



EXCHANGING MAIL AT SPEED. After the letters have been sorted, the apparatus which is shown in this illustration comes into operation for dropping the mail while the train is travelling at speed; simultaneously, pouches containing mail matter for the train are picked up. Sweeping by the standards erected at the side of the line, the train collects the line-side mailbags in its extended net, delivering bags of sorted mail to the track-side net in exchange. The bags for delivery are first strapped in stout leather pouches and these are attached to catches at the ends of the tractor arms, which swing outwards so that the pouches are dangling from the side of the train, ready to be collected by the ground net. After delivery, the tractor arms, relieved of the weight of the pouches, fly back with the help of springs to the vertical position. The net on the train is closed as soon as the line-side pouches have been caught.