machine, manufacturing 250 kilogrammes of ice per hour:—

A cylindrical tubular copper boiler has a length of 2 metres and a diameter of 35 centimetres; 150 tubes of 15 millimetres traverse its entire length, and are soldered by their extremities to the two ends. This first boiler is the refrigerator. It is placed horizontally in a large sheet-iron vat, which contains 100 tanks of 20 litres each. An incongealable liquid, salted water, is constantly circulating in the interior of the refrigerator by means of a helix. This liquid is re-cooled to about $-7°$ in a normal course, and it licks on its return the sides of the tanks which contain the water to be frozen.

In the space reserved between the tubes of the refrigerator, the sulphurous acid liquid is volatilised, its vapours are drawn up by an aspirating force-pump, which compresses them without the condenser. This condenser is a tubular boiler, the same as the refrigerator; only a current of ordinary water passes constantly into the interior of the tubes to carry off the heat produced by the change of the gaseous into the liquid state of the sulphurous acid, and by the work of compression. A tube furnished with a gauge tap, adjusted by the hand once for all, permits the liquefied sulphurous acid to return into the refrigerator to be subjected anew to volatilisation.

Sulphurous acid has the exceptionally advantageous property of being an excellent lubricant, so that the metallic piston which works in the cylinder of the compressing pump requires no greasing. Thus the introduction of foreign matter into the apparatus becomes entirely impossible.

The work necessary to manufacture 250 kilogrammes of ice per hour is at the most seven-horse power.

A cold of 7° in the bath is amply sufficient to obtain in the tanks a rapid and in every way economical congelation.

With these mechanical arrangements the following important advantages are realised:—1. The pressure never exceeds four atmospheres. 2. There is never any entry of air to fear, the pressures, as far as $-10°$ C., being always above that of the atmosphere. 3. The volatile liquid employed is perfectly stable, undecomposable, and without chemical action on metals. 4. All greasing in the machine is dispensed with. 5. The volatile liquid is obtained at a very low price, and it is accompanied by no danger of explosion or fire. 6. The cost of production of the ice approaches infinitely near to the theoretic minimum: it is about 10 francs per ton of ice.

By means of all these advantages the practical problem of the manufacture of ice may be considered as solved for all climates, and the process of M. Pictet will not fail to be speedily adopted in all warm countries as soon as it becomes known; it is in such countries that its happy results will be specially utilised and appreciated.

A small specimen of M. Pictet's machine will be shown at the forthcoming Loan Exhibition of Scientific Apparatus at South Kensington.

APPARATUS FOR DEMONSTRATING THE TRANSFORMATION OF FORCE

IN a recent number of the *Journal de Physique*, M. Crova describes a convenient apparatus for showing the relations between heat, electricity, and mechanical force. The arrangement is as follows:—

Two of Clamond's thermo-electric generators are connected in surface, and put in communication with a Gramme machine in such a way as to set this in action. In the circuit is inserted a sort of electric lamp, in which a platinum wire placed in the centre of a small globe (which protects it from agitation of the air) can be raised to incandescence. The only difficulty of the experiment consists in so regulating the length and diameter of the platinum wire as that it may be raised to a red heat, while the thermo-electric current retains sufficient intensity to drive the Gramme machine. A circuit entirely metallic then is obtained, with which the following transformations can be effected:—

1. The Gramme machine being excluded from the circuit, a portion of heat, transformed into electricity by the thermo-electric pile, reappears in the state of heat in the platinum wire.

2. The platinum wire being excluded from the circuit, and the Gramme machine introduced, a portion of heat, transformed into electricity in the pile, produces mechanical work in the machine, which acts as a motor.

3. The platinum wire and the machine being included in the circuit, a part of heat, transformed in the pile into electricity, produces heat in the wire and work in the motor. If we then stop the motion of the Gramme machine, we find the incandescence of the platinum wire increased. The machine being liberated, on the other hand, is set agoing again, and the incandescence of the platinum wire diminishes in proportion as the motion is accelerated. In this way is rendered sensible to the eye the expenditure of heat necessary to develop an increasing quantity of mechanical work.

4. Taking the handle of the machine, we turn it *in the direction* of the rotation the current produces, but with an increasing velocity. In this way a velocity is reached such that the incandescence of the wire *completely disappears*.

5. If the handle be turned in a direction opposite to that of the rotation the current communicates, there is considerable resistance, and the incandescence of the wire *increases* rapidly; on turning more quickly, the wire is fused. Thus, in the metallic circuit under consideration, the circulation of a given quantity of energy may appear exteriorly in the form of heat or of mechanical work, the one of these quantities being the complement of the other. If by an exterior force we introduce into the circuit an additional quantity of work, the increase of the quantity of energy put in circulation is rendered visible by the incandescence of the wire; any communication outwards from the circuit, of a certain quantity of energy which circulates in it, appears, on the other hand, in diminution, or even disappearance, of the incandescence.

NOTES

LORD SALISBURY, on Monday, named the following as Commissioners under the Oxford University Bill:—Lord Selborne (Chairman), Lord Redesdale, the Dean of Chichester, Mr. Mountague Bernard, Sir Henry Maine, Mr. Matthew White Ridley, and Mr. Justice Grove. The feeling among scientific men is one of intense disappointment, leading to the conclusion that it is useless any longer to consider whether Oxford will ever be in a position to do anything for the promotion of science.

THE report of the Cambridge Board of Mathematical Studies to the Studies' Syndicate contrasts with the reports of most of the other boards in the paucity of its suggestions for improvement. They do not seem to think that very much is required in order to perfect the system of mathematical teaching. They believe in the probable stability and development of the system of inter-collegiate lectures, but say very little to assist its development, and they say nothing about the present vehement competition by means of private tuition, and the defective method of study that it induces. In answer to the question how University teaching may be organised so as to give the greatest encouragement to the advancement of knowledge, "the Board offer no suggestions under this head." Is this quite what might have been expected in a report bearing the signatures of Stokes, Cayley, Adams, Clerk-Maxwell, Sir W. Thomson, Tait, Lord