

Children's Court Greatest of Life Saving Stations

Stories of Chained Boy and Locked Up Girl Samples of Remarkable Cases Heard by Justices

Continued from Fourth Page.

for the protection of children in the world and was founded in 1874. It came into existence through an apparently insignificant incident. A good woman who was interested in charity work in New York city while visiting a dying woman in a tenement house heard that a little girl in another apartment was being brutally treated by a woman who had adopted her. The charity worker went to the police and the District Attorney, but they said they could not interfere.

"Then I will go to the friend of the dumb animals," said the good woman, and she called on Henry Bergh and his counsel, Elbridge T. Gerry. They found, as the District Attorney had said, that there were no laws to protect children, so they obtained a writ of habeas corpus and had the child, Mary Ellen, brought into court. The child was carried into the court room wrapped in a horse blanket, her arms, legs and body being cut and bruised. A pair of heavy scissors, a foot in length, was shown in court to have been used by the cruel foster mother in striking and beating the child.

The woman was sentenced to a year in the penitentiary and the child, Mary Ellen, was given a good home. Here she was educated and when she grew up she married a well to do man near Rochester, N. Y., and is now the mother of a fine family.

Mr. Bergh, Mr. Gerry and John D. Wright, a well known philanthropist, then got together and drew up a prospectus for forming a children's protective society. This resulted in the formation of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, from which have sprung about thirty similar societies in this country and about 300 in other civilized countries. While these societies are entirely independent and distinct, they all work together by correspondence for the protection of children.

From the case of Mary Ellen have also sprung the juvenile courts and all the laws for aiding and protecting children. Before the New York society was formed a child arrested for some trifling misdemeanor was taken to a station house, frequently locked up in a cell with an adult criminal, taken in the van to court with adult criminals, kept in a pen with adult criminals, and by that time it was pretty well started on the road to ruin.

Now all children under 16 arrested in Manhattan and the Bronx must be taken to the children's society, as it is popularly known, and cannot be kept in a station house over night. It is segregated entirely from adult criminals and at the earliest possible moment is taken to the Children's Court, where the Judge hears the case. If it is merely a case of improper guardianship and the drunken parents promise to do better, the Judge paroles the child in the parents' care, as every effort is made to preserve the home relations. The agents of the children's society keep an eye on the paroled child, and if it is abused or neglected the parents or guardians are brought into court again and the children are then sent to an institution.

rooms and that therefore he must like Henry away from her and send him to an institution where he will be educated and taught a trade. He spoke very kindly to the old woman and told her that while he appreciated her love for her son the boy would grow up and be obliged to struggle with the world and he must be properly fitted for the battle of life.

"While the old woman cried over the boy and kissed him, Henry merely remarked: 'Well, good-by. I hope you're satisfied now,' and that was his farewell to the mother who had tried to bring him up like a hothouse plant.

The cheap moving picture shows are the cause of many children being brought into court by the society's agents. Not long ago three fires occurred in one week in a large tenement house on the East Side occupied by respectable working men and their families. A "Black Hand" letter demanding money was also found under a mat in front of one of the apartments. The Fire Marshal finally suspected a girl of 14 who lived with her parents in the house, and upon closely questioning her she broke down and confessed that she had started all the fires and written the "Black Hand" letter. She was taken to the society's building, where Superintendent Thomas D. Walsh questioned her as to what had put such ideas in her head. She said that she had been attending a 5 cent moving picture show on Third avenue, where she had seen illustrations of such things.

She was paroled in care of her parents and the society's agents will watch her actions for some time. Three boys between the ages of 12 and 15 were brought into court charged with breaking into houses and robbing them. When questioned by the Judge they said that they had seen representations of burglaries at the moving picture shows and they had been inspired to imitate the crimes. Of course, there are many laws regulating moving picture shows, but the managers seem frequently to disregard them.

Not long ago a strange case of apparent religious fanaticism was brought to the notice of the children's society. Complaint was made to the society that a girl had been kept locked up in a basement room on the upper West Side for 194 days, or nearly seven months, by her aunt. She was rescued and first taken to the society's building and then to the Children's Court. The girl was pale, wan and emaciated from her long imprisonment.

The girl had been locked up in what had been a storeroom in the basement of a large apartment house. Her uncle was the engineer there and with his wife and niece occupied a suite of rooms in the basement. On one side of the room were packing boxes and trunks, and there was a little window leading to the street. The bottom of which was always dark. There was a cot, a table and a chair in the room, but the rest was so filled up with boxes that the child had no room to walk around. A single electric light hung from the beams that formed the ceiling of the room, as no daylight ever entered there.

The girl, Mary Ellen S., was 15 years old, and had been living with her aunt for two years, as her parents were dead. When questioned by Superintendent Walsh of the children's society she said: "On April 7 my aunt took me to the basement where I was found. She gave me a Bible, an exercise book and a pencil and told me I

must read the Bible and write passages from it. I kept track of the days I was locked up until the 14th day, and then I stopped because I was in such a state I didn't care about anything then. I begged my aunt on my knees to let me out, but she refused. It was terrible. I knew when June and July came and how the girls I knew were playing in the park, while I was locked up for nothing. I cried and cried until I couldn't cry any more. I don't know why auntie treated me so. I always obeyed her and loved her. She is good, but very queer."

The society found that the girl had a brother, a fine, manly boy of nineteen, working in Brooklyn. He promised to take good care of his sister, so the court took her away from the aunt and paroled Mary Ellen in her brother's care.

The advantages of having the society's agents look after the paroled children was shown by a recent case. The agent had the name of Rosario L., a ten-year-old boy who lived with his parents in an East Side tenement, on his list and he called to see him. The mother was washing at stationary tubs and the agent asked if Rosario was out. "No; he's here," replied the mother, and stooping over she picked up a heavy iron chain and, hauling it, dragged the boy from under the tubs. The chain was riveted around one of his ankles and the other end fastened to the tubs by a large padlock. The boy said that his father, who was a blacksmith, had fastened him to the tubs by the chain. He had been kept there for eight days and given very little to eat. He was weak from lack of food and his ankle was badly bruised by the weight of the chain.

The agent obtained a file and sawed the boy loose and took him to the society's building, where his wants were attended to. The father was arrested and locked up in the Tombs and subsequently tried in the Court of Special Sessions. His defence was that the boy had been paroled in his care and that the only way he could keep him in the house was by chaining him up. He was warned by the court that this was cruelty to his son and was sentenced to thirty days imprisonment. The boy was paroled in his mother's care, and the children's society was asked by the court to have its agents see that the boy was properly treated.

The New York Children's Court has been termed the greatest life saving station in the world owing to the fact that with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children it has rescued so many little ones and placed them on the right path. The Big Brothers is an association of young men whose mission is to look after the Protestant boys who are paroled. The Big Brothers obtain situations for the boys, give them good advice and also material aid, procure gymnasium privileges in the Y. M. C. A. branches and send them to a vacation camp in summer. Recently some prominent women have formed an association of Big Sisters for looking after Protestant girls in the same way. The Catholic and Jewish children are also looked after carefully by representatives of those faiths. Dennis F. Lambert, clerk of the Children's Court, also aids the little ones.

As Mr. McMahon, the able director of Catholic charities for New York, has frequently remarked in his speeches, one of the best things about the children's society and the Juvenile Court is their unsectarianism. Special effort is always made to see that the little waifs are always cared for and brought up in the religious faith of their parents.

The Judges of the Children's Court this year are Justices Mayo and Hoyt. They also give good counsel to the parents and the children and strive in every way to uplift the little ones who have fallen into the clutches of the law either through their own ignorance or the cruelty and neglect of adults.

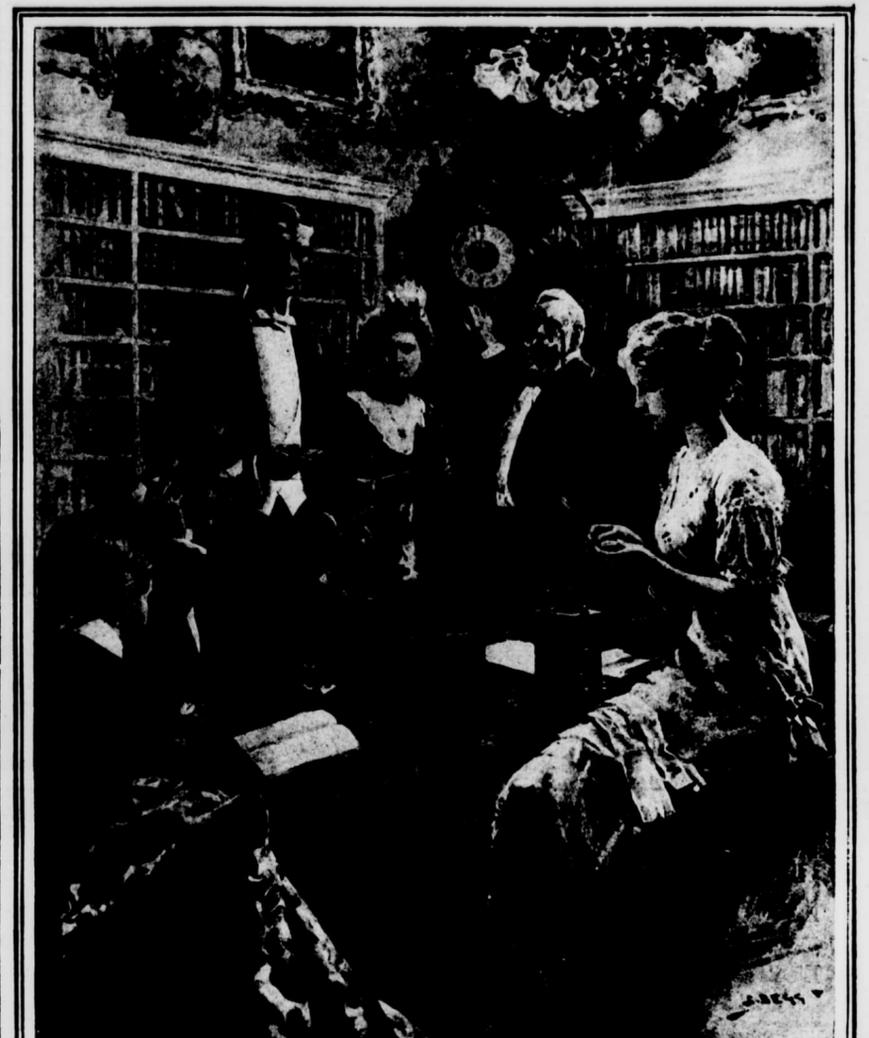
Wireless Taps From Eiffel Tower Give Correct Time

Only Simple Apparatus Needed to Set Your Watch or Clock by Means of International Signals

WIRELESS telegraphy is being used to transmit the correct time. At regular intervals signals are being sent out daily from the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The apparatus installed there has a range of from 2,000 to 3,000 miles.

One of the wonderful things about the wireless telegraph is its rapidity of transmission. The Hertzian waves have a velocity equal to that of light, which is 186,330 miles a second, and a signal is therefore received thousands of miles away at practically the instant it is given. The operator in the Eiffel Tower presses the tapping instrument at the identical moment when the distant listener hears the signal. For this reason wireless telegraphy supplies an ideal means of transmitting the correct time.

Beginning next October the signals given in the international code printed on this page will be transmitted daily from the Eiffel Tower to mark 12 o'clock midnight. In the meantime signals are sent out daily at 10 A. M. and 11:30 P. M. It is suggested that for the present the simplest method for correcting clocks and watches available to those who can make use of the Eiffel tower time service is to note the signals which begin at 11:30 P. M. Households in minute those he hears relate. At 11:30 the signals begin with a tap for each second for three full minutes. The 180th tap marks 11:33 o'clock. At 11:45 another set of signals starts and is followed by a weather report. The signals are very distinct. The time given is Greenwich time. It is a curious fact that Greenwich observatory, the centre of standard time, does not possess apparatus for despatching correct time by wireless and therefore English wireless operators are dependent for this service upon the Eiffel Tower in France.



From Illustrated London News. Correct time by wireless dots and dashes.

The apparatus needed to receive the signals is very simple and consists of aerial wires suspended over the roof or in the garden, a tuning coil, a detector and a telephone. The signals are sent in the Morse code. They are transmitted slowly and the dots and dashes, which sound like a very low

London which include amateur wireless operators among their members have found a new diversion in thus correcting their timepieces. The method of transmitting the signals is similar in all cases, the signals themselves being varied for each period so that the operator listening may know to which

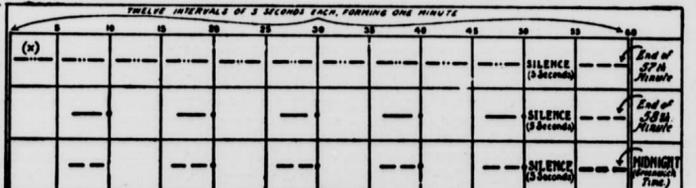
The photograph of the radiations from the Eiffel Tower was taken from the second platform looking up to the top while the wireless time signals were being despatched. The ultra violet radiations, even if not visible to the naked eye, appear luminous on the photographic plate.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR TELLING THE TIME.

At three minutes to 12 midnight, the signal "X" will be sent for fifty seconds, followed by a pause of five seconds, and then three dashes, the third of which ends the fifty-second minute.

At two minutes to 12, every tenth second will be marked by a "tap," preceded by a dash, the series ending similarly with five seconds' silence and three dashes.

At one minute to 12, every tenth second will be marked by a "tap," preceded by two dashes. Then will follow five seconds' silence and three dashes, the third ending midnight, Greenwich time.



Signals to be sent out at midnight from Eiffel Tower.

New York's Fire Chief Tells of the Trade of Arson

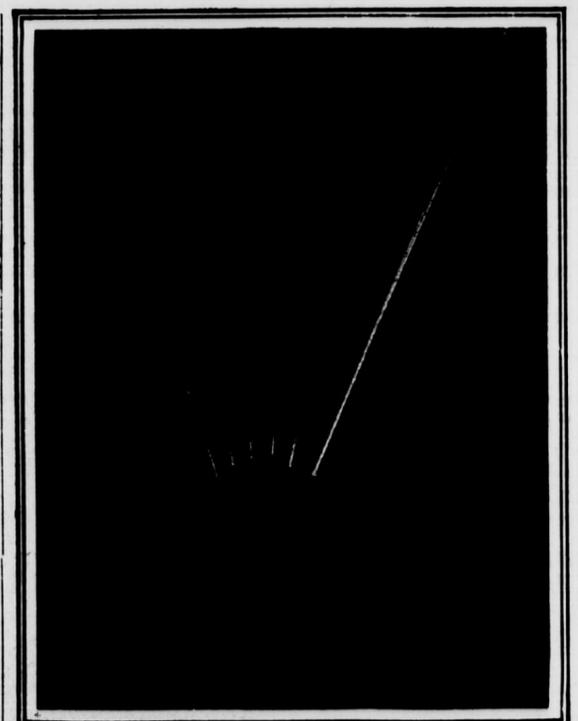
Continued from Sixth Page.

ings and equipment and is further no guarantee that it has been designed along the lines of greatest resistance to the fire peril. Finally, the fireproofing of materials is not always satisfactory, and a story is told of a contractor in business who was asked by a friend what was done with all the shavings and chips from fireproof wood. The nonchalant reply, "We use them to light the stoves in the morning, they make excellent kindling," gave him food for reflection. There can be no doubt that hotel fires are extremely prevalent, as may be judged from the following figures: During the first day of 1913 five hotels in widely separated portions of the United States were destroyed, with a loss of two lives and \$100,000. The total of such fires in the month of January was twenty-five, representing a property loss of \$700,000 and seven lives. In 1912 there was a hotel fire every thirty-three hours in North America, and up to date, 1913, that record has been passed, with an outbreak every thirty hours. It has been estimated that the property loss in the United States through these disasters during the last five years has amounted to \$25,000,000, while the death toll has been proportionate. These figures, it is true, apply to America, but similar occurrences are common enough in Europe and are by no means confined to the older fashioned structures. To wit, the fire at the Carlton Hotel is still fresh in the memory of Londoners.

Now it must not be supposed that this state of affairs is due to the apathy of hotel proprietors and managers as to the safety of their clients; apart from considerations of humanity and sentiment that would be bad business, rather is ignorance the root of the evil. Ignorance of the very first principles of fire control, which all responsible for the lives and safety of others should thoroughly understand. It is only too common to find an attic at the top of a hotel used as a lumber room and filled with all kinds of inflammable rubbish such as old mattresses, empty boxes, excelsior and waste paper,

a perfect magazine for combustible material and a direct invitation to a visit from the flames. Many hotels again have unprotected elevator shafts around which circle the main stairs; should a fire originate on the ground floor, instantly the shaft becomes a flue up which the flames sweep with amazing rapidity, and the stairway as a means of exit becomes impassable. Defective electric wiring is likewise a constant source of danger, short circuiting constituting one of the most serious of risks. As for heating apparatus, with faulty connections, improperly covered or wrongly situated hot air ducts—were this cause of trouble eliminated it is no exaggeration to say that hotel fires would decrease by one-third. It may be imagined that the introduction of precautions necessary to combat this peril spells the expenditure of large sums of money and radical structural alterations.

Some hotels are now erected with fire escape towers, which completely cut off the flames and insure an open road to safety. But it is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules for the construction and placing of contrivances, since to a certain extent the design of the building must be taken into consideration. And in all cases sufficient and careful thought should be given to these matters. It seems hardly credible that there should be hotels devoid of even a hand chemical grenade, yet fire chiefs frequently report that such is the case. Every establishment of a certain size should not only be properly equipped with hand and chemical extinguishers but should also be possessed of a private fire department. The formation of such an organization offers no particular difficulty, and in the opinion of the writer is as worthy of advertisement in hotel announcements as such hackneyed phrases as "unsurpassed cuisine," "moderate terms" and "unrivaled view." The casual visitor would sleep just as soundly were he deprived of those three remarkable benefits, but he might be forgiven for passing a restless night were he haunted by the terrors of fire due to



Radiations that give Greenwich time.

"poor fire control." And now to come to an all engrossing portion of the theme under discussion, namely, why fires spread rapidly in hotels. In nearly all such buildings there is a lack of subdivision of floor area, though in some cities an interior wall of incombustible material is required between every set of four rooms, this extending from

foundations to roof. In one of the latest New York hotels the partitions between rooms are of hollow tile, the doors of steel and the transoms glazed with wire glass; even the trim and picture mouldings are of metal. That this is the very height of perfection in fire control may be gathered from the fact that in this same hotel an outbreak recently occurred

among some furniture stored on an upper floor. The furniture was completely destroyed, but the room was habitable twenty-four hours later, while the adjoining premises were unharmed.

It has been demonstrated ad nauseam that hotel fires are very real contingents against which to prepare, and it has been shown that the fireproof hotel is not yet to be considered as a practical possibility. But it can be made fire resistive and that with a degree of certainty which will minimize the risk to an appreciable extent. The automatic sprinkler will do everything except start a fire. Its construction is simplicity itself, while not only does it automatically damp down an incipient blaze but in addition will operate a fire alarm, insuring that there is no delay on the part of either employees or Fire Department in tackling the enemy. It is perfectly possible to install this system in the public rooms of a hotel and yet interfere not at all with the decorative scheme, which would be treason in the eyes of some. In one building so protected the sprinklers number no less than 1,600, the source of water supply being a 20,000 gallon tank elevated twenty-five feet above the roof, and two six inch connections with the city main. By this method it is possible for a room to be burnt out and the fire subdued, without the damage to property and the excitement among guests which would be caused by the arrival of a brigade and the subsequent operating of those pipes through the hall and stairways and through windows. The sprinkler system is, in fact, the silent guardian of life and property, which "slumbers not nor sleeps" and which can be relied upon as a rule. A rise in temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit on the floor is sufficient, and the sprinkler starts to work, sending down a drenching stream upon the affected area and warning all and sundry that there is an enemy at hand.

Broadly speaking, theatre safety depends upon the situation and convenience of exits, the use of the fireproof curtain completely separating the stage from the auditorium, the installation of a system of automatic sprinklers in places where such inflammable material is to be found, such as in scenery docks, and minute attention to such details as the provision of fireproof scenery and the caging in of all lights, electric or otherwise. Perhaps it will be simplest to give the regulations sug-

gested for or existing in New York on this subject, which may be accepted as representing the standard requirements.

Standpipes four inches in diameter must be provided with hose attachments on every floor and gallery, one on each side of the auditorium in every tier and one on each side of the stage in every tier. In addition there must be at least one in the property room and one in the carpenter's shop, if the latter be contiguous to the building. All these standpipes must be kept clear from obstruction and be fitted with the regulator couplings of the Fire Department. They must be kept constantly filled with water by means of an automatic power pump of sufficient capacity to supply all the lines of hose when operated simultaneously. This pump must be ready for immediate use at all times during a performance. A separate and distinct system of automatic sprinklers with fusible plugs supplied with water from a tank situated on the roof over the stage and not connected in any manner with the standpipes must be placed on each side of the proscenium opening and on the ceiling over the stage at such intervals as will protect every square foot of stage surface when they are in operation. Wherever practicable these sprinklers must also be placed in the dressing rooms, under the stage and in the carpenter's shop, paint rooms, store and property rooms. A sufficient quantity of hose fitted with regulation couplings and with nozzles and hose spanners must be kept attached to holders.

Increasing land values due to congestion in large cities, coupled with advances in the mechanical arts and steel skeleton construction, have ushered in a new and perplexing problem for the fire fighter. In American cities there is no restriction placed upon the height to which an office or commercial building may rise as long as certain regulations are complied with in regard to the material used. Height is not prescribed by law, but by economic conditions. Were it possible to provide inexpensive elevator service there is no reason to doubt that buildings in New York would now have a hundred stories, as there are already several with forty and one with fifty-seven floors. In the old type of factory or commercial building ranging from one to six stories the ordinary way of stretching hose lines by stairs and fire escapes provided all the necessary means for the firemen to reach the seat of an outbreak, but in these higher buildings other methods had to be evolved. Standpipes running from the

lowest to the highest floors were introduced. At first these were crude affairs, often misplaced, and also deficient in size. However, experience soon discovered these defects.

A brief description of a standpipe, its equipment and operation may not be out of place. The material used is generally galvanized, sometimes ordinary, black pipe. In the case of very high buildings the main line must be connected by a Y at the street level, giving four three inch inlets. These inlets to the siamese have "clapper" valves, serving as checks to prevent the water from backing out. There is also placed a swing check to prevent the water in the pipe from backing out to the street connection when the line is not in use. This is to prevent freezing in winter time. The object of the pipe line being connected to a tank on the roof is to insure a supply of not less than 3,500 gallons of water, which will enable the occupants of the building to hold in check an incipient blaze prior to the arrival of the department. All house supply lines for domestic purposes attached to the tank must be tapped in at such a height as to insure at all times the quantity of water mentioned. A check valve is placed at the bottom of this tank on the standpipe line, set to permit a downward flow and to prevent an upward flow, in case a fire engine or high pressure lines are connected at the street level. The omission of this check would prevent pressure on the floor below, as water pumped in would merely overflow from the tank onto the roof. An open hose outlet on the roof will have the same effect, as the water has more than once observed. Officers should carefully note these points in making inspections.

To the youth of all nations the writer would make the following appeal. The career of the fire fighter is one of the most entralling that the mind of man can conceive and in its present stage of development it promises a remarkable field for the enterprising and enthusiastic. It has been shown that the days when the fireman was merely an automaton using a pail of water and a hatchet, when discretion and intelligence were useless owing to the undeveloped state of the science and when any unskilled laborer could accomplish all that was required, are gone forever. In place of a calling which is emerging from its chrysalis of obscurity to take its proper position among the recognized and esteemed professions of the world.