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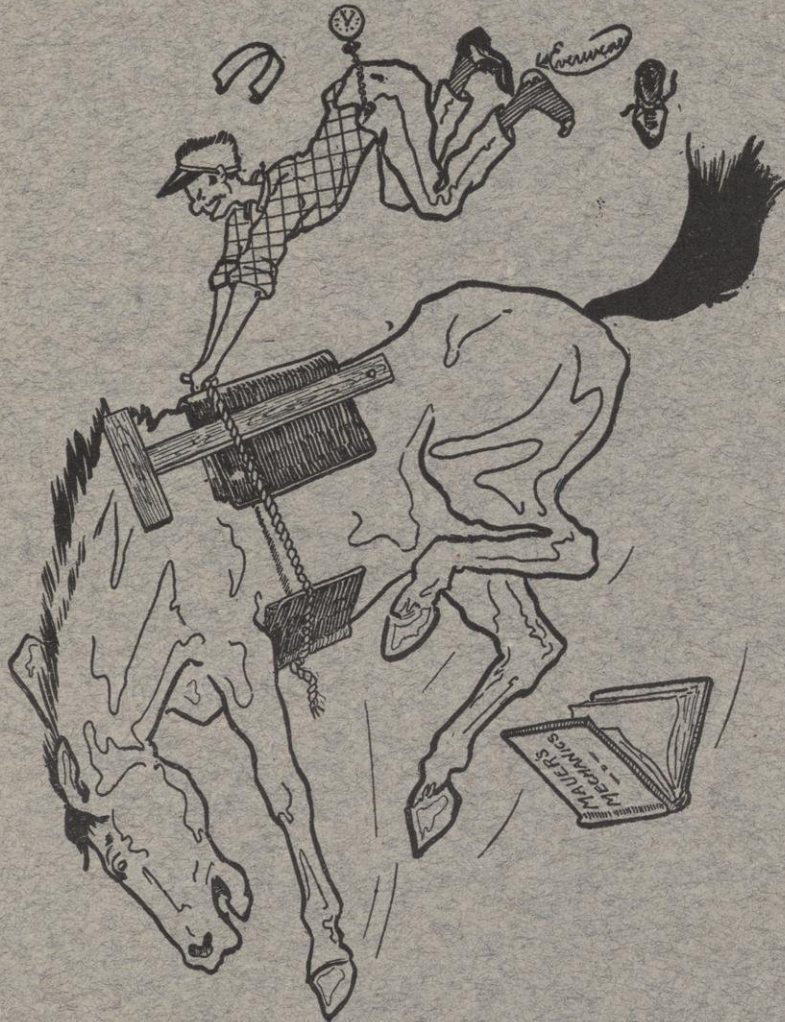
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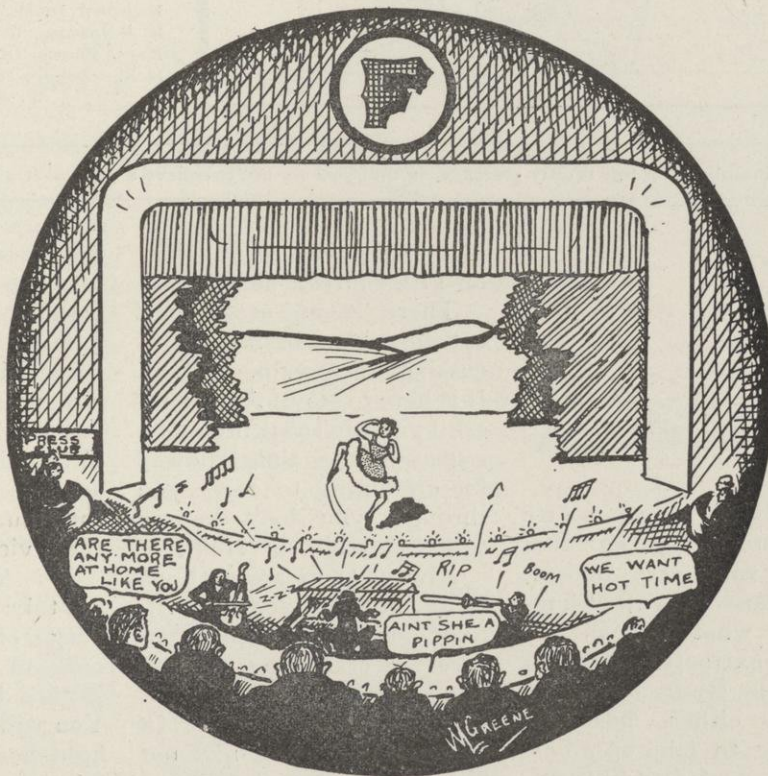
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The Sphinx

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Bucking for the Finals



THE SPHINX.

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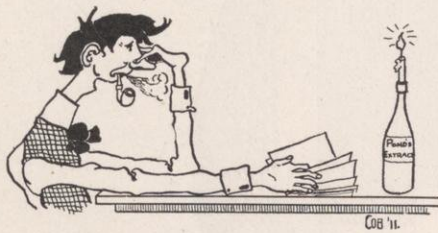
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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley



WHILE every sane stude agrees that exams are poorest possible way of finding out what a man has really extracted from a course, no stude, or faculty member, either, has ever been able to fake up a better way. And THE SPHINX, who ought to know if any one does, is quoted as saying that she don't believe any one ever will. They are slipping up on us now, and will be a year from this time, and a year after that. Thirty years from now our children will be struggling with them if we are so fortunate. They are as inevit-

able as a government salary or THE SPHINX herself.

There is no use, albeit considerable satisfaction, in cussing the exam. system. It is here to stay. And, after all, if you can't soak in enough extras in the time allowed for cramming to carry you through, you don't deserve to get through, by Hek.

Always there are with us, those transcendently brilliant guys who deplore or sneer at cramming. Don't mind them. Why shouldn't we cram? Why not? Of course it would be nice not to have to, but not many of us are built that way. Whenever anybody comes up to your room along about 11 G. M. on the eve of your big exam to put you wise that it is no use to cram, tell him somebody wants him on the phone, and when he has departed, lock the door. Then go to it. You just bet it does good to keep

the incandescent flickering into the wee smalls. A casual pike at the game of Life will convince you that those who play the important positions are 9 times out of 10 good customers of Standard Oil or whatever soulless corp. has cornered the illumination supply in their vicinity.

It is difficult and wrong to take yourself seriously very often but now is one of the times when it is distinctly in order. You will enjoy the return to light-hearted Folly about ten times as much, especially if you get through. Even if you don't, it is better to have bucked and flunked than never to have bucked at all. A few burrs of information are bound to attach themselves to you if you thrash around in learning to any great extent. Our last word on this subject is the simple yet emphatic one—buck.

BUT DON'T DO IT TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT YOU NEGLECT TO TEAR OFF SOMETHING EXCRUCIATING FOR THE PROM SPHINX, DOPE FOR WHICH MUST BE ON TAP NOT LATER THAN FEB. 5.



WHEN Prof. T. H. Dickinson wrote a play that one of the best managers in the country thinks is good enough to produce, and one of the best actorines in the country thinks is worthy of her genius for mimicry, he did more for the fair name of Wisconsin's college of L. & S. than all the rest of her English instruction force has done in their natural lives.

A playwright is bound by all the traditions of press-

agency to become famous, and the University will get a chance to bask in not a little reflected glory. We may expect to see interesting sketches of Dickinson, the man, before he became Dickinson the author. How he might have been seen of a week day morning wending his way from the chaste seclusion of E. Wilson St. to the glaring publicity of U. H. 3d floor, and putting in a bad hour with an obtuse bunch of Sophs. How he

was wont to gasp for breath before a bitter avalanche of themes, or to pass a quiet evening in his study chuckling over the subtle humor of his most recent expurgations from THE SPHINX. How, through it all, he maintained a calm and steadfast faith in the pecuniary possibilities of literature. How, at last, he was rewarded, and gained, at a single bound, a well-fitting niche in the temple of fame, and the price of ten years grinding in the Classic Halls of Learning. All this, and more, we shall expect to see, and who shall say that it is not a pleasant prospect.

It is a great thing that he has done; greater things will be awaited from him. THE SPHINX doffs her antique Merry Lid to T. H. Dickinson and hopes that seats to "The Unbroken Road" will be selling eight weeks in advance.

It might not be out of place to suggest to the local swarm of pseudo-literarians that his is an example worth emulating.



WHILE it is rather early in the game to throw any fits over the Wis. Engineers' Minstrels, it is not too early to breathe a few yearning hopes. Chief of these is one that the faculty may this year butt out and allow the talents of B. Huels to come to a head.

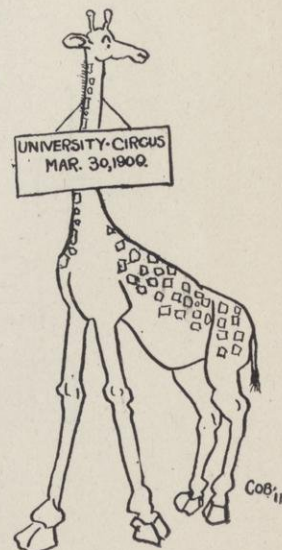
Last year an elaborate minstrel show was planned

for May 1. Things looked good to the directors on April 10. About April 15 the faculty fell on the principals like a thousand of brick. What was left of the Minstrel Show was not enough to bury; it was simply swept out.

Engineering Profs have a habit of deploring the increasing narrowness of an Engineering Education, but when anything like this comes up tending to distract attention from Math for a few brief moments, they seem to forget all about their much-vaunted broad views and hasten to clamber onto it with both feet. Result—it is effectually squashed. The Engineering

Minstrel Show deserves a better fate.

Which brings us without any Herculean effort to the All U. Circus. Anyone with talent along the line of damn-foolishness can do something to make that event memorable. If all thus qualified should try out, our statistician has it doped that there would be something over 3,000 performers. The advance agent has furnished us with a cut of one of the principal attractions which we take pleasure in appending hereto. We don't want you to think that we are handing out the bunk on this topic at so much per handful. We are simply pushing a good thing.





The Sphinx

Authorized Outlawry, No. 1 -- College Day at the Pal



Egyptian Maxims of Pta Pta

Read and profit thou by these sagacious sayings of Pta Pta. And you do not, when the lights shall flare late in the temples, and fussing is forgotten; when there is a clammy stillness in the city, and Wisdom stalketh forth unashamed; when a rosary of cold beads of perspiration circles every brow, and the tellers thereof are numbed by a nameless fear, then wilt thou wish and long for that thou had'st heeded the words of Pta Pta, and be strong for them thenceforth.

For verily, he is some wise.

And it is carved on some old paving blocks that when Pta Pta opened his mouth to take a chew, this is what slipped out:

Curl not thy nose up at the finals nor calculate to run a bluff, or brush through in a dust storm of futile verbiage, though thou hast done just that all semester; for you can fool all the profs some of the time, and Prof. Hubbard most of the

time, but the stabber is yet to see daylight who can fool all the profs all the time.

For it is a moral scinch that the easy marker is not always going to be an easy mark.

Look not upon the wine when it is red, est thou be in no shape to look upon the book when it is blue, even if thou matchest it's shade to a hair.

For it is written in the cook book that he who is pickled shall be canned.

If thou has't frivoled away thy time on mixed company or mixed drinks and hast let thy slide rule cease to slide despair not; but recollect that Feb. 1, is still a good time to start in on the New Year Resolutions to improve your convolutions, and that many a one with a thicker bone head than thine has been further behind thou and yet attained a high poor, for while the midnight oil holds out to burn the vilest sinner may return—up to February 8, after which all bets are off.

Introspection

Some of us toil, and some of us spin,

(Though few they be 'tis true.)

Most of us idle the whole day long,

Happy go lucky—a care-free throng,

Humming the words of the last light song

Wasting the hours—though it may be wrong.

Don't we? I do. Don't you?

Some of us care, and some of us think

(Hats off to those who do.)

Most of us drool of the "swell new show,"

Tell of the time when we stubbed our toe,

Try to explain why we did not row,

Gabble of dances, and where we'll go.

Don't we? I do. Don't you?

Some of us work, and some of us plan,

(It's funny but it's true.)

Most of us wish we had time for that,—

Sure, but just hear about Kate's blue hat,

Say, do you know if she wears a rat?—

Wish we were through with this tiresome blat,

Don't we? I do. Don't you?



Sam's Little Game of Tag*

*Within the Red Room's bloody walls
They fought the grisly fight,
The Union men who met the girls
Got their's alright, alright.
The co-eds slammed the tag-day gag
With words that were not sweet;
They jaggled it and draggled it,
And jumped it with both feet.*

“What ho! What ho!” quoth Samuel,
“We'll rob the tight-wad's jeans.
When cunning co-eds tag a man
He must shell out the beans.
The Onion needs a bank account—”
He lammed his thigh a whack—
“With co-ed help we'll trim each whelp
And fill the Onion's sack.”

“Bravo! Bravo!” said Dene Cruet;
Him Jogan, Cleverham,
Von Blasseinhorn and Jagginson,
And Bookhen yelled “Fine Sam!”
While Hoots and Dene went out for girls
To rally round the flags,
Sam's evil angel put him wise
To print two thousand tags.

Eight Union men and thirty girls—
The odds were far from fair—
Were met to gas about the thing—
For Jove! The scene was rare.
Sam made the opening speech. (The red
Rose to his slick-brushed hair,
And rouged his ears—by all his gods
He cursed the bright light's glare.)

“We've framed a tag-day up,” he said,
In simple, artless way,
“And you're to do the tagging, girls!
We've printed tags today.
You tag the lads and get the scads—
We've got two thousand tags—”
Fierce in the coyeds' pretty cheeks
Flared red the battle-flags.

Then Callsom More the Slamma Gi
Yipped, “What's in it for us?”
But Merry Kidden—Bless her soul—
A little stilled the fuss
With, “I'd be glad to do it but—
(But was an acrid slam)
And all the warring clans lit in
And landed hard on Sam.

They roasted him, they toasted him,
They roasted all the bunch.
Sam's guardian angel hurried up,
Sam got a three ply hunch,
To give the girls the Room wherein
In private prate to sit,
Sam pulled the eight from off the grate,
Some glad they were to git.

They picked them up and gat them
gone,
And gaped the outer air,
They blessed the gods who let them breathe,
For it was fresh and fair.
And in the Room was chatt'ring talk,
And in the Room were joys.
The Slamma Gis were there for fair,
And they sure soaked the boys.

Soon Merry Kidden tripped downstairs
And Woodward phoned some much
And then the stuff seemed off—'twas in
The S. G. A.'s grim clutch.
The S. G. A. has it in hand
And there the matter drags,
And—Sam's foul fiend had prompted him
To print two thousand tags!

*Within the Red Room's bloody walls
They fought the grisly fight,
The Union men who met the girls
Got theirs alright, alright.
The co-eds slammed the tag-day gag
With words that were not sweet;
They jaggled it and draggled it
And jumped it with both feet.*

* This might also be entitled “What Became of Tag Day.”



Music and the Drama

Recent and Future Doings of the Theatians on the Local Stage

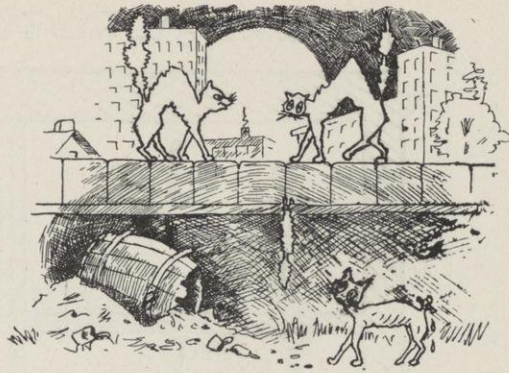
The Thomas Concert was a howling success. The terrible struggle between the clarinet and the joboe in the 'steenth movement of Beethoven's D— Flat Sonata was especially entertaining. Some ingenious individual has figured out that the wind expended during the evening would have lit up the Fuller audience for one consecutive week. This is a sad commentary on the capacity of the Fuller—audience.

Polly at the Circus took the cracker for all-round extravagance. Seventeen of the best known carloads of scenery in the country took the leading parts. A few actors were also present. *Polly* ended up by repeating it after the preacher—a sufficiently hackneyed and conventional finish to please the audience greatly.

The Man from Home was in town recently. He was really the second Man from Home, the first being confined to New York for an indefinite period. He was much too cute for words and we admit that we would like to get our hands on the money he pulls down every week for the fortunate authors, but the Girl from Home gets our vote.

The Golden Butterfly which just emerged from its chrysalis last fall is flitting towards Madison as we go to press. We have, at various times seen the golden butter fly, and often we have seen it strong enough to fly, but never in the happy surroundings with which the management claims it is this time invested. It is announced with some insistency that the G. B. is no relation whatever to the moth which figured so prominently in *The Moth and the Flame*.

Local music lovers will be disappointed to learn that Caruso will not appear in



The Thomas Concert

Madison this season. He was to have been here as a filler with the Quarles Grand Opera Co. The engagement of this company has been canceled, however, in favor of the Senior Engineer Minstrel Show, which, it is believed, will be much more satisfactory in all respects to the general public.

Those interested in the uplift which the drama is undergoing these days will be glad to learn that Madison is soon to regain her prominent position as a producing center. The impending production is that of *Kissie at Kollege*, scheduled for the 20th of next month. R. M. Hoyt—not the Rubifoam Hoyt—is the impressario, and E. J. Southwick is directing the rehearsals with as little interference from the author as possible. It will be a tailor made show. The part of *Kissie*, while not as osculatory as the name might suggest, is, nevertheless, one requiring great delicacy of feeling. We are assured that it will be played in great shape. A feature of the production which has an historic interest will be a life size imitation of the gymnasium at the University of Wisconsin, a musty old pile of red brick, with the accumulated dust of ages covering its interior—redolent of old clothes and the prevailing scarcity of soap.

Conned Out

"Have you seen the Fair co-ed?"
"Not this semester."

First Stude: "What's that scrap of paper there?"

Second Stude: "Only a dry goods handbill, I guess."

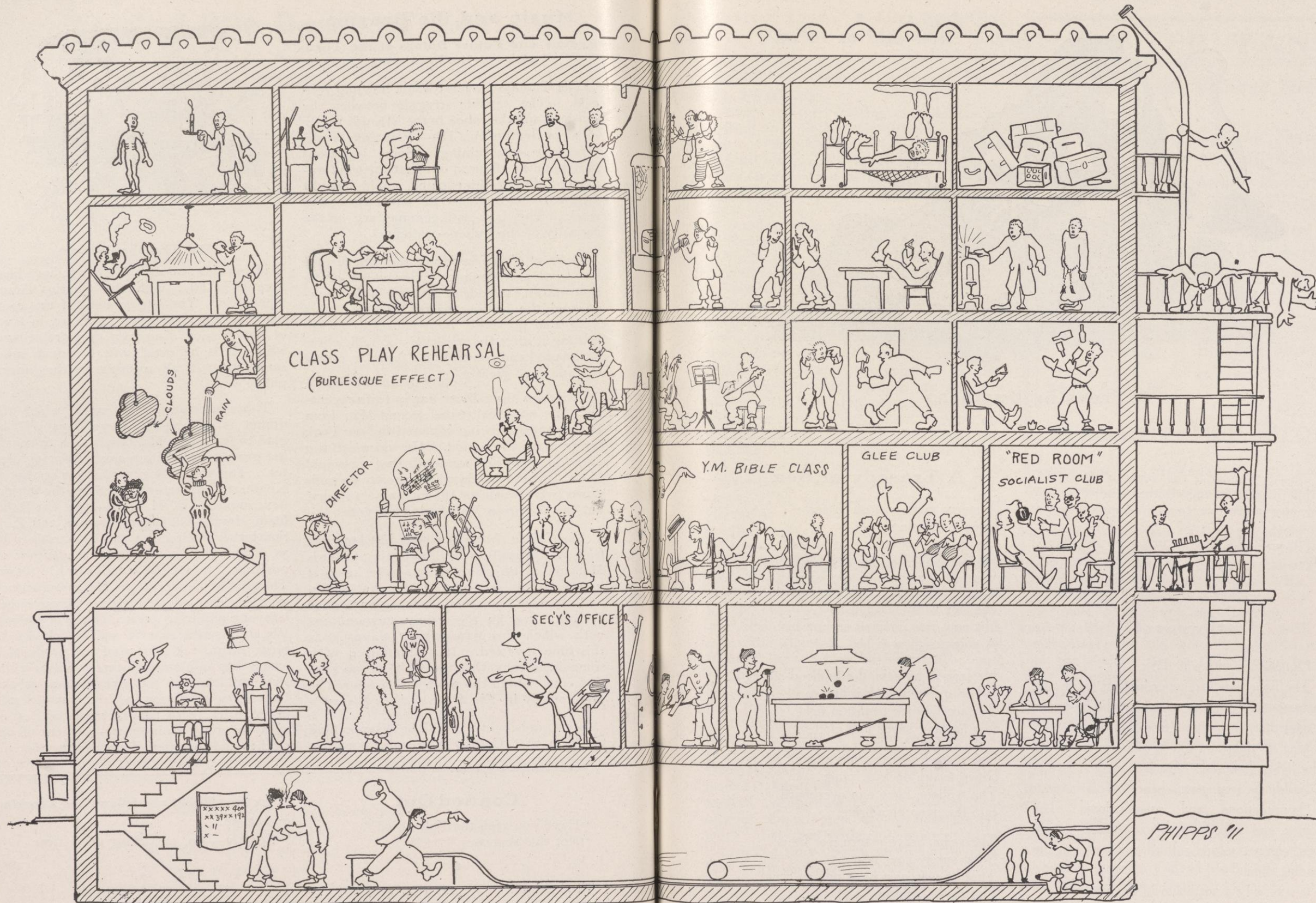
First Stude: "Look again. Maybe it's the Cardinal."

Portly—I'll bet you fellows had a corking good time.

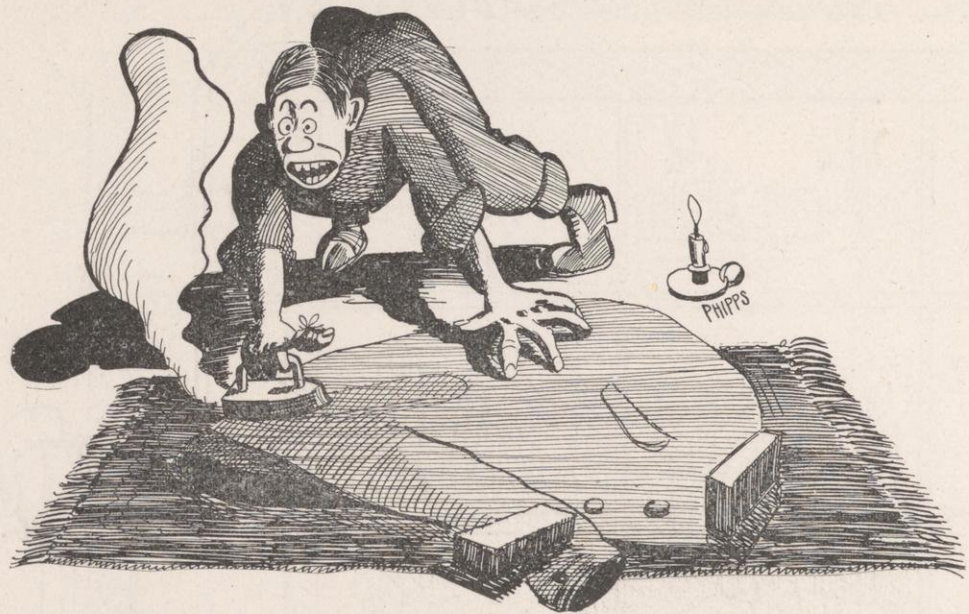
Sportly—No, uncorking good time.

Engineer: "I've just been in Steam last hour."

L. & S.: "Good! You've needed something like that for a long time."



A BUSY EVENT AT THE ONION



Pressing Business

Jim—I wonder if the remark about the Kappa Kappa Pajamas in the “Fair Co-ed,” had any reference to the Kappa Kappa Gammas.

Tim—Well, they seem to fit the inference.



Horrors!

Outside the city was dark.

The hour was fast approaching. On and on he toiled. Only occasionally did he pause to mop the perspiration from his brow. Nor looking to right nor left of him he toiled on. The lights flickered. On he toiled.

Suddenly a gong was heard!

“Imprecations and maledictions! Ten o’clock, and only four thousand, seven hundred, eighty-two and a third pages of outside reading done.”

It was only a normalite in the libe.

Outside the city was still dark.

A Tragedy at Sea

A merry mate cast off to sea
Upon a schooner red;
His shoes were glued on to his feet,
His hat, nailed on his head.

His trousers, they were fastened to
His ribs with lock and key;
His coat was chained around his neck,
A comic sight was he.

He feared, he said, the typhoon strong
When o’er the deck it blows;
So care he took to fasten tight
His hat and shoes and clothes.

The mate forgot to stick himself
Down to the deck of pine;
The typhoon blew him overboard
Into the deep blue brine.

The sailor brave where e’er he is
Must surely now regret
That he was cast by winds so cruel
Out in the cold and wet.

—P. K.



The Sphinx

Letter from a Conned-Out Father to His Son

No. 5

CRACKERVILLE, Jan. 31, '09.

DEAR BEERFONT:

Yours received stating that exams are coming on. Follow this little rule for your motto, "When in doubt—*Buck!*"

Alas! my own sad experiences crowd each other for room before my eyes. We had received our schedules and mine ran as follows:

- Tuesday, 8 A. M. Chemistry.
- Wednesday, 8 A. M. Geometry.
- Wednesday, 10 A. M. Biology.
- Wednesday, 2 P. M. English.
- Wednesday, 4 P. M. German.

Of course I was tickled almost to death at the prospect of having the exams over so soon, allowing me ten days between semesters. I left my bucking till Monday night, and had read almost two pages of Chemistry notes, when Bill Haverly, my old side-kicker in the mire of ignorance, blew in and asked me why in Heligoland I didn't cut out bucking and go with him to see "Zamia, the Pride of the Harem," at the Fuller. Bill said it was advertised as the real "Girly-Girly Show," so of course I couldn't resist. You see, I just mention this in a general sort of a way to illustrate how easy it is not to buck. After the show I drank a little—of something—I don't remember what—and then a little more. As a result, when I staggered into the exam room next morning I had forgotten whether Chemistry was a Rubber Plant or a Carnegie Library, and didn't know H_2O from H_2SO_4 . I wrote down the alphabet, and a short article on "The Value of Chemical Knowledge," just to fill up the Blue-Book, and then went home, talking hoarsely to myself. I *must* pass the remaining examinations. Going to the Bath-Room I soaked a towel in cold water and bound it around my head; proceeding to my room, I toiled diligently on Geometry while the hands of the clock sped from 11:15 to 11:20. After a walk, I went to feed. Returning home, I perused Biology for ten minutes, and German for ten more. Fatigued with my labors, I slept till feeding time. Went out to a little party that night and had a disagreement about the number of aces in a deck, with the result that my teeth were diminished by two, and my eye gently rubbed so that it assumed all the rich color of a spoiled orange.

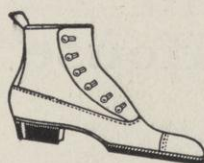
What work I did next day! Just in pass-

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ing I might mention that in Geometry I constructed a right-angled triangle for a bi-sected circle, while in Biology, realizing that my paper was unworthy of an "Ex," I wrote at the bottom in a humorous way, "If I have omitted any bugs from my discussion, they are, at this moment doing muscle-dances on my block." I had been told the Faculty had a rare sense of humor; I afterwards decided that it *was* rare—exceedingly so. In English, I endeavored to draw a similarity between a verb and a "balance," so you can grade me there without effort. In German I threw in a few Latin pronouns for good measure, and blended "Die Lorelei" and "The Star Spangled Banner" in a very liberal minded way.

But enough. Soon I received the glad tidings that I was a premature alumnus.—Am sending you no check this time, but promise a large one next time, if you are still enrolled as a 'stude' in the dear old Varsity.

Get down and BUCK.

Your affectionate father,
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MATINEE TUESDAY

Bill—Can you tell me why directoire gowns are like beer?

Hank—Why! Why are they?

Bill—Schlitz made them famous.

Agric' Notes



Prof. ——— gave an interesting lecture on the Angora goat before the Agricultural students.—*Cardinal.*

Doings of the Greeks

The waitresses at the One Minute have organized a local sorority under the name of PI? UH HUH.

Joke

By B. Huels

(Engineer Minstrels please copy.)

To class: "Please note that this is a Bourdon, not Bourbon, gage, as you might wish."

"Say, Mr. Interlocutor," queried the dusky gentleman on the end, "can you tell me the difference between a coed and a Sixth ward girl?"

"No, Mr. Bones, I can not tell you the difference between a coed and a Sixth ward girl," answered the gentleman in the fancy trousers. "What *is* the difference between a coed and a Sixth ward girl?"

"One favors the rough neck, the other the neck ruff."

"Mr. Johnson will sing 'Willie, Get the Chafing Dish, Our Cook Has Flew the Coop.'"

Cultcher

L. & S.: "Did you ever see the Venus de Milo?"

Agric.: "Naw, but I seen the Merchant of Venus onct."

Alonzo—Tell me, old man, isn't that fair creature over there beckoning to you?

Alphonzo—No—no—that's only a marcel wave.

Little Jack Horner

Sat in a corner

Bucking with might and main.

The reason, you ask

For performing this task?

Why exams will soon be here again.

SPHINX BEAUTY CONTEST — INTEREST GROWS APACE

Interest in the Beauty Contest being pulled off by THE SPHINX has passed all bounds. It has been found necessary twice to increase the size of the judging committee within the last ten days. When the first of these new members were appointed we expected to print a full list of them but later we found that the vast number made this absolutely impracticable. All space permits us to do is to make an acknowledgment of our grateful appreciation of the generous gift of service being made by all those acting as judges. There have been times when it seemed as if flesh and blood could not stand the sights they have had to see, yet they have stood it nobly, and well, as became true Wisconsin men.

A surprising development of the contest is the extraordinary number of co-ed pictures being received. When we made our recent appeal to the fair ones we dared not hope for any such cordial enthusiastic helpfulness as has been shown consistently throughout. Girls, you are all right. All we ask is that you continue to send in the latest pictures of yourselves, and keep on stirring up the interest of your sisters in the great cause. Wisconsin's reputation for pulchritude not only must be preserved (that is already assured), but it must be raised, raised, raised till it resounds throughout the land like Mike Riley tearing into a juicy bit of graft. Or something like that.

The men also, are coming nobly to the work, and we are confident that when we announce the prizes in the NEXT NUMBER, shouts of glad acclaim will resound throughout the city.

We ask that you will await the result with all the patience you can muster. The committee is doing its level best, and to hurry it might influence some of the decisions in a way not to be desired. We assure you, absolutely, that we will have complete returns in the Prom Number, so get your order for extra copies in as soon as possible.

The next number will be the Prom SPHINX. It will be a double number—the biggest and best SPHINX ever issued—and will sell at two bits at the bookstores. A limited number will be printed and those desiring copies should get them as early as possible before the supply is exhausted.

The editor will be very glad to consider literary dope, humorous or sentimental in character, provided it isn't too slushy for words, and artistic work of the same sort. In order to be sure that due consideration is going to be paid to your effusions you had better slip the stuff in by February 3d. The 5th is the latest possible date at which material for the Prom Number can be received.



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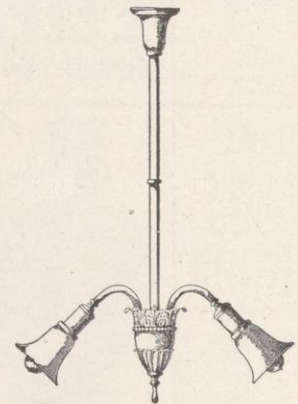
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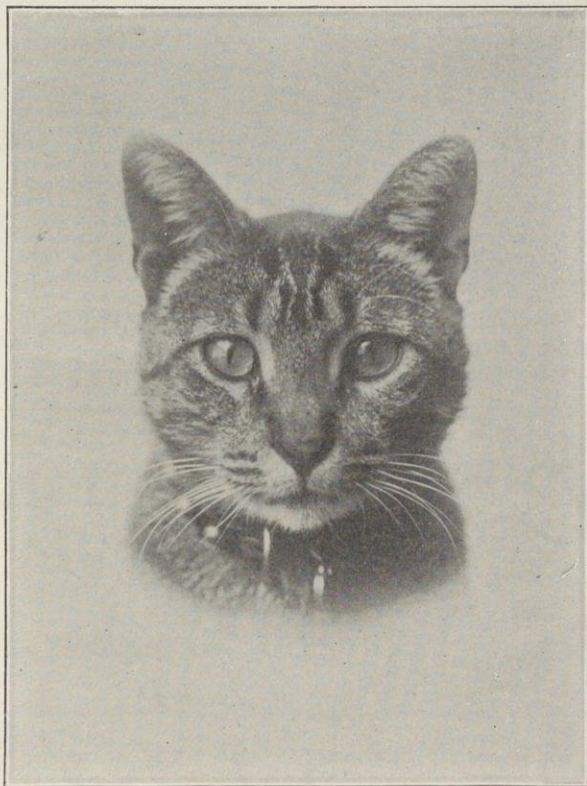
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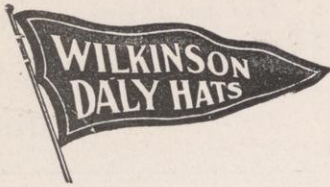
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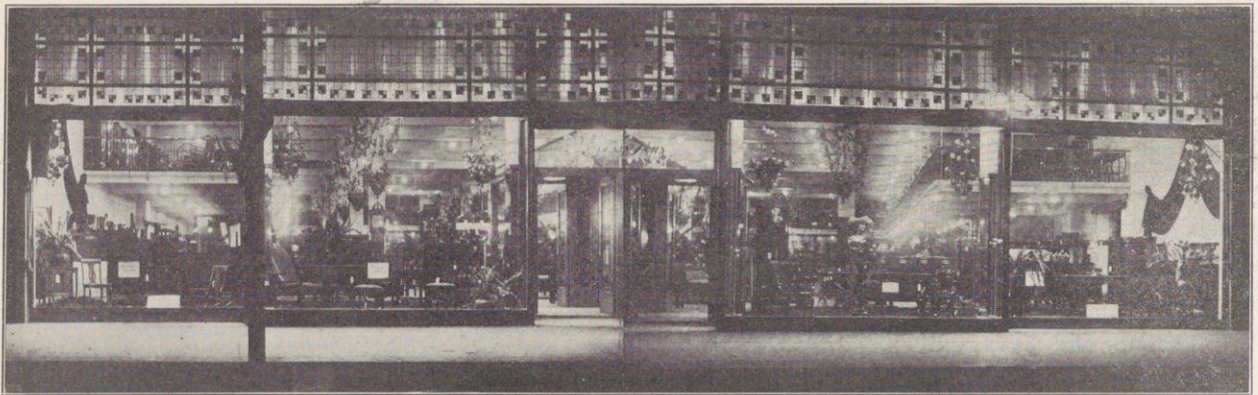
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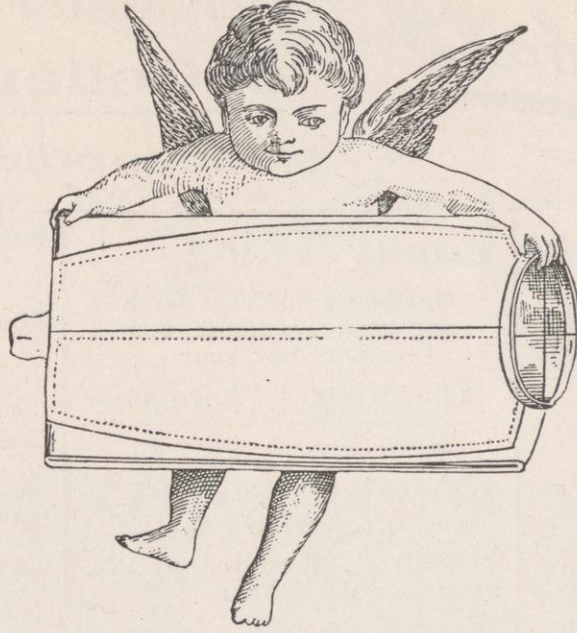
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