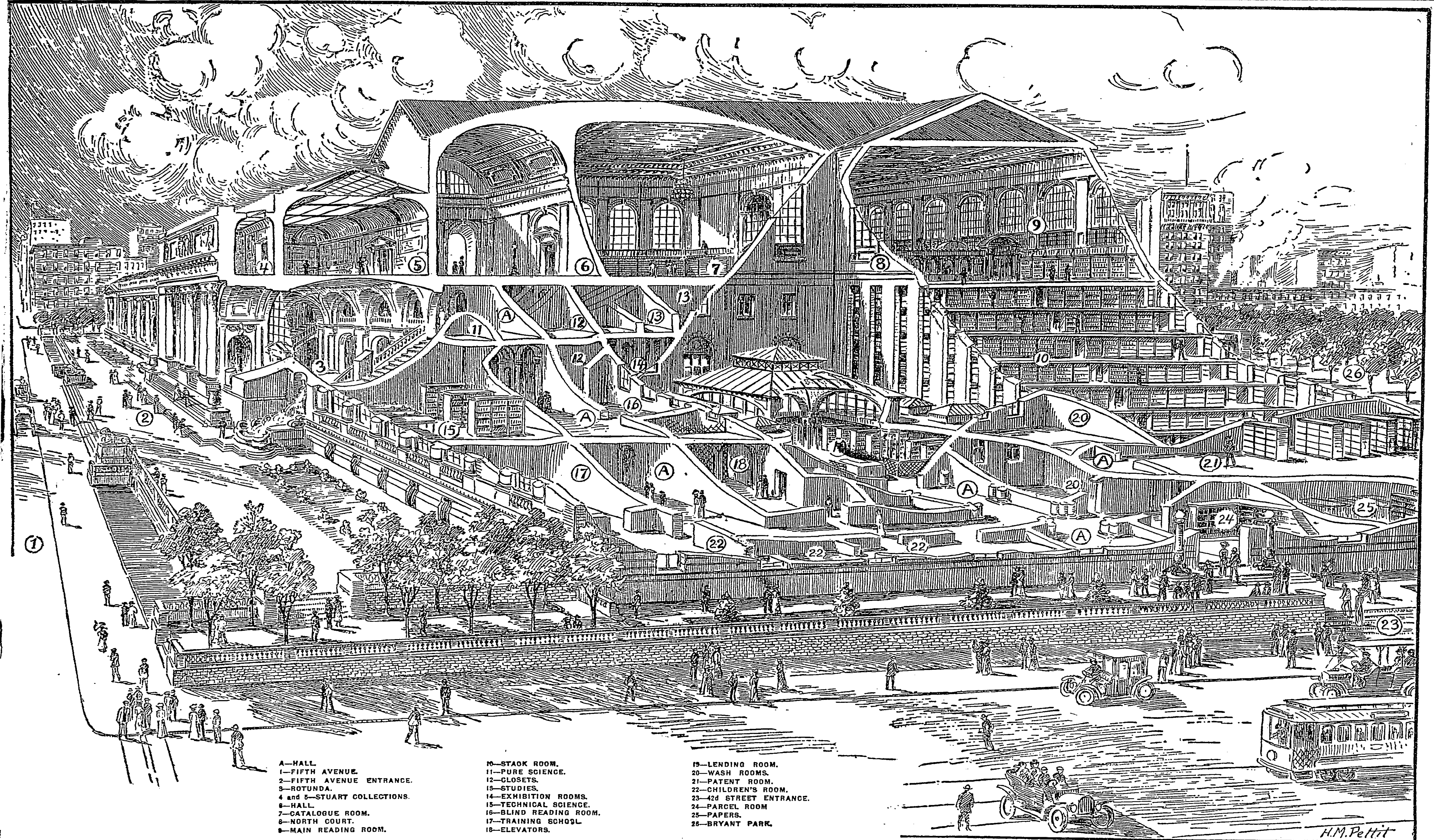


SECTIONAL VIEW OF NEW YORK'S NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY



- 1—HALL.
- 2—FIFTH AVENUE ENTRANCE.
- 3—ROTUNDA.
- 4 and 5—STUART COLLECTIONS.
- 6—CATALOGUE ROOM.
- 7—NORTH COURT.
- 8—MAIN READING ROOM.
- 9—STAIRS.
- 10—STAIRS.
- 11—STAIRS.
- 12—STAIRS.
- 13—STAIRS.
- 14—STAIRS.
- 15—STAIRS.
- 16—STAIRS.
- 17—STAIRS.
- 18—STAIRS.
- 19—STAIRS.
- 20—STAIRS.
- 21—STAIRS.
- 22—STAIRS.
- 23—STAIRS.
- 24—STAIRS.
- 25—STAIRS.
- 26—STAIRS.

Some Idea of the Size and Completeness of the Structure May Be Had from the Accompanying Drawing.

NEW YORKERS have been deluged of late with photographs and other more or less faithful reproductions of the interior and exterior of their splendid new public library, soon to be thrown open to readers and other visitors. On this page is a view of a new sort—a sectional perspective of the inside of the great structure, from which an excellent idea may be gained of its vastness and the amazing lengths to which its architects have gone in their endeavor to do everything possible for the comfort and satisfaction of bookworms.

The student of this sectional drawing can become quite acquainted with the library some days before it is ready for his visit. All he needs to do is to "get his bearings"—easily accomplished by closely following the explanatory numbers and letters appended to the sectional view.

As will be seen, the artist has made his drawing as if he were looking from the Forty-second Street side of the library building southward through its walls. Fifth Avenue, on which is the main front of the edifice, is "round the corner," so far as the position of the drawing is concerned, and is denoted by No. 1. Forty-second Street was chosen as a starting-point because a sectional view from that point of vantage affords the best idea of the interior arrangements of the library—of the relative position of its magnificent hallways and rooms, its main stairway, its stack rooms with their miles of bookshelves, and the maze of smaller apartments opening from the long corridors that run like veins through the structure. Entering by the main entrance on Fifth Avenue—numbered 2 in the diagram—the visitor finds himself in the main rotunda, a superb hall, with floor, walls and ceiling of white marble. The ceiling is supported by huge marble monoliths. On the sides are splendid marble stairways ascending to another hall on the main upper floor. This is flanked on the east by a large room containing the Stuart Collection of rare works, which was moved recently from its old home, the Lenox Library.

Progressing westward, from the above-mentioned upper hall, the visitor enters the Catalogue Room (No. 7 in the picture) and passes to one of the marvels of the new library, the splendid Main Reading Room, a miracle of harmonious lines, rich coloring and delicate woodwork. It is 285 feet long—as one of the architects remarked, the big reading room in the Boston Public Library would "rattle around" in it. The width is 75 feet, height 50 feet. "A hundred-yard dash might be run down the middle of the room," remarked the same expert.

Directly below this main reading room, and numbered 10 in the picture, is what is perhaps the greatest marvel of all—the so-called Stack Room. Here it is that the library's vast collection of books—there are something like three million—

is housed. It is a forest, or rather several forests, of slender steel trees, set one on top of the other. It is seven stories high, 297 feet long, 78 feet wide.

The stacks themselves, on which the books stand in long rows, are made of this steel beams, fitted with floor slabs

of marble 1 1/4 inches thick. The total shelf length in this Stack Room is 63 miles.

In addition to the enormous length of the shelves in the Stack Room there will be about 27 miles more of shelf space, scattered about in various other parts of the great library structure, which will be sufficient to accommodate 800,000 additional volumes.

When these are in their places the total number of volumes in the library will be well on the way to 4,000,000. To give a clearer idea of this total shelf space, it may be said that if the shelves were laid down end to end they would reach from New York to Philadelphia.

In case the sectional diagram does not give a perfectly accurate idea of where the Stack Room is located, it may be said that its windows are those long, narrow slits extending up and down the entire back of the library building fronting on Bryant Park, just east of Sixth Avenue. These window slits serve to light the end of each one of the narrow passageways separating the various book stacks.

Instead of entering by the main entrance on Fifth Avenue you may select the side entrance on West Forty-second Street, midway in the north wall of the library building, in which case you proceed straight to the Lending Room, which is No. 19 in the diagram. In the new library no less than 60,000 books will be housed close to this Lending Room, all ready to be taken out by persons desiring

to peruse them at home. In addition, the Lending Room will be in communication with the Stack Room, from which thousands of other volumes will be brought and placed at the disposal of home readers. This feature of the new building will be much appreciated by those accustomed to the Astor Library, from which no books could be taken.

From the Lending Room stairways and hallways will land visitors in the Catalogue Room and Main Reading Room, to which, as has been shown already, the Fifth Avenue entrance likewise gives direct access. On Fortieth Street there is another entrance, not shown in the diagram, leading past a fountain to similar stairways. Between these stairways and those ascending from the Forty-second Street side of the building is a large central court, lying beyond the big windows in the Catalogue Room—(No. 7 in the diagram.)

As may be seen in the picture, many smaller rooms open in every direction from the maze of corridors on the various floors of the library. Among these are special reading rooms devoted to books on American history, Russian and Hebrew works, children's books, and the like. The Fortieth Street side is given over practically entirely to the long row of administrative offices of the library, including the Trustees' Room—one of the principal show rooms of the building. It is lined throughout with fine woodwork,

interspersed with slabs of yellow Siena marble.

The office of the librarian fronts on Fifth Avenue, south of the Stuart collection rooms, which, in the picture, are numbered 4 and 5. Almost squarely in the middle of the Fifth Avenue front is a large room, which is to be devoted to meetings, lectures, and the like. On the Forty-second Street side are a number of small rooms, so small as to be almost private, in which distinguished men who come to the library to do research work may "get up" the subjects that interest them in peace and quiet. The total number of these rooms is eight. When it is taken into consideration that a number of great works have been written practically in their entirety in libraries, the advisability of having such a large number of private nooks—the number is larger than in any other library—becomes at once apparent. These responsible for providing these private rooms bore in mind, among other cases in point, that the well-known historical writer, Capt. Mahan, wrote his famous book on the influence of sea power in history down at the old Astor Library. If he ever wends his way to the new library with a like purpose in view, he will certainly find things much more comfortable than in the old edifice, which, though dear to the memory of New Yorkers, was, as its most enthusiastic admirer must admit, somewhat dingy and averse to associating with the light of day.

Straight ahead from the Fifth Avenue rotunda is the Exhibition Room (No. 14), adorned with beautiful wood carvings. At the right, as one enters the rotunda, is the Technical Science Reading Room, to which only special students will be admitted. If you enter here and show the attendant that you "belong" in the sense that you are an expert on some more or less abstruse subject, the said attendant

will trot out the greatest treasures in the library for your inspection—rare and costly manuscripts that usually are kept hidden away in the sanctum sanctorum of the Stack Room. Inviolable so far as the hand and eye of the mere general reader are concerned. And if you are such a deep student that you must have silence and privacy you can get one of the small private rooms already mentioned, and get it, moreover, for a week at a time, and whatever rare books or manuscripts you need will be brought to you by velvet-footed attendants.

Across the corridor from the Technical Science Room is another interesting special feature of the library, the reading room for the blind, in which those deprived of sight will have access to many volumes especially made for finger-reading. On the north side of the same floor are two smaller general reading rooms, and back of them, tucked away in the northwest corner, a big room devoted to patents.

There is a periodical room just south of the rotunda extending toward the Fortieth Street end of the library. It has some very handsome wainscoting. Across the corridor from it are several small rooms, among them a reception room where visitors may see library officers or others employed in the building on matters of business.

On the Forty-second Street side of the building is the Applied Science Room, with a special reading room for those interested in that subject. Near the middle of this northern end of the structure is a big reading room devoted to economics.

On the third floor, beyond the Stuart Collection rooms, as you go toward Forty-second Street, are two picture galleries reaching to the northeast corner of the library, at the intersection of Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue. Also on this floor, behind the Forty-second Street

facade, are a number of small rooms, including a picture gallery, reading room, music room, and a photograph room with a dark chamber attached.

Going from the Stuart Collection southward toward Fortieth Street the visitor comes upon a room devoted to art and architecture, and beyond it, in the building's southeast corner, to one in which will be exhibited the collection of prints formerly housed in the Lenox Library.

Along the central portion of the Fortieth Street side—not shown in the picture, but it can be imagined directly beyond the windows of the Catalogue Room—are four rooms, to be devoted to Americana, prints, and rare manuscripts of various descriptions. In this section of the building is also a map room, and at the rear, in the southwest corner of the third floor, another large reading room under a glass roof, corresponding to one similarly located on the Forty-second Street side.

One of the most beautiful things about the new library is the intricate woodwork in a number of its principal rooms. There is a hint of what this looks like in that part of the accompanying sectional drawing which depicts the main reading room. Not only that room but other parts of the building have been lavishly decorated with this woodwork, which has aroused unqualified enthusiasm among connoisseurs. The late Mr. Carrère, to whom belongs most of the credit for the new library, said not long before his death that the woodwork of the library would be more renowned than ever a century hence, when the action of time has softened it and emphasized its delicate beauty. It is the work of German artisans, expressly imported to this country, whose ancestors for generations back devoted themselves to the same sort of work.

After bestowing enthusiastic praise on the woodwork decoration of various por-

LITTLE STORIES OF FACT AND FANCY

Sticks in Their Memory.

THE mental impression made by vaccination lasts as long as the physical scar," said a doctor. "Men with comparatively short memories retain vivid recollections of what took place when they were vaccinated.

"I have one patient who has been a target for accidents and diseases. He has had pneumonia, typhoid fever, and cholera. Both arms have been broken, and he has been shot twice. By a miracle he pulled through every time and now enjoys excellent health. For professional reasons I like to talk with him about his hairbreadth escapes, but the man's memory is poor and he can recall only a few stick-room incidents.

"But just mention vaccination to him and he fires up immediately. He has been vaccinated three times. The first time he was only five years old, but he can remember to a pinhead the appearance of the woman who fainted just before it came his turn and the kind of tie the doctor wore. And that man is no exception. Many a man who has forgotten the particulars of a severe illness can relate minutely details of his vaccination."

And Why Not?

THEY were enlightening the landlubber as to maritime matters. He was becoming more and more crestfallen as their explanations progressed.

"Why, I always thought," he sadly

Shades of Johann!

THE restaurant orchestra was playing "The Blue Danube" waltz to the delight of a man sitting at one of the tables.

"Isn't that beautiful!" he remarked to a friend with him.

The other listened indulgently to the strains.

"Oh, it's all right," he said, "but give me a Strauss waltz any day!"

Traditional.

Argus was returning from the lodge.

"Great Scott!" he cried. "There's two hundred keyholes."

Herein was patent the disadvantage of having 100 eyes.

Matching His Mustache.

AN order for a slight mustache having cost nearly as much as an abundant blonde transformation, the man who had expected to wear the mustache objected to exorbitant charges.

"But they are not exorbitant," the dealer said. "A mustache is harder to match than any other kind of false hair. Those puffs I made for your wife contain ten times as much hair as the mustache, but the trouble in matching it was not half so great. There are many more

Growing Japanese Necks.

AFTER experimenting for several years in various commercial enterprises a haberdasher born to the trade returned to his old shop. For a long time that shop had made an especial appeal to Japanese customers, most of whom had been waited on in the old days by the renegade clerk. The first day after his return a Japanese gentleman came in to buy collars. Habit born of long practice instinctively reasserted itself, and the old clerk took down a box of No. 13 collars.

"Those are not big enough," said the Japanese. "I wear a 14 1/2."

"Are you sure?" the clerk asked.

"When I worked here before I never sold a collar bigger than No. 18 to men from your country."

"Maybe so," said the customer, "but Japanese necks have grown a lot since then. Exercise has produced general physical development, and the neck was the first part of the body to show improvement. From No. 13, which used to

Mountain Yachting.

YACHTING in the mountains sounds paradoxical, to say the least. It is quite a fact, though, said a man at lunch the other day. "The activities of one of the wealthiest yacht clubs in America are all nearly 2,000 feet above sea level. This is the St. Regis Yacht Club in the Adirondacks. Its waters are the restricted area of the Upper St. Regis Lake, in the Paul Smith's section of the great wilderness, but the joy of the sport is in inverse ratio to the circumscribed opportunities.

"The sport is the greater because of the unalterable rule that every yacht owner must handle his own tiller. The characteristic craft is the one class Idem boat, 16 and mainsail craft, 38 feet over all and 24 feet racing measurement.

"These yachts are known as 'self-bailers.' They carry a big spread of canvas and are peculiarly well adapted to a small mountain lake where fitful winds must be reckoned with. When the wind gives out, however, the great sails make the yachts look especially helpless.

"The club has been a club, so to speak,

LITTLE STORIES OF FACT AND FANCY

A Thought.

LIVES of cross set hogs remind us that we need not bear the brunt and departing leaves behind us footprints on the seat in front.

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Canned Instructions.

THE day she hired a new maid the woman brought the phonograph downstairs.

"I want to try the record I bought this morning," she said. "A man who stood in the hall outside the employment agency sold it to me. He asked if I had hired a girl. I said I had, and then he said he was afraid I would have trouble with her; that she might forget her daily tasks and have to be reminded frequently of what she had been hired for.

"With your permission," said he, "I will show you the most effective way ever devised to keep a girl faithful to her work."

"There was a phonograph on a table in the hall the thing I knew he had set off a record that contained a list of instructions to a general housemaid.

"You can turn that on every hour or so," he said, "and keep her right up to the notch. If you should give orders to girls that often in the regular way they wouldn't stand for, but they like the phonograph and that monologue keeps them right on the jump."

"I paid him a dollar for that one record. I hope it will earn its cost."

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