

MARSHLANDS.

"John often complained of the 'roughness' or 'shaking,' he experienced on his tricycle, especially over sets. I understood that spring steel was not reliable in spokes or rims of spring wheels, and I knew that there was a loss of power in heavy rubber tires. I formed the opinion that compressed air contained in a thin, strong, flexible, non-expansible jacket or tube, and applied to the outside of a wheel, would be the best means for increasing speed and reducing vibration of cycles, etc. I told John that I could make the fastest and easiest running machine that had ever been made.

"I was exceedingly busy in the practice of my profession, but John often urged me to have a machine or wheels made according to my ideas. I was anxious to gratify his ardent wishes; besides, I had an ambition to.

"The rims and tires were then suspended round the driving-wheels of the tricycle by means of wires. I did not use an air-tire in the front wheel, because the forks were too narrow, and I had no means of altering them.

"It would take too long a time to describe how these tires were the subject of ridicule and laughter. However, they realized our expectations, and I resolved to have a better tricycle fitted with air-tires.

Thereafter young and old, high and low, male and female caught the infection, until to-day the man or woman who would deride the bicycle would be at once, and rightly, set down as a dyspeptic crank."

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