Wonders and Beauties

Behold by the "News" Correspondent at the World's Exposition.—Electricity, Inventions and Mining Exhibits.

At the northwestern corner of the court of honor in the Fair grounds stands a building within whose walls are housed the appliances of a power whose visible demonstration seems more like the exile wonders ascribed by the imagination of a witch or wizard, than the practical effects of an exact and methodical science. It is the building devoted especially to electrical exhibits, and what with its mystic objects and appliances, suggestive of some of the greatest marvels of the age, and the display of spectacular effect wrought by the weird power showing and astounding the gaze on every hand, one feels, in wandering through the great space, thronged with its startling exhibits, very much as he might at beholding one of the famous witch or demon scenes of the Walpurgis night known to the lights of the Brocken.

There are appliances connected with the transmission of thought and light and sound through the leagues of space—the telegraph, telephone and cable; the apparatus throwing light and heat; electric motors, representing the application of its force to railway, printing, elevator and other services and the devices which apply to electrotyping and the tempering of steam, to say nothing of the lesser contrivances used for fire and burglar alarms, police telegraphs, etc., all of which are marvels in their way, illustrating the mystic ways both simple and otherwise in which the great power may be used for the lightly and benefit of mankind. There are a number of objects which come under the title of relics or curiosities, such as the original Morse telegraph instruments and the original Bell telephone apparatus.

Among the unique exhibits are the phonograph, now becoming as well known through its use in conversing using it in preference to dictating to stenographers; and also the chronograph, and kinetograph, the latter a new invention of Edison's, which transmits a scene to the eye by a sort of photography based on the compound principle. By its means one is enabled not only to hear the sound of the voice but also to behold the person who is talking and gain at least a glimpse of the scene by which he is surrounded.

Among the curious but less important exhibits are appliances whose use is for the detection of counterfeits and pickpockets, a simple contrivance which, set in a box or pocket, rings an alarm at the touch of the would-be thieves. An interesting display is that devoted to the appliances for electricity in surgery, dentistry and therapeutics, and besides these, the electric cooking contrivances known to the dental methods of electrocution.

Interesting as are these many minor and practical displays they are barely so starting as the dynamic exhibits which have been customary for the display of the water power. The section of the hall which has our picture set in the opposite corner, made up of the batteries of enclosed plate and suffice by a huge cone-shaped globe of the same material. The outlines of its pillars are purposely irregular, and at the signal of the electric apparatus set in a further wing of the canyon, a zigzag line of light flashes along the columns, ending in a wonderful and prolonged glare, which has also from the ghost at the upper (the end) to be repeated again and made of regular intervals. It is the spectacular representation of lightning, and the effect wrought by the use of the electric glare is certainly beautiful, if not as impressive and startling as one has seen sometimes in the original.

Another striking display is that of an immense revolving pillar set in the center of the building and reaching almost to the roof, more than an hour of its sides of a dark, different color. There are arranged in a kaleidoscopic manner, and when the light runs through them and the pillar revolves, showing the mystic designs of both that it is in the field, they are indeed wonderful to behold.

Besides these there are a score other scientific devices, designed to show the wonderful attributes of capabilities of electricity, some of them which figure as another the most striking of showers, having a decidedly practical as well as ornamental use. Principal amongst the other is the mammoth crystal wheel used in lighthouses, whose glittering disc, lighted and revolved by electricity shows like a great white star to mariners by night. The most wonderful and dazzling spectacle by far is its representation in the lighting of the arc and the roof of the buildings through out the Fair grounds. Eight thousand arc lamps of 2,000 candle power and 120,000 incandescent lamps of sixteen candle power, are in use within the buildings and about the grounds, and the sweet and brilliant illuminations of display effected by their use.

The electric launches that glide through the canals and the electric boats on the great lagoon to the south of honor are a part of the wonderful spectacular display, and those with the power to use towers within lightning the dome and roof of the Administration and other buildings, together with the play of the wonderful search lights which at night are made to illuminate immense heights and distances for the delight and wonder of the spectators, make up a sufficiently impressive conclusion of the achievements and importance of the great electrical force.

In Machinery hall among one of its most impressive though less brilliant scenes is exemplified to the display in the ponderous dynamos of various kinds comprised in the list of the great electric companies whose individual exhibits are contained beneath the roof of the building. Here is furnished the light and heating power for the entire Exposition grounds and buildings—and after viewing their results one looks upon the huge pieces of machinery through which the power is utilized with hardly less appreciation than any wonders can make the most refined people think.

In the main hall of the great Machinery building another power is displayed—hardly less wonderful in its way, considering its inconvertible, than its successful electrical rival, though not, perhaps, so startingly responsible in display. In order of a new power, the steam power is the first in the agents which have felt the own instrumental in revolutionizing the world.

In a twenty acres of space devoted to the machinery exhibit—which by the way is an area which extends to the eye, that of many thousands—we see thousands of pieces of machinery moved by the single power, the result, as shown in the different and intricate workings of the wheels and pinions, and the display, as, in the fact of the labor effected by each, is one little less wonderful and impressive than that of the power itself.

To describe these inventions singly is impossible, for everything that has been effected for the use and wants of man—from the huge pumps and engines used in great works such as mines, mills and building enterprises, to the best clever contrivance for the use of ladies in the household, or mechanical, commercial or other use is here displayed.

A structure which makes the third of a line of buildings, outside simply for the suggestion of power, intensive and diagonally combined in its display, is the Transportation building, where may be seen another array of exhibits illustrating the almost superhuman achievements resulting from the application of human intelligence in utilizing that force of nature for the civilization of the world. Here are the various types of railway conveyances from the awkward models of the first locomotive and passenger car of the early part of the century, to the improved engines and palace cars of today; the model of Fulton's steamboat of thirty years ago and that of the "floating steam palace" of modern time; the contrast of Columbus' caravels and the modern fleet, scientifically built sailing vessels and yachts that make weekly pleasure voyages across the ocean harvested by the great navigator with so much trouble and difficulty four hundred years ago; all these and many other crafts, and carriages of various patterns and countries, each illustrating in its way the process of development through improvement and invention, up to the wonderful methods and means of locomotion and travel of today, are some of the objects contained within the principal building devoted to this individual display, whose importance, considering the part they have played as factors in the world's progress and civilization, makes justifiable the extent of space this implied by the space and structure assigned them.

The Transportation building is in fact one of the handsomest and most imposing structures on the grounds. It differs from the majority of the great general buildings in regard to color, the most of the others being of pure white and these of a handsome combination of green and gold. The exterior walls are ornamented with statuary and ancient and decorative painting, and over each entrance an appropriate motto of quotation is inscribed in gold. The principal feature of the structure, however, is the great golden arch which forms the other side of Green to the building. This consists of a series of receding arches, which give a great perspective effect, brightened by the gilded spandrel beyond, which is formed by the arch, general of many is the most interesting in the list of the great edifice devoted to general display in the Fair grounds. With the exception of the Liberal Arts building, in fact, as other of our average readers are varied and impressive as any of exhibits. Conclusion, and the remained, other buildings which flank it in the solid magnificence of the world, gaze and travel and, and, and,