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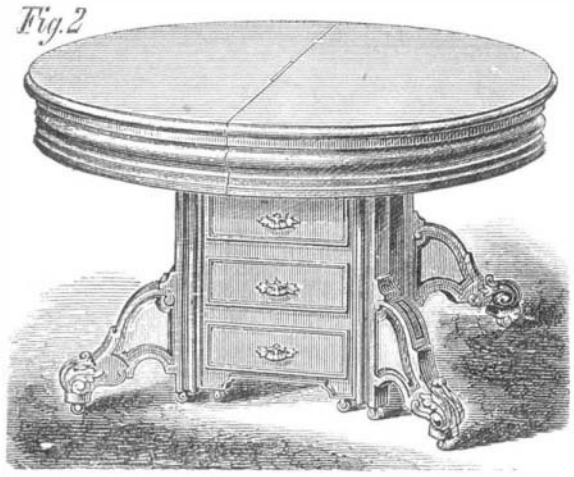
Improved Extension Table.

Our engravings give an excellent idea of the form and appearance of an improved extension table, which combines a convenient receptacle for table covers, napkins, and other table articles, and a space for storing the sections of the top, with other improvements mentioned below. The whole forms one of the most neat, compact, and convenient extension tables we have ever seen.

The tongues and grooves of the extension rails are formed of metal plates, rebated or set out from the rail by intervening strips so as to form the proper tongues and grooves. The forming of the grooves and tongues thus of metallic plates allows the rails to slide freely, the shrinking, swelling, or warping of the rails not interfering with their working. By this arrangement, also, the space usually taken up by the rails is so much reduced that ample room is obtained for storing the sections of the top, or "filling."

The pieces of the filling do not differ materially from those of ordinary extension tables, except that they are hinged as shown in the engraving, in order that they may be folded

Fig. 2



for more convenient storage under the table top, in the space allotted to them, and also that the method of doweling them together is somewhat changed and improved.

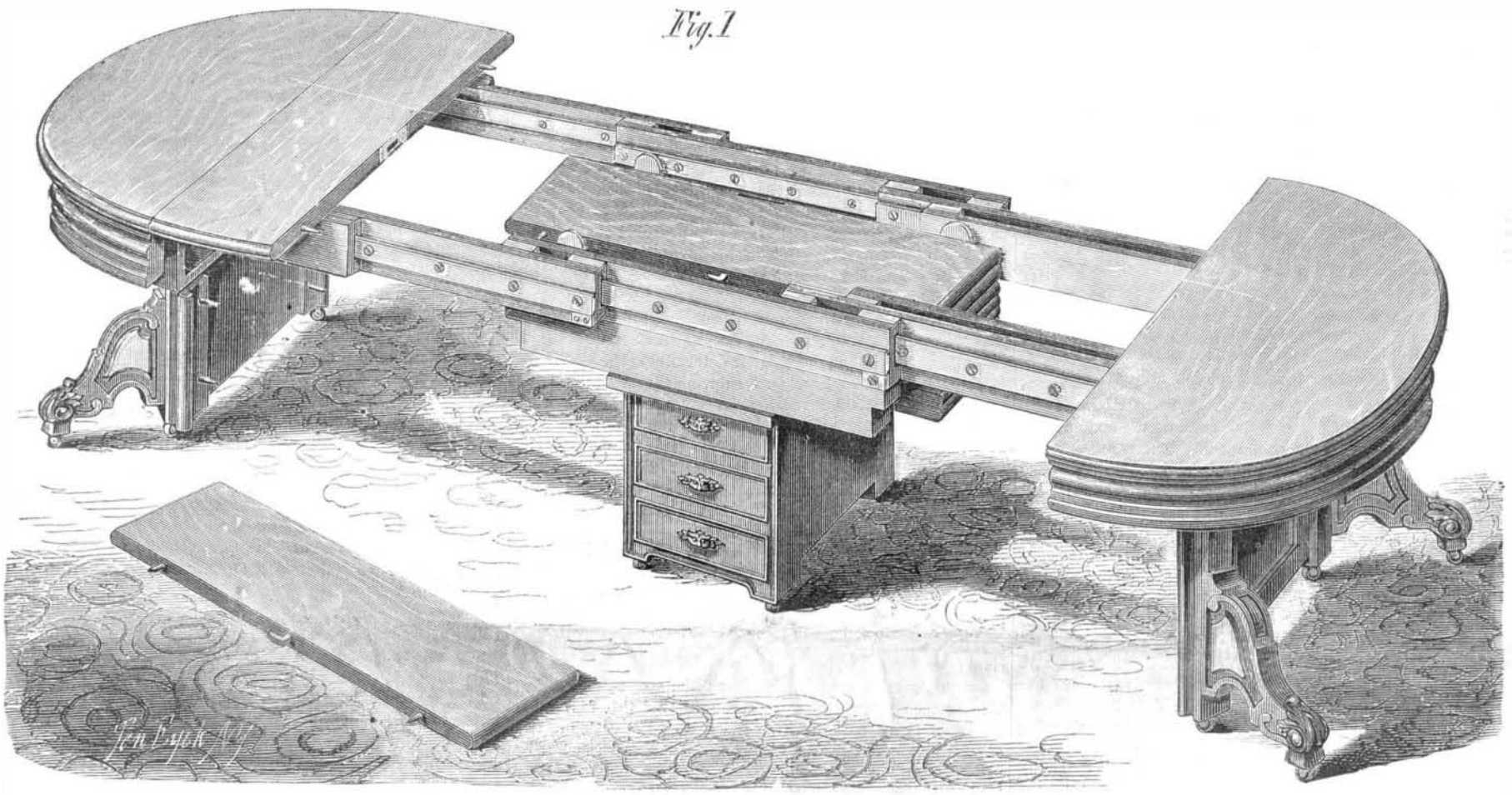
The holes for the dowel pins are elongated, so that a hook attached to one side of the middle of each section may engage with a slotted metallic plate recessed into the juxtaposed section to which it is doweled. The sections are thus not only doweled but hooked together, which holds them much more firmly than in the old method of doweling alone.

The storing of the sections in the manner described is a very great convenience, obviating the neeessity of a separate receptacle for them, and their carriage to and fro when required for use.

A set of drawers is also provided, as shown for the reception of napkins, table-covers, rings, etc., the bureau being placed in the center and forming the pedestal or support for the middle set of rails, and being entirely out of the way and nearly concealed from view when the table is extended. Four legs form the corners of the bureau, as shown, the case being built up between the legs. For drawers, doors and shelves may be substituted. The legs of the table, including those of the bureau, are furnished with casters in the ordinary manner.

This table is covered by three patents, obtained through the Scientific American Patent Agency, bearing dates respectively September 7, 1869, and March 15, 1870, and (reissued) May 3, 1870. Specimens of the table may be seen at J. G. Reitner's furniture store, corner Navy and Fulton streets, Brooklyn; N. Y., and a model is exhibited by Rudolph Lenz) 85 Duane street, New York. Correspondence concerning the purchase of rights should be addressed to Charles P. Lenz, patentee, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Fig. 1



LENZ'S IMPROVED EXTENSION TABLE.

Preservation of Phosphorus.

Unless phosphorus be carefully preserved in the dark, it becomes coated with a film of suboxide, and in a few months loses its characteristic transparency. Dr. Siewert, of Halle, suggests a method by which the sticks can be kept, even in the light, without undergoing deterioration. For this purpose, he takes advantage of the well-known property of phosphorus to reduce some metals from their solutions. The sticks of phosphorus are put into a cold saturated solution of the sulphate of copper. Presently they become coated with a deposit of metallic copper, and in this state resemble copper rods. They can now be removed to a bottle containing water, and will keep for years. When a stick is wanted for any purpose, on removing the metallic film, and scraping off a black deposit underneath it, the phosphorus will be found to have retained its translucency, as if it had been freshly cast.

Lapland Glue.

The bows of the Laplanders are composed of two pieces of wood glued together; one of them of birch, which is flexible, and the other of the fir of the marshes, which is stiff, in order that the bow, when bent, may not break; and when unbent, it may not bend. When these two pieces are bent, all the points of contact endeavor to disunite themselves; and to prevent this, the Laplanders employ the following cement. They take the skins of the largest perches (it is probable that eel skins would answer the same purpose) and having dried them, moisten them in cold water until they are so soft that they may be freed from the scales, which they throw away. They then put four or five of these skins in a reindeer's bladder, or they wrap them up in the soft bark of the birch tree, in such a manner that water cannot touch them, and place them, thus covered, in a pot of boiling water, with a stone above them, to keep them at the bottom. When they have boiled about an hour, they take them from the bladder or bark, and they are then found to be soft or viscous. In this state, they employ them for gluing together the two pieces of their bows, which they strongly compress, and tie up until the glue is well dried. These pieces never afterwards separate.

ELASTIC METALLIC ROCKING CHAIR.

Our engraving illustrates a rocking chair, the frame of which is made entirely of elastic metallic straps, bent in the

form shown, and upholstered either in the way indicated or in any other appropriate manner. The construction of this chair, while it does not interfere with its comfort as a rocker, adds to it the pleasure of a spring seat. As will be seen, it is of a form easily manufactured, and if properly made, should prove much more durable than a wooden chair. It is the invention of Hermann Berg, of Springfield, Mass.

IT is believed that the principal preservative substance used in embalming the mummies of Egypt was carbolic acid in the crude state