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Following the example of St. Louis and other cities, Brooklyn has begun to use trolley-cars built exclusively to carry mails from one part of town to another.

An electric brake for street cars in St. Louis works in this manner: There are two heavy coils of copper wire so placed that when energized with a current the soft iron cores inside, which are thus magnetized, attract each other, and have enough endwise play to apply the brakes.

A hollow shoe-sole filled with air, so as to form a cushion, is the latest novelty in human foot gear. The soft feeling which it gives to each step is said to resemble the sensation of walking on the richest carpet with a good lining. The sole is made of tough paper, and, of course, is air-tight.

David Logan, of Meadville, Penn., has invented an alarm-clock attachment to an aneroid barometer, so that at a certain low reading, previously determined upon, a storm signal will be given. It is hardly possible though to fix upon a point on a barometer-scale which shall be an invariable sign of danger.

It is said that Professor Alexander Graham Bell is now engaged in experiments looking to the perfecting of a machine harnessing electricity to light, so to speak, so that it will be possible for one's vision to be extended to any distance desired. Professor Bell insists that the fact has already been demonstrated, and that it only remains to construct the apparatus necessary to bring the possibilities of the discovery into actual and practical use.

Schunk, Knecht and Marchlewski, three German chemists, as reported in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, have obtained from brown vine-leaves gathered in autumn a dye that colors wool mordanted with chrome and tin respectively brown and yellow. The substance was obtained primarily as a brownish yellow, partially crystalline glucosid. When boiled with sulphuric acid, this yields sugar and the coloring matter, which is obtained as a reddish-brown powder.

Electric headlights for locomotives, which have been tried on several railroads though more powerful than oil lamps are not as popular with engine drivers as might be supposed. They complain that the light is blinding and confusing, especially on passing engines, and interferes with the reading of signals and the lights on switch targets are less distinct than with the old form of headlight. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern tried the electric light some years ago and abandoned it.

"Why not send a balloon up twenty miles," asks a *Tribune* correspondent, "and study the sun, moon and stars from that elevation?" There are two or three difficulties in the way. Owing to the increasing rarity of the atmosphere, one cannot breathe and remain conscious at a height more than six or seven miles. Glaisher and Coxwell nearly died as a result of their famous ascension to that distance from the earth. Furthermore, a large telescope cannot be mounted in a balloon so as to be steady enough for astronomical observation. Even though there be guys, the balloon would rock more or less, and four twenty-mile guys would weigh a good deal.

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For particulars, address, **The Rectory, Uxbridge, Ont.,** or E. A. Meredith, Esq., LL.D., Toronto General Trusts Co., Toronto.

A submarine diver went down into a flooded mine shaft at Short Mountain Colliery, Penn., the other day. He made four trips. The first time he reached a depth of only 20 feet below the surface of the water, and this liquid he reports having a temperature of 108 degrees at the top. Next time he went further, and found it cooler. The third time he reached the disabled pumps, and the fourth he set one of them working. He says he never wants another such job.

Aluminum horseshoes were tried on a horse weighing 1,000 pounds by an 8th Cavalry officer several months ago, and a report on the result is at hand. The shoes were set on February 22nd, and re-set on March 22nd. One on the hind foot broke on April 21st, and the whole four were then removed. In the two months the horse had travelled over 140 miles. The front shoes had bits of steel in the toes and wore better than the hind ones. The former could have been used a little longer, though reduced in thickness.

May 2nd, 1894.  
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