

WOMEN CAN LOSE EVEN THEIR BABY CARRIAGES IN THE BIG DEPARTMENT STORES

(New York Sun.)

In this era of service as an indispensable business asset, New York department stores perform unique services for their customers. They find and return to the busy throngs that flow in and out their great caravanseries no less than a million dollars worth of lost articles—handbags containing money, papers and trinkets, valuable jewels, parcels of merchandise, pocketbooks—all sorts of more or less precious human belongings that have been dropped in the haste of shopping or forgetfully laid aside upon counters. Even lost babies have been found and returned within a few hours to distracted mothers.

The great shops of New York maintain lost and found bureaus to accomplish just this sort of service, and in and around them are to be found many little comedies and dramas of everyday life. The head of one of these bureaus drew a picture of its activities and of the general usefulness of these lost and found departments of New York's palatial indoor markets.

"The amazing thing," said this man, "is that the hundreds of thousands of people who struggle through traffic and fill our shops from morning until evening do not lose more valuables than the record shows. Most people are rather absent minded, you know. They go to the stores with one thing on their mind, to get such and such an article or list of articles, and when they find themselves in the midst of hurrying crowds

almost every mental activity except concentration on what they want to buy and can pay for it seems to go to sleep.

"The result is that they drop things and are not aware of it. They put their packages or their handbags down upon the counter and go away and leave them, even though the articles are right under their eyes, in plain sight. Perhaps in the throng the insecure fastening of a necklace works loose and the string of pearls slips down to the floor, unseen and unregarded. Rings come loose in glove fingers and find their way to the floors.

"Many have the bad habit of carrying money in crumpled-up wads or in loose bills, and often a bill becomes detached in the hurry of things and flutters unseen to the floor or loses itself in a pile of parcels. It is astonishing what can happen and how little really does. When one estimates, on the basis of such reports as we have, that probably a million dollars' worth of lost valuables and belongings is located by our bureaus and returned speedily to the owners, it is really a very small sum for such a city as New York and for the enormous shopping trade that goes on every day. The wonder is, human peculiarities being what they are, that it isn't twenty million. But the best of it is that the great majority of lost articles are found and returned through a careful, vigilant system that the big department stores have instituted.

"Now here's another thing that's worth mentioning. That is, the essen-

tial honesty of the great mass of people. Our own employees—the employees of every store—are honest folk, of course. That goes without saying, because their character is very definitely ascertained before they are employed. They recover a great amount of lost things on their own initiative. Their quick eyes see the fallen purse or jewel or bill that the eye of the hurrying customer has overlooked.

"But without the cooperation and honesty of the customers themselves losses would be large. What happens is that the shoppers themselves find things that have been lost by other shoppers, and they promptly turn these articles into us. If the article is very valuable, something of the nature of a pearl or diamond necklace or a fine ring or bracelet, it goes at once to our safe and is there locked up to await further information. If no claimant appears within a reasonable time the article is carefully advertised, and of course the claimant is required to furnish indubitable proof of ownership. If advertising fails to bring a response we try other methods. Articles of small or moderate value, such as imitation jewelry, trinkets, parcels of merchandise, books, eyeglasses and so on are held by our lost and found bureau until the owner appears and identifies the property. Umbrellas, walking sticks, gloves, spectacles and spectacle cases, brief cases, books, cameras, lorgnettes, valises, even baby carriages (and how a woman can lose a baby carriage I don't know, except that they do) are constantly being picked up and returned to the careless ones. We have even found false teeth and had the satisfaction of seeing them replaced in the mouths of the distressed owners."

If you lose anything in a New York department store you can be reason-

ably certain of getting it back—but don't expect to get any information over the telephone. The lost and found bureaus of the department stores cannot discuss such matters over the phone, and the reason, of course, is to protect the real owners against false claimants. The thing to do, immediately after you have discovered your loss, is to go to the store itself and apply with proper identification to the lost and found bureau. Three chances to one a smiling clerk will hand you out your package.

JACK DEMPSEY BUYS INTERESTS IN JOE GANS

New York, Nov. 12—Jack Dempsey had purchased an interest in Baby Joe Gans, California Negro lightweight, from Gans' manager, Larney Lichtenstein. Gans is matched to meet Joe Glick, Brooklyn lightweight, in his next bout.

Dempsey said he believed Gans would be the next lightweight champion. Lichtenstein will continue to manage Gans and Dempsey will have nothing about handling the California boxer.

Four of this season's new 2.10 trotters were bred by P. W. Harvey of Cleveland who has only a very small band of mares and he has only a very small band of juveniles coming on that will be heard of in due time. The quartette which entered the select list this season is made up of Volci 2.07%, You'll Do (3) 2.07%, Tease (2) 2.09%, and Cecily (3) 2.10 the last named three being out of daughters of Lee Axworthy 1.58%.

BALKY MULE PRODDED JERKS RIG OFF WHEELS

New York Nov. 12—Traffic was tied up for a time when a recalcitrant mule, hitched to an old-fashioned buggy, driven by Joseph Ashby, refused to move farther. A policeman prodded the mule so vigorously that it jerked the buggy off its wheels. Ashby upbraided the policeman for the damage to the vehicle, so the policeman tied the mule to a post, pushed the remains of the buggy to the side of the street and took Ashby to jail, charging him with disorderly conduct.

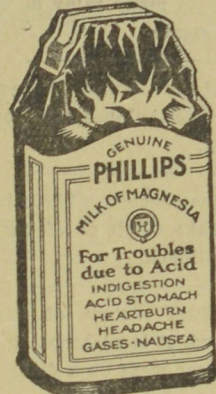
Who can remember when a homely girl, or a gentleman in bad shape, was alluded to as a Picture No Artist Could Paint?

S. S. SHIPPER HAS RESCUED 123 PEOPLE

(Special to the Daily Mail by the British United Press)

New York, N. Y., Nov. 13—The Santa Barbara today messaged the radio marine corporation that the SS American Shipper had picked up 33 passengers and 90 members of the crew of the Vestris. The G. M. C. operators here said no direct word had come from the American Shipper itself, the crew apparently being too busy with the rescue work.

Another of the broad, general terms which usually means less than it seems to signify is Redecorated Throughout.



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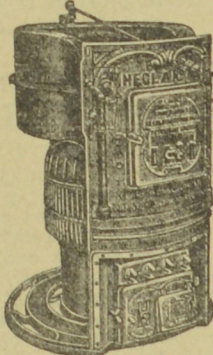
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