

Women and the Home

Radio is the slender wire that brings the world and its affairs into the tiny kitchens and living rooms which hitherto had isolated so many housekeepers in the performance of their duties
—Margaret Bondfield

INTERVIEW

THE LIFT GIRL

SHE is neat and attractive. She always has a ready, if perfunctory smile. She is always dressed distinctively, either in a page-boy uniform with a jaunty cap, or a smart overall.

She has a roving life of a curious character, for though she is constantly on the move, she, herself, is stationary. By this time you may have guessed her identity. She is a lift girl or lift attendant.

All day long the lift goes up and down. . . . First Floor—Ladies' Underwear. . . . Second Floor—Millinery and Costumes. . . . Third Floor—Fancywork and Stationery, Books and Toys. . . . Fourth Floor—Tea Room and Lay-by. . . . So it goes on. . . .

"Anybody going up, please?" A press forward, heavy doors clanging into place, and off we go again. Gloved hands feeling mechanically for the switch. . . . A small stool is placed there for her to rest on, but most of the time she is too busy to use it.

She is an amazingly efficient machine. She has to be.

Time Off For Tea

But what about her as a person and not a machine? What life does she lead apart from this monotonous up-and-down business?

After riding to the top floor and back—just to see what it felt like—I spoke my piece.

"Do lift attendants ever get afternoon tea?"

The girl gave me an amused glance. "We count the hours. Twenty-past-three, then ten minutes release. . . ."

"I wonder if you would have tea with me to-day? I'm one of those snooping newspaper women, and I'd very much like to know something about your job."

Her eyes lit up. "I'd like that—but what about having tea with me instead, up in the staff room—we can talk there?"

I said there was nothing I would like better than having tea in the staff room, and at half-past-three we were comfortably seated, cups of tea and macaroon biscuits beside us.

Escape to the Open

She started to talk about her job. "No," I said, "I want to hear something about you yourself first. What do you do when you're away from your work—what kind of things do you like?"

My victim had a sense of humour.

"We only have ten minutes—but I'll do my best. Well, I like getting air into my lungs—lots of it. I walk to and fro from work—and walk again every night after dinner. Then every Sunday I get out and walk again—or travel somewhere—anywhere to be out in the open."

I marvelled.

"An outdoor girl in an indoor job. . . ."

"But that is another of the things I like—my job. I also like reading, knitting, going to pictures, particularly plays—I never miss one. I belong to a local Dramatic Club. . . . I like that, too. . . ."

"In America they would call you a Yes girl."

"Maybe I am," she laughed, "but it works out well. I live on my own—do my own housekeeping. Saturday is my working bee, washing, ironing and mending—all the things that have accumulated during the week."

Not Monotonous Work

I glanced at the clock. Five minutes gone.

"Perhaps you could tell me something about your work?"

"Well, there is so much to it—it is full of variety and never monotonous—as so many people imagine. It keeps you mentally alive, for you are making different contacts every minute of the day. On the average, I travel up and down ten times in five minutes, carrying, approximately, nine passengers each time. Fridays, of course, are extra busy. We carry about twelve hundred people then to the tea-rooms alone. I'm usually in a sleepy state on Saturday mornings after the previous day's rush."

"I'm quite sure I'd be carried out on a stretcher."

She smiled.

GET YOUR MAN

The latest invention in "burglar traps" should go a long way towards reassuring some nervous householders. This special "trap" is a cleverly constructed window, which allows the intruder to push it up with a jemmy, and when he is about to crawl through, slams down and holds him tight. All you have to do then is call a policeman!

The Christmas Rush

"You might if you struck our Christmas rush. Last year we carried 24,000 people in three weeks—mainly small children—and lots of prams—all heading for the Toy Department. However, we have breathing space between Christmases."

"How long have you been on this job?"

"Three years. I used to be a beauty parlour assistant—but that is past history—and now, this is my job."

"Does your lift ever misbehave?"

"Only a few times since I have been here. Then, of course, it is my cue to smile and appear as if everything were perfectly normal. That's not difficult, really, as I have perfect confidence in my lift. It is something like an old friend—always there—always the same. . . ."

The clock chimed the quarter hour, and we made our way back to the lift, where the attendant again took charge.

Once more the perfect Lift girl, courteous, attentive, at the passengers' service. Where was the girl who liked knitting, books, plays, reading—and walking to get air into her lungs?

Shoe Renovations

(By L.J.S.)

THERE comes a time when we reluctantly decide that a favourite pair of shoes is really far too shabby for another season's wear. Yet if correctly treated, shoes can be given another year's lease of life, and many pennies are saved as a result.

Silver kid dancing shoes when shabby should be rubbed over with a smear of cream of tartar. Stains will vanish and the cream of tartar will impart an extra special shine.

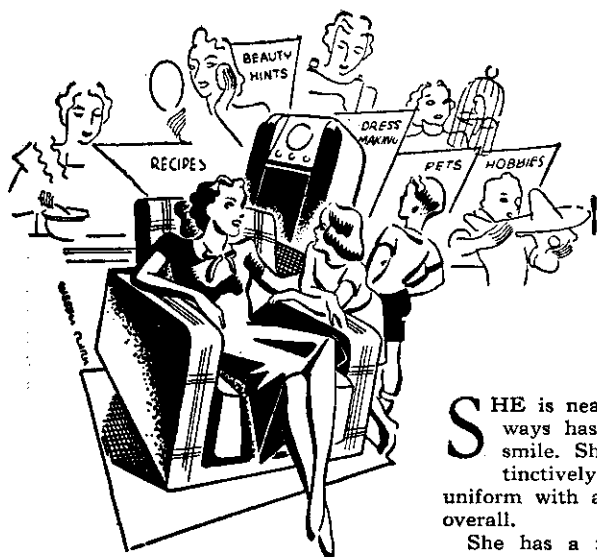
Tinsel dance shoes tarnish rather easily, and to remove this, apply a mixture of stale breadcrumbs. Rub this in gently, so that the tinsel will not be damaged, and then carefully brush it out and finish by polishing with a velvet pad. Blue shoes should have one part of washing blue added to three parts breadcrumbs. Incidentally, tinsel shoes when not in use should be wrapped in dark paper and kept away from the light.

When navy blue shoes turn shabby, paint them over with blue-black ink. Dry and polish with a soft cloth, and then clean in the usual way.

Patent leather shoes—especially when new—should be rubbed over with warm linseed oil, which helps to preserve the leather and also stops any annoying pinching or squeaking.

Suede shoes are best cleaned with a special liquid cleaner which may be bought in colours to suite the suede. Apply this with a sponge, and when dry, brush up the nap with a wire suede brush. All grease, of course, must be previously removed with petrol.

White shoes are given a particularly snowy finish if the cleaner is mixed with laundry blue water. In the case of glacé kid shoes, the special shoe cream should be applied at least once a week to keep the shoes up to the mark.



These Should Interest You:

Talks prepared by the A.C.E. Home Science Tutorial Section, the University of Otago:

"Winter Beauty Treatments." Tuesday, June 4, 1YA 3.30 p.m., 2YA 3 p.m., 3YA 2.30 p.m.

"Cutting Down the Meal Bill." Wednesday, June 5, 4YA 3.15 p.m.

"More About Vitamin B." Thursday, June 6, 1YA 3.30 p.m., 3YA 2.30 p.m.; Friday, June 7, 2YA 3 p.m.

"Dish-Washing Up-to-date." Friday, June 7, 4YA 3.15 p.m.

FROM THE ZB STATIONS

"This England." From all stations on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m., and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

"The Home Service Session." From all stations at 2.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays

"King's Cross Flats." From 1ZB, 2ZB, 3ZB and 4ZB at 7.15 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays

"The Young Marrieds' Circle" (Breta). Mondays to Fridays at 4.30 p.m. from 4ZB

Talk by a Representative of the Wellington Red Cross Society: Tuesday, June 4, 2YA 11.30 a.m.

"Recreation for Women": Lady Officer of the Internal Affairs Department. Tuesday, June 4, 4YZ 6.30 p.m.

Talk under the Auspices of the Christchurch Branch of the National Council of Women. Thursday, June 6, 3YA 11.15 a.m.

"Help for the Home Cook": Miss M. A. Blackmore. Friday, June 7, 3YA 11.15 a.m.

"Music and Flowers: Flying and Flowers": Miss Jacqueline Cochran. Saturday, June 8, 1YA 11 a.m.

"Music and Flowers: Our Need of Flowers": Miss C. F. Thomas. Saturday, June 8, 2YA 10.45 a.m.

"Music and Flowers: Bon Voyage Flowers": M. Henri Villar. Saturday, June 8, 3YA 11 a.m.

"Music and Flowers: Flower Manners": Irene Hays. Saturday, June 8, 4YA 10.50 a.m.