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## RAIL-ROAD NEWS.

### Locomotives for Inclined Planes.

In 1840, William Hoyt, of Dupont, Indiana, invented a locomotive for ascending inclined planes, and made a model of it at the Railroad Depot at North Madison. He carried the model to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington cities, endeavoring to get men of capital to join him in procuring a patent, and constructing an engine. In this he failed; the model, however, was deposited in Washington, but he did not secure a patent until 1849. In 1845, however, he was introduced to the foreman of the machine shop at the Railroad Depot, and he went to Philadelphia and got a locomotive constructed on the very plan, at Baldwin's, for the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad. This very same person endeavored, we are informed, to prevent Hoyt from securing a patent, and also managed to get one himself. Mr. Hoyt, about two years ago, we believe, instituted an action for infringement against the said Railroad Company. His title to originality was disputed, and claims for damages were resisted for a long time. They have at last, however, recognized them, and compromised the dispute by paying him a handsome sum. His claims of originality are thus admitted, but it would have been more to the credit of all his opponents if they had frankly admitted them at the very first. This invention is one which has effected a great saving to that Railroad, but the poor inventor could not get one to help him in securing a patent in 1840. Here is a case for the "New York Daily Times." If this man had not been able to secure a patent, would he ever have got the least remuneration for his valuable invention? No, not one cent.

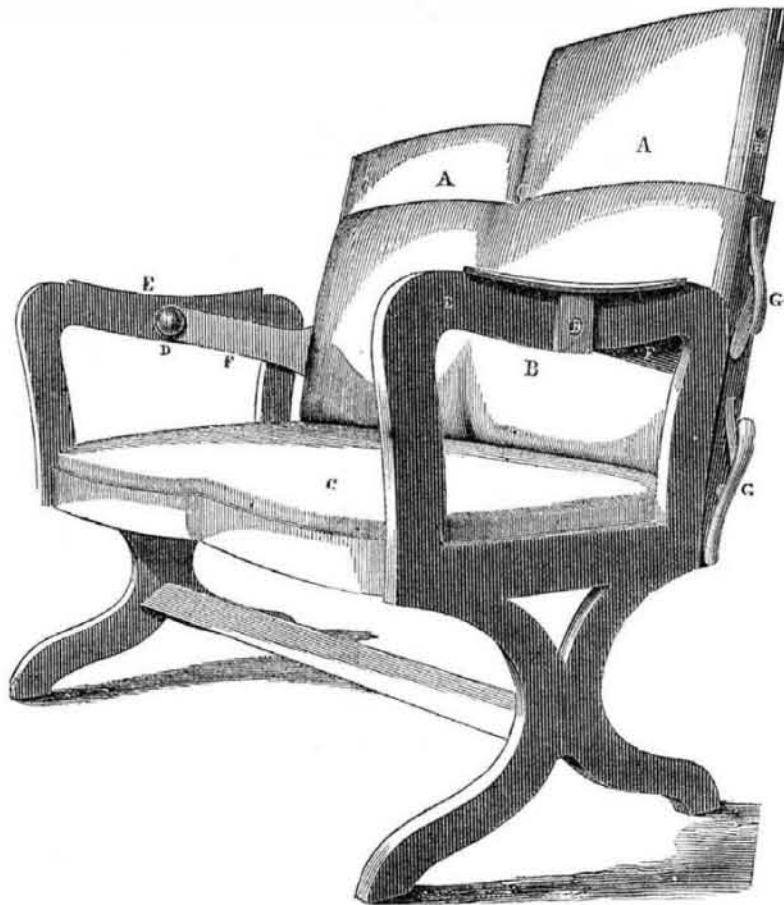
On Wednesday, last week, an improved locomotive, built by the engineer, W. McQueen, at the Schenectady Locomotive Works, brought down a train of ten heavily laden cars, from Utica, in 1 hour 50 minutes—distance 78 miles.

The first Swedish railway is about to be constructed. The line adopted is that through Koping, Oreboro and Hult, which, while it will connect the two great lakes, Malaren and Wenern, will form part of a great trunk line between Stockholm and Guttenburg.

### The True Scientific Inquirer.

Here what Sir Humphrey Davy says respecting the qualifications of an inquirer after scientific truth:—His mind should always be awake to devotional feeling; and in contemplating the variety and the beauty of the external world, and developing its scientific wonders, he will always refer to that Infinite Wisdom through whose beneficence he is permitted to enjoy knowledge. In becoming wiser he will become better; he will rise at once in the scale of intellectual and moral existence; his increased sagacity will be subservient to a more exalted faith; and in proportion as the veil becomes thinner through which he sees the causes of things, he will admire more the brightness of the Divine light by which they are rendered perceptible.

## PATENT RAILROAD CAR SEAT.



The accompanying engraving is a perspective view of an improvement on railroad car seats, invented by A. B. Buel, of Westmoreland, Oneida Co., N. Y., and for which a patent was granted on the 11th day of last month, (May 1852). The nature of the improvement consists in attaching to the backs of the ordinary car seats outer sliding backs which may be raised or lowered as required. The figure is a view of the common railroad chair; it has two backs, the one of two section backs, designated by A A, and the other B; both are stuffed; C is the cushioned seat; E E are the cushioned arms. The backs are hung on pivot axes, D, (one not seen) by arms, F F, to allow the backs to be swung over in the usual way. The sliding backs, A A, are made to slide up and down in grooves, which are made in each side of the fixed lower back, B. There are a number of small recesses, H, in the edge of each sliding back; these recesses are for the purpose of receiving the catches, G G, which retain the said sliding back in the position which it may be set.

### Straw as a Covering.

Clean straw is an excellent covering for many things; thousands on thousands of sea kale in frames or under hoops have no other blanching material; and how clean they grow in it! Rhubarb, in winter forcing and early spring, grows beautifully pinky. It is well known that early spring frosts destroy rhubarb; but if a six inch layer of straw is put on every crown, as the heads put up, they raise the straw with them, and it not only gives the stalks a better color, and makes them less "stringy," but it keeps the leaves from growing too large. No wind will blow it off, nor will the most intense frost injure the plants. Straw should not be looked on as a mere litter; it is as good as a frame upon a large scale. What sort of eatable strawberries would we have without straw? In summer, every crop, such as gooseberries, currants, and many other things, should have the protection of straw, which keeps the sun from drying up the surface, and the surface roots damp and cool, while all weeds are kept down. Market

gardeners used it for their frames—it matters not whether for cucumbers, melons, or potatoes, straw is their covering—and their crops are more secure than when protected by a thin mat. But some may object to the use of straw, on account of the litter it makes in a garden; but if any of those who object to its use for this reason, will just take a peep into Covent Garden market at any season, they cannot fail to be struck with the quality of the produce, in the raising of which straw plays an important part. Straw is also the best of all manures for a strong retentive soil, when it is dug in fresh, as it decays and leaves innumerable worm-like holes which act as drains for the roots.—[Gardener's Chronicle.

### English Observatory.

The observatory at Greenwich, England, is fairly placed in connection with the electric wires, by an arrangement with the Southeastern Railway. Instantaneous astronomical observations may be now undertaken in re-

mote sections, clocks be regulated by national time, differences of longitude be ascertained with exact promptitude; and, by means of the sub-marine telegraph, European skill may be connected with the efforts of British science. Wires may soon be carried over the Rhine and the Elbe, to connect with Calais, Dover, London. Perhaps thence to America; who knows what is to be?

### Medical Science.

EXTRACT OF SUMACH.—Dr. Elmer, in the last number of the Eclectic Journal of Medicine, gives the following as his experience with rhusine:—

This is obtained from the leaves of the upland sumach. It is prepared by percolation with spirits rectificatus.—specific gravity 0.830. The solvent is washed and displaced by means of a vacuum apparatus. The rhusine is then precipitated and washed with aqua distillata, dried on filter cloth, in an airy, dry room, and reduced to a fine powder.

Medical properties and uses.—Tonic, astringent, and antiseptic.—In the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, and bowel diseases generally, rhusine is a remedy of great merit, and seldom disappoints the expectation of the physician. Its action as a tonic is peculiar to the mucous membrane, while its astringent effects are mild, yet sufficiently active for the cure of the above diseases. It must not be forgotten, however, that in all cases of diarrhoea, and dysentery, the exciting cause must first be removed; and no remedy is of more value, in fulfilling this indication, than the leptandrin. The most successful treatment is as follows: Leptandrin is given in doses from one to two grains, every two to four hours, till a cathartic effect is produced. The rhusine is then given in doses from one to two grains, every two, three, or four hours, according to the severity of the case.

The concentrated semi-fluid preparation of the sumach contains all the essential properties of this plant, in a convenient form, for the treatment of old ulcers, sores, putrid sore throat, bronchitis, sore mouth and throat in scarlet fever, mercurial salivation, etc.; for which it is an excellent remedy. Its medical properties are similar to the resinoid principle, but it contains more tannic acid, and is therefore more of an astringent. It also contains the coloring and extractive matter. In diseases of the kidneys, putrid fever, etc., it has been used with favorable results. Dose, from five to ten drops. For a gargle, or external application, it may be diluted with alcohol.

BORAX IN EFFLORESCENCE ON THE FACE.—M. Vanoye, in these cases of red spots or efflorescence of the face, so often seen in the young otherwise in good health, states he has found washing them several times a day with Hufelane's formula, a most excellent remedy. It consists of borax two parts, orange-flower and rose-water, of each fifteen parts.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.—A Belgian paper asserts that a medical gentleman named Williams has discovered that the fatal consequences of pleuro-pneumonia can be averted by inoculation. He has practiced the system for a long time with success. A commission has been issued by the Belgian government to enquire into the subject. The disease for which this system is stated to be a preventive, has been very fatal in Europe last winter.

CEPHALIC SNUFF.—The following has proved itself highly valuable for catarrh:—

Take black snuff—one ounce. Pulv. Squills—one drachm. Mix. Use three times a day. Care must be taken not to become habituated to the snuff, or the cure will be worse than the disease.

TO PRESERVE OUT-DOOR WOOD-WORK.—Boil together 1 gal. coal tar, 2½ lbs. sulphate of zinc, and lay it on hot.