Symphony Hall, Boston, is ventilated by introducing air at the top of the hall, diffusing it at low velocities and exhausting it at the floor level. The heating is by means of direct radiation, using the steam from the lighting plant.

The new bridge connecting Blackwell's Island with the New York shore is to be a cantilever structure. The total length is to be 8,231 feet, and there will be two channel spans of 1,002 feet each.

An interesting discovery of a new chemical for the manufacture of ice is credited to Professor Rolin C. Woster of Newark, N. J. This chemical is a kind of ammonia salt, and can be used and re-used for an indefinite number of times. One supply of salt will make ice cream, and ice enough for the refrigerator for all summer.

It is said that, before the end of the year, sleeping-cars will be put in operation on the trolley lines of various electric railroads in the West. And it is promised that through trains, with sleepers, will run between Cleveland and Detroit before Christmas.

In the old Norman city of Rouen the electric street-car wires are to be put to a new use. The Fire Brigade propose that pumps be provided driven by dynamos, to take the current by means of a trolley hooked to the wire at the nearest point to the fire.

Ten years ago we had about seven hundred miles of electric railway; to-day a little more than twice as many miles are in operation in the United States alone. Millions of dollars are invested in the stock, and many thousand men employed.

The Rajah of Matlan has in his possession a 367-carat diamond. The Kohinor, now one of the crown jewels of England as cut, weighs 106 carats.

Smoke-Talk Electrical Engineering Society.

Monday evening the Electrical Engineering Society held an informal smoke-talk at the new Technology Club House. Owing to the short notice which was given to the members only about twenty-five were present, moreover, some of the men were unable to come on account of a boiler test.

Professor Dolbear gave an interesting talk, telling of some of the earlier men who were interested in the advancement of electrical science, and Professor Cross related some amusing anecdotes.

Refreshments were served, and the meeting broke up at about half-past eleven, the men going in a body to the boiler-house to condole with those members who were keeping awake over their boiler test.

I wish I was an oyster;
I'd grow a mighty pearl,
And then when I got married,
I'd give it to the girl.—Ex.

The Society of Arts.

The 566th regular meeting of the Society will be held at the Institute, Room 22, Walker Building, corner Boylston and Clarendon Streets, on Monday, Jan. 6, 1902, at 8 P.M.

Prof. George E. Hale, director of the Yerkes Observatory, will address the Society on "The New Star in Perseus." Illustrated by stereopticon.

Members are requested to invite friends interested in the subject. Ladies are cordially invited.