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## New Method of Propelling Steam Vessels.

Kinkel & Hubbe's new method of propelling steam vessels consists, generally, in the reactionary power of water. The propulsion of steam vessels by means of wheels and screws has probably attained its highest perfection, the velocity of ships propelled by these means not being capable of a great increase, for the reason that great velocity in rotating wheels or screws necessarily reacts upon the vessel and requires a proportionate increase of strength in the construction of the hull, which again tends to counterbalance the velocity of the moving vessel, while, by the method of propulsion adopted by the invent-

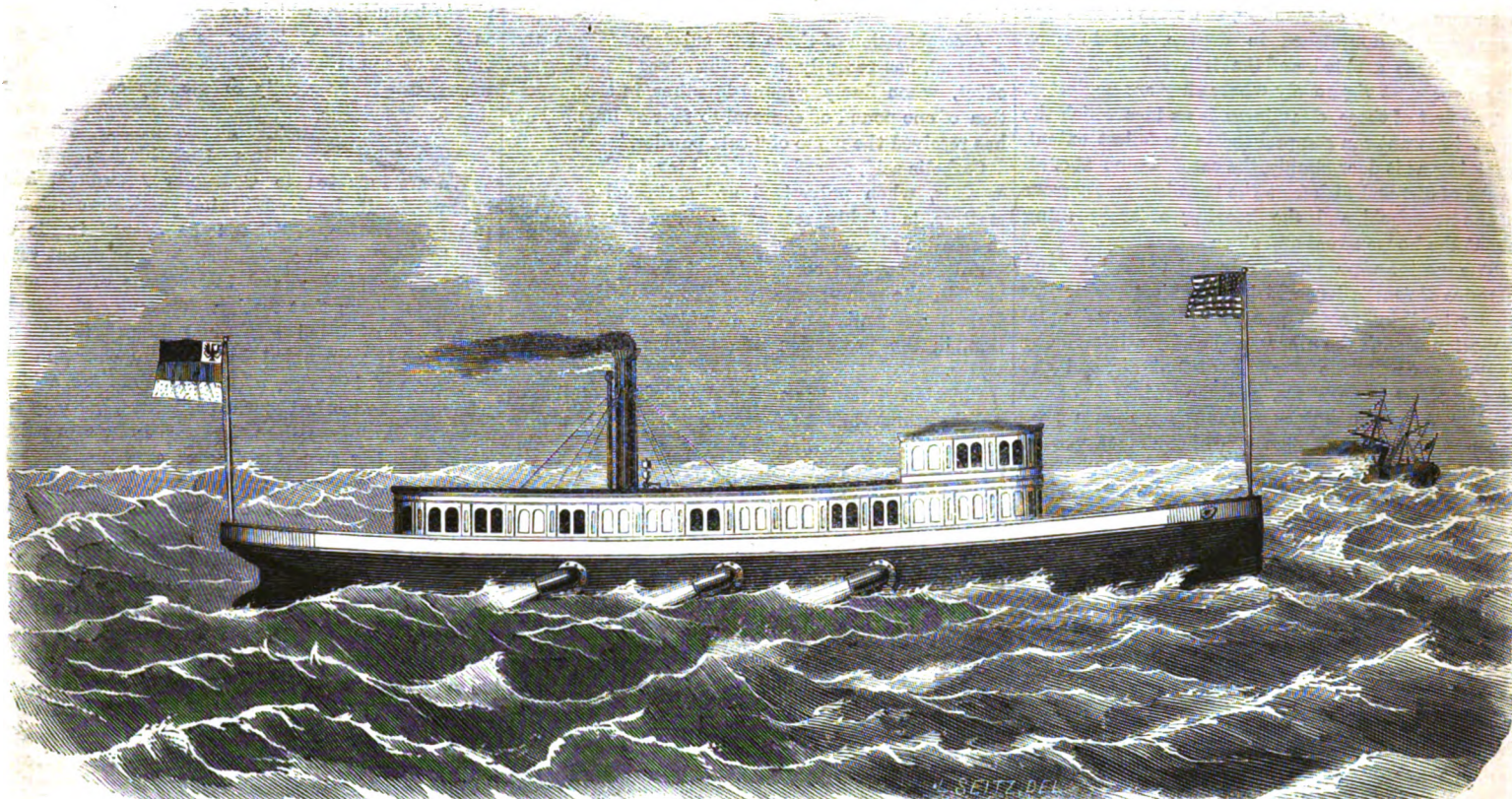
An equal number of such pipes are inserted on each side of the vessel; all of them are properly packed in stuffing boxes. The end of each of said pipes in the inside of the vessel is connected with a force pump, and each pump is driven by a small steam engine. Each of said pumps is supplied with water by a suction pipe through the bilge or bottom of the vessel, and all the engines are supplied with steam from one boiler, in such a manner that a supply of steam may be cut off from each engine separately, or from any number of engines, or from all of them, as may be desired.

The inner ends of the outboard pipes are connected

city, where those interested may receive further information.

## Iron and Steel Railroad Tracks.

The *London Railway News* says: "Mr. Williams furnishes some details which will serve to show the enormous wear and tear to which the rails of our leading lines are subjected. On the section between Hatfield and London, on the Great Northern line, 57,536 trains, carrying 17,760,926 tons, destroyed in three years the rails laid down in 1857. Some heavier rails, laid in 1860, were worn down in three years by 65,529 trains, and 18,484,661 tons. In the



## KINKEL & HUBBE'S METHOD OF PROPELLING STEAM VESSELS.

ors, no reaction upon the ship will be perceptible, however great the velocity which a vessel thus propelled may attain.

That the reaction of water forced out of pipes from a ship may be used as a propelling power is demonstrated by the fact that a few vessels, constructed in Europe on that principle, have actually been used for traveling purposes, and are still in use.

The construction adopted in these vessels consisted mainly in placing in the center of the ship a turbine wheel moved by a steam engine which discharged two jets of water simultaneously out of two nozzle pipes, one on each side of the vessel; but the discharge pipes (or nozzle pipes) on either side of the turbine wheel, being necessarily different in length, the power thereby exerted on one side of the vessel is greater than on the other, which impedes the proper steering of the vessel; and, again, the propelling power itself is limited by the two discharge pipes only, all of which is obviated by this invention. The principal features of this invention are as follows: A series of bent pipes are inserted through the sides of the hull, below or above the water line, as required for the particular use of the vessel, the said pipes being adjustable by a mechanism in such a manner that the parts of the pipes on the outside of the vessel may be turned aft, forward, or perpendicular.

with a mechanism by means of which the discharge pipes on either side of the vessel may be turned simultaneously in any direction at the will of the engineer or other person having charge of said mechanism.

Thus, if it is desired to move the vessel in a certain direction, all the nozzle pipes are placed in the opposite direction, and the water being forced out of them strikes or reacts upon the water in which the vessel is floating, and thereby causes the motion of the vessel.

It is claimed that vessels constructed on this principle attain a much higher rate of speed, with a lesser consumption of coal than is the case with paddle wheel or screw steamers, that the steering of this new vessel is easier and more certain, that the shaking of the vessel (caused by the action of the engine on the screw or paddle wheel) is here entirely avoided. These and other advantages make it desirable to test boats constructed on that principle, and for that purpose the inventors have designed an experimental boat on a large scale, which they intend to build and to sail with it on the Hudson or East rivers, and which is to attain a speed of 25 or 30 miles in an hour.

The plans and drawings may be seen at the office of Mr. Charles Wehle, No. 290 Broadway, in this

case, however, of a section of railway between Bury and Accrington, 62,399 trains and a gross tonnage of 12,451,784 passed over rails which lasted seven and a-half years, or two and a-half times as long as those of the Great Northern, with about an equal amount of traffic. Again, at Bolton, it required 203,122 trains, and 38,808,128 tons to wear out the same description of rails in seven and a-quarter years. The cause of this rapid wearing out of the rails of the Great Northern as compared with those of the other lines, is due, apparently, to the greater speed of the trains. In the case of iron rails, as in the delicately constructed mechanism of animal life, it is 'the pace that kills.'

"Two steel rails of twenty-one feet in length were laid on the 2d of May, 1862, at the Chalk Farm Bridge, side by side with two ordinary rails. After having outlasted sixteen faces of the ordinary rails, the steel ones were taken up and examined, and it was found that at the expiration of three years and three months, the surface was evenly worn to the extent of only a little more than a quarter of an inch, and to all appearance they were capable of enduring a great deal more work. These two rails had, during the period of little more than three years, been exposed to the traffic of 9,550,000 engines, trucks, and carriages, and 95,577,240 tons. It is an amount of

traffic equal to nearly ten times that which destroyed the Great Northern rails above referred to in three years. The result of this trial was to induce the London and Northwestern to enter very extensively into the employment of steel rails, and we learn from Mr. Webb that in a short time arrangements will be made at Crewe for the production of three hundred and fifty tons of steel per week, of which three hundred will be used for rails; and that at the present time there are about fifty miles of steel rails in use on the line, and three thousand tons of steel-headed rails."

#### THE DOMESTIC SOURCES OF CHOLERA AND THE MEANS OF AVOIDING THEM.

At the present time, when the influences of this terrible pestilence are manifest in all sections, the above subject is one of the most important that can engage the attention of the people. We observe that the members of the medical profession are at variance in their opinions as to the contagiousness of this fearful disease, but they are unanimous as to its local causes, and the measures necessary to prevent it. These latter may be summed up in these three words—*Cleanliness, Pure Air, and Disinfection.*

The history of the epidemics of cholera, in almost every quarter of the world, demonstrates most decidedly that where these preventive principles have been scrupulously attended to, there the disease has been greatly diminished in degree, and in some places wholly avoided, and that it invariably displays its power most vigorously where they are neglected.

The first of these, cleanliness, is an idea which the most ignorant can comprehend in its fullest extent, implying as it does, simply, the careful removal of all kinds of dirt and filth from the premises and persons of the household, and the keeping of every thing about the house sweet and clean.

The matter of pure air involves the principles and practice of ventilation, which is a subject rather less understood by people generally, though of equal importance with the others, and easily attainable by various means. The removal of foul air, and the supply of fresh, pure air, are the points involved therein, for which various methods have been suggested—a further allusion to which we may make on a future occasion.

In many respects the practice of disinfection is the most important of all these preventive measures. It is universally admitted by those best informed upon the subject that the foul gases, generated by the putrefaction of animal and vegetable matters, are the most active and abundant causes of this disease and of many others. To prevent the decomposition of all such substances, and thus avoid the production of the poisonous gases, is therefore a matter of the very first importance. Modern chemistry has happily supplied us with materials for this purpose, which are easily obtained, and when properly applied are certain in their action.

It is a singular fact, that among the most active sources of the poisonous gases alluded to are the exhalations and excrements of our own bodies. Thus we are told by the Council of Hygiene of the New York Citizens' Association, that "Careful observation has established the fact that neglected and putrescent excrements and the effluvia from privies serve to localize the outbreak of cholera, and more fatally than almost any other class of nuisances."

The Consulting Physicians of the City of Boston tell us in a recent public document, "Among the causes which act upon the human system to induce the disease (cholera), are exhalations from the bodies of human beings in crowded residences, and unremoved excretions."

Dr. Greenhorn, of London, an eminent sanitarian, says, "An atmosphere impregnated with the products of fermenting excrements is at once the most obvious and most constant concomitant of cholera."

Dr. E. M. Snow, the distinguished Superintendent of Public Health, of Providence, R. I., tells us:—

In some conditions of the atmosphere, particularly when there is excessive heat and moisture, and when there is any epidemic influence prevailing, the impure air arising from these collections of swill and house offal is a most injurious nuisance and a prolific source of diseases. The danger is still greater when, as is frequently the case, the swill and offal are deposited in cellars or are thrown into privy vaults,

We might multiply to an indefinite extent the evidence of this singular fact, that these results of the vital operations of our bodies are a powerful cause of our own sickness and death, but our readers will doubtless be satisfied with the above extracts, and the question then arises, how are these consequences to be avoided? The answer is equally plain—by cleanliness and disinfection; and we are pleased to be able to state how the latter operation can be most effectively performed.

Among the rules laid down by the Council of Hygiene of the Citizens' Association, for the prevention of sickness in general, and cholera in particular, is the following: "Avoid and prevent effluvia from excrementitious matters, sewers, privies, and chamber vessels. Frequently and thoroughly disinfect these sources of fever poison." How to do it is therefore the important question.

The following is a list of the substances at present regarded by chemists and sanitarians as the most available and effective for the purpose.

Common lime is useful as an absorbent of moisture, and a preventive of the decomposition of some substances.

Freshly-burned charcoal is a powerful absorbent of noxious gases, and to a certain degree a preventive of decomposition. It is well known that wooden stakes, whose surfaces have been charred by fire, when placed in the ground, will be preserved a long time.

A combination of these two substances, lime and charcoal, has recently been introduced with good effect, when finely ground together, in the proportion of one pound of charcoal to four of lime. This has received the name of "calx powder."

Carbolic acid, a product of coal tar, in the form of crystals, when pulverized and sprinkled over foul matters, is highly recommended. It may be used in solution also.

Sulphate of iron, commonly called copperas, when used in the same manner, is also a valuable disinfectant and antiseptic. It may also be used in solution, in the proportion of an ounce to a quart of water.

Chloride of lime has achieved a high reputation as a disinfectant, but for domestic use it is less available than those mentioned above. Its value for this purpose depends almost wholly upon the chlorine gas which it gives forth. This is not only in itself a very offensive substance, but as a gas it is only useful in decomposing other gases, with which it must come in contact after they have escaped into the air. This is like trying to catch a thief after he has run away. The other disinfectant's will prevent the escape of the noxious gasses.

We here make no mention of any of the numerous advertised disinfectants, because their compositions are kept secret, and are, no doubt, chiefly made up of the substances herein mentioned, in great part, if not wholly, and are got up solely for the purpose of making money.

There is one combination, however, which is no secret, and which we have personally proved to be one of the very best compositions known for the purpose. It is called the "Ridgewood Powder," and being made up of several of the substances previously enumerated, it combines their deodorizing and antiputrescent properties in a very remarkable degree.

How and where to apply these poison preventives, is the question next in importance. In their report on epidemic cholera, the Council of Hygiene informs us, when speaking of domestic hygiene, that:—

In every private residence, tenant domicile, hotel, boarding house, public school, and place of resort, there should be a thorough examination of the local and house drainage—the stench traps, the cellars, the vaults, the cesspools, and privies. Immediate cleaning and disinfection should be enforced, and proper precautions against every source of domiciliary impurity should be adopted; and all privies, water-closets, sinks, and excrementitious matters should receive scrupulous care and thorough disinfection.

To facilitate this most important and essential sanitary measure, so that disinfectants may be applied in all the places indicated, without trouble or delay, and without exposing fecal or other foul matters to the air, an instrument has recently been introduced which may be used in any locality and by any person, even by a child, without the possibility of mistake or danger. It is called the "Ready Disinfectant,"

and may be attached to any chamber vessel, water closet, privy seat, swill pail, or other vessel containing house offal, and the disinfecting powder applied by it without exposing their contents to the air.

This apparatus, the "Ready Disinfectant," is a very simple and easily managed instrument. It has been approved by the New York Academy of Medicine, by which it was unanimously recommended to the consideration of the Metropolitan Board of Health.

The vast extent of the beneficial effects derivable from the general use of such an instrument may be comprehended by one fact, viz, that if employed for the disinfection of all water closets, chamber vessels, slush buckets, privies, etc., in cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, not only would there be no odor arising therefrom in any dwelling, but all the sewers would likewise be completely deodorized, whereby one of the most potent causes of cholera, and many other diseases, would be entirely removed.

Any further information of the subject, either of disinfectants, or the mode of applying them, may be had by addressing Mr. John H. Keyser, No. 158 Ninth street, opposite the Bible House, New York.

It is not for the prevention of cholera alone that these sanitary measures should be universally adopted, but as against fevers of almost all kinds, especially those of the typhoid character, many disorders of the lungs, erysipelas, diarrhoea, cholera morbus—in fact, all diseases derived from atmospheric impurities, which are known to medical men as *zymotic* diseases. There is no doubt that the enormous mortality of infants, which occurs everywhere, might be greatly reduced by careful attention to these ideas.

#### The Brazilian Exhibition.

We are indebted to Counselor Azambuja, Minister of Brazil, for the following particulars relative to this exposition, which is to be opened in Rio de Janeiro on the 19th of October, in the present year.

By the regulations and instructions of the managers, it appears that foreign machinery and implements are admitted and must be labelled "Foreign," and accompanied by the name of the manufacturer, and inventor, with the cost of the machine. They may be worked by the exhibitors, but may not compete for the premium, the space and steam power required being furnished free of expense; but machinery requiring any special construction will not be admitted. The cost of transportation must be paid by the exhibitors. No machinery can be taken away without a special permit, and if, after the closing of the exhibition, they are sold, they will be subject to a duty of 1½ per cent ad valorem; but if re-exported will be free of duty. Free passes are furnished to the exhibitors. All persons wishing to exhibit must give due notice to the Minister of Brazil in New York, with full particulars of the machinery.

The Minister informs us that the Empire of Brazil, is a field which our manufacturers of agricultural implements cannot afford to neglect.

#### The Rebuilding of Charleston.

The Charleston City Council has referred to a special committee the following proposition to rebuild the city. It is proposed to issue bonds of the city, drawing seven per cent interest, to all who may wish to rebuild, upon the following basis:—

When a lot is valued at \$10,000, and the parties owning the same wish to build a store, warehouse, or dwelling, worth \$15,000 upon it, it is proposed to issue to the parties \$15,000 of city bonds at par; the city to take a bond and mortgage with insurance policies assigned for security, and as an additional safety and security for the city, the interest is to be paid semi-annually, and the parties borrowing the city bonds are to be required to pay the interest in advance, so the city can be sure of meeting the interest on these bonds. This would increase the revenue of the city taxes in the following proportions: A lot now valued at \$10,000, yielding \$175 taxes, would, with a building valued at \$20,000 erected upon it, yield \$525, or from \$300 to \$350 increase over the present tax.

CABLE BUSINESS.—There were twelve messages received at the New York Telegraph office for Europe in one day, for which the sum of \$1,813 in gold was paid.

## THE PRUSSIAN NEEDLE GUN.

We have received from an intelligent correspondent at Washington, who is thoroughly informed upon the subject, and has spent considerable time in Europe, the following observations upon the Prussian needle gun. In our next number we shall give an illustration of the working parts of this arm, to gratify the curiosity which its advertised success has aroused:—

The late European news proves conclusively that a very defective breech-loader, such as the needle gun, is a much more effective weapon in actual war than the best muzzle-loader.

The needle gun is a clumsy, unsightly, heavy, and expensive gun compared to many American breech-loaders, it is complicated in its parts, and delicate in its construction. The breech-piece, which contains the breech-loading mechanism, is enormously long, extending not less than eleven inches to the rear of the cartridge chamber. The bore of this breech-piece is enlarged to receive a hollow cylindrical plunger or breech-closer, about five inches long. The plunger is operated back and forth in order to open and close the breech of the gun, by means of a knobbed handle which slides in a longitudinal slot in the top of the breech-piece; this slot is widened for half its length from the front toward the rear, thus forming a shoulder to receive the knobbed handle and support the breech-closer when the gun is fired. Within the cylindrical breech-closer is a longitudinal steel pin which carries the needle, and is surrounded by a spiral spring. In the bottom of the breech-closer is a narrow longitudinal slot to admit the trigger to take hold of the needle pin. On the front end of the closer is an expanding steel ring or gas check, which performs its functions badly, as there is so much escape of gas that the gun cannot be fired one hundred rounds without being cleaned. There is also considerable escape of gas into the mechanism through the needle hole in the face of the breech-closer. This escape of gas soon fills the chamber in the cylindrical breech-closer, which contains the needle-pin and spiral spring, with a residuum of burned powder, and seriously impedes their action. To open the breech preparatory to loading, strike up with the hand on the knobbed handle of the breech-closer from behind the shoulder, and withdraw it to the rear; but now the soldier must be very careful in inserting his cartridge, lest he injure the delicate needle, which projects its full length into the opening, or lest the needle injure his own hand. To shut the breech the closer is shoved hard forward, and the knobbed handle thereof pressed down in front of the shoulder on the right hand side of the slot.

When the cylindrical breech-closer is shoved forward, the trigger, having taken hold of the needle-pin from below, retains it to the rear, and thus compresses the spiral spring, so that the simple act of closing the breech cocks the piece, and it is only necessary to pull the trigger to fire it. This arrangement is a convenient one for the soldier, and facilitates the firing, but it is an objectionable feature in a military arm, because when loaded it must necessarily remain at full cock. It is true there is a means provided for locking the needle-pin in this position to prevent accident, but if the soldier should forget or neglect to avail himself of it, then serious accident is liable to take place at any time.

The ammunition for the needle gun is complicated, expensive, and difficult to make up, considerable special machinery being required for that purpose. The ball is contained in a small papier-maché cup or sabot, to the base of which is attached the igniting charge, consisting of a friction wafer; the needle must penetrate the whole length of the powder charge before it reaches the fulminate; thus the powder is ignited forward instead of at the rear, as usual. This is believed to be advantageous to the range of the piece. The needle gun cannot be fired more than half as many rounds per minute as most of the American metallic-cartridge guns. There is no denying, however, that the needle gun is proving itself a truly formidable weapon in the hands of the Prussian soldiers, who have been educated to its use for more than twenty years; but its success proves nothing in favor of the needle-gun as a specialty, while it proves everything in favor of breech-loading as a principle. If the Austrians had been armed

with good breech-loaders, the results of the conflict would have been very different from what they are. The writer spent seven months in 1859 making trials with a breech-loader before the committee in Vienna. The report strongly urged the adoption of my arm for the cavalry, to be extended to the infantry later. That recommendation was never complied with by the War Department. From that date until this the writer, either in person or by an agent, has never ceased to urge upon the attention of the Austrian authorities the importance of breech-loading arms, both large and small. What must be the present feelings of the Austrian Emperor toward those of his officials to whom he assigned this important subject for examination and decision, and who have thus long neglected to act, wanting either the capacity or courage to arrive at a decision in favor of any one of the many inventions proposed?

It is stated that all the great powers are taking steps to obtain needle guns. This report is totally without foundation; all the great powers, this country included, being thoroughly familiar with the principles of its construction, and having pronounced it totally unfit for military purposes. The needle gun which the Emperor Napoleon is said to have received some years ago, and placed in his cabinet of curiosities, is very properly bestowed, for that is sure to be its final destination. The Prussians adhere to the needle gun only because it is Prussian in its origin, and may continue to do so with impunity until compelled to abandon it by the adoption of a better arm by other governments.

The Prussians are beating the Austrians because of their superior arms, and the Austrians are, at the same time, beating the Italians for precisely the same reason; the No. 1 rifled musket of the Austrians being as much superior to the heterogeneous collection of low-priced guns with which the Italians are armed as the Prussian breech-loader is superior to the Austrian arm. The Italians are brave as any troops in the world, and are now inspired with a degree of patriotic enthusiasm which ought to render them invincible if they were only armed with a good breech-loader. It does not seem to be generally known that all the Prussian field artillery are also breech-loaders. These guns are a combination of the Prussian and the Broadwell systems, consisting of the Kreiner double-wedge for closing the breech and the Broadwell gas-proof principle.

Breech-loading artillery and small-arms having been adopted, it only remains to introduce the Gatling gun to complete the national armament. The Gatling gun is a revolving battery, capable of throwing two thousand missiles per minute when using his compound ammunition, and one hundred half-lb. balls when using simple ammunition. This gun is designed to occupy the middle position between artillery and small-arms; it is destined to supersede the old flank defense howitzers, and to be extensively used in the field for defending fords, bridges, etc.; it will also, no doubt, be used for boat howitzers in the navy. The recent successful trials with this gun at Fortress Monroe astonished and gratified all who witnessed them.

Success in war is no longer a question of numbers, nor of courage and discipline on the part of troops; nor yet of military genius and experience on the part of leaders; but rather one of arms; and this will continue to be the case until equality of armament shall restore the old relations.

## INSURANCE AGAINST STEAM-BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

We are gratified to learn that this subject is beginning to attract the attention it deserves. In the eleventh Annual Report of the Insurance Companies of Massachusetts, we find the following:—

"Another very important experiment has been conducted to a successful issue in the mother country. Steam boilers have always been a terror to timid fire insurance companies, and the enterprising proprietors of the grand motor of modern civilization have had to pay a very excessive premium for indemnity against its fire damages, while they insured themselves against its hot water.

"In 1850 there was established in Manchester, England, an association for the prevention of boiler explosions. The plan was to employ the best science extant to avoid the causes which lead to these fright-

ful and destructive accidents, and to establish a vigilant supervision.

"Each boiler, we believe, required the payment of one guinea per annum to the fund of the association. A detailed annual report was made of the proceedings of the association, with statistics in regard to the boilers under its charge, and likewise in regard to those not inspected by it. The success of this experiment in diminishing the relative number of those accidents, and bringing steam proprietors better to understand the nature and laws of the force in their employ, soon led to the formation of other associations, not only in Great Britain, but in other countries. It has at last become so decisive that the association now offers for half a guinea per annum, in addition to the guinea already paid, to insure against loss by explosion the boiler itself and surrounding property to the amount of £300. This is less than half the average annual premium of the mutual fire risks in Massachusetts; and in relation to the whole expense of the membership in the association, where it insures, the premium is not half what is charged by stock companies for insuring risks comprising steam boilers.

"The value of this positive discovery to the vast steam interests of this country, if it should ever become generally known, would not be less than that of the discovery of petroleum or a new continent. Men of practical science now believe that boiler explosions, especially those of the most destructive sort, are wholly unnecessary, and easily prevented. What is wanted is a steam boiler insurance company which shall also act as a board of caution and prevention. The experiment of Manchester shows that the principle of mutual insurance is particularly applicable to this specialty, and, encouraged as it might be by a State guaranty, it would result in saving far more than half of what has now to be expended in so imperfectly insuring this most important species of property."

We are very happy to announce that this suggestion is being carried out. Some of the leading engineers of this city have given their support to the formation of a company to insure against accidents and loss occasioned by the explosion of steam boilers, as will be seen by reference to our advertising columns.

## An Inefficient Boiler.

A correspondent—H. M. C., of New Jersey—says he has a horizontal cylindrical boiler, two feet in diameter, ten feet long, containing fifteen two-inch flues, which does not draw well, the tubes being of too little capacity. The smoke passes under the boiler and returns through the tubes, being discharged into the smoke stack over the furnace door. He proposes to relieve the tubes by constructing a brick arch from the rear end of the boiler, over its top, to connect with the smoke box at one end and the chimney at the other. It seems to us that it would cost less and be more efficient to turn the boiler end for end, and convey his smoke directly through the tubes without return. The proposed arch would render his tubes useless, and his boiler would be merely a common untubed boiler. The trouble, we think, is that the draught is not sufficient to control the double passage of the smoke. If it passed directly through the tubes, their capacity would probably be found sufficient.

M. GRIPON has presented a note to the Academy of Sciences, "On the Conducting Power of Mercury for Heat." Experiments made after Pecllet's method showed that if the conducting power of silver = 100, that of mercury = 3.54. It stands, therefore, the last of the metals, and a little before marble and gas coke. The author mentions that in this case the conducting power for heat and for electricity are very different, the former being 3.54, the latter 1.80.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

PETROLEUM IN ENGLAND.—There appears to be good reason for supposing that an abundant supply of petroleum exists in the rocks of England. It is stated that the surface indications of various parts of Shropshire lead to this inference. Experimental borings are already in progress. The oil pit which has been sunk at Leeswood Green, in Flintshire, continues in active operation, and is increasing in product.

**Improved Sorghum Evaporator.**

The process of making sorghum sugar is very greatly expedited by the many machines and apparatuses introduced for the purpose. Sorghum sugar as first made was of a greenish-yellow color, not half drained, but we have seen samples that would equal New Orleans sugar in appearance.

The engraving represents a new evaporator which is claimed to be a valuable improvement on those generally used. Defecation is more thorough, and the removal of the scum is facilitated, while the danger of burning the sirup is obviated. The pan is made of cast iron, formed in sections. The inventor states that he tried sheet iron, but found that he could not increase the heat beyond 230 deg. Fah. without burning the sirup, and at that temperature the mucilage was not separated from the juice; in fact, not thoroughly until about five degrees hotter—it settling to the bottom and adhering there. With cast-iron pans, however, this trouble was not experienced, and the heat could be raised to the right point, when the mucilage rose to the top and was taken off with the scum, leaving the bottom clean. The several sections can be at any time added to increase the length of the pan, they being held together by bolts passing through lugs.

The skimmer is very convenient, being suspended from a frame, A, by chains, B. The chains are attached to springs, C, which hold the skimmer up when not in use. When needed, a slight pressure brings it down over the pans. The claim covers an inclined scum trough with a depression in the center covered by a strainer, but in the model before us this feature is not shown. The ledges, D, cause the juice when boiling to flow back and forth in currents through the whole length, and the scum is deposited as fast as formed on the coolest side, which is arranged to be the scum trough.

The whole affair is set on a brick arch, and is convenient of access in all parts. It is claimed to be economical in the matter of fuel, and safe with proper management.

It was patented by J. F. Riggs, of St. Joseph, Mo., through the Scientific American Patent Agency, on July 3, 1866. For further information address Messrs. E. R. Brandow & Co., who are manufacturing the apparatus at the above place.

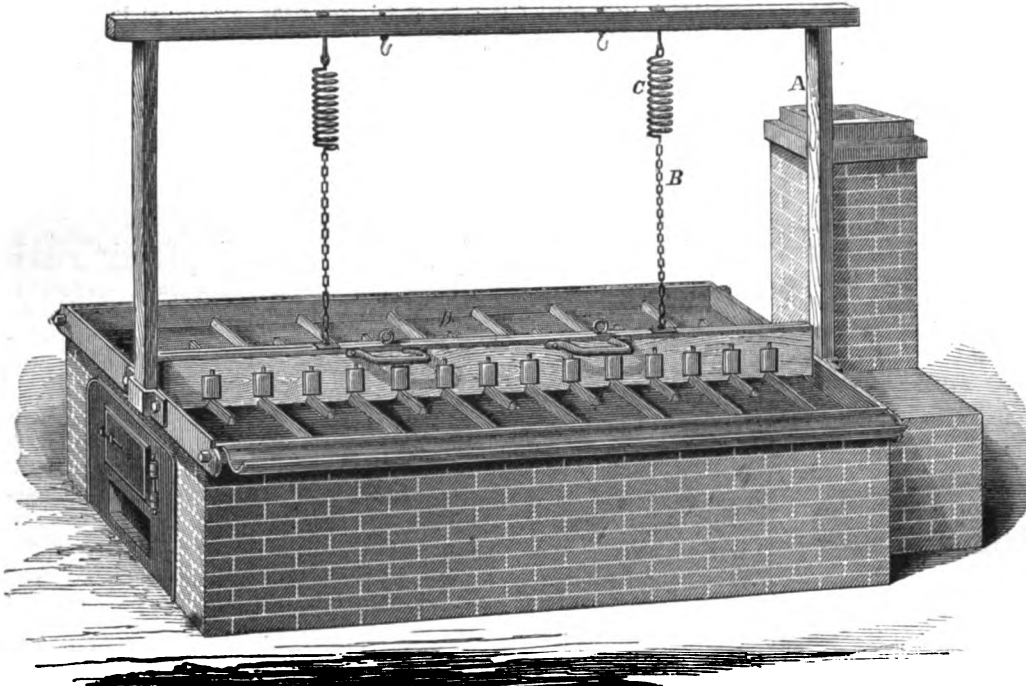
**Precipitation of Metals from their Saline Solutions by Means of Magnesium.**

M. Roussin has just published a paper on the action of magnesium on metallic solutions, and on its application to toxicological researches, which shows that magnesium is particularly well adapted for the precipitation of other metals from solutions of their salts. It is a general principle that one metal will precipitate from a saline solution any other which is less readily oxidable than itself, but some metals, by no means among the most oxidable known, had nevertheless, when M. Roussin began his researches on this subject, resisted all attempts to precipitate them by the contact of another metal with their saline solutions. With two exceptions, however, all the metals alluded to are precipitated in the metallic state by magnesium, the two exceptions being chromium and manganese, which appear to be precipitated as oxides. Among the metals which M. Roussin has precipitated in the metallic state, by means of magnesium, from slightly-acidulated solutions of their salts, are gold, silver, platinum, bismuth, tin, mercury, copper, lead, cadmium, thallium, iron, zinc, cobalt, and nickel. The precipitated

metals, when washed from the saline liquid and then dried and compressed, possess a very remarkable degree of brilliancy. Iron, cobalt, and nickel, so precipitated, are highly magnetic; zinc takes the form of a large spongy mass, which the least compression renders brilliant. Magnesium does not precipitate aluminum at all, and chromium and manganese, as already mentioned, it precipitates as oxides. It does not precipitate arsenic or antimony, though it decomposes their salts, the arsenic or antimony flying off in combination with hydrogen. M. Roussin shows that great advantages result from the substitution of magnesium for the metals ordi-

ains, among others, the following remarks on monitors as cruisers: "Can the monitor style of iron-clads, invented by Captain Ericsson, be so constructed as to make them efficient fighting, sea-going cruisers? The facts with regard to the behavior of this vessel in a moderate gale of wind and heavy sea, when a frigate would find it impossible to use her battery, are as follows:—With head to the sea she takes over about four feet of solid water, which is broken as it sweeps along the deck, and after reaching the turret is too much spent to prevent firing the 15-inch guns directly ahead; with broadside to the sea, either at rest or while moving, her lee guns can always be

worked without difficulty, the water which passes across the deck from windward being divided by the turrets, and her extreme roll so moderate as not to press her lee guns near the water; lying in the same position, her 15-inch guns can be fired directly astern without interference from water; and when stern to the sea, the water which comes on board is broken up in the same manner as when going head to it. In the trough of the sea her ports will be liable to flooding, if required to use her guns to windward. This, then, would be the position selected by an antagonist which designed to fight a monitor in a sea-way. The turret guns of a monitor occupy a central position, where, notwithstanding the lowness of the vessel's hull, they

**RIGGS'S SORGHUM EVAPORATOR.**

narily employed in toxicological researches for the detection of these and other metallic poisons; but into that part of his subject it would be beyond our province to follow him. His only further statement respecting magnesium calling for mention here is one relating to its use as a voltaic element. "The foregoing qualities," he says "encouraged the hope that a substitution of magnesium for zinc in ordinary piles would offer a great electro-motive force, and experiment confirmed this theoretical inference. A small plate of magnesium, 0.1 grain in weight, placed beside a plate of copper in a small tube of glass of six centimeters cube, filled with acidulated copper, produced in less than ten minutes an electromagnetic appearance, and illuminated a Geisler's tube ten centimeters long. If magnesium should ever become cheap, this would decidedly be the best way of producing electricity."

In a note to his paper, M. Roussin states that he has observed that a sodium amalgam, shaken up with an acidulous solution of a salt of chromium or of a salt of manganese, changes to an amalgam of chromium or of manganese, as the case may be, and that an amalgam of either of these metals, obtained in the manner indicated, when distilled in a current of hydrogen, after having been first carefully washed in acidulated water, leaves the pure metal in the form of a pulverulent sponge. The amalgam of manganese, he adds, is opalescent and crystalline; that of chromium more fluid, and less variable at ordinary temperatures. When the latter is heated in a small porcelain capsule in the air, as the mercury flies off in vapor it carries off mechanically with it particles of chromium, which take fire, producing a singular scintillation, which is best observed in a darkened room. At length the chromium remaining in the capsule suddenly becomes incandescent, and burns to oxide.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

**Sea-going Monitors.**

Captain Fox, Assistant Secretary of the American Navy, has reported to his Government upon the performances of the *Miantonomoh* at sea. His report is dated Queenstown, June 16, 1866, and con-

are more easily and safely handled in a sea-way than guns of the same height above the water in a broadside vessel. The axes of the bore of the guns of this vessel are 6½ feet above the water, and the extreme lurch, when lying broadside to a heavy sea in a moderate gale, was 7 degrees to windward, and 4 degrees to leeward—average five and a half degrees, while the average roll at the same time of the *Augusta*, a remarkably steady ship, was 18 deg., and of the *Ashuelot*, 25 deg.—both vessels being steadied by sail. A vessel which attacks a monitor in a sea-way must approach very close to have any chance of hitting such a low hull, and even then the monitor is half the time covered by three and four feet of water, protecting her and disturbing her opponent's fire. From these facts, not unknown to monitor men, and the experience we derived from the use of such vessels during the war, we may safely conclude that the monitor type of iron-clads is superior to the broadside, not only for fighting purposes at sea, but also for cruising. A properly constructed monitor, possessing all the requirements of a cruiser, ought to be constructed of iron, and have but one turret, armed with not less than 20-inch guns, two independent propellers, and the usual proportion of sail.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

**AN EXPERIMENT.**—Two ounces of the explosive compound used in Roberts's torpedo, were experimentally fired off in a piece of tubing and drive pipe, yesterday morning, above ground. The drive pipe was broken into irregular pieces, and the tubing transformed into shoe strings. As demonstrating the probable effect of a subterranean explosion of the torpedo, it was a very satisfactory experiment.—*Titusville Herald, Aug. 9th*.

PERUVIAN guano, which is held at \$60 per tun in gold by the agents of the Peruvian Government in New York, has fallen from \$110 to \$90 per tun in Alexandria. This is the most remarkable decline that any other commodity in our markets has sustained, and must be attributable to unnatural competition.

## WEDGING OF GASES WHEN CONFINED.

In remarking on the experiments made in England with guns, or rather steel tubes open at each end, we said, in our issue of June 23d, that we could account for the velocity imparted to the projectile only on the hypothesis that the air, in the rear of the charge, confined between two felt wads, was compressed laterally, changing its particles from the spherical to the cone-like form, and thus acting as wedges, producing a transverse strain upon the walls of the tube, and forming, at the instant of discharge, a diaphragm of resistance, acting as a solid breech.

Although not certain of being correct in venturing this supposition, which, however, was the only hypothesis on which we could found a theory accounting for the results of the experiments, we have some additional evidence that this is the path for investigating these facts. We give, with this article, a cut representing two conical bullets fired from a Colt's revolving rifle of thirty-one inches length of barrel and "44" caliber. The circumstances are these: One of our correspondents, H. W. S. Cleveland, of Danvers, Mass., in using the Colt's rifle at a target, left his wiping rod in the piece to attend to a temporary call, and when he returned, forgetful of what he had done, he fired his rammer at the mark. He fired again, and again, until he began to imagine from the appearance of the target that he had been shooting "wild." He found, on examination, that he had pierced the target with a queer shaped projectile. Disengaging it he found it as it appears



in the illustration. One ball, probably that which projected the wiping rod, had lodged in the barrel for want of projectile force to propel it and the rod beyond the muzzle. The next ball fired struck the lodged ball and drove itself against it, changing the form so much as to alter a cylindrical shot, with cone-like termination, into a cylinder, compressed in a concave form at the end which before was a cone, and expanding the barrel about ten inches from the muzzle. On the whole outward surface of this compressed cylinder the rifling or "gains" of the gun barrel are clearly impressed. It is evident, then, that the explosion, in connection with the obstacle interposed between the projectile and the atmosphere by the lodgment of the first ball in the barrel, changed the form of the projectile from that of a cylinder, convex at the top, to that which is represented in the illustration. The Colt's bullet offers only a portion of its surface to the effect of the discharge combined with the rifling of the piece. But this projectile is clearly marked with the "gains" of the barrel for its whole length. As this length is more than that given to an ordinary bullet, and, besides, as the illustration shows, the bullet is "upset" or contracted in length by the explosive force of the gas, it is evident that an agent differing from that employed in discharging a projectile from a gun was a means in producing this effect. The bullet, notwithstanding its compression, which changed its form from that of the ordinary projectile to that of a perfect cylinder perforated at one end, where before it presented a cone-like protuberance, is now a cylinder bearing on its entire length—which is almost as much as its original length—the marks of the rifling of the gun. It seems to be evident that another force than that of explosion, or percussion in a direct line, was exerted to produce this result.

Again, the appearance of the ball, which was lodged in the piece in advance of that which drove it out, is such that it is hardly possible to draw any other conclusion from its elongated and attenuated appearance than that the wedging of the gases against the walls of the gun tube contributed to compress the material of which it is composed.

Having some doubts as to the critical acumen of our informer, we had an interview with him, in which we plainly stated these doubts. We had the idea that possibly the bullet which showed the rifling on its surface was the first which left the

gun, or, at least, the first which struck the target. Our doubts were removed when he told us that he found the double projectile in the target—a cedar post—the elongated bullet in advance of the other, and the two so firmly united that it required some force to separate them. Could the two bullets have changed their relative positions in the flight from the gun? This would be against the experience of gunners, or those who use the rifle. Undoubtedly the elongated projectile reached the target first, and its elongation was due to a compression it was subjected to before it reached the target; otherwise how could it appear lodged in the target in advance of the bullet which followed it, showing on its surface the rifling of the gun and the depression of the butt of the first bullet?

In regard to this singular matter, Mr. Cleveland makes the following statements:—

"The position of the first bullet in the barrel was about ten inches from the muzzle. To move that bullet forward would require but little force, as any one may prove by ramming a bullet through a barrel. It is obvious, therefore, that no portion of the enormous force required to expand the barrel could have been exerted against the bullet, or it would have given way instantly. The only conceivable mode in which this lateral pressure could be produced, is by the wedging together of the component particles of air. The process of the operation was therefore in the following order, although the whole performance was (to our apprehension) instantaneous. The column of air between the two bullets being compressed by the advance of the rear one, and wedged together by its lateral pressure, caused the barrel to expand at the base of the bullet which was fast in the gun. The moment this expansion commenced a space was opened round the bullet, which was instantly filled with the air, and the bullet being of soft metal, was compressed and elongated, thus relieving the barrel from the necessity of further expansion. At the same moment, this elongated bullet was struck by the one in the rear, the point of which was expanded by the blow so as to fill the threads of the rifle, and the two passed out together, firmly united, but with their momentum so far diminished that they made but a slight penetration of the target."

It seems plain that the principle of Hardy's non-recoil gun is at least worth investigating, and it shows, also, that our idea of the compression of explosive gases is the best means of accounting for such a singular phenomenon as this we illustrate.

We wait for farther information. Evidently there is much in this matter that ought to engage the attention of our scientists and mechanics. If Hardy's plan for firing projectiles, from tubes open at both ends, has any value as a useful means of simplifying gunnery, it should be known, and it seems that such experiments as we have illustrated will do much toward giving that information.

## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

This body has just held a session of five days at Northampton, Mass. A large number of the most distinguished scientists of the country were in attendance, and the proceedings were of a most satisfactory character to those attending, particularly to the learned men themselves.

It is unfortunate, in our opinion, for the country at large, that these gatherings do not assume a character of a more useful and popular nature. By many they are regarded as convenient occasions to ventilate speculations and theories looking to no useful result as their ultimate. Science should lead and direct art, but papers on abstractions, which, by no effort of the mind and no endeavor of the will, can be made to yield a particle of useful information, are altogether out of place in a meeting of scientific men. Whether language belongs to the field of physical science or to the domain of moral philosophy, does not appear to be a question that can in the remotest degree affect the improvement of the race. Such problems may do very well as amusements for hypercritical minds or transcendental tastes, but for all their benefit to the world at large we might as well have a treatise on the cause of lunacy in bedbugs.

It is pleasant to know that all the investigations and the amusements of this scientific society are not of this style. It may be well enough to allow some

mere abstract speculator to ventilate his learned nonsense before a company of sympathizing savans and befogged listeners; but the true value of the Academy must be found in their useful labors.

Speaking of the labors of the Academy, the reporter for the *Tribune* says that "Professor Bache, the President, was in such intimate relations with the Government, and Mr. Lincoln set so high a value upon his services, that a Cabinet meeting was held in his office every week during the war. It was Professor Bache who made the Academy especially valuable to the Government. By his vast labors during the war, Professor Bache was entirely broken down, and for the last year has been utterly unable to work. It is to be most ardently hoped that he may soon recover and resume his great usefulness to the country and to science. Of the immediate usefulness of the Academy to the country, there is sufficient evidence in the fact that the annual report shows that the Government has referred to the Academy for reports on the following subjects:—

"In the first year, from the Navy Department, weights, measures, and coins, their decimalization, etc.; methods of protecting the national currency from being counterfeited; Saxton's alcometer, intended as a substitute for the hydrometer now in use. The protection of the bottoms of iron vessels from corrosion by sea-water and from fouling. The correction of the compasses of naval vessels, especially of iron vessels and iron-clads. The inquiries as to the expediency of continuing in their present form the publication, by the Navy Department, of the wind and current charts, and of the sailing directions. In the second year, from the Surgeon General—as to the best method of testing the purity of whisky employed for medicinal purposes. From the Navy Department—to conduct, witness, and report, upon experiments on the expansion of steam. From the Treasury Department—the examination of aluminum, bronze, and other alloys, for the manufacture of cent coins.

"On most of these subjects the Academy has already, by a committee, presented elaborate reports, which have been accepted as decisive and exhaustive so far as they claim to go. It will be seen that these subjects embrace matters of the utmost importance to the country. Thus the Academy has endorsed the French decimal system of weights and measures as against the anomalous and puzzling lack of system now in use in this country, and recommended its adoption. Should their suggestions be followed, their influence would reach almost every person in the country almost every day, and after the change was once made, affect him most desirably."

## Bleeding from the Nose.

Some two years ago, while going down Broadway, in New York, blood commenced running from my nose quite freely. I stepped aside and applied my handkerchief, intending to repair to the nearest hotel, when a gentleman accosted me, saying, "Just put a piece of paper in your mouth, chew it rapidly, and it will stop your nose bleeding." Thanking him rather doubtfully, I did as he suggested, and the flow of blood ceased almost immediately. I have seen the remedy tried since quite frequently, and always with success. Doubtless any substance would answer the same purpose as paper, the stoppage of the flow of blood being caused doubtless by the rapid motion of the jaws, and the counter action of the muscles and arteries connecting the jaws and nose.

Physicians state that placing a small roll of paper or muslin above the front teeth, under the upper lip, and pressing hard on the same, will arrest bleeding from the nose—checking the passage of blood through the arteries leading to the nose. H. C. K.

THE London Pneumatic Dispatch, by which small parcels are transported from one part of the city to another, by means of the exhaustion of air from a tube, is familiar to our readers. It appears, from a report recently made by the directors of this company, that 120 tons of goods can be transmitted through the tube every hour, at a speed of eighteen miles an hour, and that the cost is less than one penny (two cents) per ton for each mile. They anticipate large dividends from the line when completed to points outside the city.

## Photographing Cannon Balls.

[From the British Journal of Photography.]

Some months ago when on a visit to Woolwich Arsenal, we were shown by Mr. M'Kinlay, Proof Master, some photographs taken of guns while being fired, which not unnaturally excited feelings of surprise. So rapid had been the exposure, and so well had the proper moment for the exposure been seized, that the projectile could be seen protruding from the cannon's mouth while in the act of proceeding on its distant mission. Mr. M'Kinlay kindly afforded us every requisite information relative to his invention for securing such wonderful results; and, from the fact that the comparative efficiency of certain kinds of small-arms and the influence they are now exercising in European affairs are at present receiving a large share of public attention, we think that it may not prove uninteresting to bring before our readers some matters of scientific interest in connection with our own "great guns," and the means employed for ascertaining by photography, and with the utmost possible precision, not only the path of a projectile in the air, but the time occupied in its progress between two or more points anywhere in the course of its flight. It will be obvious that when it is desired to obtain a photograph of a gun at the moment of discharge, the gun itself must be made subservient to the exposing and covering of the sensitive plate. It is impossible that any person, however delicate his eyes and ears may be, can operate so dexterously as to stop the exposure when the ball has been projected, say a few inches from the muzzle of the gun, and when it is consequently traveling at its greatest velocity. This can only be accomplished by automatic arrangements, aided by electricity.

Let us now suppose that a stereoscopic camera, fitted with powerful lenses of short focus, has a thin, light disk fitted up in front of the lenses, revolving on an axis between the two lenses. Two holes in this disk correspond with the apertures of the lenses, so that if a circular spring—like that of a pair of snuffers—cause the disk to make half a revolution with great rapidity, the holes or apertures will, when flashing past the apertures of the lenses, admit the light for an exceedingly brief period of time. This is the means employed in the Arsenal for effecting the exposure of the plate.

We shall now enter into the details of the manner of discharging and arresting the circular exposing diaphragm. The opening and shutting of the camera at the precise instant of time is, as we have said, by far too nice an operation to be accomplished by hand. It must be borne in mind that a gun commences to recoil as soon as the projectile is fairly clear of its muzzle. The picture which we examined had been taken when the projectile was yet emerging from the gun's mouth, and before it had got quite clear of it, and consequently before the recoil of the gun had commenced. The exposure was very rapid, but not so much so as to show the front edge of the emerging projectile with a sharp outline. Although the gun, from the recoil not having commenced, was quite sharp, the front edge of the projectile, was, so to speak, vignetted.

The gun is fired by means of the galvanic tube invented by Mr. M'Kinlay, and such as is used in proving ordnance. Inside of this there is a small platinum wire, which, when a current of electricity is passed through it, instantly becomes red hot and melts. Let us now see how this affects the operation of photographing the gun. When the gun is ready for firing, the disk in front of the lenses is wound up so that the rotating force of the spring in the center is at its maximum. It is retained in this position by means of a catch and trigger, the latter of which is operated on by means of an electro-magnet. The following, then, is what takes place: When the galvanic current is sent through the wire, the fine platinum wire imbedded among the gun powder of the discharging tube or fuse immediately becomes red-hot and melts. But while in progress of melting, it accomplishes two things—it transmits a current through it by which the electro-magnet becomes vivified and pulls the discharging trigger of the disk in front of the camera lenses; and secondly, it ignites the gunpowder and discharges the gun. But were this all, the exposure would be made before the powder had had time to ignite and consequently dis-

charge the gun; hence it is important that the lenses be kept open until the gun really discharges its contents. The means for effecting this are as simple as they are ingenious and complete. When the trigger acts so as to release the disk from its enforced pent-up condition, it is propelled forward by the central spring until the apertures in the disk and those of the lenses coincide, where, by means of a stop, the disk is retained until the powder is ignited and the gun discharged, when, the platinum wire being ruptured, the passage of the electricity is stopped, the electro-magnet simultaneously losing the power by which it was enabled to arrest the rotatory progress of the disk, which thus darts forward and closes up the camera as the contents of the gun are in the act of being ejected from it.



## Developing Heat.

Messrs. Editors:—I see in your foreign correspondence, on page 98, current volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN that Mr. B. Stewart, at Kew, is conducting some new experiments for developing heat by rotating a disk in vacuo, and that this heat arises from causes unknown. Allow me to observe that this experiment is only a modification of the experiments of Arago, who rotates a disk under a compass needle, and so produces currents in the disk, which react on the needle, and Foucault, who turns a disk between the poles of an electro-magnet, and thus develops currents which strongly heat the disk.

In every rapidly-turned metallic disk, electric currents are induced by the influence of the earth's magnetism, and these currents will necessarily heat the disk. When the magnetic influence is weak, as is the case with the earth, the currents are weak, and the heat developed will be so slight, that it takes a thermo-electric pile to observe the rise of temperature. As the friction and disturbance of the surrounding air may produce much more heat, the disk is placed in vacuo in order to eliminate this influence, but when trying to neutralize the earth's magnetism by an opposing steel magnet, placed at a certain distance, we may neutralize the earth's action on the compass needle placed at a certain point, but the opposing neutralizing currents will be still there, and show their action in any moving metallic mass, by inducing electric currents, of which the existence is proved by the consequent rise of temperature. P. H. VANDER WEYDE, M. D. Philadelphia, Aug. 10, 1866.

## Fleas and Mosquitoes.

Messrs. Editors:—In an article on page 82, current volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, you state that oil or essence of pennyroyal is believed to be a specific against the attack of fleas. I have always used it when fleas were in my bed or about my clothing, and found that it would banish them entirely, and am now using it with equal success to banish mosquitoes; they will not come near where it is. W. N. TAYLOR.

## Steam Fire Engines.

Messrs. Editors:—If any of your readers can give the greatest performance of an American steam fire engine, replies upon the following points are solicited:—Diameter of steam cylinder; stroke of do.; pressure of steam; diameter of water cylinder; pressure; number of strokes per minute; length of hose through which one stream was projected; diameter of nozzle and distance of projection. Length of hose of 100 feet is preferred. C. H. H. New York, Aug. 10, 1866.

## Preserving Green Peas.

Messrs. Editors:—In answer to the inquiry concerning green peas, on page 69, current volume, I give the following:—

I have found that, by gathering peas when young, and in the best condition for immediate use, then podding and scalding, and drying thoroughly in the sun or oven, they will keep almost any length of time done up in paper bags. When wanted for use, soak them in mint tea until they swell again to their natural size. J. H. D.

## AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

Notwithstanding our best endeavors, we have not succeeded in procuring so complete a list of prominent fairs as we desired. We give a selection from the list we have.

The New England Agricultural Society and the Vermont State Society will hold a joint exhibition at Brattleboro, Vt., on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th days of September. The Agricultural and Mechanical Association of St. Louis will open an exhibition in that city Oct. 1st, to continue six days. The premiums amount, in the aggregate, to over \$20,000.

STATE FAIRS.—American Pomological, St. Louis, Sept. 4; Canada, West Toronto, Sept. 24, 25; Illinois, Chicago, Sept. 24, 25; Indiana, Indianapolis, Oct. 1, 5; Iowa, Burlington, Sept. 24, 25; Kansas, Lawrence, Oct. 3, 5; Kentucky, Paris, Oct. 2, 3; Michigan, Adrian, Sept. 18, 21; Minnesota, Rochester, Oct. 3, 5; New Hampshire, Nashua, Sept. 18, 20; New York, Saratoga, Sept. 11, 14; Ohio, Dayton, Sept. 25, 28; Pennsylvania, Easton, Sept. 25, 27; Wisconsin, Janesville, Sept. 25, 28.

NEW YORK.—State and County:—Albany, Albany, Sept. 25, 28; Genesee, Batavia, Sept. 19, 20; "International," House's Point, Sept. 18, 19.

MASSACHUSETTS.—State and County:—Bristol, Taunton, Oct. 2; Berkshire, Pittsfield, Oct. 2; Essex, Haverhill, Sept. 25; Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden, Northampton, Oct. 4; Hampden, Springfield, Oct. 2; Middlesex, Concord, Sept. 20; Norfolk, Dedham, Sept. 27; Plymouth, Bridgewater, Sept. 27.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—State and County:—Monmouth, Freehold, Sept. 19, 20; Morris, Morristown, Sept. 11, 14.

PENNSYLVANIA.—State and County:—Bucks, Newtown, Sept. 25, 26; Chester, Westchester, Sept. 27, 28.

KENTUCKY.—State and County:—Warren, Bowling Green, Sept. 18, 20.

MICHIGAN.—State and County:—Jackson, Jackson, Sept. 26, 28.

ILLINOIS.—State and County:—Cass, Virginia, Sept. 4, 6; Peoria, Peoria, Sept. 18, 21.

WISCONSIN.—State and County:—Brown, Green Bay, Sept. 26, 27; Horse Show, Milwaukee, Sept. 11, 13.

IOWA.—State and County:—Cerro Gordo, Mason, Sept. 20, 21.

## THE MARKETS.

Although there are many complaints of the general dullness in business, and there are no very encouraging signs of an early fall trade, yet prices are well sustained, and money is plenty and obtainable at low rates. The new tariff law, which went into operation Aug. 10th, has tended to enhance the prices of such imported articles as were subjected to a higher rate of duties. Reports of a damaged crop of cereals have not had the effect to stimulate speculation to any great extent, notwithstanding the facility of obtaining money. This is probably owing to the manifest unreliability of these reports; as it is morally certain the crop will be an unusually large one; at least, whatever occasional failure there may be in the wheat crop, induced by local causes, will be more than counterbalanced by the excess in the corn yield. The unsettled state of European affairs still threatens the peace of that continent, and although the European crop reports are generally favorable, we believe the demand for American grain will be large.

GOLD.—Has held firmly at about 149. Exchange is dull and the rates in favor of the buyer. Money is obtained on call at 4@5 per cent. Discount at about 6 per cent.

ASHES.—Pots are quite dull, but with continued light receipts, market steady; the sales are 30 bbls. at \$8 3/4@8 50. Pearls are nominal; we hear of no business.

BRICKS.—Common Hard have advanced to \$12. Croton and Philadelphia are unchanged at \$14@15 for the former, and \$40 for the latter.

COFFEE.—Rio held firm. No disposition to sell. St. Domingo, 11 1/2c, in bond, and Costa Rica at 17 1/2; both gold.

COPPER.—Detroit, \$1@1 1/4; Portage Lake, \$1.

COTTON.—Market depressed. Prices have declined from 24c. Ordinary, 25@26; middling, 35@37c.

FLOUR.—Slight advance. Common brands, \$8 55@8 85; Genesee extra, \$10 25@12 50; Canada not in demand.

MEAL.—Dull.

GRAIN.—Wheat advanced slightly. Milwaukee, \$2 20@2 2 1/2; Amber, \$2 75; North Carolina Red, \$2 85. No exports. Rye, Western, 82c; Corn, 80@81c; Western Mixed, \$1; Oats declined to 30@44 Chicago; 45@47 Milwaukee; 87 Delaware.

IRON.—Market inactive. No. 1 American pig \$47@48. Scotch, \$47@50. Bar and scrap very quiet.

LATHS.—Are firm, with sales of Eastern, at \$4, three months.

LEAD.—Pig is in better demand, and though prices are without quotable change, the market is rather in sellers' favor; the transactions are 300 tons Spanish at \$6 75; 50 do., English (Cookson's), \$7, all gold. Bar, Sheet, and Pipe may be quoted steady at 10 1/2c, cash.

LEATHER.—The market for Hemlock Sole continues dull, and prices are very firm. We quote Rio Grande and Buenos Ayres Light Weights, 35@34 cents; Middle do., 35@36; Heavy do., 36@37; California Light, 31@32; Middle do., 33 1/2@34 1/2; Heavy do., 34@35; Orinoco, &c., Light, 31@32; Middle do., 32@34; Heavy do., 25@32; Slaughter Upper in Rough, 31@33. Oak Sole is in light stock, and the market is firm. French and American Calf Skins are firm with a fair demand.

LIME.—Rockland is in good demand. Common at \$1 50; Lump is nominal at \$2 00, cash. Rosendale Cement, \$1 75, cash.

LUMBER.—There is an active demand for Eastern Spruce, with sales at \$26, usual terms.

MOLASSES.—There has again been a more active demand for the low and medium grades Cuba, a considerable portion of which, we learn, is to pass into the hands of distillers. The operations, including two or three cargoes to arrive coastwise, are 1,704 hhd. and 84 tcs. Clayed Cuba, at \$24@44c; 480 hhd., 10 tcs. and 131 bbls. low grade Cuba Muscovado, 45c.; 434 hhd., do., 52@55; 197 hhd., and 28 tcs. English Island, 50; 65 hhd., Porto Rico, 60@70, 4 mos., the lower price for tart; and 450 hhd., and 75 tcs. Centrifugal Cuba, on terms not mentioned.

NAILS.—Cut are very firm and scarce, with a tendency to advance; some sizes are scarce, and for these 1/2 cent more is paid. We quote: Cut, 8 1/2@7 cents; Clinch, 8 1/2; Forged Horse, \$2 Pressed do., 22@24; Copper, 50; Yellow Metal, 53; Zinc, 50; and Wrought Ship and Boat Spikes, 1@9 cents, as to sizes, net cash.

SUGAR.—Prices have favored sellers, and we have to notice an advance of 1/4 of a cent # B on Refining grades, bringing Fair Refining Cuba to 10 1/2@10 3/4 cents; Good, 10c., to 11 1/2@11 3/4; and No. 12 Box to 11 1/2@11 3/4, 4 mos. Grocery grades are without particular change, but are the turn dearer. Refined continues in good demand, but is less active than before. Messrs. Stuart quote their best Crushed, Granulated, and Ground, 15 1/2 cents; White A, 16 1/2; and Yellow C, 15 1/2—the range of other manufacture is 16 1/2@17 cents for Hard; 15 1/2@16 1/4 for Soft White (B and A only), and 14@15 1/4 for Yellow.

WIRE.—Telegraph, 9c.@10c. for Nos. 7 and 11, and for hoop skrt, 55c. for No. 13 covered, and 35c. for uncovered.

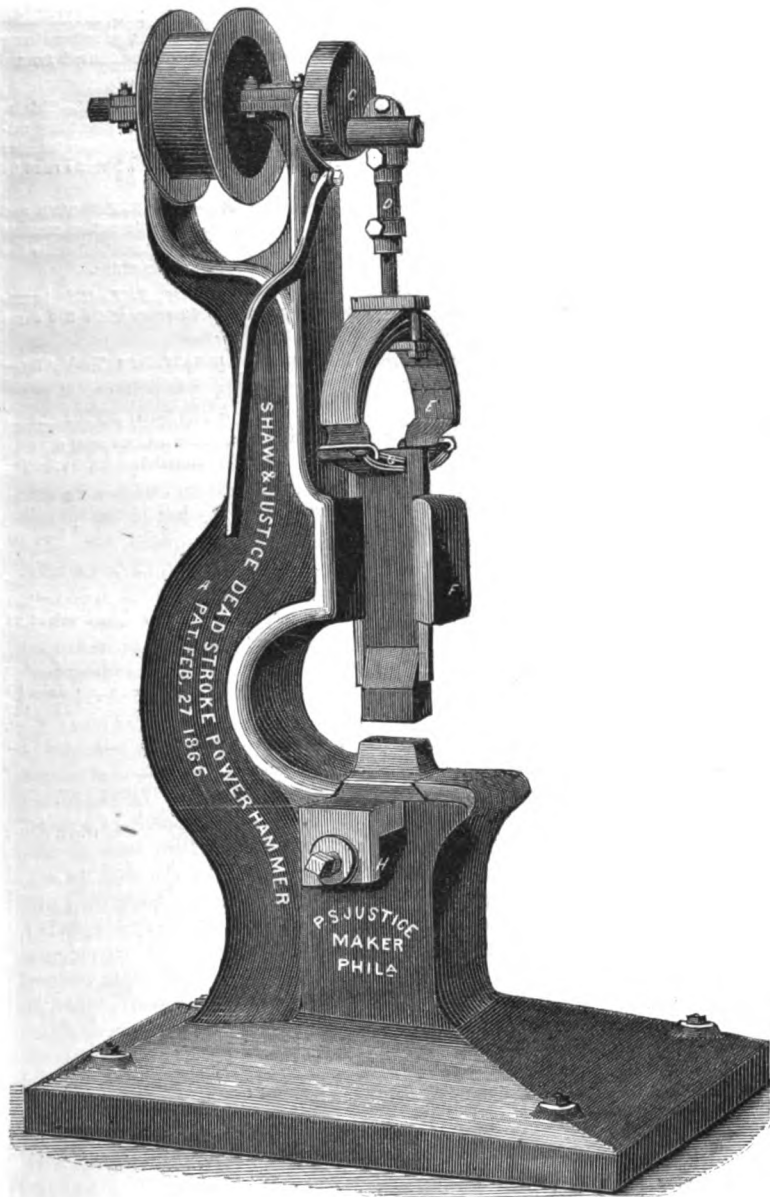
WOOL.—Market unsettled. Western Fleeces at 48@50c. for low grades, 55 for ordinary, and 65@73 1/2 for choice—the latter price for Ohio picklock; super and extra pulled, 53@55; short staple at 35; Texas, 15@18 for inferior, 20@24 for ordinary, and 25@30 for superior.

ZINC.—9 1/2c. less 4 per cent. for gold; 13 1/2c., currency, for Lehigh.



**DEAD-STROKE POWER HAMMER.**

There is no question but that the employment of power hammers would be far more universal at the present time if some simple and efficient machine existed for the purpose. The ancient trip hammer is not by any means uncommon in the best workshops, and where steam is available, we find many hammers worked directly by it. Atmospheric machines are also in use, but each and all of these have peculiar difficulties inherent in them which cannot be surmounted. The trip hammer, as is well known, entails constant supervision and

**SHAW'S DEAD-STROKE POWER HAMMER.**

outlay to keep in order, for the entire weight or force of the blow, uncompensated by any arrangement whatever, comes upon the handle of the hammer, and through it is transmitted to the center on which it vibrates, to the bed plates, and even to the line of shafting which drives it. As a consequence the handle has to be renewed very often, and the saddle piece, as well as other parts, are constantly broken by the shocks they undergo. Steam hammers also require great oversight, for having many parts, valves, pistons, levers, etc., inspection is requisite to keep the tool in good order. Pneumatic or atmospheric hammers, that depend upon the compression of air for their motive power, are open to similar objections, for air is a much more subtle fluid than steam. Space is also a consideration in many cases, and the trip hammer is particularly objectionable on this account.

The hammer here illustrated is an entire novelty in its line, as well as in mechanical effect for the power expended. The proprietors and manufacturers are large workers of steel in the form of car springs, and finding the common difficulties with trip hammers, were led to investigate with a view to improvement—the result is the hammer illustrated.

It is well known to mechanics, especially steel workers, that forging thin plates of it is the hardest duty a hammer can do. The heat is soon lost, and much of the work is unavoidably done at a black heat. Trip hammers running on this work soon jar themselves to pieces, as do all others, unless care is taken. Owing to the peculiar construction of this hammer, however, the very causes which destroy others are taken advantage of here to give greater efficiency—the recoil is stored up and made to operate to some purpose.

The parts are few and simple; an upright frame, A, is fitted with a transverse shaft at the top, on which is a crank wheel, C; to this crank is attached a connecting rod, D. This rod is attached to a spring, E, and works the hammer in the guide brace, F. These are the principal points. When the hammer is given a reciprocating movement by the parts alluded to, it strikes with a force proportioned to its velocity. When the revolutions are increased rapidly, the efficiency of the machine is very great—a hundred-pound hammer being capable of drawing a four-inch bar down to any desired thickness at one heat; it strikes with irresistible force, and is equal in round numbers to a blow of 20,000 lbs. weight. While this efficiency is obtained, the arrangement is such that the working parts above receive no injury, for the hammer head is attached to a peculiar connection, G, which is made of leather belting, so that it is held suspended, and free from communicating any shock or jar to the shaft and bearing.

The dies are also well arranged for convenience. By reference to the engraving it will be seen that a wedge, H, is employed as usual, but instead of battering at it with a sledge for some minutes in order to loosen it, a bolt is screwed into the frame so that by one turn of it the dies can be removed in a moment. This feature is of great importance.

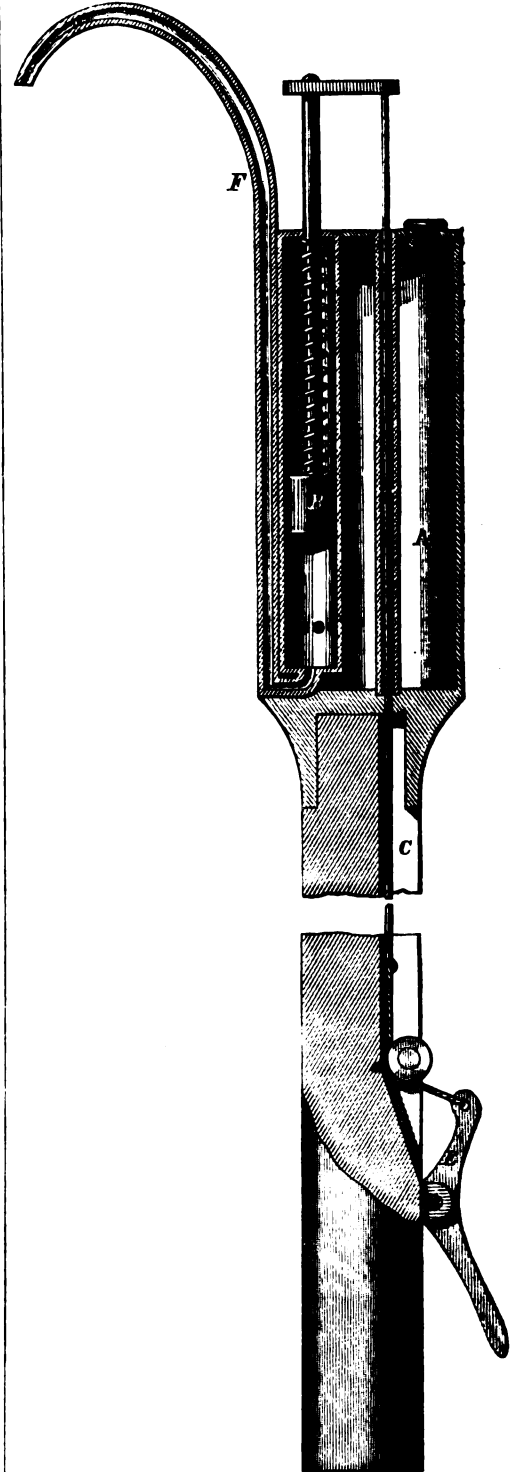
We are not able to give, in a short article like this, a just idea of the utility of the hammer. It is capable of being applied to a great variety of uses and is so simple that it can be worked by one man. The belt tightener which operates the hammer can be worked by the foot of the smith, and when he has a heat ready he can work it off without the necessity of calling his helper. It can be run fast or slow, strike light or heavy, will forge thin steel, and may even be run on the dies with impunity. It is confidently recommended as a useful and economical tool. The manufacturer has had one in use forging plates for car springs for a long time and no repairs of any amount have been needed.

This power hammer was invented by Thomas Shaw, and is manufactured by Philip S. Justice, No. 42 Cliff street, New York, and No. 14 North 5th street, Philadelphia, to whom all orders should be addressed. Patented Feb. 27, 1866.

COAL oil is a better substance for preserving potassium and sodium than naphtha. In coal oil, sodium keeps its luster for months, while in the purest naphtha it is dimmed in a few days.

**KING'S OILER.**

Any one who has seen a laborer oiling shafting in a factory must have often trembled for his safety. Many lines of shafting are so full of pulleys that it is scarcely possible to get a ladder near the bearing to be oiled, and the man often reaches his arm in among rough-edged pulleys and couplings, with projecting bolt heads, at the risk of having it torn from his body. The common way of pouring oil from a can is also wasteful, for much more is applied than is necessary.



This oiler is claimed to be an improvement on the old plan, for it is not necessary to use a ladder at all, and the quantity of oil discharged at once can be seen. The details consist of a vessel, A, filled with a cylinder in which a plunger, B, works. This vessel, A, is filled with oil which finds its way to the small cylinder through holes in the bottom of the same. The plunger is operated by a wire, C, which runs down to the bottom of the shaft, D, on which the oiler is fixed. This shaft may be made of any desired length. By pressing on the lever, E, the plunger will be drawn down and oil forced up through the pipe, F, on to the bearing over which it is held. It is claimed that this is a desirable instrument for the purpose.

It was patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency by John King, of Ansonia, Conn., on July 10, 1866, who wishes to dispose of county or State rights.



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Contents :

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

*Kirkel & Hubbe's Method of propelling Steam Vessels.....	127	Developing Heat.....	132
Iron and Steel Railroad Tracks.....	127	Fleas and Mosquitoes.....	132
The Domestic Sources of Cholera, and the means of Avoiding them.....	128	Steam Fire Engines.....	132
The Brazilian Exhibition.....	128	Preserving Green Peas.....	132
The Rebuilding of Charleston.....	128	Agricultural Exhibitions.....	132
The Prussian Needle-Gun.....	129	The Markets.....	132
Insurance against Steam Boiler Explosions.....	129	New Inventions, Special Notices.....	133
An Inefficient Boiler.....	129	Question About Prior Invention.....	133
*Riggs's Sorghum Elevator.....	129	*Sharp's Dead-stroke Hammer.....	134
Precipitation of Metals from their Saline Solutions by Means of Magnesium.....	130	*King's Oiler.....	134
Sea-going Monitors.....	130	Artists and Artisans.....	135
*Weighing of Gases when Confined.....	131	Tools for Special and for General Use.....	135
National Academy of Sciences.....	131	Engines of the Steamship "Rising Star".....	135
Bleeding from the Nose.....	131	Patent Claims, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140.....	140
Photographing Cannon Balls.....	132	Advertisements.....	141
		Supplement, Patent Claims, Advertisements.....	142
		*Glenson's Spoke-turning Lathe.....	142
		*Thompson's Connecting Link.....	142
		Boys Using Tobacco.....	142

ARTISTS AND ARTISANS.

It is gratifying to notice our progress in refinement, as shown in the desire of our engineers and mechanics to consider the beautiful, as well as the useful, in their productions. It is only within a few years that any attention was paid by them to beauty of form, while they consulted safety, strength, necessity, and durability in their works. Indeed, a strong prejudice deterred the mechanic from embodying his ideas of beauty and harmony in forms of strength and utility. A bridge was simply a structure to permanently connect two points, and if the ends of strength and durability were attained, the design of the builder was fully answered. A machine was simply an agglomeration of masses of metal and wood—looking only to the utilitarian, and offensive to the eye and the taste. The gratification of taste was deemed a weakness.

As the demands of the world increased the products of the mechanic, educated taste revolted at the permanent divorce of the useful and the beautiful, and an attempt was made to reconcile the two by adding to the misshapen structure an overlay of meretricious ornament—carving, painting, and gilding. The radical deformities were thus brought into more repulsive relief, and the eye, offended, turned to less pretentious structures, which assumed to fulfill only the object of utility.

A new element of beauty has, however, been introduced into our mechanical progress. It is that of form rather than of ornament. An unadorned structure, possessing a graceful form, is more pleasing than an uncouth mass decorated with inharmonious gewgaws. A church, fashioned like a barn, may be commodious and answer the purpose of congregational worship, but however plain it may be, there is no reason why it should not possess distinctive characteristics to denote its uses and not offend the eye. The lines of a bridge need not be ungraceful. A tall chimney need not be uncouth. In fact, the architect, the engineer, and the mechanic may be artists and in no way detract from their usefulness. It is their duty to consult the requirements of correct taste as well as to follow the rules of mechanical construction; for every work of art subserves the purposes of education, and a love of the beautiful is implanted in our nature for a wise and benevolent purpose. To be sure, there is a beauty in the perfect adaptation of the means to the end.

There is a satisfaction in witnessing the operations of a machine which answers the end proposed by the builder, apart from the form which the material is made to assume; but beyond this is the gratification of taste in viewing a perfect union of the useful with the beautiful. And there is no valid excuse for the designer if he wantonly neglects this higher demand while endeavoring to subserve the lower requirements of use; for in the hands of the mechanic all materials become plastic, and he is false to his better tendencies if he forces them to assume outlines offensive to the eye, when this object of symmetry can be attained without sacrificing utility. And certainly, the cases are few where both these objects may not be attained.

Viewed rightly, an invasion of the sphere of the artisan by the artist is no degradation of the latter. It is not necessary to refer to the example of some of the greatest artists to illustrate this fact; nor is it puerile for the artisan to study the specialty of the artist, and endeavor to catch and fix the spirit of beauty in his works. We look for a rapid improvement in this matter now that it is not thought beneath the dignity of institutions of learning to recognize the mechanical engineer as a proper object to wear their honors. When the mechanic is conceded his proper place he will rank with the discoverers in science, the masters in literature, and the ministers of the beautiful, and with them be considered as an educator of the race.

TOOLS FOR SPECIAL AND FOR GENERAL USE.

Possibly it is prejudice, but we confess we always look upon a combination tool with a certain degree of suspicion. Yet the genius of our inventors seems to be guided in the direction of constructing appliances for work which are intended to be capable of performing several very distinct and differing branches of labor. Sometimes the combinations are successful, but oftener not. A machinist's lathe will turn a shaft or cut a screw with equal facility; but let the same lathe be used indiscriminately for turning wood and iron, or for chucking, boring, drilling, and turning, and it will soon be found that it fails to do one, perhaps all these differing processes, with the exactness and nicety required. The results of the work done by the planer and the milling machine are frequently very similar, but what machinist does not know that the latter is invaluable even when he possesses one of the best of the former. Again, the milling machine is but a modification of the gear cutter, yet the latter is necessary for accuracy. The shaping machine, working with adjustable crank, with quick return motion, is but a miniature and restricted planer; yet both are necessary to rapidity and perfection in doing work.

Probably no tool used by mechanics generally is capable of so many diverse applications as the lathe, and because of this it is often greatly abused. Take a well-adjusted screw-cutting turning lathe, and screw on the live arbor a massive universal, or scroll chuck, which receives a pulley or gear weighing fifty or one hundred pounds. Then apply the drills and reamers, or the resistance of a turning tool against the rim of a wheel as large as the lathe can swing. How long will it be before the lathe cannot be depended upon to turn a shaft or cut a fine screw? The intelligent manager, knowing that this application of one tool to varying purposes is seldom successful, furnishes his shop with "special tools," and in this he is right and reasonable. Let the screw lathe, the chucking lathe, the drilling lathe, each do its legitimate work, and be confined to its specialty. Let the planer be restricted to planing, and never forced to do the work so much better performed by the milling or the shaping machine, and the employer, customer, and workman will be gainers. We have seen a mechanic calling himself a workman planing in a lathe. Cutting a key-way by means of the carriage of a lathe may be a bright idea, but it is not a profitable one.

We prefer to see a machine or tool specially designed for a particular department of labor, and confined to that use; and where this plan is followed, we may be sure the work turned out will be of the best quality; at least the fault will not be because of imperfect tools.

It may be that commonly-used implements can be adapted to two or more purposes. We know of

such cases, but they are when the tool is one that cannot be injured for one class of work by using it for another. Still, in the general use of tools, those will be found to be most serviceable which have a particular work to perform, and are not diverted to strange and unnatural uses. Every shop or mechanical concern should be furnished with tools perfectly adapted to the specialty of its business. It is well enough for small manufacturers to utilize the means at their hand, and compel their tools to do double duty; but when in a position to avail themselves of tools specially designed for the different departments of their work, they are blind to their own interests if they waste the time necessary to convert a tool or machine from its legitimate purpose, and adapt it to a new one, and risk the injury to tools and the unfinished state of a job, together with their reputation, for this false economy.

ENGINES OF THE STEAMSHIP "RISING STAR."

The magnificent paddle wheel steamship *Rising Star* made her engineer's trial trip on the afternoon of the 11th, running from the foot of King street, North River, to below the outer Quarantine and returning. She is a noble vessel, unusually strongly built, and fitted up in the most complete and thorough manner. She was intended originally for the New Orleans route, but is, we believe, to run on the Atlantic route to Aspinwall, under the auspices of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.

The main boilers are 30 feet long by 15 feet 9 inches diameter, of Smith's pattern, with a double tier of furnaces. The fire surface has 12,500 square feet, and the grate surface 400 square feet. The cylinder is 100 inches diameter with 12 feet stroke. The wheels are 36 feet diameter and 12 feet face, the paddles divided and graduated, and one wheel set in advance of the other, designed to prevent that unpleasant jar usually noticed in paddle-wheel ships. That this object was attained was evident to all who accompanied the ship on her trial trip.

She has a tubular condenser with a surface of 5,000 square feet. The cylinder is provided with a super-heating steam jacket, the steam for the jacket being supplied by an independent boiler, at a pressure of about ten pounds more than that of the steam supplied to the cylinder from the main boilers. The steam in this auxiliary boiler is made from salt water, and after circulating in this hollow cylinder head, the jacket, and cylinder bottom, enveloping the working cylinder, it passes to the main boilers, thence to the piston, performing its work, when it is condensed and used to supply the main boilers. By this means these boilers are supplied with comparatively fresh water—a great desideratum which has never yet been fully realized on any sea-going vessel. This jacket of high steam is hotter than the steam used in the cylinder, preventing any loss of power by radiation.

The rims of the wheels are planed to an edge before being formed into segments, so that the peripheries between and outside the paddles offer but little resistance in passing through the water.

The pillow blocks are peculiar, being arranged to admit of the removal or repair of the brasses without the usual labor and cost of disconnecting the engine, and also admitting of the "lining up" of the engine without disturbing the fastening of the pillow blocks. Practical engineers will see at once the advantages of this arrangement.

The engine was built at the Etna Iron Works, this city, from the designs and under the direction of Erastus W. Smith, A. P. D., assisted by Mr. Thomas Main, engineer for the builders.

The *Rising Star* was commanded on her trial trip by Captain Horatio Nelson, and in all respects the test was a most satisfactory one, the engine, during a portion of the time, making 18 turns per minute with perfect ease and without jar.

THE nineteenth annual exhibition of American manufactures and the mechanic arts of the Maryland Institute will be opened at the hall of the Institute, at Baltimore, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 2, 1866, and continue to Oct. 30th. Exhibitors intending to compete for the premiums must enter their goods by the 27th September. For further information address the Actuary of the Institute.













**Improved Spoke-turning Lathe.**

The automatic lathe of Blanchard, for turning irregular forms, is one of the most remarkable inventions of the day. We say is, for although the inventor is dead and gone, his work lives after him, and to this day remains essentially the same.

This machine is an improvement of the Blanchard lathe in some details, rendering it easier to handle and more rapid in execution. By it are produced spokes for wheels, stocks for guns, chair legs, ax and hammer handles, or any other shape that cannot be turned in common lathes; busts of the human form have even been turned in such lathes. In this machine a *fac-simile* of the work to be made is used as a pattern; from this the machine works and reproduces it literally, with all its curves and outlines. The engraving shows this model at A, and it is held between two centers, one in the upright frame, B, the other in the arm, C; this arm is attached to the main frame by wrought-iron bars, and is also fastened at the bottom to the shaft, D. It is capable of sliding on this shaft so as to take any length of model, and the bars above can also be adjusted for the same purpose. The work to be turned is placed between another pair of centers, E, lower down, and the cutters which do the work are in the wheel, F, and these are run along the whole length by suitable feed at the end. The vibrating frame has two projections, C, at the top which embrace the model and cause the frame to move back and forth as the model revolves. The centers for holding the work are one of the points of novelty in this machine, the eccentric lever, H, being used instead of a mallet; and another is in attaching a lever, I, to the frame so that it can be easily drawn over against the force of the spring, J; the latter tends to keep the working frame against the model.

The pulley which drives the cutting wheel above is fitted to the shaft, K, below the frame, and is carried on a cast-iron sleeve which runs in the bearings, L—one on each side. The sleeve is fitted with a feather, and the shaft with a slot, so that the pulley, carriage and wheel can slide along the shaft either when the machine is in motion or at rest, and there is a stop, at M, which prevents the carriage from being run out too far if the feed clutch does not throw out; there is also an arrangement, at N, by which the carriage can be run back when the spoke is done; the check block, M, can be set at any point to hold the carriage in the right position.

These machines are manufactured by J. Gleason, 1,030 Germantown avenue, Philadelphia, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

**Improved Connecting Link.**

This is a convenient fixture, in cases of accident, to chain-trace hooks or other appurtenances of a similar nature. Many cases occur in daily life where such

an affair would be of immense value. It is simply a cast-iron link, A, divided in two parts, and furnished with studs and holes which receive the same, the whole when put together assuming the form shown in the engraving, where also the detached portions are given. The studs are larger than the link itself and can be riveted over so as to make the link solid. From this elucidation every person will perceive the object of the invention, and also find many uses for it not here enumerated.

It was patented through the Scientific American

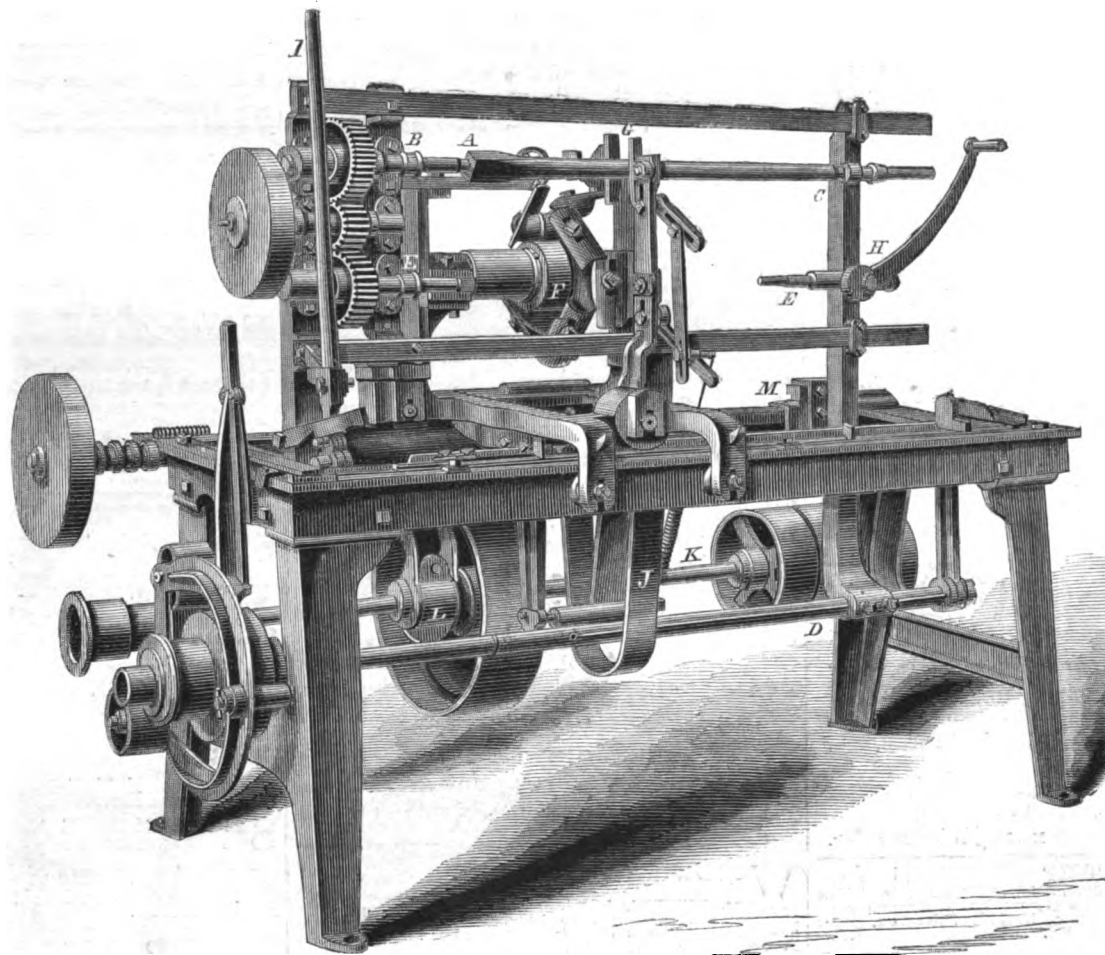
of Mr. Fairbank's scales are metric—many of them go to South America, and some to China.

**Boys Using Tobacco.**

A strong and sensible writer says a good sharp thing, and a true one, too, for boys who use tobacco. It has utterly spoiled and utterly ruined thousands of boys. It tends to softening and weakening of the bones, and it greatly injures the brain, the spinal marrow, and the whole nervous fluid. A boy who smokes early and frequently, or in any way uses large quantities of tobacco, is never known to make a man of much energy, and generally lacks muscular and physical as well as mental power. We would particularly warn boys who want to be anything in the world to shun tobacco as a most baneful poison. It injures the teeth. It produces an unhealthy state of the throat and lungs, hurts the stomach, and blasts the brain and nerve.

TRAVELERS and geologists have been at a loss to account for the origin of the masses of asphalt, sometimes of considerable size, found floating on the water of the Dead Sea. In a paper recently presented to the Academy of Sciences by M. L. Lartet, "On the Deposits of Bitumen in Judea, and on the Asphalt of the Dead Sea," the author states his belief in the existence

of a series of hot springs which rise through bituminous limestone, and bring up the asphalt.

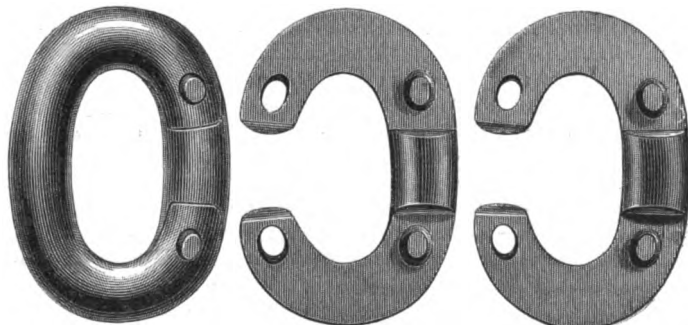


**GLEASON'S SPOKE-TURNING LATHE.**

Patent Agency, by C. J. E. Thompson, of Providence, R. I., on Aug. 5, 1862.

**Progress of the Metric System.**

At the meeting of the National Academy at Northampton, Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles gave an account of the result of his attendance at the Berlin conference for investigating and recommending a uniform system of weights and measures. This result was the coinage of the new five-cent piece. This coin weighs five grams with a diameter of 1-50th of a meter. He himself had persuaded the Connecticut Legislature to have the metric system taught in the



**THOMPSON'S CONNECTING LINK.**

common schools. Congress has passed a law allowing the metric system to be used. The English had always made objection to it, because it was the fruit of the French Revolution. The third bill of Congress was one ordering the distribution of the measures through the States. The fourth bill allowed the postmasters to use the word gram for ounce. This work was the result of the National Academy. Half



**INVENTORS, MANUFACTURERS.**

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