

THE NEW PLAYS

Barney Bernard Scores In "Two Blocks Away."

BY CHARLES DARTON.

Parting from Abe Potash after many years, Barney Bernard may brush those tears away, for he has found a next-door neighbor to him in Nate Pomerantz, the simple, kindly old cobbler of Aaron Hoffman's comedy, "Two Blocks Away," which had its ups and downs last night at Cohan's Theatre.

It need not be whispered that in form the play is like "The Auctioneer," for the play itself shows this fact, while the shoes in it suggest that its chief actor might not make a stubborn stand against stepping into the old ones of David Warfield. This does not mean that Mr. Bernard isn't firmly on his own feet, for he is so much himself that he couldn't possibly be like anyone else, and he plods straight to success as a Dillingham star. He is thoroughly human and vastly amusing, and this should satisfy his ambitious soul. It doesn't matter to anyone but himself, perhaps, that he lacks the tremendous pathos of Warfield. He would probably be delighted to make us weep, but the truth is—if we may break it to him gently—that we can manage at times to get along without this pleasure.

But if you're fond of wading in sentiment you will find it knee-deep in "Two Blocks Away." You may even feel like dropping a quarter into the gas meter just to make the dingy basement brighter for two wise fools, the cobbler and the carpenter, who "father" Jane and can't bear the idea of her going back to work in a department store, though she looks strong enough to stand even the strain of society life. All three get along somehow in spite of the fact that Nate cannot bring himself to take money for mending the neighbors' shoes, while Bill, apparently puts in most of his time talking with the policemen at the station around the corner. But you may well believe that such happy poverty cannot last. It is rudely ended by a perfidious lawyer who informs Nate that he has inherited \$250,000 from the Orange estate, and to prove it he lures in the family tree. Thus it comes about that the cobbler moves from Second Avenue to the abode of the rich, two blocks away, and has a butler and a dress suit and other uncomfortable things. However, he is cheered by the thought that he is able to manufacture \$3 shoes and keep the poor from getting stone bruises. Yet all is not well in his residence—taking the programme at its word—"Residence of Mr. Nathaniel Orange," no less. Installed there is the wicked wife, and when things don't go to suit him, what does he do but tell Nate that the \$250,000 doesn't belong to him but to old Bill, who had married Sarah Greenbaum? Naturally, this is something of a shock to Nate, and for a moment he is tempted to hang on to the money he has made. To keep him from going to a meeting of stockholders his butler gives him sleeping draughts, but curiously enough they have such an enervating effect that Nate Pomerantz plants himself before a mirror and tells Mr. Nathaniel Orange just what he thinks of him. Then, without even taking an umbrella, he dashes out into a pouring rain. He winds up, we find, at a party on Second Avenue given in honor of Jane, who has just got back from Europe in a low-necked evening gown. His old clothes are waiting for him, and after a drink of booze the poor man—he isn't worth a cent now—dozes off into a dream of perfect contentment.

SHE DISLIKES DANDIES.

Yonkers Woman Threw Dirt on Well Dressed Man on Street.

Professing a dislike for good looking and well dressed men, Mrs. Fannie Zimet, fifty, of No. 32 Morris street, Yonkers, was arraigned in Police Court there yesterday after she had thrown

a handful of dirt over three well dressed men she met on the street. Wendell C. Glover, a musician of No. 32 Hamilton Avenue, said she opened a handbag and she was passing, and drawing out a handful of dirt, threw it over him, spoiling his stylish raiment. Her explanation was that she was affected by a spell which made her take an aversion to well dressed young men. Judge Blakey remanded her for examination as to her sanity.

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