NEW TRADE INVENTIONS

The following information is specially compiled for The Bioscope *by G. Hughes, Regd. Patent Agent (Hughes and Young), 222, Strand, London, W.C. 2 (late Chancery Lane, London), who will give our readers all information relating to the Protection of Inventions and the Registration of Designs and Trade Marks free.*

211,419. Patentee, V. H. Lawley, for an invention relating to "Cinematograph apparatus."

According to the invention, in cinematograph apparatus the usual gate and tensioning devices are dispensed with, and one of the sprockets is fitted with a coiled spring whereby the necessary tension is exerted on the film continuously, and is arranged so that the tension remains constant under all conditions. In addition, the film is centred by the adjustment of the lower sprocket by helical slot mechanism. The lower sprocket is intermittently rotated by a Maltese cross wheel and the pin wheel, and is geared to the upper sprocket by spur gearing. The upper sprocket and the spur wheel are mounted loosely on a stationary stud secured to the frame. On one side of the wheel attached to a disc, also mounted loosely on the stud, is fitted a pawl engaging a ratchet wheel. This disc in turn carries a pawl normally in engagement with a ratchet wheel fixed to the stud. A pin on the disc carries one end of a spring coiled round the stud, the other end of the spring being attached to the sprocket.

210,274.—Patentee, K. Higginson, for an invention relating to "Cinematograph apparatus toothed gearing."

According to the invention in Geneva, mechanism for cinematograph and like apparatus, wherein the axis of a rotary pin-carrier is rotatable about a second axis so as to produce a quick movement, locking means is provided which is effective until a part of the pin has entered a slot and is again effective before the pin has entirely left the slot. The axis of the pin-carrier is mounted in a boss on a constantly rotated disc. A pinion on the axis of the carriage engages a fixed spur wheel to rotate the carrier relatively to the disc. A locking flange is provided on the disc and is slotted to accommodate the carrier and to permit passage of the pin and the arms of the cross.

210,109.—Patentee, V. Knowles, for an invention relating to "Cinematograph shutters."

According to the invention, in shutters of the kind comprising two members mounted coaxially, and connected by a differential gear, the gear is arranged between the members and the whole shutter is adapted to be mounted on the usual spindle; the blades of the members may have louvre-like openings therein. In the invention, shutter members, each comprising a disc cut to form two blades, are secured respectively to spur wheels, gearing with three intermediate bevel pinions, the wheel being secured to the spindle. The pinions are carried by a block on a bush passing loosely through the wheel, and also by a cylindrical casing, which is connected by a quadrant arm and clamp to an arm clamped to the boss. The casing is normally held stationary but, by loosening the clamp, may be adjusted for timing the shutter.

208,261.—Patentee, L. Hammond, for an invention relating to "Stereoscopic cinematography."

According to the invention, stereoscopic pairs of images are projected alternately on to the projection screen, each image being projected a number of times, and the screen is viewed by means of an apparatus comprising a shutter which interrupts the light path for each eye alternately in synchronism with the picture change. The right and left images are projected by separate projectors, each having a shutter comprising three sixty-degree blades, and being driven by a three-phase induction motor so that the shutter of one projector is sixty degrees in advance of the other. Current is supplied to the motor and also to transformers by a three-phase self-exciting alternating current generator driven by a motor variable in speed by means of a rheostat in the operator's box. A rheostat is also provided in the operator's box, so that the voltage of the current supplied by the generator may be kept constant when the frequency is changed by varying the speed of the motor. The secondary windings of the transformers are connected through fuses to a three-wire feeder running throughout the theatre, and having plug sockets on the arms of the seats.

207,772.—This is an invention relating to "Cinematograph apparatus."

According to the invention, intermittent feed mechanism comprises a claw carried by a rectangular frame, the frame being moved horizontally and vertically by an internal cam, and being constrained by a parallel motion linkage, of which the links are mounted on fixed pivots. The cam is shaped as a curvillinear triangle, the sides being circular arcs and being connected by circular arcs of smaller radius.

MORE STOLL PICTURES

"Full Speed Ahead" is the motto at Stoll's Cricklewood studios, where five producers are at work upon pictures of varying character. Hugh Croise has completed the third of the series of "The Old Man in the Corner," the short stories which introduced Baroness Orczy to the reading public. W. P. Kellino is reaching the conclusion of "His Grace Gives Notice," featuring Henry Victor. The cast also includes Nora Swinbourne and Mary Brough. Sinclair Hill is hard at work upon E. Phillips Oppenheim's "The Conspirators," in which picture David Hawthorne, Betty Faire and Edward O'Neill are among those playing.

Maurice Elvey has begun work upon "The Love Story of Ailette Brunton," a popular Gilbert Frankau novel. Isobel Elsom is in the title rôle, and other of the characters include Henry Victor as "Cavendish," James Carew as "Hector Brunton, K.C." and H. Humberston Wright as "Admiral Brunton."

"Pools of the Past," a story by Charles Proctor, and a great success when it appeared as a serial in a leading newspaper, is being directed by George Ridgwell. "Disa" is the heroine, and others in the cast include Peggy Lynn, A. B. Imeson, Sydney Folker, and Arthur Lumley and Cameron Carr.

HEARTS AND POCKETS

Exhibitors are frequently accused of being concerned only with their own profit, but the fact that they are capable not only of disinterested action, but even of risking their own receipts in a good cause has just been demonstrated by the action of the management of the Theatre Royal Picture House, Bradford.

Reginald Ford's "Down to the Sea in Ships" has been booked by this particular management, and will enjoy a run at the Theatre Royal Picture House in October, when the film will be generally released. But the management was recently approached by the local Secretary of the National Lifeboat Institution, and, as a result, a special matinée has been arranged for June 3rd, when the whole of the proceeds will be handed over to the Lifeboat Institution.

"Down to the Sea in Ships" being a particularly suitable attraction, the management besought United Kingdom Photoplays (who hold the British distribution rights) to let them show it at this matinée. A. H. Sowerbutts, managing director of United Kingdom Photoplays, expressed his willingness to loan the film free of charge, but suggested that its use might prejudice the October run. The management of the Theatre Royal Picture House replied that they were quite prepared to chance this in the interests of charity.