

representation of the system developed by them in connection with the Western Union Telegraph Company, for a uniform timeservice, and which, in extent, embraces the whole of the United States. They now have over fifteen thousand of their clocks in circuit, which are synchronized daily by the telegraphic time signals from the time service of the United States Naval Observatory at Washington. These clocks are either sold or rented. It will thus be seen that time is bought and sold, and is in fact made an object of merchandise, though not at the exorbitant rate proposed by the sovereign who offered millions of money for an inch of it. The government furnishes correct time free to its citizens, but they must get it at the Naval Observatory at Washington. As it is impracticable, if not impossible, for them to do it individually, the Western Union Telegraph Company daily forwards it to every part of the country. Three minutes before noon, all general business is stopped, and direct communication made with the capital. Precisely at twelve o'clock a single electric impulse announces the time all the way to the Pacific Coast. The cost of this service is one dollar per month, or twelve dollars per year for each clock. This places standard time within the reach of everybody.

There are standards of weights and measures, of distance, and we are pleased to note that now there is a standard of time available for every one at a nominal cost, whereas formerly the cost was such as to permit only of the most prosperous jewelers obtaining time signals; the service was very incomplete and very expensive. Now, not only jewelers are served, but the general public, including trust companies, banks, commercial houses of every description, factories, schools, and private houses, and the service has proved most accurate and reliable.

While the time service is the main business of the company, it has also a large business in selling clocks. All clocks made by them are of high grade, and, in addition to their ordinary styles of self-winding clocks, such as are used in dwellings and places of business, they also make a feature of specialties, which are unique and interesting. For instance, the company manufactures a programme clock which makes a signal contact at the beginning of each minute and is connected to a commutable signal instrument so arranged as to close electrically a circuit any minute or any number of minutes in the twenty-four hours. This invention is not only very useful for train dispatchers on railroads, but also for schools, for indicating the hours for commencing and ending recitations, etc., by ringing bells or giving other signals.

The chiming clock is also an interesting feature. This is a clock in which the tubular chimes are operated electrically and in which any tune within the compass of nine bells can be played. The most unique feature in this direction is the large chimes in the tower already mentioned. These chimes are fitted with special hammers and magnets, by means of which the large bells may be struck electrically. This electrical mechanism is so arranged that it can be played automatically at predetermined times by means of clock mechanism, or an operator can sit at a keyboard, which ordinarily would be placed in an organ loft or any convenient place at a distance from the tower, and any one at all familiar with music can play on the immense bells, which by the old method would require all the strength of a man to operate. At the Fair a lady plays these chimes twice a day seated at a small case placed in the booth. This method is likely to revolutionize the present method of ringing chimes.

In Fig. 4 is shown a motor for driving the hands of the

tower clock. This consists of a small Edison electric motor geared to the arbor which revolves the hands. The motor is connected with a storage battery or with the street current through a relay, and the relay is operated by a current controlled by the master clock. When the circuit of the relay is closed the current is made to pass through the motor, thus turning the minute hand through one minute space. By an ingenious automatic arrangement the motor is stopped when the limit of the movement is reached. Thus every minute an impulse is sent to the motor in the clock tower, causing the hands to move forward by a step-by-step motion, each movement representing one

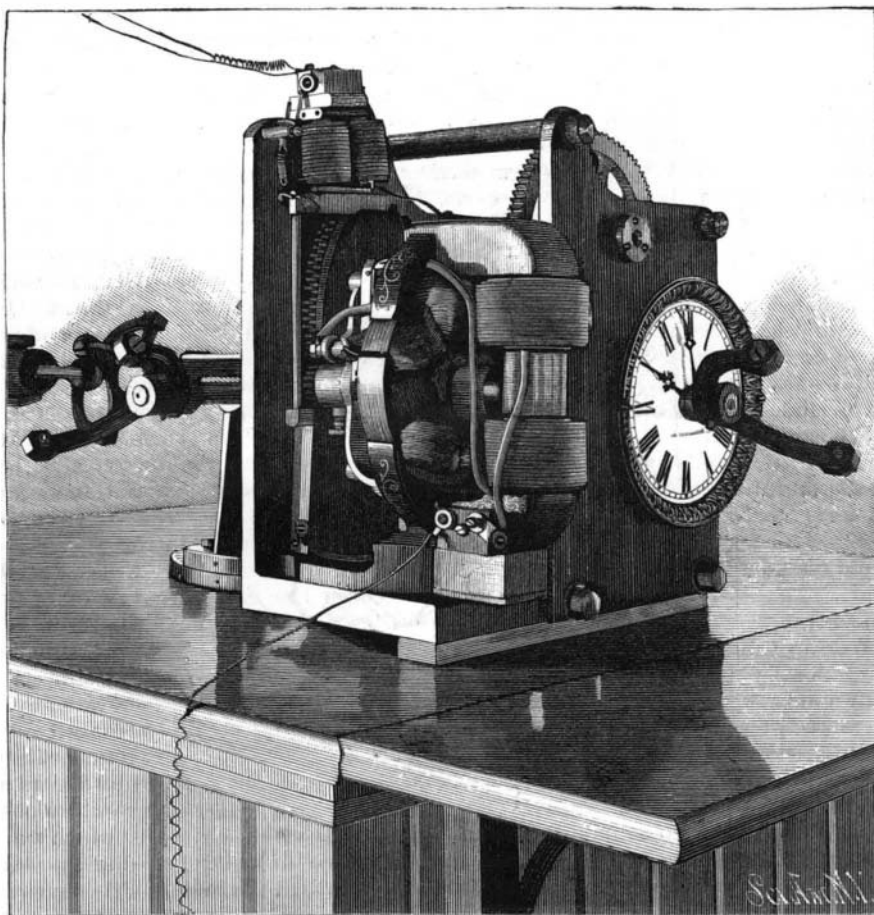


Fig. 4.—ELECTRIC MOTOR AND MECHANISM FOR DRIVING THE HANDS OF THE TOWER CLOCK.

minute. The striking of the hour and quarters is effected by an electro-mechanical arrangement controlled by a striking movement in the pavilion. The machine used for tower purposes is light and simple, and may be placed upon any floor, while the controlling clock may be placed in any position in the building, or even at a distant point.

Though the Self-Winding Clock Company has but just entered the field for supplying tower clocks, it is rapidly introducing those of their make in the different towns and cities. The fact of being able to produce an accurate tower clock which will operate perfectly without reference to the steadiness of the tower or the location of the controlling clock, is leading to the introduction of the electric tower clock in places where the ordinary weight and pendulum clock would be impracticable. The New York offices of the Self-Winding Clock Company are located at 26 Broadway.

THE most noted lighthouse in the United States is at Minot's Ledge, in Massachusetts Bay.

The Effect of Sunlight on Bacteria.

The second report to the Water Research Committee of the Royal Society has been drawn up by Professors Percy F. Frankland and H. Marshall Ward. It deals chiefly with the manner in which the vitality of pathogenic bacteria is affected by the presence of nonpathogenic or saprophytic forms. *Bacillus anthracis*, being one of the hardiest forms of pathogenic organisms when in the spore condition, was taken as a type. *The British Medical Journal* says: "One of the most interesting results elicited is the effect of sunshine in destroying spores. In the dark, and at moderate temperatures, the spores of anthrax retain their powers of infection for many months in any of the waters experimented with, fresh or sterilized. But in direct sunlight the spores undergo rapid destruction; and it has been definitely proved that this destruction is directly due to the light rays, especially at the blue end of the spectrum, and not either to a rise of temperature or to any action of the solar rays on the medium. Moreover, the experiments prove that the bacteria spores are really killed, and not merely retarded in development."

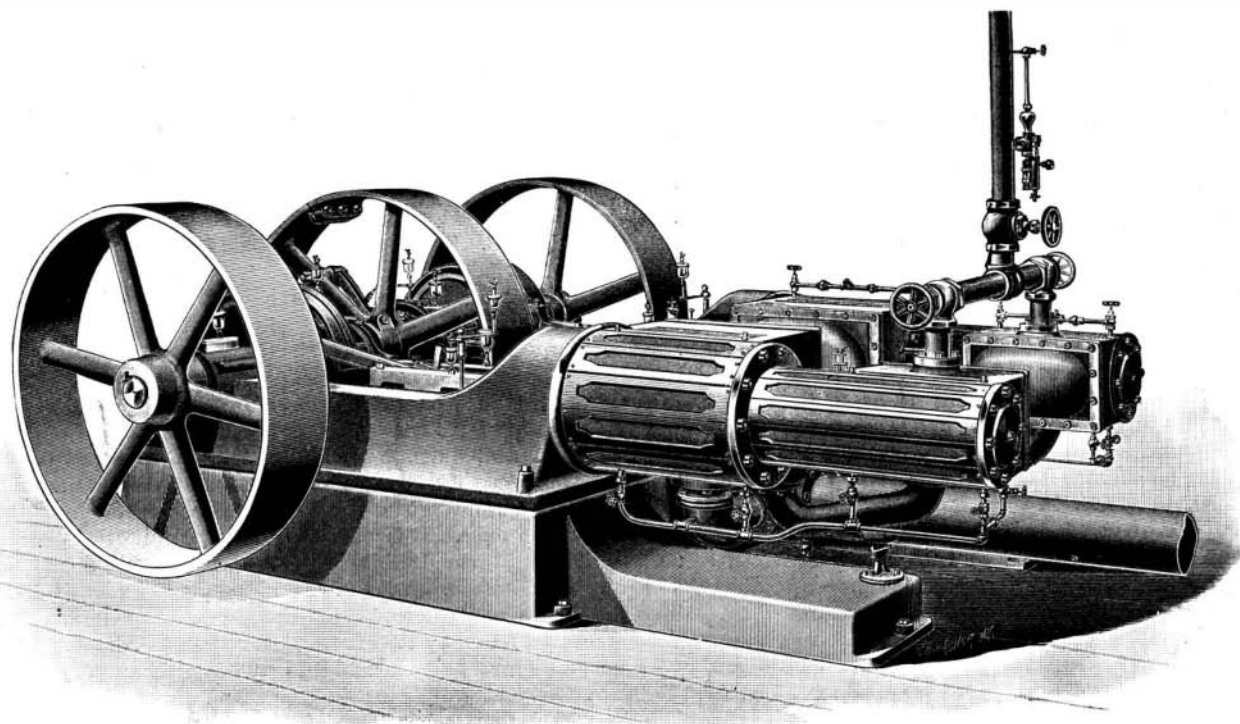
"A great difference, however, was observed in the behavior of spores according as they were introduced into sterilized or into unsterilized water. Infected sterilized waters, after standing for upward of seven months, were invariably fatal to the animals into which they were inoculated, whether they were preserved in absolute darkness or in diffused daylight. Direct sunshine was, however, rapidly fatal to anthrax spores in these waters within 84 hours. In unsterilized waters, the results were different. The spores degenerated; and, although by special methods they could be revived, they were no longer recognizable by ordinary cultivation methods after the lapse of a few days. To summarize the results, the authors state generally that there is one natural agency at least which destroys anthrax spores in surface water, viz., the action of direct sunshine. Whether or not the activity of water bacteria may be added as a second bactericidal agent, is not definitely determined; but, of the two, sunshine is by far the more rapid and potent. In no case does the evidence support the view that the *bacillus anthracis* can live and multiply like a water bacterium in ordinary waters."

DUPLEX TANDEM COMPOUND ENGINES.

These engines, as shown in the exhibit of the Watertown Steam Engine Co. at the Chicago Exposition, present many advantages, in addition to the pleasure they always afford an engineer from the superior workmanship evident in their construction. From the close connection between the two cylinders on each side it is evident there can be but little loss from condensation, while the use of a four-ported valve permits very rapid entrance and exit of steam. A cut-off valve is applied to both the high and low pressure cylinders, the tandem arrangement of which allows of cushioning at the end of the stroke, enabling the engine to attain a high speed under a heavy load without pounding. All the engines made by this company

are subjected to a rigid inspection when completed, being placed on a foundation and tested under all the conditions that will be required of them, from the lightest load to the heaviest, including careful indicator and speed tests. They are especially designed to run at a very high speed, permitting direct connection to rapid motion machinery without the intervention of gearing or countershafts.

THE organist at a Cardiff church found several of the keys soundless, and upon examination saw that six birds had built their nests in the pipes.



WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION—DUPLEX TANDEM COMPOUND ENGINES OF THE WATERTOWN STEAM ENGINE CO.