CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregonian's Telephones.

OREGON.

Counting Room	Main 667
Maraging Editor	Main 638
City Editor	Main 166
Composing Room	Main 685
East Side Office	East 61
Superintendent Building	Red 2823

COLUMBIA.

Counting Room	667
Editorial Room	166
Composing Room	714
Engine Room	296

AMUSEMENTS.

MARQUAM GRAND THEATER — Tonight at 8:15 o'clock, David Warfield in "The Auctioneer."

CORDRAY'S THEATER—Tonight at 8:15, Miss Fannie Curtis, in "Down by the Sea."

THE BAKER THEATER—Tonight at 8:15, Neill Stock Company in "The Little Minister."

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The State Horticultural Society concluded its annual meeting yesterday by electing these officers for the ensuing year: President, J. R. Cardwell, of Portland, re-elected for the 14th time; first vice-president, L. M. Gilbert, of Salem; second vice-president, J. D. Olwell, of Central Point; secretary-treasurer, Professor E. R. Lake, of the Agricultural College, Corvallis, re-elected for the 19th time; third member of finance committee, Colonel Harry Haynes, of Forest Grove. Among those who attended yesterday's meeting were: Asa Haladay, of Scappoose; H. M. Williamson, of the Rural Northwest; Mr. Sears, of Hood River; C. F. Lansing, of Salem; F. W. Settlemier, of Woodburn, and W. D. Matthew, of Sherwood. Two resolutions were adopted, one inviting the American Pomological Society to meet here in 1905, and the other, that the committee on legislation be requested to take steps looking to the appropriation by the state of means to secure ample competitive displays of horticultural products at the regular meetings of the society. G. Dimick stated he would like to see something done to check or kill the apple scab in the Willamette Valley, and the matter was referred to Professor Cordley for investigation. In the afternoon the members visited the rooms of the State Historical Society.

WILL KILL PESTS; ALSO THE TREE.—An amateur orchardist in the southern part of the state, who has been much plagued with pests, has written to officers of the Horticultural Society for information. He has seen a recipe published, which, it is stated, has been patented, that is warranted to free fruit trees from all kinds of pests, and he wants to know whether it is safe to try it or not. The recipe says to bore a hole in the tree, "according to size," and fill it with a combination of gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, copperas, jolap, arsenic and indigo, and it will cure the tree of all kinds of pests. He has been informed that such treatment would doubtless kill the tree, and pests would then trouble it no more, and that this could be accomplished more swiftly by exploding a stick of giant powder under the tree. In the meantime he is advised to consult Bulletin No. 7 of the Board of Horticulture, where he will find a list of sprays, etc., which will kill the pests on his trees, and he need not kill them till he is anxious to get rid of them.

ENGINE COLLIDES WITH TRUCK.—An exciting collision between Chemical Engine No. 1 and a truck loaded with pianos from Ellers Piano House occurred at Fourth and Burnside streets yesterday evening. Both were going at a good speed, and the drivers are wondering yet why it was that there was no damage done. The chemical engine was going at full speed up Fourth street. Ellers piano wagon was going down Burnside. The gong on the engine was ringing vigorously, but the rumble of the truck drowned the sound, and neither driver knew of the other's approach until they emerged from the cover of the buildings. With great presence of mind, both teamsters swung their teams in a half-circle, trying to avoid the collision. They were too late, but the sudden turn checked the force and prevented it from being so disastrous as if they had met head-on.

GETTING READY FOR WORK.—The long range of car shops and barns of the Portland Railway Company at the head of Washington street are approaching completion, the last of the buildings fronting on Fort street being under roof. The necessary switches for the tracks leading into these buildings are now being made of 7-inch iron, and when these are in place the work of making preparations for starting the track for Portland Heights up Ford street will be taken in hand. In preparation for this property-owners are considering the desirability of lowering the summit of the hump in Washington street, between St. Clair and Twenty-third streets, before a permanent improvement is made there. It is also possible that a corner may be cut off at the entrance to Ford street, which would be quite an improvement.

SPECIMEN HOOD RIVER APPLES.—The box of three-tier Newton Pippins and other sample apples promised from Hood River some time ago were due to arrive at the permanent exhibit, on Washington street, last evening. George Lamberson was anxious to get them, as the delegates in attendance on the meeting of the State Horticultural Society are anxious to inspect them before leaving for home. They were doubtless the finest apples ever seen here. The box is furnished by Sears & Porter, who realize $1000 per acre from their orchard of 8-year-old Newton Pippins. They lately shipped to New York a carload of 3¼-tier Pippins and Spitzenbergs, which is conceded to be the finest carload of apples ever shipped from Hood River, and, of course, must be the finest ever shipped from Oregon.

GRAFTED PRUNE TREES.—Some surprise has been expressed by several fruitgrowers at the action of H. E. Dosch in having his orchard of Petite prunes cut down. R. K. Warren, who has some 1700 Italian prune trees, had also 300 trees of the Petite, which he wished to get rid of. He grafted them with Italian prunes, with good results. The Petite is a more vigorous grower than the Italian, and the grafts made a growth of 6 feet last season, and promise to make splendid trees. The principle reason Mr. Dosch had for cutting down his Petites was that the soil on his place is not well adapted for growing prunes, so it was not worth while to graft his trees.

CROASMAN'S SUCCESSOR. — Postmaster Croasman has no knowledge as to when his newly-confirmed successor will assume his duties, but supposes he will have his bonds filed and everything in readiness to take charge of the office about the 1st of February. In the meantime Mr. Croasman will continue to attend to the business of the office, and is conducting negotiations with several men who desire to erect a building to be used as a postoffice while the Postoffice is being enlarged. Just whether he will be able to conclude these negotiations before retiring from office or not is uncertain.

FURNITURE FOR ENGINEERS' CORPS.—A lot of furniture for the new offices for the United States Engineer Corps in the new Custom-House building is arriving from the East, and more is being purchased here, all of which is being moved into the building, but cannot be arranged just yet, as it cannot be known when the remainder will arrive, and so there is no certainty as to when the new rooms can be occupied. It is probable that by the middle of February the Engineers may be able to move in.

FIRST BAPTIST REVIVALS.—A large congregation heard Dr. Shepardson's sermon on "Grumblers" last night. This afternoon he will give his lecture on "The Bible; What, Whence and Why This Book?" Tonight will be the wheel-chair evangelist's last meeting in Portland. Dr. Blackburn will preach Friday night on "The Turning Point of a Young Man's Life."

PROTECT YOUR GAS METERS these cold nights by having them covered. It is necessary in order to keep them from freezing. Portland Gas Company. *

"NOTHING LIKE THEM!"—Swetland's honeycomb taffies. Tasting sample free. *

HAVE you rheumatism? Use Guinean's remedy. *

LULL IN STREET-CAR WORK.—At present there is a slight lull in the work of track improving for the various street-car companies. The City & Suburban Company has its track-laying gang on the East Side, on Williams avenue, and when that piece of work is completed, the work of relaying the track on Grand avenue will be taken up. There still remains six blocks of grooved rails to be laid on Gilsan street, east of Seventh, which will be started as soon as the weather moderates. The Portland Railway Company will finish the work of laying grooved rails on Washington street east of Sixteenth street in the coming Spring, and will probably commence operations as soon as the present cold snap is over. The stonecutters are hard at work getting a good supply of paving blocks on hand, so that when work is really resumed, there will be no vexatious delays waiting on the pavers. Owing to the fact that traffic will be blockaded more or less during the improvement, it is thought that some arrangement will be consumated whereby a gang of laborers will be put on during the night time.

CENTRAL W. C. T. U. MEETS.—The Central W. C. T. U. held an interesting meeting yesterday afternoon in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. Mrs. M. E. Townsend, the president, presided, and there were brief talks on matters of interest to the society by Mrs. Huxter, Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Harvey Bailey. Mrs. Bailey, who is the county superintendent of prison and jail work, made a request for more temperance pledge cards, and reported that nearly 1000 of the pledge cards distributed among the Sunday schools and city schools had recently been signed. This announcement was received with applause. It was resolved that the W. C. T. U. send a gift of flowers to Mrs. Russell, their former evangelistic superintendent, who is now seriously ill. Mrs. H. Shane gave an encouraging report of the meeting of the general state officers of the W. C. T. U. held on Tuesday afternoon. At this meeting it was planned to establish schools for teaching methods of temperance work in a number of localities.

WILL AGAIN ATTRACT CROWDS.—About one year ago W. Stokes Kirk, dealer in United States Army and Navy clothing and arms, rented a store on Sixth street and for about two weeks, while he remained in the city, sold thousands of carbines, rifles and other Army accoutrements at such low figures that his place was crowded every day during the sale. Mr. Kirk will visit Portland again, and will open his place of business at Merrill's Cyclery Saturday at 12 o'clock noon. Mr. Kirk will offer for sale 1000 pairs of United States Army boots and immense quantities of guns, hats, capes, blankets, haversacks, swords, bayonets, belts, khaki suits, white coats and trousers, wool watch caps, woolen underclothing, buckskin gauntlets, bugles, spurs, rubber blankets, bread bags, overcoats, towels and other goods suitable to every want. These goods will be sold at retail, and as Mr. Kirk will remain here only 10 days, it will pay you to call soon as possible. *

BOY BURGLARS BOUND OVER.—Three of the boy burglars, members of the gang which had committed so many robberies about the city during the past few weeks, appeared before Municipal Judge Hogue yesterday. Bert La Barge, the youngest, who is about 13 years of age, was turned over to the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society. Frank Thompson and Charles Boggess waived examination, and were held over to appear before the grand jury.

MANN, THE SEEDMAN. Agent Burpee's Seeds. J. J. Butzer also. 138 Front st. *

WISE BROS., dentists, The Failing. *

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Multiple Switchboard is Being Installed by Pacific States Tele. Co.

In conversation with an Oregonian representative, J. H. Thatcher, district manager of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company, yesterday made the following statement:

"Since July 1 last a considerable force of men has been busily at work night and day installing the latest pattern of multiple switchboard in the company's main office, Park and Alder streets, to replace the board which was installed but two years and one month since, and which will be laid aside to make room for the new board. It is expected that the new board in the main office will be in position in two months. From this it must be evident that the company is in earnest in the effort to perfect its service. The company's new building on the East Side of the river is about completed and will be furnished with a new multiple switchboard of the very latest pattern. This board will probably be in readiness to have subscribers' wires connected with it about May 1.

"One of the best features of the multiple board is, that it, unlike the present board, permits one operator to perform all the work of making a switch; that is, she both answers the calling subscriber and rings the called subscriber, in this way avoiding the liability to the frequent errors heretofore experienced in the answering operator repeating the number and prefix asked for to the calling operator. It will be of such capacity that no one operator will have more subscribers to answer than she can easily and promptly do; furthermore, it will enable the calling subscriber to get his number before he is asked for the nickel.

"We wish the public could understand how difficult it is to give satisfactory service upon an exchange of more than 10,000 subscribers, especially so while installing a new system of switchboards, which means transferring the subscribers' lines from one board to the other, and separating the system, as you might term it, as, during the transferring, part of the subscribers must necessarily be on the old board and part on the new.

"The recent floods in the Willamette River have seriously interrupted our service by carrying out several of our submarine cables from the West to the East Side.

"The stage of water and current has prevented the laying of relief cables until today, and it is expected that by night the necessary number for cross-river traffic will have been supplied.

"Our last switching record taken for the City of Portland showed 95,000 switches made in one day, the majority of which were made between 10 A. M. and 8 P. M.

"The telephone business differs from any other mercantile business in that a pressure of business is not apparent to the patron; that is, an operator might receive 20 calls from 20 subscribers simultaneously and none of the subscribers would be aware of the rush (and these rushes occur every hour of the day) while if a store fills up with patrons, each patron can see the cause for his being delayed.

"Some of the brightest minds in the United States are today busy over the matter of perfecting telephone service, and the board at present being installed by the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company in Portland is the latest result of their efforts.

"We ask our subscribers' consideration, and also that they believe us when we say that we are sparing no expense or pains in our efforts to perfect their service, which we are satisfied our new board will accomplish."

WHERE TO DINE.

Substantial steaks, fine coffee, elegant desserts, Portland Restaurant, 305 Wash.

Still Confident of Flour Trust.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—Attorney William Thomas, who has been in charge of the negotiations looking to the formation of a flour combine, to include the leading interests in that industry on the Pacific Coast, is confident of the ultimate success of the plan in spite of the fact that all the options secured by the promoters of the scheme have expired.

For a Quiet Game of Pool,
Parlors, 127 6th, adjoining Oregonian Bldg.

High-Grade Pianos for Rent.
Sold on easy installments. Pianos tuned and repaired. H. Sinsheimer, 73 Third st.

TAX HIGH BUT NEEDED

VIEWS OF TAXPAYERS ON PROPOSED SCHOOL LEVY.

Prominent Citizens Consider That Board of Education Should Be Sustained.

The tax levy of 4.5 mills asked for by the Board of Education in its estimate published yesterday is regarded favorably by those taxpayers who are conversant with the condition of the schools of the city. Many of them have paid little attention to this factor in Portland's development, but the sentiment appears to be that the directors have kept closely in touch with the needs of the schools and that their judgment should be seriously considered even at the expense of individual opinions as to the proper levy. Though the appropriation asked for this year exceeds that of last year by 1.6 mills, it is generally agreed that the condition of the schools warrants a much higher expenditure, especially as the estimate of 1902 was inadequate for the actual needs of the district.

All believe that it is prudent to provide for the future, and that sufficient new buildings and additions be erected to accommodate the population that will flow into Portland at the time of the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Taxes must then be higher than at present, and the board has taken this fact into consideration in asking for an unusually large appropriation this year, as they believe the future needs of the district should be attended to while the majority of the taxpayers are in a position to meet the required expenditure. The board has not attempted to stipulate what particular schools shall be benefited by the larger part of the appropriation, considering that the taxpayers should have this brought up for their decision at the annual meeting next Monday.

The Taxpayers' League, an organization composed of the largest bearers of the taxation burden, will not present any objections to the passage of the estimate, and it does not seem probable that any of the other taxpayers of the city will enter any serious objections. Several prominent members of the league were asked as to their opinion on the estimate. Though a few admitted that they had given the matter little thought, the generally expressed opinion was that the directors had made the schools their particular business, and that they naturally knew more of the subject and the needs of the district than the ordinary man of affairs.

"I think that the directors are quite right in asking for a 4.5-mill tax," said J. N. Teal, secretary of the league, yesterday. "We must consider that the school population is constantly increasing and that the children must be provided for. They certainly cannot be housed in tents. So long as the population increases at the present rate, schoolhouses must be built, more teachers must be employed, and all the expenses increased. So long as the board holds the appropriation down to a reasonable figure that is still consistent with the needs of the district, I do not see how the taxpayers can make any complaint. The Taxpayers' League, I feel sure, will raise no objection to the amount asked for by the board. Any one who has paid any attention to the growth of the city and the consequent increase in school attendance will understand that new buildings and additions and more teachers are an absolute necessity."

"The tax seems rather large to me, though I have not studied the items of the estimate," said J. C. Flanders. "The directors appear to have asked for nearly double what was necessary last year, while the taxable property remains the same. However, I do not wish to express a positive opinion until I have made more of an investigation of the provisions of the estimate. I expect to be present at the annual meeting, and if the estimate seems reasonable to me, then I shall vote in its favor."

William M. Ladd, one of the heaviest taxpayers in the city—I have not read all the provisions of the appropriation, but shall do so before I attend the meeting next Monday.

Whitney L. Boise—We shall have to meet a heavy tax levy in order to provide means for the Lewis and Clark Fair, for the repair of streets, the rebuilding of the Morrison-street bridge, and for a fireboat. I do not wish the percentage of taxation to be placed at such a rate as will prove an unnecessary burden on the property-owners. At the same time I wish to see adequate school facilities, which we must have, and which we must keep in pace with the growth of the city. But I would favor the reduction of the school tax estimate, under the circumstances, to the lowest possible limit of absolute necessity. The other taxes will be high and the property-owners will have complaints to make.

A. L. Mills, chairman of the Board of Public Works—I consider the tax high but the Board of Education has undoubtedly given the matter a great deal of attention, and it is in a position to judge as to what is right. I suppose the tax will have to stand.

A. H. Breyman, of the Board of Public Works—In my opinion the tax is high, but the judgment of the board as to the needs of the school district is better than mine, and I suppose I shall have to stay with the levy.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

David Warfield Tonight.

David Warfield, whose great success in "The Auctioneer" was one of the theatrical sensations last season in New York, opens his engagement of three nights, with a matinee Saturday, at the Marquam Grand Theater tonight. Warfield played 121 performances in New York last Winter, and each time to the absolute capacity of the house. The piece is designated as a character-comedy. Of first importance in connection with the Warfield attraction is the announcement that the star appears under the personal direction of David Belasco, whose skill in stage production is well known, and whose contribution to the successful production of "The Auctioneer" practically gave it its immense success. The same company that supported Warfield during his four months' run at the Bijou Theater, in New York, will be seen here. The most conspicuous names are those of Marie Bates, Maria Davis, Dallas Tyler, Eugene Canfield, Robert Fischer, Stokes Sullivan, William Boag, Helena Phillips, Harry Rogers and Charles Chappelle. There are at least 50 others in the organization. The scenic production will be one of the most notable of the year.

At the Baker.

"For Fair Virginia" will be the offering of the Neill Stock Company at the Baker Theater all next week, starting with the usual Sunday matinee. The play is from the pen of A. L. Whytal, who several years ago starred in the piece. In the Neill Stock Company production the role played by Mr. Whytal will be in the hands of George Allson, whose distinct success as Rev. Gavin Dishart in "The Little Minister" has gained for him the unstinted admiration of Portland play-goers. Cathrine Counties in the part of Virginia Esmond will add new triumphs to her already well-earned success. As John Laughlin, a Southerner by adoption, William Bernard will be all that the character calls for. "For Fair Virginia" tells a most beautiful story of scenes and incidents during the Civil War and while not, strictly speaking, a military drama, it has many of the thrilling situations and sensational climaxes together with a vein of high-class comedy seldom seen in plays of that class. The Baker will no doubt display the "standing-room-only" sign at every performance next week, repeating the immense business now being done by "The Little Minister."

Big Drawing Card.

"The Little Minister" is drawing "standing room only" houses this week at the Baker Theater.

No Change in Hewitt's Condition.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—Dr. E. L. Keyes, in attendance on Abram S. Hewitt, said tonight that, while Mr. Hewitt is critically ill and extremely weak, there has been no material change in his condition during the past three days.

For a Social Game of Billiards,
Parlors, 127 6th, adjoining Oregonian Bldg.

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Our Great Specials in
OREGON
Wool Blankets
White and Colors at
$2.45 and $2.95
Are Wonders!

HIGH-GRADE
Downaline Comfortables
Reduced from $4.00 to
$3.25
The $3.25 Grades
Reduced to
$2.45
Be Sure and See Our
Three Great Specials in
COMFORTERS
Silkaline and Cretonne Covered, White Laminated Batting, at
95c, $1.15 and $1.35
Hurrah for Oregon!
We have on our linen counters the first production manufactured from Oregon flax.
Crash Towelings and Table Linens
We invite the public to call and examine the fabrics.

NOTE.—It is only fair that Oregonian readers should be informed of the good things we are offering during our annual CLEARANCE SALE.

McAllen & McDonnell
Cor. Third and Morrison
The Store Noted for Good Goods at Lowest Prices.

Edison Phonographs
More Popular Than Ever
What amusement device in the world today will give you more genuine pleasure and fun than an Edison phonograph? Every pleasure that sound can give is condensed on its cylinders; all of the late operatic selections, vaudeville sketches, violin and banjo solos, all of the popular songs of the day, and even mandolin solos by L. Seigel can be had.
Edison phonographs range from $10 to $90 in price. The new molded records are 50 cents each, or $5 per dozen. Catalogues on application. We have just received an invoice of these new molded records. Call and hear them. Visitors welcome at
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124 SIXTH, near Wash.
Victor and Graphophone Talking Machines and Supplies.

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Cor. 4th and Morrison

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PRO CRAS TINATION
Is the thief of vision. Don't put your eyes off until they need medical treatment as well as glasses. Have them fitted at once by the house that knows how.
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The Optician
133 Sixth Street Oregonian Building

The City & Suburban Railway Company Announces
A FREE EXCURSION
TO ST. JOHNS
Saturday, January 17,
From 10 a. m. to 2 p. m.
Returning Throughout the Afternoon.
Given on the date of the formal opening of the new St. Johns electric line.
Tickets may be obtained by adults at the company's general offices, cor. Third and Yamhill; at its waiting station, cor. Third and Glisan; at the offices of Hartman, Thompson & Powers, 3 Chamber of Commerce, and M. E. Thompson, 264 Stark street.
The public is invited to participate in the event which inaugurates a new era of development for the entire peninsula from Portland to St. Johns.
A free lunch will be served in the company's pavilion at Cedar Park, St. Johns.

Our new line of Common Sense $1.50 Slippers for the housekeepers have no equal.
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The Park Hotel High-Class
FINEST CAFES WEST OF NEW YORK.
$50,000 IN RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.
Open Jan. 3d to May 15. J. R. HAYES,
Under New Management. C. A. BRANT,
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Dr. Fred Prehn, Dekum bldg
Full set teeth, Gold crowns, 22K Bridge work, 22K $5
Philadelphia graduate. All the latest appliances for doing perfect work. Fred Prehn, The Dekum, cor. 3d and Washington, Portland, Or.

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Dr. Radway's Pills, purely vegetable, mild and reliable, regulate the liver and whole digestive organ

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Special Today
Men's hemstitched 20-inch hand-embroidered initialed
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A large assortment of 50c Neckwear that we are closing out at 25 cents

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As your eyes. Sight once lost can never be brought back. A little care today may save your sight. Next week may be too late. Our list of patients who have received good vision by the use of glasses that we have fitted and made for them should convince all who need optical attention that our optical department is the place to get just what you need.
We fill oculists' prescriptions promptly.
A. & C. Feldenheimer.
Mnfg. Jewelers and Opticians. Cor. Third and Washington Sts.

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SHOE SALE
THE ONE YOU HAVE BEEN WATCHING AND WAITING FOR
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Rock Springs Range Coal
For cookstove and small heaters 'tis cleanest and best—$8.50 per ton.
BOTH PHONES. VULCAN COAL CO.

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These are the only dental parlors in Portland having PATENTED APPLIANCES and ingredients to extract, fill and apply gold crowns and porcelain crowns undetectable from natural teeth, and warranted for 10 years, WITHOUT THE LEAST PAIN. All work done by GRADUATED ENTISTS of from 12 to 30 years' experience, and each department in charge of a specialist. Give us a call, and you will find us to do exactly as we advertise. We will tell you in advance exactly what your work will cost by a FREE EXAMINATION.
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Silver Filling ..... $ .50
In our GOLD CROWNS and BRIDGE WORK, of which we are making a SPECIALTY, the most BEAUTIFUL, PAINLESS AND DURABLE of all dental work known to the profession, you will find an example of the HIGHEST ARTISTIC ATTAINMENT, the adaptability of which to the HYGIENIC conditions of the mouth is unquestioned.
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MAIN OFFICE—FOURTH AND MORRISON STS., PORTLAND.
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HOURS:
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