and ultra violet rays to strike it. Far beyond the visible vi- bottom, and only the rod, with the soil withinit, is recovered olet rays, the substance fluoresced with green light. Here, then, we have a method of rendering that region of actini rays visible and amenable to experiment.
In spectrum analysis, t'ie metals are recognized by bright ines in different localities of the spectrum. Silver, for er ample, gives two bright lines in the green. Stokes discov ered that it as well as other metals gave lines in the activi spectrum also. The lecturer exhibited these lines on the creen by burning bits of different metals in the electri arch, when they came out beautifully in the fluorescent spectrum of the invisible rays. It seems to us that, by means of this extension of the spectrum, the utility of that won derful instrument, the spectroscope, has been extraordinari y increased.
It follows from these es periments that light rich in short waves, such as that produced by the electric discharge in rarefied nitrogen, is the most effective for showing the beau ties of Hluorescent substances. The lecturer had according y arranged a number of Geissle: tubes, containing pure ni trogen highly rarefied, through which he passed the electric discharge of the enormous Ruhmkorff coil, represented : the Scientific American of December 28, 1872.
Sulphate of quinine solution, illuminated by these tubes, glowed with a milky blue light, although it is perfectly transparent.
Assculin, a substance contained in the decoction of horse chestnut bark, produces the same effect. By means of this property, the one twenty-millionth part of æsculin can b detected in water.
An extract of the seeds of stramonium glows with green light.
Morin, a subbstance extracted from Brazil wood, lights up with a brilliant green.

Canary" glass, which contains uranium, fluoresces with a splendid green color.
Many other sübstances were exhibited with beautiful ef fect by Professor Morton ; the most remarkable, however were two recently discovered by bimself, and which he named thallene and petrollucene. To these was due the stri king beauty of the flower exhibited in the early part of the lecture. Messrs. Hawkins and Wale, instrument makers in the Stevens Institute building, have made a very neat port able arrangement for showing these substances. A small folding pocket of blue glass contains a design painted with fluorescing substances. This can be earried in one's pocke and exhibited ly daylight.
In order to study the properties of fluorescent bodies. the lecturer had examined by means of a spectroscope the light emitted by a great number of fluorescent substances, which were illuminated by a beam of sunlight deprived of all but the blue and violet light by passing through a solution of ammonio-sulphate of copper. He found that æsculin, qui nine, morin, and many other bodiesgave continuous spec: ra,
while those of the salts of uranium, thallene, petrollucene, while those of the salts of uranium, thallene, petrollucene,
etc., were characterized by bands of great regularity but etc., were characterized by bands of great regularity but
differing with different substances and resembling their ab sorption spectra. Curious connections have been found be tween the latter and the luminous bands, of fluorescence in certain cases, as, forinstance, with thallene and petrollucene, as har indeed been already observed in other substances by Stokes and Hagenbach ?

What, then. is fluorescence?
In answer to this question, the lecturer projected on a so as just to touch a tuning fork Tren taking by a ilar tuning fork, he went off to some distance and sounded ii. The vibrations from this fork traveled through the air set the other one in motion, and this motion was communi cated, though with far inferior rapidity, to the pith ball, whose swinging to and fro vas plainly visible to the audience.
In a similar manner the vibrations of light might be conveyed by the luminiferous ether to a fluoresient body, whose particles would set in motion, though with diminished velocity, the ether filling up the interstices between them, thus giving rise to a color of lower order.

## Rallroads and Bridges.

During a recent lecture at Cooper Union, in this city, by Professor Plimpton, of the Stevens Institute, he described the wonderful influence railroad power had upon commerce and all descriptions of industry in this country, and stated that the United States had more miles of railroad than Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, United Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Russia enmbined. The London Engineer recently asserted that in the world there were 130,000 miles of railroad, and America had 60,000, but the fact was that this country had no less than 68,000 miles, and this year would have 76,000 miles of railroad. Thi lecturer described the formation and materials composing the four great descriptions of bridges-the arch, truss, suspension and tubular, their relations to each other, the amount of pressure they could bear, and what strain they should be be required to perform.

## The Hydra.

This is an instrument for obtaining samples of the ocean bottom, the invention of a blacksmith on board of the British ship Hydra. The Challenger, the English exploring ship now on a voyage of discovery round the world, is supplied with quite a number of these instrumeats. The machine
consists of a hollow metal rod, fitted with valves, and nn consists of a hollow metal rod, fitted with valves, and on which are rove cast iron weights of 100 pounds each, one for every 1,000 fathoms of estimated depth. The whole is so adjusted that the waights detach themselves on striking the

When the Challengrr started on her voyage three month ago, she had thirty of these weights, which will probabl have to be replenished before she has completed her work.
A much better instrument for deep sea sounding is tha nvented by Sidney E. and G. L. Morse, brother and nephew of the late Professor S. F. B. Morse, patented here in 1866 This machine consists of a rod containing a series of hollow glass balls, by means whereof, the number of balls being in reased or diminished, any desired degree of buoyancy may be imported to the instrument. Bags of sand or stones are attached by which the rod is carried down and the lower end made to scoop up a portion of the ocean bottom. The sand baga become: detached when the rod strikes bottom, and the rod then rises with amazing velocity to the surface, shooting up into the air as if discharged from a gun. This instrument is also provided with glass pressure chambers, and mercury, so arranged that the pressure of the water will drive the mer cury from one chamber to the other. The depth of the ocean bottom will be indicated by the quantity of mercury so exchanged. The ragister of depth is very exact. This sounding instrument requires no line, and is, we believe, the first of the kind ever invented.

DECISIONK OF THE COURTS.
United States Circuit Court.---Nineteenth District California.


Improved Grain Dryer
Erain and other simillar substances which can be moved from place to place, and which will fully utilize the heat generated. A stove is arranged in the ase of a casing of sheet metal with which is connected a plpe which passes moke and gaseous products of combuation. A zigzag, which consiats of a rame in which is fastened a series of inclined plates, is so arrunged that grain placed upon the upper plate will, when the zigzag is vibrated, descend rom one plate to another, or from the top to the bottom or the zigzag, and be discharged near the bottom of the casing. The zigzag has room to play
ateralls within the case, and is vibrated by means of an eccentric rod which ls supported on eccentric Journals in boxes on the sides of the case, a rotating motion being given the eccentric rod by meang of a crank, so that hand or other motive power may be applied. By this arrangement the grain subjected to a gradually increasing temperature as it descends. The
ibrations of the zigzag will evenly spread the grain over the plates and set it in motion.

Improved Cloth Measuring Register.
Samuel Crocser, Port Allen, Iowa.- Tilf inventiou has for its object 10 uralish an improved device for attachment to a merchant's counter, which
shall be so conatructed as to count and register thenumber of yardsmea ured, thus rendering asecond and third measurement of thegoods unnece arrs. In using the machine, a bar is adjusted to the division marks of the cale of a plate that lidicates the number of yards to be measured off, wher is held by a spriak catch. The end or the eage or the cloth to be measured end of a stop. Theleft hanil ts then sllipped along the edge of the cloth to the last fret of thescale. The stop ts then pressed downward by the thumb of the right hand, and a spring revoives a wheel har a tooth. As the pres ure upon the stop is removed, the sald stop is forced upward by anothe
 he division ma k marked 1 on the scble of the plate, and so on, the ointer in Its movement reaches the ba. first mentloned, the further oper Hon of the machine is stopped, and the operator knows that he has mea ared off the required quantity
Improved Boiler Tube Scraper.
John B. Christoficl, Williamsburgh, N. Y.-This invention has for its ob Ject to improve the construction of the bonler tube scraper for which ictere
patent No. 62,816 were granted to the same inventor on March 12, 1867 . pin a ala radial plas as there are designed to be blades in the scraper. The blade are made of light spring steel, are arranged spirally, and have holes in the ends to receire the pins of the collars. To the rod at the inner sides of the collars are securedstops, to prevent suld collars from moving tuward each
other while allowing them to move outward freelf. Upon the rod at the uter aldas of the collars are placed wasers, ends of the springs which are colled around sald rod. This construction enables the scraper to adjust itself to the size of the tube to be operate upon, and adapts it to be used elther end forward, as may be desired.
Improved Invalid Bedstead. astats ffa bed with euch side,arranged as to stretch the canvas tlght anil hold the patient on it While the mattress and its frame, which are sultably arranged and provide Ith devices for lowering it, are lowered to allow a vessel to be presente with devices for raisingand lowering that portion to support the patient in a sitting or ri:clining position. Gears and cranks are emplosed to raise and
lower the mattress and its frame, also the head portion of the canvas and rollers on mhe it its from and to hold them in position.

Wellwood Murray, New York clty.-The abovelnventor has patented two inventions. The frst consists of a blas box plaited trimming of plain lace
alone, or the same with the edges trimmed with figured lace, or figured lace or other goods trimmed with figuredlace or other sultable trimming on the edges, folded longitudinally a little one alde of the middie, so that one edg trimming comes a ilttle higher than the other, showing two rows of edging or trimming. The blas box plaits of one part cross those of the other diagonalis. This trimming it is proposed to use for making collarettes fo ladies' neck wear, also cuffe and other light articles, and also trimmings for
various purposes. The second inventlon, called collarette trimming, is composed of a combination of plaited ruching of net, with narrow plaite and pointed musiln, the net being placed on one side only, or on the front and back of the muainn, and sewed along the middie of the front plece an upperedge of the back plece when a back plece is used, to the plain edgeo
the muslin. There may be one or two strips of the latter, one placed the other when two are used, and made narrower than the bottom plece a that the points of the latter willnot be covered. Theback plece of net wil be wider than the willest atrip of musiln so as to project below the polate, thus making the sald trimming of one or two rows of points, and with or
without a margin of net projecting below the points.

Improved Carving Machine.
Henry Gruben becher, New Fork city.-The invention constots in the im provement of carving machines. The supporting table furnishes bearing for the spinde of the catting tool and for the gage pin, and also a suppor frame are attached. The spindle tu revolved with a sultable driving shatt. The tool can be applifed to and removed from the apindle, so that it mas be replaced when desired. The gage pin is fastened in the support, which it laterally adjustable on the table and can be set at any suitable distancefro the tool, according to the dimensions of the articles to be cut. It can als
be longitudinally adjueted in the support, so that its point can be set an held exactis in loe with polnt of the tool. The allde can move back and forth, but not sidewise, or up and down. To its front end ts secure a cross arm. The block to be carved, and the pattern to be imitated, are fastened to the face of a plate which has cars at its ends, whichare pivoted to the ends of a bar. The plate can be swung to hold the block and patter
at any sultable angle to the tool and gage pin, and can be locked at an deatred angle to the bar. The whole frame can moreover be vibrated so that the block and pattern can be swung on two different curves. A spring connecta with the sllde and tends to draw it back, away from the tool and pin. Another spring serres to balance the frame and to hold it nearly
horizontal. The operator, after the olock and pattern have heen properls secured to the plate, and the tooland pin being adjusted, has onls properly the plate up and down, and draw it back and forth, and awing it aldewise so as to bring every part of the pattern in contact with the pin, which will cause the tool to reach corresponding deptheand parts of the block, and to reproduce the pattern. When work is to be cut on more than one side namely, when it becomes necessarg to turn the pattern, In order to bring all parts of its surface in contact with the pin, a holder is used in which
lateralls adjustable brackets are fastened to the face of the plate. The block to be cut ts centered between the brackets, and the pattern between the brackets. When the pattern is turned, the block will also he turned in the samemannerad degree bl frue of awivelconnection.
Jmproved Furniture Spring.
willam T. Doremus, New York city. This invention has for its object to furnish an improved springfor chatrs, bed bottoms, and otherarticleso comblnation, with each other, of the case,made in two parts osclllating upon each other. To one part are attached rigid blocks, andin the face of the other partis formed a recess to recelve them. In theinuer part of the lat ter plate is also formed a transverse groove to recelve a cross bar, between which and the blocks rubber springs are interposed. Open metallic band pass around the rubber block and in rubber blocks by friction. By this construction, as the one part of the case is oscillated or turned back and forth upon Its plvoting point, the rubber blocks will be alternately compressed by the bar.

