

Science Notes.

THE ELECTRO-MECHANICAL INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN.

This establishment, situated on the street "Rue des Flamands" is the most recent of the additions to the Special Schools of Louvain. It groups in a large and commodious building a series of laboratories, where the student may investigate all the difficulties of modern electro-technics.

The institute possesses motor power in variety. A boiler of 32 square meters heated surface at 6 atmospheres pressure of the Cornwall-Galloway system runs a 15 horse-power steam engine of the Ridder--Bollinck type, and at the same time serves to heat the rooms, the pressure then being reduced to a tenth or so of an atmosphere. There is in addition an Otto-Crossley gas motor of 30 horse-power.

These two machines are placed with the experimental dynamos in a vast hall lighted from above. This hall, 30 meters by 10, will in time be furnished with a sliding bridge operated by 3 electric motors, for the handling of the machines.

The steam-motor works a dynamo of 10 kilowatts and the gas motor another dynamo of 18 kilowatts. These two generators may be used to charge the secondary battery with which they can be placed in a parallel combination, when strong currents are desired for experimentation.

Between the two mechanical motors and just opposite the switch-board, is mounted a group of transformers capable of furnishing monophase or triphase currents.

The hall is a regular storehouse of mechanical and electrical power furnishing a direct or continuous current up to 300 amperes at 110 volts, alternating or triphase currents up to 10 kilowatts.

All the machines are used in the experiments of the pupils and help to understand the gear of a large workshop.