

REMARKABLE PIPE LINES

How Various Necessities Are Distributed from Central Stations.

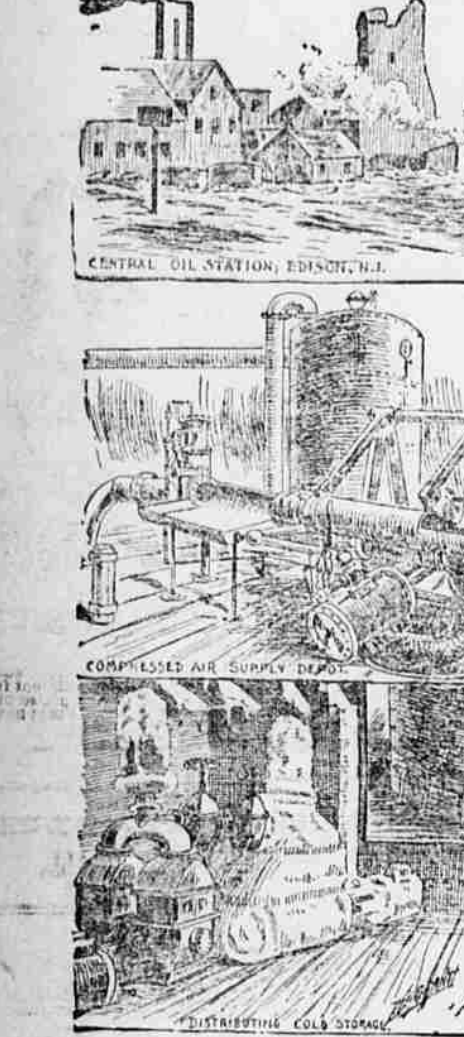
COLD STORAGE NOW KEPT ON TAP

Latest Development in the Distribution of Oil, Steam, Compressed Air, Water, Electricity and Zero Temperature.

One of the remarkable features of modern urban development is the growing tendency to do away with individual effort in providing many of the material comforts of our nineteenth century civilization. It is coming to be more and more the case that the common necessities which every household requires are not supplied by each family for itself, but are sent out from great central establishments which supply a district of greater or less extent, according to the nature of the commodity they handle.

The result of this movement has been to build up under every big modern city a second city of pipe, conduits, vaults and passages where many of the operations essential to the health and comfort of the pampered modern citizen go on. Few persons realize what progress has been made in this direction already; but from present indications it is likely that there will be a still more rapid extension of such centralized activities.

The most recent development in the direction of centralized energy is put forward in



CENTRAL STATION, EDISON, N. Y.

STEAM DISTRIBUTING PLANT, NEW YORK.

COMPRESSED AIR SUPPLY PLANT, NEW YORK.

CENTRAL STATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTING POWER.

a great freezing and warehousing company in New York City. This concern proposes in connection with its cold storage warehouse, to pump refrigeration to its principal customers in different parts of the city, including the great markets and product houses. To the person unfamiliar with the recent development in this line of business it would seem a difficult matter to transmit cold over long distances in sufficient quantities to reduce the temperature of great vaults and packing rooms to 15 or 20 degrees below zero as a matter of fact, the company anticipates little difficulty in putting its system into operation.

DISTRIBUTING COLD IN PIPES.

The ammonia system will be used, and the fluid will be forced by hydraulic pumps from the condensing tanks through conduits to the places where it is to be used. These conduits will be laid underground, and in general will be constructed like ordinary water mains, except that the outside will be surrounded by a cork jacketing, which will be coated over with a tar-like preparation to prevent leakage of gas. The promoters of the scheme guarantee that the refrigerating pipes will not interfere with the steam and other underground conduits, and assert that there will be very little loss of freezing power in passage. It is intended at first to supply only concerns requiring a large amount of refrigeration, but there is no reason why the same system should not, in time, be extended to dwellings and other buildings so that every house may presently have its "frost" room. The transmission of cold storage is a matter of fact, the fact that the city of the future will be much more quiet than the existing town for the roar of overhead locomotives and the clatter of surface cars will give place to the noiseless progress of the compressed air or electric motor. It will be much cleaner, too. Horses will be banished from the street, except where used for pleasure driving and heavy trucks as well as cabs will be driven in the same way as the cars. Dust and ashes will not rouse the ire of every housekeeper, for electricity will have taken out the coal fire and ashes will be taken only from the few power generating stations.

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This statement is made by a Hindoo sage, Swami Abhedanandra, who is delivering a series of lectures on the ancient Vedanta philosophy. This young, energetic worker of Swami Vivekananda, who by his lectures proved to be the chief attraction at the celebrated congress of religion, at Chicago in 1893. Swami Abhedanandra is seeking to teach the western mind the interesting secret of Hindu psychology and philosophy. Many of the exercises and means whereby mental concentration and a state of profound meditation are reached have never been so much as published in India, but have been handed down from teacher to student. Many of these secrets have been acquired and kept by persons for purely selfish purposes, but the real Hindu sage has been averse to the revealing of his means of power from the fear of their abuse and debasement by less well-disposed and philosophical moralists. Some of the methods by which these Hindu yogis have acquired such marvelous psychic powers cannot fail to be of profound interest