Mr. Woodbridge entertained the Sanitary Science Club, Feb. 14, in the physical laboratory by an address upon heating and ventilation. After stating general principles, he proceeded to explain their application to "The New Building," supplementing the lecture by a visit to the working apparatus in the basement and sub-basement. As the club has made a special study of sanitary science in all its departments, it thoroughly appreciated Mr. Woodbridge's admirably clear and scientific explanations, and a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer before the adjournment of the meeting.

A novel signal station has recently been placed at the Germantown Junction of the Pennsylvania Railroad. If the engineer of an approaching train should fail to see the signal displayed, the rails are automatically displaced, and the train is switched on to a side track. The mechanism is said to work effectively.

Telephonic communication between moving vessels has been successfully accomplished in France, Engineering tells us. As one vessel was towing the other, the wire was carried along one of the hawsers, and the circuit was completed through the copper on the bottom of the ships and the water. Conversation was carried on distinctly.

A paragraph in a recent Springfield Republican, copied also by several other journals, purports to describe a wonderful chemical experiment,—the liquefaction of CO₂ at Amherst College. It is stated that this "difficult and dangerous undertaking" is attempted at Amherst only once in three years, and that it is prohibited by law, except in the United States. For the benefit of those of our readers who might otherwise be credulous, we would state that liquid CO₂ has been prepared since the time of Faraday; that it has been not infrequently used to produce intense cold in physical researches; and, further, that it is a commercial product, used in certain industries in Germany and other parts of Europe.

A tin ore, cassiterite, has recently been discovered at King's Mountain, in North Carolina. Seven analyses showed the ore to contain 43.46 per cent of tin. The discovery promises to be of great value.

During the recent cold weather, the American Engineer says that the New York East River Bridge was, by contraction of the metal, elevated three feet above its height in summer.

Platinum, heated in a forge in contact with charcoal, becomes fusible. Boussingault has shown that this is due to the formation of a silicide of platinum by means of the reduction of the silica of the carbon by the metal. Two German savans have produced the same phenomenon, by heating to white heat a slip of platinum in the centre of a thick layer of lamp-black free from silica.

The Mechanical Engineer of Feb. 23 is an unusually interesting number. There is a detailed account of a test of a Harris-Corliss condensing engine vs. a Harris-Corliss non-condensing engine, by Mr. J W. Hill, which should interest our mechanical readers, and the boiler tests recorded will be a guide as to what may be done later in our own laboratory.

The lectures to the Architects on Decoration by Mr. Rotch, have proved exceedingly interesting. They are charmingly illustrated by water-color drawings of his own, and enlivened by descriptions of the examples he saw while in Europe and the East.

According to an announcement made by Prof. E. Stefan, at the last meeting of the Vienna Physical Society, Prof. S. von Wroblewski, of Krakow, has succeeded in solidifying hydrogen.

A thermometer has recently been introduced, more as an interesting demonstration, we imagine, than for its practical application, in which the mercury column sinks with the rise of temperature. The arrangement is based on the discovery of Kohlrausch that the coefficient of dilatation of ebonite is greater than that of mercury. With a rise of 20° C., the mercury falls through 25 millimetres, from the fact that the reservoir is made of ebonite.