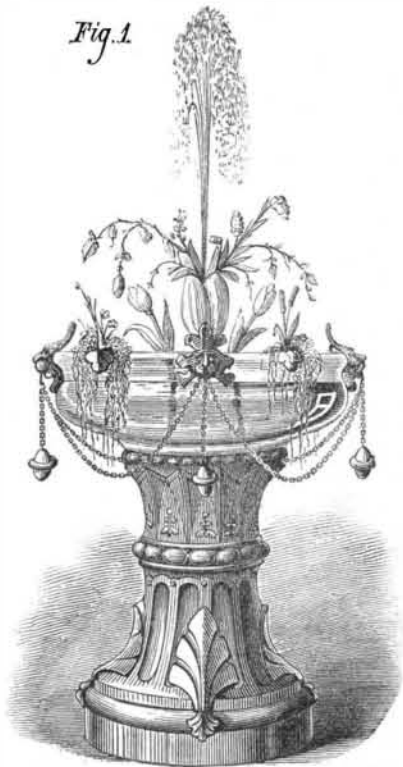


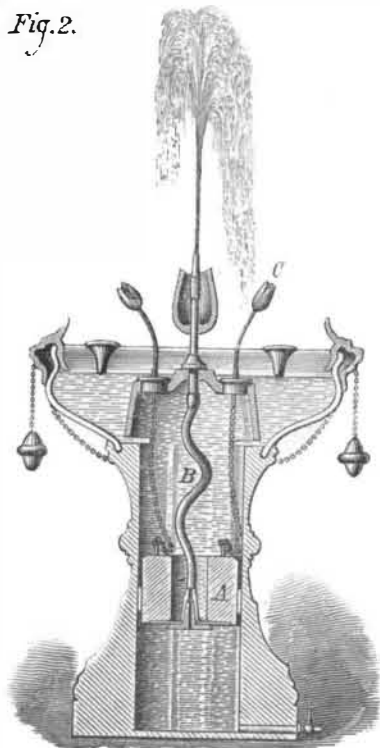
THE CRYSTAL SELF-ACTING TABLE FOUNTAIN.

Nature's ornaments are the standard of beauty; and the more closely art copies her ever varying forms, the higher and purer does it become. A spray of ivy creeping over a cornice, a handful of flowers, not imbedded in a stiff mass but allowed to rest loosely in a simple vase, a jet of crystal waterdancing and playing like a shower of diamonds in some sunny corner, are far more exquisite than the most elaborate decorations or gorgeous fittings that the most skillful of workmen can produce.



But nature may be assisted by art, so that her handiwork may exist in places where it would otherwise be absent; and the ingenuity of the inventor is not at a loss to find a way of bringing into our parlors the beauties which we admire in the garden. Such indeed is the object of the ornamental little device to which our engravings refer, and by which we are enabled to place a miniature fountain, with its floral accompaniments, in the center of our dining tables, if we so desire it. Apart from its beauty as an ornament, it may here be noted that a jet of water in the room tends toward moistening the atmosphere, and relieving it of the dry nature especially due to furnace heat, while, besides this, the fluid has a tendency to absorb the foul gases due to respiration. Hence the invention is desirable both from an aesthetic and a sanitary point of view, while it has, as we are informed, the further merit of being within a moderate limit of cost.

In our illustrations, Fig. 1 shows the apparatus entire and Fig. 2 is a vertical section. There is a pedestal, which may be of imitation bronze or any other desired material and made in any handsome design. In this is a cylindrical space in which fits a heavy plunger, A. Through the latter is an opening into which passes a rubber pipe, B, of smaller diameter, and which terminates below in a flap valve. The valve, however, is pierced, so that the opening from the water below, through the pipe and to the spout above, is clear.



To start the fountain, in which clear, colored, or perfumed water, or even *eau de cologne*, may be used, the plunger is drawn up to the highest position by means of the chains which connect with the movable metal tulip buds, C. While this is being thus elevated, the water above passes through the annular space between the pipe and the periphery of the orifice in the plunger, and escapes below, the valve, of course, opening downward. The plunger, however, on being left to itself, descends by its own gravity, pressing upon the water

below, which, unable to ascend through the annular space on account of the closing of the valve, is forced through the small central opening in the latter, through the pipe, B, and, finally, out at the spout in a fine jet sixteen or eighteen inches high. The basin communicating with the cylinder, of course, never overflows, and the play of the fountain continues until the plunger has reached the bottom, which, with a small jet, occupies a period of about forty-five minutes. The lifting of the plunger is very easily done, and is hardly two seconds' work. The glass tulip shown near the jet is designed to hold flowers, and the same are also arranged in holders attached to the side of the basin. By being continuously sprinkled with water, they are thus kept fresh for quite a long time. At the bottom is a conduit and cock for drawing off the water, and a suitable strainer is provided at the jet to prevent the same from clogging.

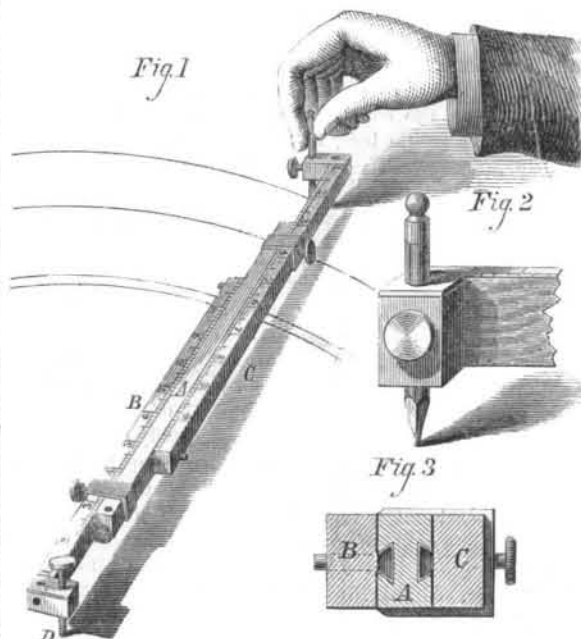
The decorations are quite tasteful, and the ornament, as a whole, will be a handsome addition to any parlor.

Patents for the fountain are now pending. For further particulars, address the American Fountain Works, New Haven, Conn.

COMBINED EXTENSION MEASURING ROD AND DIVIDER.

The object of the invention herewith illustrated is to facilitate the taking of measurements between rigid surfaces, and the striking of circles, arcs, ovals, or ellipses. It appears to be quite a handy little instrument, and will doubtless prove a convenient device for builders and mechanics.

There is a center piece, A, Fig. 1, in each of the two opposite sides of which is made a dovetail groove for the reception of metallic dovetails attached to the inner sides of the extension pieces, B and C. This arrangement is clearly shown in section in Fig. 3. Secured also to the center piece are suitable bands for holding the extension arms, which are provided with thumbscrews, so that the latter may be fastened in any desired position. The pieces, B and C, are graduated in inches and fractions, so that the length of the rod may be at any time easily ascertained. At D is a removable point secured by a thumbscrew, and at the opposite



extremity of the apparatus, shown in Fig. 2, is a simple arrangement for holding an ordinary pencil. The mode of using the device for striking circles is obvious from our engraving. In making ellipses, the third point is attached to the end of the center piece. When not used as a tram, the points and pencil may be disposed of in suitable holes made in the ends of the pieces.

Patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, November 4, 1873. For further particulars address the inventor, Mr. George H. Discher, Mobile, Ala.

The Sea Mouse.

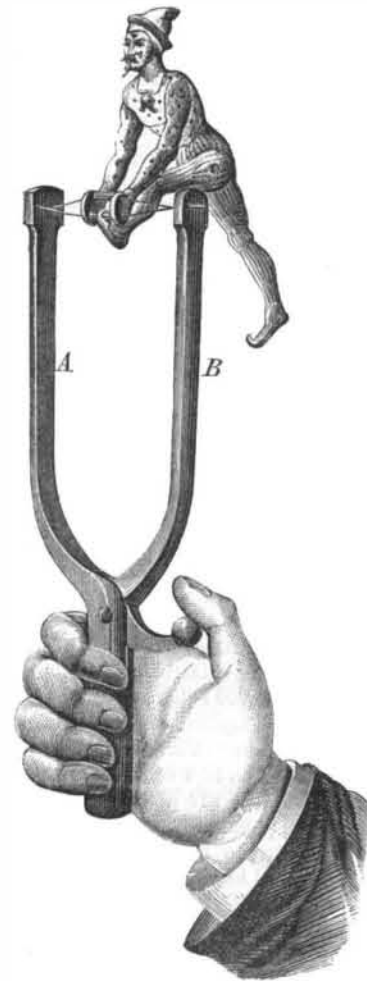
The sea mouse is one of the prettiest creatures that lives under the waters. It sparkles like a diamond and is radiant with all the colors of the rainbow, although it lives in the mud at the bottom of the ocean. It should not have been called a mouse, for it is larger than a big rat. It is covered with scales that move up and down as it breathes, and glitters like gold shining through a flocky down, from which fine silky bristles wave that constantly change from one brilliant tint into another, so that, as Cuvier, the great naturalist, says, the plumage of the humming bird is not more beautiful. Sea mice are sometimes thrown up on the beach by storms.—*Hearth and Home.*

TOY GYMNAST.

This is one of those ingenious mechanical toys which are sure to amuse and please children of all ages, though it is nothing but an articulated figure which, supported between two upright bars, goes through a variety of ludicrous antics. The performer is made of pasteboard, and has his legs and arms pivoted to his body. The hands are kept apart by two short tubes through which pass a couple of strings which are secured to the tops of two bars, A and B. Bar A is curved and projects downward into the handle. The other, B, is also curved, and its lower end terminates in a thumb piece, which enters and is pivoted in a groove in the upper part of the handle of bar A.

All that is necessary to do in order to make the figure execute a number of astonishingly impossible gymnastic feats

is to press down the thumb piece, as shown in our engraving. By this means, the upper ends of the bars are forced apart, and the motion of the gymnast regulated according to the quantity of pressure applied. The inventor also adds hooked



toes to the feet, so that the latter will catch in the tubes between the hands, and thus give the performances of the figure a more grotesque appearance. This is just the article to find ready sale during the holidays.

It was patented November 18, 1873, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by Mr. Frederick A. Bancker, of whom further particulars may be obtained by addressing P. O. box 180, Brooklyn, N. Y.

MOISTENING DEVICE FOR LAME ANIMALS.

Mr. George J. Harris, of New York city, has recently patented an apparatus by means of which the legs or feet of a horse, or other animal, may be kept moist for any desired time. He arranges an india rubber water bag around the neck and leads therefrom flexible pipes, which extend to the legs of the animal. These pipes, at A, are connected to tubular sprinklers, which are so constructed that they can be conveniently secured either below the knee or below the ankle joint. They are also perforated with a number of



minute holes, and are enveloped in flannel or other suitable absorbent material, so that water or liniment, which oozes slowly out, is distributed over the entire surface of the legs or feet.

By this means a sufficient quantity of liquid is supplied to keep the extremities of the animal damp for a considerable period of time; and when the device is once adjusted, it needs no further attention until the receptacle is empty.