$1,625,000 FOR FIRE ALARMS.

COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN ASKS THE MAYOR FOR THE MONEY.

Says Our Present System Is Out of Date and Refers to the Report of the Committee of the Underwriters Who Investigated the Matter and Favored a Change.

Fire Commissioner O'Brien sent the following letter to the Mayor yesterday:

The fire alarm telegraph system in the Borough of Manhattan has been in operation for a long period of time, and for several years past its efficiency and adaptability to the present requirements of this great section of the municipality have at recurring intervals been the subject of discussion in the public prints. Indeed, it is but reasonable to assume, in view of the great progress that has been made in electrical science since the introduction of the system, that it might be materially improved with resulting advantage to the public.

My predecessor in office, as the result of a preliminary inquiry made by him into the subject, became satisfied that there was considerable room for improvement, but that to arrive at the actual state of affairs would necessitate an exhaustive and costly investigation by qualified experts in this line of work, and therefore when it was proposed by the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, which naturally was deeply interested in the matter, that such an inquiry should be conducted by that body at its own expense, he accepted the proposition with the approval of his Honor the Mayor.

Mr. Kempster B. Miller was selected by the underwriting authorities to conduct the investigation, in the capacity of electrical engineer, with Mr. John J. Carty as consulting engineer, and every facility was afforded them by this department for the successful prosecution of their task.

As a result of their investigation, extending over a period of several months, these experts submitted a report on the subject, in which they reached the conclusion that the total cost of an adequate system of fire alarm telegraph protection for the Borough of Manhattan would be about $1,625,000, exclusive of the ground for the central office, for which no estimate was submitted.

After giving to the matter careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the issue is of such vital importance to the public welfare that immediate action should be taken looking to the replacing of the present fire alarm telegraph system in the Borough of Manhattan with a modern and up to date system commensurate with the requirements of the situation.

I have therefore the honor to request that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorize an issue of corporate stock to an amount not exceeding $1,625,000, for the purpose of establishing, building and equipping a fire alarm telegraph system for this department in the Borough of Manhattan, in accordance with the estimate made in the abridged report of the Committee on Fire Alarm Service to the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, bearing date September, 1905.

ALDERMEN GOOD SPENDERS.

They've Already Authorized Three-fourths of the Revenue Bonds for the Year.

Since January 1, when the new Board of Aldermen came into office, issues of special revenue bonds to the amount of more than $1,635,000 have been authorized. The Charter permits only $2,000,000 of these special revenue bonds to be issued in any one year. Had the Board of Estimate approved all the outlays there would be a margin of less than $400,000 left for the rest of the year. Issues of special revenue bonds must be initiated by the Aldermen and approved by the Board of Estimate.

A large part of the bonds already authorized are for salary increases. As yet the Board of Estimate has approved of only about 30 per cent. of the bond issues ordered by the Aldermen, but the Board of Estimate is only awaiting reports from the Comptroller before proceeding to make further indorsements.

HOW B. & O. HELD COAL TRADE.

Owned the Mines, the Railroad and the Distributing Agencies.

BALTIMORE, April 13.—"So then," asked Attorney William A. Glasgow of the Interstate Commerce Commission, of Arthur Hale, general superintendent of transportation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at the end of a long series of questions, "the coal is taken out of the mines by a company owned by the Baltimore and Ohio, it is transported over a railroad owned by the Baltimore and Ohio, and it is distributed to retailers by companies in which the Baltimore and Ohio is interested, either by direct ownership or indirect stock ownership or other control?"

"I would not challenge that statement," answered Mr. Hale.

This was the chief point brought out at to-day's session of the Interstate Commerce Commission in its investigation of the Baltimore and Ohio interests in the coal business.

General Manager W. W. Atterbury and Vice-President Thayer, Mr. Taylor, Robert Pitcairn and Second Vice-President Joseph Wood of the Pennsylvania Railroad were other officials who had held stock in one or more of these companies.

Capt. Alfred Hicks of Pittsburg, president or treasurer of a number of coal companies on a division of the Pennsylvania, testified that he had paid dividends to these gentlemen at intervals, as much as he thought proper. "We didn't have a very thorough system of bookkeeping," he said.

"Did these people pay anything for their stock?" was asked.

"Some of them," said Capt. Hicks. He also said that he was in the habit of giving cigars to the division superintendents of the Pennsylvania Railroad or presents to their wives around Christmas time. Some of the stock in these companies was held in the names of the wives and daughters of the men mentioned.

Harry Shwab Taken Ill.

Harry Shwab, a well known theatrical man, was taken suddenly ill in the Gilsey House yesterday afternoon. Dr. William Seaman Bainbridge of 34 Gramercy Park was summoned and found Mr. Shwab in a serious condition. Upon the advice of Dr. Bainbridge the stricken man was removed to a private hospital at 26 West Sixty-first street. Mr. Shwab has been identified with the theatrical business for many years. For the last two years he has been with David Belasco.

Weber's Music Hall's Tenth Birthday.

Joe Weber will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the music hall on the night of May 7. Fred Thompson of the Hippodrome will help Mr. Weber celebrate. Mr Thompson has offered any part of the Hippodrome show that Mr. Weber wants. There will be a vaudeville programme made up of stunts by Broadway actors and actresses.

Fire Destroys Bergen Hill Tunnel Building.

A corrugated iron covered building, 50 by 75 feet, near the western outlet of the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel at Homestead, North Bergen, was destroyed by fire yesterday. The structure contained three boilers, an engine and machinery required to force compressed air into the tunnel which is being bored through the Bergen hill to Weehawken and under the Hudson River to New York. The money loss is not known.

Hard Trip of the Steamship Duncan.

The steamship Duncan, which arrived last night from Cherbourg, C. B., ran ashore on the rocks there on April 7 and remained there for two days. A hole was punched in a big tank full of creosote oil, which was lost, and Capt. Pedersen had to keep his pumps going continuously to get his ship to port. The ship belongs to the Donald Steamship Company.

NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

earlier idealized inclination; the heroine doubts her own feelings because she misplaced her affections before. There is room here for much entertaining discussion and keen observation, and in this Mrs. Wright is at her best.

In following up the love story she holds to her plot more closely than usual, and the college part falls into the background. This is somewhat of a disappointment, for the types were sketched so vigorously that we hoped to have a picture of one peculiar form of American life. The figures stand out so that they are easily recognizable, but the author has so skilfully blurred her composites of places and persons that nobody can pick any one out as a portrait. That makes us regret the more that she did not continue with the college life, the struggles and the intrigues, but turned to an episode that would have been as good in another setting. Two things stand out with cruel vividness: the merciless trafficking in men of the business president, and the hopeless struggle for sustenance of the professor with inadequate salary.

There are many young people brought in, for some indefinite purpose, and all of these are entangled in love scrapes. It would never do to generalize from these as to the amativeness of college communities. We regret that Mrs. Wright should be obliged to describe, as have other careful observers, the lack of good manners in the younger generation. One young person, an *enfant terrible*, whose aim it is to fly in the face of all the proprieties, is even more remarkable for her rudeness. But she, with her companions, young and old, is cast aside as the chief love affair progresses.

The charm of the story is in the way it is told. There is sentiment, there are many vivid descriptions of scenery and of nature, there is a great deal of quiet fun. Pervading all is the memory of a deceased literary humbug. He is merely a type of other humbugs, scientific and academic, but it is difficult in reading about him not to think of "The Simple Life." There are hits that college people will appreciate, and much more humor that a wider public will relish.

Mr. Wister Goes South.

A very pleasant book that must be read as leisurely as it is told is Mr. Owen Wister's "Lady Baltimore" (Macmillans). In its dilatory rambling it seems to have taken the "Autocrat at the Breakfast Table" for its model, and in its digressions allows the author to comment on all manner of subjects: the negro, the new South, the manners of society, women's clubs, New York newspapers, and so on. This is his hit at the *Evening Post*, for instance: "It's partially tongueried, a sad victim of its own excesses. Habitual over-indulgence in blaming has given it a painful stutter when attempting praise; it's the sprucely written sheet of the supercilious; it's the after dinner pill of the American who prefers Europe; it's our Republic's common scold, the Xantippe of journalism, the paper without a country."

As he placidly drifts through his South Carolina love tale, Mr. Wister introduces as to many delightful old ladies and to one very nice young one. It is likely that he will meet the fate of Mr. Cable with his charming Louisiana stories. The women will resent the intrusion on their privacy and will brand his account as false. To Northern readers, however, their gentleness, their refinement, their brightness and loveliness are extremely attractive.

It is a pretty middleaged young man of twenty-eight that tells the tale. Even in Philadelphia, we imagine, young blood is not so contemplative at that age and does not moralize like a clubman of forty. The contrast between the refinement of the generation that is disappearing and the whirl of the modern fast set is perhaps too violent; it is difficult to understand how any one can share in both. Even the vulgar rich are hardly as bad as they are painted here, and the self-centred young woman belongs to melodrama rather than to real life.

Mr. Wister's story makes very pleasant reading all the same. His descriptions are helped out by the pretty pictures in the text, and the reader can derive from it only a favorable impression of South Carolina and its women. The title of the book is unfortunately misleading.

Mr. Lloyd's Rural Friends.

When Mr. Nelson Lloyd deals with Pennsylvania rustics he is master of his subject. In the sixteen stories that make up "Six Stars" (Charles Scribner's Sons) there is a good deal of fun and humor, there is sentiment at times, and there is always close observation of nature, human and otherwise. Some of the stories are little more than sketches, but in them all Mr. Lloyd's touch is light. Artistically it seems the best work he has done.

The temptation to use dialect is great but Mr. Lloyd restrains himself pretty well till the end. There is more boisterous fun in the latter dialect tales than in the others. The stories are entertaining, and mark besides a bit of American life that is disappearing.

The Scholar's Daughter an Interesting Girl.

There is some disappointment and some quiet pleasure in store for the discriminating reader who takes up Beatrice Harraden's "The Scholar's Daughter," and compares it with "Ships that Pass in the Night." It is a slender story, but it is not a commonplace one, although it lacks the pathos and force that distinguished the earlier work. Much allowance must be made for disregarded probabilities and coincidences that are theatrical rather than plausible. The materials out of which the plot is constructed are thin and threadbare in spots, but the writer's style has a compelling charm which condones these technical shortcomings.

Never was there in fiction so quaint a household as that in which the Scholar's Daughter grew to womanhood. It was a man's house. From the stern scholar soured by the unfaithfulness of his young wife to the rugged old coast guardsman, who acted as parlor maid, only men lived in the ancient mansion with its yew hedges, ladies' plaisance and famous panelled library. There were the three "Bookworms," who toiled year after year at the Scholar's Dictionary, there was "Daddy Durham," the Scholar's friend; Christian, the cook, who learned his trade on a Norwegian ship, and one eyed "Tom," the ex-soldier—all adoring Geraldine, the Scholar's Daughter, and spoiling her with royal enthusiasm.

Geraldine was blithe and bonny, she badgered and bothered the Bookworms. She refused to be educated and help on with the great work of the dictionaries. She melted up her college medal and had it made into a bangle. She surrendered unconditionally and with undecorous haste to the first suitor that appeared. The life of these quaint, quiet people is delightfully pictured with tenderness and humor and charm. The entrance of the breezy young man from the Bush is well managed, and Geraldine's swift capitulation is well handled. The theatrical appearance of the fake wife and the stagy reconciliation are commonplace features of an uncommon and entertaining little tale which is in no sense important and in many ways faulty, but is well worth the pleasant hour one may spend reading it. The book is published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

New Editions.

Admirers of Mr. George Bernard Shaw and those merely curious about him will be able to procure part of his work in "Plays, Pleasant and Unpleasant," two volumes (Brentano's). Some of these have been performed with great success of late; one has been even more successfully prohibited. The very latest are not included, for this is practically the edition published eight years ago in Chicago. The introductions added are not an improvement and might arouse comment from the author.

So many second rate detective tales have been accepted by the public that it has seemed worth while to reprint some of the older stories. "The Circular Study," by Anna Katharine Green, appears in a new edition (R. F. Fenno and Company).

The stories of Mr. E. Phillips Oppenheim have improved steadily in construction and in style. He handles adventure best where he is not restricted by facts and manufactures his own history and geography. To present his books in uniform shape, we infer, Little, Brown and Company publish new editions of "A Millionaire of Yesterday," which deals in part with Africa, and "The Man and His Kingdom," where the scene is mythical South America.

The handsome library edition of "The Works of Maurice Hewlett," published by the Macmillans, nears completion. Volume VIII. contains the picturesque romance that appeared not so long ago, "The Fool Errant." As in the case of the other works of fiction, illustrations are wisely eschewed, the beautiful typography giving dignity to the volume.

Another John Henry Book.

The latest "John Henry" book is called "Skiddoo," and like its predecessors it is a triumph of "manner," a model of style. John Henry is a philologist as well as a philosopher, and his vocabulary is enriched with a variety of expressions unknown to the mass of mankind. That the author doesn't fit out his volumes with a glossary and foot notes that would make them intelligible is due to his kind heart and polite manners. He shrinks from insinuating that he possesses knowledge unfamiliar to the average reader by explaining things that every simple Bowery boy knows.

There are people who think there isn't anything in the John Henry books; there are people who can't make much out of Chaucer. It is all their own fault. If any one doubts that the John Henry books do not belong to great literature let him read John Henry's humble confession, modestly set forth in the preface of the sale of 575,000 of his books and that "his is 12 per cent. of the gross." Did Chaucer ever realize anything like that? The style of the books is best described by John Henry himself—"something like Sanscrit only slangier." He didn't say this of himself, but of the language of the Jersey mosquito—another evidence of his subtle modesty.

The new book deals with "Upper Berths," "Cooks," "Mosquitoes," &c., all topics of vital interest and treated with John Henry's usual skill and dignity. Some people think it is funny, but they are light minded triflers. The book is published by the G. W. Dillingham Company.

The Story of a Remarkable Young Woman.

"Judith—A story of the Candle-lit Fifties," by Grace Alexander, is just about the kind of tale people of that period who had plenty of time to waste over books that were neither entertaining nor well written would have enjoyed. "Judith" is the ideal heroine for maiden ladies with no experiences of life nor discrimination regarding probabilities to enjoy weeping over.

Of course Judith was motherless and beautiful. She was further distinguished by a Paris education and reduced circumstances. She returns to her native town to wed the stupid farmer boy she was engaged to in her childhood. She heroically goes to the altar with him to make him happy, but firmly refuses to carry out the contract by living with him as his wife. Noble girl! The husband promptly has some kind of "a stroke" and lives on to give Judith further opportunity to show how noble she is by her devotion to him during illness, and then dies in time to allow his young wife to wed the Methodist parson she has loved all the time. If ever a girl had a star part it is Judith, but it is an arduous one, and perhaps she deserves the glorious reward of marrying the travelling parson at the finish. It is a tale of vigorous morality, but it does seem a great waste of a Paris education. The book is published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company.

A Feminine Robin Hood.

"Marcelle the Mad" was a very sane and engaging young girl Robin Hood who led a band of malcontents in the Forest of Ardennes in the days when Louis the Eleventh reigned in France. This coterie of outlaws were called the "Companions of the Green Tent" and they ranged over the hills about Dinant making things dangerous and unpleasant for all followers of the House of Burgundy until on a certain day among the spoils they gathered in the brave and gallant Sieur d'Orson and Marcelle the warrior discovered that she was only a woman and desperately in love.

The action of the book is swift and picturesque, the whole period of the story covering but a few weeks. It resounds with the trampling of steeds and the din of arms, the thunder of conflict and the gentle harmonies of romance. In short it is much like the usual tale of its kind, blustering chronicles of deeds of prowess, treachery of villains, the planting of banners and a general fuss and flurry to pair off two sets of lovers to their liking at the end of the fray. The book is written by Seth Cook Comstock and published by the Appletons.

Another Byron Story.

Still another Byron story is added to the list based upon the poet's amours in Lafayette McLaw's "Maid of Athens" (Little, Brown and Company). This is no elaborately constructed and subtle romance in which personages are disguised under unfamiliar titles and readers are left guessing as to original identities. It is an old fashioned romance, dealing with Byron's love for Thyrza, the "Maid of Athens" to whom he wrote the verses so popular with a past generation.

The episodes of the poet's life have been carefully selected and manipulated to make him appear the heroic figure he morbidly longed to be—the lover of noble personality, tenderness and passion, with a daring disregard for danger and the loyalty till death of the old time adorer. Intrusive impedimenta like Byron's marriage are relegated to the background where they will do least harm, and the brilliant life on the Bosporus, the plots and counterplots of Turkish villainy, the uprising of the Greeks are woven into a fancy fabric of romance, which, like yesterday's discarded mode, is too old in style to interest and not old enough to charm with the picturesqueness and dignity of antiquity.

Books Received.

"The Ghost in Hamlet and Other Essays." Maurice Francis Egan. (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago.)

"The False Gods." George Horace Lorimer. (Appletons.)

"A Woman of the Ice Age." L. P. Gratacap. (Brentano's.)

"Old Tales From Rome." Alice Zimmern. (A. C. McClurg and Company.)

"The United States Register and Stud Book for Cats." Mabel Cornish-Bond. (United States Official Register Association, Washington.)

"Hawaiian Yesterdays." Henry M. Lyman, M. D. (A. C. McClurg and Company.)

"Ten Thousand Miles in a Yacht." Richard Arthur. (E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"In Praise of Books." H. Swan. (George Routledge and Sons; E. P. Dutton and Company.)

"Im Sonnenschein." Theodor Storm, edited by G. L. Swiggett. (American Book Company.)

"Les Enfants du Capitaine Grant." Jules Verne, edited by Edith Healy. (American Book Company.)

"Wilhelm Tell." Friederich Schiller, edited by Edwin Carl Roedder, Ph. D. (American Book Company.)

"The Dynamics of Living Matter." Jacques Loeb. (The Columbia University Press; Macmillans.)

"Composition-Rhetoric." Stratton D. Brooks and Marietta Hubbard. (American Book Company.)

"The Story of Russia." R. Van Bergen. (American Book Company.)

"The Golden Fleece." James Baldwin. (American Book Company.)

"Lysias, Selected Speeches." Edited by Charles Darwin Adams, Ph. D. (American Book Company.)

"Nine Choice Poems." James Baldwin. (American Book Company.)

"La Poudre aux Yeux." Labiche et Martin, edited by Victor E. François. (American Book Company.)

"A Manual of American Literature." James B. Smiley. (American Book Company.)

"The Fading of the Mayflower." Theodore Tilton. (A. N. Marquis and Company, Chicago.)

"If Youth But Knew." Agnes and Egerton Castle. (Macmillans.)

"The Heart of the Railroad Problem." Prof. Frank Parsons, Ph. D. (Little, Brown and Company.)

"The Lucky Piece." Albert Bigelow Paine. (The Outing Publishing Company, New York.)

"The Princess Olga." Ervin Wardman. (Harpers.)

"Pigs Is Pigs." Ellis Parker Butler. (McClure, Phillips and Company.)

"Wayside Talks." Charles Wagner. (McClure, Phillips and Company.)

"The Lady of the Decoration." Frances Little. (The Century Company.)

"A Diplomatic Adventure." S. Weir Mitchell, M. D., LL. D. (The Century Company.)

"In the Days of Scott." Tudor Jenks. (A. S. Barnes and Company.)

"The Heart of a Rose." William Marabell. (The Klebold Press, New York.)

"The Personality of Jesus." Charles H. Barrows. (Houghton, Mifflin and Company.)

"Between Two Masters." Gamaliel Bradford, Jr. (Houghton, Mifflin and Company.)

"Modern Marriage." Emile Zola, translated by Benj. R. Tucker. (Benj. R. Tucker, New York.)

"Irrigation in the United States." Frederick Haynes Newell. (T. Y. Crowell and Company.)

"Mediæval London. Vol. I." Sir Walter Besant. (Adam and Charles Black; Macmillans.)

"Church Hymns and Tunes." Edited by the Rev. Herbert B. Turner, D. D., and William F. Biddle. (A. S. Barnes and Company.)

"Main Currents in Nineteenth Century Literature. Vol. VI. Young Germany." George Brandes. (Macmillans.)

WHAT AILS MONTCLAIR?

Pastor Lucas Surprised at One Thing—Are the Young Men Backward?

MONTCLAIR, N. J., April 13.—The Rev. Dr. Abner H. Lucas will perform his first wedding in Montclair on Wednesday next. He is pastor of the First Methodist Church, where he has been for over a year, and although he has been a guest at several weddings he has never officiated at one in the Orange mountain town. Before going to Montclair Dr. Lucas says he averaged from fifty to a hundred weddings a year both in Albany and in Pittsburg. A short time ago Health Inspector Chester N. Wells wrote a note to Dr. Lucas, stating that the law required every wedding to be recorded with the Secretary of Vital Statistics within sixty days, and requesting that he submit the record of those he had performed.

In reply Dr. Lucas said that before going to Montclair he had often heard of its beauty, its healthfulness and its other good qualities, but that he did not expect to find it so nearly resembling heaven, "for here," the doctor continued, "there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage."

JURY JUDGED HER SANE.

Justice Burr Holds With Sanitarium Doctors That She's Insane.

Supreme Court Justice Burr in Brooklyn yesterday denied the writ of habeas corpus applied for by Victor M. Osborn, who seeks to secure the release of his wife, Penelope Osborn, from a sanitarium at Waldemere, Mamaroneck, N. Y. Mrs. Osborn, who owns considerable property, was adjudged insane and committed to the sanitarium in April, 1901. In the latter part of last year a Sheriff's jury decided she was sane and competent to manage her property.

The officials of the sanitarium, however, contended that she was not sane, and her husband therefore secured the writ. Mrs. Osborn was then brought before Justice Burr and questioned. In his decision he says that while it is unusual to go over the verdict of a jury, yet he is satisfied from his interview with Mrs. Osborn that she is not competent to be outside of a sanitarium.

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PUBLICATIONS. | PUBLICATIONS.

NEW SPRING BOOKS

From Page's List

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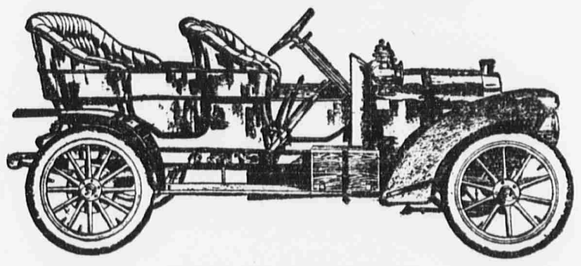

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