state? Cannot some of our New England manufacturers, with peat at their door, at least try the experiment?

More attention has been paid in England to the use of peat as steam fuel than elsewhere. A number of years, ago Prof. Jevons created quite a panic there by his calculation that Great Britain's coal supply would be exhausted in about one hundred years if its consumption increased in the ratio in which it was then increasing.

We learn from the Bulletin de la Société Chimique de Paris of January that Prof. Crafts, formerly of our Institute, gave to the Society, at its session of Dec. 9, the results of his numerous comparisons of air and mercurial thermometers from different sources. It appears that between 200° and 300° C. there is a close agreement between French thermometers of lead glass and the German thermometers made of glass containing no lead.

At the same meeting a memoir was presented by Friedel and Crafts on the preparation of triphenylmethane. While making many kilogrammes of this substance in different ways, they obtained the best yield by the reaction of 200 grammes of chloride of aluminum on a mixture of 1,000 grammes of benzine with 200 grammes of chloroform. They state that this method of producing triphenylmethane, which Schwarz has lately described as new, had been made known by them as long ago as June, 1877.

Quite a number of '83 mechanicals recently visited the State House, and inspected the Meigs system of elevated railroads, as exhibited by models there.

At the meeting of the Society of Arts on Thursday, Feb. 23, the McLeod automatic air railroad signal will be described and exhibited. Some other interesting devices will probably be shown. Members of the Institute should remember that these meetings are open to them, and will prove interesting and profitable to all who attend.

Mineral and Chemistry.

FOUR of the miners of '83 and two of the chemists are now at work at assaying. The course occupies three afternoons a week for four weeks, and comprises assays of lead, silver, gold, copper, iron, and antimony. The second division will commence work about the last of March.

There is a lack of room in the laboratories. The unusually large number of '84 men who are taking up mining and chemistry courses has crowded several chemists and specialists of '83 into the fourth-year laboratory; while there are still eight or ten members of '84 ready to come into the quantitative laboratory, but prevented for want of desk-room.

The San Francisco Exchange is responsible for the following:

"The length of the shafts and galleries in the Comstock mines of Nevada is 250 miles. During the last twenty years just closed, 350,000,000 tons of waste rock have been hoisted, 1,750,000,000 tons of water pumped to the surface, and the net result of all this work was $325,000,000 in bullion."

There has been of late considerable controversy as to whether or not emeralds have been discovered in North Carolina, Mr. Hidden (who has given his name to the mineral hiddenite) declaring that he has made a rich "find" of emeralds in Alexander County, while the incredulous laughed at him. Mr. Hidden's specimens, which were found in the surface soil, were at first declared by experts to be no emeralds; but an expert from the New York Academy of Sciences has followed up the matter, and has discovered at various depths several large pockets of the prisms, which are declared on the best authority to be the true gem. The stones are large enough and numerous enough, but contain frequent flaws, which are likely to prove a serious drawback to the financial value of the deposit, though the scientific fact of the discovery of the emeralds remains.