

### COMMERCIAL ELECTRICITY.

The exhibition in the electricity building at the world's fair is a revelation to those who have seen only the more common uses to which the electrical force has been put. While it is a surprise it also opens a wide field for thought. It forces upon the mind, as nothing else can, the fact that the day is near when electricity and its mechanical appliances will almost, if not quite, supersede all other forces in general commercial use for all the manifold duties now performed by coal and gas.

The application of electricity to cooking and heating is so thoroughly demonstrated, with the further evidence in its favor that it is cheaper than coal or gas, that it must, of necessity, be only a question of a very short time until it will come into general use in all cities. Not a woman who visited the cooking department and saw the ease with which the work was done, the cleanliness and the comfort, but went away determined to use the process as she witnessed it, at the earliest opportunity.

What is true of the cooking department is also true of all other parts of the building. The whole exhibition was so far beyond the ordinary conception of the possibilities of the use of electricity that this one display alone will go far toward working almost a revolution in the economy of mankind. We have become so accustomed to the almost antiquated ways of the systems under which we have been living for the past dozen years that we can scarcely realize what is in store for the world within the next year. We have worried along with the imperfect telephone and its central office until we have absorbed the idea that there is nothing better, when the fact is that there awaits but the expiration of the patents on the old ones certain new ones that are as far ahead of the ones in present use as these are ahead of the old tin boxes and silk cords.

It has also been thoroughly demonstrated that electricity can be had much cheaper than the present cost, so much cheaper that it is now being utilized in places where kerosene lamps have been considered a luxury. This means that it will soon be furnished to everyone so cheap that it will entirely take the place of fuel and light for all household purposes.

SUNDAY OPENING OF THE FAIR