

Coin-Machine Cheats Never Give Up!

By RICHARD DUNLOP



Varied products nibblers can buy from modern vending machines include hot foods, candy, pastry, cold drinks, sandwiches, coffee.

IT WAS THE strangest mystery. Every afternoon the vending-machine servicemen went to a Midwestern refrigerator plant and filled a line-up of machines with candy bars. Next morning the candy bars were gone.

The night shift had eaten every one—yet never put a nickel in a slot. Experts went over the machines but could find nothing mechanically wrong.

If Sherlock Holmes had been called, he would have noticed a little pool of water in the coin box of each machine. Doubtless he would have remarked, "Elementary, my dear Watson," and promptly solved the crime on the spot.

But Holmes was not available. Finally one

of the workers took pity on the machines' servicemen and confessed.

In the foundry of the plant, men poured water into molds to make clever slugs of ice. With these they got candy from the machine. The ice melted, leaving only a small telltale pool of water where a coin should have been.

Such trickery is nothing new. In the second century B.C. Heron of Alexandria invented the first vending machine. It dispensed holy water when a drachma was inserted. Ancient Alexandrians put slugs into it, too, until priests announced that Zeus would defend its contents with a well-aimed thunderbolt.

Riders on New York's elevated railway



Get the blooms you planted for!

