

Queer Devices That Have Been Patented

Young America has long been suspicious that King Solomon was none the wisest of men, and certainly it is that the author of the famous proverb, "There's nothing new under the sun," if he were to return to the earth today would need to revise his outlawed philosophy. For every day here in the Patent office brings something new to light, and a stroll about among the archives of the Patent Office Museum is like wandering in a world of oddities, many of which have been called into being by the fertile minds of self-appointed geniuses, who have considered themselves ordained by nature to do away with the old and to introduce the new. At any rate, even a cursory examination of exhibits will suggest that whatever may have been the accomplishments of really great inventors no small number of individuals have been impelled by the most remarkable views as to the needs of this exacting age, and not a few have concluded that their fortune would be made were they able to produce something which differed from everything else.

For instance, from time immemorial the human heart has followed in sympathy the heart of the departed, and the human mind has contrived to favor the dead should they pass on to a new and mystical existence or choose to return to life upon the earth. Old as the hills are the customs of the venerating Chinese, who heap high beside the graves their delicate viands of chicken and rice. The North American Indians, too, were found to strew the mounds of their dead with food and hunting implements. These ancient customs were the outcome of a deeper faith in certain theories than can prevail among enlightened people today, and yet, from experience purely in the natural realm, preparation for the welfare of those supposed to be dead, should they revive to stay among the living, may even now be witnessed in our country every day. The ingenious inventor, appreciating the possibility of premature burial, and knowing full well the horror with which the subject is regarded by afflicted mortals, has come to the scratch at once with the most elaborate devices by which the reviving person may communicate from his coffin to the outside world. Franz Vester of Newark, N. J., styles his invention a "new and useful improvement in cases or coffins for attaching a chimney to the coffin, extending from over the face of the body up above the surface of the ground. Within this chimney he would place a ladder and a cord leading out a bell, so that the buried person, should he revive, may climb to the world without or communicate with his mourning friends.

The machinery of the invention for a simple purpose by Adelbert Kwiatkowski of Posen-Wilda, Germany, is much more intricate. He declares that he has "invented certain new and useful improvements in safety coffins," and proposes to attach a chimney to the coffin, extending from over the face of the body up above the surface of the ground. Within this chimney he would place a ladder and a cord leading out a bell, so that the buried person, should he revive, may climb to the world without or communicate with his mourning friends.

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deadly missiles of ball or grape." The share will hold the gun firmly on the ground and the handles can be used in giving the weapon direction. But not alone in frontier districts must the lives of people be protected. In civilized countries and express train ages, when men can not overcome their desire to be whisked about from point to point, all care must be taken to insure their safe transportation. At least so thinks Stephen Scotton of Richmond, Va., who claims to have invented a "machine for shooting missiles at cows on railroads," so that hereafter, when the frisky cow ventures on the track, it will not be necessary to derail the train in order to remove the carcass, but a shower of gravel may be expelled at the offending creature.

And still another inventor, A. Myers, comes to the rescue of mankind. What is the use, he asks, of being delivered from the tomahawk or rifle of the savage and saved from frightful possibilities of the railroad wreck, if you live to die by slow degrees from the ravages of the tapeworm? And so he produces a trap, looking somewhat like a capsule case, to be swallowed by the patient, for several days in order to drive the worm by hunger into the stomach.

But space does not permit one even touch upon all the ingenious devices of men and women desiring to bring forth something novel. One scheme of N. V. Vile is to impart a sudden jolt or jar to the running gear of a car as the moment power is applied in starting the car to assist in overcoming the inertia. Another plan is that of an alarm bedstead which first wakes the sleeper gently and if he does not arise within a prescribed time, throws him out upon the floor. Still another is an "improvement in mustache guards," designed to permit the lover of soup and the possessor of a flowing mustache to eat in peace and comfort and survive to a ripe old age.



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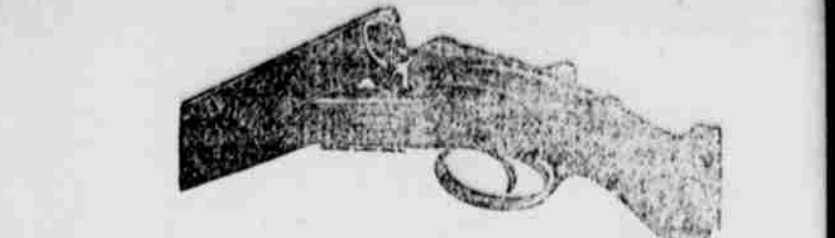
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