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Correspondence is invited upon all topics legitimately coming within the scope of this journal.

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Water Power Problems.

The severity of the weather during the past winter proved a serious obstacle to the operation of water powers, more particularly at Lachine and Niagara, where Jack Frost seemed determined to seal up the water supply and compel the closing down of the electric power stations. The water in the canals leading to the stations on both sides of the Niagara river was diverted by masses of ice which became attached to projecting rocks above the falls. On several occasions the Niagara Falls Park and River Railway was obliged to cease operations on account of lack of water due to the above cause and to the blocking of the water inlet. Reference has been made in previous issues to the unusual difficulties under which the plant of Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Company was operated owing to the large accumulation of frazil or anchor ice. These troubles emphasize the fact, says the Electrical Engineer, that hydraulic engineering can no longer be excluded from the scope of a complete electrical engineering education, any more than civil and mechanical engineering.

The Consolidation Idea.

The rapidity with which enormous business combinations are being formed in the United States is the most wonderful feature in the record of recent events. The trend of business and capital in this direction is being watched with the greatest interest and not without anxiety as to the outcome. Naturally the influence of these combinations is felt in Canada, and there is a disposition to follow on a smaller scale the example so daringly set us by our neighbors. Combinations have already been effected between several of the most important financial corporations of Toronto, with a prospect of more to follow. It is reported that the Canadian manufacturers