for the cultivation of the tea plant in our gardens, it would be of but little service to us unless we were acquainted with the nice methods of drying or curing it. The green leaves when first removed from the tree, are like the leaves of most other plants, having but little astringency, no odor or bitter taste. Like coffee, the peculiar characteristics of tea are developed by roasting; and this is a very nice process. The Chinese are so adroit at the business as to be able to prepare a half-dozen qualities of tea from the same leaf. Important chemical changes are wrought in the leaf by the process of drying and roasting, so that the same leaf furnishes the green and black tea of commerce.

As regards the exact physiological effects of tea upon the upon the animal economy, different opinions continue to prevail. It is quite unnecessary to discuss this point. The writer has for a series of years carefully observed its effects upon himself, and is free to state, that it is no matter of wonder with him, that "brain workers," in all the years since tea was introduced, have regarded it with the highest favor. It has a power to subdue irritability, refresh the spirits, and renew the energies, such as no other agent possesses. When the system is exhausted by labor or study, a cup of tea re-invigorates and restores as no form of food or other beverage can. As regards the ultimate effects of tea-drinking, it can be said that Bishop Huet, of Avaranches, the celebrated scholar, who wrote in its praise at the age of ninety, affords by no means a solitary instance of longevity coupled with its free use. Tea saves food by lessening the waste of the body, soothes the vascular system, and affords stimulous to the brain. The young do not need it; and it is worthy of note that they do not crave or like it. Children will frequently ask for coffee, but seldom for tea. To aged people whose powers of digestion and whose bodily substance have begun to fail together, it is almost a necessity. Like all blessings, it is liable to abuse, and hence has arisen much of the prejudice against its use. There may be some declaimers against the moderate use of tea, whose consistency or moral sense may not be unlike that of Mr. Henry Saville, who writing to his uncle, Secretary Coventry, about two hundred years ago, remarked that many of his friends "had a base unworthy Indian practice, in calling for tea, instead of pipes and bottles after dinner." If the use of tea is a pernicious habit, we may remark, as did the same writer at the close of the letter to his uncle, "The truth is, all nations are growing so wicked as to have some of these filthy customs."—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

Weather and Mortality Chart.

Dr. W. F. Thoms, of this city has prepared a very interesting and valuable chart exhibiting in the plainest manner the principal facts concerning the meteorology and mortality of the city of New York during the year 1866. The chart has a surface of only about one and a half square feet, yet if the information it gives were put in the ordinary form of tables it would fill a large volume. This economy of space and plainness of detail is secured by representing the facts by lines of various colors and positions. The chart will serve admirably as a model for keeping meteorological records.

As an example of the comprehensiveness of the chart, we quote the following facts which are presented concerning the week ending July 21st:—

Mean Temperature—Thermometer	83
Highest Range of Temperature	102
Lowest Range of Temperature	60
Mean Weight of Atmosphere—Barometer	29·96
Highest Range of Barometer	30·10
Lowest Range of Barometer	29·87
Mean Humidity	48
Inches of Rain	1·.4
Days of Easterly Winds	4
Days of Westerly Winds	3
Days of Clear Weather	4
Days of Cloudy Weather	3
Total Mortality—Deaths from all Causes	1,362
Mortality from all Diarrheal Diseases	442
Mortality from Cholera	48
Mortality from Inflammation of Lungs	18
Mortality from Typhus and Typhoid Fevers	16

The chart is published by D. Appleton & Co., 443 Broadway. Price $1.

MALLEABLE CAST IRON.

Malleable cast iron, as has been proved by the careful experiments of M. Tresca, has a coefficient of elasticity and an elastic limit equal to that of good wrought iron. For a repetition of complicated articles difficult and expensive to forge, we cannot imagine a better material; and there can be no doubt that malleable cast iron has not yet had justice done to it by the engineer. Though its manufacture is getting rather widely spread on the Continent and in England, it is yet in the hands of comparatively few people, and is, in fact, almost secret. The most noted English malleable cast iron founder is Mr. John Crowley, of the Kelham Works, Sheffield, and of Manchester. A bar of his manufacture, five sixteenths of an inch in diameter and about a foot long, with a fracture like steel, is now before us. Few would guess that large quantities of such rods are cast to make the common fish-tail gas burners by cutting them up and turning and boring them in the lathe.

The discovery of the process of making cast iron malleable is ascribed to Samuel Lucas, whose specification describes the chief features of the mode still adopted in the manfacture. Dr. Percy has pointed out that Reaumur, as long ago as 1722, published this process. The difference between the positions of Reaumur and the Lucases—Samuel and Thomas—in the matter is, that Reaumur never carried out the discovery on a commercial scale, and that he left this to be done by the Englishmen. In any case, Reaumur seems to have preferred the use of a mixture of chalk or of calcined bones, and not red ore, for decarbonizing the metal.

The pig iron used in the manufacture of malleable cast iron must be free from phosphorus and sulphur. The best materials are hence Swedish and Styrian pigs, made with charcoal from the purest ores. The last kind is used in the southern parts of Germany, but its price makes it impossible to employ it in England or even in northern Germany. The most usual material is hence pig iron made with coke from the hematite ores of the Cumberland districts. A small proportion of Swedish pig is sometimes, but probably very rarely, added. The pigs with the whitest fractures are preferably employed for larger castings, and those with a grayer fracture for smaller articles. As is usual in these cases, the proportions of the mixtures used are made a mystery by the different makers, but there can be little in this, as different establishments use pigs with different brands and varying mixtures. The principal thing is evidently to have as little phosphorus or sulphur as possible. Some years ago a patent was taken out in France for mixing in the crucible from two per cent to seven per cent of red copper with the cast iron intended to be made malleable, in order to give it more fusibility, and to obtain castings with a better surface. We are not aware, however, whether this plan has been much adopted.

The pig is usually melted in crucibles, sometimes of plumbago, and holding about fifty or even sixty pounds—the usual size of steel crucibles—which, in the ordinary method of pouring out by hand, is determined by what an ordinary man can lift. The crucibles are covered up, in order to prevent the access of impurities from the coke, with a consequent waste in skimming the fluid metal. As with the crucibles, the furnaces used are generally those employed in melting pot steel, being from two to three feet square, and holding four crucibles. No blast is used, as the resulting saving in time would be counterbalanced by the increased consumption of coke. In this part of the process the principal point is to attain as high a temperature as possible for pouring the metal into the mold. The melter mostly tells this by dipping a red hot iron bar into the crucible, on withdrawing which the fluid iron should spring off in sparks. The crucible is then taken up by a pair of tongs, and, after skimming the surface of its contents, it is emptied as quickly as possible.

The molds are made in green or in dry sand in the usual manner, but great care has been taken with the small and complicated details, the molding of which forms the most economical application of malleable cast iron. These are best cast together and broken off when cold. With heavier and more complicated castings it is very important carefully to determine where to place the feeders for forming, so to speak, reservoirs for holding the extra fluid metal intended to follow up the shrinkage. If this be neglected, small cracks are produced, which are completely visible under the subsequent operation of annealing. Such feeders must not be placed at any sudden changes in shape of the casting, such as at any corners—*e. g.*, at the pins cast on levers, and so on. The castings produced are remarkably brittle, and many wasters are produced in cleaning them. This operation is best done when they are thoroughly cooled down. To delay this till after the annealing process would of course be attended with the obvious difficulty of having to deal with a tough, malleable material. It is also important to take the castings out of the molds as soon as possible, in order to avoid the production of cracks, as the shrinkage in cooling is considerable. In fact, almost double the usual allowance for shrinkage must be made in the patterns, though this sometimes varies, as might be expected, with the mixtures employed. The molding boxes are set either quite vertical or at a considerable inclination. The first position is always employed with smaller castings. The molding should be done very neatly, in order to save as much as possible any cleaning after annealing.

The last and the most important, difficult, and expensive process is decarbonizing or annealing the castings. They are placed, together with powdered hematite or red ore, in cast iron cases or muffles, and kept at a high temperature for a long time. These boxes, cast with sides about an inch thick, either have covers or are piled in the furnace one above another, any openings or cracks being luted with clay. Only round muffles were used at one time, but square boxes are now employed. The castings are packed in these boxes with alternate layers of hematite ore, which is placed so as to form both the bottom and the top layer. In packing the boxes with hematite care must be taken that thin and thick castings do not come together. The boxes containing the larger ones must also be set in the furnace nearest to the fire, and those with the smaller articles in the hinder part. If this is not done, in the first case the smaller castings are burnt. and in the second the larger ones get only half decarbonized.

The decarbonizing furnace is simply constructed; the grate is in front, and the fire gases are induced between the boxes placed in the hinder part of the furnace. Or they may consist of square chambers with an inlet at the side from a door for charging and discharging; and with a bottom divided into longitudinal rows, between which are placed two or three narrow gratings extending the whole length of the furnace. The flues open from two places in the roof. A damper at the side serves to watch the firing, which must be done with great care, and any access of air to the castings prevented. On lighting the fires the temperature is raised to a bright red at the end of twenty-four hours; this heat is then regularly kept up for three, four, or even five days, according to the size of the castings and the amount of annealing it is wished to give them. At the end of that time the fire is allowed to fall and the temperature to diminish during twenty-four hours; when the furnace can be opened and discharged. The boxes are then unpacked and their contents cleaned. The annealing operation is a very delicate one. With too high a temperature, should the hematite be not mixed with a sufficient proportion of previously used ore, or should the air make its way in, the castings are most likely burnt. An unequal or a too low temperature has for result an imperfect decarbonization and brittle castings. The most considerable expense in this manufacture consists in the renewal of the cast iron cases, which easily crack under the heat, and cannot often be used more than once.—*The Engineer.*

MANUFACTURING, MINING, AND RAILROAD ITEMS.

Two lines of telegraph connect Jerusalem with Europe.

The railway over the Alps, is known as the "Fell railroad" from its being constructed in accordance with the patents granted to a gentleman of that name.

To pass through the Mount Cenis tunnel, when it is completed, will occupy over half an hour, and it is for this, among other reasons that many expect the over-mountain railway,—which only possesses a concession for working until the tunnel line is opened for traffic—will have its privileges extended so as to make it practically a permanent concession.

The total annual value of the gold and silver manufactures in France is set down at $19,128,000. The number of manufacturers is 1,250, and 20,500 persons find employment in the trade. Since 1855 the masters and workmen have formed themselves into a common association for the amicable adjustment of their respective interests.

The zinc mines of Lehigh county, located near Friedensville, in Saucon township, Pa., have been worked for fifteen years. The ore is carted to South Bethlehem and then made into oxide of zinc and metallic sheets. A singular fact in relation to these mines, is that the working of one shaft to a depth of 150 feet, has drained all the wells and springs for three miles up and down that part of the valley, and left the inhabitants no alternative but the use of surface water.

The Strasbourg line of railway, has introduced a three story passenger railroad car. The ground floor is the first class, the second class apartments above, while third class passengers must climb to the highest story.

The value of improvements in machinery may be estimated from the fact that in 1819 it required two furnaces, each with a high chimney shaft, to produce 1000 feet of glass per week, while now two furnaces, with but one shaft produce 12,000 feet, with the same if not a smaller consumption of fuel.

Sweden owns 500 iron mines which yielded in 1864, half a million tuns of ore. All the smelting and refining processes are carried on with wood charcoal. Very little bar iron is manufactured, the annual productnever exceeding 200,000 tuns of pig. By the Bessemer process some 3,200 tuns of steel were produced in 1864. The amount of cast steel in the same year was 4,500 tuns.

The corner stone of the Cameron Railroad Bridge across the Missouri river at Kansas City, Mo., has been laid and the structure is to be finished in one year. The bridge will be of iron 1,400 feet long and with a draw in the river channel of 362 feet. This bridge with the one now building across the Mississippi, at Quincy, will furnish direct communication with New York and Boston, and make Kansas City an important distributing point.

The Mount Cenis tunnel will be lined in its entire length with stone quarried in the immediate vicinity of the two entrances. At the present time, the excavations, or headings, are about 1,500 metres in advance of the amount lined.

The total length of electric telegraphs in the world, not including the submarine, amounts to upward of 180,000 miles, which is more than enough to go round the earth half a dozen times.

That portion of Pensylvania purchased from the Indians in 1749, for the sum of $500, embraced all the middle and southern coal fields. The northern, or Wyoming and Lackawanna district, was part of a purchase, reaching from the south-western to the north-eastern boundaries of Pennsylvania, and the whole area cost but $10,000.

Iron ore is found in every part of Italy and yields from forty-five to sixty five per cent of excellent iron. The mines are situated at considerable hights above sea level, and though almost inaccessible in winter, this is the only season when they can be worked on account of the quantity of water and badness of the air at other times of the year. There are only thirty eight blast furnaces in the whole country. The number of establishments for making machinery is seventy, but the raw material used, is almost wholly of foreign origin. At Genoa and Naples locomotives and tenders are turned out, but their actual cost is greater than those imported.

Recent American and Foreign Patents.

Under this heading we shall publish weekly notes of some of the more prominent home and foreign patents.

Spinning Jack.—A. B. Woodbury, Ashuelot, N. H.—This improvement relates to an improvement in spinning jacks, and consists in devices to be attached to a common spinning jack, which shall compel the spinner to draw the jack out the full distance to the bumpers.

Adjustable Parallel Ship Builder's Mold.—Jesse J. Cassidy, Wilmington, N. C.—The nature of this invention consists in providing an instrument for the use of ship builders, by which the lines of curved patterns may be readily and accurately transferred to the timbers to be hewed and dressed for building a vessel.

Eccentric Boring Bar for Screw Cutting.—E. S. Chapell, Milton, Mass. —This invention relates to an improved construction of a boring bar for cutting screws and nuts, or internal and external screw cutting, and consists in a round bar with eccentric centers or turning points in the ends, provided with a head sliding and turning freely thereon.

Thill Coupling.—John Knox, Mount Gilead, Ohio.—This invention relates to an improvement in the construction of a coupling for the shafts of buggies, wagons and other light vehicles, and consists in employing a coupling pin with a ring, groove, or recess around the middle, in which is fitted the end of a spring secured to the shaft and let through the eye, to hold it in place, instead of a screw and nut in the ordinary way of fastening the coupling pin. This device has the advantage of great convenience in readily attaching and detaching the shaft from the wagon, together with the security and safety of the fastening.

Hand Hay Rake.—J. S. Grant, Sidney Center, Me.—This invention relates to a hand rake designed for raking and gathering light grass and scatterings of hay from a cart or windrow, for gathering grain straw from the swath into gavels for binding, and also for gleaning in the grain field, especially where the stubble is cut high, all of which work is accomplished without stopping or lifting the rake from the ground.

Brick Press.—W. L. Drake, Sturgis, Mich.—This invention relates to a machine for pressing bricks after being molded either by machinery or by hand, and when sufficiently dry or hard to receive and retain an impression. The object of the invention is give the bricks a perfect shape, sharp or circular corners, and also give one side a concave surface, which is desirable in order to form interstices to receive and hold the mortar in laying a wall.

Fly or Balance Wheel.—Robert Rice, Mineral, Ill.—This invention consists in constructing a fly or balance wheel with a series of internal chambers arranged in such a manner that by partially filling said chambers with water or other suitable fluid, the gravity of the latter will be rendered subservient as an assistant motor or an economizer of power.

Chuck for Lathes.—James M. Smith, Seymour, Conn.—This invention relates to a chuck for turning lathes, and has for its object simplicity of construction, facility in manipulating it to hold or grasp articles to be turned or drilled, and also to release said articles, and also the admission within the chuck of long articles, such as rods, drills, or other articles to be held by it, for which ordinary chucks are not adapted.

Fly Net.—Geo. W. Lee, Jerusalem, N. Y.—This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in the construction of leather fly nets for horses whereby with the same amount of stock a net is made more durable and to have a lighter appearance than usual.

LOCK.—E. L. Gaylord, Terryville, Conn.—This invention relates to a lock of that class which are designed for articles having lids, such as pianofortes, sewing machines, etc.

SCREW PLATE FOR CUTTING SCREWS.—Henry Gill, Mansfield, Ohio.—This invention consists in providing a screw plate with circular dies fitted in sliding or adjustable plates which are placed on guide rods secured in a stock and all arranged in such a manner that the dies may be turned so that a fresh or new cutting surface may always be obtained whenever the dies become worn at one point. These circular dies are flattened or cut off so as to have plane surfaces, to admit of the dies working or cutting up to a shoulder on a bolt or rod.

LOCK.—W. H. Murphy, Versailles, Ohio.—This invention relates to a novel arrangement of parts within the lock, whereby to draw in the bolt a certain combination of movements must be performed with the key.

TANNING COMPOSITION.—William Johnson, Shirleysburg, Pa.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved composition for tanning which will tan the skins thoroughly in a very short time.

COMBINED SNAP HOOK AND BUCKLE.—Seth W. Perkins, Geneseo, Ill.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved combined snap hook and buckle, simple in construction, strong and durable, easily attached and detached, and which can be manufactured at a comparatively small expense.

YARD FOR SHIPS.—E. Masters, Cleveland, Ohio.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved yard for ships, stronger, lighter, more durable and more easily repaired than those constructed in the ordinary manner.

SPRING BED BOTTOM.—J. S. Grant, Sidney Center, Me.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved spring bed bottom, simple, effective, and reliable in construction, and which can be so adjusted as to form a spring bolster or elevated back support for an invalid.

MACHINE FOR GATHERING AND HUSKING CORN.—J. D. Hill, Fort Scott, Kansas.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved machine by which corn may be gathered and husked automatically as the machine is drawn through the field.

BOTTLE STOPPER.—H. S. Carley, Cambridgeport, Mass.—This invention consists in securing to the stopper two or more wire rods which project from the under side of the stopper and are inserted into the bottle. The rods are spread apart by their own spring so that their lower ends press against the inside of the neck of the bottle. At their lower ends they are bent out so that they can catch under a shoulder formed on the inside of the bottle.

WAGON SEAT AND SPRING.—R. L. Allen, New York City.—This invention relates to a new manner of hanging seats on heavy one or two-horse trucks, or other device, and consists in so arranging springs under the seat that they are made perfectly elastic and in hinging the springs to the supporting posts so that the seat and all its appendages can be swung forward and out of the way whenever desired.

STEAM ENGINE GOVERNOR.—John Eddy, Barnesville, Ohio.—The object of this invention is to render the action of the ordinary centrifugal governor more sensitive to variations of speed in the engine than is usual by the common method.

HAND PLOW AND HOE.—Daniel W. Colburn, Loami, Ill.—This invention consists in constructing the blade of a hoe with a curve or bend somewhat similar to the mold board of a plow so that it will, when in use, cast or throw the earth to one side. It also consists in attaching the blade to the handle in such a manner that it may be reversed and used either like an ordinary hoe or by shoving it forward operate like a plow and make a continuous furrow to receive seeds.

CRANK MOTION.—A. Bicknell, Boston, Mass.—This invention consists in arranging two or more auxiliary connecting rods with the pitman and cross head of a steam engine for the purpose of enabling the engine to start from any point at which the piston may have been stopped or any position of the crank, and also to enable the piston to exert its power more advantageously and economically in passing the dead centers than can be done with a pitman alone in the ordinary connection.

DIAL PLATE BUTT HINGE MACHINE.—Adrian Rais, Waterbury, Conn.—This invention relates to improvements in machinery for making butt hinges and consists in mechanism so constructed that the two right and left match blanks which form a butt or hinge shall be conveyed from feed boxes respectively by automatic devices to and upon the periphery of dial plates or disks which rotate and first present the blanks to dies for bending the knuckles, after which operation they are presented to the mills and after they have been milled are carried opposite and introduced into a nailing device where the match blanks are united and fastened together by the nail or rivet and when thus finished are discharged from the machine. The whole operation is therefore automatic and continuous from beginning to end.

WAGON LOCK.—Andrew Downer, Hammondsville, Ohio.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved lock or brake for attachment to wagons with which the action of the horses in holding back and drawing will apply the brake to and remove it from the wheels, and with which the reverse movement of the wheels in backing the wagon will remove the brake shoes or rubbers out of the way.

APPARATUS FOR RAISING SUNKEN VESSELS.—Richard W. Hallett, Hudson City, N. J.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved apparatus by means of which sunken vessels may be easily raised to the surface of the water and floated to any desired place.

VISE.—H. E. Long, Plymouth, Mass.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved vise, the head of the movable jaw of which shall be so constructed that it will adjust itself to the various forms and thicknesses of the objects held without its being necessary to adjust the position of the lower end of the movable jaw every time a different article is placed in the vise.

HAY ELEVATOR.—G. F. Hipp and J. B. Fast, Nova, Ohio.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved machine for operating a hay fork or elevator more conveniently and satisfactory.

SLED.—Jacob Shaaber, Reading, Pa.—This sled is so constructed that its two sides with the seat, which is made of flexible material, can be folded together and opened from each other, and in the latter position, by the simple weight of the person upon the sled, is there held and sustained.

CLAMP FOR HINGES.—Eli L. Seger and Samuel L. Smith, Yonkers, N. Y.—This clamp is intended for butt hinges, more particularly, and is so constructed that it can be placed over the leaves of a hinge when closed and so operated as to firmly and tightly hold and bind them together, thus preventing their being opened one from the other until the clamp is released.

FIRE ESCAPE.—T. S. Diblin, New York City.—This invention relates to a fire escape of that class in which a flexible ladder is employed. The invention consists in an improved manner of constructing a flexible ladder for the purpose, and in a peculiar manner of securing the windlass to the window sill, whereby the windlass, with the ladder secured upon it, may be adjusted and firmly secured in an open window very expeditiously wherever the device is required for use, the flexible ladder being unscrewed from the windlass so that the occupant of a building may descend from the open window to the ground or pavement.

CULTIVATOR.—W. A. Moody, Montezuma, Iowa.—This invention consists in an improved manner of applying the plow beams to the frame of the machine, whereby the same may be moved or adjusted with facility and be under the complete control of the device or operator. The invention also relates to an application of the double tree to the machine whereby the same may be balanced in order to relieve the necks of the draft animals of any undue weight.

ALARM MONEY DRAWER.—Ira Robbins, Hughesville, Pa.—The nature of this invention consists in constructing an alarm money drawer, which, in order to be opened, is operated upon by keys on the under side of the drawer which will cause the bolts to fall and allow the drawer to be opened by turning and pulling the handle thereof.

MILLER'S ALARM.—C. N. Taylor, Cookstown, N. J.—The object of this invention is to so arrange a miller's alarm, that as soon of the corn in the hopper descends to a certain mark the alarm will be sounded.

DIAMOND KEY.—B. F. Southgate, Bridgewater, Vt.—This invention relates to an improved key for holding cranks, shafts, and other machinery, and consists in a wedge shaped key, the section whereof is a diamond fitting into a V-groove in the crank or shaft and into a V-groove corresponding thereto in the bearing.

PUMPS.—E. C. Kellogg, Rome, N. Y.—This invention relates to cattle or stock pumps, and is adapted for forcing water from wells by the weight of the animals when standing upon the platform suitably connected with the pump therefor.

PITCHER.—W. S. Rooney, Albany, N. Y.—This pitcher is more especially designed for sirups, and is so constructed at its nozzle as to prevent the drippings from running down the outside of the pitcher, and to convey them back into the body or reservoir of the pitcher.

CHARGES FOR SHOT POUCHES.—Columbus Johnson, Clarksville, Mo.—This charger is constructed with two tubes, one arranged to slide within the other and with the outer one provided with an opening communicating with the pouch, and an opening communicating with the discharge spout or tube, and with the inner one so constructed and arranged that by pushing or forcing it in, the opening to the pouch is closed at the same time the opening to the discharge is opened, so that the shot contained within the inner tube between the openings of the outer and discharge tubes, compress to the discharge tube and thence out of it to and into the barrel of the gun.

ADJUSTABLE RAIL FOR BUGGY SEATS.—James Carlisle, Mount Gilead, O.—This top-rail adjusts itself to the seat by its own spring, and is there held by the fastenings with which it is provided.

MACHINE FOR SAWING WOOD.—G. C. Lathrop, Danville, Mich.—This invention relates to a hand-sawing machine, which can be operated by one man, who is seated in a swinging chair, and which can be adjusted on uneven ground, so that it will always stand in a level position.

POWDER PRESS.—William Welch, Bridgeport, Ct.—This invention relates to an improvement in the manner of securing the cap for covering the sliding box in the gate of a power press, to the gate, said sliding box being the bearing for the eccentric shaft whereby the gate is operated.

SCALE BEAM.—Elisha P. Crain, New York city.—This invention relates to a device for strengthening the graduated lever used on platform or counter scales, so that the same may be held in its seated position, and will remain in the same.

TRACE FASTENER.—Chas. Hayden, Newark, N. J.—This invention relates to a device for attaching traces to whiffletrees, and consists in pivoting a slotted plate to the end of a pin, which is secured to the whiffletree in such a manner that the same may form a continuation of the pin, when the brace is to be attached or removed, or it will be at right angles with the same when the trace is attached, thereby securely holding the latter in position.

MACHINE FOR MAKING BUTTON RINGS.—S. B. Lane, Waterbury, Ct.—This invention relates to a machine shaping and cutting from a long wire, small pieces, or rather making from the wire small circular springs for fastening vest, and other buttons.

LEATHER-BACKED HORSE BRUSH.—Obadiah Jones, South Englewood, N. J.—This invention relates to a new kind of horse brush, and to the manner of making the same, and consists in making a leather-backed, round-faced horse brush, and in inserting a cone, which is made of one or more pieces of leather, or other suitable pliable material, between the back and face leather coverings, whereby the desired shape is given to the face cover, in which the bristles have before been secured.

HOSE COUPLING.—Albert S. Allen, Providence, R. I.—This invention relates to a new device by which the water can be easily discharged from hose, and by which firemen will be better enabled to carry such emptied hose up ladders, or along the ground or floors.

BOTTLE STOPPER.—Horace S. Carley, Cambridgeport, Mass.—This invention consists in having a slotted cork holder which can be moved up and down, being guided by a pin projecting from a ring or collar which is arranged around the neck of the bottle. The same pin carries an eccentric cam, which can be turned so as to press upon the cork holder, thereby pressing the cork into the mouth of the bottle, and holding it there.

HAY KNIFE.—H. M. Smith, Kalamazoo, Mich.—This invention relates to a hay knife for cutting hay from the mow or stack, and it consists in a peculiar construction of the knife, whereby the hay or straw may be cut from the mow or stack with the greatest facility, and with a moderate expenditure of power.

DEVICE FOR ADJUSTING THILLS IN CARRIAGES.—M. J. Mellyn, Roxbury, Mass.—This invention consists in constructing a peculiar-shaped lever gripe, whereby the rubber or elastic substance which is placed in contact with the thills of a buggy to prevent rattling, is compressed so that the thills are easily attached.

SELF-MEASURING CAN.—T. D. Arkle, and H. C. Green, Bridgeport, Ohio.—This invention consists in forming a measuring vessel inside a can, into which the liquid is discharged, and the quantity which it is desired to measure is indicated on the outside of the can by an index finger, which is operated by a float in the measuring vessel.

SHADE FIXTURE.—Stewart Hartshorn, New York city.—This invention relates to an improvement in that class of shade fixtures, in which the shade roller is provided with a spiral spring for automatically winding up the shade, and is designed to obviate an objection attending the original device, which consists in the unwinding of the spring whenever the shade roller is removed from its brackets or bearings, a contingency which involves the necessity of winding up the spring previous to the replacing of the roller in its bearings, and which cannot be done by an unskilled person without considerable difficulty.

FAN.—J. Bloom, New Brunswick, N. J., and A. Bloom, New York city.—This invention consists in a novel combination and arrangement in connection with gearing actuated by springs, of one or more wheels, suitable for agitating and forcing the surrounding air in one or more directions; or of one or more holders, suitable to receive the stems or handles to the fans in common use, and thus, through such holders, and the fans which they carry, produce the desired agitation of the air, either by imparting to such holders a rocking, or forward and backward, or a rotary motion.

CLOTHES DRYER.—Robert M. Morriell, Plymouth, Ind.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved clothes dryer so constructed and arranged as to have a very large amount of drying surface in a comparatively small space and when not in use may be folded into a very small compass.

BURGLAR ALARMS.—E. F. Mallory, West Springfield, Pa.—This burglar alarm is so constructed and arranged in its several parts that as the door or window is opened to which it is applied, an alarm will be sounded.

CLOTHES PINS.—J. P. R. James, Read's Landing, Minn.—This invention consists in a novel combination and attachment of a spring to the jaws of a clothes pin whereby the spring cannot become loose, nor detached from the pin.

CENTERING TOOL.—Reuben Haworth, South New Market, N. H.—This invention consists in a spindle which is attached to the lathe which spindle holds the centering drill in its end and around which there is a sleeve which supports a centering cup which sleeve and cup are crowded forward by a spiral spring.

OIL CAN.—George Hatch, Pomeroy, Ohio.—This invention consists in placing in the can, near its top, a horizontal partition or false bottom which extends about three fourths across the diameter of the can forming thereby a recess, on which bottom or partition I place a lifting pump and a drip strainer.

UNIVERSAL JOINT.—Anton Zwiebel, Burlington, Wis.—The object of this invention is to construct a universal joint that is to be used especially on thrashing machines, which is made without projecting bolts or pins, and which can be easily taken apart for renewing the knuckle joints, when the arms are worn out.

CONSTRUCTING ORDNANCE.—T. W. Hornsby, Simpsonville, Ky.—This invention relates to a mode of constructing wrought iron and steel ordnance which may be made in whole or in part of steel, wrought iron, or any other metals that are susceptible of being worked into ordnance in conformity to this improvement.

EXTRACTING AND PURIFYING OIL.—Carl Otto Heyl, Berlin, Prussia.—The object of this invention is to extract oil from all oleagenous seeds principally by the instrumentality of a chemical agent, and the invention consists in subjecting the crushed oleagenous seed to the action of sulphuret of carbon when the seed is placed in a vase or series of vases and in passing the products, or oil, through a distilling apparatus.

VARIABLE CUT-OFF.—J. L. Dickinson, Dubuque, Iowa.—This invention consists in placing an oscillating cut-off valve in communication with the steam chest of the engine, and in attaching to the rod or stem of the oscillating valve an arm, which is operated by two eccentric rods having different motions which are connected with the arm by means of a slide, the position of which slide on the arm is controlled by the governor, thereby cutting off the steam at an earlier or later point also decreasing or increasing the throw of the cut-off valve.

OBSTETRICAL SUPPORTER.—S. B. Manley, Cony, Pa.—This obstetrical supporter is so arranged as, in all cases of obstetrics, to be efficient and serviceable, and when applied, to cause every exertion made by the patient, whether with the feet, hands, or knees, to impart all the necessary and desired assistance.

GRAIN METER.—James C. Walker, Waco Village, Texas.—In this invention the grain is poured into a cylinder shute, where, in falling, it rotates a wheel, the revolutions of which, recorded by an indicator, mark the quantity of grain.

COTTON AND HAY PRESS.—John S. Schofield, Macon, Ga.—In this invention the arms which operate the screw do not rise and fall with the screw. Secondly, the press can be worked upward or downward, by hand, by horse-power, or by any other power.

METHOD OF CASTING ALUMINUM IN FINE MOLDS.—Jas. B. Bean, Baltimore, Md.—In this invention the metal is cast into fine molds, under pressure of a high column of the metal itself, contained in a conduit of soapstone, earthen ware, or other similar substance, heated to about the melting point of the metal to be cast. The molds, at the moment of casting, are filled with hydrogen, or other gas, containing no oxygen.

CHURN.—D. C. McNeil, M.D., De Witt, Iowa.—This improvement in churns consists in a revolving dasher composed of two paddles, each consisting of two rectangular frames of unequal dimensions, set at right angles to one another upon an axis. A reciprocating motion, imparted by a treadle, operates a crank rotating the axis. The churn box is provided with a semi-cylindrical bottom in which is a faucet to run off the buttermilk. The dashers or paddles, are then removed from the churn and the butter readily removed at a single operation.

WASHBOARD.—Pierre Audauin, New York City.—This invention consists in forming the corrugations or grooves on the washing or rubbing surface of a washboard, at an angle of inclination more or less great to the length of the rubbing surface, whereby the water expressed from the clothes as they are rubbed, is more freely conducted off and down into the tub in which the board is placed.

Answers to Correspondents.

CORRESPONDENTS who expect to receive answers to their letters must, in all cases, sign their names. We have a right to know those who seek information from us; besides, as sometimes happens, we may prefer to address the correspondent by mail.

SPECIAL NOTE.—This column is designed for the general interest and instruction of our readers, not for gratuitous replies to questions of a purely business or personal nature. We will publish such inquiries, however, when paid for as advertisements at 50 cents a line, under the head of "Business and Personal."

☞ *All reference to back numbers should be by volume and page.*

JONES.—"I have finally cured my boots of squeaking; not however, as two correspondents recommended, by driving pegs into the soles, as that did no good whatever, but by saturating the soles with wood-chuck's oil." We all unite in congratulations. Our friend now steps a softly as a kitten.

J. L. W.—"Correspondents frequently use such words as gum, pitch, turpentine, oil, spirits, etc. These are generic terms; what do they mean when used specifically? If correspondents would be more definite and tell us what kind of gum, pitch, etc., they mean they would make themselves more intelligible to their readers." A good hint.

J. C. B., of Ill.—India-rubber in strips makes a good joint for the glass of an aquarium. The glass and rubber are held together by a rigid frame work of wood or metal.

H. W., of Pa.—The mineral is iron pyrites. It is not likely that you will find a deposit of coal in your neighborhood.

R. G., of Conn.—The best explanation of the hardness of specimens of ancient mortar is its antiquity. Mortars and cements containing silica in favoring circumstances are constantly progressing in improvement. The information which the ancients had about mortars has received important additions in modern times.

S. J., of N. Y.—We are not aware that mellite or honey-stone has been found in America. It is a very rare mineral. . . Please send your new method of estimating barium.

A. L., of Pa.—In the Holtz electrical machine, the inductors are pasted on to the spear head insulators, by means of shellac, varnish or gum arabic, and on the side of the spearhead toward the revolving plate.

J. B. U., of Md.—We advise you to get Silliman's Chemistry and Ganot's Physics. In these books you will find the information you seek, fully and plainly set forth.

J. C., of Mo.—Soldering irons or any thing else might be heated by galvanic electricity. The only drawback is that this sort of heat would cost a hundred times more than coal or gas heat.

N. G., of O.—The mixture of oxide and chloride of zinc has been much used by the dentists under the name of artificial bone, osteoplastic and other fanciful names for filling teeth. The objections to it for that purpose are that it contracts on hardening and that it is somewhat soluble in the liquids of the mouth. If the cement were cheap enough it might be extensively used for other purposes.

A. E. S., of N. Y.—You have re-invented the electro-magnetic engine of Dr. Charles G. Page. Such engines have been built on the large scale and are probably as good as any other engine depending upon electricity. In the present state of our knowledge electricity costs too much to be used as a motive power.

D. & P., of Mich., want a cheap preparation to make the shingle roof fire proof of a factory where shavings and saw dust are used as fuel under the boiler. We suggest a trial of a strong solution of chloride of calcium or of magnesium to be occasionally, and especially after rains washed over the roof. These substances are powerful absorbents of water and will keep the roof wet. They are waste products in several large chemical manufactures, where they are thrown away.