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A Consulting Engineer In Household Efficiency

(New York Evening Post.)

Five years ago Mrs. Richard Boardman, discouraged by the inefficiency and inefficiency of domestic servants, decided to put her household management on a new basis. She arranged the work on the factory schedule of an eight-hour day, six-day week. By rotation of hours of work she found that the regular household duties could be accomplished. The careless servant was replaced by the careful home assistant. The experiment had succeeded. At that time Mrs. Boardman lived in

a New Jersey suburb. In a short time the community was interested. The inevitable servant problem was discussed with new zest. Mrs. Boardman found herself being asked to explain the system, or to advise imitators. The report was carried to other communities. Letters of appeal came from near and far.

The Boardmans moved to New York and it was found that home assistants could be adjusted to apartment needs. More and more people turned to Mrs. Boardman for assistance in household

management until at last she was obliged to take defensive measures. Much speculation and near-wit has been called forth by the woman who, finding herself high and dry on a pinnacle of idleness in the piping times of peace, has attempted any old business or profession to "kill time." It remained for Mrs. Boardman to go into business as a time saver. "I was often called on the telephone by absolute strangers," said Mrs. Boardman, "and spent minutes that ran into hours explaining, warning, advising, encouraging women made desperate by the eternal servant problem. The home assistant idea cannot be explained in a minute. It demands a considerable mental readjustment for the average 'mistress'; a methodical schedule of household duties, a business contract. "It was quite impossible to do the

subject justice or be of any real service in such a desultory way, so I decided to put the thing on a business basis. I have opened an office for consultation." Thus, to meet a popular demand, a new sort of efficiency expert has come into being, and the Home Assistant Conference Headquarters has been opened in the Rhineclander section. Worried housewives have a consulting engineer in household efficiency to turn to when the old way, one of the last relics of feudalism, fails.

An epitome of what the harassed housewife who consults Mrs. Boardman may expect to get is found in her slogan: "Housewives must centralize and standardize." Amplifying the last suggestion first, as being the more immediately obtainable, Mrs. Boardman explained that she had drawn up a "five-point contract" which showed the relative positions of the housewife and the home assistant. The details are worked out in every household according to the amount of work required and the number of assistants employed.

1. Eight-hour day, six-day week.

2. Eat and sleep away from place of employment.

3. Extra pay for extra services.

4. No specialisation.

5. Entire responsibility for (a) promptness of arrival, (b) regularity in coming, (c) fulfillment of duties.

Point four Mrs. Boardman considers most advantageous from the housewife's angle. It recalls the "general houseworker," almost extinct in these days of specialization in domestic service. Point one makes all the difference to the worker, and point two, with H. C. L. stalking even the palace dweller, makes all the difference to the housewife. Point three provides necessary elasticity. Point five demands a superior type of person, which is just the sort attracted by the Home Assistant Idea according to Mrs. Boardman.

"But how do you know the scheme will work for every one?" queried the still skeptical reporter.

"Because my household has been run with home assistants for years," came the prompt reply. Mrs. Boardman went on to explain that her family consisted of two adults and three children. Part of

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sources. This office was closed when the Federal Employment Bureau ceased to exist.

"Housewives in every locality must form bureaus as clearing houses," said Mrs. Boardman in explaining the first requirement in her slogan. "Intelligence offices do not have the type of client required. These bureaus should be on a business basis and the fees would pay the cost of operating. This would create a standard for service for conditions of employment and rate of remuneration. In time there must be a national association."

"The Home Assistant Idea is not meant to supplant but supplement the old order of domestic service," concluded Mrs. Boardman. "I know households where the two schemes work side by side. To those who are happy in the old way the Home Assistant Idea makes no appeal, but to the countless others it shows a way out."

E. L. M.

THE CELLAR BORER.
(Boston Globe.)

That famel character in fact and romance, the second-story worker, is a back number now. He has given way to the cellar borer, the burglar who works underground, taking a tip from the Count of Monte Cristo, the Libby Prison turners, the famous sewer men, and the Germans on the Mort Homme.

The cellar borer turned up last night in Union square, Somerville. His night's work took him through three business establishments, but his presence was not yet caused the department of agriculture to quarantine the district, as it did in the case of the corn borer.

Some time during the night the Somerville cellar borer forced the back door of the shoe store of J. J. Burns at 24 Union square. He stole several pairs of rubbers and several more pairs of men's shoes.

Then he went down cellar, and with an auger bored twenty-six holes through the partition between the basement in which he stood, and the basement of No. 25, which is a drug store occupied by Edward Edwards.

The holes were set close together in an irregular circle; the wood between

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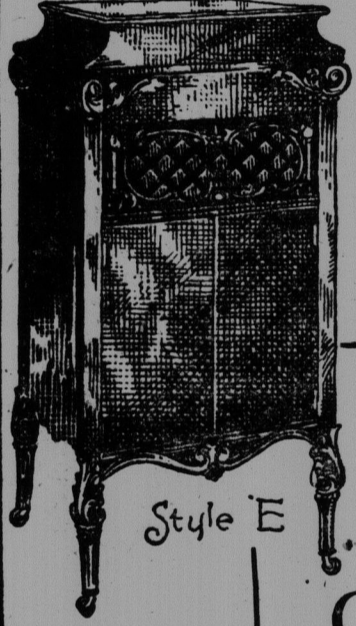
The holes were neatly broken out, and the burglar had a nice doorway, two and a half feet square, through which he crawled into the cellar of the drug store.

He went upstairs and emptied the cash register; he also found money in several drawers in the counters and desks. Altogether, Mr. Edwards thinks, he got \$180.

He had less trouble on his next move, for there was a basement door between this cellar and the next one, under the grocery and provision store of Harold A. Butters, at the corner, numbered 29 Union square. The burglar had merely to jimmy this door open and there he was.

He took nothing from the provision store; the cash register was empty, and he was probably too much encumbered with shoes and rubbers to be able to carry off cabbage and cucumbers.

The interesting thing was not his booty but his method.



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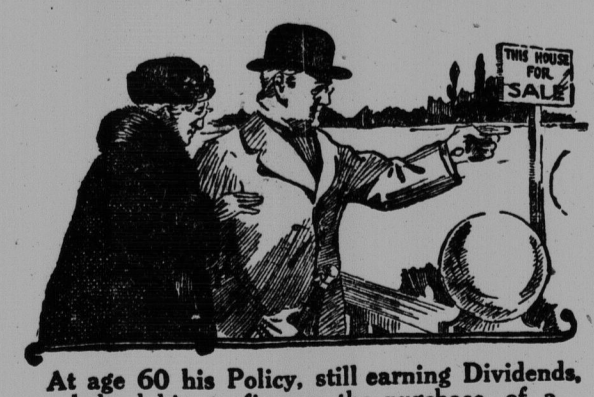
At age 30 he secured his \$5,000 Twenty Pay Life Policy.



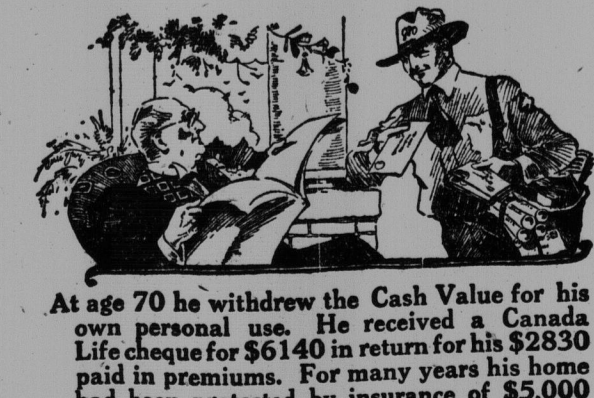
At age 35 he received his first Dividend, which was added to the Policy.



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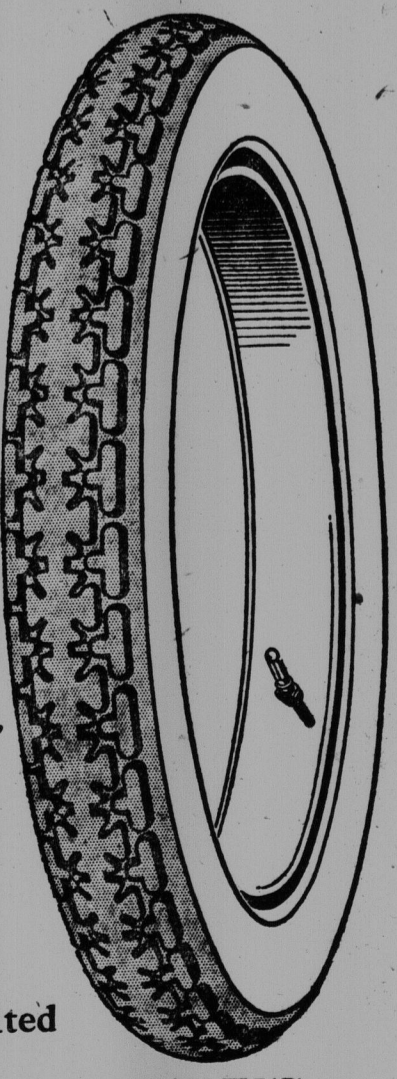
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