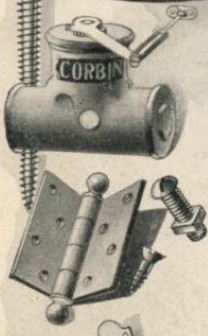
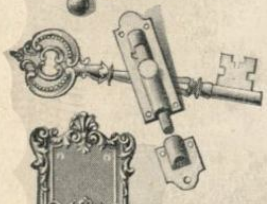
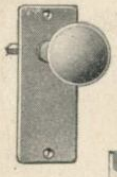
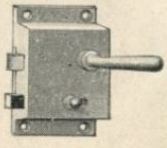
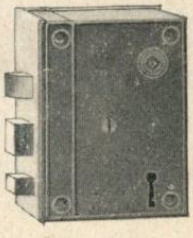
THE CORBIN

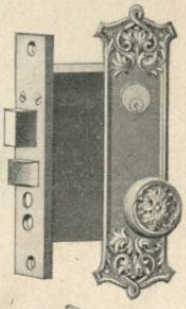


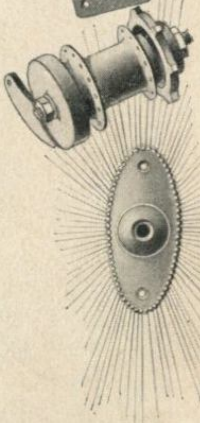


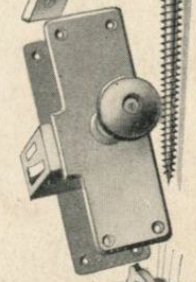












JUNE, 1902

CONTENTS

Fame comes only when deserved, and then is as inevitable as destiny, for it is destiny.

Longfellow.

The Corbin

A Monthly Chronicle of Things as we see them

VOL. I JUNE, 1902 No. 2

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE
ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

THE Southern Hardware Jobbers' Association, one of the strongest and most influential of the hardware trade organizations, holds its Twelfth Annual Convention at this hotel in the four days beginning June 17th. An interesting program has been prepared, the subjects for discussion treating points of vital interest to the trade and much good will doubtless be accomplished.

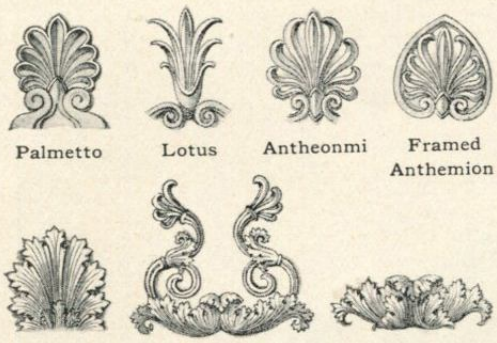
The Marlborough House is on the beach front, with an uninterrupted view of the ocean. The first four stories are stone and iron, and those above are covered with non-combustible material. Corbin hardware is used throughout.

There is a telephone in every room and special features in large variety are provided to add to the comfort and entertainment of guests, one worthy of special mention being the introduction of a system whereby ice water is piped to all rooms.

Ornament in its Relation to Builders' Hardware

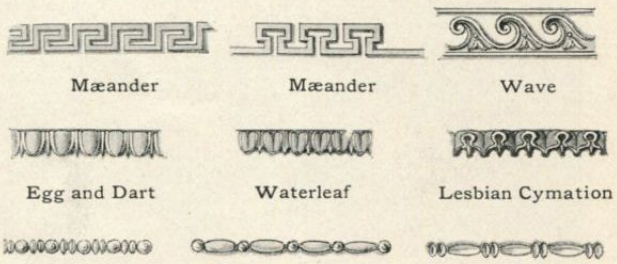
By C. J. M.

THE purpose of this article, and of others that are to follow it, is to furnish our trade with a concise description of representative types of ornament as employed during the different art periods, (schools of art, so called,) and to show what modifications ornament has undergone from one period to another. Most schools of art employ the same rudimental forms, taken from plant or animal life; but the treatment of these forms during the different periods varies more or less, and imparts to them special characteristics which, properly speaking, are the distinguishing features between one school of art and another, reflecting as they do, the artistic feeling of the time and nation that employed them.



TYPICAL GREEK ORNAMENTS

We shall endeavor in these articles to answer the questions that are frequently put to the hardware men by their customers: "Why is such and such an ornament called Greek, Roman or Renaissance," or, "What school of art do you call this ornament?" Such queries are easy enough for the trained architect or art worker to answer; the average business man, however, can hardly be expected to make history of art and anatomy of ornament part of his study, and it is for his benefit that this series of articles is written, with the object in view of enabling him to answer such questions put by his customers, and to fit him for making suggestions as to the proper hardware to be used on a given style of building. We begin with a short sketch on Greek art and ornament, and shall treat at regular intervals all established schools of art down to the present time.



TYPICAL GREEK BORDERS

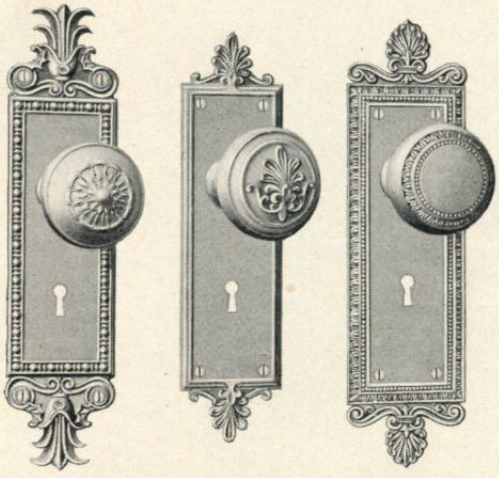
GREEK HARDWARE DESIGNS WITH BORDER

Greek Ornament

Greek ornamental art derived part of its motives from the more ancient civilization of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon, mostly in the shape of natural forms like the Lotus, Palmetto, etc., but the inherent æsthetic feeling of the Greeks developed and improved these originally crude and little attractive forms into those models of

grace and harmony of line that we admire in the detail of most all the noteworthy monuments of Greek art. Honeysuckle, Acanthus and other native plants have undergone a series of mutations through Greek handling, that adapted them for use in ornamental art so well that they have been taken up by, and form the mainstay of, most all later schools of art, the Renaissance in particular.

Besides these ornaments, directly traceable to forms of nature, the Greeks were the originators of a large number of beautiful geometrical designs, borders, beads, etc. But in all their ornamental designs, and detail throughout, there pervades a feeling of refinement, a beauty and perfection of line that has not been excelled by the art of any age or nation up to the present time. It is the wonderful discrimination and taste, the mastery of knowing just how much ornament to use and where to employ it, that produces the ornate effect, common to all Greek works of art, which is so pleasing to the eye and soul. Unlike the Roman, the Greek never oversteps these boundaries of moderation in the use of ornament.



Olympus Sparta New York

GREEK HARDWARE DESIGNS WITH BORDER AND ORNAMENT

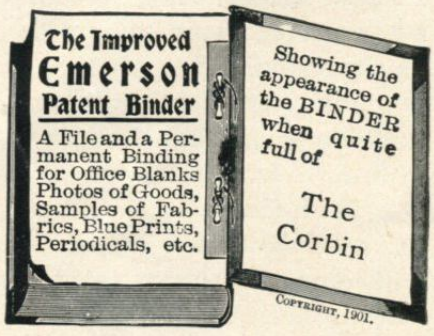
In its relation to hardware, Greek ornament is usually employed as a border or moulding, running round an oblong panel, like our Corinth and Parthenon designs, or with an Acanthus, Palmetto, Lotus or Honeysuckle ornament on one or both ends like the Olympus, Sparta and New York. The Egg and Dart, or the Lesbian Cymation, the Bead and Reed, the Mæander and others, are typical Greek patterns for mouldings and borders in hardware.

All of these ornaments mentioned, we find employed also in connection with other ornaments in early Italian Renaissance, in a lesser degree in French Renaissance, but quite conspicuously in the style of Louis XVI, Neo-Classic and Empire —to a certain extent also in Colonial.

(To be Continued)

A Binder for the Corbin

The Barrett Bindery Co., of 180 Monroe St., Chicago, have made an Emerson Binder of special size to hold The Corbin, and have given it a number—No. 1589. They will mail one of these to any one sending them fifty-three ($0.53) cents, to cover cost and postage. It is a neat and strong binder with the title of The Corbin in gold leaf upon the front, and holds the copies as perfectly as in a book.



We hope our friends will preserve The Corbin. We shall try to make it of value to them, and, to make its contents accessible, will issue an index to each volume, when completed.

The Frick Office Building

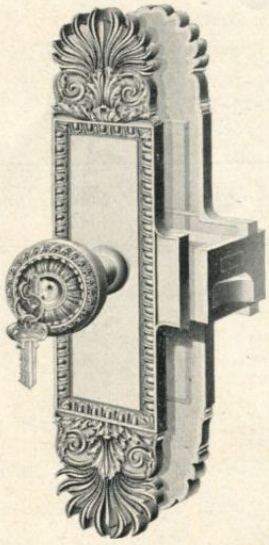
PITTSBURG, PA.

NOWHERE else in the world do buildings devoted to business display such magnificence in architecture, such completeness in detail, and such elegance in decoration and equipment as in this country. The best art of the builders, the latest and most modern devices for securing comfort and the highest skill of artists in metal and stone find here full expression, and each new building is a witness to an earnest endeavor to provide better accommodations than in any similar edifice previously built.

Foremost among these temples to the American God of Push stands the Frick Building of Pittsburg, occupying the entire square, surrounded by Grant Street, Fifth Avenue, Diamond Street and Scrip Alley.

The building has nineteen stories, with a club story on the roof, a basement and a sub-basement. It has four fronts and two courts, providing ample light and ventilation. Its construction is entirely fireproof and all steel work is buried in cement. Ten elevators with an express service for upper floors afford easy access and quick transit to all parts of the building. Each floor has ample toilet accommodations.

The first floor has two large rooms, one a banking room, and the other a brokers' office. In the basement under the banking room there will be a large safe-deposit vault and under the brokers' office, it will be fitted up for a rathskeller. The sub-basement is occupied by the mechanical plants, storage vaults, etc. The balance of the building, except the club, is all offices to rent. Steel safes with specially designed interiors are provided free.



Special Design of Corbin Hardware used for the Frick Building

The finish throughout is of the very best. All woodwork is San Domingo mahogany; all corridors have marble floors, and 7-ft. wainscots of Carrara marble. Corbin hardware of a special design, made from the architects' drawing, is used throughout. All locks are the Corbin Unit Locks, and Corbin door checks are on all doors. Artistic doors, grilles, etc., in statuary bronze, plate glass throughout and finest cabinet finish on all woodwork testify to the effort to produce the best possible effect, regardless of cost.

The exterior is entirely of granite, the club story and all courts being of enameled terra cotta. The treatment is severely simple and in keeping with the natural quality of the material, the general effect sought being one of strength and dignity, suited to a large commercial structure. All exterior walls are built with a slight inward batter that is scarcely perceptible but adds grace to the general effect.

D. H. Burnham & Co., of Chicago, designed the building. The George A. Fuller Co. were the general contractors. Joseph Woodwell & Co., of Pittsburg, handled the contract for hardware used, which, as before mentioned, is of Corbin manufacture throughout.

The Modern Credit Man

E. M. Skinner, in a recent article on "Credit and Character," draws this picture of the gradual change in the *personnel* of the credit man: "Don't look as you did in olden times for a gray-haired gentleman of long and tried experience, but often of crusty and cold temperament; don't expect to find an Arctic atmosphere surround his desk and a line of questions as to your habits, family pedigree, age and birth of your family, etc., shot at you in tone of voice that soon works you up to such a murderous frame of mind that you reveal your true nature and character and then get refused. Do not look for this, I say, you old timers in business, for the methods that have gained for the credit desk the name of "sweat box" are no longer used. The credit man has gone in with this great rush of progress and reform and has come out more in keeping with his duties and in touch with the times. You will no doubt find him young—but do not think without experience. You will almost surely find him pleasant and courteous; you will find him able in his particular branch; you should find him cautious and careful. His knowledge of general and local conditions is wide without being wonderful; his memory marvelous without being miraculous. He will strive to learn all he can from you as to your affairs so easily and pleasantly you hardly know you are talking about yourself, and you often leave wondering why you met him; but he does not. While he looks harmless, he can be firm, and while he is sometimes careless and makes bad credits, it does not happen often enough to make any sure thing of it."

The Corbin

Published by P. & F. CORBIN

24 Manufacturers of Everything in Builders' Hardware

Main Office and Factory, New Britain, Conn.

Philadelphia,	925 Market Street
Chicago,	104-106 Lake Street
P. & F. Corbin of New York,	11-13-15 Murray Street

Agents in All the Principal Cities

All communications intended for this publication should be addressed to "THE CORBIN," in care of P. & F. Corbin, New Britain, Conn.

"I am a Citizen of no Mean City"

THE United States leads the world in the ingenuity of its manufactures; that Connecticut leads the United States in this respect is everywhere conceded; that New Britain leads Connecticut is proven by the fact that more patents are granted to New Britain people than to residents of any other city in the Union, Washington excepted—ergo, New Britain leads the world in the ingenuity of its manufactures.

New Britain is a right little, tight little city, with thirty thousand souls, the fifth in size in the state and 155th in the country, compactly arranged two families deep (after the manner of Eastern cities) in one of the most beautiful valleys in Connecticut. Hartford, Berlin, Meriden, Southington, Plainville and Farmington surround it like the encircling stones about the central gem of a cluster, and extend their suburban lines to gain the benefit of a New Britain connection. Hartford stretches its fine residence district in this direction, and ornaments with triumphal arches, fountains and parks, the little river that New Britain sends enriched through it to the historic Connecticut. Truly, its neighbors appreciate their proximity to this city of locks.

One of the characteristics of New Britain is the absence of old people. Age does not seem to come with years in this region of perennial youth. Here there are many beautiful young looking ladies with white hair, rosy cheeks, nimble wit and elastic step. Here business men with many years of service bring to their work all the energy of youth combined with the wisdom of long experience. Thus prosperity attends upon progress and the flourishing little partnerships of a few decades ago become the great institutions of today.

Another of its characteristics is absence of ostentation. It is a city of solid comfort—the comfort of days well filled with profitable endeavor, varied with reasonable enjoyment. Macadamized streets lined with well built houses set in velvety lawns, and shaded by gigantic elms are everywhere met, but there are on

mansions or untoward display. It is a city of workers. Every one has his daily task and his energies are spent in making a good record among his fellows. There is no idle class with its influence for evil here.

The chief product of New Britain is brains. It is the place in which Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith, lived and did his work and taught the value of the passing moment. It is a place where the workman at the bench, the clerk in the office and store, and theyoung woman whose deft fingers wrap the goods in the factories devote their leisure hours to self improvement. The factories upon which New Britain depends for its prosperity are the product of New Britain brains, and are managed by men who have spent most of their lives here.

It is a kindly city, where the new comer is made to feel that he is at home and among friends; where the principal citizen is he who does the most good. Truly, its people have reason to be proud of it and each can exclaim with Saul of Tarsus, "I am a citizen of no mean city."

In the Hands of Our Friends

The cordial greeting given THE CORBIN by our friends in the trade has been a matter of sincere gratification to us and we issue the second number with the comforting assurance that its coming will be anticipated and that whatever portion of its contents is worthy of appreciation will receive it. We have believed that there was room in the trade for a builders' hardware magazine, and the comments and encouragement we have received have endorsed our opinion and have made it a certainty. For the support in our endeavor which we have received, and shall receive, we render thanks.

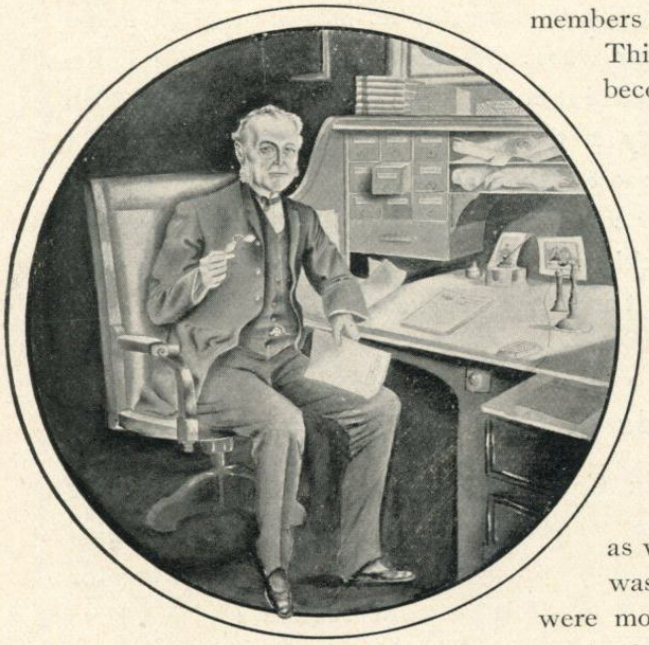
The friendliness displayed and the hearty endorsement given THE CORBIN puts us under an obligation to make its contents of the greatest possible value to our friends. This we shall earnestly endeavor to do. We think this issue shows some improvement over its predecessor, and shall try to make each number better than the last.

Our Prize Competition

We are particularly pleased to note the heartiness with which the builders' hardware men in the great Corbin family have responded to our invitation to submit articles in the prize competition. Their co-operation with us ensures our being able to give the tyro in the trade valuable help in learning to make schedules of hardware from plans. The contest will close July 1st, and all men handling Corbin hardware are invited to compete. A set of plans and specifications will be furnished upon application and contestants will prepare a schedule of hardware and state the method pursued. A prize of twenty-five dollars will be awarded for the best article submitted, as offered in the May number of THE CORBIN.

Just Between You and Me!

WHAT are you working for, brother? What is it that fires your endeavor and brings forth your very best effort? The hope of a larger salary?—you can get it if you care enough for it. To be known as one of the strong men of the house? — That is easily attainable. To become one of its members and to have a voice in its councils? — This can be accomplished. To finally become the head of a business of your own? — That, too, is possible. But oh, brother, you must deserve to succeed and must work unceasingly to attain your end. The higher your aim, the greater consecration and concentration you must bring to your daily task, and at every step of the way you must show results. There is no lack of opportunity for you to succeed in anything which you attempt, and you are as sure to win if you are worthy of it as water is to find its level. There never was a time when men who could do things were more eagerly sought. It is the age of great enterprises, rapid growth and development and of applying new methods to old matters. There is almost no limit to what may be achieved by a brainy man, able to think along original lines and to solve the problems ot today in the light of today's possibilities; but he must cast off non-essentials and devote himself to his aim with a singleness of purpose that will fit him a little better each day for the place he means to occupy.



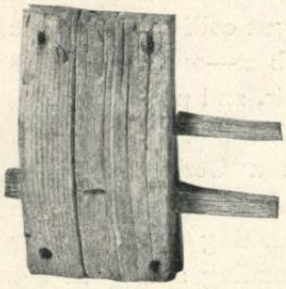
There is no such thing as holding a good man down, and no one wants to do it. The weeds in a garden are the only things in it that have no show. Every big house has room at the top for every good man who can climb there. What if all the chairs in the private offices are filled? The furniture factories will match any style made, and it is easier, quicker and far pleasanter to make a new place than to wait for an old one. The men whose names are the inspiration for the youngsters today carved out their own niches in America's hall of fame, and it will ever be so.

Study the times, and apply its lessons to your work. Cover every possible chance for improvement and you will be surprised to find how the way opens to larger things. Don't confine your thought entirely to the petty details of your work or you will lose the capacity for larger things. Train yourself for work of large proportions and it will come to you, often before you are fairly fitted for it. It is only in poems and the vaporings of those who have been found wanting that true worth blushes unseen and wastes its sweetness. A real estate deed covers everything as far below the surface and as high above it as the owner can go, and no one has the right to trespass. Does the title to manhood do less?

THE MAN IN THE CORNER.

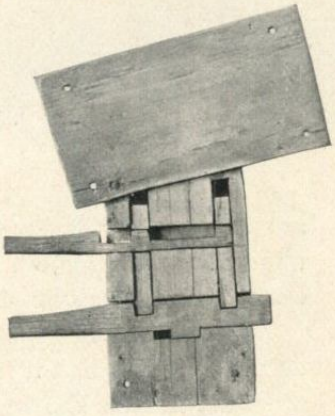
An Ancient Lock

PIN tumbler locks are as old as Egypt, and the principle upon which they operate is found in varied form in many ages. An ingenious example, something after the fashion of the old Egyptian type is shown in the accompanying illustrations of a barn door lock obtained from Mr. T. B. Parker of Hillsboro, North Carolina. It was made in 1827 by his grandfather, Thomas Parker, now living in Hillsboro, who patterned after his father, also Thomas Parker, who had similar locks in use in 1792. Hardware was not so plentiful in those days when the "latch string" was more than a mere figure of speech, and this old lock shows how the ingenuity of our self-reliant citizens of the early days was made to supply their needs.

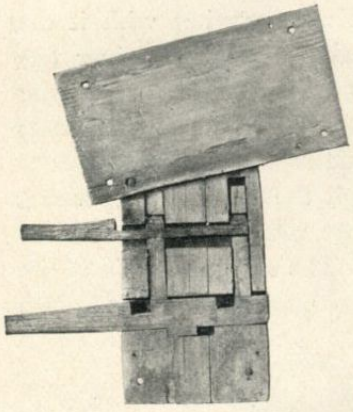


Front View—Bolt Thrown

The lock illustrated is excellently made, and the covered parts are as bright and strong as when the maker's jack-knife fashioned them, although the outside shows the effect of three-quarters of a century of exposure. To unlock the lock the key is inserted as in figure 2, and lifted, raising the tumblers out of the kerfs cut in the bolt, and permitting its withdrawal, as in figure 3. When the bolt is withdrawn the key is held fast in the lock, but when the bolt is thrown, and the tumblers drop into the kerfs, the key is released and can be taken out and carried into the house. All the locks on the Parker Place in Little Coharie Township, Sampson County, North Carolina, were of this same construction and no two keys were alike. They might not be proof against an assault with an ax or a modern hacksaw, but they doubtless served their purpose as a protection against the sneakthief and vagrant of their day, as well as high-priced metal locks would have done.



Rear View—Bolt Thrown



Rear View—Bolt Withdrawn

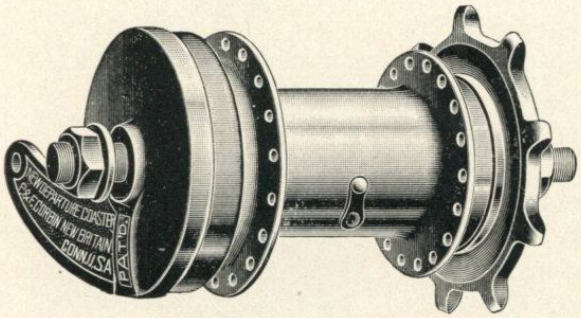
A similar lock of Slavic origin, but with three tumblers instead of two, is preserved in the Märkische Provincial Museum in Germany, according to the *Hardware Dealers' Magazine*.

The Corbin Blotter

We have prepared, and are now ready to distribute, blotters of a superior quality, ornamented with the Corbin trade-mark. They are 6 x 9½ inches in size, made of the best 140-lb. rag stock procurable, unexcelled in absorbing powers and can be used on both sides alike. They are especially designed for the man who writes a heavy hand, and wants something to remove the surplus ink instantly and without blurring. A postal card will bring a month's supply for a steady writer.

The Corbin Duplex 1902 Model New Departure Coaster Hub and Brake

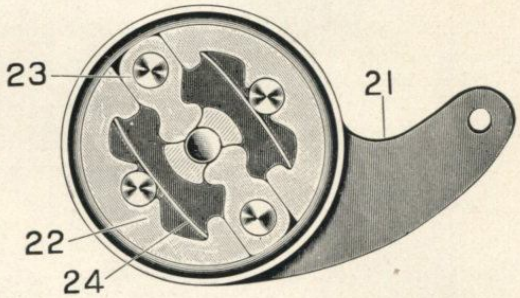
THE bicycle rider of to-day must have upon his wheel a coaster hub and brake. A year or so ago he might have dispensed with it, but the luxuries of one day are the necessity of the next, and now no wheel is a wheel unless it is equipped with one of these devices to save useless pedalling and prevent collisions, and the wise rider wants the best—one which has few parts strongly built, and positive action without sticking, grinding or squeaking. Consequently he buys a Corbin.



This year's coaster shows important improvements in the braking and driving mechanism. The expanding spring in the braking drum has been replaced by two heavy brake shoes, shown by No. 22 in the accompanying illustrations, held free from contact with the sides by flat springs. These are actuated by levers No. 23, operated by a brake clutch No. 28, which is acted upon by a driving clutch No. 29, moving laterally upon a threaded driver. The operation of the device is as follows:

When the rider pedals forward, the sprocket revolves, carrying with it the driver (5) to which it is attached. The clutch (29) travels along the driver (5) upon the threads shown in the cut, and when the driver (5) is rotated forward by pedalling, the clutch (29) is drawn into frictional contact with the hub shell, thus driving the hub forward through power applied to the pedals.

When coasting, the pedals are stopped, and through the chain, the sprocket (15), and driver (5), and the clutch (29) are held against rotation, the hub continuing to revolve through the momentum of the wheel. The relative action of the parts move the clutch (29) to the left, out of contact with the hub shell and into engagement with the teeth on the brake clutch (28).



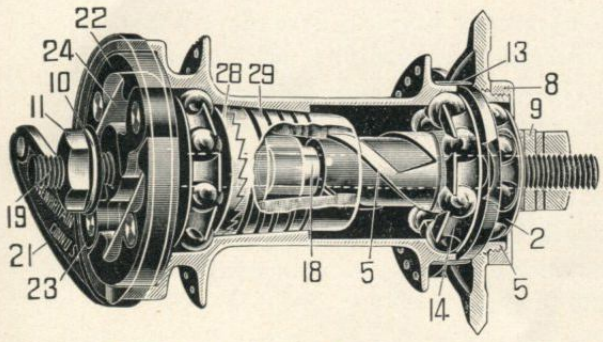
The wheel will now coast freely while the feet remain stationary on the pedals. In applying the brake, the rider presses slightly upon the rear pedal, the clutch (29) is engaged with the teeth of the brake clutch (28) which presses against the levers (23) in the brake cap (21), which open the brake shoes (22) in a parallel movement into frictional contact with the interior surface of the brake drum, which retards the speed or stops the wheel, according to the amount of pressure applied.

When the pressure is removed the springs (24) bring the brake shoes (22) back into position automatically.

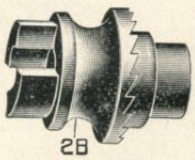
Then the brake is off and the rider coasts or pedals ahead at will. He should always coast with the feet in a line with the center of the front and rear wheels. Then he will be in a position to apply the brake at once.

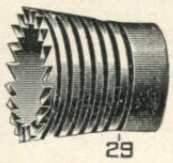
Slipping is an impossibility, and grinding or squeaking never occurs. The rider has at all times a tight pedal and a free wheel, and has his bicycle under perfect control. There is no lateral strain or racking of the frame. All sizes of sprockets can be used.

The heavy forged brake shoes have a decided advantage in the perfect control of the wheel which they give the rider. They will withstand any amount of force which can be applied and respond instantly to the braking pressure with a sensitive action not given by any other device. In coasters which have an expanding spring opening in the direction of the rotation of the wheel the brake sets itself as soon as the spring comes in frictional contact with the drum, making much variation in pressure difficult, if not impossible; but the solid shoes of the Corbin Duplex Coaster transmit just the pressure they receive. The rider is thus able to accomplish difficult feats in perfect safety, and the praise of this feature is frequent and enthusiastic. One rider, a Philadelphia gentleman, tells of a severe and most satisfactory test he recently gave his Corbin Coaster.



Having occasion to visit Gettysburg and vicinity, he took a bicycle equipped with a Duplex Brake with him. He with others set out one morning for a run up Cove Mountain. The climb was tedious. For a distance of about four and one-half miles the road winds up the hill at a nearly uniform grade till the summit is reached. It is customary on the run down to cut a quantity of brush or small saplings and attach them to the wheel as a drag. No coaster had been found that would stand the test unaided—but with faith born of experience, this gentleman, alone of the party, discarded the usual drag and prepared for a coast of four and one-half miles down the mountain, depending solely on his Corbin Brake and good wheel to give him not only security, but the pleasure of a long and delightful coast from Cove Mountain summit to Fort Lowden. He took the lead, had his wheel under perfect control the entire distance, and upon reaching the foot of the slope found his coaster was in fit condition to repeat the run. Although some of the other riders had their wheels equipped with other makes of brakes they admitted that it was impossible for them to equal this performance.





The ease with which the Corbin Duplex Coaster is separated and reassembled is another pleasing feature. By removing the right side adjusting cone, it can be readily taken apart. All balls are held in retainers and cannot be lost, nor is it possible to reassemble the coaster improperly. All parts drop readily into their places and replacing the cone holds them there.

In ordering, always state the number of spoke holes wanted, the chain line, the number of teeth, and the thickness of the sprocket. To arrive at the chain line, measure the distance from the middle of the hub to the middle of the sprocket.

Catalogue with full description and illustrations showing the simplicity of the mechanism will be sent upon request.

For sale by all dealers in bicycles and sundries.

With Shears and Paste Pot

A Nepotal-Avuncular Episode. It would be impossible to say in how many forms the cruel uncle of fiction has answered the application of his fond nephew for a little ready money. But there is no better setting of the altogether fictitious story than this. The nephew wrote: "Dear Uncle, If you could see how I blush for shame while I am writing, you would pity me. Do you know why? Because I have to ask you for a few pounds, and do not know how to express myself. It is impossible for me to tell you. I prefer to die. I send you this by messenger, who will wait for an answer. Believe me, my dearest uncle, your most obedient and effectionate nephew, Jack. P. S.—Overcome with shame for what I have written, I have been running after the messenger, in order to take the letter from him, but I cannot catch him up. Heaven grant that something may happen to stop him, or that my letter may get lost!" The uncle was naturally touched, but was equal to the emergency. He replied as follows: "My Dear Jack: Console yourself and blush no longer. Providence has heard your prayers. The messenger lost your letter. Your affectionate uncle."

A Sang By the Sea.

I lay mang the heather an' luikt at the sea,
—Oot i' the mornin' early;
When a bird piped up frae the heigh fir-tree,
An' rang oot its message rarely;
For it sang o' birth an' the life i' the braith,
O' a howp untint,* and a dochty faith,
That ceased na tae glower † yont the bars o' Daith,
An' a luve that was leal and that feared nae skaith,
—Oot i' the mornin' early.

Oh, the wee waves lauched an' cam creepin' near,
—Oot i' the mornin' early;
An' the lift ‡ boo'd down, for it fain wad hear
What the birdie sang sae fairly;
An' the springin' heather was whisht on the hill,
An' the snappin' broom stood tent an' still,
An' the win' dee'd awa' i' the wings o' the mill—
But my hert leapt up and drank in its fill,
—Oot i' the mornin' early.

Bird, that sang i' the daurk fir-tree,
—Lang syne i' the mornin' early,
Sing ye again that sang tae me,
Whustle it oot fu' rarely.
Latin an' Greek an' a' wad I gie,—
Lan' an' siller an' gowden fee,
For a hert as licht an' o' care as free
As the hert that leapt up at that sang frae thee,
—Lang syne i' the mornin' early.—*Unknown.*

* Unlost. † Gaze. ‡ The upper air.

With Shears and Paste Pot

What the Maine Waves Said. The poet—or such the *Louisville Times* dubs him—had a song about the ocean in his pocket, and he longed to read it to his fair companion. It was a little thing of his own, but lacking courage to whip it out boldly, he decided to lead up to it, gracefully of course. "Miss Daisy," he began, "did you ever think what those vast, heaving billows, melting on the shore and then receding, sing, as they come and go?"

"No, I never have," Daisy replied, calmly, "but when my brother and I were on the coast of Maine last summer we used to listen to the waves breaking, and he said they sounded to him"—

"Poetical?" interrupted the poet, fingering the poem in his pocket.

"Y-es, perhaps so," said Daisy. "They went 'Slosh, b' gosh, slosh, b' gosh,' from morning until night."

"Um!" said the poet, taking his hand from his pocket.

The Honest Yokel. A farm-laborer went to a small shop kept by an old woman, and asked for "a pound o' bacon."

She produced the bacon and cut a piece off, but could not find the pound weight.

"Oh, never mind t' pund weight," said he. "Ma hand just wighs a pund, so put ther bacon i' ther scales."

The woman confidently placed the bacon into one side of the scales, while the man put his hand into the other side, and, of course, took good care to have good weight.

While the woman was wrapping the bacon up the pound weight was found, and, on seeing it the man said:

"Now, you see if my hand don't just wigh a pund."

The pound weight was accordingly put into one scale and the man's hand into the other, this time only just to balance. The old woman, on seeing this, said:

"Wha, I niver seed aught so near afore! Here's a red herrin' for thee honesty, ma son."—*Ironmonger.*

Two Birds With One (Glad)stone. On one occasion, while addressing a meeting, Mr. Gladstone was repeatedly interrupted by an individual who alternated loud guffaws with the imitation of a dog's howls. The speaker inquired the name of this fellow, and was told that he was a certain John Larf.

"Mr. Larf," he said, raising his voice, "Our friend Goldsmith clearly had you in view when he said:

> "The watch-dog's voice that bay'd the whispering wind,
> And the loud Larf that spoke the vacant mind."

"He said that, did he?" cried Larf, as he turned round and struck a little man who was in the crowd a severe blow over the head. And it was only after a violent rough and tumble, and much vituperative language that Mr. Larf was convinced that the man he had assaulted, and whose name was Goldsmith, was not the gentleman referred to by Mr. Gladstone.—*Tit-Bits.*

Opaque. "Mike, d'I ever tell ye the story av the dirty window?"

"Yez did not. Tell me about ut."

"No use. You couldn't see through it."—*Chicago News.*

...ss a ...ew York while the ...oly is open, or prohibiting a this city during the session of the Legis-

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THE MOST INVENTIVE TOWN.

What is the influence of locality on inventive genius? Why has America always led Europe in the number and value of her mechanical inventions? Why have the New England States led all the rest of America in this regard, so that "Yankee notions" has become a stereotyped expression? Narrowing down the inquiry still further, why has Connecticut, from the days of her "wooden nutmegs" to the present, stood at the head of the six Yankee States in inventive fertility? Why, finally, has New Britain become the first town of Connecticut and hence of the world in inventive activity?

The fact, whatever the explanation, is so. Since the United States patent laws were enacted 1,447 inventions have been patented by 344 New Britainers. Within a ten-year period one patent was granted each year for every 367 inhabitants of the town—nearly three times as many as the general average for all Connecticut.

As the most inventive town in the world, New Britain piques curiosity. "Necessity is the mother of invention," but it is not known that New Britain has ever felt the spur of necessity more sharply than the rest of Connecticut or the United States. The town's remarkable inventive record should be investigated.

Nearing Perfection.

(From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.)

A process for aging whiskey artificially is th... discovery. If some one would now invent ... r rejuve... e "bum"...

—*New York World*,
March 31, 1902.