

there was a great crash. "It seemed as if there was a whole building falling about us," he said, "but none of us were hurt. There was a door from the basement into No. 76, but it was closed I knocked it down, and the others followed me out. We crawled through an opening in the wall, which had partly fallen."

Policeman Peck was near the building when the explosion occurred. He ran to the scene and found the building WRECKED AND BURNING FIERCELY. He said: "I saw nothing could be done from the front, and with one of the firemen I went through a basement on Greenwich street. With hooks, bars and axes we made a hole through the wall of the wrecked building, through which we took three of the employees from the kitchen of the restaurant. We could see others fast in the ruins, but could not assist them, being prevented by the smoke and flames."

Jacob Schlesinger, employed in a building on the opposite side of the street, said there must have been at least 100 persons in the building when the explosion occurred. He saw a dozen or more girls at the windows of one of the offices on the third floor just as the building fell.

Various persons who were in the neighborhood of the ruined buildings when the accident occurred give accounts of the scene at the time the wall fell. They saw one or more persons, who were undoubtedly killed or injured. The persons seen were in different parts of the building, according to the portion of the street on which the observer stood.

H. A. Stohn, formerly employed by Liber & Waas,

SAW THE CRASH.

"I knew most of the men employed there," said he, "and recognized one of them, Louis Barnard, as he fell into the street with the wall. He dropped with a shower of bricks from the fourth story. When he struck the ground he scrambled to his feet and got away, but is now at the hospital injured. I saw many others go down when the front wall fell, but did not recognize them. They were all killed."

As soon as the flames were under control the work of rescuing the bodies of the unfortunate persons buried beneath the ruins was begun. The firemen worked like fiends. After twenty minutes' hard work the dead body of one man was found, burned and charred so that the features were unrecognizable. Fifteen minutes later another charred body was found. Just then a low moan was heard, coming apparently from under the feet of the party of rescuers. After working for twenty minutes, a little girl, still alive but badly cut and burned, was

LIFTED FROM THE RUINS.

As her rescuer raised her up in his arms she lifted her eyes to a window on the opposite side of the street and called in piteous tones, "There's my mamma." It was indeed the child's mother, who, upon seeing her child, became so frantic with joy that only the efforts of persons standing near her prevented her from jumping out of the window. As the firemen placed the little girl in the hospital ambulance, she told them her brother and sister were both under the bricks dead. It seems she was playing in front of the building at the time of the explosion.

Another body fearfully burned was taken from the ruins at 3 o'clock. Almost immediately after the bodies of a little boy and girl were found. They were recognized as the children of Eugene Heagney, a plumber, and were the brother and sister mentioned by the little girl taken out.

At 8 o'clock tonight an entrance to the cellars and vault, under the sidewalks was effected. The workmen labored with great difficulty, as

THE RUINS ARE STILL HOT, and in the cellar there is five feet of water.

Two bodies, more or less bruised, were taken out near the front of the building. A second descent into the cellar at half-past nine resulted in seeing three more bodies, which it was impossible to move, as they were pinned down.

When the third trip was made, about ten o'clock, the body of one man was brought up. This body had scarcely been disposed of when a strange noise was heard coming from the ruins. The firemen who went to investigate its cause returned with a big black cat, found floating on a plank in the cellar.

Up to a late hour tonight nine bodies had been dug out of the ruins. Those recognized are: Patrick Slattery, Annie Heagney, John Gibbs, William Berry. The list of injured, so far as known, is as follows: William Smith, John Wallcott, Louis Bernard, Morris Gottlieb, John Link, Bernard Lebrod, John Sheehan, May Heagney, Frank Morrow.

All the bodies recovered to-night were dug out of the debris which covered the sidewalk in front of the ruins.

The building had a frontage of about 150 feet on Park Place avenue and thirty-five feet on Greenwich street. It was condemned thirteen years ago by the building department.

THERE ARE MANY THEORIES

as to the cause of the disaster. Chief Reilly of the fire department was of the opinion that a boiler had exploded. Another believed that the boiler in the restaurant had exploded and caused the disaster. Then it was said that some chemicals had exploded in the drug store.

The most plausible theory, however, is that the wreck was caused by the shaky condition of the building and the vibration of the heavy presses running in the lithographing and printing establishment on the upper floor. It is generally admitted that there was an explosion of some kind, but the collapse is accounted for in no other way than the one mentioned, when it is taken into consideration that the building was condemned thirteen years ago. There was practically no mortar between the bricks, and when they were looked at after the smoke and fire had subsided they were as bare as a board.

Roundsman Taylor of the Fifth precinct reports having gone to the scene on the first alarm. Hearing cries for help, he rushed to a neighboring hardware store, secured a lot of axes and in company with a number of citizens cut a hole in the debris. Seventeen people were rescued there, all more or less painfully burned. Had Taylor not heard the cries they could not have survived long. The police have a long list of names of persons reported by

friends to be missing, and it is feared that many of these unfortunates are in the debris.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

With the aid of hastily placed electric lights the search in the debris of yesterday's disaster was kept up all last night. A large force was put at work. Two fire engines were kept at work all night playing upon the heated bricks. Those who had friends supposed to be in the ruins formed a large part of the crowd that thronged outside the police line. At intervals mangled and charred bodies were taken from the ruins and placed in the "dead wagon" that stood constantly near. Up to 9 o'clock this morning fourteen bodies had been recovered. At 1:30 the bodies of two more men burned beyond recognition were removed. As evening came on a heavy downpour of rain set in which, with slight breaks, continued throughout the night. The workmen were withdrawn from their work and the crowds were scattered, policemen being left to watch the ruins. The complete list of

IDENTIFIED DEAD

up to 10 p. m. is as follows:

Leonard B. Cole, John Gibbs, Sarah Haegney, Michael Slattery, A. B. Peterson, George Low, Gustav Zolkler, Jacob Hederick, Otto Walser, Charles Briesner, Frank Hatch, Abraham Berschopki, Gustav Steiner.

Five bodies, all of men, have not yet been recognized. It is thought tonight that not less than fifty were killed in the disaster. In the morning means will be provided to remove the heavy girders which must be taken from the ruins before any more effectual progress can be made in clearing away the debris and getting out the remainder of the bodies of those who perished.

Late tonight two more identifications were made as follows: Abraham Berschopki, Gustav Steiner.

Inspector Williams, who has been at the scene of the disaster almost from the first moment, said tonight in regard to

THE PROBABLE CAUSE:

"There was no explosion in that building, because there was nothing to explode. The accident was the result of the weak structure and the incessant vibration of the heavy presses." Many of the witnesses who saw the crash say the building slowly bulged out in the middle until it had formed a noticeable curve from the roof to the ground, and then fell.

The building where the accident occurred was occupied by ten different firms. It was a five-story brick structure 135 feet on Park place, including 68, 70, 72, 74, 76 and 78. The fourth and fifth floors of the place were vacant. The basement and ground floor of No. 70 was occupied by L. Bonesfeld & Co., manufacturers of bronze. Next to Bonesfeld in No. 72 Fred W. Trippe had a drug store occupying the basement. Andrew Peterson kept a restaurant on the ground floor of No. 74 and had his kitchen in the basement. There was but one entrance on the Park place side, between Nos. 74 and 76. West of the entrance on the ground floor was a vacant store, half of No. 76. The other half of No. 76 was occupied by J. Gilmour, umbrellas and parasols. In the basement under Gil-