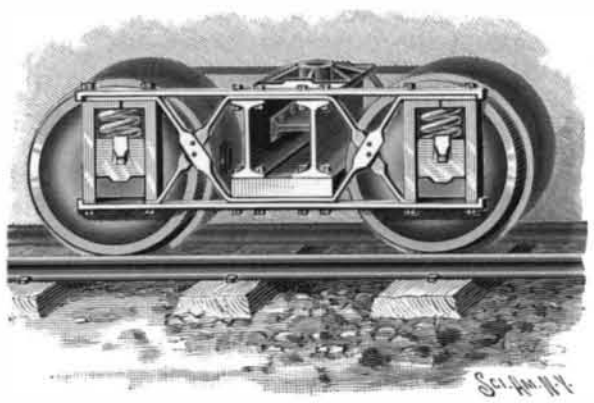
The New York Public Library Award.

The jury of award has decided unanimously that the design of Carrère & Hastings, of New York, shall be the one used in building the new Public Library building on the site of the old reservoir. This is the result of the second competition, in which twelve architects took part. The second choice of the jury was the design of Howard & Cauldwell, and the third, McKim, Mead & White. The work of preparing the plans for the building has been going on for more than a year and two competitions were held, both of which were conducted with the greatest care and fairness. Eighty architects competed in the first competition, and twelve of them were given prizes. Six of these prize winners were selected and asked by the committee to compete with six architects, with the result given above. It is said the building will cost $1,700,000.

AN IMPROVED CAR TRUCK.

The illustration represents a car truck of simple construction in which the journal boxes are provided with sectional guides, so supported that any pair of wheels may be quickly and conveniently removed or replaced as may be necessary. The improvement has been patented by Henry Weston (address in care of John S. Rockwell, Erie County Savings Bank Building, Buffalo, N. Y.) The side frames of the truck, as will be seen by the engraving, are so braced as to be exceedingly strong, while the construction is very simple. The upper portions of the journal box guides, and also the spring seats, are made in two parts, the sections of the guide boxes



WESTON'S CAR TRUCK.

being of any approved construction and the vertical legs of the guides being provided with slideways on their inner faces to receive the boxes.

The International Geological Excursionists.

DEATH OF ONE WHILE ASCENDING GREAT ARARAT.

Mr. E. O. Hovey, who was one of the party on the Caucasus excursion, thus describes one of the sad features that occurred to mar the pleasure of the excursionists.

In view of the widespread report of the death of one of the party on Great Ararat, it may be well to give a brief outline of the ascent of the mountain and the circumstances of his loss. The party of twenty-eight took carriages to Aralykh and thence went on horseback the next day to Soudar-Boulagh, the Cossack camp on the saddle between the two peaks, arriving in the middle of the afternoon. Only the ascent of Little Ararat (13,000 feet) was contemplated by our leader, and no preparations were made for the ascent of Great Ararat (17,000 feet). Eight men, however, thought they would attempt the higher mountain, in spite of insufficient equipment and time, and they started out in two parties. One of them, consisting of E. Stoeber, of Wladikavkaz, Prof. Oebling, of Berlin, and Dr. Oswald, of Strassburg, got away earlier than the others and spent the night with their Cossacks well up on the mountain slope. The second day an early start was made, and Stoeber, who, on account of his knowledge of Russian, was the organizer of the little party, pressed on ahead of the other men, who were more experienced mountaineers, and was soon out of sight. Members of the other party of five saw him at an elevation of about 15,000 feet, but he had gone before they reached the spot where he had stood, and receiving no response to their shouts, they supposed he had descended, and they came down the mountain without attaining the top. Oebling and Oswald reached the summit late in the afternoon without seeing anything more of Stoeber. They came down the mountain as far as they could before dark, but were obliged to spend a severe night in the snow and reached the Cossack camp again some hours after the main party (who in the meantime had made a very successful ascent of Little Ararat) had departed for Aralykh. The two belated ones understood, from what the Cossacks said, that Stoeber had returned and gone on with the others, so they journeyed leisurely along, overtaking the main party at Erivan the next day. Then for the first time it became known that Stoeber was not with us, and that he must have been on the mountain for three nights. Telegrams were sent to Aralykh at once, and Cossacks sent out on the search, and the next day Stoeber's body was found, after it had lain on the mountain four days and nights. He had slipped and broken his left leg just above the ankle. He must have fainted from the shock, and have frozen to death without recovering consciousness, for his leg was not drawn up, his hands were not clinched, and he had made no effort to get his brandy flask, to make any farewell note of his condition, or to move from where he had fallen. His death must be put down to his own recklessness in pushing on alone on such an expedition. He was a young man, an apothecary having a dilettant interest in geology.

A SIMPLE CAMERA.

The popularity of photography is due not less to the simplification of the camera than to the invention of the dry plate. The perfection of the dry plate opened photography to all who could afford it, but the invention of simple and inexpensive cameras rendered picture making practical for every one.

We give exterior and interior views of a camera designed to suit the requirements of a large number of amateur photographers who desire a low priced instrument which is simple, easily managed and which will take a picture of fair size and quality.

This camera, which is known as the "Ray" camera, is made by Mutschler, Robertson & Company, of 175 West Main Street, Rochester, N. Y. The front of the camera, which is removable, is provided with an opening near the center opposite the lens inserted in the partition closing the front of the box. There is also a small opening in the front piece near the top in which is placed the finder lens, the reflector and ground glass of the finder being fixed in the body of the camera. The shutter is the acme of simplicity. A metal disk is mounted on a spindle extending through the camera front, and provided with a milled head by which the shutter may be set. An eccentric pin projecting from the disk near the spindle receives the loop on one end of the coil spring, the other end of which is attached to a screw inserted in the front board. The disk has an oblong opening through which the plate is exposed as the shutter turns, two lugs extend from the face of the disk at its periphery, and a stop pin projects from the disk near one of the lugs. The detent which is pivoted to the front has a double-acting spring consisting of a straight piece of spring wire extending through a loop which projects from the front. The inner end of the detent extends toward the disk in position to engage the lugs or the stop pin. A check spring secured to the front board bears lightly upon the shutter and serves as a stop to prevent the recoil and reopening of the shutter.

The shutter is set by turning the disk by means of the milled head until the spring is extended and passes the center of the disk, and one of the lugs rests against the detent. The rotation of the shutter is always in the same direction, so that the disk acts as a safety shutter of the most efficient kind. In the outer surface of the front board is inserted an adjustable stop by which the aperture may be varied to suit different kinds of work. The end of the detent extends through the side of the camera, where it may be easily operated for an instantaneous or time exposure.

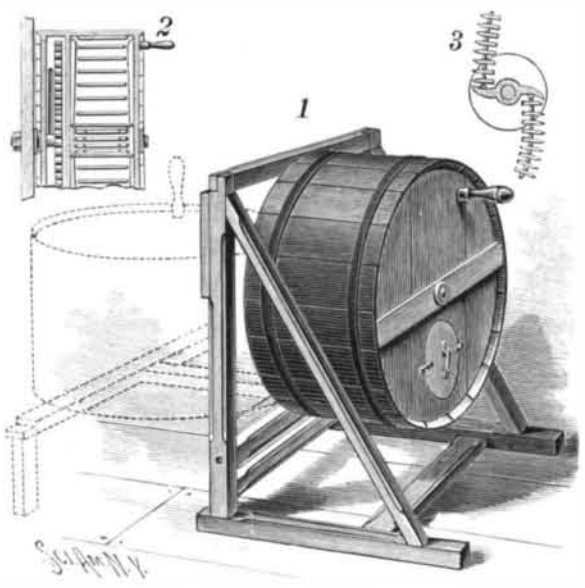
The rear end of the camera box has a space for plate holders. The plate holder is very light, simple and inexpensive. It is made of thin sheet iron, the parts being ribbed to render them rigid and connected together by folding or seaming, making a very compact light-tight holder. The slide is made of hard rubber and provided with a brass binding having an upwardly projecting loop for convenience in handling. The holder is provided with a fastener to prevent the accidental movement of the slide and is furnished with an efficient light stop for preventing the entrance of light as the slide is withdrawn.

The holder is furnished with a spring which holds the plate down in the channel at the bottom, so that it cannot accidentally become detached and fall out of the holder. Plates can be very easily inserted and removed. When the holder is inserted in the camera it is automatically locked, so that there is no danger of admitting light when the slide is withdrawn. Two such holders are furnished with the camera, and there is sufficient room for four additional holders. The holders are so light and compact that an additional half dozen or dozen can be readily carried in the pocket. The camera is provided with a suitable handle, and is furnished with a socket for receiving the screw of a tripod.

THE Havana floating dry dock, illustrated in our issue for October 16, 1897, reached Havana on November 7, after a successful voyage.

AN IMPROVED WASHING MACHINE.

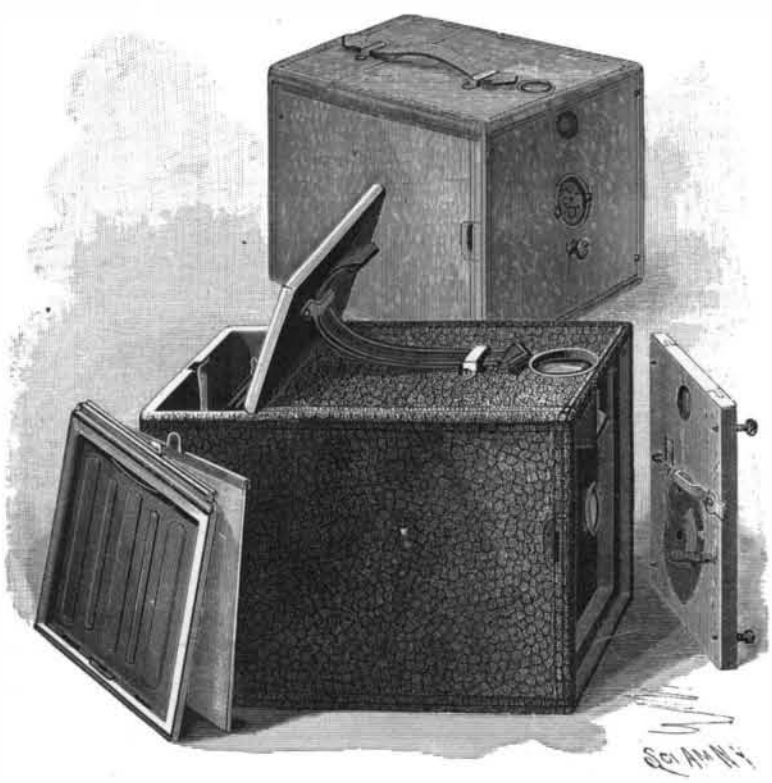
The accompanying illustration represents a washing machine which is claimed to work very easily, and in which the washing of clothes is said to be accomplished very quickly and efficiently, being greatly facilitated



PITZLER'S WASHING MACHINE.

by the action of the beaters inside the drum. The improvement has been patented by Fred R. C. Pitzler, Lester Prairie, Minn. The drum of the machine is adapted to be turned over to horizontal position when the soapy water and clothes are to be placed in it, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, Fig. 2 showing a section through the drum, and Fig. 3 representing the cylinder shaft with the attached beaters. Pivoted low down in the uprights of the framework is a cross bar joined at its center by a vertical bar with the top cross bar, the vertical bar and the two cross bars forming supports for the drum and allowing it to be swung to horizontal position, in which it is supported by posts hinged to the ends of the top cross bar, which then swing down into supporting position, as indicated by the dotted lines. The central shaft is fixed to the vertical bar, and does not rotate, but the drum is mounted to rotate on a sleeve which turns on the shaft, and the drum has a small inner watertight section containing gear wheels by which are operated beaters attached to the sleeve as the drum is rotated by the handle at one side, the sleeve being rotated by the gearing much more rapidly than the drum. The drum has on its inner periphery a series of longitudinal ribs, and the heads of the drum are also provided with radial ribs, there being in the outer head a filling opening through which the clothes are inserted. The beaters are attached, by means of cords or chains, to longitudinal flanges on the sleeve, and as the latter rotates the beaters are thrown outward by centrifugal force, striking the clothes and causing them to receive at the same time a rapid pounding and rubbing.

THE following telegram, dated October 18, has been received by the Royal Society from the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia relating to the experimental boring now in progress in the coral island of Funafuti: "September 16. 643 feet. Last 120 feet, coral reef rock. Still boring. Wrong machinery last year."



THE RAY HAND CAMERA.