This invention relates to a device for interrupting an electric current and more particularly to a device for igniting and extinguishing at regular intervals the light of an electric lamp provided with a thermal interrupter.

The invention is based on the fact that sometimes the interrupter contacts are heated to such an extent that they become welded together so that the working of the interrupter entirely ceases. This occurs in particular in the case of interrupters which serve to ignite and extinguish the light of an electric lamp at regular intervals. With such a device the switching-on current is many times greater than the current required, for example, to heat tungsten filaments to a sufficient incandescence, such being a result of the smaller resistance in the cold than in the warm state. The heavy switching-on current causes the interrupter contacts to become heated to a high temperature so that there is a risk of the said contacts welding together.

Now it has been found that when using special materials for the manufacture of the contacts of the interrupter, the said disadvantage can be obviated. If the contacts consist on one side of nickel and on the other side of chrome-iron consisting for example of 15-85% Cr. and 85-65% Fe., the welding together of the contacts does not occur. These materials are therefore very suitable for use in the manufacture of interrupter contacts which run the risk of welding together; although by what means these contacts function is not to the purpose. The chrome-iron may contain admixtures of Mn, Ni, Co, C and Si without prejudicially influencing the working of the interrupter.

What I claim is:

A device for interrupting an electric current comprising a thermal interrupter and contacts being provided on said interrupter, one of said contacts consisting of nickel, whereas the other is made of chrome-iron.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, at the city of Eindhoven, Netherlands, this 2nd day of July, A. D. 1926.

JOANNES HENDRICUS JOSEPHUS MAARTENS.