

LONDON NOTES.

Shop Girl and Great Lady—Meredith and Knowles.

Will the millennium ever come for struggling genius, when the pictures can be sold as soon as painted, the plays accepted without an arduous period of neglect and suspense, the books printed as soon as the manuscripts have been neatly typewritten? There are no signs of the golden era either in the studio quarter of Chelsea or in the London publishers' district; but Miss Lena Ashwell and Mr. Otto Stuart are encouraging new playwrights to believe that the good time has already come. Miss Ashwell accepted Mr. Anthony P. Wharton's "Irene Wycherley" when no other actor-manager would trouble himself with reading it, and it has made her own fortune as well as the unknown playwright's. Having succeeded once in discovering real talent for stage writing, she has tried to find it again in the work of a provincial actress, Miss Cicely Hamilton, who has not been credited with having brilliant gifts for the dramatic profession, although she has obtained notoriety as an advocate of woman's suffrage and social reforms. Her play, produced at the Kingsway Theatre with the attractive title, "Diana of Dobson's," has a strong part for Miss Ashwell, which helps to explain its acceptance. It also contains a realistic study of a shop girl life and reveals the spirit of freedom and independence that is coursing through the veins of ambitious women of the lower class; and there is distinctly original treatment of a fresh subject, and this is not marred by artificial, stage-made situations. These qualities secured for it a highly favorable reception on the opening night.

It is the story of the orphan daughter of a country doctor forced by adversity to take a situation as shop assistant among girls dressing well and having a decent reputation on five shillings a week. Revolting against the meanness of her employers and the sordid economies of trade, Diana has a passion for right and justice; and when a legacy of \$1,500 suddenly comes to her she is seized with the idea of having a little fling as a real lady among fashionable idlers. Without a chaperon, but with an array of fine frocks, she appears at one of the English hotels as a rich widow, and is as smart as anybody while the money lasts. Come what may, she will be idle and luxurious for a month! Two admirers are the victims of her fascinations. One is a rich baronet, who started as an errand boy with two shillings a week and has become the manager of a great shopping emporium, where competitors are undersold and shop girls "live in" and are underpaid. The other is a young guardman who wastes a good income and sponges on his relations. She will not accept the baronet's offer, even when her legacy has been spent and she is forced to return to England in search of work. She tells the guardman the truth about her little masquerade in the Engadine, and is promptly condemned as an adventuress; and she returns by accusing him of hunting for a wife who will pay his debts and support him in luxury, when he cannot earn an honest living himself. The story lovers part, to meet again twelve weeks afterward on the Thames Embankment, when each is homeless, workless and starving and ready to help the other to take up the remnant of a spoiled and wasted life, and to make something of it. Human nature pulsates in this realistic play, and there is something to think over when the curtain falls. It is a hard kind of realism of the under world that makes a deep impression upon a sensitive audience; and this is the era of social reform.

The suffragettes are displaying so much organizing power and inventiveness in making a public nuisance of their cause that politicians are beginning to be afraid of them. Ardent temperance advocates have made a strong point of expelling barmen from public houses, but political managers are agitated over the prospect of turning a horde of good-looking, well-dressed young women into the streets to reinforce the mob of suffragettes. They consider it a wise policy to open new fields of activity for fascinating women rather than to deprive thousands of them of an established means of earning a livelihood. They have welcomed the idea of employing women as recruiting sergeants for enlisting men for military service. Colonel Walsh, at the St. George's Barracks, is credited with the courage required for this daring innovation, and logically there is no answer to the argument that the blandishments of the sex will be put to better use in drawing men into the army to fight their country's battles than in luring them into saloons to fuddle their brains with drink and to waste their energies in street brawls. Various details will have to be settled respecting the military status of the "lady recruiting sergeants," such as a service uniform, the right to wear a cockade and equality of pay with men, but these will be trivial matters for the Carnot, who is reorganizing the territorial and defensive forces of the kingdom. Indeed it seems almost necessary to provide an outlet for the martial ardor of the sex, when swarms of women are coupled daily with aggressive operations for their own enfranchisement, laying siege to Cabinet ministers in their offices, marching defiantly to the police courts and attempting to bury the houses of Parliament by frontal attack.

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Come to the breakfast table right, and exactly right from the package—no bother; no delay. They have body too; these Post Toasties are firm enough to give you a delicious substantial mouthful before they melt away. "The Taste Lingers." Sold by Grocers.

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letters and hundreds of congratulatory dispatches. Of the two veterans Mr. Meredith has the more philosophic mind and exhibits in old age more serenity of spirit. Long ago he was convinced that his working time had passed and he has been content with watching the progress of literature and the growth of new reputations without making explosive comments on the degeneracy of the age and the decline of standards of art. Mr. Meredith is easily drawn into talk and sometimes becomes garrulous when an enterprising reporter is in search of copy for startling headlines on marriage and social reforms; but he leads a quiet life at Box Hill and leaves his literary work to the mature judgment of the greatest among his rivals. Many of them—Mrs. Humphry Ward among them—delight to call him the master of English fiction; and his only rival for supreme distinction among living novelists in the Kingdom is Mr. Hardy; and the two men are such close friends and so generous that neither would challenge the other's supremacy. Mr. Anthony Hope, who has headed one of the birthday delegations, has been strongly influenced by Mr. Meredith's literary methods, and Mr. Maurice Hewlett in "The Stopping Lady" has taken color from them without losing his individuality of style. The veteran is as vitally interested in Radical politics and social questions as he was in the old days when Mr. John Morley and Mr. Frederick Greenwood were his intimate friends. His only recreation is a daily drive in a donkey chaise, and he lives with Spartan simplicity and Ciceronian serenity. It is the ideal old age for a high minded master of letters.

Mr. James Knowles, who was Mr. Meredith's junior by three years, had not been in infirm health more than a few weeks, so that his death at Brighton has given a sudden shock to a large circle of friends. He was a prominent figure in the most thoughtful section of London society and his house in Queen Anne's Gate was famous for delightful hospitality. In openness of mind—a rare quality in an Englishman—he was rivalled only by Mr. Gladstone. It made him an ideal editor of that most influential of reviews, "The Nineteenth Century," for it enabled him to look at every public question from opposite points of view. He had also the gift of attracting eminent men and of inducing them to write for him because they liked him and found it unpleasant to put him off with a refusal. He began by drawing together many of the keenest intellects into the Metaphysical Society, and ended by making them contributors to his magazine whenever he wanted their services. Genial without being loquacious or dictatorial, he was an ideal host, for he was tolerant of critical or even hostile opinion, and enabled men of conflicting views to differ amiably among themselves. He had to be a patient listener, for among his most intimate friends were Gladstone, Huxley and Tennyson, who seldom relieved the monotony of disputatious talk with what Sydney Smith used to describe as eloquent dashes of silence. Yet he had the habit of reserving judgment until the ground had been cleared and then of summing up an argument with lucidity of mind and perfect temper.

During recent years this practical man of business, who seemed to know intuitively every detail of the public wanted, lost the showman's instinct in "good names," and it was not strange when he had known so many famous men and looked upon them as intimate friends, London literary society naturally seemed dull to one who had entertained Tennyson, Gladstone, Huxley, Tyndall, Froide, Ruskin, Bagshot, Maurice, Mandell, Martineau and scores of other worthies; and he must have had a sense of loneliness after the disappearance of his greatest and most interesting friends. Yet so electric was his own vitality that he kept on with his work almost to the last, and was one of the most familiar figures at art galleries, theatres and literary gatherings, and was always ready to talk about his earliest professional interest—architecture. Few men in England could have had more varied files of correspondence than this successful editor; and it is to be hoped that arrangements have been made for a biography under the direction of a competent literary executor.

The London pageant-makers have wisely deferred their big show until next year. It was easy for them to obtain impressive lists of titled figureheads and social patrons, and sympathetic press notices; but eighteen rather than six months were required for systematic preparations for so stupendous an undertaking. The committee speedily became convinced that a folk-play worthy of the greatness of the metropolis of the world could not be produced with a precipitate rush. Possibly they were warned by Mr. Stead's jocular offer to impersonate Cromwell and by other fantastic nominations for walking parts that there was danger of turning the grandiose project into ridicule. Certainly they were seriously embarrassed by the difficulty of obtaining a proper site, since Regent's Park was closed against them and a section of Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens could not be reserved without prolonged negotiation and strenuous agitation. Now that the fatuous attempt to organize in the course of a few months a truly representative and artistic pageant for so unmanageable a confederacy of cities as metropolitan London has been abandoned, it is to be hoped that the most experienced master of revels will be selected as the director of the enterprise. This is Mr. Louis N. Parker, who has a real genius for stage managing town shows. Unity of direction is more important than the combination of artistic talents. I. N. F.

CRITTONTON MISSION ASKS HELP. Provisions and clothing for needy women are requested by the Florence Crittontton Mission. Scarcity of work and reduction in wages have made this winter especially difficult for women and children. The West End Mission, which has a real genius for stage managing town shows, Unity of direction is more important than the combination of artistic talents. I. N. F.

TRAGEDY AT SCHOOL.

Woman Teacher Kills Friend and Then Commits Suicide.

Boston, March 11.—Suffering from melancholia, due to overwork, Miss Sarah Chamberlain Wood, of Philadelphia, shot and killed Miss Elizabeth Bailey Hardee, of East Savannah, Ga., and then committed suicide, at the Laurens School, a fashionable boarding school for girls at No. 197 Audubon Road, in the Fenway district, to-day. The bodies of the two women were found in the school building, the mother of the girl, Mrs. Hardee, and Miss Wood, on October 1, the day the school opened, Miss Wood broke down as a result of overwork, and was committed to a sanatorium in Newton, to be treated for nervous prostration. Miss Wood escaped from the sanatorium last night and made her way to the school. She and Miss Hardee retired at the same time and occupied Miss Hardee's chamber on the third floor of the school building. Both women were awakened by Mrs. Page about 6 a. m. and told that they must get up if they were to catch the 7:35 train, on which Miss Wood was to be taken back to West Newton. A few moments later the shooting took place. Mrs. Page thinks the mention of returning to the sanatorium must have excited and angered Miss Wood and induced the shooting. From the nature of the wounds, Medical Examiner Steadman decided that Miss Wood had committed suicide by shooting herself through the temple, after having shot Miss Hardee through the base of the brain.

BANKROLL GREW THIN.

Big Bills Disappear in Stock Swindler's Hands.

The police are looking for a thief who succeeded in getting away with diamonds valued at \$150,000 from Simpson's pawnshop, in Myrtle avenue, Brooklyn, after making an unsuccessful attempt to work the same game in Healy's store at No. 433 Fulton street. The man went into Simpson's shop and after selecting diamonds valued at \$150,000 took out some bills and handed them to the clerk, who gave him two \$50 bills, three \$20 bills, and one \$10 bill—just \$1 short of the amount. He called the attention of the stranger to the discrepancy, the fellow took the roll and counted it over again. Then he took a silver dollar from his pocket, shoved it over the counter with the roll of bills and departed with the diamonds in his trunk. When he had gone the clerk discovered that the roll contained only the nineteen \$1 bills, the thief having abstracted those of larger denominations. The man was described as about twenty-seven years old.

CITY LOST BY RELETTING.

Chief Engineer Briggs, of Haffen's Staff, Again on Stand.

In his effort to discover whether there had been a waste of city revenues for public improvements in the Bronx under the Haffen regime, John P. Mitchell, Commissioner of Accounts, had Joseph A. Briggs, the chief engineer in Mr. Haffen's department, on the stand yesterday. Mr. Mitchell, in the course of his inquiry by trying to discover to what extent the city had been a loser because of contracts abandoned by contractors, the contracts having to be relet at increased cost to the city. Mr. Briggs declined to hold himself responsible in the matter of preventing defaulting contractors from reletting on a job they had abandoned, but supposed that the Controller would see that bids from such contractors were rejected. Several specific instances of the abandonment of contracts, whose reletting cost the city in each instance thousands of dollars, caused Commissioner Mitchell to inquire into the steps taken by Chief Engineer Briggs to ascertain whether there was any connection between the successful bidder on the original contract and the contractor who undertook to complete the job. Mr. Briggs didn't know of any. In reference to the reletting of a contract for sewer construction through Webster avenue to the Harlem River, for which the city had to pay approximately \$100,000 extra, Mr. Briggs said he believed the matter of collection of this amount from the contractor, William J. Flanagan, was now in the hands of the Corporation Counsel. Mr. Briggs would not admit that an inspector named Brady had been suspended because of his protest against the acceptance of work on Macomb's road from Jerome avenue to Navy Place. The protest was set aside. Asked as to the ultimate fate of Brady, the witness caused a loud laugh, and expressed the surmise that the inspector was still living, but no longer an inspector. Chief Engineer Briggs denied that curbstones were smashed intentionally to make necessary the provision of new curbing. The witness expressed confidence in the reports of the engineers under his jurisdiction and of the thoroughness with which their work was done.

INDIANS SUE FOR LANDS.

Montauks Want Territory Conveyed Long Ago.

The Montauk Indians, living at the east end of Long Island, have sued for the recovery of lands which they allege were illegally conveyed years ago to the West End Mission, which has a real genius for stage managing town shows. Unity of direction is more important than the combination of artistic talents. I. N. F.

THROUGH AT PASTOR'S FUNERAL.

Thousands Pay Respects to Monsignor Daufenbach, of Williamsburg.

Fully ten thousand persons attended the funeral yesterday morning of Monsignor Peter Paul Daufenbach, pastor of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Montross and Graham avenues, Williamsburg. Archbishop Farley, prelates and priests, sisters and brothers of religious orders and laymen of all walks in life united to pay their respects. As early as 8 o'clock the streets near the church were crowded with people who tried to gain admittance. One hundred policemen, under Inspector Sweeney, maintained order, but their task was not a difficult one.

FIRST BREWSTER WRECK SUIT.

The first suit brought against the New York Central Railroad for damages arising from the wreck on the Woodlawn curve of the Brewster express, February 16, 1907, was heard by Justice Thompson yesterday in the Supreme Court at White Plains. Miss Matilda L. Case has sued the road for \$50,000 damages. The railroad company contends that it was not responsible for the accident, as the train jumped the track from some cause which could not be foreseen or prevented. Some of the commuters who have similar suits pending were in the courtroom and took copious notes. The railroad was represented by John F. Brennan and Thomas P. Cavanaugh, and Miss Case was represented by Eugene F. McKinley.

DIAMOND AS SECURITY FOR AUTOIST.

Alanson Prime, a banker of Fairfield Road, Yonkers, was arrested by Bicycle Patrolman Donnelly, of the West 152d street station, on a charge of speeding his automobile at 20th street and Riverside Drive last night. Mr. Prime and the friend who was with him had only \$20 of the \$100 required, and Mr. Prime left his diamond ring as security for his appearance in the Harlem court this morning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

HUDSON RIVER ICE.

Suggestion That Crop Be Hermetically Sealed After Harvest.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The editorial in your paper of Thursday, March 5, I have before me, and in justice to the "ice man" I wish to make a few statements. You say the report of the State Commissioner of Health concerning the sanitary condition of the Hudson River ice field cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory. It certainly is not. If the natural ice as sold in New York City is detrimental to health it certainly should not be sold or allowed to be sold. But is it? Allow me to call your attention to Dr. Porter's article on "The Pollution and Sanitation of Ice." May I quote a few extracts from his report? He makes a very thorough historical review, both in this country and abroad, of evidence of real or supposed danger of ice in the transmission of typhoid fever germs, and I wish to quote a few extracts from his report: In reviewing these epidemics, which constitute the practical evidence of an epidemiological nature upon the ice problem, it appears that it is a case of re-reading upon very thin ice. Out of some six epidemics the number of cases reported greater than a dozen. Four of them might be termed merely in-fernal disorders, or, in other words, of an organic matter, and not to specific germs. Of the two epidemics of typhoid fever, the circumstances nature as judged from our present knowledge and later experiments lead me to believe that it is not possible to doubt upon the alleged cause of this infection. Next, I wish to quote from that part of his report which touches upon "self-purification." He takes the case of an ice cream harvested from a polluted section of a river, where the water was half sewage, and through the different self-purifying agencies 92.5 per cent of the bacteria are removed, which, he says, exceeds the efficiency of the sand filter by two hundred times. His report in itself goes to prove conclusively that there is no article of food on the market to-day in a better sanitary condition than natural ice as sold in New York City. You make the statement that the masters and crews of river craft are unwilling to use drinking purposes the water over which they sail. I am willing to wager that there is scarcely a vessel on the river but what has a cask of river water, cooled by river ice, for drinking purposes. They use no spring, well or Croton water, for as an experiment it has been found that Hudson River water will stay pure and sweet longer than any known.

I wish to show you also the absurdity of a letter sent from the Health Department to us, as well as to nearly all, if not all, the local harvesters in this section. Dr. Porter says in this letter that the field located on the shore at this point is subject to such sewage pollution and contamination that any ice cut therefrom would be a source of danger that should not be ignored. One party to whom this letter was sent housed his ice from a section of the river as remote as at least two miles from any sewer, and that sewer is merely a drain for the surface water. The nearest field to this same drain is not less than one thousand feet distant. I know also that the ice as stored in my ice-house, from investigation by one of the most thorough and honest bacteriologists known, is as pure as any water ever used for drinking purposes. How about manufactured ice, about which the doctor is silent? Is the water used in these manufacturing plants taken from the Hudson River or some more polluted stream? Are the methods used sanitary? Are the bacteria, if any, frozen out, as is done in natural ice? Will you go about the upper part of New York in the spring of the year and see, if you can, any natural ice setting out on the sidewalk for hours at a time, as I have seen, time and again, with manufactured ice, where all the fifth of the city can collect upon it? I would suggest that a law be made and enforced that the ice harvested on the Hudson River, after storage of at least three months to eliminate all bacteria, be hermetically sealed and sold only in the original package to the consumer, in order to avoid the possibility of a great epidemic in New York City, which has been traced from typhoid fever from any city not using natural ice from the Hudson River. FRANK S. HOWLAND.

"THE INWARD LIGHT."

Sex of Author, Previously Unknown, Revealed by "Eternal Feminine," Says Reader.

Sir: The admirable review of "The Inward Light" in Saturday's issue of The Tribune was interesting to me for more reasons than one. The review itself and the felicitous quotations from the book were both charming. Some years ago, when "The Soul of a People," by the same author, was first issued, I read it with very great pleasure; that is, so far as the style was concerned; the favorable view of Buddhism I could not accept. Soon the next work appeared—"The Hearts of Men." This, too, I read, though with less pleasure than the first. After some time a laboratory review of "The Soul of a People" appeared in "The Churchman." When I read the book the name of the author was given as "Flooding." In "The Churchman" it was given as Hall. I wrote to the editor, expressing my regret that the reviewer had not gone into the matter more thoroughly, and stating at the same time that the name of the author was "Flooding" and not "Hall." I received the most courteous reply from "The Churchman," expressing appreciation of my criticisms of the book. Referring to the matter of the author's name, the editor said he had written to the Macmillans, and they told him they did not know whether the author was a man or a woman. This seemed to shed a flood of light upon the whole question. The book had been represented as the work of the British and as presiding over a court whose functions were partly military and partly civil. The uncertainty as to the sex of the author relegated the work to the region of fiction at once. The quotations from "The Inward Light" confirm the suspicion. "The eternal feminine" comes out unmistakably. The charm lies, but the trustworthiness of the report as to the spirit and effects of Buddhism is left with very little support. If the presentation of Oriental religion in these various works was to be relied upon, we ought to invite missionaries over here to tell us all about it and convert us to a faith so lofty and divine. C. J. SARIMPTON.

POILLON SISTERS HAVE TO GO.

The Poillon sisters started for the workhouse on Blackwell's Island yesterday afternoon, in charge of Deputy Sheriff Bell, to serve a term of imprisonment for defrauding the Hotel Bristol. They were sentenced to a term of three months, but execution of the order sending them to prison was delayed by the efforts of their counsel, Meyer Greenberg, who tried to appeal their case, but failed. Greenberg tried to get his clients out on bail pending the decision of Justice Fitzgerald on a writ of habeas corpus returnable yesterday afternoon, but Justice O'Connell refused to grant any writ, and they are not only denied the motion but taxed the lawyer \$20 costs.

MUNICIPAL ART APPROVALS.

The Municipal Art Commission has approved more than a score of locations for drinking fountains, with different designs, submitted by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the New York Humane Society. The design for a new police station in Delancey street, to cost \$175,000, has been disapproved. The design for the 2d Precinct police station, in Greenwich street, running from Greenwich to Washington street, to cost \$230,000, has been approved. The commission has also approved a change of material. Originally the station house was to be of stone to the top, but it is now proposed to build it of brick above the first story, with stone trimmings. Designs have been approved for two ventilating houses, submitted by the Public Service Commission, to go over the stations at Fulton and DeKalb avenues and Flatbush and Lafayette avenues, Brooklyn, respectively, in connection with the new subway.

WANT AUTOS KEPT OFF EAST DRIVE.

Copies of petitions circulated by the Road Drivers' Association of New York, asking Henry Smith, the Park Commissioner, to exclude automobiles from the East Drive in Central Park, have been signed by many horse owners and will be presented to the Commissioner to-day. The petition recites that the number of accidents caused by automobiles is rapidly increasing, and that those who formerly enjoyed road driving are now almost afraid to venture on any of the drives in the city. The association held a meeting, under the auspices of the Coach Owners' Association, at the Grand Union Hotel, Fourth avenue and 43d street, last night, and the petition was heartily endorsed. Among those who have been active in circulating the petition are Dr. S. K. Johnson, veterinary surgeon of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and of the Board of Health; Dr. H. D. Gill one of the oldest road drivers in this country; George W. Grote, president of the Road Drivers' Association; Dodd Irwin and Lorenz Zeller.

MRS. ROOSEVELT MAKES ACCOUNTING.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt filed her annual accounting as guardian of her children, Kermit and Ethel, with Surrogate Jackson in Nassau County yesterday. The children received \$3,000 each by the will of the President's uncle, James K. Grace, and Mrs. Roosevelt was appointed their guardian. Mrs. Roosevelt states that the money has been placed out on mortgages in Manhattan. The only charge against the estate is that of the lawyers for preparing the accounting and commissions to brokers for collecting rents.

VANDERBILT AND WHITNEY BUY LAND.

William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and Harry Payne Whitney are reported to have joined in purchasing property consisting of about six hundred acres and embracing Deer Pond, a mile south of Wading River, Long Island. It is reported that the property is to form the easterly terminus of the proposed motor parkway.

RAINES LAW ATTACKED.

Decision Reserved in Test Case—May Close 1,600 Hotels.

Justice Tamm, in the Supreme Court, yesterday reserved decision in the proceedings brought by Maynard N. Clement, State Commissioner of Excise, to revoke the liquor test certificate issued to Mary A. Corcoran, who owns a Raines law hotel at St. Nicholas avenue and 11th street. Should the decision of the court sixteen hundred Raines law hotels in this city will be closed for failure to comply with the provisions of the state excise law. It is declared by the plaintiff that the building in question has not the fifteen rooms above the basement required by the Building Code for hotel purposes, and that the plaintiff believes her husband to have been of unsound mind when she married him. In Pittsburgh is said not to be the chief motive for Mrs. Thaw's desire to be free. It is said—and Daniel O'Reilly, counsel for the petitioner, confirms the story—that a difference has arisen between Mrs. Thaw and her husband which cannot be settled, even if the divorce is granted. The grounds for the suit are that the plaintiff believes her husband to have been of unsound mind when she married him. In Pittsburgh is said not to be the chief motive for Mrs. Thaw's desire to be free. It is said—and Daniel O'Reilly, counsel for the petitioner, confirms the story—that a difference has arisen between Mrs. Thaw and her husband which cannot be settled, even if the divorce is granted. The grounds for the suit are that the plaintiff believes her husband to have been of unsound mind when she married him. In Pittsburgh is said not to be the chief motive for Mrs. Thaw's desire to be free. It is said—and Daniel O'Reilly, counsel for the petitioner, confirms the story—that a difference has arisen between Mrs. Thaw and her husband which cannot be settled, even if the divorce is granted. The grounds for the suit are that the plaintiff believes her husband to have been of unsound mind when she married him. 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