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Painter and Decorator

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"THE TELEPHONE GIRL"

A Brief Pen Sketch of the Workings of a Large Telephone Exchange. The Experience and Impressions of a Visitor.

Much has been written and said about the young woman in business. It still this remains a topic of general interest as each year we find woman's interest a bigger and broader one. It is not a new field of which I would speak, but one about which very little is known to the general public. "The Telephone Girl"

Today I visited one of the larger Bell exchanges for the purpose of earning something of the work and life of the telephone operator. Finding my study so extremely interesting, believe a brief picture of the inner workings of this wonderful machinery to be worthy of some attention.

Although these large exchanges are not open to the public without special permission from some one in authority, it is the policy of all companies to furnish an escort for a tour of the premises.

For the generalities of which I speak and also for the technical details, I am indebted to the courtesy of the manager.

The operating room is on the top floor, away from the noise of the street and where light and ventilation are good. How very interesting it is

There is no noise or confusion here no matter how busy the exchange. The low hum of the well modulated voices, the flashing of myriad little red and white light signals along the switchboard, the steady clicking of the keys and plugs, tells its story of the thousands of calls pouring through the exchange each hour of the day and night. How fascinating and how very wonderful it all seems!

There is the long row of operators sitting facing the switchboard and in front of each a network of cords, red, green and white reaching out in all directions, which she manipulates with surprising dexterity. Directly back of the operators are the supervisors pacing back and forth watching the operators in their respective divisions. Then in the center of the room are the "Information" or "95" operators seated at a large table or desk, which is equipped with lines to the switchboard and in the center of the desk is a revolving turret which contains the records of the company's subscribers. In charge of this room is the chief operator, who has her staff of assistants. There is a strict discipline here, there is no play, no idle talk, all is business.

But the operators' life while on duty is not a dull work. There is the recreation room, light and airy which is equipped for the comfort and convenience of the operators. Easy chairs, couches and tables with books, magazines and newspapers are scattered about the operating room and here perfect freedom is allowed. The operators come here during their recesses, there being two recesses a day for all operators. Adjoining this is the dining hall where meals are served by the company at cost.

There is also the cloak room with its neat locker for each operator. One of the most interesting departments is the school, where the new operators or "students," as they are called, are trained. Great care is exercised by telephone companies in the selection of the operating force. Young girls under twenty are preferred because they learn the work more quickly. The applicant must be well vouchered for and must meet the physical requirements, such as length of reach, handwriting, sight, hearing and a dextrous and must possess a pleasing manner.

The student must spend from two to three weeks in the school where she is taught every detail of the work and receives on a recent visit a printed switchboard number for the attention of the instructor and her assistants.

After graduating from the school she is given special instruction and assistance and her work and development is carefully watched, and as she progresses in efficiency the little pay envelope which she receives each week grows proportionately until she becomes the finished operator.

Then there are the higher positions, the senior operator, the monitor, the supervisor, and so on to the chief operator, which are given to those of the older operators who have shown ability and who have proven faithful to the interests of their company.

Before leaving the exchange, I had the pleasure of conversing with several of the operators who were off duty in the retiring room. They are all very bright and alert as a general thing but one girl about nineteen, very pretty and possessing an extremely pleasing personality was particularly interesting. "Oh, yes, I like duty in the retiring room. We must obey the rules, of course, and try our best to please everyone, but that isn't hard to do as though I know everybody on my board although I have never seen one of them, but I've made up pictures of them all in my mind. Most of them are so nice and never scold me but I don't give them any reason to be so cross and cranky no matter how hard I try to please them. Sometimes they are so nice and never scold me but I don't give them any reason to be so cross and cranky no matter how hard I try to please them. Sometimes they are so nice and never scold me but I don't give them any reason to be so cross and cranky no matter how hard I try to please them."

Why is it, I asked later of the manager, "that these girls seem so pleased with their work?" "Because," he said, "there is variety in their work and it does not become monotonous like other lines. Then, too, the surroundings are pleasant, but I believe the main reason lies in the fact that our girls all appreciate the just and fair treatment accorded them."

I was indeed sorry to leave this very interesting place but the manager cordially invited me to return as often as I liked and I am sure I shall avail myself of the opportunity very soon again.

Serving Duffy's Apple Juice 1842.

The proper service of Duffy's Apple Juice, 1842, ranks among the highest arts of private or public entertainment. In the heroic age of the world, when Homer's heroes struggled on the plains of Troy, or returning, visited many lands and islands of the sea, the service of liquid refreshment was attended with great ceremony. The serving was in cups of rare design which were often intended as gifts to the honored guests. The modern loving cup is a Homeric vessel from which host and guest drank with the stateliest formality, and the giving of these cups is Homeric.

Duffy's Apple Juice, 1842, is far superior to the light beverages of the heroic age and is very useful and pleasant in blending. In place of the most of Monclaus mixing the best wine before Ulysses or Telemachus, the accomplished American hostess pours the Apple Juice for her guests in delicate thin glasses, or blending with other liquids serves a variety of drinks.

Henry Wray & Son, Inc.

The truth of the proverb that great results from small beginnings is exemplified in the marvelous success of Henry Wray & Sons, located at 195 Mill Street.

The house was established in 1812 and they are brass founders. Their product is sold through the Middle West and as far South as Baltimore, and in large quantities in the New England States.

Their machine shop is 100 by 50 feet and their foundry 100 by 100 feet, both equipped with the latest improved machinery.

They give steady employment to skilled machinists and they are now enjoying an uninterrupted spell of prosperity.

The above concern was incorporated in 1905 with the following officers: Charles F. Wray, Secretary and Treasurer; Wm. H. Wray, Vice-President, and it is needless to say that they are men of liberal public spirit and enjoy in a large measure the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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Real Estate and Building.

The rapid industrial and commercial expansion of Rochester within the past few decades has necessarily stimulated to greater activity all real estate and building operations.

Many new office buildings of artistic design and handsome business establishments add to the dignity of our main thoroughfares while immense new factories dot the city's outskirts in every direction and square mile after square mile of outlying territory is being gradually absorbed into our ever widening aggregation of beautiful homes.

One of our best known concerns in this line of business, especially in planning the building residences, is the Hollister Real Estate and Building Co., whose handsome suite of offices is located in the Central Building.

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