Recent Patents.

We have established a TECH Patent Solicitation Agency, and are prepared to obtain letters patent from the government for all new inventions which appear to us useful and desirable for the community free of charge. This offer is made to all present or former students at this institution. A description of each article patented through us will be published and advertised in this paper.

Address, Walters & Bunce, Patent Solicitors, TECH Office.

Drafting for patents will also be done at this office.

A VERY ingenious and efficient rat-trap has been invented, which will be found invaluable to those whose habitations are infested by the vermin; and it may also be made a source of revenue to the owner, as is shown.

The trap is in the shape of a mansion house, with L attached, and rests upon a somewhat high foundation, the front door being reached by a flight of imitation granite steps. The rat, entering by this door, immediately steps on a false bottom in the hallway, which is pressed down, and closes the door behind and opens another in front, which discloses a room at the farther end of the hall. This room is arranged with shelves, which are loaded with tempting morsels, the whole being illuminated by an Edison incandescent electric lamp. The rat rushes precipitately toward this room, but is stopped by a glass partition, and finds himself in an elevator, which immediately rises, carrying him to the second story. The rat then attempts to escape through a small opening, and is assailed by a strong jet of chloroform, which induces insensibility. The inanimate body is seized by a pair of metallic fingers and pushed forward to a machine whose operation is much like that of the famous guillotine. Here the body is reduced to hash and carried forward to a barrel, whence it may be retailed at fair prices.

With but little difficulty, in private families, small dogs may be induced to enter the apparatus, and thus the revenue be largely increased.

A NEW and improved tombstone and vault combined has been patented. It unites attractiveness with simplicity and cheapness, and, being completely guaranteed, the price will be refunded should the article prove unsatisfactory to occupant.

The invention consists of a hinged marble slab set vertically, on which are engraved scenes from the life of the interred, and which is joined to a strong iron case sunk in the earth. This case will receive the deceased, and is provided with a heavy lid under which is concealed a system of strong steel springs, connected by a copper wire with a delicate vibrator and battery under the slab. This vibrator is extremely sensitive to loud noises; and when the latter are sufficiently repeated, it will close the circuit and release the springs.

The invention is intended to simplify somewhat the work of resurrection; for by the vigorous blasts of the awakening trumpet the vibrator will be sufficiency agitated to make connection, the springs will be released, and the lid irresistibly lifted upward, completely uncovering the remains and giving an easy means of exit to the latter.

NOW with the ghost of Christmas present, almost upon us, we turn to our exchanges, expecting to find in them that peace on earth and good will toward men to which the season owes its charm. Instead, however, of the concord for which we hoped, we find each one presenting its own peculiar grievance. Some are still bemoaning the shortness of the Thanksgiving recess,—but we will pass them by. We can hardly appreciate their feelings, for we have the whole of Christmas day. Think of it! The whole day under the ancestral roof, if your parents haven't moved, as they probably have done. Some of us who live beyond the Mississippi may have to come away before the after-dinner speeches are quite over, in order to catch the early east-bound train; but we must not ask too much.

Turning from the consideration of our own felicity, we take up a Harvard paper—any one will do—and there we find, as we have found several times before, that Yale has beaten Harvard at foot-ball, and so has, for some occult reason, lost, as after each former victory, the respect of the college community. This time, however, the behavior of the Yale men was so shockingly awful, so utterly opposed to the teachings of the "Bazaar Book of Decorum," that Harvard is considering the expediency of removing herself forever from the contaminating influence, and confining her athletic contests to games of chess by telegraph. Princeton takes her defeat somewhat more philosophically; only Columbia, who has most cause for complaint, looks hopefully to the future in a manly way. The papers from the smaller colleges reflect a somewhat more tranquil state of mind; but even they are begging for a new plank walk, or a