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THE EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

According to the recent annual report of this company, the First District Works in New York, Pearl Street Station, is now running up to its full capacity. It has 9,811 incandescent lamps now in actual use; and it is connected and has wired for 12,379 lamps. The dynamos of this station were started for the first time on September 4, 1882, and have been running and furnishing light, without stop, night and day, since that time.

The company has inaugurated an extensive system for the introduction of small or isolated mechanisms for working the lights; under this system large buildings and villages may enjoy the luxury of the electric light. Altogether the Edison Company now have 246 plants at work and 61,366 lamps. Mr. Edison is still engaged in perfecting important electrical improvements; 215 patents have so far been granted to him and about 100 more have been filed.

INJURY BY HEAT.

In some mechanical processes the production of heat by friction is a serious injury to the value of the time and the material employed and used. Machines must be cooled to do their work well, and parts which are particularly exposed to friction must be renewed frequently to keep the productive value of the machine intact.

In the lathe turning of steel, and in the production of machine screws from the bar or rod, rapid work can be done by means of a constant flow of oil or of water; in some instances so high a speed as eighteen feet per minute has been profitably reached in the turning of steel when a constant stream of water plays upon the point of the turning tool.

THE LIFE OF STONES.

Some months ago these pages had an article on the "Decay of Building Stones." The subject is worthy more than a passing paper, as it affects not only the permanency of public buildings, but the lasting qualities of the monuments to our own dead. A run through the graveyards of the oldest settled portions of the country proves that some of our more recently formed stones possess an enormous amount of durability; the slates, for instance, outlasting even marble, to say nothing of sandstone.

Slates, of the dark blue color, have withstood the wear of a century and still retain all the sharpness of their inscription. There is something peculiar about this stone. It is simply a clay deposit under water, but it is a great resistant of water and is almost fireproof—much more so than marble or granite.

Sandstones, either of the light shades or the dark red colors, are peculiarly susceptible to elementary or weather influences in this climate. Monuments in cemeteries composed of the Portland red sandstone show marks of weather wear within ten years.

off in flakes or crack as though under too much weight. This stone is only sharp sea sand agglutinated and cemented by the oxide of iron. It disintegrates too rapidly on exposure to the atmosphere to be fit for enduring structures.

Granite, where not exposed to destructive heat, as to great fires, like the memorable ones of Chicago and Boston, is very enduring. Its clean surface will not encourage even the attachment of moss, while sun heat and frost cold seem to have little influence on it.

Marble is a carbonate of lime, and this simple statement is sufficient to show that marble is not an appropriate material to meet our frigid winters and our torrid summers. The public buildings that have recently been constructed of marble show already the signs of decay.

Heroic Children.

The British Royal Humane Society has just investigated three instances in which children whose ages ranged from 9 to 12 years have gained the usual rewards for heroism. One little fellow, S. G. Pile, aged 9 years, has been awarded the medal for the following act: A child named Wyatt fell off the pier at Oreston, near Plymouth, on Aug. 18, and had drifted out about seven yards in twelve feet of water, when Pile plunged into the rescue with his clothes on, swam out, and reached the child, bringing it into the steps, where they were both assisted out.

Proposed Textile Laboratory.—A Practical Economist's Views.

There is a project on foot for the establishment of a textile laboratory, under the auspices of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association. It was estimated at the last meeting that the expense would amount to \$100,000. Liberal subscriptions were then made for the object, and a committee appointed to work up the matter.

"It costs more in this city of Boston to get the food from the mouths of the baker's ovens into the mouths of the people who eat it, than it does to bring the wheat from Iowa, manufacture it, and prepare it for consumption. The people need instruction, and the remedy for the evil mentioned is in the direction of instruction which should be carried in some degree into the public schools.

Ten-Hoop Flour Barrels.

The Milwaukee millers are getting down to some nice points in the economies of their business, as is so generally the practice nowadays in all industries. They have resolved hereafter to use only ten-hoop instead of twelve-hoop barrels. Some of the millers have been using only ten hoops for months, but on December 4 the Millers' Association passed a resolution that all would hereafter use only ten-hoop barrels—after the present supply of barrels was used up—on all their patents and other flour.

A WRITER of mathematical bent finds from the census returns that there are about 17,000 dentists in the United States, who, he estimates, pack into the teeth of the American people a ton of pure gold annually. Continuing his speculations, he predicts that in the twenty-first century all the gold in the country will be buried in the graveyards.