now used on account of the necessity to climb stairs. Another field of usefulness for the elevators would be at the stations of elevated railways and at terminal railway-stations, where the waiting-rooms are above the sidewalk level, and a device of this sort for the patrons of the roads would no doubt be appreciated."

WHAT COMPRESSED AIR CAN DO.

The remarkable powers of compressed air have been largely lost sight of in our modern flood of marvels. The Westinghouse air-brake, and the compressed air drill that is to be seen almost any day making excavations for buildings and the like, have long ceased to be regarded as novelties. The same force is now used to start cars, and even to run them. The air-drill, working in the mune, has hterally added hundreds of millions to the available mineral wealth of the world.

We find this Protean force operating block-signals on our railroads, and steering ships, running clocks, and furnishing cold air for refrigerators, loading guns and handling projectiles on our men-of-war, propelling sewing-machines, doing all sort of hoisting-work, driving lathes and printing-presses, copying letters, and running summer fans. In Australia it is shearing sheep; in Kansas City beeves are slaughtered and the meat dressed mainly with compressed air. It is an excellent pump, especially for deep With the same power you may wells. dump a whole train of coal or dirt cars by the pressure of your thumb. It is carving beautiful statuary and all sorts of stonework. In the coal-mines it is running locomotives, bringing oxygen and life to the exhausted operative, and banishing the fear of deadly explosions. In England a hundred and fifty miles of pneumatic-tubing facilitates the rapid transfer of mails, and the same system is in use in Philadelphia, and just recently between New York and Brooklyn.

When it is generated in large central stations, and distributed over the city in the same way that gas and water and electricity are now distributed, you may expect it to clean house for you-beat your carpet and clean your walls—and take a general hand in your household affairs. It will pick you up and set you down from floor to floor. It will be waiting for you at your door, and whisk you to the shopping districts. It may treadle the sewing machine, agitate the dish-washer, and smash your costliest china with all the dexterity and sang-froid of your most accomplished handmaiden.

There is at least one engineering genius —a man of remarkable achievement at that—who has distinctly in view the compression of air at great water-powers like Niagara, conveyance by pipe-lines, at enormous pressure, so far as New York or Philadelphia, and delivery at prices with which electricity cannot compete. — Harper's Weekly.

PENNY-IN-THE-SLOT HOT WATER SUPPLY.

A decidedly novel idea is developed in the application from the Hot Water Supply Syndicate, of Liverpool, for permission to erect in that city, experimentally, three lamp-posts and fittings for a period of three months for supplying hot water to the public by means of a coin-fed The method proposes the machine. utilization of the heat of gas light, as the gas is consumed for lighting purposes, and the hot water is delivered, a gallon at a time, by dropping one cent in the slot. The syndicate claims that wherever the system has been introduced it has been a boon to the working classes, improving their sanitary condition in a marked degree. The permission was granted, to be under the supervision of the gas inspector and the superintendent of street lighting.

NIAGARA'S POWER AT BUFFALO.

Long-distance electrical transmission is being attempted for the first time in this country. It has been about a year and a half since the giant dynamos at Niagara began to turn the wheels of mills built in their vicinity; but it was not until recently that the transformers were perfected and the connections made whereby power could be sent twenty-seven miles to operate street railway and other systems in the city of Bi falo. The Tesla polyphase alternating current system is the one used, the alternations numbering 5,000 per minute. The currents are first sent to the transformer house, where, for transmission purposes, they are converted into currents of high potential, say 20,-000 voltage. At Buffalo the current is reduced in potential and put on the wires for use. The first insta 'ment of energy was 1,000 horse-power. The success of similar transmission in France and Germany warrants confidence in the experiments now being tried here.-Zion's Herald.