

DO TALL BUILDINGS PAY

During the past decade, many high office buildings have been erected in Boston, and the question naturally arises: Are they paying? As far as can be learned, these new buildings have proved paying investments and are, in general, entirely occupied. Now, even allowing that the city is rapidly growing, there is, of course, a limit to the demand, so to speak, for office buildings, and there are certain indications now at hand which show that this limit has been nearly, if not actually, reached for the time. Every new building which goes up accommodating from 500 to 700 occupants, must naturally draw the bulk of its tenants from some other building.

Real estate brokers say that new office buildings, like new houses, are attractive to people, and they will leave offices in another building, with which they are satisfied, to move into a new structure. The result has been, as might have been expected, that the tendency of rents in the less desirable buildings is downwards. Now, the great question is regarding the future. If the owners of the last-named buildings find it necessary, they will still further reduce the rents, for a further reduction would be better than empty rooms, and such further reductions cannot fail to exert an influence on the rents of all classes of buildings.

This must be palpable, for the further the rents of the less desirable buildings slide below those of such office buildings as the Exchange, Ames and Carter, the more attractive will become the offices of the first named, even to people who need not especially economize. Consequently, there can be only one result, namely, a corresponding reduction in the rents of the big first-class buildings. To be sure, the city is constantly growing, but it is good opinion that for the sake of stability in rents the building of huge office structures should not go on too rapidly. Their erection, of course, improves the appearance of the city, but as we have before mentioned, there is a limit to the demand for first-class offices on the present basis of rents.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

IRON VS. STEEL FOR HEAVY WELDED CHAINS.

An English letter gives the following as to the relative standing of steel and iron for heavy chains, in the opinion of large manufacturers of chains and cables. It will be noted that no opinion is expressed as to the strength of welded links of steel. The strength of these latter has been well established by experiment as much beyond that of welded iron, saying nothing of their greater reliability:

"I have recently had occasion to interview certain of the leading chain cable makers in the Tipton and Dudley districts as to their views on the suitability of steel for chain and cable making, and in the present state of the steel question they are particularly interesting. That part of the country is the seat of this special class of work, and is, therefore, the chief centre for the United Kingdom, if not, indeed, for the whole of Europe. The most important firms declare that they have very little faith in chains or cables made from steel, for the reason that they can never depend on sound welding. They have made numerous experiments, but have not as yet come across any steel that will weld with the same amount of security as the best brands of chain iron. During the past 25 years they have experimented upon nearly every kind of steel bar made for chain purposes, and they go so far as to say that a steel chain with welded links can never hope to be classed with anything above a third-rate quality of iron. The firm informed me that the same thing applies to railway and colliery wagon couplings, and illustrate tests made at Lloyd's public testing machine, in which Siemens steel couplings, made especially for testing, broke at a strain of 45 tons, compared with 59½ tons borne by the celebrated Bowling iron (Yorkshire) and 66½ tons and 67½ tons from iron employed at this firm's works.

"These ironmasters further stated that although the mild steel now put upon the market is much better than a few years back, the expectation that this material would supersede iron for heavy chain manufacture has not been realized. As a striking example of the preference which, even among steelmasters, exists for chains of iron, the firm mentioned that they supply manufacturers of the leading steel-makers in the country with crane chains, and these all specify iron."—*Iron Trade Review.*

A MAGAZINE KALEIDOSCOPE.

Time was when all our magazines
Where filled with essays, stories, scenes
By pen and pencil drawn,
When poems, histories and such
On every page your hand would touch,
By writers who were valued much,
Before the "ad-smith's" dawn.

But now the magazines are filled
With literature our experts build
On every branch of trade,
And in their pages now there is
A list of human luxuries,
And needs, in every line of biz,
In catchy ads displayed.

Hats, clothes and shoes, all things we wear
In great variety are there
And quickly catch the eye.
Soups, sauces, broths and things we eat,
From crackers to extracts of meat,
And pickles, will the readers greet
In plentiful supply.

Tea, coffee, cocoa, wine and beer,
In very tasteful ads appear
On many an inside page,
Machinery of every kind,
And bicycles we always find
To tempt both man and womankind
In this progressive age.

Silks, satins, linens, gloves and lace,
Which add unto my lady's grace,
And charm the female heart,
Are side by side with other needs,
From hooks and eyes to garden seeds,
From painted fans to coral beads
And specimens of art.

Stocks, mortgages, and bonds and shares
Are tempting bait for bulls and bears;
With real estate for sale,
Insurance against death and fire,
Investments which we should admire,
And bargains for the shrewdest buyer
Throughout the book prevail.

What is there man or woman wants,
From window shades to Plymouth pants,
That has not here a place?
All modes of travel that can be,
By road or river, rail or sea,
With information as to fees,
Within the book we trace.

Then hail the modern magazine,
The greatest storehouse ever seen,
Whose ads illumine the mind!
Page after page unfolds to view
Some human want, invention new,
Which pays us well for looking through
To see what we can find.
—*Printer's Ink.*

WOMAN'S SHARE IN PRIMITIVE CULTURE.

The old theory with regard to women in savagery was that she existed merely as the slave of man, to bear the burdens and be the victim of his inherent cruelty; but scientific investigation, examining into the status of primitive tribes and seeking out the elements of civilization, has discovered this theory to be quite untrue. Woman in prehistoric life was in many respects the superior of man; the inventor of domestic comfort, the builder of the home, the source of the refining influences which have developed modern society. It is this latter doctrine, now fairly well demonstrated, that Dr. O. T. Mason, curator of the department of ethnology in the National Museum at Washington, seeks to elucidate in his treatise on "Woman's Share in Primitive Culture," the first volume in the "Anthropological Series," edited by Professor Frederick Starr, of Chicago University. In this admirably written work Dr. Mason brings the testimony of science to show the part played by woman in the capacity of food-bringer, weaver, skin-dresser, potter, beast of burden, jack-at-all-trades, artist, linguist, founder of society, and patron of religion. He brings to bear on his theme a vast store of erudition, and illustrates his ideas with many citations from primitive manners and customs; and the conclusion is that "it matters not whether we regard the history of the remotest past or the diverse civilization of the present, the emancipation and exaltation of women are the synonym of progress."—*The Beacon.*

A TALE OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

In Mr. James Payn's recently published volume the following anecdote appears:

"Blondel Parva" is a tale of life insurance founded on some curious facts that took place in Edinburgh in the early part of the century. The clothes of a merchant of high repute were found on the shore of the Forth, and it was concluded that he was drowned. He was very popular, and his family, who were much attached to him, were greatly sympathized with, and the more so since they were left far worse provided for than had been supposed. He had, however, insured his life for a very large amount, which secured them competence. By help of this money and his own exertions, the eldest son in course of time amassed a large fortune. Many years afterwards two of the judges were walking across the North Bridge in Edinburgh when they were accosted by a beggar. One of them gave him something and excused himself to the other for such injudicious charity on the ground "that the old fellow was so like poor F." "My dear friend," said the other gravely, "I never forget a face. That was F. himself." And so it turned out. F. had pretended to commit suicide in order to save his family from ruin; and after years of voluntary exile, during which he suffered great privations, he had been unable to resist the temptation in once more beholding his children before he died. He had no intention of revealing himself to them, and fancied that no one else could recognize him, but he felt that the judge had done so, and therefore made himself known to them. He died at home a few weeks after his return; the money obtained from the life insurance office was repaid with interest and the matter was hushed up. Curiously enough this very case was used as a plot by another novelist only a year or two ago, and the scene of it, no doubt by misadventure, actually laid where it had occurred, in Edinburgh.

THE HEROISM OF SCIENTISTS.

A new name must be added to the list of the martyrs of science in that of Dr. John M. Byron, of New York, the celebrated bacteriologist who discovered the germ of leprosy, and who has been an assiduous investigator of the terrible diseases of yellow fever, cholera and consumption. His long vigils in the laboratory in search of the secret of the bacilli of tuberculosis have proved, indeed, to be his fatal sacrifice to humanity. The seal of inevitable death has been set upon his brow in the very fulness of life and ambition. From the tubes of infectious microbes, which served for his microbiological study and experiments, unsterilized bacilli have stolen unobserved into the atmosphere and poisoned him with the dread malady from which he has been seeking to rescue others. Dr. Byron has suddenly been awakened to the horrible realization that consumption has lodged in his own system, that both lungs have been undermined, and that death stares him in the face as a doom from which he cannot hope to escape.

Many martyrs of science have fallen before Dr. Byron in the silent battle with disease, unmarked by the world for which they were striving, and unwept by a public tear. One of the greatest masters of clinics who ever lived, Laennec, the inventor of the stethoscope, fell a victim to this same cruel consumption as the result of a surgical operation. Only a few years ago, Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, who has just announced the finding of a tuberculosis remedy called "nuclein," almost killed himself with an overdose of ice-cream poisoning during the experiments which led to the discovery of tyrotoxin. In other fields of science the pioneers of truth have braved almost equal dangers. Nikola Tesla has several times received electric shocks that nearly resulted in death. Such pathetic cases as this of Dr. Byron serve to remind the not ungrateful public of the quiet heroism as well as infinite patience of the determined investigators of science.—*Phila. Record.*

—The great case of the Banque du Peuple v. Bryant, Powis & Bryant, has been amicably settled, each party paying its own costs, says a Quebec letter.

—The British Board of Trade returns for October show that during the month the imports increased £310,000, and the exports increased £970,000, as compared with those for the corresponding month of 1893.