

## RECENT INVENTIONS

**A** MACHINE has been invented by George H. Davis, of Waltham, Mass., for drying matrices with rapidity and thoroughness.

Another typesetting machine has been patented, letters patent having been granted to William W. Bishop, Powell's Station, Tenn., and John M. Bishop, Washington, D. C., for a new means for composing types. The salient feature of novelty in the invention appears to be the use of a printing type, which is covered by a separate patent, and is bifurcated upward from its feet past its centre of gravity, and notched on the inner side of one of its legs. The machine has a frame supporting a series of carrier troughs set at an inclination of about 45°. The type-case is removable and has a series of partitions, adapted to serve as rails for the bifurcated types to slide upon in transit to the stick. The invention seems to be in a transition period thus far, judging from the construction suggested in the claims.

There has been a great deal of difficulty in securing a practical device for spacing the matrices, in machine of the lino-type principle, especially since the wedge of the Shucker's people was decided as their own property in a recent suit brought by them against the Mergenthaler Company. Two new patents have just been granted to Joseph C. Fowler, Washington, D. C., for a "spacer for type-matrices," the construction of which is ingenious, though just how it will work in practice, when brought between the matrices, has yet to be proved. The device consists of two elastic, compressible members, normally separated and provided with a nib, compose to form a fluid tight closure for the mold between adjacent matrices. Two parts project from the members and converge to meet at a point removed from the integral apex of the nib, between which point and apex the two parts are brought into contact and their lateral edges beveled. The two similar members have a normal expansion by their own elasticity.

In a recent issue reference was made to a type-setting machine invented by Mr Joshua Kay, of Melbourne, Australia, and patented in England. Invention, of London, makes the following allusion to the invention:—"The machine is running at Furnival & Co.'s St. Bride St, E. C. It is about 4 feet by 4 feet, and consists of a cast-iron stand carrying a keyboard, the necessary upright tubes to hold the types, a central steel shaft carrying a row of bell cranks that actuate a series of pushers, an endless brush belt, and a slide from which the set-up type travel to the justifier. The keyboard, which has a key for each character of the ordinary Roman font, is placed in front of a series of upright tubes that contain the types. The depression of a key causes the bell crank corresponding to it to actuate a thin slip of steel drives out the lowest type in the tube; the revolving belt brush runs at a very high speed and sweeps the type along a channel to the collecting slip, where it, by means of an ingenious arrangement that squeezes the brush fibre, is forced down on to the slide along which the finished line slides to the attendant to be justified. The inventor claims that by the employment of electricity the keyboard may be in one place and the type-composing portion in another."

From September 18 to 20, inclusive, the exposition of the Middle German Paper Union will be opened at Leipzig. This fair is locally popular alike with sellers and consumers of the great indispensable article offered in bewildering variety at its booths.

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