INVENTIONS FROM THE PATENT OFFICE

SUCTION COTTON PICKER

Vacuum Apparatus Straps Across Back of the Workman.

Several hand devices in the form of gloves have been invented to facilitate cotton picking, but it remained for an Iowa man to apply the vacuum principle

DOES WORK OF MANY HANDS.

to this work. A glance at the illustration tells the story. A reservoir containing a suction fan is mounted on a leather plate, which straps around the waist and across the shoulders of the operator. In this casing is also a screening device, and from it a tube leads up and over the user's shoulder. This tube has a flaring nozzle. To pick the cotton the workman sets his suction fan in operation and moves the nozzle of the tube from plant to plant, the fluffy particles flying into it and into the reservoir, where the screen prevents them from clogging the movement of the fan. From time to time, of course, this reservoir must be emptied.

☆ ☆ ☆

METAL TOP REMOVER

Knife and Fork Will Do Very Well as a Substitute.

Everybody is familiar with the little metal tops used on bottles. But the general opinion is that a top cannot be removed without the aid of a specially de-

PRESS DOWN ON KNIFE.

signed opener. A Philadelphia man was recently confronted with the problem of removing one of these tops without the official instrument. This is the way he did it: He took an ordinary table fork and placed one of the outsides tines beneath the edge of the cap. He then took a knife and inserted the end of the blade between the other outside tine and the center one. By pressing down on the knife handle he secured just the upward pull on the edge of the crown top that is needed to dislodge it. An ingenious and very simple substitute.

☆ ☆ ☆

UMBRELLA SUPPORT

Buckles Around Breast and Holds Umbrella Without Hands.

Primarily designed for letter-carriers, the umbrella support patented by a Maryland man is likely to make other friends when it becomes well known.

UMBRELLA FITS IN GROOVE.

Commuters with their arms full of bundles, for instance, will welcome an umbrella that will stay up and protect them without their touching it with their hands. That is what this support does. It buckles around the chest, just under the armpits, and on a plate in the center, in front, are two grips that form a groove to engage the shank of the umbrella. The handle of the umbrella, which should have a hook in it if it is not a curved handle in the first place, catches under a strap that is worn around the waist. In this way the rain protector is held quite as firmly as by hand and leaves the hands free for other duties.

TO PROLONG SLEEP

Woman Invents Bandage to Wear Across the Eyes.

If the Massachusetts woman who has devised a way to prolong sleep would now turn her attention to some method of inducing sleep she would benefit mankind still further and increase her bank account much more. However, the device she did evolve is a step in the right direction and is apparently so

LIGHT CANNOT DISTURB YOU.

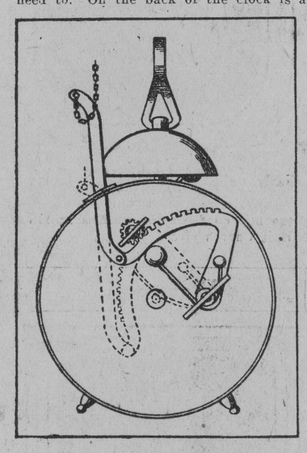
simple that it is strange no one ever thought of patenting it before. It is nothing more than a strip of some light-absorbing material that is to be worn across the eyes and has loops to go around the ears and hold it in place. Simple as it is, the device is perfectly logical and should be effective, as everyone knows that one of the chief causes of awakening is the shining of the morning sun in our closed eyes, the sharp light penetrating our eyelids. That is one reason why we can sleep longer in winter than in summer.

☆ ☆ ☆

HANDY ALARM CLOCK

Lever Can Be Made to Close Furnace Door in Morning.

An alarm clock that will do other things besides awaken people has been invented by a Missouri man. Among the other things it will do is close the furnace door at any hour in the morning and save the man of the house from climbing out of bed before he otherwise need to. On the back of the clock is a



MOVING ARM PULLS CHAIN.

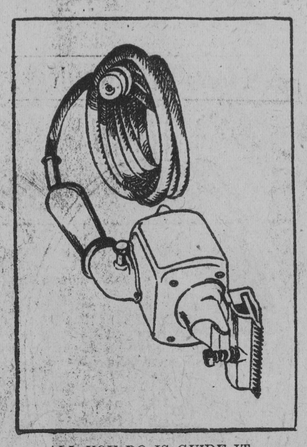
pivoted lever and a pivoted segmental arm with a row of teeth that register with the cogs of a small wheel. At the appointed time this small wheel revolves and carries down the segmental arm, which carries the lever with it. Attached to the top of the lever is a chain which fastens to the furnace door, running through some loop so that its pull on the door is horizontal. When the alarm is sprung, therefore, the lever descends and pulls the door shut. Of course the alarm bell can ring or not, as the owner wishes.

☆ ☆ ☆

ELECTRIC CLIPPER

For Horses, Not Man, and Does Its Work Easily and Swiftly.

One of the latest of electrical appliances is the electric horse clipper patented by an Illinois man. The clipper has a long cord which is reinforced by a heavy string coil to keep it from twisting or breaking and no special wiring is necessary to use it. Just plug into an Edison socket that has 110 volts and



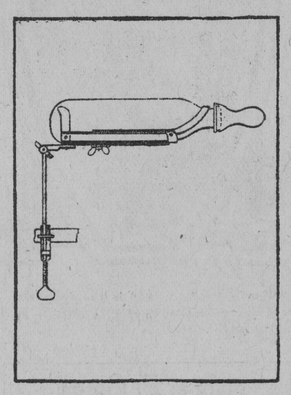
ALL YOU DO IS GUIDE IT.

there you are. A thick handle affords a firm, comfortable grip and as the jaws work automatically all the user need do is guide the implement. The carbon brushes are accessible and easily replaced, adjusted or cleaned. The housing is dirt and dust proof, which prolongs the life of the motor contained within. Incidentally, this housing is of aluminum, which is strong enough for such a purpose, yet light enough to make easy handling. Furthermore, the motor is short and handy to clip the horse's feet.

HOLDS BABY'S BOTTLE

Adjustable Arm Clamps on Side of Crib or Coach.

It is not every mother who has time to sit and hold her infant's nursing bottle or, even if she has the time, it may be that she finds it a bit fatiguing. A Washington man has invented a mechanical holder that will answer the purpose quite as well. Two curved metal plates, slidably mounted together, receive the bottle. A yoke on the outer end passes over the neck of the bottle and curved spring arms at the other end



SAVES MOTHER'S TIME.

engage the lower end of the milk container. This holder is mounted on an adjustable standard which can be clamped to the side of the baby's crib or coach or wherever he happens to be. The horizontal arm can then be tilted to any angle so that it is directly in front of the infant's mouth, and he can pull away to his heart's content while mother attends to other duties.

☆ ☆ ☆

CHAIR A LIFE PRESERVER

It Also Can Be Used for a Washstand or Mattress.

An Englishman has shown the fertility of his imagination by inventing a steamer chair that is also a life preserver, a wash stand and a mattress. The framework of the chair is like that of other steamer chairs, without the foot rest, but the body of it is a roll of cork-filled canvas, swung loosely enough to give and afford a comfortable reclining seat. By turning the chair upside down, the inventor claims, it can be transformed into a very handy washstand, while by re-

CANVAS IS FILLED WITH CORK.

moving the canvas and laying it flat on deck or floor a fair substitute for a mattress is provided. All the passenger needs do is keep close to his chair. If the ship should spring a leak while he is sitting in the chair, or washing on the washstand, or sleeping on the mattress, he may safely leap overboard with the contrivance, as its buoyancy will keep him afloat.

☆ ☆ ☆

READING GLASS

Adjust It Once and It Is Always in the Correct Focus.

One objection to a reading-glass—an objection that some people say offsets its other virtues—is the fact that it is impossible for the person holding it to keep it always in the same focus. An Illinois man has overcome this by inventing a glass that need only be adjusted once and remains correctly focused. The lens of this glass is rectangular, and at each of the upper corners is a movable leg. By means of screws these legs may be adjusted to

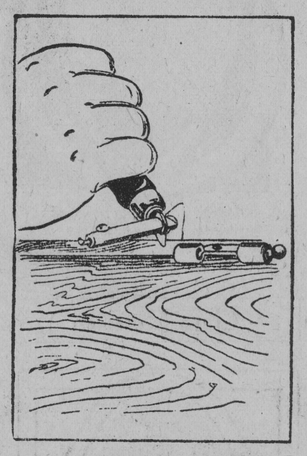
SET LEGS AT PROPER HEIGHT.

hold the glass at the requisite distance from the page of the book or magazine or whatever it is the user is reading. By resting the lower ends of the legs on the page and moving them as desired, the reader is sure of having the same focus all the time, which is much easier on his eyes than if it was changed every few instants.

A HANDY TOOL

Gauges and Cuts Door and Window Frames for Mountings.

Carpenters will find a very handy addition to their kits in the tool designed by an Indiana man. For gauging and cutting doors and window frames for locks, hinges and other mountings it saves time and insures accuracy. A handle, with cutting blades in its head, is slidably mounted on a gauge rod. A turn of the handle in one direction loosens the grip on the rod and a turn in the other direction tightens it. At one end of the gauge rod is a triangular flat head. To use this tool the gauge is set at the desired point and, with the flat head as a guide, is drawn down the edge of the door, cutting out a recess for hinge or bolt. With mallet and



INSURES ACCURATE WORK.

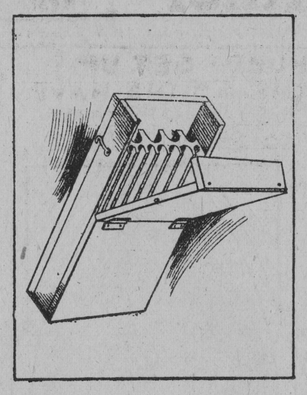
chisel the workman can then quickly hollow out a space in which the mounting will lie flush with the surface of the wood.

☆ ☆ ☆

TOOL HOLDER

Grooves Keep Bits or Chisels of Various Sizes Apart.

A convenient box for holding tools has been designed by a Connecticut man. It will keep separate a number of bits or chisels of different sizes, and each can be selected and removed in a twinkling. The box is a flat, rectangular affair, with a lid that consists of half of the top and one end, as the cut shows. The inside of the box is divided into two by a lengthwise partition, with different size grooves on both sides. This partition terminates within a few inches of the open end of the box so that when the lid is opened the ends of the tools project beyond it and make them easily accessible. With



EASY TO SELECT TOOL.

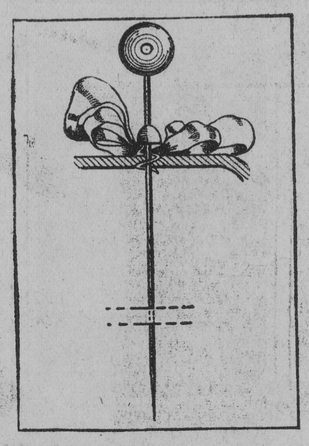
each tool separate, as in this receptacle, the nicking of points and edges, as happens when they are jumbled up together, is obviated.

☆ ☆ ☆

HATPIN FASTENER

Spiral Pin With Big Head Keeps Long Pin from Moving.

A hatpin fastener that will prevent the pin from coming out and getting lost has been designed by a New Jersey man. It consists of a button that slides up and down on the hatpin and that is itself equipped with a small spiral spring for engagement with the crown of the hat. By twisting the button the spiral is made fast to the headpiece and holds the other pin against any movement except that induced by hand. It is not necessary to remove the hatpin entirely in order to remove the hat, but merely to withdraw the point from the opposite side of the crown and from the hair. Thus the hatpin is always on the hat, ready for use. The spiral provides a means of fastening



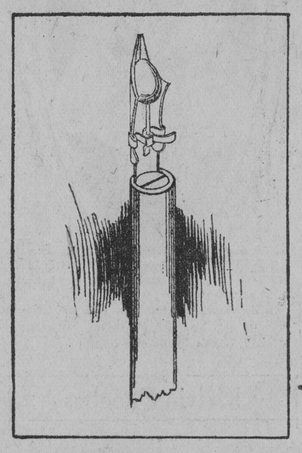
HATPIN WON'T GET LOST.

the button to the hat at any angle, so the hatpin may be inserted in any direction and not necessarily in the same place each time.

A NEW FOUNTAIN PEN

Reservoir Is on Pen Proper, and Not in the Handle.

A new kind of fountain pen has been devised by a New York man. Instead of the reservoir being in the handle, it is attached to the pen itself and, of course, cannot be used without an inkwell besides. A small cup, with a rod that makes it resemble a spoon, is attached to a spring clip that has loops to engage the sides of the pen. Two short arms enable the user to spread the clip and fasten it on. The cup holds a great



NEED NOT DIP SO OFTEN.

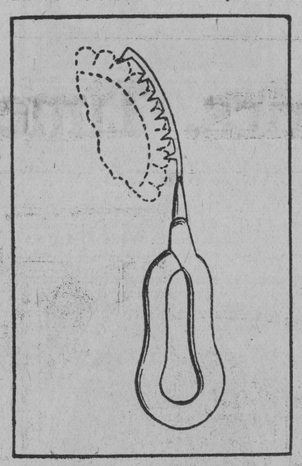
deal more ink than can be gotten on an ordinary pen and does not at all interfere with the writing. The advantage of this device is at once apparent, for, while it cannot be used without a separate source of ink supply, it obviates the necessity of dipping the pen into the ink every few seconds. The little reservoir can be affixed to any pen in an instant.

☆ ☆ ☆

SCRAPES CORN OFF COB

A Curved Blade With Teeth Scrapes Corn Out Crossways.

An ingenious little device for removing corn from the cob has been patented by an Illinois man. A piece of wire is bent at one end to form a handle and the projecting stem flattened to form a thin, curved blade. Portions of this blade are cut through and bent downward, to form a series of teeth which extend the length of the concave side of the blade. By drawing this scraper around the cob through each row of kernels the substance is neatly removed.



NO SCRAPING OF FINGERS.

While it is scarcely likely that this implement will cut corn from a cob as rapidly as some other devices, it nevertheless has this advantage over most of the others—it will not put the fingers in jeopardy. With most corn scrapers one is apt to scrape the skin off her fingers as well as get the corn off the cob.

☆ ☆ ☆

UNIQUE HAT SUPPORT

Wire Standards Hold Up Headgear or Keeps It Safely On.

At last! Now let the milliners do their worst. A Louisiana man has invented a hat support which brings the weight of women's headgear on their shoulders. Two wire standards are bent into inverted V-shaped crotches at their lower ends and at their upper ends are connected with the hat frame. The wearer is supposed to have loops sewed to the shoulders of her coat or waist or formed by tying ribbons around the shoulders and under the armpits and into these

HATS ALWAYS "ON STRAIGHT."

loops the lower ends of the wires hook. There is nothing in the Patent Office Report to indicate that the inventor is a humorist, except the illustration and description of his device. For motor use is should be entirely effective, as any wind not strong enough to blow a woman out of the car cannot remove her hat. And finally, she need never ask, "Is my hat on straight?"

PILLOW SHAM HOLDER

Wire Device With Grapping Buttons Spans Across Headboard.

When guests are expected, at least, the proud housewife gets out her best pillow shams and arranges them on the bed. No matter how stiffly they are starched, shams will not remain in position without assistance. A South Carolina woman has patented a device to hold them up. A long piece of wire has

FITS ANY SIZE BED IN HOUSE.

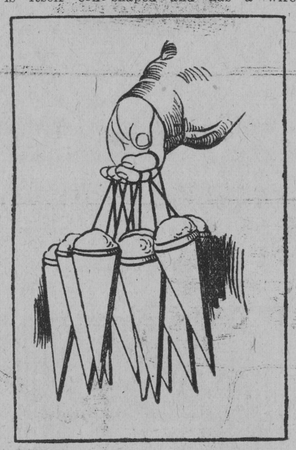
hooks at the ends and coil springs in the center. At proper intervals along it are gripping buttons to seize the tops of the shams without damaging them. The hooks, as will be understood, fasten around the sides of the headboard, and the springs provide enough tension to keep the device up, besides accommodating it to any size bed. It is the work of an instant to put up shams with this, and when they are up they stay in position. If desired the shams may be kept on the wire until they need to be washed.

☆ ☆ ☆

ICE-CREAM CONE HOLDER

Enables Dealer to Carry a Number of Cones in One Hand.

Under ordinary circumstances, a person can carry only about three ice-cream cones in one hand, and the hands of the average dealer in ice-cream cones are not such as one would care to eat out of. An Iowa man has patented a device for carrying these confections. The holder is itself cone-shaped and has a wire



HANDS DON'T TOUCH CONES.

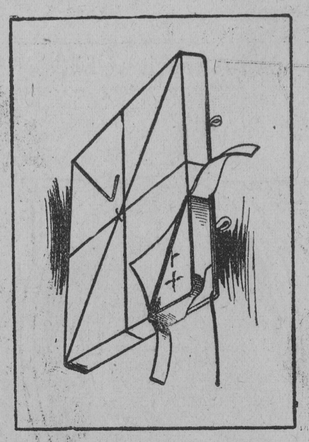
running up from it with a loop at the top. The holder is shallower than the ice-cream cone, so that the latter may easily be placed in it and removed. By slipping the wire loops over his fingers a man may carry a dozen cones without trouble and in a much more sanitary fashion than if he carried them in his hands. Furthermore, if a cone is held in the hand for any length of time the heat of the hand will cause the ice cream to ment.

☆ ☆ ☆

NEW LIFE PRESERVER

Instead of Ring It Is Made in the Shape of a Raft.

A Maryland man has devised a new form of life preserver. Instead of being made in the shape of a ring, to be worn around the body under the arms, this one is square in shape and forms a little raft for the imperiled user to rest upon. The body of the life preserver is of cork-filled canvas, as is customary, but around the



FRAME HOLDS IT RIGID.

entire bottom is a thin iron rod that acts as a bracing frame and keeps it rigid. Otherwise it would promptly buckle up and precipitatae the occupant into the water. The whole contrivance is enclosed in an envelope of some thin waterproof material. There are loops along the frame so that a rope may be attached to the block in cases where it is thrown out to a person and then hauled in. Owing to its flat, square shape a pile of these preservers take up little room.

AUTOMATIC LIGHTER

Press Down Lever and Flame Appears in an Instant.

An automatic cigar lighter that is designed for home as well as store use has been patented by an Illinois man. With it comes an ornamental ash tray with

FRICTION IGNITES GASOLINE.

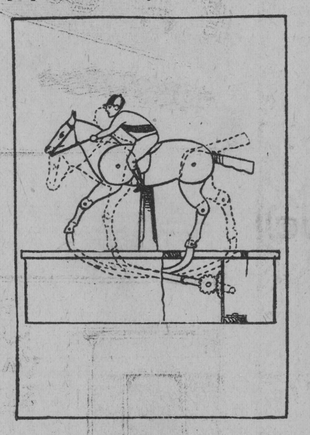
four cigar rests around the edge. The lighter stands in the center of the tray and consists of a reservoir for gasoline, a small tube at the top with a friction cap and a lever that operates the cap. It is said that one filling of gasoline will give over 1,000 lights. The principle on which the gasoline ignites is that of friction. One end of the lever is just below the cap of the lighter tube and when the other end of the lever is pressed down the cap is pushed off and the gasoline lighted from the tiny spark that results. The cap is fast to a small chain so it does not get lost. It is claimed that there is no odor to this device.

☆ ☆ ☆

GALLOPING TOY HORSE

Beast's Legs and Head and Jockey's Body Move.

An amusing toy in the form of a galloping horse has been designed by a Kentucky man. It is particularly appropriate these days when mechanical



TROTS IN LIFELIKE FASHION.

toys are absorbing the youth of the land. The body of the horse is fixed to a standard rising from the base, but the forelegs and hindlegs are pivoted to the body and at their middle joints. The tail and neck are also pivoted to the body and the body of the jockey is pivoted at the hips. The horse's feet are fastened to swinging shafts that operate in the base by means of a rotatable gear. As one shaft is pushed forward the other comes backward, each carrying with it a foreleg and hindleg on the same side of the animal. The gear is operated by means of a crank and the faster the crank is turned the faster the horse trots, bobbing his head and waving his tail, while the jockey seems to urge him.

☆ ☆ ☆

SHAVING SOAP HOLDER

Keeps Soap High and Dry Above Bottom of Shaving Mug.

A New York man has designed a simple and effective holder for shaving soap in the cake. A metal platform has a pair of bowed springs, crossing each other at

MAKES SOAP LAST LONGER.

right angles, mounted under it. The ends of the springs project beyond the edge of the platform. To place the contrivance in the shaving mug, bend in all four ends of the springs, lower it to the bottom of the mug and release the springs. They fly out and engage the sides of the cup, holding the platform firmly several inches above the bottom of the receptacle. The edge of the platform is turned up at points to keep the soap from sliding off. The advantage of this device is the saving of soap, which, when it lies in the bottom of the mug in the midst of water and lather, wastes away to a large extent.

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