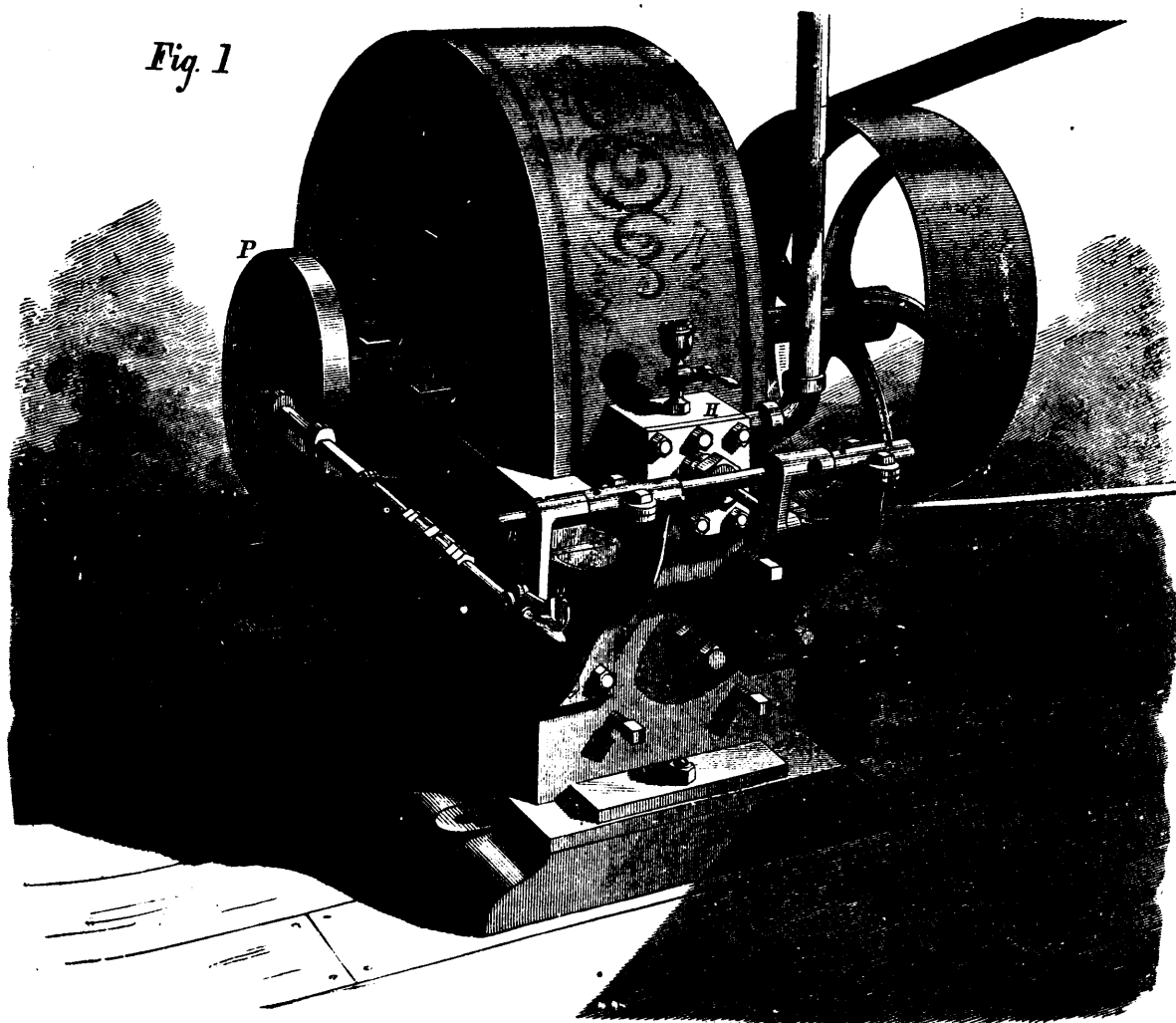
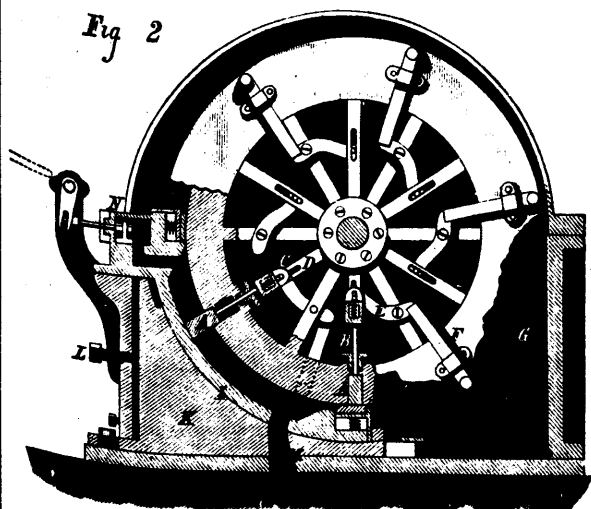


Fig. 1



THOMAS' STEAM WHEEL.

Fig. 2



THOMAS'S STEAM WHEEL.

DANGER IN USE OF TANKS FOR DRINKING WATER.—A friend raises the question whether there is really any serious objection to using the water from household tanks for drinking and culinary purposes. If the tank is frequently cleaned and is protected from the access of sewer-gas and other contaminations, aqueduct or rain-water will not suffer from being temporarily kept in it; but since in nine cases out of ten the danger of contaminations will *not* be sufficiently guarded against, the discreet householder will make it a rule not to use the water from the tanks for drinking if it can possibly be avoided. Analysis has sometimes shown a considerable degree of contamination in water, even when the tank, supplied by an aqueduct, had been cleaned a week before; and in no case should a tank be allowed to go uncleaned for more than three months. The water as it flows through the aqueduct pipes carries more or less impure matter along with it, which settles to the bottom of the tank. The amount may not be sufficient to affect seriously the quality of the water as drawn directly from the pipes, but its accumulation in the tank may be injurious if not dangerous. Then, again, if the tank is used to supply a water-closet, or if the overflow, as is often the case, communicates directly with a soil-pipe, the water may be contaminated in that way. This has happened in more than one instance reported by sanitary authorities, and probably in thousands of instances not reported nor suspected. The chief use of a tank where the water supply is by aqueduct is to prevent trouble with hot-water apparatus if the supply is temporarily cut off; but it is rarely the case that such interruption continues so long as to render it necessary to use the water from the tank for culinary purposes. At any rate, it should be thus used only in cases of absolute necessity.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*