Not content with this the company has two or three vocal acrobats who call all trains through the waiting rooms, giving the stations to which they go and answer inquiries from anxious itinerants.

In the middle of the main platform is a "bureau of information," where, seated opposite a small window, is a careworn individual who is being immolated upon the altar of the mighty and restless god of travel.

This man is in light attire, closely shaved, with clipped hair, and sharp features so as to present as little resisting surface as possible to the air batteries brought to bear upon him hour after hour, day after day. He is an encyclopedia of railway information; he knows every train on every road in the United States, when it goes, where it goes, when and where it will stop, how long it will take, what it will cost; in fact, he can tell you anything you ever heard, saw, read, or thought of about trains. He can tell you when you left home, how long you have been absent, where you have been, when you are going home, what train you will take, what it will cost you, and what your wife will say when she gets her clutches on you once more.

At one end of this platform is a freight elevator for outgoing baggage, at the other one for the incoming baggage. Three wide exit stairways lead directly from this platform to the street below. Fire alarms are sounded at irregular intervals day or night, which call out the employees for drill with apparatus, kept in the building for its protection. This prevents their absence from the building during their hours of duty or else leads to their detection. With such a system as they have at this station, an intelligent man could travel for months and never ask a question. But it appears from experience that those who learn from the sense of sight are in the minority. The masses depend upon the sense of hearing, upon being told all things; preferring the evidence given by the coarser vibrations of aerial particles, to that given by aesthetic, infinitesimal excursions of the molecules of attenuated ether.