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THE ELECTRICAL WORLD.

A BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS THAT lions would be nearer the mark IS OF RECENT ORIGIN.

It is Divided as Follows: The Telegraph, Some Interesting Information.

[Special Correspondence.] New York, Aug. 20.—Half a century ago, as all the world knows, there was no money whatever invested in electrical industries, for the excellent reason that there were no electrical industries to invest in. Science had not yet utilized the subtle fluid-had not even begun to learn, excepting in the most general way, what its properties were. Ten years ago the general public looked with amazement at the enormous figures which repreresidence and parties is the sented the investments made in the telemost popular in the city graphic service which had become an old story. Hundreds of companies, all over "Prompt delivery, pure goods the world, had been established with and reasonable prices" is our big or little capital, and in the United States alone these investments footed up somewhere near a hundred millions of dollars. The bulk of this was controlled then, as it is now, by a monster company, which had swallowed up rivals and predecessors until it possessed, as it still does, almost a monopoly of the telegraphing business of the country. The growth of the Western Union company was unprecedented, and its accumulation of capital was good ground for the wonder and admiration of the people.

That was ten years ago. Since then marvels have occurred that cast the growth of the Western Union far in the shade. Telegraphing, wonderful as it is, was only the first in a series of miracles that are steadily revolutionizing the industries of civilization. The various uses of electricity, new as they are and crude and unfinished as the development still is in some ways, have attracted capital in the United States alone to the amount of about \$1,000,000,000.

The statement seems incredible, but a little examination is enough to show its truth. The newly discovered force is used not only to send signals over wires, but spoken messages as well. It is used to operate machinery in place of steam. It propels cars. It furnishes the most brilliant and almost the cheapest artificial light known. It is even used in a few places to supply heat. And in each of these uses it calls for the manufacture of a great quantity of special tools and appliances, so that an enormous business has grown up in this branch of

manufacture. In New York city alone there are about 400 companies and firms wholly engaged in this business. The capital they have invested varies from a few hundred dollars to a round million, which is the estimated investment of the largest one. So rapid has been the development of the applied science of electricity that this business of furnishing electrical supplies has itself been divided into branches, and rich companies devote themselves in many instances to the production of a few specialties alone out of the long list of articles that are

The main divisions of electrical industries are, as indicated, five in number and appliances. It is by considering sup y.

The very moderate estimate of \$100,these separately and estimating their growth that the tremendous statement above, concerning a billion of dollars, can

be justified. The capital of the Western Union Telegraph company, as is well known, exceeds one hundred millions. When, to this figure is added the sum of capital invested in other lines, including small local companies and cables that are owned in part in the United States, it is not difficult to realize that the total is something like one hundred and fifty

millions of dollars. In connection with this subject of telegraphing a curious story is told, which, although it concerns only a small fraction of the money mentioned, is well worth repetition. A few years ago two or three inventors, Edison among others, experimented largely in what is known as induction telegraphy—that is, the reception and transmission of messages without contact with a wire. It was found entirely practicable to take messages or send them from an instrument in a moving car, and two companies were formed, based on different patents. The patents were found to conflict, and the two companies were consolidated by way of compromise and began business with bright prospects. They constructed a plant on a certain well known railroad. and performed work that was highly satisfactory, when they met with a sud-den check. One of the most enthusiastic stockholders was very wealthy and bought up a very large majority of the SOLID VESTIBULE EXPRESS TRAINS stock. He chanced to be a spiritualist,

and just when the prospects were most flattering he announced that he had received a communication from the spirits forbidding him to allow any more work to be done by the company. Accordingly the business came to a sudden standstill, and the other stockholders have not yet been able to do anything at all.

The second branch to be developed was the telephone. Everybody will remember the bitter struggle which went on for years over the validity of the governing patents and the final victory of the Bell company, which gave it a mo- most ever since his childhood he has nopoly of the business in all the United States. To get a correct estimate of the actual investments made in telephones is difficult. The quotations of Bell telephone stock, if any should be sold publicly, would not be a fair indication, since the present value is of course far in excess of the first cost, and more than that it by no means represents the investments made since. All over the country companies big and little are constantly forming to build lines. More tastefully planned, well built and located than a million messages a day are sent on picturesque sites, people in search of over the wires-many more than a million now, for that report is more than a ers for accommodations that the lightyear old. There are about 200,000 miles house board has been compelled to proof telephone wire in actual use and more hibit them from taking boarders under than 300,000 instruments connected.

It is certain that there is more than a hundred millions invested in this branch alone and probably two hundred mil-

In electric lighting the business is still newer, and the figures are perhaps not as large. Still in August last the president of the National Electric Light asthe Telephone, the Electric Light, sociation reported that the investments Electric Motors and Miscellaneous amounted to \$118,000,000. This represented, he said, the operation of 127,411 arc lights and 1,590,000 incandescent

lights. That was a year ago, and the figures were official and presumably correct. In a single month since that time it is recorded that there were thirty-seven new companies incorporated in the United States which proposed to operate electric lights, either as their sole business or in connection with electric railroads, the development of water power or some kindred enterprise. The total amount of the capitalization of these thirty-seven companies was over \$4,000,000. Probably a considerable amount of this is not paid in, but allowing a fair proportion for failures it is reasonable to assume the total investment in electric lighting at \$150,000,000. If that is not the figure today it will be before the end of the

A still newer branch than the lighting the development of power by electricity, applied to locomotive or to stationary engines, and if the statistics were as readily attainable as in reference to the three branches already considered, it would be easy to show that the investment in this is fully as large as in any of the others, if not much

As a matter of course the investments in railroads are proportionately heavy, and with the rapid multiplication of electric railroads all over the country the figures are growing faster in this direction than in any other. No recent statement has been made of the number miles of electric railroads in operation, and the last one I have seen was dated Jan. 1, 1890. There were then over 400 miles in working order. Certainly there are several times as many

But even the investment represented in these miles of road is far less at the present time than in the innumerable plants established for the driving of stationary machinery

Of course it will not do as yet to speak of electricity as superseding steam, even in the running of railroads, for as it has been found impossible to economically generate the electric current directly

less steam can be drawn from a central yourself. plant it is expensive, the small steam engines being disproportionate in cost to large ones. It is not so with electrical engines, or at least it is not true to the same extent, and thousands upon thousands of smail engines are today in use, while the demand for them is growing so rapidly that it taxes the resources of the manufacturers to turn out a sufficient

000,000 as the sum of the investment in these power machines or engines brings the total, as I have figured it, thus far up to \$600,000,000. And lest any one should accuse me of exaggeration, I will quote from the speech of Mayor Davenport, of Kansas City, before the National Electric Light association on Jan. 1, 1890. He declared that then, in the four branches I have described, the total investment was \$600,000,000. This nearly two years ago, and a statement made from official statistics. I have greatly underestimated the present figures-not exaggerated.

And there is still the "general trade" to consider. It is seriously questionable if this does not employ as much capital as all the others combined. To produce all the materials and supplies needed probably costs fully as much if not more in the way of invested capital, as the great operating companies employ.

For it must be remembered that the widest use of electricity has not been touched on. This is what electricians term the domestic branch. Not only is electricity widely used in isolated plants for the production of light-which has been considered-but electric bells, bur- other, which destroy the fruit and injure glar alarms and similar contrivances are the tree. in hundreds of thousands of counting rooms, business buildings and private residences. Their use is increasing as rapidly as that of all the other inventions based on the new science. Indeed, it seems almost as if the business moved with the swiftness that the fluid does. Nothing has happened to check it thus far, and it seems certain that it will expand into still more marvelous proport of the trees with a paint brush. tions in the near future. Surely a hundred millions & year in-

crease in a new business is one of the greatest wonders even of this century of scientific miracles.

DAVID A. CURTIS.

Remarkable in Many Ways. The blind preacher, Rev. W. H. Milburn, is a remarkable man in many ways. Although he has been blind alread and studied more than most men who have their evesight. His memory for voices is little short of marvelous. He has been known to instantly recognize and call by name, upon hearing not to add too much of the latter, as it them speak, persons whom he has not met for twenty years.

You Cau't Board with a Light Keeper. As the dwellings of the lighthouse keepers of the United States are often summer quarters have so besieged keepany circumstances.



How to Hang Small Pictures.

A novel way is to have the lower right hand corner of the upper picture overlap the upper left hand corner of the next lower, and so on for as many as you wish to hang together. Three, however, look better than more with this arrangement. The plan can be reversed, of course, and the slant be toward the left and downward as well as to the right. Naturally the space and adjoining objects are to be considered.

How to Give a Dinner at a Restaurant.

First, friends, never ask your guests

"what they are going to have." Order it yourself. You can, however, ask if your guests have any preference; for instance, in ices. Endeavor to find out before hand what they prefer, or if they have any antipathies. Aim to order those things that are peculiar to the season. Never speak to the waiter in a loud tone. Shellfish should be placed before you alive before cooking for your inspection. If the dinner is given in a large dining room be careful to seat the ladies so they will command a good view of the room. A prevailing form of dinner at the restaurant in New York during the winter is (first) deviled crabs with olives or celery, or both; (second), lobster, a la Newburg, with potatoes an gratin; (third), broiled chicken with one or two vegetables; (fourth), a salad, lettuce preferred; (fifth), ice cream, cake and small coffee.

How to Prevent Neuralgia.

An excellent way to prevent neuralgia is to plunge the sides of the head-behind the ears-in cold water immediately on waking every morning. A great number of nerves are concentrated at those points, and the shock hardens them, thus materially assisting the system in warding off neuralgic troubles. This simple practice will save many an hour's pain.

How to Behave in a Theater.

Do not crush at the box office window; you will only disturb the temper of those who are before you, and you cannot get your ticket or tickets one second earlier. Do not talk to your friend from the moment the curtain is raised until it falls; from the elements, steam and water if you must say something make your power are used for this purpose, and in remarks in a whisper. Do not quarrel 95 per cent. of all the electrical plants in with a person if you find him occupying the country steam is really the prime your seat; endeavor to be polite and genpower. In but 5 per cent. of the electilemanly; if there is a mistake, the usher trical plants in the country is the current | will remedy it without attracting attengenerated by water power. The advantion. If you do not like the play or pertage in the use of electric motors over formance, do not mutter your displeassteam lies in the greater economy of the ure aloud; leave the theater at the end of the act; other people may enjoy what Especially is this true in the case of you dislike. Always remember that small factories and light machinery re- those who are sitting behind you desire quiring small power. In such cases un- to witness the performance as well as

How to Ask a Favor.

A favor should never be asked unless securing it be an absolute necessity. Never ask a favor from a stranger or an acquaintance unless some business or other circumstance morally entitles you to assume that you are justified. When you really need a favor go to friends: if they are true they will grant it. Friends are often proved in adversity. It is a safe rule never to ask a favor unless you believe you can, in some way, reciprocate it. When you do ask do it confidently and fearlessly-a faint heart usually fails in this as in other things.

How to Prevent Cabbage Odors. When you boil cabbage put a good sized lump of stale bread in the water. This will absorb the noxious gases and prevent the offensive smell.

How to Select Fish.

The simplest way to discover if fish is in good condition and fresh is by the color of the gills and smell. Fresh, sound fish have bright red gills and smell sweet. Stale fish, which are yet sound, have dull colored gills, but smell all right. Unsound fish always smell bad. In a sound fish the eyes are prominent and the fins erect or stiff; in unsound fish the eyes are sunken and the fins hang and are flabby. It is always well to see that your fish is perfectly fresh, for no food is so rich in disease germs as unsound fish.

How to Preserve Fruit Trees Fruit growers are constantly annoyed by the inroads of insects of one kind or

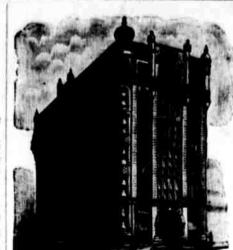
Here is an excellent recipe for the prevention of the insect scourge and the preservation of the trees: One pound each of suet, quicklime, snuff and sulphur: mix all well together and put them into a vessel containing four gallons of soapsuds and wine. Let the mixture stand for two or three days and then (in February each year) apply it to every part not alone kills the insects' eggs and prevents their attacking the trees, but causes the trees to look particularly green during the ensuing summer.

How to Improve Mucilage.

Almost all mucilages become so dry and hard after a time that papers, etc., which have been cemented by them to polished surfaces crack and fall off. To prevent this dissolve a little brown sugar in the mucilage. This will strengthen the adhering qualities of any mucilage, as will also the addition of a drop or two of glycerine. But care must be taken would prevent the mucilage drying sufficiently

How to Remove Fish Odors.

A difficulty is often experienced by housekeepers in removing the smell from cooking utensils in which fish has been fried or boiled. Place some redhot cinders in the pan or pot, upon them pour some boiling water and move the cinders around for a minute or two, when it will be found that all smell or taint of fish will have disappeared



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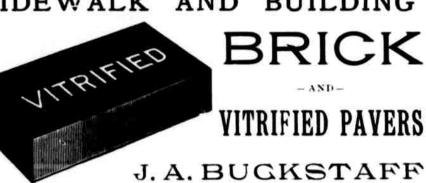
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