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THE WEEK.

SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.

Professor Langlely, of the Smithsonian Institution, has so perfected the bolometer that it will detect a change in temperature amounting to a millionth of a degree !

Submarine divers now have a t-lephone attached to their helmets, and thus talk freely with workmen on shipboard. This is a great improvement on the rope-jerking mode of signalling.

An air brake, adapted to elevators, and described by "The Providence Journal," works only when a certain speed is exceeded on the down trip. It is meant, therefore, as a safety device exclusively.

The system of solidifying quicksand around sewers, foundations and other constructions, by injecting cement through pipes has worked so well in certain parts of Providenc) that it is now to be tried elsewhere in the same city.

Two Connecticut telegraph-linemen recently discovered a cross-circuit of rather an unusual kind. It was found that a spider had spun a strong web between two wires, and that the dew and rain held by the web made an electrical connection of substantial magnitude.

For an electric road between Philadelphia and Harrisburg it is proposed to use the two-phase alternating system for long distance transmission of the current, but transform the latter into a continuous current, at substations every twelve or fifteen miles, for actual use.

A company has been formed to utilize the big water power in Big Cot'onwood Canyon, fourteen miles from Salt Lak? City, and convey the energy to the latter point as electricity. For two-thirds of the year, it is said, 3,000 horse-power will be available, and for the rest only 2,500.

Recent Swedish report: say that an application of electricity to the smelling of iron is to be tried on a commercial scale at Trollhatten, in Sweden, where a great waterpower is available to run the dynamos. The process is the invention of Mr. G. de Laval, whose steam-turbine attracted much attention at Chicago last year.

A garbage destructor, tested in Chicago a few weeks ago, consumed refuse containing about 80 per cent. of house ashes, with the aid of petroleum injected by compressed air. The garbage is slowly fed through a brick drying tunnel, which is heated, and in which run smalls cars; so that the stuff is readily combustible when it reaches the fire.

A careful record kept at Yale for eight years shows that non-smokers at 20 per cent. taller, 25 per cent., heavier, and have 60 per cent. more lung-capacity than smokers. A recent graduating class of Amherst precented a similar difference in favor of nonsmokers, who had gained in weight 24 per cent. over the smokers, and in height 37 per cent., and also exceeded them in lung-capacity.

At Great Falls, Mont., the volume of water passing in the upper Missouri is about 4,800 cubic feet a second, and at Fort Benton (twenty-five miles further down stream) United States engineers report it at 4,331; and now the question arises, what becomes of the rest ? A belief is entertained that the water drains off through the sand and supplies the great artesian well basin of South Dakota.

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Professor James McLean, of Chicago, is trying to revolutionize traction by using compressed air on engines in the place of steam. This would greatly change the shape of locomotives. He would put his air-tank where the cab now is, do away with the boiler and tender, and employ a rotary device instead of a reciprocating piston, in ord r to apply his power to the driving wheels. He doesn't say where he would put his engineer.

It is said that the water of the new Manchester Ship Canal is very foul, so much so that it has a bad odor, and Commissioners who recently traveled over the canal to inquire into the advisability of the Queen's taking the same trip were doubtful as to the expediency of such a journey. The trouble is that the canal is fed by the Irwell, Irk, and other small Luncashire rivers, whose purification was not properly enforced before the opening of the great waterway.

A good lubricant, says Mr. Railings, an English engineer, should be thick enough to keep a constant film between the opposing surfaces, but otherwise as thin as possible; it should conduct heat well, contain nothing to act chemically on the lubricated bearing, and be difficult of operation and decomposition. Sperm oil is one of the best lubricants, but it is dear. For low speed and heavy pressures, graphite, soapstone, and grease are good; for high speeds and light pressures, petroleum, olive, rape and cotton oils are excellent.

Paul Jablochkoff, who died in Russia on April 6, in his forty-seventh year, will be remembered chiefly from the form of arclight to which he gave his name-the Jab. lochkoff candle. In this light, now little used, the two carbons were placed parallel, and burned down together, whence the name, the arc forming across the extremities. It lighted, in 1878, the Avenue die Opera in Paris, the first street in the world to be illuminated by electricity, and thus ushered in an industrial revolution. None of Jablochkoff's other inventions are now in use, though he died so young, but his name is inseparably linked with the history of electro-technics.