

# **ALGERNON & LANE**

**ALGERNON.** Did you hear what I was playing, Lane?

**LANE.** I didn't think it was polite to listen, sir.

**ALGERNON.** I'm sorry for that, for your sake. I don't play accurately — but I play with a wonderful expression. As far as the piano is concerned, sentiment is my forte. I keep science for Life.

**LANE.** Yes, sir.

**ALGERNON.** And, speaking of the science of Life, have you got the cucumber sandwiches cut for Lady Bracknell?

**LANE.** Yes, sir.

**ALGERNON.** Oh! ... by the way, Lane, I see from your book that on Thursday night when Lord Shoreman and Mr. Worthing were dining with me, eight bottles of champagne are entered as having been consumed.

**LANE.** Yes, sir; eight bottles and a pint.

**ALGERNON.** Why is it that at a bachelor's establishment the servants invariably drink the champagne? I ask merely for information.

**LANE.** I attribute it to the superior quality of the wine, sir. I have often observed that in married households the champagne is rarely of a first-rate brand.

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**ALGERNON.** Good Heavens! Is marriage so demoralizing as that?

**LANE.** I believe it *is* a very pleasant state, sir. I have had very little experience of it myself up to the present. I have only been married once. That was in consequence of a misunderstanding between myself and a young person.

**ALGERNON.** (*languidly*) I don't know that I am much interested in your family life, Lane.

**LANE.** No, sir; it is not a very interesting subject. I never think of it myself.

**ALGERNON.** Very natural, I am sure. That will do, Lane, thank you.

**LANE.** Thank you, sir.