

MELODRAMA REVIVED AGAIN

SOME EVIDENCES OF THEATRICAL PROGRESS IN RECENT YEARS

What the Audience Really Laughed At on Monday—The Real Cause of the Flop at the Lyric Theatre...

It may have been some of the bombastic phraseology of "The Lights of London" that made the audience laugh...

Played at the old Union Square Theatre thirty years ago as "The Lights of London" was on Monday, it would have been laughed at...

The dancers are leaving us. The past week witnessed the last appearance here of Tamara de Swirsky and Adeline Genée...

Adeline Genée has never been supplanted in the favor of her London audiences and they will welcome her back...

It used to be deplored in New York that a generation of music lovers had gone into existence without having learned its operative lesson as it should...

Unluckily there is no means of acquainting the younger generation of theatergoers with the classics of the drama...

NEWS OF THE THEATRES

Francis Wilson Brings "The Bachelor's Baby" Back

"The smart set." With a Negro Comedian, Opens at the Majestic...

Francis Wilson and Baby Davis return to the Criterion Theatre to-morrow night to round out their long out of town season...

A three act musical comedy called "The Smart Set" will begin an engagement at the Majestic Theatre to-morrow night...

A theatrical event of more than passing interest is scheduled for Friday afternoon at the Lyric Theatre...

The testimonial to the Professional Woman's League will be held in the Hudson Theatre on Tuesday afternoon...

William A. Brady's all star revival of "The Lights of London" is on view at the Lyric...

So many requests for another performance of the "old kid" "Pomander Walk" have been made upon Liebler & Co...

John Mason appears in Augustus Thomas's latest play "As a Man Thinks" now being presented at the Thirty-ninth Street Theatre...

No end is yet announced for "The Concert," the comedy in which Leo Durrine and Janet Beecher have been appearing since last fall at the Belasco Theatre...

Blanche Bates has played in "Nobody's Widow" for nearly eight months at the Hudson Theatre...

The Bavarian players at the Irving Place Theatre will begin their second week to-morrow...

William Collier's revival of Richard Harding Davis's force "The Dictator" at the Comedy Theatre is being presented to crowded houses...

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LEADS AT AUCTION BRIDGE

DIFFER IN MANY WAYS FROM OLD FASHIONED GAME

Why an Original Pill Bid Without a Sure Winning Card is Dangerous—Duty of Leading a Partner's Suit if He Has Called One—Some Illustrative Hands.

It seems to be the impression among those who are not familiar with the higher strategy of auction bridge that after the declaration is settled the play of the hands is "just the same as in bridge."

Those who declare on bridge principles just as if they had dealt the cards, without any regard to their position at the table, their possibility of going game or the color of the previous bids may find the ordinary bridge leads suitable to their game, but they will not fit into the scheme of auction when it is played by experts.

Bridge players who take up auction settle a great many mistakes which the first declaration made, so that there is frequently only one bid on the deal. When this is the case there is nothing for it but for the leader to open his hand just as he would at straight bridge, because he has no information from either partner or adversary and must proceed on general principles.

The only differences in the conventional play to which attention should be called in such situations are these: There is no such thing as the heart convention in auction, because if the third hand were very strong in hearts he would overcall the no trumper with two hearts, which he could not do in bridge. There is no advantage in leading a red suit to a no trumper at auction, but rather the reverse, and if there is a choice the black lead should be chosen. This is because many no trumper calls by the dealer are made for the purpose of shutting out information in the black suits, and there is always a chance that the third hand may have a strong suit which he could not afford to bid on.

The original lead at auction is always up to the maker of the trump and never through him, as it often is at bridge. The only chance, therefore, for leading supporting cards in the opening is when the player to your left has declared a suit and has been overcalled by his partner, who is frequently weak in it.

Players should be careful to consider not only the position of the lead but the suit which will probably be led when they change the bid, because every time the declaration is overcalled it carries with it a change in the position of the opening lead. The player who holds a solid suit of seven or eight tricks, say, in clubs, would be very foolish to overcall a no trumper on his right, because he will be in the lead with that club suit and certainly set the no trumper. But if he anticipates a no trumper on his left he should bid clubs, even at the risk of frightening the player on his left from going no trumps, so as to direct his partner's opening lead.

This careful consideration of the lead that will follow a declaration is one of the fine points of the game to which the general run of players pay very little attention. The hands that require the greatest care in this respect are those in which the adversaries are more than likely to overcall a suit bid with no trumps, because then the information conveyed by the suit bids will probably form the basis for the partner's opening lead.

It is this consideration that prompts a your true auction player to avoid making an original free bid in a suit in which he has not at least one sure winning card, such as the ace, or both king and queen. It may seem reasonable enough to the bridge player to bid one heart with six of them to the Q J 10, but the auction player looks forward to the probability of such a bid being overcalled with a no trumper and his partner trusting him for a sure trick in hearts, which he has not got. One of the most common errors in this respect is calling two spades to distinguish a strong spade suit from a weak hand when the spade suit is not solid.

In auction a sure trick does not mean that you can stop the suit if the adversaries persist in leading it, because that is trusting them to make the trick for you, which is not their game. The trick must be one that either you or your partner can get at any time it is wanted.

Here is a hand recently played at the Knickerbocker which shows how the two spades and calling a red suit with no sure trick in it:

♠ A J 9
♥ A 2
♦ K J 10 8 6 2
♣ 9 3

The score was love all, rubber game. Z started with a bid of two spades in an unusually strong hand, but bid one heart, which, as repeatedly pointed out in these articles, is simply playing the no trumps game by pulling them out of a black suit. Y overcalled with two diamonds, making the temptation to go no trumps on his partner's side very little. Z passed, and A, instead of letting the double stand, went two hearts, as he could trump both the adverse suits, diamonds and hearts. Y doubled, trusting his partner for the spades, and B redoubled, trusting his partner for the hearts.

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