SMALL BUT IMPORTANT.

LITTLE INVENTIONS LEADING TO LARGE FORTUNES.

The Origin of the Copper Toe on Children' Shoes-Big Money in the Shipping Tag-Puzzles and Toys, Including Pigs in Clover -Other Profitable Ideas.

No better examples of the importance of small things can be found than among the records at the United States Patent Office in Washington says an exchange: There are to be seen certain small objects which, by a lucky turn of affairs or perhaps by the ingenuity of the inventors, have become known throughout the the worl I, and have been the means of filling the pockets both of the inventors and parts of the East, and it cost much less their representatives. In fact it would almost seem as if the inventors of small objects have been far better paid than skilled mechanics and engineers who have spent months and years in perfecting elaborate mechanisms. Certainly, in proportion to the amount of work done, the lot of the inventor of small objects is more to be desired than that of the man who spends the best part of his life over an elaborate machine, the merits of which are tardily recognized, not, perhaps, until the inventor, through worry and sickness, is in no condition to enjoy the fruits of his toil. It would seen also as if the inventors of small objects which have paid, have not, as a rule, been inventors by profession. They have been for the most part persons who by sheer luck have stumbled upon an idea which somebody else has recognized as a good one. Without the suggestion of this "somebody else," who is usually he one who profits, the great idea, though born, would rarely grow to maturity.

A story current at the Patent Office is told of an old farmer up in Maine. The children of the old fellow, like many of the children before and since, had a way of kicking the toes out of their shoes. The farmer was of an ingenious turn of mind, and he cut out a couple of copper strips for in the rubber cork is acted upon upon by each pair of shoes, which were fastened the beer, with the result of causing the over the toes and between the sole and the upper. The plan proved so successful that the farmer found that where he had been buying three pairs of shoes one pair would suffice. There happened along about this time a man from the city with an eye to business. He prevailed on the old man to have the idea patented. This was done, and between \$50,000 and \$100,000 was made out of it. How much of this the old man got is not known, but it is presumed that the promoter got the larger part. The record at the Patent Office shows only the drawing of the invention as patented on Jan. 5, 1858, by George A. Mitchell of

great deal of money was the metal button fastener for shoes, invented and introduced by Heaton of Providence, R. I. At the time it was considered a fine invention, for the old sewed button was continually coming off. It has gradually grown in popularity since its introduction in 1869, until now very few shoes with buttons are manufactured without the Heaton appliance.

By a comparatively simple arrangement the shipping tags in use all over the country today were made a possibility. The chief trouble with a paper tag was the lmost unavoidable tearing out of the tying hole before the package arrived at its destination. A cardboard reenforcement, first six months. His cans are now used round in shape, on each side of the tying hole was all that was necessary to make the shipping tag a success. This] was the invention of a Mr. Dennison of Philadelphia, who has made a fortune out of a lucky five minutes of thought.

The division of the Patent Office which examines applications for patents on toys and puzzles receives more communications in regard to worthless objects' perhaps than any other, except some of the divisions on mechanics, whose officials have to deal with crank inventors. The chief examiner of the division of toys cites many instances where fortunes have been made on puzzles and similar objects. The pigs in clover puzzle had a curious history. The inventor Crandall, put it on the market before the patent had been granted, or, in fact, even applied for. Other people, recognizing the value of the invention from a financial point of view, formed companies and began a year. Within the last two weeks a manufacturing the puzzles in even larger quantities than Crandall's company could turn them out. Crandall, of course, contested for his rights and prayed for an injunction. The claim was put into interference, which is a long process and one which tries both the patience of the department and that of the attorneys. The unfortunate part of it for Crandall was that the craze for the puzzle was over before the money. The first one was patented in 1882. interference was settled. This is the same Crandall who invented the famous children's building blocks, with dove tailed edges, which had such a run and are popular even today. The fitteen puzzle was never patented, and the department has no information in regard to its inventor. Several people claim it. Fortunes were made by it for half a dozen concerns, and most of the profits were pocketed by the manufacturers.

The return ball, a wooden ball fastened patent has now expired. The flying top, amounted to \$20. Thus Ferguson is out

a round tin affair with wings, wound with a string and shot up in the air, made a fortune for its inventor. Several years ago a puzzle appeared which attracted considerable attention. It consisted of two double painters' hooks. which, when fastened to gether in a certain way, could not be takeapart, except by one who had seen it done. It is said that this invention came about by the merest chance. A painter was stand-ing on his ladder scaffold across the front of a house. He had occasion to use a pair of hooks, and picking them up hurriedly entangled them in such a manner that it was several hours before he could get them apart. He forthwith had drawings made and filed on application for a patent, which was granted. No figures are known at the Patent Office, but it is supposed that he made a large sum of money, for the puzzle was sold for twenty-five cents in all than a cent to manufacture.

A discovery which has been the means of bringing forth a number of inventions, both great and small, was that of Goodyear the rubber vulcanizer. It was not until the Goodyear discovery of the vulcanizer of rubber in 1844 that rubber could be used, except in a very primitive tashion. Then it was found that, by the use of sulphur at a certain temperature, rubber could be moulded, shaped, and worked into any form. Immediately after this discovery, the application clerk at the Patent Office having charge of such matters was besieged by hundreds and hundreds of applications for inventions with the Goodyear discovery as a basis. They related chiefly to matters of form in which it was desired to work rubber. After that time the rubber blanke the rubber overshoe, the rubber band fol lowed one after the other in rapid succession, and since that time there has not been a month that some patents have not been granted for different forms of rubber. New applications are comming in at the rate of four or five a month, involving many applications of the pneumatic tubing or cushioning principle. There are now pneumatic blankets, pneumatic pillows of all descriptions, pneumatic soled shoes for running and jumping, and pneumatic car tender guards.

A recent invention which has come into prominence within the last two or three years is the tin cap on the top of beer bottles. This appliance is steadily taking the place of the rubber cork with the iron thumb lever. It is found that the sulphur rubber to deteriorate and spoil the beec. An offer from some whiskey makers is attracting the attention ot inventors. It is a reward of from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an appliance on bottles which will prevent their being refilled. As it is now, all the great whiskey and beer manufacturers of the country, and, indeed, of the world, are constantly getting letters from people who complain that they have received interior qualities of liquids under well-known labels. Of course it is impossible without some such appliance for manufacturers to guarantee the contents of bottles. All appliances so far with this end in view have been unsatisfactory. The chief difficulty seems to be to make the invention practical and cheap enough for commercial use. The problem has been solved by a number of inventors, but at two great an expense, Another similar invention which made a for it has seemed up to the present im possible to get the cost below \$2 a bottle. compleated, the appliance must not cost more than 2 or 3 cents a bottle.

Several years ago a patent was granted for an addition to tin cans which made the opening of them a very easy matter, and did way with the old-fashioned iron can opener. The can had a small rim just below the top, bent by macninery at an angle just below the breaking point. By a blow on the top of the can around the rim the top would be broken off with a smooth edge. This did not cost the inventor one cent a thousand above the regular price of the cans. Armour, the Chicago meat man, as soon as he heard of the invention, ordered 10,000,000 cans to pack meat in, to fill an order for the German army. The inventor of this can made a fortune in the all over the United States for oysters and

The ordinary wood screw, patented Aug. 20, 1846, by T. J. Sloan, is recorded among the simplest inventions that have made the most money. Then screws were cut by machinery, some of which is still used by the American Screw Company of. Providence, R. I. But the patent has expired, and the new method invented by C. D. Rogers has many advantages over the old. Under the Sloan system, the skin of the metal was removed and the screw consequently weakened; now there is a die

which rolls the screw threads. The man who invented the brass spring fingers one sees on lamps for holding the chimney in place got for a long period a royalty of \$50,000 a vear. William A. Thrail, a former official of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, patented. june 1, 1886, a thousand mile ticket which possessed so many advantages that it has been adopted by many Western roads. Severa-years ago Mr. Thrail resigned his place patent has been granted on a new whistle used principally by bicyclers, and made on the principle of the siren or fog whistle. It has been largely pirated throughout the country, but will not be put into interference, for the patent has been granted. It is manufactured by a firm in the East, and they have only been able to supply the Eastern trade. The inventor has received for some time past \$5,000 a month. Among musical instruments for general use the autoharp has perhaps made the most Now they a e sold very reasona ly, and manutacturers report immense sales every month. The organette, with perforated paper sheets, is another of the moneymaking musical instruments.

Astonished by Mathematics.

A cattle dealer approached Sam Ferguson, a colored man in Kentucky and proposed buying a yoke of oxen which Ferguson owned. One of the steers was thin and the dealer made him an offer of two cents a pound for the best one, or would take them both for one cent a pound. Ferguson accepted the latter proposition. to a thin strip of rubber, with a wooden | When the oxen was weighed, the best one ring at the other end, which was patented | tipped the beam at 1 000 pounds, the other somewhere in the sixties, had a rush of one at 800 pounds, making 1,800 pounds, popularity which netted its inventor which at a cent a pound amounted to \$18. \$60,000, and it is sold widely today. The best ox at two cents a pound

| \$2 and his thin ox in the transaction. Ferguson is a school teacher, and is astonished at the mysteries of muthematics, and will begin anew a study of the subject .- Courier Journal.

IN DEEP DESPAIR.

A MONTREALER RELATES HIS TER-RIBLE EXPERIENCE.

He Tried Foreign and Local Physicians and Was Operated Upon Without Success-Dr. Williams Pink Pills Cured When all Other Medicines Failed.

(F om the Montreal Herald.)

Instances of marvellous cures by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are numerous, but the one related below is of special interest, owing to the peculiarity of the illness, and also to the fact that in the present instances the gentleman is well known in Montreal. Mr. Charles Frank, inspector of the mechanical department of the Belle Telephone Co., at 371 Acqueduct street, and who resides at 54 Argyle Avenue, in an interview with a Herald reporter, related the following wonderful cure by the use of Pink Pills. Mr. Frank, who is 25 years of age, is a Russian by birth, exceedingly intelligent, speaks several languages fliently, and is now apparently in good health. "My illness came about in a peculiar way," said Mr. Frank. "Up to three years ago I was in the best of health. About that time while in Glasgow, Scotland, where I was employed as clerk in a hotel, and while sculling on the Clyde, a storm came up, and I had a pretty rough time of it for a while. I evidently must have injured myself internally, although I felt nothing wrong at the time. On my way home, however, I tell helpless on the street, and had to be conveyed home in a cab, as my legs were ut-terly unable to hold me up. I was confined to bed for several days in the same helpless condition, when I rallied, but found that my urine was of a strange reddish hue



Caught in a storm on the Clyde. I called in a physician, who prescribed, but did me no good. I then called on Sir George McLeod, M. D., who also perscribed and advised me to go to the hospital. I was averse to doing this, and he advised me then to try a change of climate, telling me that my bladder was affected. I acted on his suggestion as to change and came to Montreal. I did not do anything for about a year, as I wished to get cured. All this time my urine was tainted with blood, although I was suffering no pain, but this abnormal condition was a source of continual anxiety. I finally went to the General Hospital, where the physician in charge advised me to stay. which I did. After remaining there for five weeks with no benefit, a consultation of physicians was dition remaining absolutely unchanged. medicines and physicians, but derived no benefit from anything or anyone. I was in on me could not decide as to my trouble. I visited the hospital once more, and they said they would operate again; but I did not care to undergo a second and perhaps equally unsuccessful operation. Some physicians thought my trouble was consumption of the bladder, others that it was minute." Bright's disease, but none could cure that strange bloody condition of my urine. "Finally I went to work for the Bell

Telephone Co., some two years ago, where I worked myself up to my present position. But I was in a state of constant anxiety, as legs. I was also pale and ill-looking, no doubt owing to loss of blood. From a naturally cheerful man I became morose, and gave up all hopes of ultimate recovery. One Saturday, some months ago, while walking along Bleury street, having seen the advertisement of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the Montreal Herald, I stopped at John T. Lyons' drug store, and bought a box: I had tried so many medicines that I said to myself, 'If they don't cure me I change in the bloody condition of my urine. But I felt encouraged and got three more boxes, determined to try a thorough trial of Pink Pills. After I had finished the second box I found my urine was getting clearer, so I continued the use of the pills, taking two after each meal. When I had worth of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills atter Oliver Cromwell.

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trying a number of physicians and undergoins an operation in vain is a puzzle to me, and I am sorry that I didn't know about, this grand medicine before. I would have willingly given \$200 or \$300 to have been guaranteed a cure by anyone."

"I am willing," said Mr. Frank, in conclusion, "to see anyone who wishes to verify this interview, as I consider it my duty to my fellow-men and a matter of gratitude to the marvellous cure their medicine has affected. I have come to the conclusion that Pink Pills are the best blood builders in existence, and I think everyone should try them."

Getting his Dinner.

The other evening a stylish and gentlemanly-looking individual stepped into one of the leading hotels in Paris, took his seat at a table, and ordered a fine dinner. When it was served it, he tackled the dishes with the placed delight of a genuine epicure. When he was half-way through the dessert, a closed cab drew up at the door of the establishment, and a grave-looking gentleheld and an operation suggested, to which man requested permission to look through I this time agreed. After the operation the premises, as he expected to find there was performed I was no better, my con- a fraudulent banker, whom he, as a detective, was instructed to take into cus-From this out I was continually trying | tody. Of course, his demand was complied with, and no sooner had he entered | @ the dining-room than he pointed to the despair, as the physicians who had operated luxurious reveller and whispered in the

"You see, our information was correct. There he is But for your own sake we prefer to avoid a row. Please tell the gentleman that his friend, Baron L-, is outside and wishes to speak to him for half a

On receiving the message our gastrono-mist immediately rose from the table and went out on the boulevard, where he was taken possession of by the detective, who put him into the cab and drove off with him. Next day the restaurant-keeper went I felt myself getting weaker all the time, to the police-station to recover payment and was listless and sleepy and weak in the for the fraudulent banker's dinner, amounting to about sixty trancs. But neither the commissary nor his subordinates knew anything of the supposed capture. In the end it turned out to be nothing more or less than a clever bit of comedy got up for the purpose of enabling one of the actors to have a "good blow-out."

Although difficult to believe, it is nevertheless true that the death of two halfcan't be any worse off than before.' After sisters, the daughters of the same father, taking the first box I felt stronger and occurred 170 years apart. The graud-more cheerful, although there was no father of the British Minister, Charles James Fox, Sir Stephen Fox, married in 1654, and had a daughter born him in 1655, who died in the course of the same year. He had several other children, who grew up and married, but all of them died before their father, and without issue. Sir Stephen, not wishing his large fortune finished the third box my urine was quite to fall into the hands of distant relatives, clear, for the first time in three years. I married again at a very advanced age, and was delighted, and continued taking the his youngest daughter was born in 1727. pills until I had finished six boxes. I am | She reached the age of 98 years and died strong now and have had no recurrence of in 1825, that is, 170 years after the death the trouble, and as you can see, the flush of her oldest sister. She saw Queen Vicof health shows itself in my face. To toris when the latter was a child, while her think that I was cured by the use of \$3,00 half sister was carried in the arms of



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