCE. By F. E. Kidder, architect. Part I, Mason's Work. Pp. 409. 8vo. 250 illustrations. Price \$4.

This is a carefully prepared, handsomely printed book, intended as a guide in selecting materials for architectural masonry and giving the most approved methods of doing the various kinds of work, the latter being largely the result of the author's observation and experience. It has numerous valuable tables and an excellent chapter on specifications. A second volume in preparation by the same publisher will treat of wood construction and finishing.

RUHKORFF INDUCTION COILS. By H. S. Norrie. New York: Spon & Chamberlain. Pp. 133. Price, paper 50 cents.

This is a handy little book designed to help the experimenter who desires to follow out some of the interesting phenomena which have recently assumed such importance in the electrical world. The construction and operation of the Ruhmkorff and Tesla coils are described, with chapters on contact breakers, condensers, spectrum analysis, currents in vacuo, primary and secondary batteries, etc., while the discussion of abstruse electrical theories is generally avoided.

MORRISON'S PRACTICAL ENGINEER AND MECHANIC'S GUIDE. By William A. Morrison. Boston: Published by the author. Pp. 144. Price \$1.

This is an especially useful little handbook for mechanics who have come up to fill positions as engineers, without having been especially educated therefor. The author has filled important positions as an engineer, and the information given in the book is largely from the accumulations of his many years of practical experience.

MECHANICAL DRAWING: A COURSE FOR EVENING SCHOOLS AND SELF INSTRUCTION. By Louis Rouillion. Boston: The Prang Educational Company. Pp. 86 and 29 sheets of drawings. Price \$1.25.

This is a most excellent and comprehensive work by the accomplished and highly successful professor of this specialty at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. The sheets and instructions cover the evening school work of two school terms of twenty-four weeks each, two or three evenings a week. The author has placed a good deal of valuable matter within small compass, and the style is so simple and direct that the youngest beginner will find no difficulty, with such help, in prosecuting the study of mechanical drawing.

MYTHS OF THE NEW WORLD. By Daniel G. Brinton. Philadelphia: David McKay. Pp. 360. Price \$2.

The author of this work, a professor of American archeology and linguistics in the University of Pennsylvania, has written a series of books on the language and literature and the state of knowledge among the natives of America before the Europeans came here, and is acknowledged to be one of the leading authorities in this field. The present book is "a study of an obscure portion of the intellectual history of our country," aided by the light obtained through such investigations, and is thus intended more for the thoughtful general reader than the antiquary.

THE WHITE PINE: A STUDY. By Gifford Pinchot and Henry S. Graves. New York: The Century Company. Pp. 102. Price \$1.

This excellently gotten up monograph on the most important lumbering tree in North America is primarily designed to hasten the general introduction of right methods of forest management. Mr. Pinchot has special qualifications for speaking to some purpose on the subject, as he has been a consulting forester at Mr. Vanderbilt's Biltmore Forest, in North Carolina. The naturalist will be pleased with the accuracy of detail and the commercial expert will be pleased with the valuable data given touching merchantable timber, etc.

A handsome catalogue has been issued by Pott's Shortland College, of Williamsport, Pa., of which John G. Henderson is principal and proprietor. It has some fine half tone illustrations, and sets forth in plain and simple form some of the most important things to be considered and sought after by those taking up stenography as a means of livelihood.

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Notes & Queries

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Names and Address must accompany all letters or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information and not for publication.

References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question. Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn.

Buyers wishing to purchase any article not advertised in our columns will be furnished with addresses of houses manufacturing or carrying the same.

Special Written Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration.

Scientific American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each.

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Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(6964) M. O. asks a process for making a tooth soap like Wright's myrrh tooth soap, and the ingredients that enter into its manufacture. A. Vegetable Tonic tooth wash:

- Soap bark ground..... 2 lb. Water..... 1 gal. Add honey..... 4 oz.

Simmer in warm water several hours; let it stand overnight; strain through muslin. To the fluid product add an equal amount of alcohol in which has been dissolved: Gum myrrh..... 1 oz. Oil teaberry..... 1 oz. Color with red sanders, digest one week and filter.

(6965) C. E. P. says: Can you give me a receipt for a blonde solution that will bleach the hair white, and also one that will color it red? A. Gaseous chlorine and hydrogen peroxide are effectual agents in bleaching hair. The hair should be thoroughly cleaned, with a warm solution of soda, then washed with water. While moist it is put into a jar and chlorine gas introduced, until the air in the jar looks greenish. Allow it to stand for twenty-four hours, and if necessary repeat. We have no directions for coloring the hair red.

(6966) A. B. says: Can you give me formula of a compound fluid, which will plate all metals by rubbing it on with a soft rag. A. 1. Silver nitrate, 2 parts; salt, 2 parts; cream of tartar, 14 parts. Pulverize and mix. 2. For thin plating dissolve in 10 or 12 drops of water and add silver nitrate, 2 parts; potassium cyanide, 6 parts. Rub on the object.

(6967) W. L. M. writes: We have one telephone wire placed on telegraph poles four feet from telegraph wires, but our telephones repeat all messages excepting. What causes it, as there is no connection except wood? A. It is caused by induction, and may need through metallic circuit to overcome the trouble.

(6968) G. A. F. says: I have mention in Steele's "Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry" of fusible metal, an alloy composed of bismuth, lead, and tin. Can you give me the proportions of the respective metals? A. 1. D'Arcet's Bismuth, 8; lead, 5; tin, 3 parts. This melts below 212° Fah. 2. Walker's Bismuth, 8; tin, 4; lead, 5 parts; antimony, 1 part. The metals should be repeatedly melted and poured into drops until they can be well mixed, previous to fusing them together. 3. Onion's Lead, 3; tin, 2; bismuth, 5 parts. Melts at 197° Fah. 4. If to the latter, after removing it from the fire, one part of warm quicksilver be added, it will remain liquid at 170° Fah., and become a firm solid only at 140° Fah. 5. Another: Bismuth, 2; lead, 5; tin, 3 parts. Melts in boiling water. Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 are used to make toy spoons to surprise children by their melting in hot liquors. A little mercury (as in 4) may be added to lower their melting points. Nos. 1 and 2 are specially adapted for making electrotype moulds. French cliché moulds are made with the alloy No. 2. These alloys are also used to form pencils for writing, also as metal baths in the laboratory or for soft soldering joints.

No. 4 is also used for anatomical injections. Higher temperatures, for metal baths in laboratories, may be obtained by the following mixtures: 1 part tin and 2 parts lead melt at 441.5° Fah.; 1 part tin and 1 part lead melt at 371.7° Fah.; 2 parts tin and 1 part lead melt at 340° Fah.; 63 parts tin and 37 parts lead melt at 344.7° Fah.

TO INVENTORS.

An experience of nearly fifty 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 unequalled 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 Broadway, New York.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

September 15, 1896,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

(See note at end of list about copies of these patents.)

- Alarm. See Burglar alarm. 567,706
Albumen, obtaining, D. Finkler. 567,706
Alloy of iron and chromium, producing, R. W. Wallace. 567,757
Almond sheller, A. H. Cope. 567,736
Anchor, H. A. House. 567,680
Annunciator, street, H. P. Frear. 567,643
Apparatus for dynamo electric machines, Haerer & Gikeleiter. 567,746
Armored plate, apparatus for use in manufacturing, W. Beardmore. 567,876
Autographic register, J. N. Abbott. 567,778
Autographic register, King & Carhart. 567,785
Axle skein and box, J. Szalay. 567,655
Axle support, adjustable, J. E. Faulkner. 567,582
Band cutter and feeder, J. E. Fisher. 567,567
Bathing apparatus, G. W. McLarty. 567,915
Battery plate mould, C. G. Fawkes. 567,705
Bearing axle, A. C. Stilson. 567,697
Bearing ball, C. H. Chapman. 567,849
Bear rug for cycles, etc., ball, W. J. Busse. 567,752
Bedstead, R. S. Berger. 567,831
Bedstead spring supporting frame, H. Quinn. 567,656
Bed slide, M. Scheuer. 567,692
Berth, self leveling ship's, J. Goodwin. 567,708
Bicycle, W. S. Bellows. 567,936
Bicycle, Fay & McNab. 567,824
Bicycle, C. Young. 567,825
Bicycle bearing, H. E. & J. F. Doña. 567,851
Bicycle brake, E. J. De Berue. 567,949
Bicycle brake, S. Logan. 567,650
Bicycle handle bar, R. M. Snyder. 567,863
Bicycle lock, J. Carroll. 567,807
Bicycle saddle, R. S. Berger. 567,831
Bicycle spring motor, C. Young. 567,628
Bicycle supporting frame, E. C. Waterman. 567,625
Bicycle wheel, A. P. Le Gros. 567,835
Bit. See Bridge bit.
Blackboard, K. L. Wemmell. 567,758
Boiler, J. K. Holder, O. E. Lafleur. 567,647
Boiler. See Upright boiler. Water tube boiler.
Boiler, T. E. Button. 567,940
Bone cutting machine, L. W. Gibson. 567,854
Bookbinders' gum machine, J. V. Galicher. 567,742
Boot rack, W. S. Lambert. 567,933
Bottle, Cooch & Co. 567,838
Bottle, L. M. La Rue. 567,717
Bottle, P. L. Raymond. 567,917
Bottle cap or nipple, mucilage, J. N. Clark. 567,704
Bottle device, non-refilling, W. H. Payne. 567,750
Bottle stopper, J. Flanagan. 567,751
Bottle stopper, J. A. Woodworth. 567,874
Bowling alleys, machine for planing, J. Emig. 567,821
Box. See File box. Hat box. Paper box. Tooth powder box.
Bracket. See Ladder bracket.
Brake, See S. E. Crockett. Vehicle brake.
Brake beam, Sullivan & Burnap. 567,664
Briage and automatic gate therefor, draw, W. E. Aston. 567,875
Bridge bit, A. M. Pendleton. 567,950
Bucket, milk, A. Ferber. 567,679
Burglar alarm, R. S. Berger. 567,831
Buildings, protective system for, C. Burgher. 567,577
Burglar alarm, W. H. Ward. 567,845
Burglar alarm, O. B. Weaver. 567,872
Burner. See Gas burner. Vapor burner.
Bushings, anti-friction, B. F. Sparr. 567,728
Butter, See Packing case.
Can opener, E. N. Pike. 567,722
Canoe carriers, apparatus for supplying sugar, G. Lorio. 567,906
Car coupling, J. Callantine. 567,878
Car coupling, A. F. Kuhlmann. 567,884
Car coupling, J. E. Park. 567,770
Car coupling, H. Schaeffer. 567,866
Car fender, W. J. McClenahan. 567,914
Car signaling light, M. P. Crawford. 567,941
Car, street railway, C. W. Taylor. 567,798
Car, automatic signaling apparatus for railway, W. H. D. Cronin. 567,856
Cars, etc., combined seat and berth for railway, S. Uestad. 567,819
Cars, movable arm support for, G. H. Poor. 567,655
Cards, playing, S. Kimble. 567,646
Carriage, baby, D. Weinstock. 567,969
Carriage, See Packing case.
Cattle guard, F. G. Susemihl. 567,844
Cellulose from resin, apparatus for freeing sulphite, L. Engelmayr. 567,823
Chair, V. A. Menuez. 567,837
Chair seat, W. Crouch. 567,639
Charging apparatus, H. F. Campbell. 567,846
Charlotte cycloidal, W. D. Cronin. 567,880
Chimney top, J. Watson. 567,775
Churn, Roberts & Vermillion. 567,726
Clear cutter and lighter, combined, P. J. Caesar. 567,578
Cigar head perforating machine, C. Matz. 567,947
Cigarette machines, tape or belt for continuous, R. Hardie. 567,644
Cipper, Curtis & Atwater. 567,583
Cloth finishing machine, electromagnetic pin extractor attachment for, A. C. Shuttleworth. 567,619
Clothes line support, G. Yung. 567,808
Cock, Dewrance & Wall. 567,854
Comb, controlled apparatus, M. Barnes. 567,761
Comb. See Hair cutter's comb.
Combination lock, E. Stockwell. 567,698
Commutator, Haerer & Gikeleiter. 567,745
Contact device, F. W. N. E. Hayn. 567,889
Conveyor, endless bucket, T. L. Marvel. 567,683
Cook, steam, T. C. Maddux. 567,858
Corn, separating and collecting germs from, J. G. O'Neill. 567,780
Cornstalk cutter, J. B. Forbes. 567,833
Corset, C. W. Gregg. 567,855
Counter attachment for suspending barrels, G. D. Dryle. 567,891
Coupling. See Car coupling. Pipe coupling.
Coupling device, J. Riappel. 567,614
Culvert, W. S. Parker. 567,853
Curler, hair, A. Fosgate. 567,767
Cut out, automatic, H. F. Parshall. 567,908
Cutter. See Band cutter. Cigar cutter. Cornstalk cutter.
Cutter head and bit, S. J. Shimer. 567,815
Cycle saddle, J. B. Brooks. 567,882
Cycling machine driving gear, J. J. Marshall. 567,867
Dental excavator, E. M. Fredericks. 567,969
Die. See Metal drawing die.
Digging machine, earth, J. H. Stephens. 567,622
Direct acting engine, J. G. Leyner. 567,682
Dish, cleaner, N. F. Olson. 567,759
Display device, W. H. Knautz. 567,857
Drivers, K. H. 567,810
Doubtless, G. S. Boswell. 567,939
Draw plate, McCool & Aleo. 567,606
Drawer attachment, A. L. Smith. 567,693
Dryine machine, steam, H. Cutler. 567,887
Dust and draught arrester, H. C. Schoyer. 567,922
Dye, blue azo, F. Runkel. 567,613
Dye, blue, H. W. Mason. 567,949
Egg whisk, T. A. Moody. 567,884
Electric contact device, R. Sken. 567,816
Electric car out and annunciator, J. Kips. 567,599
Electric machine, dynamo, G. E. Dorman. 567,586
Electric machine, dynamo, H. W. Lubbey. 567,719

- Electric motors, automatic regulator for, H. P. Merriam. 567,651
Electric signal, C. P. Wilkinson. 567,759
Electric track signal, C. P. Wilkinson. 567,760
Electrical condenser, N. Decker. 567,838
Electricity, producing, J. R. Payson, Jr. 567,721
Embossing roller, Kecker & Timmerwille. 567,938
Engine. See Direct acting engine. Steam engine.
Engine, F. C. Rinsche. 567,725
Engine steering device, traction, G. C. Stevenson. 567,686
Fabric and producing finished edges thereon, T. W. Bracher. 567,948
Farm gate, W. H. H. West. 567,670
Faucet, liquid, J. H. Beare. 567,877
Fence wire winding device, C. Heitsch. 567,713
Fence wiring machine, W. A. Dillon. 567,885
File box or document case, A. C. Barler. 567,633
Fire dog, H. J. Lewis. 567,786
Fire escape, M. R. Fitzhugh. 567,642
Fly screen, W. L. Gordon. 567,828
Food compound, J. H. Kellogg. 567,810
Fruit jar, P. Philip. 567,610
Fruit pitter, A. Jman & Ingham. 567,702
Furnace. See Smelting furnace.
Furnace, R. L. Fucata. 567,611
Furniture, adjustable, G. A. Botrick. 567,762
Furniture, changeable, J. Horneburg. 567,586
Furrower, marker and coverer, combined, A. S. Lint. 567,904
Game board, W. A. Conklin. 567,885
Garbage, apparatus for treatment of, W. S. Richardson. 567,724
Garment fastening, S. Spaugh. 567,843
Garment stretcher, L. B. Canham. 567,755
Gas burner, A. Wanner. 567,870
Gas generating apparatus, H. Eldridge. 567,614
Gas holder, R. M. Dixon. 567,764
Gate. See Farm gate. Railway gate.
Gate, J. C. Malter. 567,908
Gate, J. W. Reynolds. 567,772
Glass bottle, etc., machine for manufacturing, C. Emmet. 567,739
Glove, D. F. Morgan. 567,749
Grain binder, W. W. Burson. 567,847
Grain binder, L. J. Fellay. 567,826
Grain binder, knot tying device for automatic, G. H. Ellis. 567,737
Grain binders, knotting mechanism for automatic, J. F. Appleby. 567,932
Grate, combined gas and coal, C. H. Miller. 567,812
Grinding machine, A. R. Chize. 567,637
Hair cutters' comb, P. W. Mathews. 567,930
Hair brush, adjustable, Galt & Rankin. 567,830
Harness, H. C. Deizer. 567,850
Harvester, J. F. Appleby. 567,933
Harvester, potato, J. P. Brennan. 567,846
Harvester, self binding, J. F. Appleby. 567,934
Harvester, knotting mechanism for twine binding, G. W. Decker. 567,627
Harvesters, tension device for self binding, J. F. Appleby. 567,903
Harvesting machinery, J. F. Appleby. 567,929
Hat box or holder, J. W. Vogt. 567,929
Hats and hat brims, apparatus for pressing, shaping and finishing, A. Thibault. 567,573
Hay and fodder rack, combined, T. Meyer. 567,838
Heat, apparatus for utilization of solar, M. L. Severy. 567,618
Heater. See Water heater.
Heating apparatus, M. F. Beal. 567,875
Heating system, water, W. H. Hallowell. 567,838
Hinge, spring, J. Schluter. 567,727
Horseshoe, B. G. Fox. 567,740
Hub attaching device, F. A. Manegold. 567,946
Hub boring device, C. E. Roberts. 567,795
Hydrocarbons, apparatus for treating, A. Seigle. 567,752
Igniter, spring, H. Van Hoveyberg. 567,928
Indicator. See Station indicator.
Inkstand, J. L. Powley. 567,892
Insect powder distributor, C. D. Curtis. 567,640
Insulator crossover for trolley wires, A. Hanson. 567,784
Jar. See Fruit jar.
Joint. See Pin joint.
Kettle boiler and strainer, W. G. Bolus. 567,263
Kneader, dough, W. J. Woods. 567,777
Knitting machine needle, S. Woodward. 567,931
Ladder bracket, adjustable, H. M. Stillman. 567,755
Ladder, portable extension, W. Ornatoewski. 567,814
Lamp, K. P. 567,838
Lamp, electric arc, J. McLaughlin. 567,840
Lamp, electric arc, P. R. Salberg. 567,891
Lamp, gas generating, F. Rossbach-Roussel. 567,773
Lamps, automatic flame extinguisher for, E. J. Brown. 567,777
Lant. See Pin joint.
Lathe tool holder, N. Nelson. 567,880
Lawn rake, W. H. Lewis. 567,802
Lawn sprinkler, G. H. Newell. 567,916
Lifter. See Stove lifter.
Lifting device, O. T. Jensen. 567,881
Limb, artificial, E. B. Reith. 567,626
Liquids, apparatus for treating, A. Seigle. 567,751
Liquids, device for applying, Kilmer & Randel. 567,598
Loading machinery, wagon, W. E. Ewank. 567,765
Lock. See Bicycle lock. Combination lock. Permutation lock. Pin lock. Time lock.
Lock, S. F. Crockett. 567,881
Lock jaw wrench, E. L. Keith. 567,945
Locomotive, J. P. Serve. 567,817
Locomotive, electric, S. H. Short. 567,692
Loom, lappet, D. Scott. 567,923
Lubricator, G. B. Miller. 567,925
Lump, etc., apparatus for treating, H. W. Libbey. 567,718
Mail collecting pouch, D. B. Savonnan. 567,820
Manure, expandible, H. W. Rose. 567,658
Manuscript holder, W. L. Salvage. 567,660
Match making machine, J. M. Van Doren. 567,927
Metal bending machine, H. Lefevre. 567,882
Metal drawing die, A. G. 567,603
Metal plates, etc., apparatus for manufacturing rolled, S. M. Strite. 567,756
Milling machine, A. J. Langeier. 567,951
Mould. See Battery plate mould.
Moulding machine, automatic, J. W. Brown, Jr. 567,884
Motor. See Metal drawing die.
Motors, regulating admission of current to, F. E. Herdman. 567,714
Nozzle, spray, J. D. Shoots. 567,822
Oiling device for trolley wheels, A. W. Gabrio. 567,783
Opera glass, folding, Denmore & Briggs. 567,632
Ordnance, apparatus for treating, H. S. Maxum. 567,836
Oyster tong, S. Paschen. 567,919
Packing case for food products, metal, L. H. Blanke. 567,938
Paint, waer, W. A. Hall. 567,922
Paper box, A. F. Girard. 567,897
Paper cutting and trimming machine, guillotine, A. Bradley. 567,576
Paper making machines, pulp feed regulator for, R. E. Baeser. 567,636
Paper receptacle, J. J. Lanzit. 567,649
Patterns, producing and coating, W. P. Smith. 567,694
Peeling, apparatus for, H. W. Koster. 567,836
Penholder, J. E. Murphy. 567,789
Permutation lock, S. C. Houghton. 567,900
Photograph diaphragm clamp, V. H. Emerson. 567,788
Photographic plate holder, A. O. Kaiser. 567,886
Photographs in relief, producing, T. C. Marceau. 567,748
Piano, E. F. 567,868
Piano action parts, automatic machine for producing, Sbalier & Chapman. 567,796
Pigeonholes, display drawer attachment for, J. D. Warren. 567,820
Pin lock, W. H. Taylor. 567,624
Pin coupling, J. W. Cloud. 567,712
Pipe, iron, J. E. Nelson. 567,862
Pipe wrench, W. Houghton. 567,715
Pitcher or pot, F. Zou. 567,801
Pneumatic dispatch tube switch, C. F. Pike. 567,654
Pole, adjustable carriage, E. Funk. 567,767
Pop cart, fire machine, W. Z. Long. 567,832
Pot or pitcher, B. Zabb. 567,902
Press, K. S. Blanchard. 567,835
Printing, Beck & Hamilton. 567,878
Printing or impressing designs, patterns or outlines for garments, apparatus for, H. E. Couzineau. 567,886
Printing press, impression adjustment, C. O. Duffy. 567,892
Printing press, web, E. H. Wilcomb. 567,776
Printing presses, apparatus for inking and wiping dies in, G. H. Syms. 567,737
Printing presses, front edge sheet registering mechanism for, H. A. Wood. 567,730
Printing, producing relief plates for, O. C. Strecker. 567,926
Pulp, apparatus for dissociating wood, L. Engelmayr. 567,822
Pump bucket, chain, W. Hartman. 567,712
Pump, air, E. W. Koster. 567,836
Pumping apparatus, P. Frichette. 567,741
Puzzle, J. F. Brittingham. 567,844
Rack. See Boot rack. Hay and fodder rack.
Rail fastening device, F. W. Wilson. 567,873
Railway bond, electric, J. McLaughlin. 567,841
Railway crossing signal, C. Selden. 567,753
Railway gate, W. G. R. 567,657
Railway switch, C. Hoerl. 567,845
Railway switch, street, A. Schmackers. 567,821
Railway tie, metallic, S. F. Adams. 567,832
Railways, self acting caution and danger signal for, H. C. Pratt. 567,865
Rain seeder, J. H. Bullard. 567,806
Rake. See Lawn rake. Sweep rake.
Range finder, Barr & Stroud. 567,675
Ratchet wrench, M. Fisk. 567,769
Recording slip, W. A. Hawley. 567,594