

AMONG THE LUNCHERS AND THE LUNCHEONS OF WALL STREET

A GREAT FINANCIAL CENTRE, WHERE THERE
ARE MORE RESTAURANTS THAN THERE
ARE BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

Club life among the lunchers is distinctively a Wall Street district institution. Born of necessity, it will probably not be found in existence anywhere else in the world. While it is not confined to the financial operators and their assistants, still the idea got its impetus in that camp. They might be styled "feeders" in a broad sense, for they play their part in relieving the congestion. Many of the clubs have from 500 to 800 members, all "active," and, needless to add, every convenience possible is supplied and sufficient food prepared daily, for every member's name is "put in the pot" along with his initiation fee. Likewise is the lunch served with all expediency, and instead of a topsy-turvy, hurry-scurry, clang-bang, rushing, wrangling, banging, nerve racking lunch hour in stuffy quarters they are able to eat in peace and tranquility and with pleasure and profit. Among the clubs with this unique feature and innovation are the Lawyers' Arkwright, Drug, Fulton, Merchants, Machinists' Meridian, Hardware and the Downtown Association.

RAILROAD AND BANK LUNCHEONS.

Another "first aid to the hungry" has been established by the large railroad companies. Large dining rooms are operated in their buildings, where all employees are served with noon lunch. The service and bill of fare in these places are said to rival those of the best restaurants in lower New York. Perhaps the most distinctive feature offered in the noon luncheon line is that furnished by several of the larger banks. They are equipped with large dining rooms and the service is the best obtainable. The meals are served gratis to the employes. Take the National City Bank, for instance. In its new building a dining room was arranged on the top behind an eight-foot parapet, where it is not visible from the street and therefore does not affect the appearance of the imposing structure. The facilities for serving meals consist of a private dining room with seating capacity for eight, an officers dining room where twelve may be served, a men's dining room, seating 140, and a women's dining room, seating ten. In all, more than four hundred employes take their noon lunch in these dining rooms.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE RESTAURANT.

While the employes are allotted the customary time for noon luncheon, very few of them have occasion to utilize all of it and are soon back at their work. In this way much valuable time is saved in the very heart of the day's activity. And it is no small item, by any means. Adding a half hour to the service of 400 employes each day means 1,200 hours, or 156 working days, for the institution each week. All this is true, too, of the National Bank of Commerce and other large downtown banks. The Stock Exchange has its own dining facilities, and it is a sacred and exclusive institution. None of the members is allowed to invite guests. Of course, the luncheon is only provided that the members may save time, and they like to eat with a "free hand," and not be encumbered with outsiders. They have a saying among themselves that their etiquette during strenuous sessions does not strike a high batting average, as "they wait for one another like pigs at a patent feed trough."

TAKING CARE OF THE STENOGRAPHERS.

Ample provisions have been made for the female contingent of the Wall Street district. For example, there is the Princess Club, an institution on the second floor back of a none too imposing structure in Broad street. Two flights of rickety stairs bring one into comfortable quarters, and Arabian coffee colored curtains, with the club design on them, make up for any shortcomings of entrance and exterior. If it is during the noon hour that one visits the Princess Club, a treat is assured, for in the collection of four or five hundred girls will be found every type one ever saw in life, pictured in fancy, or looked upon in magazines or prized art collection. All are there. They are the stenographers and clerks employed in the district. If one should see them, no doubt one would conclude that one-sixth of the time they spend in eating, and the rest in talking. Such a conglomerated chatter! Sounds like a composite suffragette meeting, Methodist bazaar, and old ladies' sewing bee, with one portion of bargain counter sale added. The club offers the girls an exclusiveness they could not find elsewhere in that section.

RESTAURANTS FOR ALL CLASSES

At the Five Points of the district is found a branch of one of the famous restaurants of New York. It caters to the same clientele which can well afford to patronize its uptown place after business hours. Several of the leading cafes and restaurants have branch eating houses in the Wall Street district where certain standards are maintained. One can find almost any kind and any priced lunch room in the district or near by in the tiny dules of the great canyons. From a penny ice cream sandwich to a two dollar portion of pheasant hen is a gantlet one can run within the radius of half a block. A popular rendezvous for the young hopefuls of the district is a "Three Cent" restaurant. Twelve o'clock finds the boys in droves scrambling for a point of vantage on the steps of the "economy palace," where suitable interior decorations may be obtained for nine cents, including one fling at the tempting pastry of the season. It is there that the high cost of living continues to be defied.—New York Herald.