

HAPPENINGS IN THE MOTION PICTURE WORLD

Life Is Never Dull for Anita Stewart, Who Is One of Film's Youngest Leading Ladies.

OUR knowledge of mythology would lead us to believe that the goddess of happiness can be viewed at hundreds of moving picture theatres. All of this preamble having direct reference to Anita Stewart, you may have deduced that she is a regular person. She is, in fact, Miss Stewart is one of the reasons for the popularity of the Vitagraph pictures. Just how she can be seen at that company's theatre in "Wife Wanted," although this picture does not show her at her best.

It was under rather unusual circumstances that we had the pleasure of a talk with Miss Stewart. She is acting in a picture which calls for scenes taken in a theatre and having the use of the Vitagraph Theatre the company is utilizing it for the occasion. So we went there one morning, and in the dim and dusky shades of the empty foyer were duly presented by the house manager, after which we sat in one of the back rows discussing matters in general.

"Well," we remarked, "first of all it seems necessary to say that you are very pleasing in your pictures, but that they do not half do you justice."

This comment had the advantage of being a good beginning, as well as absolutely truthful. For Miss Stewart is an unusual picture actress in this respect. On the screen she is pretty, and also has a strong personality, but in real life she is still more attractive, and her personality is seen to still better advantage. There are film players who appear as striking as Miss Stewart on the screen, but off from it are decidedly uninteresting.

"Thank you so much for those kind words," laughed Anita. "Now that you have relieved your mind that way, what can I tell you?"

"Why, about yourself, of course," we answered.

Miss Stewart paused to wave her handkerchief at a few members of the company who were strolling about the stage. "I fear it's a dull subject," she smiled, "but I'll be as concise as possible. I was born on February 17, 1895, in Brooklyn."

"Just a minute," we interrupted. "Did you say Brooklyn?"

"I certainly did; and don't you say anything mean about it, either."

"Not now," we answered.

"But to go on, I have lived in the aforesaid Brooklyn all my life. I went to a public school and later to Erasmus Hall High School. At high school I spent much time studying music, both vocal and piano, and, believe me, I thought I was cut out for a Paderewski and a Geraldine Farrar in one."

As a matter of fact I'm just crazy about music now, but you can specialize in but one thing, and do it well. So I'm trying to learn all there is to know about motion picture acting, and my music is only a diversion."

"From what I've seen of them picture players generally have a much more regular and satisfactory income than musicians," we commented.

"You're sure right about that," laughed the youthful actress, "and what's more they deserve just as much consideration as artists. We are expressing human emotions and thoughts just as much as musicians, but in a different medium."

"Yes, yes, you are right," we assented. "But where, when, how and why did you commence your artistic career?"

"To tell the truth, I started when I was in high school. An artist got me to pose for some photographs for calendars. So my face was shortly seen variously in advertisements of various preparations, from cod liver oil to talking machines. It was a mighty prosaic beginning, as you can see."

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a sort of play which is very hard to get. Those who saw her in "The Wood Violet" will understand what is meant. Although that was her first big part she has, perhaps, never quite equalled it since, simply because she has never had a chance to act a role so perfectly suited to her.

Now she is beginning to do some comedy work, and she does it very well. In fact, it is just the sort of thing which one would suppose from her care-free, sunny and light-hearted disposition she would excel at, but as professional humorists are gloomy, perhaps tragediennes are cheerful. Be that as it may, Anita Stewart is at once an actress of talent and charm and a personification of cheerfulness such as one is seldom fortunate enough to see.

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PICTURES AS TARGETS

Device Similar to Ones Seen Here Adopted by British Army.

The English army has just adopted a newly perfected moving picture target device which will be used to train sharpshooters. A number of similar contrivances that we had the pleasure of a talk with Miss Stewart. She is acting in a picture which calls for scenes taken in a theatre and having the use of the Vitagraph Theatre the company is utilizing it for the occasion. So we went there one morning, and in the dim and dusky shades of the empty foyer were duly presented by the house manager, after which we sat in one of the back rows discussing matters in general.

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WILLIAM D. TAYLOR IN "CAPTAIN ALVAREZ"

Hall Caine's novel "The Christian" is being shown at the Harris Theatre. The picture was shown early in the Spring at the Manhattan Opera House. It is an admirable production of an excellent play.

Returning from Washington yesterday, Sig. Sciamengo of the Itala Film Company of Turin, who is responsible for the creation of D'Annunzio's stupendous photo-spectacle, announced that many of his

motion picture production of "Hamlet." The idea of "Hamlet" in film form seems a trifle strange, but the director is sure he can make it get across. Clara Kimball Young will play Ophelia and James Young will be seen as Hamlet.

As soon as she concludes her engagement in "A Scrap of Paper" Ethel Barrymore will appear before the camera in a six-part picture play which is being specially written for her by AUGUSTUS Thomas, director general of the All Star company.

The Webb electrical pictures were put through their paces for five hundred subscribers to the "Ziegler Magazine for the Blind" one day last week. The audience enjoyed the singing and playing, although unable to see the figures on the screen.

The Duke of Argyll is not only a constant incognito attendant at the motion picture theatres of London, but is planning to have a film edition of "Rob Roy" prepared at his own expense.

The music to accompany "Cahiria" is known as the "Fire Symphony" and was specially composed for the production by Signor Ibbelbrando de Parma, a composer who is a great favorite with the King and Queen of Italy.

"The St. Louis Globe-Democrat" recently devoted a page to motion picture players who are natives of that city. In the list are Naomi Childers, Edith Sterling, "Broncho Billy" Anderson, Anne Shaefer, King Baggot, Edwin August and Rosemary Theby. Not a bad showing for one Missouri village.

Viola Dana, formerly with the Edison company, but on the stage for the last year as "The Poor Little Rich Girl," has returned to the Edison studios, having completed her engagement in the popular play.

"The Line-up at Police Headquarters," a film featuring former Deputy Police Commissioner George S. Dougherty, has been completed by the Nonpareil Company. The story is a melodrama which carefully avoids racial problems.

"My Friend From India," a widely known stage success of about twenty years ago, will soon be produced by the Edison company as a three-reel picture.

Edwin August has hardly organized his own feature film company before it was disbanded. Mr. August has new plans on foot for the future.

Modest Altshuler is more than a talented musician. He is a speedy one. The leader of the Russian Symphony Orchestra arrived in Chicago on Thursday morning, retired to the projecting room at the Kleine offices, and on Friday night appeared with a complete score of original music for the nine reels of "Spartacus."

"The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," which has seen many vicissitudes by virtue of being presented in every known medium of expression except motion pictures, will soon be seen in that form.

All motion pictures shown in Pennsylvania after June 1 must be passed by the State Board of Censors. The new censoring body outlines its plans in general along those of the national board, but where attempts have been made to introduce original ideas it is far from impressive.

Roscoe Arbuckle, of Keystone comedy fame, now has a special harness to take part of the shock in his tumbling stunts. Nick Cogley, not having taken such precautions, is now on crutches.

Thomas Santoli says that he has been greatly helped in his career as a picture actor by the wise advice of his friend the late Kyrie Bellew. Some of the beloved player's epigrams are as follows:

"Affectation is the chain that binds the average actor to mediocrity."

"Stage tricks are fascinating weapons with which to fight for public approval, but they are boomerangs rather than sure shot rifles."

"An actor of inferior native talent will triumph over his clever colleagues if he develops with more regard for art than for profit."

"Never should an actor convey to an audience the suggestion that he is either looking at himself or listening to his own voice with fondest appreciation."

"The actor should carefully discriminate between two attitudes—conceit and dignity—the one is destructive, the other constructive."

It would be an easy matter to name some screen actors who would do well to ponder the last two of these sayings with care.



SCENE FROM "THE MASTER MIND" AT THE STRAND

York for their picture work during the week of June 8, when the Motion Picture Exposition will be in progress at the Grand Central Palace. They will go to the exhibit and meet picture fans who visit the Essanay booth.

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ancee have been seen in this country, but none of them have been quite as perfect as the English invention is said to be by those who have seen it in action, which is the projection machine used is of an ordinary type, but has an attachment consisting of an electric clutch and a powerful brake. These are operated by a microphone so sensitive that the report of a rifle causes it to close a circuit. This makes the picture stop instantly for a moment, and a spot of light, appearing where the bullet has struck, shows whether or not the marksman has scored a hit. The screen is of paper in three thicknesses, and the bullet hole is illuminated by lights from behind. An ingenious arrangement of the paper in the screen makes it possible to use the same strips for hundreds of shots.

The feature which British army officers are particularly pleased with in the picture target is that quick sighting and firing are necessary. This is a trick which it is very hard for recruits to learn on the rifle range, but when firing at these moving targets they automatically acquire it. Distant views of the objects being fired at give the effect of long range work, except that there is no question of trajectory or windage. However, these are subjects which can be studied at the ordinary ranges after the recruit has learned to fire and sight with great rapidity. It is probable that other nations will soon take up this new adaptation of motion pictures.

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A HERO COMING. Francis X. Bushman of Essanay pictures, will come to New York with a company of players in order to take the exterior scenes in "One Wonderful Night." This is the story in which Mr. Bushman is entitled to play the leading part by virtue of winning the motion picture world contest conducted by "The Ladies' World."

The Essanay actors will combine business and pleasure by coming to New

York for their picture work during the week of June 8, when the Motion Picture Exposition will be in progress at the Grand Central Palace. They will go to the exhibit and meet picture fans who visit the Essanay booth.

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