

speed, and the boat is released, it would be useless as they never attempt to lower a boat with passengers in it. However, that takes us away from the davit back to the hooks on the boat.

Chairman,—

Do I understand, then, that in the case of a man overboard, they stop the boat before they attempt to launch a life-boat?

Mr. Lewkowicz,—

Yes. On the big boats they have life-buoys on which there are acetylene lights and when a man is overboard by just pressing a button the life-buoy drops into the water, and the action of the water generates the gas which makes a light appear on the buoy so that the man overboard can see the buoy, and if he is able to get to it, he can be picked up by the boat that is put out for him.

While I was in England we made an attempt to make a record of launching a boat with the old davits, after the covers were off and the boat was ungripped it took six of us just twenty-two minutes to get the falls straightened out so that they would reeve properly, and to get the boat into the water. I understand that with a proper complement of men it can be done in ten or twelve minutes. Under the most favorable circumstances I think the man who fell overboard would be a considerable distance away, especially with the fast boats which travel about 26 knots an hour, that is about 30 miles an hour, and five minutes would mean that he would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles behind the boat, and pretty nearly out of sight, and as there is always a roll on the sea, it would be rather hard to see an object in the water at any distance from the boat. I have seen a barrel thrown overboard, and in a very short time I could not locate it, and a man is a very much smaller object.

I thank you all for your kind attention, and wish that I had had more time to prepare this paper. I understand that there was a paper lacking to-night, and I trust that it has been of interest to you.

Mr. Wickens,—

We have all been delighted with Mr. Lewkowicz's paper on "Davits," and no doubt he has made a very close study of this arrangement and to a novice it looks pretty good. To a man who has never had any experience or seen a life-boat launched in a storm he is hardly in a position to make up his mind just how good the arrangement is, undoubtedly it is perfect as far as lowering the boat is concerned, perhaps, better than anything any of us have ever seen, but when the boat is in the water and ready to be unhooked from the davits it is in the