

large photographs from Oceanica, as displayed ostentatiously in another part of the building, and would rather camp over there. But their wives, mothers, sisters, and lady acquaintances don't care for the Oceanica belles; they prefer to memorize every hair root-tingling detail of these dreadful mummies that they may chatter about them at home for the next two years.

Yes, if you've any real nice, fresh corpses, just trot them out; but do give us a rest on these sere and withered chestnuts.

ROBT. J. JESSUP.

PERDITA AT THE FAIR.

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 eerie wonders evoked by the incantation 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 myriad 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 heights 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 furnishing 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 metals, 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 myriad ways both simple and otherwise in which the great power may be used for the facility 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 so well known through its use in business—many using it in preference to dictating to stenographers; and also the chronograph, and kinetograph, the latter a new invention of Edison's, which transmits scenes to the eye by a sort of photography based on the composite 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 as well 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 clothes-thieves and pickpockets, a simple contrivance which, set in a book or pocket, rings an alarm at the touch of the would-be molester. An interesting display is that devoted to the appliances for electricity in surgery, dentistry and ther-

apeutics, and besides them, the death-dealing contrivances known to the dread methods of electrocution.

Interesting as are these many material and practical displays they are hardly as startling as the dramatic exhibits which have been contributed for the display of the wizard power. One section of the hall shows four pillars set at its opposite corners, made up of tiny hubbles of colored glass and cuffed by a huge dome-shaped globe of the same material. The outlines of the pillars are purposely irregular, and at the signal of the electric apparatus set at the further end of the pavilion, a zig-zag line of light flashes along the columns, ending in a sudden vivid and prolonged glow, which radiates from the globe at the top, then dies out, to be repeated again and again at regular intervals. It is the spectacular representation of lightning, and the effect wrought by the use of the colored glass is certainly beautiful, if not as impressive and startling as can be 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, made also of tiny globes of a dozen different colors. These are arranged in a kaleidoscopic manner, and when the light runs through them and the post revolves, showing the myriad designs of brilliant colors, the effect can only be described as dazzling. Besides these are a dozen other dramatic devices, designed to show the scenic attributes or capabilities of electricity, some of them which figure as amongst the most striking, however, having a decidedly practical as well as ornamental use. Principal amongst the latter is the mammoth crystal wheel used in lighthouses, whose glittering disk, lighted and rotated 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 this and the rest of the buildings throughout the Fairgrounds. Eight thousand arc lamps of 2000 candle power and 130,000 incandescent lamps of sixteen candle power, are in use within the buildings and about the grounds, and one need not find it hard to imagine the brilliance of display effected by their use.

The electric launches that glide through the canals and the electric fountains in the great lagoon in the court of honor are a part of this wonderful spectacular display, and these with the rows upon rows of golden lights on the dome and front 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 proclamation of the achievements and importance of the great elemental force.

In Machinery hall annex one of its most impressive though less brilliant lessons is exemplified in its 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 build-

ings—and after viewing their results one looks upon the huge pieces of machinery through which the power is utilized with hardly less appreciation and wonder than upon the more brilliant scenic effects.

In the main hall of the great Machinery building another power is displayed—hardly less wonderful in a way, considering its achievements, than its successful electrical rival, though not, perhaps, so startlingly dramatic in display. I refer of course to steam, the pioneer power in the list of invincible agents whose force has been instrumental in revolutionizing the world.

In the twenty acres of space devoted to the machinery exhibit—which by the way is an area whose extent is more than that of many thriving towns—we see thousands of pieces of machinery moved by this single power, the result, as shown in the difficult and intricate workings of the myriad mechanical inventions displayed, and the fruits of the labor effected by each, being little less wonderful and important than that of the newer power.

To describe these inventions singly is impossible, for everything that has been effected for the use and convenience of man—from the huge pumps and engines used in great works such as mining, milling and building enterprises, to the least clever contrivance in the line of facile invention for domestic, commercial or other uses is here displayed.

A structure which makes the third of a trio of buildings, notable chiefly for the suggestion of power, intelligence and ingenuity 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 inert forces 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 many years ago and that of the "floating steam palace" of modern times; the contrast of Columbus' caravels and the modern fleet, scientifically-built sailing vessels and yachts that make weekly pleasure voyages across the ocean traversed by the great navigator with so much trouble and difficulty four hundred years ago; all these and many other crafts, and carriages of various periods 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 princely 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 eminent distinction 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