New England and Other Matters.

AN important event in connection with the development of the transportation system of Boston is the opening of the new power station in South Boston. This station, which has been built on the site of the old Lawley shipyard, is capable of producing forty-five thousand kilowatts. There are three great turbine-engines of twenty thousand horse-power each. The current sent out through the cables is of thirteen thousand two hundred volts, and could be sent to every Boston suburb, if necessary. To supplement the work of this enormous central plant, new substations have been built at Egleston Square, Roslindale, Coolidge Corner, Kendall Square, Arlington, Malden and East Boston. This has allowed the abandonment of the older and smaller stations at Allston, East Cambridge, Somerville, Medford and East Boston. To get an idea of the power problem of the Boston trolley system, the reader has only to remember that the city and its closely related suburbs have five hundred miles of track, which serve a million and a half people day and night. By 1914, when the present plans for extensions and new tunnels are carried out, the permanent investment of the company will be one hundred and ten million dollars, or about a third of the sum spent in building the Panama Canal.

WHEN a physician guesses wrong,—for even the medical men have the privilege of guessing occasionally,—the result is liable to be unpleasant for the person whose case is being considered. Sometimes, however, it is otherwise. Donald Davis of West Royalston, Massachusetts, who celebrated his one hundred and third birthday the other day, was dropped from the Boston police force in 1834, seventy-eight years ago, on the advice of a doctor who declared that he had less than a year to live. All the other members of the force at that time and the doctor himself went to their rewards years ago, but Mr. Davis and his wife, whom he married more than seventy years ago, still find much to enjoy in life.

TWO notable missionary centenaries have been celebrated in Massachusetts in recent years—that at Williams College in 1906, in honor of the banding together of a few young men in what became the first American movement for foreign missionary work, and that at Bradford in 1910, in honor of the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Last month the third centenary in the series was celebrated at Salem. Five young men were ordained for foreign missionary service in the same church where, in 1812, Judson, Newell, Nott, Hall and Rice were ordained. They sat upon the same settee that held the famous five; the old bass viol used on that occasion was brought forth to do service again. Distinguished leaders of the Congregationalists were present from all over the country, and the service was conducted with great impressiveness.

STATE peace societies are now being formed to supplement and support the work of the American Peace Society. State organizations for New Hampshire and Maine were formed at Manchester and Portland in February. The Connecticut Peace Society was founded half a dozen years ago, and the Massachusetts Peace Society, which was established in 1815, was reëstablished last year, when the headquarters of the American Peace Society were moved from Boston to Washington. The new society in New Hampshire is in a way a monument to two illustrious sons who were among the pioneers in the cause of peace—Noah Worcester, who founded the Massachusetts Peace Society, and William Ladd, the president of the American Peace Society. The Connecticut society was the host of the notable peace congress held at Hartford in 1910. It is expected that similar societies will soon be formed in Vermont and Rhode Island.

IT is natural enough that the life-stories of the Vice-Presidents should be much less familiar than those of the Presidents, but the celebration last month of the centenary of the birth of Henry Wilson gave desirable prominence to a career in which the young men of the land may find an inspiring example. At Farmington, New Hampshire, where Wilson was born, and at Natick, Massachusetts, his later home, there were special exercises in honor of the anniversary, and in many newspapers there was told again the story of the poor boy, "bound out" first to a farmer and then to a shoemaker, who became a leader in the Senate during the crisis of the Civil War and then Vice-President under Grant. As a boy on the farm and at the shoemaker's bench he eagerly read all the books that he could get hold of. Once he walked more than a hundred miles barefoot and over frozen ground to get a better job. Once he walked from Natick to Boston to hear a speech by Daniel Webster. He formed a debating society among his fellow shoemakers, and there acquired the drill and discipline that made him a power on the stump and on the floor of the United States Senate.