## AUTOMOBILE ROLLER AXLE BEARINGS

The simplest and oldest form of bearing is undoubtedly the plain or parallel axle bearing. It is as old as history itself, and we might be using it yet had it not been for the advent of the bicycle. The writer of the present article well remembers how, in the late seventies, he rode machines that were successively equipped with the plain parallel bearing, the cone bearing, the roller bearing, and finally the single and double ball bearing. Each of these sought to improve upon the original parallel bearing by reducing friction and providing a means of periodically taking up the wear. The plain and the cone bearings were subjected to rubbing friction, the roller and ball bearings to rolling friction. For reasons which will be subsequently explained, the early roller bearings were a failure and soon ceased to be a serious competitor to the ball bearing, which at once proved its absolute superiority to any other type for use in bicycles.

It is not necessary here to demonstrate the superiority of a rolling over a rubbing friction in bearings; and were the question of a perfect bearing a question of friction merely, the ball bearing would stand to-day as the perfect bearing for every conceivable class of work. There are, however, other elements which are of vital importance, especially in bearings intended to carry the heavy loads and be subjected to the violent shocks which are imposed in the modern automobile. We refer to the question of wear and adjustment. As regards the wear, while it is true that under
best method of control. Moreover, it is scarcely les important to provide some form of separator, other wise the adjacent surfaces of rollers, since they rotate in opposite directions, will exert a rubbing friction against each other that would defeat the very object of the bearing. Many devices have been adopted for guiding the rollers, among which may be mentioned the use of end slots, cages and pivots mounted in cages. Some of these have considerable merit and have stood the hard service of several thousand miles of work; but they all show more or less weakness in the tendency of the cages to wear away, letting the rollers get out of adjustment, and in the liability of the cages to break under the twisting strains that are brought upon them. There is also a certain amount of friction due to the rotation of the rollers in the cages themselves.
The very interesting roller bearing herewith illus trated, which is manufactured by the American Roller Bearing Company, 32 to 40 Binford Street, Boston, Mass., has been designed with a view to satisfactorily solving this problem of control. It seeks to get rid of the rubbing friction which is ultimately fatal to the roller cage, and to provide a system of separation and control which will not only obviate friction, but which will keep the rollers at all times absolutely in parallelism. We present several views of the details of this device, and also a sectional view of a wide axle bearing, in which two of the standard bearings are used, one at each end of the journal. The bearing consists of a series of large rollers, $A$, separated by smaller separating rollers, $B$, which are mounted between the centers of the main rollers, and serve to prevent them from coming in contact. These separ ators which, like the main rollers and the races, $C$ and $G$, are made of hardened steel of high tensional strength, have rolling supports at their ends, this support being afforded by the retainer caps, $F$. The enlarged ends of the sep arators bear on the races in these caps and are so proportioned that they travel around in perfect harmony with the main rollers without slipping or drag ging. Even at the slower speeds, centrifugal force keeps the separating roller n contact with the retainer caps, so that they have no bearing on the sleeve. At the same time this inner sleeve prevents them from dropping out of place when the speed is too slow. Now, it will be noticed that instead of utilizing the cages ordinarily used, the main rollers, $A$, are kept in place by their beveled edges bearing against the beveled en larged ends of the separators. Before any given bearing could get out of lat eral adjustment, or swing around out of parallel with the axis of the bearing t would have to stretch and break the shank of the steel separators. In other words, the whole tensional strength of he separators is available to keep the BEARING the separators
earing in absoluterng bearing surfaces and the carefully The generous bearing surfaces and the carefully
proportioned parts, which have been so adjusted that proportioned parts, which have been so adjusted that rings up to and beyond its breaking strength, are features that have combined to give to this bearing the extremely low coefficient of friction of 0.00127 , as shown in labor tory tests, and a practically negligible amount wear.
The development of this bearing was carried out in the automobile field, and the success achieved has led to its application to general carriage, wagon and truck work, and to that most severe of tests, the trolley and railroad service. The bearing has stood up so well under heavy trucking that steps are now being taken to enter that most severe field of trolley and railroad service.

This is the third year of the bearing in active serv ce and the results seem to be proving the claims of the bearing. It is found that the bearings need attention about once in three to six months according to the service. The saving in care is therefore an important element.
An interesting test was made recently with two heavy caravans of a Boston transportation company one fitted with American roller bearings and one with plain bearings. The roller bearing van had been in service for ten months, and both vans were of the same ype. They were loaded equally and a series of draw bar pull tests made on various kinds of roadbeds. An average of all the readings on both vans showed a net saving of 26.5 per cent for the roller bearing van. These bearings had received attention but once dur ing the ten months and showed no perceptible wear.

Dr. Theodore W. Richards, who was recently called to the Chair of Chemistry at Göttingen, has been elected Professor of Physics at Harvard University.

## ADTOMOBILE NOVELTIES

The Crest Motor Starter.-A very handy device for starting the motor from the seat of the carriage is shown in the annexed cut as applied to the light runabout of the Crest Manufacturing Company. The apparatus consists of a drum on which is wound a belt that passes up through the floor of the vehicle and ends in a suitable handle. Fastened to the inside of the drum is a ratchet that some pawls on a plate keyed o the shaft of the motor, engage. A pull on the strap, therefore, turns the motor, after which a spring in the drum revolves it backward and re-winds the strap.


## CREST MOTOR STARTER.

As soon as the motor starts, the pawls are thrown out of engagement with the ratchet by centrifugal force, and so produce no clicking noise.
The motor on the Crestmobile also carries a novelty in the shape of an exhaust valve lifter, by which the valve can be raised when the carriage is coasting, and the motor allowed to aspire cool air instead of an explosive mixture. This is one of the patented features of the Crest air-cooled motor.
Mr. Elifu Thomson, who is one of our best-known inventors, is the assignee of a patent recently granted to Otto F. Persson, of Lynn, Mass:, for a novel reversible automobile seat. The back of the seat is provided with a double set of projections which work in closed-end slots formed in the back-supporting pieces. An opening is located between the ends of each slot in order that the seat may be inserted and removed. It is evident from this construction that the seat can be easily placed in the slots, shifted either forward or backward, and thus readily reversed. The ends of the


A NEW REVERSIBLE AUTOMOBILE SEAT.
slots are somewhat enlarged, so that the lower edge of the seat may fit into a notch in the seat in order to provide a rigid support.
The Hendricks Magneto.-Instead of a miniature dynamo, the Hendricks Novelty Company make a magneto with permanent magnets, for gas engine ignition. The claims of this company for a patent on a speed governing pulley that is applicable to any small dynamo or magneto have, we are informed, just been allowed, and the company intends putting the device on the market in the near future.
The Covert Running Gear and Transmission.-To anyone contemplating building his own automobile, the light runabout furnished by Byron V. Covert \& Co. offers many advantages. The running gear is sold complete, with two clutches operated by a single lever all on, and the body attached also, if desired. All that is necessary to complete the rig is a suitable light motor. The company are now getting out a very neat complete vehicle of this type, which, ready to run, weighs only 400 pounds.


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The construction cost of the PanAmerican Exposition of Buffalo was $\$ 9,000,000$; of the Paris Exposition of 1900 is said to have been $\$ 10,000,000$; of the World's Fair at Chicago $\$ 18,000,000$, while St. Louis will spend $\$ 30,000,000$ in building her Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1903.
K. Dieterich has applied for the patent for an extremely sensitive test-paper, which will indicate the presence of minute traces of alkali, as little as $1: 1,000,000$ of ammonia being detected by its means. An alcoholic solution of shellac and
fluorescein is painted on a neutral black background. In the presence of the least trace of alkali this shows the characteristic green fluorescence. It is specially intended for the use of bacteriologists and for food analysts, since its extreme delicacy and relatively high price render it unsuitable for general use.-Pharm. Centralh.

The precocious son of Prof. T. D. A Cockerell died recently from diphtheria. Though only eight years old he had made a number of quite remarkable discoveries of his own, says Science. He discovered the larva of Picris occidentalis, and raised the butterfly. He also found the first psocid recorded from New Mexico, and collected at least three new insects; a
new bee of the genus Epeolus, described by Prof. Cockerell; a new meloid beetle, now in the National Museum, not yet described; and a new grasshopper of the genus Melanoplus, described by Mr. Scudder, and about to be published.

The influence of pressure up to 500 atmospheres on the viscosity of water at temperatures ranging from 15 deg. to 100 deg. has been studied by M. L. Hauser The capillary tube method was employed, and the chief results were as follows: (1) Up to 32 deg. increase of pressure diminishes the viscosity. (2) In this temperature region the effect of pressure diminishes with increasing temperature (3) In the neighborhood of 32 deg. in crease of pressure up to 400 atmospheres has no effect on the viscosity coefficient (4) Above 32 deg. the viscosity is increased by an increase of pressure of 400 atmospheres.
L. Portes and A. Desmoulières find that salicylic acid is a normal constituent of strawberries and natural strawberry juice, in which it is probably present as methyl salicylate. It occurs both in wild and cultivated fruits. They controvert the statement of Truchon and Martin Claude that the coloration obtained with ferric chloride in an ethereal extract of strawberry juice is due to a tannin, and demonstrate that the method of removing this advocated by those authors, also re moves the salicylic acid. They have further succeeded in isolating the acid in a crystalline condition, and confirm it identity by other reactions. - Journ Pharm. Chim.
Mr. Edward Dodson, an English plorer, has recently returned from a pro longed sojourn in the great desert of Tripoli, Northern Africa. This portion of the country has never been thoroughly explored, and indeed has not been visited
by a European for over fifty years, so that Mr. Dodson's results are of ines timable value. One of the greatest achievements of the expedition was the exploration of the great petrified forest at Murzuk. Throughout this whole area which extended for several miles petrifie trees were found, varying in circumference from seven feet to a few inches. Every branch of this forest was of course lying prone, and this together with the presence of marine shells showed that this part of the Great Sahara had at one time been submerged. On one occasion the party passed through a strange ex perience. They were surrounded by thunderstorms. No less than five distinct storms were in progress all round, an the guns and spears of the party be came surrounded by a halo of phosphores cent light.


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## Novelties

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The firm of Krupp is preparing for a great display of ordnance at the West phalian Arts Exhibition which opens in Düsseldorf in May next. This is the first thing of this kind done by the Krupps since the Columbian Exposition at Chicago and will be equally as elaborate. This coming display will cost over one million dollars. The exhibit will in clude types of the largest guns made by the firm, and at one end of the Krupp pavilion there will be shown the full sized prow of one of the most recent designs in battleships, bristling with guns.
The commercial depression in Germany is developing into an acute question, espe cially in the iron and machine industries. In Chemnitz there are only three factories working. Orders for locomotives are scanty, and 20,000 workmen are working short time. At Aix out of 6,500 workmen 1,000 are on short time. The Nuremberg Electrical Company have in troduced an eight-hour day owing to lack of work. The Breslau metal workers are practically idle, only 3,000 out of 13,000 being at work. In Magdeburg 300 men have been rismissed weekly. Canstad tells a similar story. In Hamburg 1,200 men are idle and the wages of those a ork have in many cases decreased 50 per cent. Employment is precarious Frequently the weekly earnings amount to only $\$ 1.25$. Few, if any, trades have escaped the depression. Furniture firms are everywhere reducing labor, especially in Hamburg. Konigsberg, Chemnitz, and Brunswick. Even banks are discharging their employés. The outlook is so seri ous that active steps are being taken by the governments of Prussia. Bavaria Hesse, and Baden to meet the distress.

An American company has secured concessions for the operation of many European canals by electricity. Altogether 5,000 miles of canals are controlled in England and on the Continent.
The Transalpine telephone line, connecting the systems of France and Italy, was inaugurated January 1 . Signor Galimberti, Italian Minister of Posts and
Telegraphs, exchanging sreetings from Turin with President Loubet in the Palace of the Elysée with entire success.
The line was subseruently opene to the public. It loes not extend beyond northern Italy. The connection with Rome has not been completed.
A record feat in armature winding is claimed to have been accomplished by the Niagara Falls Power Company recently, which re-wound a 5,000 horse power armature at the Falls power house in five
days. In order to perform this work in the required time, a double shift of ten men was kept working day and night. An interesting feature of the work was the use of a small electric motor to blow the blacksmiths' forge, on which charcoal was burned.
Three irnaces of 500 electric horse power are sald to have been erected in the valley of Camonica, Northern Italy, for
the manufacture of pig iron under the Stassano patent. The furnaces in general outlines resemble cupola furnaces using coke, their special features being apparent in the provision made for supplying electric current and in the electrodes
placed at the bottom of the boshes. To obtain a ton-metric-of metal, 3,000 horse power hours are required, which costs about 18 francs.
Consul Thackara reports from Havre,
December 5, 1901, that the Commercial Cable Company, of New York, has laid a new submarine cable between Horta, Island of Fayal, Azores, and Waterville, Ireland. The shore connections at the latter place were successfully made on November 30. This cable, says the consul, company in 1900, and increases to four the number of cables operate by the Commercial Company between Canso and Waterville. As Havre is connected by a submarine cable with Waterville, the di-rect-telegraph service with New York will Le benefited by the new cable.
An important invention by Herr Rudolf Bartelmus, an electrician of Vienna, for the prevention of railway accidents, has been subjected to severe experiments by the Austrian Railway Officials' Club. 'lhe locomotive for the purpose was tact rail along the entire distance, combined with a dynamo and a steam turbine. In case of any obstruction being encountered on the line, the newly invented device works as a progressive check. That is to say, it gives notice first at a distance of 2,400 yards, then at 1,200 yards, and finally, if the previous signals remain unheeded, at 600 yards from the obstruction the steam is auto-
matically shut off on the engine, and the brakes work, so that the train comes to

## a standstill.

The Post Office Department has authorized the experimental establishment in Toledo, O., of an electrical appliance to record collections from street and office mail boxes, says The Railway Reviow
The object of the proposed system is to prevent collectors of mail from skipping boxes. The device is so constructed that whenever a box is opened a record of the opening is signaled to the post office. Where there are a great many boxes, in cities of a population of 100,000 and over, it is thought the system would prove valuable. It would also be a valuable addition in sparsely settled communities, where boxes are a long distance apart Here, it is reported, collectors frequently skip boxes. This violation of regulations could be entirely prevented if the electr
appliance was attached to each box.

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