

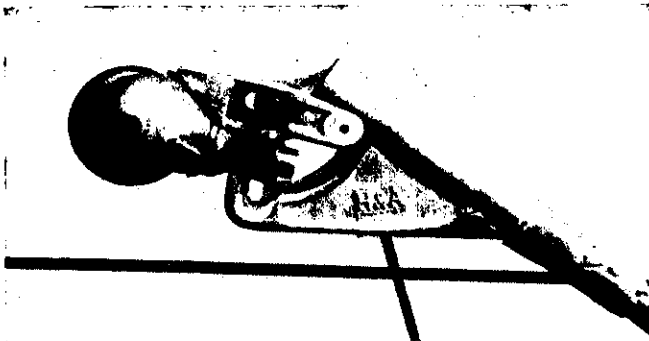
A Trolley-head for Electric Trams.

(Extract from "Auckland Star," May 22, 1906.)

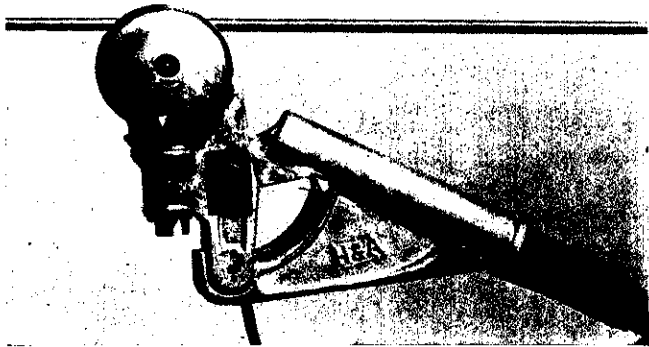
Mr G. B. Holmes and Mr A. D. Allen, the inventors and patentees of the Holmes and Allen trolley-head for electric tramways, arrived in Auckland recently by the Karawa from the South with their ingenious automatic invention, which has already been patented in no less than 24 different countries. In electric tramway systems throughout the world in which the overhead trolley wire is used, the difficulty of combating such mishaps as the jumping of the wire by the trolley, and the frequently subsequent damage, has hitherto been practically insurmountable. The device patented by Messrs Holmes and Allen consists of a swivel trolley-head on an automatic pivot. The trolley-head is also on a spring cushion, which keeps it to the wire under circumstances that would send the ordinary trolley flying at a wild tangent. Should it leave the wire, however, the head collapses on the pivot, while the inclined upper arm easily slides under any obstruction. A bell is set ringing to warn the conductor simultaneously with the release of the trolley-head, which is replaced just in the same ordinary way as the usual variety. A patent electric plug contact is also among the features of this apparently perfect piece of mechanism. Since the invention was patented numerous offers to purchase its rights for various countries have been made to the two young inventors. The Wellington City Council have purchased the patent rights of manufacturing it in this colony, and intend to adopt it throughout their system.

The Common Cold.

There is no doubt, according to the London Hospital, that the ordinary nasal catarrh is a specific infectious disease. What we observe among domestic animals affords ample evidence of this. It is a familiar fact that a horse that has been wintered out, on being brought into a stable with others, is most likely to develop a cold. The coachman will say it is because the unaccustomed warmth of the stable makes him "nesh." However, disinfection of the stable before bringing animals from grass is a true preventive of the symptoms of catarrh. What occurs among domestic animals we observe, too, among ourselves. Some source of infection must be present before it is possible to catch a cold. There are places where colds are unknown. The universal experience of Arctic and Antarctic explorers is that so long as the members of the expedition are in the polar regions they remain free from colds, but on return to the mainland or to settlements inhabited by those who are in frequent communication with the mainland, they nearly always at once suffer severe colds. The same is said to be true of the men in the observatory on the summit of Ben Nevis, though they live in clouds. Colds they never take, because there are no colds to catch, until the moment they descend to inhabited regions; then they catch severe ones directly. For over two centuries the classical St. Kilda cold has not ceased to interest learned men. On this remote and rocky island of the Western Hebrides, where some 100 inhabitants dwell, colds are unknown except after the arrival of a ship from the mainland, when all the inhabitants are seized with colds, even to the babe at the breast. Afterward they seem to become to some extent immune, for many escape until the following year. The inhabitants affirm that these colds which are brought by boats from the large ports, Glasgow and Liverpool, are more severe than those brought from the Hebrides.



After Leaving the Wire.



In Running Position.

HOLMES AND ALLEN'S AUTOMATIC NON-FOULING, SWIVELLING TROLLEY-HEAD, INVENTED BY TWO YOUNG NEW ZEALANDERS.



THE "NUGGETS" LIGHTHOUSE, NUGGET POINT, MOLYNEUX BAY.

This light is on the extremity of the bold, projecting headland, the termination of a razor-backed mountain ridge, with three rocky pointed islets nearly half a mile off. The tower is 250ft. above sea level, and the light, a fixed white one, is visible for 23 miles in clear weather.