

THE FREAKS OF INVENTORS.

Some of the Curious Things in the Washington Patent Office.

IF YOUR HENS GO ON A STRIKE

Here's an Egg Forcer You Might Use—A Toy Cow That Gives Real Milk—Fishing for Tapes Worms.

(Copyright, 1890, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WASHINGTON, July 31.—(Special to THE BEE.)—I have spent the past week in looking up the freaks of the patent office. Side by side with the greatest inventions of the age are the classed the craziest offspring of the human brain. Today some mighty Edison patents an idea which lights the world and tomorrow some lunatic offers a plan by which all humanity can lift themselves to heaven by their bootstraps. In looking through the patent office you are surprised at the wisdom and the foolishness of man's inventions. The man is a great inventor and from the foolish point of view it would seem that when an idea of a patent comes into an inventor's head, common sense flies out of his window. Take the department of cases and umbrellas. There are thousands of cases of all shapes and sizes and one of these is a case and spilt-on combined. It is patented by Myron L. Baxter of Illinois and it states that the case is made of a material which is the head of the case when he slips his saucer into the extent of half a pint and that his lady love or the preacher need know nothing of it. "This case" said he "is of great advantage during the continuance of religious services, lectures or other entertainments." Its top is made in the shape of a dog's head and the opening for the expectation is made in the mouth of the dog.

Another case has an eye-glass attached to its head and the third is so arranged that the drinking man can carry his allowance of whiskey inside of and take his nip on the sly. There are cane umbrellas, sword cases and pistol cases and cases which are so jointed that they can be formed into the legs of a stool of such a nature that the pedestrian can sit down and take a rest during his walk.

Some of the greatest fortunes are made out of patent toys, and there are a dozen toy inventors who have made fortunes during the last twenty years. Among these are Crandall, who got up the "Piss in Clover" puzzle, Plimpton, the man who invented the roller skates, the inventor of the returning ball and others. There are a great many toys in one division of the patent office, and one of the latest and craziest curiosities is a doll baby which works the bottle.

This doll is patented by Rudolph Steiner of Germany, and it consists of a doll baby sitting on a pan with a bottle filled with genuine milk on a little table in front of it. A rubber tube connects with the glass pipe which runs into the bottle, and goes into the mouth of the child runs down behind and through the doll into the pan. By means of a syphon which comes out through the doll's head, machinery is set in motion by which the doll begins to suck and the milk flows up into its mouth and out into the pan. No sensible mother would ever think of having such a toy for her child and it would be the most stupid and sloppiest kind of amusement. Still this man Steiner thought so much of it that he patented it both in Germany and America, and he evidently expects to get a fortune out of it.

Another toy of much the same order is the toy cow which is milked. This cow is made of wood and it has a tank inside of it just where the milk of the cow usually is. There are four drawers connected with this, and these have little valves in them, so that by squeezing them a certain amount of milk flows out each time. Of course the tank must first be filled with milk, and this is done through a pipe that runs up from the tank to the tail of the cow. The inventor states that the amount of milk is exactly the same as that of the real cow, and he has in addition an iron wire which connects with the jaws of the cow and runs back to this tank, so that Dolly chews her cud while her teats are being milked.

THE ILLUMINATED CAT. This is a cat of pasteboard or tin for the purpose of enlightening rats or mice. This cat is made in a sitting posture, and it is painted over with phosphorus, so that it shines in the dark like a cat of fire. Its inventor states that it ought to be perfumed with oil of peppermint which is obnoxious to rats and mice, and that while it does serve to scare the rodents away from the dark it may be made so as to form a useful parlor ornament in the daytime. Another cat equally funny is the patent sheet iron cat which is worked by electricity and which has a bellows inside which swells up its tail to the size of the maddest of felines. If properly set it will emit a noise equal to the wildest of living might thunders and it is in addition a cat of teeth. You wind it up and place it on your roof and set it howling. All the cats in the neighborhood jump for it and its posion hairs kill every one it strikes.

There are numerous patents containing the principle of the illuminated cat. Luminous harness has been patented, and a harness driven at night looks like a sheet of chain lightning and you think Elijah's chariot has come to earth again. There are luminous match boxes and luminous buttons, and luminous grave robbers. The patents to protect the dead are especially funny. A few every night grave robbers metallic coffins come in by the scores and look at one coffin surrounded by bars of wrought iron binding the casket and extending out from it at such a distance that when set in the earth it would be impossible to move it except by a derrick. A New York man has invented a coffin torpedo consisting of a canister of powder, balls and a trigger, and he warrants it.

TO KILL ANY PERSON who attempts to open the grave in which it is placed. He does not reflect that in this day of changing graveyards and the generations of the future may want to remove their forefathers, and may to their great surprise be given an immediate introduction to them through this torpedo. Massachusetts Yaw has patented a dynamite bomb which he places in the tomb. This would shoot the grave-robbing up to heaven, and it is equally probable that it might send both the coffin and the corpse down to the other place. There are hundreds of patents for different kinds of embalming juice, and the embalming juice inventors fought over General Grant's body as Mount McGregor in order to demonstrate the virtue of their various fluids. One of these some years ago sent a model consisting of a coffin with an embalmed baby in it to the patent office and was very indignant because the commission would not put this dead baby on exhibition.

Speaking of coffins calls attention to medical patents. Doctors' mistakes are generally buried and some of the best inventions of the means by which men are taken out of the world in trying to remain in it. The medical patents are of every description. One of the most ridiculous was referred to in a recent speech in congress. It is a

TAPWORM TRAP and its inventor is a man named Myers who claims he has had great success in catching tapeworms with it. It consists of a little red capsule about half an inch long and as big round as a lead pencil. At the end of this capsule there is a little ring and to this a silk thread is tied. By pulling the capsule apart you set a spring a good deal like that of the old fashioned steel trap and this spring has two just like the rat trap. You bait it with a little bit of cheese, starve yourself for about three days and then swallow the trap maintaining all the while a careful hold of the end of the thread. The tapeworm which by this time is very hungry makes a greedy dash for the cheese and gets the jaw of the capsule

spring together on his head and you draw him out hand over hand and set your trap for the next worm. Another trap for worms is the little silver bowl which you swallow and which catches the worms as we catch fish.

The inventions for smokers are so many that a list of them would fill a page. One is given up to them. There are dozens of devices by which a man may carry his cigars around in his hat, and the pipes are legion. One of the latest is the pipe which you wear a rest or brace by which the weight of the pipe is taken off the teeth and rested on the chin. This is said to be a very good pipe for sore teeth, but it is doubtful whether it would be of much use to the ordinary smoker. There are umbrellas which can be turned into pipes and pipes which can be turned into cases, and there are perhaps a hundred inventions for the cutting off of ends of cigars, some of which are probably valuable.

In agricultural patents the human brain has gone wild. The old cotton plow has been given up. The new plow is made of new, and this consists of a grate which will swing both ways and which can be lowered and raised to suit the size of the furrows. On the same principle is the adjustable pulpit, which will fit all kinds of preachers. The pulpit runs up and down on a pillar by a spring, and by pressing a button the preacher can raise it to his height or lower it to suit. It is said that this invention was in use in one of the western congregations and that a short preacher had been invited to deliver, but had not been told of the peculiar arrangement upon which the bible was placed in front of him. He was a very active little man and he had a way of pounding his pulpit and leaning over and shaking his finger at the congregation. During one of his wild moments, when he was leaning over and shaking the button with his knee and the pulpit, which had been set at three feet, straightway sprung up to six, carrying the preacher kicking into the air.

There is a patent machine here for forcing hens to lay eggs. The machine consists of a box into which the hen is put, and which is divided into two compartments. One of these is a nest and the other is a box into which the hen is forced to lay her eggs. The machine is said to be of great advantage during the continuance of religious services, lectures or other entertainments. Its top is made in the shape of a dog's head and the opening for the expectation is made in the mouth of the dog.

Another case has an eye-glass attached to its head and the third is so arranged that the drinking man can carry his allowance of whiskey inside of and take his nip on the sly. There are cane umbrellas, sword cases and pistol cases and cases which are so jointed that they can be formed into the legs of a stool of such a nature that the pedestrian can sit down and take a rest during his walk.

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FIZZES FOR TORRID WEATHER

Some Cooling Concoctions Prepared by Fanny Men now Living.

MRS. BIPPS WAS VERY WILLING.

A Tale of Towers—A Candid Conductor—Touching Appeal to a Debtor—A Mean Revenge—Of Neither Sex.

(Copyright, 1890, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

New York Sun: "I am glad to see you, sir," said the widow to the editor. "Your obituary of my husband was beautiful. I wish he could have lived to read it."

A Night Misconception.

New York Sun: Cleverton-I understand that you took a flyer in Wall street the other day.

Mrs. Bipps Was Willing.

Epoch: Mr. Bipps—That morning I took this morning make me feel another man.

The Usual Thing.

New York Sun: Bunker—I never wear the same pair of trousers for two days without change.

A Musing Call.

Harpers' Bazar: Mrs. Pettangill to neighbor who was just "dressed" in "N. Elyria, I can't say no, truly, I can't—I'd enjoy you to funeral, 'ceptin', of course, when it's one of my own folks."

A True Christian.

Texas Siftings: Ferguson—"People accuse me of drinking too much, but I deny them. I never had any more than a drop of whisky in my life."

The Cold Truth.

The Feaster: Farmer about a street car. "Do you ring that docting, mister, every time you get a fare?"

The Conna's Test of Genuineness.

Jeweler's Weekly: Miss Woodie—"Count, how do you know that your diamonds are genuine?"

Count Gito Guithress.

Count Gito Guithress: "By ze advances of ze pawlwarbairce."

A Plea to Inspire Pity.

Jeweler's Weekly: Jeweler: "Can't you pay me something on that bill you owe me?"

Love and Business.

Menses's Weekly: Ethel—"Did Harry seem very much put out when you told him you didn't love him well enough to marry him?"

Agnes—No, the brute. He merely said, "Well, business is business," and left the house."

Heard on the Beach.

Menses's Weekly: Miss Gash—Who is that man with the rapistose looking face? He looks like a mad dog. Just see his wicked little eyes. I'm sure he's a convict. Oh! He's coming this way. Let's run!

Light: Conna Enamoured—Have you any children?

Light: Plainsman—Yes, two. Conna Enamoured—Sons or daughters? Light: Plainsman—Neither, confound 'em! They're both girls.

Will He Be a Statesman.

Arkansas Traveler: Minister to her—"So you have come out to the Sunday school picnic instead of going to the circus?"

He Knew All About It.

Binghampton Leader: The other day in one of our public schools it happened that a teacher and the principal of a school were once, and the teacher asked the children if any of them could tell her something of this fabled personage. One of the little girls remarked having heard that Atlas used to hold up the earth and said so. "Used to hold it up!" said the teacher, "and can you tell me why he stopped holding up the earth?" There was silence for a few seconds, when a lad in the middle of the room said he "guessed it was coz the earth got old enough to hold itself up."

Dr. Birney cures catarrh, Bee bldg.

PEPPERBERRY DROPS.

Somerville Journal: The people who want to be happy ought to be happy, oughtn't they?

Whitcomb's Weekly: "There are some fine specimens of gold bearing quartz," said the milk dealer, as he specially manufactured put-and-three-quarter measuring cups arrived.

Whitcomb's Weekly: It is so much easier to look wise than it is to establish that fact really that many people saw wood and say nothing.

Pat: The government wants a new design for the silver dollar. Jay Gould ought to be able to furnish one. He has spent his whole life getting the designs for dollars.

Seranton Treat: There are dull times on the farm when the dog has to take the grindstone.

The Bostonian: Did you ever know that a mason spoke?

Boston Transcript: Mrs. Dorber—"There I have been for a long time. Now, if I only knew where to fire it." Mr. Dorber—"What the matter with the ash-barrel?"

New York Sun: Mrs. Stewchew-I didn't catch Dr. Tandy's test this morning; it wasn't from "Robert Elmsaw," was it? Mrs. Stewchew—"Of course not; it was from Marie's shirttail."

Terre Haute Express: Minnie—There have been so many changes rung on the word 'dolly' that I am inclined to think it is better to go back to the old-fashioned 'dolly'—I mean, dear, that is exactly what you are.

Birmingham Leader: There is nobody or nothing in this world that is so often crossed in the front as a woman's nose.

Yankee Blade: Dashed—Saw, doctor, what kind of medicine will cure my cold? Dr. Smart—"The kind I prescribe."

Dr. Birney cures catarrh, Bee bldg.

OWED TO AN OLD MAN. I pray thee, heavenly father, thou So coldly turn away from me; The hunkle ice thou'lt cast me now Is not the hunkle I ought to be.

Two months ago you came my way, And handed in your little bill— I paid it, and you said, "I'm glad." I paid with a check, and you said, "I'm glad."

Then all at once that bank of ice, For which you said the check I pay By some malign and weird device Seemed to diminish day by day.

And when you called a month ago And handed in your little bill—"Six dollars—fifteen pounds a day!" I groaned, but grating paid it still. And thought with halcyon day by day, I've forgotten the winter of the ice.

You have the check to come and say You think you'll have to raise the price. Hast thou a cemetery lot? An acre or two of the varying phases— An acre or two, occupy a spot Beneath the property title diabolical.

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HONEY FOR THE LADIES. The women's exchanges in this country have paid out \$1,000,000 as remuneration to women in twelve years.

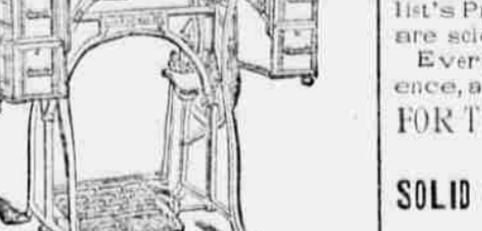
The newest thing in bathroom slippers is the little fellow covered with bronze to the back patent-leather shoes. The Maori women of New Zealand are killing themselves trying to wear corsets since they have seen them on the missionary ship.

THE FIGURE '90.

The figure '90 in our dates will make a long stay. No man of woman now living will ever date a document without using the figure '0. It stands in the third place in 1890, where it will remain for years and then move up to second place in 1900, where it will rest for one hundred years.

There is another '90 which has also come to stay. It is unlike the figure '9 in our dates in the respect that it has already moved up to first place, where it will permanently remain. It is called the "No. 9" and it is a new machine for printing. It was invented by the late Mr. F. H. Ames, who was a member of the Grand Prix given to family sewing machines, and others on exhibit having received lower awards of gold medals, etc. The French Government also recognized its superiority by the decoration of Mr. National Weiler, President of the company with the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

The "No. 9" is not an old machine improved upon, but is an entirely new machine and the Grand Prix at Paris was awarded it as the grand old prize in sewing machine mechanism of the age. Those who have not seen it, rest assured, there is no other of having the very latest and best.



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