

HEATING BY WHOLESALE.

The Holly Steam-Heating System Successfully at Work.

The Springfield gas company have already begun heating buildings by the Holly system, the steam being brought in underground pipes 2000 feet or more, although when the subject was first proposed one of our prominent business men said steam could not be forced across the street. The Chicopee bank, H. & J. Brewer's drug-store and Dr Church's residence on Elm street have had the steam for more than a week, and, as far as can be determined this mild weather, it works with full success. It was turned on at the Springfield institution for savings yesterday afternoon, and the whole building is to be supplied as soon as the pipes can be put in. Among other places to try it immediately are the First national bank, Tobey's hat-store, Swetland's candy establishment, and the offices over the Chicopee bank and Brewer's. The steam is brought from the gas-works at the corner of State and Water streets, up Water to Elm, and up Elm to Main street. The gas company do not require any additional boiler, and have used but very little extra fuel to furnish heat for the buildings already supplied, and could heat twice as much radiating surface without any more fuel. The loss of pressure by condensation and friction between the Chicopee bank and the gas-works is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The pressure on the street pipes is from 20 to 25 pounds now, and Mr Holly says he could heat the greater part of the city without increasing it to more than 30 pounds. But in the houses the pressure is always five pounds, no more nor no less, no matter how many radiators are filled with steam. This is brought about by regulating valves in the cellar, which reduce and regulate the pressure. The meter is attached to these valves, and is governed by a pendulum clock which runs 40 days, and is so arranged that the consumer can read the amount registered from day to day. The main pipes expand when the steam is let into them $\frac{1}{8}$ inches every 100 feet, and to obviate that difficulty junction boxes are placed at the end of every section of 100 feet, in which the ends of the pipes play. To the bottom of these boxes the service pipes, or laterals, are attached, so that all the water condensed in the mains is driven by the pressure up the laterals into the buildings, where it is let off by an automatic steam trap. Pipes also lead from each radiator to the trap, and a waste pipe takes all the condensation into the sewer. This trap, the junction boxes, the regulating valves and meter are the most important of Mr Holly's patents.

The gas company, who have bought the right to use the system in this city, do not consider their present operations in the light of an experiment after the success Mr Holly has had in Lockport. There five miles of mains and laterals were in use last winter, and this year they will be increased two miles. Houses a mile away were heated in the coldest weather as readily as those near at hand, and there was not an instance of grumbling on account of the cost. Experiments have shown that an area of more than four miles square in any city or village can be warmed with one set of boilers. Rights have been sold for New York, Chicago, Detroit and other places. There seems at present nothing to prevent the general introduction of the system into the business places and dwellings of our city. The expense of fitting with pipes and apparatus is less than putting in an ordinary furnace, and in regard to the running expense it is understood that the company will guarantee it shall not be more than the consumer's average coal bill for the past three years. But aside from the question of expense, the new system does away with all labor and dirt of stoves and furnaces. Clarence B. Holly, son of Birdsill Holly, the inventor, has been in the city the past month superintending the house piping, and L. Everett, also of Lockport, has had charge of the street work. The steam is serviceable at the same time, anywhere on the route, for power. It is claimed that engines can be run economically half a mile or a mile away, and Superintendent Dwight of the gas company says it will be quite handy to use when we get the electric lights for the streets. Altogether the system promises to work a revolution in the use of steam, in more than one direction.