

to terra firma." It is rather surprising to find at so early a date a project for an elevated railroad on Broadway and, a few pages farther on, plans for what is usually regarded as the recent innovation of making ice by machinery. Comment and criticism extend even so far as to include chemical research, romance, poetry, religion and phrenology.

Studies of the past from contemporaneous sources are always interesting, and when they deal with ideas on which today are founded the conveniences and essentials of modern living, they become doubly so.

An Industrial Endorsement

THE Associated Industries of Massachusetts has recently given the Business Historical Society its endorsement, and in its weekly periodical — "Industry" — there has already appeared a two-page article descriptive of the purposes and functions of this Society.

To other industrial associations of like nature, we would say "Go thou and do likewise!" As "Industry" remarks, "In your offices, storehouses, attics are undoubtedly many old reports, pamphlets, books and so forth, which are of little value to you but which would make valuable addition to the collection of the Business Historical Society's library. Look them up. . . . Push the good work along. It is very much needed."

The Price of Slaves

THERE has recently come to the Library a small collection of official "Appraisements of Estates," all from Jefferson County, Georgia, and in date running from 1800 to 1820. These appraisements give an excellent idea of the nature of the small slave-holding estate of that period, the commodities, tools and implements upon it, the stock of household goods and the price of slaves. Most of the estates appraised have only a few slaves, not more than thirteen. Of course it was a period of large price fluctuations, but on an average a man slave appears to have been valued at about five hundred dollars, a woman at three hundred, and a boy or girl at two hundred. The value of an estate, apart from the slaves, was, as a rule, small. Thus one with ten slaves, who were put in at \$2955,