building admits of comparison in respect of height with the Pyramid, when we come to the question of volume and weight our nineteenth century effort sinks into positive insignificance. The Pyramid, in its present mutilated condition, has a base of about 746 feet square and a vertical height of about 450 feet. Its present volume is estimated at about 82,000,000 cubic feet and its weight at 6,316,000 tons. The Park Row building has a volume of 3,906,580 cubic feet and a total dead weight of 20,000 tons, so that the ancient structure has about twenty-one times the volume and over three hundred times the weight of the modern building.

Evidently in respect of the bulk and weight of our buildings we cannot compete with the ancients, and as the Pyramid is no longer a popular form of mausoleum, it is not likely that we shall ever attempt to.

It is a curious fact, which will come as a surprise to many of our readers, that for all its great size and mass this building is no heavier than the latest ocean liner, the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse." The building contains about 8,000 tons of steel and 12.000 tons of other material, chiefly brick and terra cotta, making a total weight for the building of 20,000 tons. The "Kaiser Wilhelm" displaces 20,000 tons of water, and therefore equals the towering "skyscraper" in weight. The extreme length of the liner is 649 feet, measured on deck, so that she exceeds the greatest dimensions of the building by 148 feet. The total cost of the building

or even a million and a half more, the greater cost of the ship being due chiefly to the greater power and weight of machinery, of which about 27,000 horse power is in the ship as against 1,000 horse power in the building. Brick and terra cotta, moreover, are cheaper materials than ship frames and plating.

POPULATION .-This extraordinary building, with its modest frontage of 104 feeton Park Row, and of 20 feet and 48 feet on a side street and an alley, will accommodate the floating population of a fair-sized country town. That this is no exaggeration, the following figures will show. There are in the whole building 950 separate offices. As most of these are of generous proportions, a fair estimate of their capacity would be an average of four people to each office. Now, it is reasonable to assume that there will be at any given hour of

business for each person employed. This would make a total number of persons in the building at any period of the day of 8,000. If we assume that on an average five persons would call at each office during the day, for each person employed, we get a total of about 25,000 souls making use of the building in the course of every working day of the year.

HISTORICAL SURROUNDINGS. - In concluding we draw particular attention to the reproduction of a photograph taken from St. Paul's Churchyard. It would be impossible to find in all America a spot where the old and the new are so strangely blended as here. The venerable ecclesiastical building was erected in 1764 and was originally known as Trinity's St. Paul's Chapel. The site selected was a field of wheat opposite the Common, now the City Hall Park. It was opened for service on October 30, 1766, the sermon being preached by Samuel Auchmuty, D.D., "Rector of Trinity Church and Chaplain to the Right Hon. William, Earl of Stirling." The churchyard sloped westward to the Hudson River, whose shoreline was located where Greenwich Street now extends. The steeple of the church was added in 1794. At that time the church was beyond the city limits, and history records that the people "scrupled not to comment with just severity upon the folly of that visionary set of men, the vestry of Trinity Church, who had put so large and ornate a building in a place so remote and sequestered, so difficult of access, and to which the population could never extend."

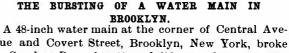
Could the captious critic but stand to-day and look around in this "place so remote and sequestered"!

The oldest pew-book extant commenced in 1828 and contains such names as that of Thomas Barclay, the first British consul in the early days of the republic, and other names more or less conspicuous in the history of the city, such as Haight, Larogue, Edward Bacon, Beekman, Stuyvesant, Schuyler, Kip, Lorillard, Goelet, and Stewart. Earlier pewholders in 1787, when the population of New York was only 30,000, were Isaac Jones; Peter Goelet, who lived at 48 Hanover Square; Mayor Richard Varick; Abraham Lawrence; and Mayor James Duane, who lived at 26 Nassau Street (at that time the upper Fifth Avenue of New York.)

On April 30, 1789, immediately after Washington's inauguration, he and both houses of Congress went in procession to St. Paul's and attended appropriate ser-

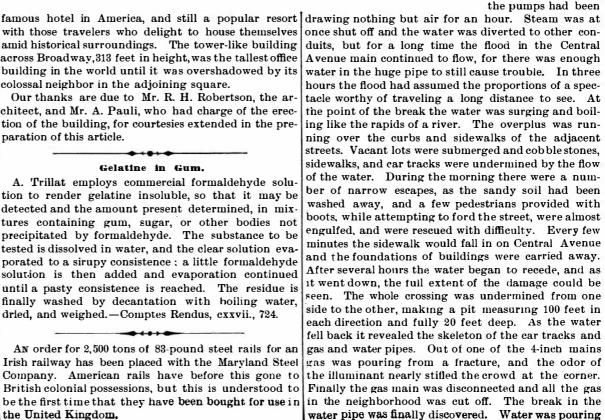
The remains of Montgomery, who fell at Quebec, were, in 1818, deposited beneath the monument erected by Congress to his memory. Other notable monu ments are that erected by Edmund Kean in memory of the actor George Frederick Cooke, and that of Bechet, Sieur de Rochefontaine, who served in the revolution. In the burial ground rest not a few other soldiers who fought on one or other side in the revolu-

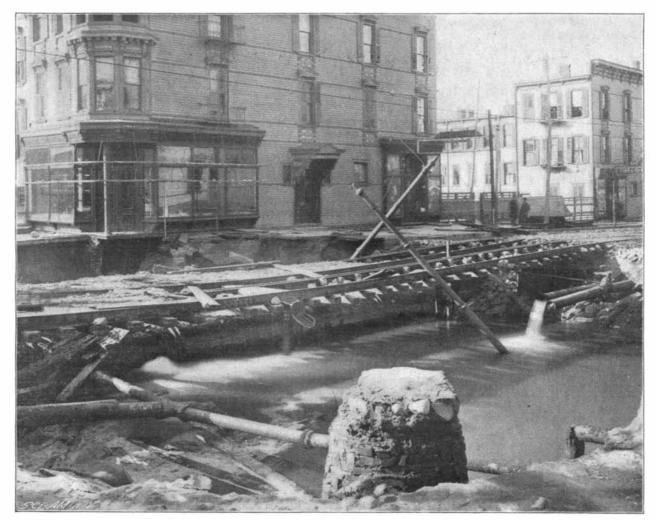
was \$2,400,000, and that of the ship probably a million famous Astor House, built in 1834, once the most was a roaring torrent and the people were fleeing for



nue and Covert Street, Brooklyn, New York, broke on Sunday, December 11, and did great damage. The pipe was of cast iron and was placed in position about eight years ago. It runs from the Ridgewood reservoir, which is not far distant, to the Prospect Hill pumping station. As a result of the fracture the houses in the neighborhood were undermined and rendered untenantable. For blocks around all the water was cut off and, owing to the break in the supply, a considerable section of Brooklyn was much restricted in the use of water. The gas mains were broken by the caving in of the street and the electric light and the trolley systems were also disorganized. The soil at the point of the break was sandy, which accounts for the fact that the street had been undermined long before the break showed on the surface. As near as could be ascertained it occurred about five o'clock in the morning. The local fire house was notified, and a number of firemen at once ran to the scene of the break to render aid. When they reached the place of the accident, they found the street car tracks on Central Avenue had disappeared and the trolley poles had toppled over, forming a letter A. There was a number of live wires, which made any attempt to Across the street to the left is seen a portion of the render assistance dangerous. In a few moments there their lives from ad-

> jacent buildings. On the northeast corner there was a fourstory tenement house, the ground floor being occupied by a mission chapel. Fortunately, there was no one in the chapel, but the floors above were tenanted. and as it was evident the flood had undermined the building. the police and firemen at once aroused and ordered out all of the occupants. The cellars in the vicinity were flooded to a depth of six teet, and the foreman of the fire engine company informed headquarters that there was danger of a water famine; so that a large part of the chemical apparatus in the city was sent to the fire engine houses in that section. A detail of laborers from the water department at once proceeded to the scene of the accident. It was known at the pumping station that there was already trouble, for





BREAK IN A 48-INCH WATER MAIN IN BROOKLYN, N. Y.

the day an average of one visitor in the building on famous hotel in America, and still a popular resort drawing nothing but air for an hour. Steam was at with those travelers who delight to house themselves amid historical surroundings. The tower-like building across Broadway, 313 feet in height, was the tallest office building in the world until it was overshadowed by its colossal neighbor in the adjoining square.

> Our thanks are due to Mr. R. H. Robertson, the architect, and Mr. A. Pauli, who had charge of the erection of the building, for courtesies extended in the preparation of this article.

Gelatine in Gum.

A. Trillat employs commercial formaldehyde solution to render gelatine insoluble, so that it may be detected and the amount present determined, in mixtures containing gum, sugar, or other bodies not precipitated by formaldehyde. The substance to be tested is dissolved in water, and the clear solution evaporated to a sirupy consistence; a little formaldehyde solution is then added and evaporation continued until a pasty consistence is reached. The residue is finally washed by decantation with boiling water, dried, and weighed.—Comptes Rendus, cxxvii., 724.

An order for 2,500 tons of 83-pound steel rails for an Irish railway has been placed with the Maryland Steel Company. American rails have before this gone to British colonial possessions, but this is understood to the United Kingdom.

out in a small stream from it. It was near the bottom of the pipe and was 3 feet long and 12 or 13 inches wide. It was considered by the experts that the break was due to structural weakness in the casting and it was impossible to detect it when the pipe was laid. There was great damage done to the sewer on Central Avenue, which was caved in and which will require several days to rebuild. It is estimated that 4,000,000 gallons of water were wasted before the gates could be closed and the water diverted to other mains.

Canvasing a Ceiling.

The canvasing of a ceiling is a job full of trouble for the inexpert hand, and not altogether a matter of pleasure, says The Master Painter, for anyone else. Different workmen have different ways of doing it, We think, adds the editor, our way as good as any, and better than some. It is not easy to describe the way, however. Then, the character of the job-cheap or otherwise, paint or paper, and so on-must be considered. To begin with, cheap canvas for a cheap job, and good material for a better job. That's the rule; but we would advise a good muslin for even a cheap job, unless you are going to leave the country for good.

One way to canvas is to sew together enough strips to cover the entire ceiling. Then attach one corner of it to one corner of the ceiling, adding a few more tacks along the side selvage, but not driving in the tacks all the way. Now, go to the opposite corner and tack there as you did the first. Then tack all the edge between the two corners. Now you have fastened one end of your canvas. Don't forget to pull as you tack. Beginning again at the first corner, tack along the side, stretching as you go. Then go to the second corner, and tack along that side. Lastly, tack the remaining end.

As to stretching, note that it is not well to get the canvas drum tight. If overtight, the canvas is liable to wrinkle in time, and nothing should be more dreaded. Should the canvas bag a little, no matter, as it will not be noticed by the casual visitor. In fact, it is impossible to prevent some degree of bagging, no matter how one may try.

For this reason we prefer a one-piece canvas, hanging loose, as it will show but one bag, and that a rather inconspicuous and not ungraceful bag either.

Shower-tack it, and you produce the effect of a carriage seat cushion. With blind-seams the same objection obtains. You get not one but several bags. and these by no means sightly ones.

Be sure to secure your edges well with lacks. Use six-ounce tacks. Put in a double row for making it sure. Blind-tacking is done when the canvas has been sewed in one piece, an inch seam being left on each joining, and this strip is "blind-tacked" to the ceiling.

To use single width strips, as in cheaper jobs, using a good strong muslin, take one corner of the strip and tack it in the angle of the wall and ceiling, making thus a little lap over. Drive the tack only enough to hold the material in place. Now go to the other end corner and repeat the same thing there. Next tack the other selvage edge of the strip, taking up the slack, and putting in a few tacks merely to hold in place. Then the strip is in position for the final stretching and tacking. Begin by tacking at the center of the side wall, tacking thence both ways, taking out the first tacks as you go. Pull the muslin as you proceed with the tacking. Tack the other selvage edge as you did the first, only that fewer tacks are needed here, as the next strip comes on top of it, to help secure it. But be sure to draw the material tight. Then tack both ends of the strip, drawing tight and tacking close to the wall.

We now take up the next strip and tack its corner over the first strip, opposite our starting point with the first strip. Then go to the other end and make that fast, temporarily, returning to the first point and tacking all along the edge over edge of the first strip. Don't pull the material too much, but just enough to make it smooth and straight. Temporary tacks will hold it out of your way. Finish as with the first strip, and proceed with the remaining strips until the other side of the room is reached, when you finish up as you

Just here remember that you will need a selvage to tack on against the wall, and hence, if your last strip proves to be too wide, split it, and put the cut side on the selvage of the preceding strip, so that you will still have a selvage for the last tacking. Use as strong a muslin as you can afford for a ceiling. Lighter material answers very well for side walls.

In tacking the selvage edge, see that the head of the tack holds down the edge, so that it won't turn up. Lo under the paper and cause trouble. Drive in all tacks | New

as far as possible, so that they will be lower, if anything, than the material.

Where the canvas is in one sheet, it may be rolled on a pole, and an assistant can hold wais while you tack. The double seam being next to the ceiling, you can tack it to the latter, and no tacks will show on the surface. This is "blind-tacking." The tack is driven in about a quarter inch from the line of sewing. Unroll about a foot more than the single width of strip at a time. Draw your edge taut as you tack.

The muslin or canvas may be sized with glutol paste, over which paper, water, paint, and oil paint will adhere perfectly.

Death of Sir William Jenner.

Sir William Jenner, Physician in Ordinary to the Queen and the Prince of Wales, died December 11, at the age of eighty-three. He is principally noted for distinguished services in the field of clinical medicine. He was the first to establish, beyond dispute, the difference between typhus and typhoid fevers.

The Current Supplement.

The current Supplement, No. 1199, contains a number of articles of great interest. "The Gular Pouch of the Great Bustard" is a most curious and interesting ornithological article. "Roman Construction," by G. W. Percy, is continued and is a valuable study. "Dr. William R. Brooks" is a biography of a noted astronomer. As director of the Smith Observatory he has been very successful in comet discovery, having just added the twenty-first to his list. "Calcium" is a paper by Sir Robert Ball, and the number is concluded by a large number of formulas for test papers.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

idge, safety of the Brooklyn 402 ildings, tallest modern401, 409	Notes and queries 4 Notes and receipts, miscellane-	13
ble line changed to electricity* 405	Ous 4 Pavements, cost of cleaning	06
nvasing a ceiling	brick	03
york	Science notes 4	06
ock, Havana's floating 402 gineer, heroic deed of a 407	Skyscrapers and old fogyism 4 Still water* 4	101
rearms, military	Subscribers, a word to our 4 Supplement, current 4	
is holder, collapse of*		04
comotives, electric, for Europe402	Tools, English and American machine 4	02
ewspaper office, breakdown in 402	Water main, bursting of 4	11

RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS. Agricultural Implements.

HARROW-PETER J. HELLER, Montclair, N. J. The harrow of this inventor comprises a toothed frame mounted upon a pair of wheels. An axle connects the wheels and has vertical members formed as tuber open at the top and bottom. Rods slide in the tubes and are attached to the harrow-frame. Springs surrounding the rods between the lower ends of the tubes and the frame, are adapted to hold the frame down. Brace-rods attached to the harrow-frame embrace at their upper ends the vertical rods above the tubes. Lifting-levers mounted upon the axle are attached to the harrow-frame. A depressing-lever having its pivots supported from the harrow-frame, engages the axle, whereby the load upon the axie may be transferred to the harrow-frame when de-

SCYTHE.-SANFORD J. BAKER and JOHN KING, Oakland, Me. The blade of this scythe is formed with ribs extending over the rear portion of the blade. The ribs diminish in size from the rear to terminate in points. Considerable strength is thus given to the blade, and the danger of the metal's breaking when striking against hard substances is lessened.

PLOW-FENDER. - JOSEPH H. TAYLOR, Lewisport, Ky. This fender comprises a plate provided with an orifice and with a curved slot concentric therewith. Pins held by an arm fastened rigidly to a clamp adapted to be attached to the plow-beam, are passed respectively through the orifice and through the slot. By this means the fender is adjustably held on the arm. A series of slots in the plate permit fine earth to pass through the fender. The fender may be used on any plow and is designed to protect young plants during the tilling of the

Bicycle Appliances.

this invention is to provide a poerful bicycle-brake which shall have a large effective surface within a comparatively small space. To this end an auxiliary brake-wheel is used, provided with an exterior and interior band-brake. By pressing upon a lever, the exterior band is brought into frictional engagement with the brake-wheel, and the interior band by means of toggle-links is spread into engagement with the inner surface of the wheel.

Engineering Improvements.

ROTARY ENGINE. - James C. Walker, Waco, Tex. This rotary engine is an improvement upon the mechanism of an engine for which patents were granted to the same inventor. In the present engine, the inletport and its cut-off valves are connected with mechanisin for operating these valves. The mechanism in question comprises a drive-shaft geared with the engineshaft; a disk mounted on the drive-shaft to rotate there with, having a fixed cam to move the injet, valves in one direction; a ball-governor mounted on the drive-shaft, and a cut-off member mounted on the disk to rotate therewith, but having movement independent thereof The cut-off member operates to move the valve in a direction reverse to that of a fixed cam on the disk. A rack and pinion mechanism is operated by the shifting

cut-off member.

Mechanical Devices.

COLOR PRINTING-MACHINE.-WILLIAM H. WAL-DRON, New Brunswick, N. J. In cylinder color printingmachines considerable difficulty has been experienced in changing the machine for differently-sized printingrollers, as it is evident that in doing so, the bearings for the printing-rollers must be adjusted to bring the roller into contact with the periphery of the impression-cylinder. Heretofore the various adjustments were made separately and required considerable time and skill. The present machine is provided with a bracket fitted to slide in fixed bearings and carrying a printing-roller. A frame sliding on the bracket carries an apron. By means of a screw-rod an adjustment of the bracket in its bearings and of the frame on the bracket may be simultaneously effected

FISHING REEL. - GEORGE O. BROSNAHAM, Jr., Pensacola, Fla. To permit a fisherman to wind up a line evenly on the spool and to enable him to stop the line at will when casting, this inventor employs a gearwheel connected to revolve with his reel and adapted to spring acts on the swinging member to hold it in admechanism connects the gear-wheel with the reel. By the car is on either one of the track-switches means of a finger-piece on a shifting-lever, the reel may be freed or locked at will.

STREET-SWEEPER .- ADAM C. A. DUPUY, New Orleans, La. In this street-sweeper a wheeled support is provided with independent compartments, each compartment having a section adapted to receive and hold between the balls and is provided with a head to retain refuse. A pocket-wheel adapted to take up stones is mounted to revolve in one of the compartments. A the caster is applied, being moved about, two of the BRAKE.-LOREN E. CLARK, Shenandoah, Pa. The brush is mounted to revolve in the other compartment. The wheel and brush are located adjacent to the inlets of the receiving-sections of the compartments, so as to take upthedirt, dust, and stones. The brush and pocketwheel are so constructed that they may be raised and lowered at will. In operating the machine but one man is required.

Railway Appliances.

TRUCK-LIFTER - WILLIAM J. DONALDSON, LA Grange, Tex. With the wheel and axle, the journal-box and frame of a car-track are joined a flexible sting having grappling connections at its ends fastened at one end with the journal-box frame, and anchored at the other to move with the wheel in order to cause the rotary movement thereof to lift the journal-box from its bear ing and simultaneously to hold down the wheel on the track. The invention is especially designed to be applied to loaded or empty freight-cars. The inventor states that, with this device, a truck can be lifted in but a fraction of the time formerly required. No screw-jacks, bars, or blocks are used. Manual labor is saved by causing the engine to do all the work.

CAR-COUPLING.-JOHN M. LARKIN, Union, S. C. Connected with a chambered draw-head and with a jointed coupling-link securable therein, is a buffer-block at the front end of the draw-head, having a laterally- support.

of the ball-governor held to engage with and shift the widened transverse slot through which the link passes the joint being located in the slot and being thus adapted the link-and-pin type, and is designed to take up shocks heads are connected therewith.

> mond, Va. The tool provided by this inventor is mounted to swing toward and from a track and to project into the grooves, so that as the car moves along, snow, ice, and dirt will be removed. The cleaner consists of a rigid plate to which a scraper is attached, projecting downwardly. A flexible sheet is secured against the plate and has a brushing-tongue extending down at the rear of the scraper. A backing-plate is secured against the flexible sheet and has a downwardly-projecting tongue reinforcing the brushing-tongue. The scraper advances through the groove, dislodges foreign substances and is then followed by the brushing tongue.

BLOCK-SIGNAL SYSTEM.—WILLIAM L. STOCKTON Trenton, Ohio. This block-signal system for electric railways provides a lamp at each end of the section. At the ends of the section, turnout track-switches are located. be engaged by a swinging locking member in order to The wiring is so arranged that the lamp-circuit may be prevent the spool from turning in one direction. A energized from the main current operating the car. A simple switch is also provided, which operates to close justed position. A crank-handle on the swinging-mem- the lamp-circuit while the car is on the section between ber enables the line to be readily wound np. A clutch the track-switches, and to open the lamp-circuit when

Miscellaneous Inventions.

BALL-CASTER. - ALPHONSO H. COBB, Asheville, N. C. This caster is composed of a body having a flanged socket containing three balls. A stud is pas the balls in position. The article of furniture to which balls will fall as soon as motion begins to the rear, until they bring up upon the outer rim of the socket. Friction will then be exerted upon the walls. The third ball works loosely because of space in front and overhead.

PESSARY-APPLIER.-EDWARD A. BUTLER, Prescott, Arizona Territory. The applicator of this inventor comprises a barrel having one end beveled and flanged. A piston working in the barrel is provided with a packng and with a head beyond the packing. The head is in the form of a truncated cone having its sides inclined toward the beveled end of the barrel.

TILE AND TILE SETTING.—CHARLES C. ALEX- stiffener. ANDER, Bayonne, N. J. Two methods are employed in setting tiles, known in the trade as "floating" and buttering," In the first method, the bed of cement used often cracks. In the second method, interstices are formed which harbor vermin and moisture. It is the purpose of this invention to provide a tile free from these faults. The tile in question is formed on its back edges with an annular rabbet, leaving a projection embedded in the cement, the rabbet being completely filled with the cement. When the cement shrinks, a pressure is exerted by portions thereof in an inward direction against. the rabbeted edges, and thus the tile is securely gripped ! on all sides. The air is expelled during the setting process. Each tile is independent of its neighbors for the name of the patentee, title of the invention, and late

UMBRELLA RIB-TIP CUP. -- JOHN ALLESINA, Portland, Ore. This cup consists of an inner sleeve arto flex laterally. The coupling, it will be observed, is of ranged to slide on the stick, and an outer sleeve rigid with the inner sleeve. The outer sleeve is formed so when two cars are brought together, and to permit a free that it shall be of uniform diameter from end to end, lateral movement of the link when two coupling draw- is arranged to slide on the handle, and projects beyond the lower end of the inner sleeve, thus forming a chan-TRACK-CLEANER. - LEONIDAS R. SHELL, Rich; nel for the reception of the rib-tips when the umbrella is closed.

TENT.-HENRY O. FLIPPER, Nogales, Arizona Territory. A simple, light tent has been patented by this inventor, which tent is made of one piece of material. The canvas or other cloth used may be divided and two shelter-tents made therefrom it being possible for the divided material to be brought together to form a pyramid tent, which may be opened at the front and at the back. When taken down, the tent may be carried by two men, although capable of sheltering four. The canvas is so shaped that it may be used as a wagonsheet, as a blanket, or as a pack-covering, by hunters. When the tent is erected, portions of the material may be carried within to form a covering for the ground.

WAGON-BOX CLAMP.-MACK A. LEITER, Sadorus, Connected with a bolster and a standard thereon, are braces running from the bolster to the standard. An arm extends through the standard and through the braces and projects from both sides of the standard. Clamping-rods pass through holes in the arm and have hook upper ends. Nuts on the rods engage against the under side of the arm. As the arm is held in the standard and the braces, it is evident that the clamping-rods can be drawn down tightly on screwing up the nuts, without danger of breaking the bolster-standard.

Designs.

DUST-GUARD SECTION.-James S. Patten, Baltimore, Md. Two design-patents were granted to this inventor. The first design has as its leading feature a plate with a curved edge and inwardly sloping grooves in the opposite edges. The second design consists of a plate having side arms, a curved surface at the base of the arms, and sloped ribs at the inner edges of the arms.

SKIRT-BINDING. - CYRUS L. SULZBERGER, New York city. The five designs of this inventor are the result of an improved process of manufacturing bias velveteen, by which the fabric is improved in appearance and durability, and receives an added stiffness without losing its flexibility, thus enabling it to serve as a dress-

GAME OR PUZZLE-BOARD.-GEORGE S. O'FLYN, New York city. The puzzle provided by this inventor consists in turning over marked blocks of wood through one plane at a time, so that they shall finally rest in certain fields with their marked surfaces turned up.

MUFF. - MAX W. JUDENFREIND, New York city. On the muff-body of this design a pocketbook has been secured in such a manner that the wearer of the muff can readily open the pocketbook whenever she may so

Note.—Copies of any of these patents will be furnished by Munn & Co. for 10 cents each. Please send of this paper.