

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING
FOR THE
INEXPERIENCED**

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Electric Lighting for the Inexperienced by Hubert Walter

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HUBERT WALTER

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INEXPERIENCED**

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The Wallet Series

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

FOR

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THE INEXPERIENCED

BY

HUBERT WALTER

LONDON

EDWARD ARNOLD

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1904

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PREFACE

THIS handbook is intended to explain as simply as possible the things about electric light that everyone ought to know who either uses it or intends to use it. When the average man comes to consider the question of putting electric light into his house, he is immediately confronted by a number of technical expressions which he does not understand. He is further called upon to decide a number of points as to which, having never come across them before, he is incapable of giving a reasoned judgment. Naturally, therefore, he is obliged to rely largely on the advice of a professional electrician.

But even the best expert advice that money can buy is not, in itself, enough to ensure the best lighting of a house. Technical excellence of workmanship and materials, indeed, may be had by employing a thoroughly competent contractor, supervised, preferably, by an indepen-

dent consulting engineer ; but it is on the attention devoted to various matters of opinion and taste which the intending 'consumer' alone can properly decide that the real success of an installation depends.

The result of leaving these little details to the 'man' is familiar enough. For one 'well-lighted' house one finds a dozen in which the wiring is badly planned, the switches thoughtlessly arranged, the fittings wrongly placed, the lamps unsuitable, the shades ugly. There is no excuse nowadays for this state of things. Electric light in the house is no longer a new-fangled and inscrutable toy. Yet the householder, as a rule, still lacks that little knowledge of 'the things to look out for' which would enable him to interpret a specification, avoid the more obvious of the common mistakes, and get for his money the most advantageous return. The aim of this book is to help him.

Even the reader who is already a 'consumer' will, it is believed, find a good deal in these pages that he did not know before. He may agreeably employ his leisure in discovering what parts, if any, of his own installation are beyond the reach of criticism.

It is obviously impossible in a book of this

compass to consider in detail the lighting of every kind of house. All that can be done is to discuss the principles which apply to all houses, indicating, where necessary, the modifications called for by particular cases. For all practical purposes a town house of moderate size—such as the agents describe as having 'three or four reception-rooms, eight to ten bedrooms, and the usual offices'—serves best as an illustration.

Being intended primarily for amateurs, the language used throughout is as untechnical as accuracy will permit. The use of conventional expressions about electricity, such as 'flowing along' a wire, is well recognised, and saves a deal of unpleasantness.

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