Making A Fireman

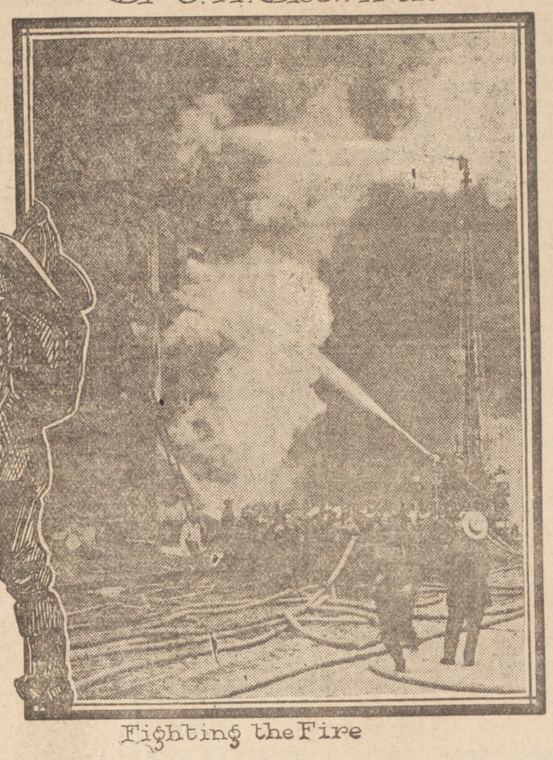
BY J. M. BROWN JR



Single Stick Exercise



Headquarters



Fighting the Fire



Manning the Life Net

Engage in a discussion with the average New Yorker, upon acts of heroism and he will at one exclaim: "Heroes! Why, man, the real heroes of New York, and in fact of the world, are the men who fight fires in this city, and there is not a man in the department who would not perform some signal act of bravery in which hairbreadth escapes and rescues figure were he called upon to do so, or given the opportunity to volunteer his services for such work. There are not a hundred men in the local department who, at one time or another, have not performed some feat entitling him to a Carnegie medal."

The New Yorker, although the most provincial citizen on earth, since his ideas of the world at large are confined to those interests which alone concern his dearly beloved "New York," is not alone in this opinion, for after all the members of the New York fire department have no equals on earth in their chosen vocation, and no body of men are called upon so often to engage in work where life and limbs are so frequently imperilled. They are a brave, or a foolhardy lot, take your choice, but in any event their very recklessness is what counts and brings forth results.

To become a fireman in New York city requires months of careful training and preparation. It is a far different procedure from that which has to do with the making of a policeman. In the latter case the most potent factor is political pull. Of course there are certain physical requirements that have to be forthcoming, but the big, brawny chap with a fair knowledge of the location of the principal points of interest in New York, a sufficient education to spell "dog," "cat" and "rat" correctly, providing his district leader smiles favorably upon him, which in reality means that he either is, or will become a useful member of the Tammany Hall organization, is reasonably sure of some day swinging a club and commanding the loitering classes to "move on." But to become a fireman is an altogether different proposition. Applicants for the vacancies occurring in this department are subjected to a physical examination second to none in this country. To begin with the applicant must be one of exemplary habits. His past life is looked into with a scrutiny that is microscopic in detail. This is to insure the examiners that he is sound in health, wind and limb, and in case of an emergency would not wilt. A craven has no place here. He is put through a series of measurements that are as thorough and complete as those applied to suspected criminals under the Bertillon system. His muscular development must be unquestioned, while his heart action is one of the chief essentials to his application being favorably passed upon.

Candidates for the fire department, following their physical and moral examinations, are turned over to Battalion Chief George F. Farrell, who in the past four years has molded from the raw recruits entrusted to his tutelage 1,400 brave and fearless firemen, scores of whose names have repeatedly adorned the department's roll of honor, a much coveted goal in the department. The School for Firemen is located on East Sixty-seventh street and there the recruits are put through a course of training that only the most fearless and hearty can withstand. These men gather in class every day and are instructed in all the chief essentials of successful fire fighting. They are made familiar with all the perils attending the work they seek to take up and each and every one is given an opportunity to withdraw from the "class" before the more practical, or physical, side of the instruction is taken up. These lessons begin with the adjustment of the apparatus employed in fighting a blaze. They are familiarized with these implements used in the saving of lives, such as the life lines, life nets, scaling ladders, stationary and rope. After having thoroughly grasped these details the men are given their first taste of actual

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work. After learning how to safely and securely adjust the scaling ladders the time is ripe for their first ascent of this shaky structure. The height to which they are allowed to climb is increased as their training progresses, until they finally attain those dizzy heights that the real veterans of the department dimb to when in real service. Proficiency in the art of climbing the single stick scaling ladders has reached that degree of perfection that holds those who witness the feat spellbound.

A big hook at the upper end of the ladder enables those manning it to clutch a window sill, or even the eaves of a house if necessary. The firemen then scale this single stick, with its frail-looking cross-pieces, with the ease and celerity of monkeys, and after learning the trick of descending with heavy weights or dummies in their arms they are entrusted with a human form, which they carry in safety to the life net, stretched below. The single stick ladder has played an important part in many of the most thrilling rescues of New York's tenement-house fires in recent years.

After careful drilling the recruits are given lessons in the "human chain rescue," which is the most perilous and spectacular feat the fireladdies of the metropolis have to perform, and one only pressed into service when every other device known to them fails. For instance, a man, woman or child is imprisoned in a burning structure on a floor too high above the street to be reached by extension or scaling ladders. Firemen ascend to the roof of the building and then lower one or more of their number by their heels until the first man suspended can be swung past the window where the prisoners are, pendulum fashion, until he can grasp the wrists of one of those awaiting rescue. He swings the one rescued clear of the window and then his comrades above slowly draw him back to the roof of the building, with the rescued one safe from the fiery tongues of the flames. This process is repeated until the last victim is drawn up to safety.

To successfully perform this feat only men of prodigious strength and unquestioned nerve are employed. One false "catch" would result in failure, and, perhaps, death for all concerned, rescuers as well as those waiting to be rescued. Not so many months ago at a tenement-house fire a young woman who had escaped from the burning building took refuge on a nearby roof. Before her plight was discovered the house on which she stood was a seething mass of flames and it was impossible to reach her by life lines or ladders. Five firemen, two of them recent graduates from the School for Firemen, formed a human chain after ordering the girl, by means of a megaphone, to stand as near to the edge of the roof as possible. Slowly the human rope began to swing until it had acquired sufficient momentum to swing the fifth or lowest man to within grasping distance of the girl. As he seized her and she swung clear of the roof on which she had been standing, she lost consciousness and, with her dead weight added to the already heavy load, the pendulum was given another swing and the girl was landed in safety to another roof. Meanwhile the strain on the fifth man had been so great that he lost consciousness and dropped a distance of 95 feet into the fiery furnace raging below, and only the metal accoutrements of his uniform were found when the ruins were searched for his charred body.

First aid to the injured forms an important part in the education of a fireman. Not only must he know how to rescue one of his comrades or some other person injured in the course of the blaze he is fighting, but he must be ready to apply treatment needed in the resuscitation of the stricken one until medical aid can be applied. It is the rescue of one of their comrades that spur the firemen on to the bravest deeds recorded in the annals of the department. Only a few months ago a fireman working on the tenth floor of a burning building found himself trapped and there was no means of raising a ladder to his level. Flames were belching out from the windows of the eight and ninth floors and it was impossible to bring the scaling ladder into play. One brave fireman braced himself on a ladder which reached midway between the seventh and eighth floors. With his legs entwined around the rungs of the ladder and arms outstretched he called to his comrade to jump. Jump he did and landed in the lap of the man who had commanded him to do so, and, getting a firm hold on the sides of the ladder he slid on down to safety. As his rescuer did not follow his example, the battalion chief ordered another fireman to ascend the ladder and ascertain what caused his delay. When he reached the brave fellow's side it was found that both his legs had been broken by the force of the impact and there he was sitting powerless to move and suffering in silence the most excruciating agony. These are a few of the many instances crowded into the lives of the fire-fighters which illustrate why such unusual care is exercised in the selection of men to respond to duty's call.

When the recruits have served their apprenticeship and Battalion Chief Farrell reports that they are of the proper caliber, they are assigned to some engine or hose company and there get their first taste of work under fire. It is the more seasoned men who are assigned to the hook and ladder trucks, for it is these men who are called upon to do the bulk of the rescue work.

The New York Fire Department is made up of 4,157 officers and men. The 235 engine, hose and hook and ladder companies and the allied forces are sheltered in 238 firehouses. The fire department property is worth $6,837,525. The 1,500 horses owned by the department are valued at $450,000. They are usually young and are selected for their intelligence. The prices average $300 for each animal. The fire forces are organized and distributed like a great army. There are 84 engine and 35 hook and ladder companies in Manhattan and the Bronx; 71 engines, 25 hook and ladder and six hose companies in Brooklyn and Queens, and eight engine and hose companies and five hook and ladder companies in Richmond.

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There are distributed throughout Greater New York three fire divisions, divided into 60 battalions. There is an average of six companies to a battalion and three battalions to a division.

New York is so much more congested than Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston that it would be difficult to compare the effectiveness of the fire forces in the four cities, except in a general way. Greater New York, for instance, has more than twice as many inhabitants as Chicago; nearly three times as many as Philadelphia, and nearly seven times as many as Boston. The fire area of Chicago is 191,000 acres, that of Philadelphia 82,800 acres and that of Boston 27,520 acres. The fire area of Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Long Island City, not including the outlying sections, is 95,120 acres. These figures suggest the degrees of congestion in the several cities.

New York, with her 4,157 firemen and officers, has one man to every 1,031 persons in the city. The Chicago force comprises 1,324 men, or one to every 1,121 inhabitants. Of the four cities Philadelphia has the smallest fire force in proportion to her population. Her 935 firemen represent one to every 1,483 inhabitants. The reputation Boston has for an efficient fire department is sustained in this particular. With 887 men to a population of 595,300, the proportion is one fireman to every 671 persons in the city.

Some idea of the work new York firemen are called upon to do may be had when it is recalled that 8,479 fires were fought in Greater New York in the year 1907, or a daily average of 24.

THE SALE OF THE SEASON

INSTEAD of August we are going to try June for the clearance of all Summer Goods. So those who wish to keep cool, when it's hot should take every advantage offered. Don't be satisfied with a small share of the Bargains, but dip in deep and get all you WILL WANT. The goods we are offering are New Summer Goods. Up-to-date in every respect and just what everybody will have to have in a few days.

Sale Starts Friday, June 12 and ends Saturday, June 20

IN MEN'S DEPARTMENT

200 dozen Men's 75c. Shirts and Drawers, Natural Wool, British make, Sale Price 48c.
150 dozen Men's 50c. Balbrigan Shirts and Drawers, ... Sale Price 35c.
75 dozen Men's 25c. Balbrigan Shirts and Drawers .... Sale Price 19c.
Men's $1.50 Soft Front Outing Shirts .... Sale Price 98c.
Men's $1.00 Soft Front Outing Shirts .... Sale Price 69c.
Men's 75c. Soft Front Outing Shirts .... sale price 48c.
Men's 75c. Blue Duck Shirts .... sale price 48c.
Men's 75c. Shaker Flannel Night Shirts .... sale price 48c.
Men's 65c. White Dress Shirts .... sale price 42c.
Men's 15c. Black Cotton Hose .... sale price 9c.
Men's 25c. Black Cashmere Hose .... sale price 19c.
Took's Linen Collars all styles .... 3 for 25c.
Men's 35c. Police and Fire Braces, ... sale price 19c.
Men's 35c. Fancy Braces, ... sale price 19c.
Men's 15c. Braces .... sale price 9c.
60 dozen Men's 35c Ties .... sale price 19.
Men's 20c. Ties .... sale price 13c.
200 dozen Men's 10c. Linen Handkerchiefs, ... sale price 3c.
Men's 15c. Excelda Silk Handkerchiefs, ... sale price 9c.
Men's $1.50 Wool Serge Pants, ... sale price $1.21
Men's $2.00 Canadian Tweed Pants, ... sale price $1.98
Men's $3.00 Hewson Tweed Pants, ... sale price $1.98
Men's $3.00 Outing Pants, ... sale price $1.98
Men's $12.00 Outing Suits very newest styles, ... sale price $7.48
Men's $8.50 Canadian Tweed Suits, ... sale price $5.98
Men's $12.00 English Worsted Suits, ... sale price $9.98
Men's $18.00 English Fancy Worsted, ... sale price $12.48
Men's $16.00 Black Suits Cheviot or Clay Worsted, ... sale price $11.98
Men's $1.25 Self Opening Umbrellas, ... sale price 98c.

IN BOYS' DEPARTMENT

Boys' $3.00 Two Piece Suits, ... sale price $1.98
Boys' $3.00 Buster Brown Suits, ... sale price $1.98
Boys' $4.50 Three Piece Suits .... sale price $2.98
Boys' $6.00 Three Piece Suits, ... sale price $4.98
Boys' Fancy Top Overcoats, ... $2.98 to $7.00
Boys' 65c. Knee Pants, ... sale price 48c.

IN SHOE DEPARTMENT

Men's $5.00 Tan Oxfords, sale price $3.48
Men's $4.00 Patent Oxfords, sale price $2.98
Women's $2.25 Tan Oxfords, sale price $1.48
Women's $3.25 Patent Oxfords, sale price $2.48

IN HAT DEPARTMENT

During this sale the great $3 King Hat will be sold for $1.98

Men's $2.00 Hard Hats, sale price $1.48
Men's $1.50 Hard Hats, sale price $0.98
Men's $1.50 Straw Hats, sale price $0.89
Men's 65c. Outing Hats, sale price $0.48
Children's 75c Outing Hats, sale price $0.48
Linen Tams, White and Blue, sale price $0.19

IN DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT

Children's 75c. and $1.00 Dresses, sale price $0.58
Children's $1.00 to $1.25 Dresses, sale price $0.75
Girls' 65c. Fancy Sun Shades, sale price $0.49
Ladies' 75c. Black and Tan Leather Belts, sale price $0.48
Ladies' 50c. Black and Tan Leather Belts, sale price $0.30
Ladies' 15c Hose Supporters, sale price $0.05
Ladies' 25c. Hose Supporters, sale price $0.19
Ladies' 50c. Hose Supporters, sale price $0.36
Ladies' Black Cotton Hose, two pair for $0.25
Ladies' 25c. Lisle Hose, Black or Tan, sale price $0.19

IN DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT

Ladies' 50c. Lisle Hose, Black or Tan, sale price $0.39
Ladies' 50c. P. C. and B. and A. Corsets, sale price $0.39
Ladies' 75c. P. C. and B. and A. Corsets, sale price $0.68
Ladies' $1.00 P. C. and B. and A. Corsets, sale price $0.78
30 doz. Ladies' 95c. White Lawn Waists, sale price $0.65
15 doz. Ladies' 75c. White Lawn Waists, sale price $0.48
Ladies' $1.25 White Lawn Waists, sale price $0.98
Ladies' $2.50 White Lawn Waists, sale price $1.75
Ladies' $4.50 White Lawn Waists, sale price $2.98
Ladies' $6.50 Wash Suits, sale price $3.98
Ladies' $4.50 Wash Suits, sale price $2.98
Ladies' $3.75 Wash Suits, sale price $2.48
Ladies' $3.00 Wash Suits, sale price $1.98
Ladies' $7.50 Silk Waists, sale price $6.24
Ladies' $5.25 Silk Waists, sale price $3.98
Ladies' $3.75 Silk Waists, sale price $2.48
Ladies $9.00 All-over Silk-lined Waists, sale price $6.98
Ladies' $7.50 All-over Silk-lined Waists, sale price $4.98
Ladies' $5.50 All-over Silk-lined Waists, sale price $3.98
Ladies' $2.50 Long Kid Gloves, black or tan, sale price $1.98
Ladies' $2.00 Long Undressed Kid Gloves, black or tan, sale price $1.35
Ladies' $1.50 Short Kid Gloves, black or tan, sale price $1.10
Ladies' $1.25 Short Kid Gloves, black or tan, sale price .... $ .98
Ladies' $1.00 Short Kid Gloves, black or tan, sale price .... $ .78

IN MANTLE DEPARTMENT

Ladies' $35.00 Costumes, Black, Blue or Brown Panama, sale price $25.00
Ladies' $30.00 Costumes, Black, Blue or Brown Panama, sale price $22.00
Ladies' $25.00 Costumes, Black, Blue or Brown Panama, sale price $18.00
Ladies' $20.00 Costumes, Black, Blue or Brown Panama, sale price $15.00
Ladies' $25.00 Costumes, in Black, Blue or Brown Broadcloth, sale price $17.00
Ladies' $22.00 Costumes, in Black, Blue or Brown Broadcloth, sale price $15.00
Ladies' $16.00 Costumes, in Black, Blue or Brown Vicuna, sale price $10.98
Ladies' $15.00 Tweed Costumes, sale price .... $ 9.00
Ladies' $4.50 All-wool Tweed Skirts, sale price .... $ 2.98
Ladies' $4.00 Black and Blue Vicuna Skirts, sale price .... $ 2.48
Ladies' Luster Skirts, from .... $2.75 to $5.00
Ladies' Short Spring Coats, from .... $3.98 to $10.00
Ladies' $13.00 Long Dressing Coats, latest style, sale price .... $ 7.98
Ladies' $22.00 Long Silk Coats, Rubber Lined, sale price $13.98
Ladies' $15.00 Short Silk Coats, sale price .... $ 9.98

BARGAINS IN MILLINERY ROOM TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION

WILCOX BROTHERS