

at 18, if necessary, to fit the said inclined edges of the body.

The upper edge of the body portion of each bracket or support 17 is provided, near the inclined edge 17^b, with a socket 19 to receive the pivots 20 on the carrier 10. These pivots can be connected to the carrier in any convenient manner, and in Fig. 6 I have shown a method in which the pivot 20 projects from a small bracket 21 suitably fastened to the carrier. It is evident that the use of open-topped sockets, as shown at 19, permits the carrier to be lifted out of the frame at any time, thus affording instant access to the wiring below.

The conductors or cables 22 which carry current to and from the lamps are conveniently located in a trough or conduit 23, Fig. 5, immediately below. In most cases, particularly where the stage-structure is built of concrete, this trough is formed in the stage-structure without requiring any change in or addition to the footlight units, but whenever necessary or desirable the trough can be made a part of the footlight units by a simple modification of the brackets which support the lamp carriers. Such a modification is shown at 17^c, in Fig. 7. If desired, the brackets can be boxed up, with a bottom 23^a and sides 23^b, or they may be left open to afford ready access to the wiring from below the stage.

If the weight of the lamps and lamp-case keeps the center of gravity in rear of the pivots, that is, toward the back of the stage, the carrier will swing down to closed position of its own accord, unless a stop of some kind is used to prevent it. Convenient means for the purpose is shown in Fig. 6, the same consisting of a spring 24, fastened to the box 14 and having a nose 25 to engage the ledge 26, the latter being a suitable strip fastened on the underside of the frame 12 to serve as a support for the edge of the carrier 10. Pressing the spring inward permits the carrier to swing down.

As footlights are always located at the extreme front of the stage, outside of the curtain, it is not often that carriers 10 will be walked upon; but since the pressure of the foot on the rear portion of the carrier might cause the same to swing up, it is best to provide means for positively holding the carrier closed, as for example a spring-pressed bolt 27, Fig. 8, slidably mounted in the edge of the carrier 10 and extending into the adjacent edge of the frame 11. When the ring 28 is raised on its pivot 29 the lug 29, engaging the finger 31 on the bolt, moves the bolt out of the socket in the frame 11 and permits the carrier to be raised.

It will be observed that when the lamp carrier 10 is raised, the rear edge (that is, the edge toward the back of the stage)

moves up, while the front edge moves down, as a consequence of the fact that the pivots on which the carrier swings are located well between the front and rear edges instead of at the front edge. This feature is not indispensable, but it is highly advantageous, as it permits the use of a carrier wide enough to support the lamps in proper position for illuminating the stage, without making the carrier, when in raised position, project too high above the stage. The practice among present day architects is to keep the footlights as low as possible, so that the stage may be as high as possible and still permit spectators in the first few rows of seats to see over the footlights. In accordance with this practice, the plans and specifications for theater construction call for a height of footlights not exceeding about three and a half inches. Hence the importance of my arrangement, by which a carrier of ample size can be used and still not exceed the height mentioned when in raised position.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific structure herein described, but may be embodied in other forms without departure from its proper spirit and scope.

In the appended claims the lamps are referred to as being on the "underside" of the carrier. By this it is meant that the lamps are on the side which is underneath or below the surface of the stage when the carrier is in depressed or closed position.

I claim:

1. The combination with a stage floor having a narrow opening across the front, of a plurality of light-carriers arranged end to end to fill said opening flush with the floor and pivoted at their ends between the front and rear edges of the carriers to permit the said front and rear edges to swing to positions respectively below and above the surface of the stage, and lamps carried by the carriers on the underside thereof.

2. The combination with a stage floor having a narrow opening across the front, of a plurality of light-carriers arranged end to end and filling said opening flush with the surface of the floor and pivoted at their ends to swing upwardly and forwardly, means to support the carriers when in depressed position, and lamps on the underside of each carrier.

3. The combination with a stage floor having a transversely arranged opening at the front, brackets spanning said openings from front to rear below the floor, a lamp carrier pivoted at its ends between its front and rear edges to said brackets whereby when the carrier is in raised position only a portion thereof projects above the surface of the floor, and means on the underside of the carrier for supporting a plurality of lamps.