

HANNIBAL

(Hannibal, one of the “guests” at the Cloisters, explains his life story to Mrs. Savage. Hannibal plays a violin. His music consists of only two notes, sawed monotonously on a single string.)

Fairy knows that I used to be a statistician. My last position was with the government, charting trends. I was supposed to keep my finger on the pulse of the public and my ear to the ground. It was a very vulnerable position. I was fired and replaced by an electronic calculator. I don't hate electricity like Mrs. Paddy—but I did want to make money with my brains. So, I spent the next two years trying to think of something that could be made for a dime—sold for a dollar—and was habit-forming. I'm afraid my education was wasted.