opening and then transversely out of the latter, which completely releases the hose mate rial from both members.

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The best book for electricians and beginners in electricity is "Experimental Science," by Geo. M. Hopkins. By mail. \$5. Munn & Co., publishers. 361 Broadway, N.Y. Inquiry No. 3383.—For manufacturers of wooden napkin rings in large quantities.

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Inquiry No. 3394.—For makers of electric motors from 1 to 4 horse power. Inquiry No. 3395.—For an apparatus for holding disinfectants.

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Inquiry No. 3398.-For loud-speaking telephones Inquiry No. 3399.—For a compressed air tank of 1/2 lb. pressure to run a 2 h. p. machine.

freezing in extremely cold weather, with asphalt to preserve the barrele

Inquiry No. 3401.—For manufacturers of engraving machinery for button making.



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(8743) G. L. S. asks: Will you kindly tell me if I hold a strong horseshoe magnet near a copper wire, say within a half inch, and then pass a powerful current of electricity through the copper wire, will there be any attraction between the wire and the magnet? If I made the magnet stationary, and then hold the wire very close to it, and slack enough for it to readily reach the magnet when the current is sent through it, would they move toward each other, or would there be no change of position at all? If they do attract each other, how strong a magnet, also how strong a current, will be needed to pull this wire say a distance of an inch or a little less? A. If a coil of wire carrying a current of electricity is brought near a powerful magnet, one end of coil will be attracted toward the magnet and the other end will be repelled from it, This is because the coil is itself a magnet and behaves as a magnet does. A straight wire will be very slightly affected by even a powerful magnet. It will be twisted around till its field of force lies with the lines parallel and in the same direction as that of the magnet. It will then move toward the magnet, but not with much force. The energy of a single wire is not great enough to cause it to do so.

(8744) G. O. V. asks: Will you please let me know what century or year, and where, the Romans first made the day to begin at 12 o'clock and end the next night at 12 o'clock? A minister told me some time ago that he guessed they did it in the fourth century. want to know sure. A. We think you have been incorrectly advised as to the practice of the Romans in beginning the day at mid night. They did not begin to do this in the fourth century, since they seem always to have begun the day at the middle of the night. ro, a learned Roman of the time of Cicero, wrote a book which has not come down to us, but which has been quoted by several authors whose works we have. The title of the book was "Concerning Human Affairs." •ne of the chapters was upon "Days." This chapter is quoted in the "Saturnalia" of Macrobius, Book I., Chap. 3, as also by Gellius in his "Attic Nights": "Men who are born in the 24 hours from midnight to the next midnight are said to have been born upon the same day." By which words it is evident, Macrobius says, "that they divided the observation of the day so that he who was born after sunset and before midnight, that should be his birthday in which that night began; on the contrary, he who was born in the six later hours of the night should be considered to be born on that day which followed that night." And this so far as the authorities go, was always the practice of the Romans. The Babylonians reckoned from sunrise to sunrise (Isodorus, 'Orig." V. 30), while the Athenians and the Hebrews reckoned from sunset to sunset (Gellins, "Attic Nights," III., 2.) "The same Varro in the same book has written," says Gellius, "the Athenians observe differently, in that they say that all the time intervening from one sunset to the succeeding sunset is

(8745) Y. M. C. asks: Please give recipe for solution to oxidize nickel, A. To oxidize nickel, place the article for a short time in a dilute soluton of potassium sulphide, sodium sulphide, or ammonium sulphide.

(8746) L. T. says: We have a num ber of kerosene barrels filled with water on top of our buildings, to be used in case of fire, and during the winter are troubled considerably by the water freezing and bursting of barrels, although we put in one or two pails of salt as a preventive. We have been informed that people were in the habit of standing a piece of 2x4 pine on end in a barrel of rain water to prevent the bursting of the barrel. Would like to know the best preservative to use for preserving the barrels against the effect of exposure to the sun and elements. A. If the barrels are open in one end, there should be no bursting by freezing, as the expansion is not hindered. would be no use in putting in a piece of pine wood. Salt is of use, but will not prevent with asphalt to preserve the barrels against Inquiry No. 3400.-For machinery for making the effect of sun and rain; with good asphalt cords and tassels. the life of such a barrel becomes almost in-

definite.

INDEX OF

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued for the Week Ending

November 4, 1902,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. [See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]	Cup Cur Cur
Absorptive wadding, preparing, H. Linne-kogel 712,818 Address holder, changeable, D. E. Werts. 713,030 Advertising apparatus, J. Lynn. 712,694 Air brake air compressor, B. J. Denman. 712,508 Air brake signaling and releasing device, b. H. Indesmith 712,015	Curi
Air brake system, P. Whiting	Dasi Den Den Den
Ammonia from gas liquors, apparatus for freeing, H. A. Abendroth	Den Den Der Dip Dist
Anestnetics, device for administering, A. H. Bishop	Disp Disp Disp
Armor plate, J. Shaaber. 712,605 Automatic signal and alarm, Anderson & Brown 712,892 Ax or hatchet, W. Lawton. 712,554, 712,942 Bait, spoon, S. Allecek. 712,740 Railing process W. V. P. W. M. 19,740 Railing process W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. P. P. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. 19,740 Railing process W. W. W. P. P. W.	Doo Doo Dra Dra
Ballot marker, T. C. Spelling	Dra Dre Drie Dril
Hattery plates, peroxidizing storage, R. N. Chamberlain	Dye Dye Eco Elec
Automatic signal and alarm, Anderson & 712,882 Ax or hatchet, W. Lawton	Elec Elec
Belt for overalls, etc., J. I. McDonald 112,571 Bicycle, J. W. Master 712,698	Elec
Bicycle frame, R. Ellis 712,784	Elec Elec Elec
Blast Turnace, T. Stapf. 12,618 Blast furnace, combination, G. B. Mitchell. 712,012 Blind adjuster, I. L. Garside 712,665 Block, A. B. Tarbox 712,862 Blue, obtaining Prussian, A. Sauer 712,726	Elec Elec Elec
Lake	Elec Elec Elec
tools, centering and guiding device for deep, J. Wyczynski	Emi Eng Eng
Bottle, non-refillable, Ahlers & Schaal 712,751 Bottle, non-refillable, W. Yuille 712,990 Bottles and their cips, apparatus for grinding, E. G. Howe 712,679 Bottles with aerated or other liquids, apparatus for filling and closing. E. K.	Eng Eng Exe Exe
Moore	Exp Fab Fan Far Fas
Brakes shoe, F. E. Case	Fau Fer Fer Fer
Brush holder, N. C. Bassett 712,477	File Filt Fire Fire Fire
Brush or broom, A. Little. 712,820 Bushing, conduit outlet, F. W. Erickson. 712,513 Bushing, rock drill, W. Wood. 712,884 Buttons, etc., combined post and strengthening bridge for cuff, P. H. Long. 713,008 Cabinet for holding and means for delivering envelops, bags, etc., E. Cook. 712,503 Cable joint, W. M. Murphy. 712,568 Calculating machine, H. E. Goldberg. 712,518 Calculating machine, J. Eldridge. 712,518 Can body forming machine, J. Eldridge. 712,878 Cane dy forming machine, J. Eldridge. 712,878 Cane cutter, pneumatic sugar, R. H. Paul. 712,804 Cane cutter, pneumatic sugar, R. H. Paul. 712,804 Car automatic safety stop, H. W. Jenkins. 712,543 Car body bolster, R. H. Hornbrook. 712,800 Car body, rallway, J. F. Scott. 712,857 Car coupling, I. N. Tower. 712,980 Car doup, McKnight & Clapp. 712,572 Car end sfil, S. A. Crone. 712,769 Car grain bin, W. R. Smith. 712,736 Car saddle and handle bar support, motor, C. P. Noresto.	Fire Fire Fire
Calculating machine, A. Hoch	Fire Fire Fire Fisl
Car automatic safety stop, H. W. Jenkins. 712,543 Car body bolster, R. H. Hornbrook. 712,807 Car body, raflway, J. F. Scott. 712,857 Car coupling, I. N. Tower. 712,980 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,926 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,926 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,927 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,926 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,927 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,927 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,927 Car door, grain, G. R. Grigg. 712,928 Car door, gr	Fish Flo Flo Flu Flu Fol
Car, dump, T. R. McKnight. 712,573 Car end sfll, S. A. Crone. 712,769 Car grain bin, W. R. Smith. 712,736 Car or other vehicle, motor, J. F. Mason. 712,825 Car seat cuspidor attachment, A. H. Kehr. 712,808	Fol- Fue Fur Fur
Cor standard holder flat O S Parkins 712 012	Gar Gar Gar Gar
Cards, playing, H. Moller	Gas Gas Gas Gas
Casting, preparing cores for, A. M. Hew- lett 712,532 Cautery, electric, W. E. Washburn 712,989 Centrifugal machine, H. R. Wolff 712,628	Gat Gee Glo Go Gol
Clamping band, J. H. Cole	Gov Gov Gov
Clock, geographical. H. Schumacher. 712,729 Clutch, Friction, M. F. McMahon. 712,575 Coating, metal, Brauch & Hemann. 712,758 Comb and hat fastener. combination. Leu	Gri Gri Gri Ha Ha
& Sjostrom. 712,691 Commutator brush, W. B. Potter. 712,591 Concentrating tabe operating device, A. W. Johnson. 712,934 Concrete and masonry structures, building, W. C. Parmley. 712,841 Conduit outlet box, interior, F. W. Erick-	Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Conduit, sectional, W. L. McGowan. 712,839 Confectionery depositing machine, G. Carlson 712,649 Contact structure, surface, W. B. Potter. 713,015 Convertes recorded for the conduction of the c	Ha Ha
Converters, regulating rotary, E. J. Berg 712,639, 712,991 Conveyer, S. B. Peck	,

	Counter, N. Johnson	712,713 712,935 712,660
	for, Mosley & Robb	712,705 712,472 712,742
		713,045
	Currents from symmetrical alternating elec-	713,044
	Currycomb, J. Herfert	712,530 712,858 713,001
	tro motive forces, producing asymmetrical, M. I. Pupin Currycomb, J. Herfert Cutting-off tool, C. W. Grant. Cycle wheel hub cleaning device, R. Klein. Dash fastening, vehicle, D. W. Connell Dental band fitting instrument, E. L. Townsend	712,809 $712,501$
,	Townsend Dental bridgework, E. L. Townsend Dental engine O. H. & A. F. Planer	713,041 713,040 712,716
:	Townsend Dental bridgework, E. L. Townsend Dental engine, O. H. & A. F. Pieper Dental filling tool, P. C. Hammersmith. Dental instrument, J. F. O. McMath Dental plugger, F. W. Kerb. Derrick, W. Heckart.	712,526 $712,576$
	Dental plugger, F. W. Kerb. Dental plugger, F. W. Kerb. Derrick, W. Heckart. Dipping vat, G. W. Clark. Dish cloth holder, H. F. Knapp. Dispensing device, coin controlled, D. Sullivan	712,813 712,676 712,496 712,810
	Dispensing device, coin controlled, D. Sullivan Display board for seed packages, W. D.	712,740
	Display holder, jewelry, E. Kaffeman. Doll novelty, W. G. Flint. Door opening or closing mechanism, J. C.	712,724 712,806 712,786
		712 511
	Door, water cooled, N. Houy, Jr	712,678 712,598 712,964 712,505
	Drier, C A Rall	712,507
	Drier, C. A. Ball. Drill engine, valveless, R. L. Rickman. Drill socket, J. L. Cook. Dye and making same, yellow sulfur. Weinberg & Lange. Dyeing enveloped yarns, S. W. Wardwell.	712,894 712,597 712,653
3	Economizer system. Diossom & Duncan	712,747 712,987 712,490 712,781
3	Electric battery, coin controlled, F. Duwe. Electric circuit protecting device, P. H.	712,781 712,618
	Electric circuits, composite transmission over loaded, E. H. Colpitts Electric energy, apparatus for transferring,	712,766
3	E. Thomson	712,741
3 3	Kelly Electric machines, regulating dynamo, A. D. Lunt. Electric machines, regulation of dynamo,	712,613 713,010
3	Electric meter, E. Thomson712,620,	712,561 713,023 712,717
3	Electric motor, O. H. Pieper. Electric motor supporting device, B. R. Van Kirk Electric motors, driving centrifugal or oth-	712,981
2	ter machines by means of, rott & win-	712,847 712,673
5	Electric motors, operating, J. Harris Electric spark generator, J. Struthers Electric switches, constructing, G. H. Hill. Electrical controller contact arm, E. H.	712,739 712,535
5	Wise Electrical generation and distribution,	712,882 712,614
5	Stanley & Kelly Electrical transformer winding, J. S. Peck. Electromedical apparatus, L. Petich Embossing press driving mechanism, C.	712,584 712,715
	D. Blackhall	712,895
1	Engine bearing support, C. L. Barker Engine brake, E. Y. Moore. Engine muffler, internal combustion, C. O. Hedstrom	712,833 712,791
,	Engine spark preventer, locomotive or other, D. Drummond	712,997 712,634
2	Exercising apparatus, Maxwell & White Explosive engine, W. L. Judson Fabric folding and trimming machine, J. C.	712,827 712,805
1	Goodwin Fan, rotary, N. H. Hawk Farm gate, W. H. & G. R. Mitchell Fastener, separable, G. W. Traut.	712,788 712,790 712,949 712,622
1	Faucet, filtering, W. A. Traxton Ferrosilicon and silicospiegel, manufactur-	712,868
7	Fertilizer, distributer, Oppenheim & Synck. Fertilizer dropper, J. L. Blanton Fertilizer or seed distributer. A. Benton	712,581 712,481 712,481
7	File, document, G. H. Richter	712.596 712,963 712,525 712,972
1	Firearm, front sight, A. Tilton	712,863
3	lose Fire escape, J. C. Covert Fire escape, S. Rabinowitz Fire extinguisher, automatic, A. D. Linn Fire extinguisher sprinkler head, A. D. Linn	712,730 712,504 712,848 712,692
3	Fire extinguisher sprinkler head, A. D. Linn Fire extinguisher sprinkler system, auto- metter E. D. Inflaren	712,692
8	matic, E. D. Jefferson	712,682 712,859 712,683
3	matic, E. D. Jefferson. Fire plug, H. Sheermesser. Fireproof building, H. R. Keithley. Fish hook, T. S. Coffin. Fishing net, A. E. Butler. Flood gate, J. H. Alexander. Flour bolting machine brush. J. G. Peterson Fluid fuel burner, J. Moran. Fluid pressure engine, E. S. Savage. Folding box, Z. B. Webb. Folding chair, W. H. Thomas. Fuel, waterproof artificial, J. F. Bartlett. Furnace, C. S. Batchelder.	712,497 712,494 712,469
7	Flour bolting machine brush, J. G. Peterson Fluid fuel burner, J. Moran	712,958 712,835 712,601
3	Folding box, Z. B. Webb	713,028 712,864 712,635
5	Furnace for the destruction of town re-	
0	Game apparatus, F. Brown	712,932 712,493 712,923
73	Garment combination, J. H. Burt	712,722 712,763 712,631 712,475 712,73
2 6 4	fuse, G. Watson. Fuse, S. Jackson, Jr. Game apparatus, F. Brown. Game apparatus, H. J. Frysinger. Game table, E. R. Robbins. Garment, combination, J. H. Burt. Garment or hose supporter, G. B. Adams. Garment supporter, F. L. Barnard. Gas burner, incandescent, E. Seller. Gas, coin freed apparatus for delivering, W. Cox	712,731
9 7 2	Gas generator, acetylene, D. Barnard	712,474 712,940 712,675
29	Glove and necktie holder for boxes, J. L.	712,985
881	Go cart, D. R. Collier	712,651 712,611 712,498
745	Covernor marine. L. Wilson	712,534 712.881
9	Grate heater, J. Harrington. Gravity battery, W. N. Gove. Grinding device, electric, C. S. Hisey. Grinding machine, O. S. Walker.	712,669 712,537 712,871
5	Grinding machine work rest, A. B. Landis Grinding or polishing machine, C. R. Davis Hack, J. A. Costa	712,813 712,773 712,910
1	Hark, J. A. Costa. Hair retainer, E. N. Davis. Hame fastener, E. E. Bull. Hammer, G. F. Voight. Harness loop, M. E. Zeller. Harrow, G. M. Clark. Harvester, S. K. Dennis. Harvester, Corn. J. F. Leener.	712,98 712,98
4	Harrow, G. M. Clark. 712,907, Harvester, S. K. Dennis. 14ryester, corn. J. F. Looner	712,983 712,890 712,996 712,509
49	Harvester. corn. W. D. Steele	712,95 712,97 712,65 712,97 712,66
9 5	Harvester, S. K. Dennis. Harvester, corn. J. F. Leeper. Harvester, corn. W. D. Steele. Hasp, adjustable, W. E. Craven. Hay curing frame, G. Symms, Jr. Hay rack attachment, M. J. Geary. Heater. See Grate heater. High or low water alarm, C. E. Zimmerman	712,66
5	Hinge, G. H. Holtzmaun	712,79
3 2	(Continued on page 353)	712,92