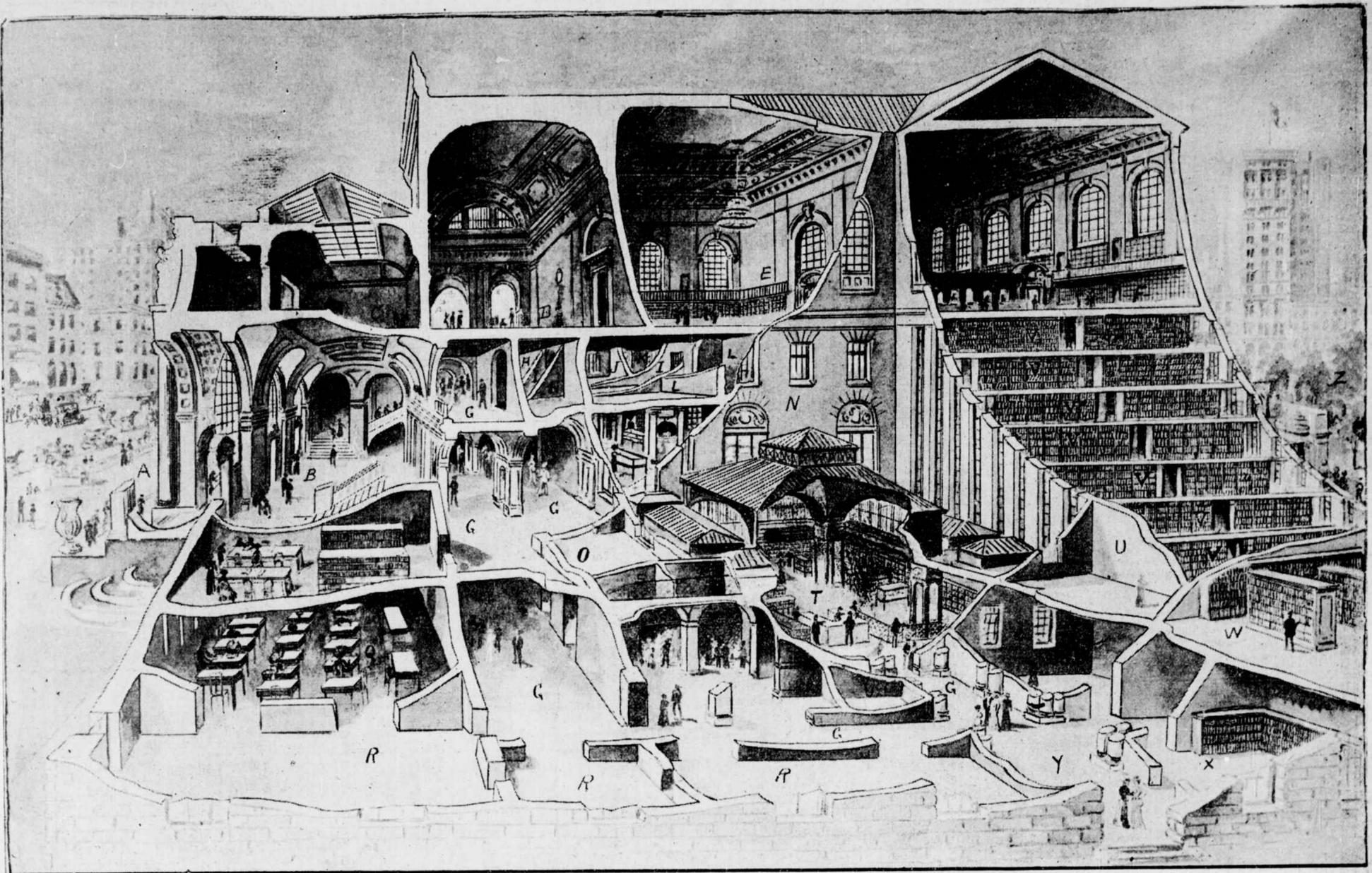


New York Soon to Use New Library, Now Almost Ready



Monumental Building on Fifth Avenue Will Contain Special Rooms for Readers and Workers in All Departments.

ONE morning last week a New Yorker was riding downtown on top of a Fifth Avenue auto 'bus. Three motives had combined to send him climbing up the spiral steps to the swaying upper deck. Obviously, he wanted to get downtown. He also wanted to study the people and the shops along the avenue, and he wanted to smoke a contemplative cigar while he watched. As the 'bus scraped and rattled across 42d street a bright-eyed old woman in the seat ahead, whose animated craning betrayed a decreasing unfamiliarity with her surroundings, turned sharply with finger levelled to the southwest and asked:

"Would you be good enough to tell me what building that is?"

"That, madam, is the new building for the Public Library," replied the smoker. "It's more than twelve years since Carrère & Hastings were selected for the architects, but we hope to see it finished before the end of June, 1911." In this the speaker is borne out by the architects.

Doubtless some thousands of visitors to this city have asked the same question, all of them falling to observe, as did the old woman on the 'bus, the huge letters NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY that stretch across the entablature rising above the imposing columned entrance from Fifth Avenue. New Yorkers have had much time to grow accustomed to the presence of the slow forming structure, and since the scaffolding melted away from the exterior walls of solid masonry they have contemplated it as a monument to learning. Hazy, indeed, however, are their ideas concerning it as a place wherein to do a bit of quiet reading or to procure an entertaining novel to carry home on suspicion. As

SECTIONAL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE LIBRARY.

(A) Fifth Avenue entrance. (B) Rotunda. (C) Stuart collection. (D) Hall. (E) Catalogue room. (F) Main reading room. (G) Corridors. (H) Closets. (I) Halls. (J) Russian books. (K) Hebrew books. (L) Study. (M) Exhibition room. (N) North court. (O) Blind reading room. (P) Training school. (Q) Children's room. (R) Children's lending room. (U) Wash rooms. (V) Stock rooms. (W) Patents. (X) Parcels room. (Y) Forty-second street entrance. (Z) Bryant Park.

him by the attendant. The slip is then sent by pneumatic tube to one of the seven floors of the stock room. If the reader has selected a seat he goes to it and the book is brought to him. If not, he waits on a bench before the delivery desk in the reading room until the number assigned him appears in an electric annunciator at the desk, indicating that the book has been sent up from the stacks on one of the four lifts and is ready for him. This reading room will offer seats for nearly eight hundred readers, and more than one thousand more chairs will be provided in the other public reading and study rooms.

On the fifth Avenue side of the building, across the main third floor hall from the catalogue room and directly over the vaulted entrance, is the room provided for the Stuart collection of paintings, books, art objects and curios, now housed in the Lenox Library. Under the terms of the bequest by which this collection was received it must be kept separate and intact. Adjoining the Stuart room on the north are two smaller picture galleries and an exhibition room for prints.

Among the department rooms on the second floor are those designed to house

After Years of Planning and Building, the Architects Expect This "Last Word in Libraries" To Be Dedicated in June.

the Slavonic, Hebraic and Oriental libraries, occupying part of the space directly underneath the catalogue room. On this floor also are six study rooms for the use of persons engaged in authorship or other work in which the library is of constant service. In the northwest corner, facing 42d street, is a large room for the housing of documents; adjoining it, on the east, the library of economics, and further on, facing Fifth Avenue, two rooms devoted to pure science. The last named library is connected with the stockroom by a horizontal book conveyor and by a vertical lift with the library of technical science, which is directly beneath it on the first floor.

On the 42d street side of the second floor are offices for ordering, receiving and cataloguing accessions to the library. On the southwest corner of this floor is the trustees' room; adjoining it, on the Fifth Avenue side, the director's private and outer offices, and beyond them a lecture room, seating 250 persons, for use in training and instructing members of the staff.

On the first floor opposite the main entrance hall is the exhibition room where in cabinets and cases of glass will be shown the library's rarest manuscripts and missal covers, and all its choicest museum pieces. Through a glass paneled door in the rear of this room the visitor can obtain a fragmentary glimpse into the stockroom.

To the right of the entrance on the first floor is the library of technical science with a small reading room adjoining, and behind it across the corridor a library and reading room for the blind, where the collection of books in raised lettering will be kept. South of the entrance hall is the reading room and filing room for the more than six thousand periodicals which the library receives. On the same floor are the libraries of technology and patents, a series of administrative offices and a long room adjoining the stacks for the additional handling of accessories. There is also a reception room, where workers in the library may receive friends who call upon them.

On the 42d street side of the building is an entrance leading to the basement floor, which it is believed will be used by nearly all who come to the library to read and work. From it the elevators are conveniently reached, and quickly carry the visitor to any desired floor. Directly opposite this entrance is the circulating department which corresponds in its operation and in the contents of its shelves to the various branch libraries scattered throughout the city. It directly adjoins the stacks, as do many of the special and department libraries throughout the building, so that shelfroom for any overflow of books may be found close by. The visitor to this department enters through one gate, browses at will among the thirty thousand volumes at hand on the shelves, and departs by a second gate at which any book he may wish to take is registered. Five large circular divans are

here provided for the tired reader who wants to spend an hour or so with some favorite volume.

To the left of the 42d street entrance are three rooms containing the reading room and the reference and circulating libraries for children. Broad, comfortable window benches occupy several alcoves and angles, while low chairs and tables are provided for the youthful readers.

On the other side of the basement entrance and facing 42d street is the newspaper room. The current papers will be ranged on long inclined racks by the windows at which the readers will be expected to stand while gleaning the news. The careless person may thus be prevented from falling asleep in his chair, while discreet attendants will mysteriously produce long-legged stools for aged or infirm readers who cannot easily stand. On the opposite side of the room will be high cork-covered tables whereon may be consulted the bound volumes of newspapers to be kept on shelves in the stacks directly adjoining the newspaper room.

Other rooms in the basement are a parcel checking room and a public dining room, where no food will be served, but where visitors may take their "basket lunches." Two large basement rooms will be devoted to the training school for library workers, and several more to an elaborate printing and book-binding plant. Here, too, is the shipping room and the apartment for handling the travelling libraries.

No reader's want that may be anticipated has been neglected in the equipment or arrangement of any of the rooms. The man in the street will soon have a chance to judge for himself, and it is not likely that his praise will fall short of that of more expert critics.

Astor Seeks New Hybrids

John Jacob Astor, besides expressing the hope that animals will be developed to feed on coal and benzine, has offered a prize of \$5,000 for "the best bear-dog to be entered in next year's Madison Square Garden Show." He does not mean a bear dog—a dog for hunting bears—but a beast which shall actually have a bear for a father and a dog for a mother, or a dog father and a bear mother. Moreover, Colonel Astor says that he himself owns what he believes to be a real bear dog.

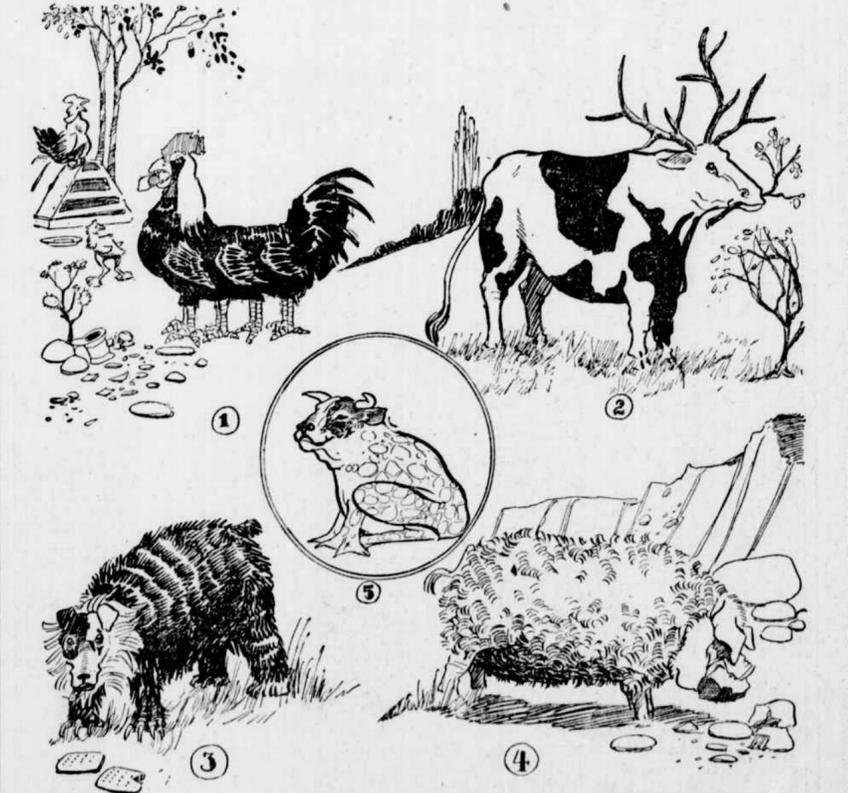
This remarkable offer is the result of Mr. Astor's reading on the recent experiments of Pierre Paul Emile Roux and his followers, who have grown three-headed frogs, lizards with two bodies and frogs two feet high by manipulating the fertilized egg cells.

"While there would be but slight advantage in increasing the size of our species, if it could be done," Mr. Astor says, "the production of these enlarged creatures will mean that other animals can doubtless be enlarged, the only practical limit being the production of food for them. But plants that now are useless, or merely weeds, like the horse chestnut, thorny cactus, thistle and many others, can doubtless be made edible, or we may produce an animal that can consume them as they are.

"Now the monsters of the carboniferous period were thirty or forty feet high, nearly a hundred feet long and they weighed many tons. They might be equalled or exceeded if they were able to consume food in a more concentrated form. An automobile can do much more work on gasoline than it could on hay fuel; so could an animal, if it were suited to it.

"While the coal we are mining to-day was being formed, vegetation as we know it probably did not exist. The mammoths and other animals of that period must have eaten the plants that became coal. Why may not their descendants be made to eat some preparation of peat, coal, crude oil or even limestone, when the progress of the world requires that they should? If we could evolve such an animal which would be useful and edible the food problem of the human race would be near solution, or its difficulties almost indefinitely postponed.

"It seems wasteful for men to burn what they could eat if they could use the lower animals for stepping stones in preparing it for human food. Mere physical power can be obtained from many other sources; wind, tide, waterfalls, the sun itself, and perhaps ere long from the enormous interatomic energy in many substances exceeding by thousands of times the energy in coal."



DOMESTIC ANIMALS OF THE FUTURE—PERHAPS.

If John Jacob Astor's hints could be carried out to perfection.

(1) A fowl with eight legs and six forest leaves. (2) A deer, with body of ox, on dog biscuit made of sawdust and legs taste like beef and whose appetite which thrives on twigs, bark and dry chopped straw. (3) A dog, which raises lamb's wool and dots on peat as a wings, that grows fat on chips and bearskin rugs on its back and fattens steady diet. (4) A pig that grows is satisfied with water weeds. (5) A bullfrog whose hind legs taste like beef and whose appetite which thrives on twigs, bark and dry chopped straw.

Hiding Army Under Petals

An artillery officer, writing in the official artillery journal of the United States army, says that from now on armies and outposts will have to hide not only from mounted scouts of the enemy but from the enemies' scouting aeroplanes as well. How the hiding is to be done he does not suggest.

The great Dietrich Knickerbocker, in his history of New York, tells how the good Dutchmen who lived hereabout many years ago once held their town safe from English attack by sitting at their doors and puffing at their pipes. They blew such mighty clouds of smoke into the air that the island of Manhattan was lost in a blue haze and the Englishmen sailed away without ever finding it.

Some similar plan might hide an army from a questing aeroplane. But the idea contains possibilities of still greater development, for the good burghers of those days had only the purest Virginia to fill their pipes withal. What deadly work could be done with the fumes of such stuff as is commonly furnished nowadays fairly staggers the imagination. Undoubtedly an army could smoke aeroplanes out of the sky, such as country people still smoke flies and hornets out of their houses.

Another suggestion, and one that does not imply the ruination of soldiers by

nicotine, is a grandchild of Shakespeare's brain. Like that army in "Macbeth," which shielded itself with branches and made "Birnam wood to come to Dunsinane," a modern body of troops may hide itself near vegetable forms, considering the lilies of the field and how they grow. The Sunday Tribune's artist saw in his mind's eye a regiment disguising itself as a field of sunflowers. To keep out of rifle range the aeroplanes must needs fly high, and from an altitude of a mile or so it would be difficult to discern the fact that these broad yellow and brown blossoms were really at least twice as broad as genuine sunflowers would be.

The scheme of a Staten Island subscriber for clothing our boys in brown, in imitation of grazing cows, is to be dismissed as frivolous. As for his suggestion that, on a sudden alarm, companies might be taught to counterfeit a stretch of rail fence, each man standing as a post and holding his rifle at arm's length at the level of his shoulder in his right hand, while he reaches out his left to hold the muzzle of his neighbor's gun—the merits of the plan may commend it to the army men who are studying the subject. But field guns may be hidden under cow skins, just as in former days the Indian hunted the buffalo under cover of another buffalo's hide.