retreating, followed by its active enemy which merely lesired to use it as depository for its eggs.
In almost every town in California the singular in dustry described is carried on, and its effect in Pasa dena has been to materially diminish the supply of tarantulas, the places where they were once common knowing them no more

## The Recent Eruptive Period of Vesuvius-Simul

The eruptive period of Vesuvius commenced on the 2d of July, 1895. It continued with uniform phe nomena until September 3, 1899, when the lava ceased to flow by the lateral fissure. From that time the crater, which was then 656 feet deep, began to fill up again. On April 24, 1900, it was only 260 feet deep, and contained a magma of bases rich in aeriform products. A period of a month of extreme activity ensued. There was no emission of lava, but the ex plosions within the crater were intensely violent, es pecially from May 4 to May 14, the maximum occurring on the 9th of May. They could be distinctly heard throughout all Campania Felicia. The crater was enlarged by 13 or 16 feet in diameter. At the end it measured 537 feet from southwest to northeast and 590 feet from east to west. The circumference was 1,771 feet. The flames were abundant, due to the emission of the vapors of sulphur and hydrogen sulphide. The greatest height attained by the bombs and scoriæ was 1,761 feet from the bottom of the crater.
On the 9th of May a bowlder measuring about twelve cubic meters was thrown out, which weighed ap proximately thirty tons. This was the greatest ejected, and took about 17 seconds in passing over the whole trajectory, falling on the ground with a velocity of about 262 feet a second. The vis viva of the vapors
which had propelled it was estimated at 607,995 horse power.
The quantity of solid matter thrown from the crater during the explosive period (April and May) was about half a million of cubic meters. These emissions increased the height of Vesuvius by 33 feet. The high est point previously was 4,221 feet above the level of the sea; now it is 4,273 feet.

I remained on the mountain for three consecutive days, the 11th, 12 th and 13 th of May. On the 13 th in the morning, there was a copious emission of va pors; toward noon the explosions were resumed, and soon reached a point of extreme intensity. From my position near the border of the crater I was observing the action closely, when I was startled by a formidable explosion, which rained about me a shower of myriads of stones and incandescent scorix. I escaped as by miracle. Among the most important phenomena was the complete envelopment of the crater with flames and the multitude of bombs bursting violently in thei course through the air. It was a marvelous spectacle Around me were lapilli, covered with sal ammoniac and scoriæ, with a lustrous patina of metallic appear ance, formed of ferric nitrite.
As is known, M. O. Silvestri, stimulated by the experiments of Henri Sainte-Claire Deville, undertook observations on the lavas of Etna, for the purpose of investigating volcanic theories, especially relating to the influence of chemical dissociations, and that he reached very satisfactory conclusions with respect to the genesis of certain nitrated compounds formed within volcanoes.
Thus, by passing a current of chlorhydric acid over reheated iron-bearing silicates, Silvestri obtained water, free silica and ferric chlorides. On heat ing these chlorides in a current of ammonia there were disengaged besides hydrogen and ammonium chloride, chlorhydric acid and ferric nitrite. Finally in causing the reaction together, on the reheated lava,
of chlorhydric acid and ammonia (or ammonium chloride), pure hydrogen, chlorhydric acid and ferric nitrite were obtained with separation of sal ammoniac (ammonium chloride).
Without ignoring the great difference between the operations of nature and those of our laboratories, I have no hesitation, in view of my observation of a true isochronism in the production of ammonium chloride and of ferric nitrite in the crater of Vesuvius, in holding, according to the experimental results I have cited, that there exists an intimate genetic connection between these two nitrated compounds of volcanic origin

## The Current Supplement

The current Supplement, No. 1317, contains many articles of interest along many lines. The first page is occupied by an engraving showing the removal of Moreau-Vauthier's statue "La Parisienne" from the monumental gateway of the late Paris Exposition. "The Foothills of Colorado" is by .H. A. Crafts. "The Canals of Mars" is by Miss M. A. Orr. "Information Concerning the Angora Goat" is accompanied by several illustrations. "Snow Upon Railways" describes the systems in vogue on the Trans-Siberian Railway. "American Engineering Progress" is continued.


RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS
 acteristic features of this telephone apparatus
are a support for the receiver, which support are a support for the recelver, ceiver rests thereon or not; a movable colnceiver rests thereon or not; a movable coin-
support; a circuit designed to be closed by
the movement of the coin-support; and a the movement of the coin-support ; and a
movable coin-retainer operatively connected with the receiver-support and arranged to lease the coin when the receiver is put back - close the speaking-circuit.

ELECTRICAL DEVICE FOR ALTERNATFrance. The inventor has discovered that an acid to which ammonia may be added and in which are plunged two electrodes, the one graphite or plumbage, and the other of a alloy of zinc and aluminium, has the propert
of arresting one of the phases of an alternat of arresting one of the phases of an alternat-t- pass freely. vert the two alternate phases it is necessary merely to arrange tw $\bullet$ similar parallel, having their electrodes disposed in reverse order. By experiment, it has been
found that two similar couples thus arranged found that two similar couples thus arrange
can convert alternating currents having can convert alternating currents having
mean electrom 0 ive force of 200 volts .
TELLi'HONE - RBCEIVER H@LDER. Georgie S. Merer, Newburg, N. Y. It has
been the object of the inventor to provide a been the object of the inventor to provide
simple device by means of which the receiver the transmitter, se that the hands may be left ree to take notes. The arrangement con ists of a bar in engagement with and pre jecting from the transmitter-arm in such a position that the receiver is in proper position
for use.

| chanical Devices. |
| :---: |
| - Albert |
| nings, Oklahoma Territory. With |
| -vement, the bale formed in an ordinar |
| ton-press receives a final compression. Mr |
| eese prefers to employ his inve |
| hment to a cotton-press. Th |
| aratus comprises rotatable baling-chambers |
| which are alternately flled with cotton. |
| unger operates in conjunction with - |
| chambers at a time to compress the cot |
| against a platen. A removable follower |
| designed to be carried by the plunger: and |
| njunction with the removable fol |
| ame is employed, carrying a number of |
| atens to compress the cotton. At one side |
| the platen a hydraulic device is arranged |
| h can be connected with |
| wer to compress the material |
| dumping . Wagon. - Thomas Wrig |
| -sey City, N. J. This invention |
| class of dumping-wagons which discharge |
| the load by tilting the waron-body rearward |
| -bject of the invention |
|  |
|  |

load and the replacement of the tilted body than wagons of its class as heretofore co structed, and which will alse permit the
reacly removal of the wagon-body for the reception of a load and for its subsequent replacement on the running-gear of the wag $\quad$.
ArPARATUS FOR PRODUCING MOLDS ATPARATUS FӨR PRODUCING MOLDS
FOR CAST-IRON PIPES.-ErNST FQRSTER, 43 Sagorodulji-Prospect, St. Petersburg, Rus-
sia. This invention is designed This invention is designed to produce
at one operation any number of molds for tubes, pipes, and other articles of regular form and considerable length. The castings made mom such molds are perfectly seamless; the transversely. The time required for making a mold for sixteen pipes does not exceed
twenty minutes, it is claimed. The efficiency of the apparatus is, therefore, evident.
Further merits are the great exactness and accuracy, and the omission of mold boxes inclosing the mol
t• dry properly.
MERRY-GO-ROUND.-William F. Man Gels, Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York city. crank-shaft for imparting movement to the seats. The object of the inventor is to provide improvements merry-g-r-unds whereby the driving-gear for
the crank-shaft is completely relieved of the weight of the revoluble frame. Conseguently, undue strain is avoided and the frame is supported independently of the gearing to insure an easy running of
tively little power
TWINE-HOLDER AND CUTTER.-RAY mon D. Weakley, St. Louis, Me. The device holds the twine in a suitable carrier. Cutting blades are brought into action at any time after the twine-carrier has been brought to a position within a casing. The movement of lished by the operation of a movable knife. When the twine has been cut, the movabie knife is relieved from pressure, and the twinecarrier is
position.
BOOTS STos, Eureka, Cal. The invention provides a simply-constructed durable machine for calk ing boots and shoes. The improvements mad by the inventor have perfected the construc
tion and increase the efficiency of operation.
CaSh-mRawer.-Julius fhman. Manhattan, New York city. The cash-drawer com-
prises a money-receptacle having two locking prises a money-receptacle having two locking
devices, both controlled by the drawer-knob. One locking device serves to lock the moneyreceptacle to the drawer, and the other lock-
ing device serves to lock the rece tacle to a stationary part. An alarm is actuated by the drawer. Mechanism is controlled by the lastmentioned locking device to throw the alarm of the locking devices. The alarm is given when any person not familiar with the conwhen any person not familiar with the
struction of the drawer seeks to steal the money.
Latile-bog.- limili Schwickart, hrookyn. New York city. The lathe-dog comprises
a body having V -shaped members. On one of
number of recesses located one above the outer ends on the supports and extend from of the recesses. On the free end of the clame-ing-bar an adjustable bolt is pivoted, engaging a flange on the other body member. Piveted on the clamping-bar between the fulcrum and bolt is a clamping-block. having concave sides. of the block. Gight different adjustments can jects of different diameters.
Current. Wheel. - Eibr Peterson,
Spokane, Wash. The water-wheel comprises
a supporting-shaft to which a shell is attached.
Spokes pass through the wall of the shell and
are secured at their ends to the ends of the
shell. Blades are attached to the spokes. F"or-
ward of the shell is a tapered casing. As the
current strikes the taper it is divided and
thrown out to strike the several blades simul-
taneously; thus the eddies of the stream
be $\bullet$ vercome and greater power obtained.
Vehicles and Their Accessories. BicyCle-Support.-Eren Miller, Fredsupport comprises essentially a supporting rame on which a rack-bar is movable. Gear-
wheels engage the rack-bar. On the wheels engage the rack-bar. On the gear-
wheels supporting-legs are carried, by the movement of which a wheel-engaging device in its construction and can be very easily djusted
wheel.- tt• Tegen, L॰wry, Minn. Th purpose of this invention is to provide a ve-
hicle-wheel which will yieldingly support its -ad. T• this end the invention embodies by wheel with its rim and hub connected spokes hinged in place and provided with springs which have their end
connected with the hub and rim
SPEED-GEAR.-SEGWICK M. Wade, Andover, Ohio. This invention is a means for
transmitting motion and for varying the speed and direction of motor-vehicles. The gearing comprises tw• worms driven in the same direc-
tion. Between the worms is a double-bevel worm-wheel movable to engage either worm. A spur worm-wheel is movable to engage one of the worm-wheels, and a crown worm-
is movable to engage one of the worms.

## Railway Appiances.

tie.-Hiram Stout, Kingman, Kans. The ailway-tie comprises a pair of hollow stringe blocks made of clay. to which blocks a tie bar is bolted. Wooden chairs receive the
rails and are interposed between the blocks and rails and have recesses at their under sides - receive the ends of the tie-bar. The chairs form cushions for taking up the vibra
alse prevent wear on the clay blocks.
convertible freight-car.-Oscar b. Critchlow, Leadville, Cole. The car is se
constructed that it can be conveniently converted from an ordinary flat-botom box-car for carrying freight to a hopper-botom boxcar for carrying grain. The floor for the careithei in a horizontal position on the floorsupporting timbers, or to hang with their diaphragm to which a plunger is secured, and
or bar projects from the support and is con
nected with the plunger. A spring exerts
pressure on the arm or bar. The plunger properly actuates its part of the diaphragm properly actuates its part of the diaphragm
to draw off the fibers through the openings in a screen into a suction-box, the material flow-
ing by its gravity into a receiving-box and over a gate. The provision of a single outle fer two or more suction chambers having a number of screen-plates brings the pulp into
a separate compartment in the receiving-box, a separate compartment in the receiving-box
so that the operator has full control of the pulp, regardless of the number of suction ctiambers in the machine.
ADJUSTABLE GUN-STOCK. - Joseph N. Zoller, St. Matthews, Ky. This attachment for gun-stocks enables one gun to be used for
various purposes. An adjusting head is pivoted in the stock and attached to the grip The head is provided with peripheral teeth, between the spaces of which a
slide in the stock can be projected.
WASII-TUB attachment. - Otto cinlweityer, Paterson, N. J. The invento has provided a wash-tub with a movable parti-
ion enabling the wash-tub to be used as bathtub. On the upper edge of the partition, levers are mounted. A plate is pivoted on
one lever and has sliding connections with the other lever. A screw is carried on the parti tions a
Stool.-John m. Burdum, Batavia, Ill his stool is to be used in boot and shoe store est for the foot of the person on whom shoe is to be fitted
Crucible.-Porter w. Shimer, Easton, ra. The crucible is to be used for fusing or highly heating metal or other material in a atmosphere of any gas. The crucible is pro vided with a hollow stopper seated on a rubber per and crucible and circulating air.
weathine-strip. - William L. Smith, Momer E. Ashcraft and Willian O. Jami attached to any door. When the door is closed a member of the weather-strip is firmly in en gagement with a threshold-strip. As the door is opened, a protective member of the weather strip is automatically carried up to engage ment with the body of the weather-strip; a the weather-strip is automatically brought into engagement with the threshold-strip and odged in protective position.
GAME.-John G. Flord, Mastic, N. Y The apparatus employed in this game com
prises a course, defined at its ends by goals, In this course a ball is to be placed. Player arranged in opposing teanss are to have fo their object to protect their respective goals past the goal. The apparatus can be quickly set up in a room or on a lawn.
SPACE-bAR FOR LINOTYPE MACHINES -David A. Hensley, Vicksburg, Miss. The mproved space-bar consists essentially of two parts or wedges, the upper one of which may $\hat{t}$ is held a stationary member inasmuch a rdinary against upward movement in the termed the movable member, as it is driven by the usual or any improved mechanism for the purpose of expanding the space-bar. The same as that of ordinary space-bars. Superior esults are obtained, however, owing particularly to the fact that a shield is employed of substantially the same outline as the movable member, which shield is of uniform thickness
instead of being wedge-shaped as in other constructions. It is impossible for either the novable wedge or the shield to spring away from the stationary wedge or to move transversely or edrewise.
Callenidak. - Arthitr A. Sparks, San
Francisco, Cal. The calendar relates to that class in which a device is provided for indicating at a glance the day of the week and th month. Each one of the date-spaces has
holder or fastening device. An indicator cat be secured to any of the fastening devices. To prevent accidental loss of the indicator, an elastic string or cord is employed.
stove.-Samcel ir. Jackson, selma, Cal From the top plate of the stove a combustion
hamber, and an inner or suplementary combustion chamber, are hung. A stand-pipe ex ends up from the bottom wall of the outer combustion chamber into the inner combustio is controlled in a simple, novel manner.

## Designs.

Gaiment - Iook. - William II. Goss, Stonington, Me. The hook comprises two up-wardly-curved members and an upwardly and

Display Sample-tube. - Charles Price, Richmond Hill, Queens, N. Y. The leading feature of the design consists of a glass tube closed at one end, and decorated at the other end with a cap which extends for
some distance a!ong the body.
plaiting-blade-David Kisch, manhattan. N. Y. The blade comprises a number of on one face and convexed.

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ce cream.


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