The Conning Tower

THE CHATTERACT OF COUNTRY WEEKLIES.

[Thanking Southey for favors rendered.]

"Whence are these papers?
Out of what towns?"
A questioner asked me,
Once upon a time;
Moreover, he tasked me
To tell him in rhyme.
"I love the sly digs
At country-seat capers—
The purchase of pigs,
The prize for potatoes,
And wisdom that boasts
Itself higher than Plato's;
And all of these hosts—
The Country Newspapers—
Come out of what towns?"
So I jingled this rhyme
To end his imploring—
(Admitting that I'm
Quite indebted to Loring,
Whose Lexicon's dandy,
And deucedly handy)—

From queer little spots
The papers appear—
Such merely map-dots
As Hope and What Cheer;
And many more follow—
Horse Heaven, Toad Hollow,
Painted Post, Redwood,
Salt Rising, Deadwood,
Sugar Notch, Coaling,
Flagstaff and Bowling,
From near-desert spaces
To sizable places:

Asheville and Nashville,
And Macon and Lacon,
And Trenton and Benton,
And Janesville and Zanesville,
And Hudson and Judson
And Grafton and Crafton,
And Waco and Saco,
And Bluefield and Newfield,
And Huntsville and Blountsville,
And Red Eye and Deadeye,
And Chilton and Milton,
And Portland and Courtland,
And Perham and Durham,
Lake Linden and Minden,
Eureka, Topeka,
Anoka, Kahoka,
Toledo, Laredo,
Moravia and Batavia,
Vermilion and Ilion,
And Marion and Clarion,
And Reubenville and Steubenville;

And Canton and Stanton and Scranton,
And Lockport and Stockport and Brockport,
And Coosa, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa,
And Sago and Newaygo, San Diego,
And Chaska and Itaska and Kalaska,
And Yuma and Mazuma, Petaluma,
And Missoula and Sabula and Wallula,
And Manila and Sevilla and Camilla,
And Attalia and Sedalia and Centralia,
And Emporia and Peoria and Astoria;

And Sonoma and Tacoma and Algoma, Tullahoma,
And Ladoga, Oronoga, Saratoga, Ticonderoga,
And Antigo and Oswego and Otsego and Wamego,
And Arcola and Iola and Angola, Indianola;

And Dayton and Clayton and Peyton and Leighton and Raton,
And Shawnee and Pawnee and Kewaunee and Negaunee, Punxsutawney,
And Flora and Aurora and Deorah and Sonora and Eldora,
And Neenah and Alpena and Medina and Helena and Massena,
And Ionia and Ansonia and Fredonia and Latonia and Laconia;

And Pomona and Hedona and Verona and Winona and Daytona and Algona,
And Urbana and Oxana and Savannah, Marianna, Texarkana, Susquehanna;

And so never ending, but ever extending,
North and East, South and West, in one vast nation blending,
From near and from far, from hills and from downs
The Country Newspapers come out of the towns.

CLEMENT WOOD.

TWO CONCERTS OF A SUNDAY

Kreisler Plays to Huge Audience at Carnegie—Symphony at Aeolian.

Fritz Kreisler gave his first violin recital of the season yesterday afternoon in Carnegie Hall. Whether it is his art or his service in the Austrian army that has caused his rise in popular favor, it is perhaps unnecessary to inquire. Certainly he is no greater artist than he has been for the last few years. Equally certain is it that his audiences have grown stupendously. The one yesterday afternoon completely filled the house, including all available space on the stage. If war is required to bring the public to a great artist, the present conflict has been eminently successful.

Mr. Kreisler's programme opened with the Handel Sonato in A major, the Friedman Bach Grave in C minor, and the Tartini Fugue in A major, followed by the Schumann Fantasy in C major, and two groups of shorter numbers, including the violinist's own delightful Rondino on a theme by Beethoven, his "Tambourin Chinois" and his arrangement of a Viennese popular song. Kreisler at his best knows no superior to-day upon the concert stage and in most that he did yesterday he was at that best. His tone was his richest and warmest, his playing by turns his most brilliant and most tender. The programme naturally was tempered somewhat to Sunday afternoon, but with Mr. Kreisler his miniatures are as delightful as are his interpretations of the broader works of the masters.

The regular concert of the Symphony Society took place at the same time as Mr. Kreisler's, in Aeolian Hall. The symphony was Dvorak's "New World," of which Mr. Damrosch gave an admirable reading. The flute as a solo instrument has been the butt of jokes innumerable, but George Barrère, by his playing of the delightful Air of Aubert, per , and Le Clair's Musette and Gigue suite put to shame the jokesmiths, though he was no doubt aided by the charming accompaniments offered him. The programme closed with Ravel's "Ma Mère l'Oye." The audience quite filled the hall.

Holmes and Elmendorf Travelogues

Burton Holmes and Dwight Elmendorf continued their respective travel talks at the Candler Theatre and Carnegie Hall last night. Mr. Holmes discussed Brazil, specializing on Rio de Janeiro, and the Elmendorf followers were told and shown the wonders of the Grand Canyon of Arizona.

T. R. PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. WASHINGTON

Declares Nation Profited by Negro Educator's Teaching of Honesty and Efficiency.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 12.—Ex-President Roosevelt, addressing a large gathering at Tuskegee Institute to-night, paid tribute to the memory of Booker T. Washington, negro educator, author and publicist, who died suddenly on November 14. Some of the foremost citizens of the state and nation attended the memorial services, which were presided over by Seth Low, ex-Mayor of New York, and president of the board of trustees of Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. Low, Julius Rosenwald, of Chicago; Frank Trumbull, of New York; W. W. Campbell, of Tuskegee, and Isaac Fisher, president of the Tuskegee Alumni Association, also spoke.

Colonel Roosevelt declared that Dr. Washington had directed his life work toward making Tuskegee Institute, which he founded, an asset to the state and nation. He also asserted that, when he was in the White House, Dr. Washington was one of the few men to whom he turned for advice, because he "knew that he would not give me one word based on a selfish motive, but would state what, in his best judgment, was for the best interests of the people of the entire country.

"Booker T. Washington did justice, loved mercy and walked humbly," said Colonel Roosevelt. "His every step helped others. His monument lies in the minds and memories of those whom he has served and uplifted. The nation profited by Dr. Washington's work because he believed economic fitness was the greatest asset that could be possessed by the negro race. He taught honesty, cleanliness and efficiency."

WISE LAUDS B. T. WASHINGTON

Rabbi Urges Negroes to Guide Themselves, Not Lean on One Man.

"It were almost better for the negro race to go on without the redemptive leadership of a single personality," said the Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise before the Free Synagogue yesterday morning in a sermon on "Booker Washington, American," in which he praised the late leader. "It may be that the race leaned too much on Washington," he said. "The race must cease to lean on any man or men if it would aspire to the dignity of self-reverence and self-reliance. The place of Booker Washington must be taken by his whole people."

TUXEDO REVELS IN WINTER SPORTS

Week-Enders Take to Ice on Clubhouse Rink—Skaters Filmed.

SHINNY AND HOCKEY ON SEASON SCHEDULE

Round of Games Varied by Many Dinners at Club and Colonists' Homes.

Tuxedo Park, N. Y., Dec. 12.—The winter sport season was opened at Tuxedo yesterday with the first touch of winter weather. Ice skating was the feature to-day, and perfect weather brought out a large crowd of society people to join in the first of the winter festivities.

Outdoor sports were not the only drawing cards. Many of the colonists had house parties, with dinners, and those who came out last night for the dinner dance at the club saw motion pictures, given by the courtesy of Robert Goelet on the ballroom stage, illustrating tennis week at Newport. Motion pictures of the society skaters on the rink in front of the club were taken by a New York company. The pictures will be shown here later, to aid beginners in the art of fancy skating.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Davis, Mr. and Mrs. David Wagstaff, Miss Dorothy Kane, Irving Brokaw and others were at the rink last night at the opening. The rink has been equipped with electric lights and will be used nightly by those at the Tuxedo Club.

A special programme has been arranged by the winter sport committee, which will include weekly events until Washington's Birthday. There will be curling, skiing, hockey, fancy skating, toboggan races and coasting.

Among those on the ice to-day were Mr. and Mrs. David Wagstaff, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. T. Frelinghuysen, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Betts, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pell, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rutherfurd, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Griswold Lorillard, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Yulee, Miss Adelaide Cannon, Miss Dorothy Kane, Louis G. Pooler, Mrs. Richard Mortimer, E. C. Kent, George Griswold, H. M. Tilford, Pierre Lorillard, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Pierre L. Barbey, Miss Harriet Alexander, Miss Harriet McCook, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Auchincloss, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Beard, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Carey, Miss Madeleine Carey, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Whitfield and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Beam.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederic de Peyster Foster were host and hostess at dinner at the club last night. The party included Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Wilmerding, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic F. Derham, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius S. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McKeever Miller, Miss Edith Mortimer, H. Coleman Drayton, H. Gallatin Pell, Miss E. A. Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Spencer Morris, Richmond Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Rutherfurd, Miss Madeleine Carey, H. Pierre Lorillard, jr., Griswold Lorillard and Miss Mary Green.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgan Tilford, Mrs. Amory S. Carhart and Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Kane also entertained at dinner at the club.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodman Wanamaker entertained at luncheon and dinner at their villa to-day. Mr. and Mrs. David Wagstaff were also among those entertaining at house parties, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Le Roy Edgar.

Mr. and Mrs. Anson McCook Beard spent to-day here. Among other arrivals were Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McKeever Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Spencer Morris, H. R. Bird, Leavitt J. Hunt, Edward Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Auchincloss and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Kuhn.

Several dinners have been given for Miss Mary Victoria Green, fiancée of Griswold Lorillard, who has been here for the last fortnight, and Mr. and Mrs. David Wagstaff entertained a large party to-night for Miss Green.

A series of racquet, squash and court tennis handicap matches has been arranged by the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club. The finals will be played around the holidays. Yesterday William Post defeated Clarence C. Pell, national racquet champion, after a spirited match by three games to two. Mr. Post had a start of seven aces on each game.

Squash matches were also started today, and resulted in a victory for George Rushmore over George St. George in the opening round by a score of two sets to one.

The gold racquet champion matches will be played here on February 11 to 14 inclusive. C. C. Pell won the title last year and will challenge the runner-up this year.

Pierre Lorillard, jr., Richmond Talbot, R. D. Wrenn, C. C. Pell and S. G. Mortimer are on the tennis and racquet committee. All entries must be made to Robert Moore before February 5 for this event.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Free admission to the American Museum of Natural History, Van Cortlandt Park Museum and the Aquarium.

Address by Henry Frank on "The Intelligence of Animals" before the New York Anti-Vivisection Society, Hotel Plaza, 3:30 p. m.

Address by William H. Taft at the dinner of the Congregational Club of New York and vicinity, Hotel Marlborough, 7 p. m.

Meeting of the Ohio Society of New York, Waldorf-Astoria, 8 p. m.

Lecture by Professor M. V. O'Shea on "The Child and the Adult" before the Federation for Child Study, meeting rooms, 2 West Sixty-fourth Street, 8:15.

Meeting of the Society of Medical Jurisprudence, 17 West Forty-third Street, 8:30.

Discussion on "Safety in the Streets" before Safety First Society of the City of New York, Hotel Biltmore, 8:30 p. m.

Serbian Relief Ball, Hotel Biltmore, evening.

Dance of the New York Hospital Alumnæ Association, Peg Woffington, 11 East Forty-fourth Street, evening.

Public lectures of the Board of Education, 8:15 p. m.: Manhattan—"With Roman and Moor in Andalusia," by Professor Charles U. Clark, Washington Irving High School, Irving Place, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets; "Music in America," by John S. Van Cleve, Ph. D., P. S. 27, Forty-second Street, east of Third Avenue; "The Stability of the Slav," by Miss Natalie De Bogory, P. S. 46, 126th Street and 8th Nicholas Avenue; "Castles and Capitals of Old Poitou," by Roland S. Morris, P. S. 59, 228 East Fifty-seventh Street, illustrated; "Songs by American Composers," by J. Van Cleft Cooper, P. S. 82, Hester, Essex and Norfolk Streets; "Twelfth Night," by Joseph I. Tynan, P. S. 119, 135d Street, east of Eighth Avenue, illustrated by selections; "Distinctive American Drama," by Frederick Faulding, P. S. 165, 108th Street, west of Amsterdam Avenue; "Roentgen Rays, Bequeed Rays," by Charles L. Harrington, Hunter College, Park Avenue, Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Streets, illustrated; "The Nature of Music and the Music of Nature," by Professor Gustav L. Becker, New York Public Library, 112 East Ninety-sixth Street, illustrated; "Feeding Growing Children," by Miss Laura A. Caulfield, New York Public Library, 501 East Tenth Street, illustrated; "Violin Technique and Demonstration," by Leopold Auer, Virtuoso of Piano," by Miss Margaret Anderton, Pilgrim Hall, Broadway Tabernacle, Fifty-eighth Street and Broadway, illustrated; "A Trip to the Yellowstone National Park," by I. Hoffman Mount, 88, Columbia Hall, 343 West Twenty-fifth Street, illustrated; "The Nation's Capital," by A. MacDonald Beech, 88, Luke's Hall, 483 Hudson Street, illustrated; The Bronx—"Scenes of Scotland," by Miss I. Duffie, Morris High School, 166th Street and Boston Road; "The Preservation of the Union," by D. S. Murray, P. S. 46, 198th Street, between Bainbridge and Briggs Avenues; "Agricultural Wonders of the Middle West," by Joseph E. Appley, P. S. 50, Bryant and Vyse Avenues, illustrated; "Pottery and Porcelain," by J. P. Carney, Lafayette Hall, Alexander Avenue and 137th Street, illustrated.

ICE DANCER ON TUXEDO'S NEW RINK.

Miss Dorothy Kane, one of the many society girls to take advantage of winter's first instalment of cold weather sports.

The English Ministry

ITS POSITION IMPROVING AND WHY—ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND RUSSIA—THE WAR COUNCIL—LORD KITCHENER AND HIS MISSION—LORD DERBY—HELP FROM THE NEAR EAST—MINISTERS AND TRADE UNIONS.

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London, November 25, 1915.

I suppose that even the critics and opponents of this Ministry would admit that its position has lately been strengthened. They admit that it has got a firmer grip on the policy and conduct of the war; and that in various ways it is making up for the delays and indecision and inefficiency of which critics and friends have hitherto complained. Perhaps no one incident has helped them so much as the close connection established with France and the visit of the Prime Minister with some of his colleagues to Paris. On the surface this might be called a visit of ceremony. They were returning the recent visit of the late French Prime Minister and General Joffre. But in fact they went to Paris to lay the foundation of a coördinate action, both in diplomacy and in the field, between France and England.

The New Agreement with France.

That convinces people that this war is henceforth to be dealt with, not as several distinct or unrelated wars, but as one war. It is admitted that it has not always been so dealt with, and that some of the failures which have marked its course have been due to the want of a clear understanding between the Allies—clear, that is, in respect of military effort on its various fronts. It is hoped that Russia, and perhaps Italy, may come into this new agreement.

About Russia there is no question. Between Russia and England the harmony seems always to have been complete. If there has been a doubt, it is only with reference to methods. I will give a single illustration. The friendship of Russia, the solidarity between the two Governments of Russia and England, covers not merely principles but persons. This existing English Ministry has no more convinced and zealous defender than a distinguished Russian representative now in London. He puts aside all criticism of the Ministry. He regards the Ministry as the Ministry of all England, almost as England itself; at any rate as the only possible Ministry; and champions it as such. And now, since their visit to France, a similar loyalty exists, no doubt, in Paris.

The War Council.

The War Council with its daily sittings has also done something to promote confidence, and to bring the Ministry and the country into closer relations. That was not its primary object, but that has been one of the results. It is a result quite independent of the composition of the Council or of the limitations upon its authority by the obligation to refer its most important decisions to the Cabinet as a whole. These are defects which, with time and practice, may disappear. What the country feels is that, by setting up such a Council, a sincere effort has been made to conduct the war on more business like principles.

A third reason is Lord Kitchener's mission to the Near East. The ultimate purpose of that mission is still left undeclared. Hardly any news about it, except of the most general kind, is allowed to find its way into print. But in that the public acquiesces as a necessity of war. It does not affect the general opinion that Lord Kitchener is the right man in the right place, whether as soldier or envoy. "The Ministry have done the right thing," says the man in the street. People behind closed doors say the same. And when they are told of Lord Kitchener as in audience of the King of Greece—more commonly known as "Tino"—they remember that in the Fashoda incident, which so stirred French passions, he proved himself a diplomatist and brought about a friendly agreement with France which with less delicate handling would have been impossible. They believe with equal reason that the immeasurable Imperial interests now menaced in the East are to be safeguarded.

Probably no Englishman is so competent as Lord Kitchener to look after these interests. The German inventions about risings and revolutions in India scattered broadcast in America are here known to be inventions; just as the Germans are known to be the Sons of the Father of Lies. But with these also, were there occasion, the late Commander-in-Chief of India would know better than any other how to deal.

Lord Derby.

Lord Derby is a fourth reason, and, what people of commercial minds call, in the dialect of the counting house, an asset. It is hardly too much to say that, outside of Lancashire, Lord Derby was best known to most people as a racing man, a member of the Jockey Club; one of those shining lights whose honesty and rectitude do much to redeem the Turf from obloquy. He has had, nevertheless, a varied and distinguished career, both as soldier and Minister. But whether in or out of Lancashire, he is a man whom all people trust; whose ability and character command universal confidence. The best proof of it is that the Prime Minister chose him, an avowed and urgent advocate of National Service, to make a final effort for Voluntary Service; that he has made and is making it with as much zeal and enthusiasm as if he believed this war could be won without compulsory service; that his straightforwardness has made him the recognized leader in a difficult and probably impossible enterprise; and that, while holding no office, he is looked to as Minister of Recruiting, and has at least as much authority as if he were in the Cabinet or in the War Council itself. People say, he ought to be in the War Council; to which I need only add that it is quite possible he will be.

Lord Derby as virtually a colleague has lent Ministers the whole weight of his personality. He is of opinion that they are trying to do their best—which was never doubted—and that their best could not be helped "by stabbing them in the back." He sums up on Lord St. Davids, who had accused the staffs at the front, for whom Ministers are responsible, of high crimes and misdemeanors. Answered Lord Derby: "No gentleman would have said it; no gentleman will believe it."

He has not hitherto won fame as an epigrammatist, but this sentence will live. It is a finished and finishing statement; but what lends it a crushing force is the force of the man behind it.

Help from the Near East.

It has further to be added that criticism on the Ministry has been to a considerable extent hushed by the extreme gravity of the situation in the Near East. Ministers have practically a free hand. There is still criticism on other matters; which it is neither possible nor desirable wholly to silence. There was, when the story of British diplomacy and military inaction in the Balkans first became known, an explosion of censure; in the House of Lords and elsewhere. There was a moment when it seemed possible that Sir Edward Carson's resignation might bring about a Ministerial crisis and the return of Sir Edward Carson to power—to greater power than before. Then it became evident that the position was too critical for experiments, and so it turned out that a break which threatened the very existence of the Ministry in its present form brought them fresh support.

Ministers and Trade Unions.

For much the same reason labor troubles that at one time looked formidable have turned in some ways to the advantage of the Ministry. I do not think the country as a whole liked to see a separate governmental authority set up by the trade unions, or the government itself negotiating with these powerful bodies almost if not quite as equals. But an Englishman is not a man who sets great store by theories or allows himself to be too much disturbed when constitutional symmetry is destroyed by a political or industrial compromise. He looks to results: and when he saw the trade unions—from no matter what motives—working amicably with the other government to enlist much-needed men, he forgot all about the Bristol Congress and the conference in London before which the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for War appeared to state their case. He was, and is, in a mood to pardon anything to a Ministry which will do things.

He knows that many of the things now begun ought to have been done long ago, but he asks himself whether reproaches are likely to help matters now when the Ministry is really trying to make up for laches in the past. He hates to see incompetents, whether in the army at the front or in Whitehall, kept in office, but on the whole he sees little, if anything, to be gained by dissensions, and as he must either oppose or support his rulers, he supports them.

W. S.

NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS

A Few Dozen of Henry W. Savage's Plays Are To Be Put on the Screen.

The films that flesh is heir to were augmented yesterday by the addition of the numerous plays that Henry W. Savage has produced. Two of them—"Madame X" and "Excuse Me"—are announced as already filmed, and the rest will follow in rapid order. The Pathé company is on the picture end of the transaction.

Nearly a dozen comic operas are listed for production, among them "The Sho-gun," "Little Boy Blue," "The Sultan of Sulu," "Somewhere Else" and "The Prince of Pilsen." "The Merry Widow," however, is not included. Among the dramatic offerings will be "Everywoman," "Along Came Ruth" and "Behold Thy Wife." The last named, incidentally, was to have been produced in New York this season, but became violently ill while playing Washington six weeks ago.

This year's benefit for the Actors' Fund will occur at the Forty-fourth Street Theatre on the afternoon of January 28. Among the scintillators will be E. H. Sothern, Ethel Barrymore, Blanche Bates, Elsie Janis, Francis Wilson, Otis Skinner and James J. Corbett. Several new one-act plays will be exposed.

Among the momentous dramatic announcements of yesterday was the news that seven women over seventy knitted for an hour and a half in some scenes of a coming Vitagraph comedy, and that Genevieve Hamper (Mrs. Robert B. Mantell) is about to publish a book on cake making.

The Stage Society of New York, which is credited with bringing Granville Barker to America, will produce "The Soul Machine" at the Gaiety Theatre next Sunday evening. The piece is a "psycho-melodrama" by Daniel Garretson, hitherto unknown, and is being staged by Augustus Thomas. Following the Sunday performance, which will be solely for members of the Stage Society, public performances will be given on the afternoon of the 20th and 21st. In the cast will be Edith Luckett, Helen Robertson, Jane Marbury, Doris Woolbridge, Vincent Serrano, Eugene O'Brien, Walter Connolly, Frederick Beane, Tom McGrath and J. K. Hutchinson.

Beginning at 3:18 o'clock this morning, Hippodrome seats are on sale six weeks in advance instead of the hitherto four.

John Drew and "The Chief" are in their last week at the Empire, with Maude Adams scheduled as the next attraction.

Butler Davenport, who manages the Bramhall Playhouse and keeps it open for several days every season, announces a course of three readings of his own plays by himself. The dates are December 16, December 30 and January 6. Course tickets can be had at the Bramhall for $2.50, and the line forms on the right.

DESTINN BACK IN OPERA

Lyric Soprano Will Rejoin Metropolitan on Monday.

Miss Emmy Destinn has been reengaged as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company and will make her first appearance this season as Elsa in "Lohengrin" on next Monday evening.

Miss Destinn was not reengaged for the company at the conclusion of the last season, due, it was understood, to a disagreement as to terms. She had been since the opening of the season of 1908-'09 one of the Metropolitan's chief lyric sopranos. Owing to the continued illness of Mmes. Bori and Zarska the Metropolitan has been this year crippled for sopranos. Miss Destinn's return will greatly strengthen the organization.

EMMY DESTINN SINGS

Appears with Sousa at Weekly Hippodrome Concert.

Emmy Destinn was the added luminary at the Sousa-Hippodrome concert last night, offering arias from "Herodiss," "Il Trovatore," "Tosca" and "Madama Butterfly." The last two were unscheduled, but were insisted upon by the audience. A new violinist, Miss Helen DeWitt Jacobs, also appeared.

Mr. Sousa offered his customary varied programme, and even the intermission was made musical by sandwiching in the Marimba Band.

FILM FINE FIELD FOR FERRETING

Criminal Has No Chance to Escape Detection by the Movie Folk.

GOOD PICTURE PLAYS ON TRIANGLE BILL

Detective Story Is Feature of an Excellent Programme at the Knickerbocker Theatre.

By HEYWOOD BROUN.

Almost all the peculiar advantages which belong to the scenario writer have been utilized with great skill in "The Missing Links" on the Triangle bill at the Knickerbocker Theatre this week.

Certainly it would seem as if the motion pictures could tell a mystery story more adequately than the spoken drama. If it is a murder you want the playwright must keep it off stage if he is to preserve his mystery, but in movie land there is no off stage, and you may have your murder and your mystery, too. "The Ware Case," for instance, gives you its murder only at second hand. You are cheated of seeing the commission of the crime. But "The Missing Links," in proper picture play fashion, maintains its mystery until near the end and then turns back and acts out the guilty man's confession for the sake of the audience.

Though an author be eloquent and an actor inspired, it is difficult for them to thrill or interest an audience merely in relating a happening. Of course, it can be done. Falstaff died mighty well off stage, and Euripides didn't do badly with some of his merely related catastrophes. Still, we enjoy the privilege of being in at the death.

In reading a detective story we always turn back as soon as we find we have suspected the wrong person and get another clew. The picture play turns back for you. "The Missing Links" concerns a murder case in which the only clew is a cuff button found beside the body, and two men are wrongfully suspected until the culprit is found by a young lawyer with a taste for Gaboriau.

As the man works upon the case and remembers various happenings which seemed relatively unimportant at the time they are repeated on the screen, and with the detective the audience shares the joy of reading a new meaning in the event. Robert Harron and Robert Lawler stand out in a big and capable cast. "The Missing Links" was produced by Lloyd Ingraham and staged by D. W. Griffith.

"The Beckoning Flame" is chiefly interesting for the excellent work of Tsuru Aoki, a Japanese actress. It also makes effective use of the movie author's privilege of putting his story in two places at once, or so nearly at once that the audience gets the effect of the contrast in what is happening to the characters. Thus, while at one minute we see the hero waiting arrest because of having run away with an Indian princess, at the next we see the girl giving herself to the flames in order to save her lover from being found out. Henry Woodruff is the young Englishman and does his part well, but the honors go to Miss Aoki. The play has marked power and is pictorially beautiful.

"The Submarine Pirate" is repeated. This is an astounding stunt picture. In fact, stunts are done so well in the movies now that it seems as if there were little room for developments along this line. In this particular film a submarine is shown in action, and it is a sure-enough craft, lent for the occasion by the obliging Mr. Daniels, of the navy.

We will confess at the outset that we laughed hard at this picture both times we saw it, but we maintain that whatever the rest of the motion picture public may do we will not continue to laugh forever and a day at knockabout film farces. We know now that if a plate is dropped it will break, that if a man is kicked sufficiently hard he will fall down, and that anybody who tumbles into the ocean will get wet. The surprise of such happenings is beginning to lose its edge.

Unfortunately, also, we are tolerably well acquainted with the conventions of motion pictures. For instance, we can prophesy that somebody will fall with a wound just over the heart if a pistol is fired with deadly intent in a film. We also can tell just where the bullet will strike if it is fired for comedy purposes. Some day we are going to see a comic picture in which a stout woman does not hit somebody over the head with an umbrella. We may miss this particular bit of business, but we will be willing to make the sacrifice, if only to realize that the motion pictures are moving upward and onward.

Programmes of the Week at Other Film Theatres

"The Cheat," written by Hector Turnbull, is the feature film at the Strand Theatre this week. Fannie Ward is the star, and good work is also done by Sessue Hayakawa, a Japanese. The statuesque Lou-Tellegen appears at the Broadway in his second photoplay, "The Unknown." It is a filmization of I. A. R. Wylie's novel, "The Red Mirage."

"Thou Art the Man," by the author of "A Million Bid," is the most ambitious picture on the programme at the Vitagraph. S. Rankin Drew, Virginia Pearson and Joseph Kilgour appear in the leading roles. Other films at the Vitagraph are a Wally Van farce and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew in "The Deceivers."

"Her Mother's Secret," a Fox film, presented for the first time yesterday at the Academy of Music and the Riverside Theatre, gives Ralph Kellard the opportunity to appear in a dual role that calls for considerable versatility. Dorothy Green is cofeatured.

DR. G. P. SHEARS DEAD

Instructor in Obstetrics at Polyclinic Hospital and Medical School.

Dr. George Peaslee Shears, fifty-five, died suddenly at his home, 300 West 107th Street, yesterday morning from cerebral hemorrhage. Dr. Shears was born in Dutchess County, N. Y. He attended Trinity College and the New York University Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1889. He subsequently became assistant surgeon at the Babies and Mothers' Hospital and instructor in obstetrics at the Cornell University Medical School.

Dr. Shears was adjunct professor of obstetrics in the Polyclinic Hospital and Medical School and visiting obstetrician to the New York City and the Misericordia hospitals. He leaves a wife and three children.

Shakespeare Service Planned.

Through the efforts of Mrs. August Dreyer, of the New York Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration Committee, in coöperation with the Rev. W. R. Bentley, of the Actors' Church Alliance, a commemorative service has been arranged, to take place on the afternoon of Easter, April 23, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to which every actor and every member of a dramatic organization in the city will be invited. Bishop Greer and clergy of the diocese will take part in the service.

POLICE CUT ACCIDENT TOLL

Commissioner's Report Shows Fewer Street Fatalities in November.

Police Commissioner Woods's campaign for fewer accidents is proving successful, according to the report on November accidents, given out at Police Headquarters last night. Street accidents showed a decrease of 435, or 21 per cent, as compared with the figures for October, and the number of persons killed and injured decreased 512, or 22 per cent.

"This reduction," said Commissioner Woods, "undoubtedly indicates a seasonal change, due to the shortening of the day and colder weather, but it is due, in part at least, to the publicity given to accident prevention and the activity of the police force. This is well indicated in the reduction in the number of children injured, which decreased 38 per cent, as against 14 per cent for adults."

The record for accidents of the last three months is: September, 2,126, with eighty-four killed; October, 2,083, with seventy-one killed, and November, 1,648, with forty-six killed.

SEEK TO ENLARGE INCURABLES' HOME

Heads of Institution Now Fifty Years Old Ask Funds for More Free Beds.

Near the edge of an elevation overlooking the city at Fordham stands the Home for Incurables, now half a century old. For this home and its patients, most of whom will have to spend their last days in it, an appeal for financial assistance is being circulated.

Fifty years ago the Rev. Washington Rodman began the work of the Home for Incurables at West Farms. In 1873 John David Wolfe gave the present site, of about ten acres. Its large, well kept grounds, shaded by beautiful old trees, afford ample space, fresh air and sunshine.

"The cheerful, homelike atmosphere has brought hope and peace into many unhappy lives," reads a pamphlet issued by Ogden Mills, president of the institution. "With skilful medical treatment and careful nursing it has sometimes even restored health. Those who have heard the dread verdict 'incurable' and come here to spend their last days or years receive medical care, nursing and sympathy and kindness."

Many of the patients at the home are men and women of refinement and culture. More than half of them pay in whole or part for their maintenance. It is for those who cannot afford to pay that aid is being asked.

The home will accommodate 300 patients. But it is to provide accommodations for more free patients that endowments are being sought. There is a medical superintendent, assistant physicians and male and female nurses at the home. During the last year there were 157 male patients and 262 female. Among some of the diseases treated were cancer, paralysis, rheumatism and kidney trouble, but none of those afflicted with mental or contagious diseases is received. Religious affiliations of patients have nothing to do with admission. No aid is received from the city or state.

A bed in perpetuity may be endowed by the payment of $10,000; a patron is asked to pay $500 at one time; a life membership is obtained by the payment of $100, and $10 constitutes annual membership. The spirit of the inmates is best portrayed by a few lines written by one of the patients:

I murmur not, I ask not why this trial came on me.
I only ask, forsake me not, dear Lord! I've need of Thee.
We are so helpless and so weak, so sore by pain oppressed;
Spare yet a little of Thy strength, O Lord, to one distressed.

$225,000 FOR HOSPITAL

Amount Pledged Toward Building for Crippled Patients.

Subscriptions of a quarter of a million dollars were secretly and publicly pledged last night at the ninth annual celebration of the founding of the Hospital for Deformities and Joint Diseases, 1919 Madison Avenue. The celebration was held in the vestry room of the institution. The money pledged is the first of a fund of $1,000,000 which is to be raised for the purpose of building a new structure.

The following directors of the institution subscribed $10,000 each: E. M. Gattle, Dr. Henry W. Frauenthal, S. Arnstein, Franklin Simon, Charles Kaye, C. K. Harris, S. Felber, L. S. Rothschild, S. Levy and L. Strauss.

E. M. Gattle was re-elected president of the hospital, and Sydney Ehrenfeld was added to the board of directors.

MARRIED.

HACKERT—STILWELL—On December 10, Caroline P. Stilwell, daughter of Mrs. Martha Wandell Stilwell, to Carl H. Hackert.

Notices of marriages and deaths must be accompanied by full name and address.

DIED.

Bell, Mary H.
Fahys, Joseph
Hauser, Isabel
Jenkins, Caroline
Kean, Louise H. Y.
Mitchell, Helen H.
Shears, George P.

BELL—At her residence, 278 West 73d st., on December 12, Mary Henrietta, widow of Staats S. Bell.

FAHYS—At Sag Harbor, N. Y., on December 11, 1915, Joseph Fahys, in the 84th year of his age. Funeral services at the Presbyterian Church, Sag Harbor, N. Y., on Tuesday, December 14, at 2:30 p. m.

HAUSER—Isabel, on Saturday, December 11, 1915. Funeral services at her late residence, the Apthorp, Broadway and 79th st., on Tuesday, December 14, 1915, at 1:30 p. m.

JENKINS—On Saturday, December 11, 1915, Caroline, daughter of the late Charles and Leah Jenkins, in the 79th year of her age. Funeral from her late residence, No. 22 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, on Monday morning, December 13, 1915, at 11 o'clock. Kindly omit flowers.

KEAN—At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, December 9, 1915, Louise Hurlbut Young, wife of Colonel Jefferson Randolph Kean, U. S. A., daughter of Louise Hurlbut and the late Mason Young. Interment Monticello, Va., Monday, December 13. Washington, D. C., and Jacksonville, Fla., papers please copy.

MITCHELL—At Milford, Penn., December 10, 1915, Helen Hall, beloved wife of William Mitchell. Funeral services on Monday, December 13, at 2 p. m.

SHEARS—At his home, on Sunday, December 12, 1915, George P. Shears, M. D. Funeral service at his late residence, 300 West 107th st., on Wednesday morning at 10:30. Interment at St. John's Cemetery, Yonkers, N. Y.

CEMETERIES.

THE WOODLAWN CEMETERY.
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