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spinning of tops, for all phenomena connected with the matter The subject is quite ancient, as the book referred to is itself at least a century and a half old. In Dr. Thompson's "History of Science you will doubtless find a condensation of the subject

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15.8

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Improved Hay-elevating Fork.

As the hot and toilsome having season approaches the muscles and physical energies of the farmer will be taxed to their utmost. Hurrying off at the early dawn of the day and working till late at night, he feels severely all the discomforts and inconveniences attending this onerous portion of his duties. A great part of his labor has been lightened by our ingenious inventors, who, knowing the practical wants of special departments, hasten to relieve them by substituting machines for human strength ; and it is a source of the greatest wonder to us how any man can consent to wear himself out, physically and mentally, when he can very much facilitate his oper-

mend it to those seeking a simple and efficient hay fork. This invention was patented by L. Rundell, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, on April, 1862; further information can be had by addressing the inventor at Coxsackie, N. Y.

The Composition of Milk.

Milk has been so often analyzed that it would em no further facts could be elicited in regard to this important liquid. Professor Boedecker, however, has just completed a series of experiments conducted on quite a new principle. The question he proposed to himself was whether milk obtained at any hour of the day always presented the same chemi-

charge, that the screw of the ramrod would not extract it. The English infantry were in as much despair as were the Belgian and Nassau squares a few hours afterwards, when attacked by the French cavalry. Their means of defense appeared to be gone. At length, a sergeant hit upon the expedient of swinging the musket around in a manner which dislodged the charge. The experiment was adopted with success along the whole line. Soon afterwards it appeared that the front ranks of the French infantry were in precisely the same difficulty. They had loaded over night for their intended attack. At the short distance which divided the front ranks of the two armies they witnessed our final experiment, and adopted it. - Edinburgh Review.



RUNDELL'S HAY-ELEVATING FORK.

and sold all over the country. Herewith we illustrate an improved hay-fork, which we will proceed to describe. Fig. 1, is a view of the fork in gear, and is supposed to be loaded with hay. The shank, A, is connected to the wooden bar, B, by the eye bolts, a, and has the tines, C, secured in it by nuts on each end of them. The catch, D, is jointed to the jaw, E, at one end, and has an eye at the other extremity to which the detaching cord, b, is fastened. a small spiral spring is shown at c, which keeps the catch up against the shank, A. The wooden handle, F, is grasped by the farmer when the fork is to be loaded. The block and fall, G, connected with the upper end of the shank is fastened to any point over head in the barn, or to a temporary upright in the field.

The operation of the machine is as follows: When the fork is loaded it is perfectly balanced by the position of the shank and the crook of the same. The hoisting power is then applied and the load elevated to the desired point; when this is achieved, the farmer pulls the disengaging cord, the catch is detached, and the fork swings on the eyebolts, and lets the load slide off. The position of the fork and the parts thereof is shown in Fig. 2. The apparatus can then be insinuated under another mass of hay, the shank lowered down by the fall so that the catch hooks over it, and the process repeated at will. The disengaging apparatus is quite secure, and has a square hold on the shank when hoisting, yet it works so easily that the operator, be he who he may, is able to disconnect it with one pull of the little finger. A child might work this part of the fork.

ations by using the improved tools that are made | cal composition or not; and he has arrived at the result that the milk of the evening is richer by 3 per cent. than that of the morning ; the latter containing 10 per cent of solid matter, and the former 13 per cent. On the other hand, the water contained in milk diminishes by 3 per cent. in the course of the day; in the morning it contains 89 per cent. of water, and only 86 per cent. in the evening. The fatty particles increase gradually as the day wears on. In the morning they amount to 2.17 per cent; at noon to 2.63 per cent; and in the evening to 4.32 per cent. This circumstance, if true, would be very important in a practical point of view. Let us suppose a kilogramme of milk to yield only the sixth part of its weight of butter, then the milk of the evening may yield double that quantity. The caseinous particles are also more abundant in the evening than in the morning; from 2.24 they increase to 2.27 per cent; but the quantity of albumen diminishes from 0.44 to 0.31. The serum is less abundant at midnight than at noon, being 4.19 per cent. in the former case, and 5.72 in the last.

Swelling of Cartridges by Rain.

On the evening of the 17th of June, 1815, the French infantry made a demonstration against the English lines, at Waterloo. This movement led the front ranks of the English to load their muskets; and when the enemy retired, arms were piled in the usual manner; but the charges were not withdrawn. From that moment the rain fell in torrents. When the troops unpiled arms in the morning, they found that they could neither withdraw the charges nor fire the muskets. The rain had soaked the cart-The apparatus is simple and strong, and we com- ridges, moistened the powder, and so swelled the



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