ELECTRICAL POWER

Since the beginning of the present century, all branches of science have received almost miraculous additions to what was heretofore very imperfect knowledge. In the light of the present we regard the records of scientific investigation and research of the previous centuries as having passed into history, and as such are mere curiosities when examined to-day. Yet we cannot help acknowledging that these rudimentary results were necessary in leading up to and forming the exalted position which science as a whole now holds.

While this great tree of science has branched and grown rapidly and is now blooming profusely in all its parts, still shooting out beyond the rest, we see the swelling bud of electrical science just opening.

The signs of the times indicate that greater progress in electrical wonders, by research and invention, will be made in the coming decade than we have already seen. Every day makes the field of investigation in electricity broader, and its results more and more valuable, extending its application and usefulness to nearly all classes and kinds of mechanical constructions and operations. In the advent of the many kinds of electric motors there has come to the industrial and manufacturing interests of the world most simple and effective mechanisms by which energy is transmitted and transformed in a reliable and economical manner for useful work. The points of excellence and superiority in which electrical power surpasses all others are numerous. It is adapted to all classes of work. It is equally serviceable in the parlors of the dentist, or in turning the lathes in the shops of the machinist. Nor is it less effective and convenient in its application to the printing press, the hoists and elevators of the warehouse and dock, the shafting of the mill, the street railroad service, the heavy underground work of the mine and the tunnel, or annihilating distances and bringing heretofore inaccessible sources of natural energy to points where they can be made easily and economically available.

The importance of this new condition of affairs is hardly yet recognized, but it cannot be denied. Even to-day the electric light station is becoming the great public reservoir of power, from whose circuits, all engaged in manufacture and thousands who need power for various minor services, can draw supplies at will. In a very short time the consumption of current for electric power will equal, if not exceed, the consumption for light, and it is to this new idea that the manufacturers of electric light machinery and the public generally are adjusting their methods.

By means of simple electrical apparatus untold results will be accomplished with reasonable economy, and it must be conceded that the mechanical methods of the entire world will be revolutionized thereby, and that another of those grand steps of progress will be taken of which the nineteenth century so justly boasts. J. W. R.

LETTER BOX.

PRINCETON, April 20, 1888.

Once more has the much longed for Spring term been ushered in at Princeton, and with it will come many a conflict in the college man's breast between pleasure and duty, work and amusement. The one absorbing topic of interest at Princeton is, of course, base ball, and various are the speculations made concerning our chances for the championship. The nine returned from its annual spring trip on Thursday evening, and although it was sat upon quite badly, metaphysically speaking, by Washington, Baltimore and New York, this was expected, and the college has no fault to find with the members of the team. A very marked improvement was seen in batting, which perhaps has gone a good way in excusing field errors. We play Staten Island this afternoon, and an interesting contest is looked forward to.

Track athletics are in a very promising con-