pertains to certain improvements in mechan-
ism adaptede to be applied to batat, veinices,
and the like, wherebs they may be propelleed ism adapted to be applied to boats, vehicles,
and the like, whereby they may be propelled with equal facilite over the surface of land or
water. The intervention of streams or lakes water. The intervention of streams or lakes would in no way impede the progress of
traveler were his vehicle equipped with this device.
Contractible mold.-G. Georgenson and J. E. HenNen, Fond du Lac, Wis. This
flexible mold is for use in the construction of arches, culverts, sewers, or the like in which a temporary support is require for the cement brick, or stone employed in the construction.
In carrying out the invention what may be termed a "eylinder" is employed, the same be ng formed of sheet metal and provided in
teriorly with means for expanding and con tracting it.
AIR-sifly. - J. Shukwech, New York, a supporting means for sustaining the weight of the ship when on the ground and maintain. ing it in an upright position when in filght.
wings are pivoted at each side of the ship connected with suitable means for oscillating them, and propellers are journaled at each
side of the bow of the ship and act to direct a current of air under each of the wings in driving the ship forward, which currents ten to force the wings upwardly.
Lawn-Cleaner. - C. H. Mosher, Salis bury Mills, N. Y. The object of this inven ple construction and which can be readily mower, operating at the same time to pick up any articles which may pass under it and
which may be operated by horse or motor which may be operated by horse or moto
FABRIC-TESTER.-R. C. Harris, Roselle N. J. The invention relates to improvements in devices particularly designed for testing the an instrument of this character that will be of $t$ may be carried in a person's pocket and perated by hand pressure

Prime Movers and Their Accessories. valve.-A. Simpson, New York, N. Y. In this instance the invention relates to valve
such as used in pipe systems. The valve i intended to be used for water, steam, gas or other fluids. The object is to produce a valve adapted to maintain heavy pressures and which will reduce tendency to leakage.
Automatic STEAM-TRAP.-W. Austin produce a device which may constitute an
accessory for a steam pipe system, and which will operate to collect the water of condensa tion, and expel the same automatically and
periodically without allowing any escape of periodic
steam

## Hailways and Their Accessories. <br> \section*{CAR-WHEEL.-R. P. Wilhiams, Santa Bar-}

 bara, Cal. The invention consists of a castmetal wheel having the flange thereof so forme metal wheel having the flange thereo so formed
that in case it becomes broken the broken part will not become dissevered but will present a ragged edge extending outward at an angle $t$
the normal plane of the wheel, whereby an ai valve of the brake system may be operated car wheel become broken the brakes will op erate to immediately stop the train.
AIR-BRAKE ATTACHMENT.-R. P. WIlliams, Santa Barbara, Cal. This invention re way cars, and more particularly to means for automatically operating the brake in case that the truck of any one of the cars becomes de-
railed. The object is to provide means whereby any variation in the plane of the car track in
respect to the car body will sutomatically open a valve of the air brake system and cause the instant application of the air brakes throughout the train.
RALLWAY-sWITCII MECHANISM.- O. A invention has reference to improvements in railway switch mechanism, the object being the provision of a simple means whereby an
open switch may be automatically closed by an open switch may be automatically closed by an
approaching train in either direction, thus approaching train in eithe
RAILWAYTHE AND RALLFAStGNing. A. Newble, Guadalajara, Mexico. The improve tenings, and the object of the inventor is to provide a metal tie that will be comparatively
light, yet strong and serviceable, and further to provide a fastener that may be readily to provide a fastener that may be read to the rail and normally hold the same from
to the tie.
STANDARD FOR LOGGING-CARS.-C. H Allen, Aycock, Fla. The design in this case ranged on the ends of the transverse bolster of the car to prevent the logs from rolling off when in transit, but which is capable of ad-
justment to permit the easy loading or unjustment to permit
loading of the log.

## oading of the log.

BLOCK-SIGNAL SYSTEM.-J. Van Zand-
weghe and L. Viberti, Rosario De Sante Fe Argentina. In this patent the invention refers to block signal systems, the more particular
objects being to provide efficient means for
topping trains automatically when they apalso for stopping them if desire when they approach a station.

## Pertaining to Recreation.

game apparatus.-L. J. Castonguay hompsonville, Conn. The object in view is ore provide in this insention a game apparatus, base ball, and arranged to require considerable kill on the part of the players to successfully the players as well as the onlookers.

## Pertaining to Vehicles.

wheel-hub.-F. F. Unckrich, Galion, Ohio. In the present patent the invention has reference to an improvement in wheel hubs,
and it has for its object the provision of a metallic shell and the means for securing the hell in a fixed posit
vehicle running-Ghare- - F . Riciure , Kennebago Lake, Maine Withstanding the shock of very rough roads and avoiding case, is accomplished by providing for the yielding in all directions of an upper frame
on which the body of the vehicle is mounted on which the body of the vehicle is mounted,
as by a system of springs comprising upright springs for yieldingly maintaining the weight of the body and the occupants and diagonally-
extending longitudinal and transverse springs extending longitudinal and transverse springs
for admitting of a yielding end and side movement of the body, respectively.
TRACTION-ENGINE STEERING-GEAR. R. Richardson, Yates Center, Kan. The gear with traction engines, but applicable in other ways. It may be applied to automobiles and eing either the crankshaft of the engine or some continuously rotating shaft driven from the engine.
DUST COLLECGOR FOR WHEELED VE-
HICLES.-J. M. WEAVER, New Oxford, Pa. The invention relates particularly to improve ments in attachments for automobiles or similar vehicles for receiving dust rising from the vehicle wheels and discharging the same in a
wet or condensed condition, thus obviating the such vehicles as ordinarily equipped.
Note.-Copies of any of these patents will be furnished by Munn \& Co. for ten cents each. Please state the name of the patentee, title of
the invention, and date of this paper.

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addresses of houses manufacturing or carrying
the same. san Information on matters of personal
rather than general interest cannot be expected Without remuneration.
Scientific American Supplements referred to may be
bad the of the ore
Books referred to promptly supplied each. price.
Minerals sent for exan
marked or labeled.
(10521) O. J. S. says: 1. Which elephone lines do you consider to give the best service in rural districts--ground or metallic?
Can you advise me a good book on practical ground line telephony? A. A metallic circuit is best for all telephone lines, but the cost is
so much greater that the grounded circuit is much greater that the grounded circuit is
usually employed upon rural circuits. Longdistance lines are always metallic. The best book upon the telephone is Miller's "American
Teleplone l'ractice." which we send for $\$ 4$. Teleplone Practice. which we send for $\$ 4$.
2 . IIow do you find the distance between the carth and the sun? Give me a simple formula for calculating that distance. A. It is a long
story to tell how the distance of the sun from the earth is found. Consult any college as-
tronomy in the University library. The distance is computed from the parallas of the
sun. 3. If the radius of a certain pulley is 4 inches and of another is 12 inches, and the distance between their centers is 6 feet, how
would you calculate the length of a belt running a oult these two pulleys? A. The rengt of the belt you desire will be given with surf
ficient exactness by adding to 12 feet one-half the circumference of each of the pulleys. 4 .
Where, for good ventilation, sloould a ventilator be situated-near the top or the bottom of
a wall? Is it better to have two ventilators one in one corner and another diagonall across? A. There are all sorts of opinions upon the focation of ventilators. The usual
practice is to place them both at the top and practice is to place them both at the top and
bottom of the room, so that eit ler reqister may be opened. We do not think one ventiator in
corner should be preferred. 5. How do you
find the horse-power of a common steam en fin the horse-power of a common steam en
gine? A. To find horse-power of a steam
engine, multiply the mean effective pressure in pounds per square inch by the length of stroke in feet and by the area of the piston in
square inches, and by the number of single square inches, and by the number of single
strokes per minute. If the piston passe through one end of the cylinder head, subtrac one-half of the area of the piston rod from the area of the piston; but if it goes through both
conds of the cylinder head, subtract the whole the cylinder head, subtract the whole Divide the product of these numbers by
33,000 , (10522) E. B. S. says: To render theaters safe from fire, a policeman should be hands or close by one hose containing water under pressure and another hose with carbonicacid gas under pressure. Either one can be says one quart necessary. A scientific book ments gives 1,200 quarts of hydrogen and 600 quarts of oxygen. Is it correct? If not, hov much gas will result of cach kind: A. With policeman should be in a theater to guard against fire, we would say that in all New York an audience is in the building, ready to turn on the water and use the appliances for ex
tinguishing a fire. A fireproof curtain woul be dropped in an instant, and a rope cut,
which would open large scuttles above the which would open large scuttles above the
stage, so that any smoke upon the stage would he drawn up as by a chimney into the open
air, and no fire or smoke would or could be drawn out into the house where the audience is seated. The statement is correct that two drogen and 600 quarts of oxygen, when the barometer is at 30 inches and the thermomete less the pressure and temperature are stated, any stateme
meaningless.
(10523) L. A. C. asks: Why does not a submarine boat sink all the way to the bot-
tom of the ocean? I understand the method used in plunging submarines is to admit water weight enough to cause the boat to sink only 50 or 60 feet. It sinks at the surface. Why hollow steel ball weighing 65 pounds and having a displacement of one cubic foot (when
under a pressure of 4,600 pounds per square inch) sink to the bottom of the ocean, where a cubic foot of water weighs 66.56 pounds
$(27,366$ feet below surface)? I should say that such a ball would sink to a depth of
approximately 10,300 feet and there remain suspended. Am 1 right or wrong? What is the principle involved in the toy known to
schoolboys as "the devil in the bottle"? This toy is a bottle fille with water, in which is can be made to sink or float in the water, or the surface of the liquid and the bottom, by
manipulating a diaphragm closing over the manipulating a diaphragm closing over the
neck of the bottle. A recent controversy leads
me to me to these questions. A. The submarine
and the "devil in a bottle", are instances of the application of Archimedes's principle. The
little imp in the bottle is known in science little imp in the bottle is known in science
by the name "Cartesian diver." Archimedes stated the principle that a body immersed in
liquid loses as much weight as the weight of the liquid it displaces. If the liquid displaced weighs less than the body, the body sinks; if t weighs more than the body, the body rises
and floats partly out of the liquid; if it weighs the same as the body, the body neither sinks
nor rises, but remains just where the weight of the isplace liquid is exactly equal to the weight of the body. The Cartesian diver has a
ittle opening into the lower part of its When pressure is put upon the air in the ton
What When pressure is put upon the air in the
of the bottle, that pressure is transmitted
trough the water in the botue to the air in

## he imp, and compresses the air so that water fows into the imp and makes it heavier. It

then sinks. Ey relaxing the pressure, the imp may be stopped at some point and kept there. first, the imp sinks to the bottom without stop ping, since the walcr has the same density in
all parts of the bottle. The submarine is in. tended to act upon exactly the same principle once in a while one continues to the bottom, with disastrous results to all board. The steel ball, which you sapose, it could retain
actly the same as you state, if isplace a cubic
its volume unchanged, and dislater were exactly the same as that cubic foot water. But his is not pessible. Under the
pressure of the water as it bressure of the water as it sinks the steel will compressed more than the water, as w
showed, even if it were solid, and when it
reached the theoretical depth its volume wol eached the theoretical deptb its volume would
be less than a cubic foot and it would sink it reacher, and be compressed still more till
bettom. There is no place such as you suppose. There is still another
mpossibility. A steel ball whose volume is mprssibility. A steel ball whose volume is
one cubic foot and whose weight is 6.3 pounds must be made of stcel plate about a third of
an inch thick. This would be in worse shape an inch thick. This would be in worse shape han the proverhial "cocked hat" long before

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his finds beyond doubt in the periods to his finds beyond
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well as to the novice.
Modern A.merican Machine Tools. By C. H. Benjamin. New York: E. P.
Dutton \& Co. 8 vo ; cloth; 134 illus. Dutton \& Co. 8vo.; cloth; 134 illu
trations, 320 pages. Price, $\$ 5$. The object of this treatise is to show to the modern machine tools as now manufacture the United States, the various points in which they differ, and some recent data as to their capacity and performance.
or the buyer in Great Britain or on the Continent, this work should be a help, as it
brings together in one volume facts from a brings together in one volume facts from a which might otherwise need to be sought at much expenditure of time and trouble.
While the present work is in no sense an ariety of machines and of makes as the space allows, giving the reader as comprehensive a view as possible, and in all cases allowing an
uninfluenced opinion to be formed. Alternating Currents. A Text-Book for Students of Engineering. By C.
G. Lamb. New York: Longmans, Green \& Co. London: Edward Arnold: 8vo.; cloth; 325 pages, illustrated.

Many treatises on this subject have been written, but Mr. Lamb's work fills the need for a text-book for beginners that without beernating currents in all its aspects.
The treatment of the question is based largey on the use of vectors, supplemented by
simple analytical methods when it is desire tmple analytical methods when it is desired
to obtain numerical results. The symbolic reatment does not appeal to students, and has for that reason not been used Also no attempt has been made to distinguish in the formulæ whether absolute or practical units are employed, since the unwieldy results are Space and Geometry in the Light of Physiological, Psychological, and
Physical Inquiry. By Dr. Ernst Mach. From the German by Thomas J. McCormack. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner \& Co., Ltd.
12mo.; cloth; 148 pages. Price, $\$ 1$. The three essays which form the present olume were written for the Monist some fou ears ago. Last year they were in great part Mach's latest published work, "Erkenntniss und Irrthum ; Skizzen zur Psychologie der Forschung." In them Prof. Mach discusses the ment of our concepts of space from the three points of view of the physiology and psychology of the senses, of history, and of physics, in all
of which departments his profound researches of which departments his profound researches
have gaine for him a most exalted position.
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strate by liberal scale drawings, which cover come before the plumber, architect, and sanitary
engineer. The book will be found valuable to the plumber in his actual work, giving specia details as to size and weight of pipes required
under different oonditions. To the architect it will be found suggestive and will aid in pre paring plans and directing and superintending
work; to the owner in aiding him to secure the best and simplest systems for his building: to the plumber inspector the many practical
features it presents will remind him of the methods to be pursued to secure safe and The book presents, in a word, the lates the bands of every architect, sanitary engt seer and plumber who wishes to keep him
self in this important feature of construction.
A Text-Book of Sanitary and Applied Chemistry, or the Chemistry or
Water, Air, and Feos. By E. H. S Bailey. New York: The Macmillan Price, $\$ 1.40$.
Although some knowledge of chemistry i presens work from the theoretical stan point the layman will find it unusually instructive Chapter I. treats of the "Atmosphere,"
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INDEX OF INVENTIONS For which Letters Patent of the United States were Issued for the Week Ending April 30, 1907.
$\qquad$
$\square$ Acid cooling and generating cbamber,
A Libme
Advertising device, H................... Eckerserg.









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ale of fibrous matrials. H. $\mathrm{I} .$. Duncan




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    Automobile controlling means,

