"THE MASTER MIND" A FAIR MELODRAMA

Full of Coincidences Designed to Show Off the Arch Crook Hero.

ROLE SUITED TO BREESE

Plenty of Excitement and Complications Headachy to Follow.

"The Master Mind"—At the Harris Theatre.

Parker	Harry Neville
Walter Blount	Morgan Coman
Andrew	Edmund Breese
John Blount	William Riley Hatch
Mrs. Blount	Dorothy Rossmore
Lucene Blount	Katharine La Salle
Courtland Wainwright	Elliott Dexter
Jim Creegan	Sidney Cushing
Mr. Marshall	Edward Gillespie

Without any exact knowledge as to the degree of elasticity possessed by the long arm of coincidence, it still seems safe to say that it must be considerably longer this morning than it was, say, at 9 o'clock last night or before the performance of "The Master Mind" at the Hudson Theatre had begun.

Daniel Carter, author of the new play, took a firm grip on that arm and clung to it like grim death. Everything came the way of the heroic villain in this new melodrama of that well travelled region the underworld, with such deference to theatrical requirements that coincidence seems a mild word to describe the perfect correspondence between what was necessary for the requirements of the author and what happened.

Back of the new play there lay a splendid dramatic idea. There were, in fact, two that in the hands of an expert playwright might have made "The Master Mind" notably interesting as a play of its kind.

There is no exaggeration in the title. It certainly took a master mind to set into motion all the episodes that occurred last night. It was the purpose of the heroic villain to avenge the death of his brother who had been condemned to death by an officer of the law who failed to consider that the man was protecting his life and honor by his act.

In order to make his revenge just as satisfactory as he wanted it, the sort of over crook, the part acted by Edmund Breese, with his ineradicable theatricalism here somewhat more suited to his task than it always is, brought on three satellites in his profession from the West. He had a wonderful knowledge of crooks and their pasts, so he was able to put his finger on just the one he needed. The most important of his crooks in the case under consideration last night was a young girl who had once saved the man who had convicted the brother of the hero. Here we pause to let this complicated situation, almost the strongest tug of all at that poor, old, tired arm, sink in.

The girl from the West who is posing with two other crooks as a family promptly marries the man she saved and made so grateful that he had been looking for her ever since to make her his wife. That was what might have made this puzzling heir merely a Monte Cristo. But he was a combination of Sherlock Holmes and the Dumas hero; so he quietly sent out West for the girl's lover—he knew about him, too—and arranged for the wife, her former lover and present husband all to meet in a room of her home late at night. The lover is there to rob or pretend to, the villain is there to let his victim see what sort of a girl he is married to, and the woman is there for dramatic purposes only.

But the young woman is able to prove that she never did send for her old lover and never wanted him. Her husband is now a candidate for Governor. The villain is going to tell everything he knows about him. So she acquiesces in all the ugly things the villain tells her husband about her, such as having sent for her lover to rob the house of her rich husband and then take her away with him. She proves the falseness of this charge by refusing to leave her husband or depart with her old lover when her husband tells her to. Then he realizes that she has not been untrue to him. So the heroic villain does not succeed in crushing his enemy altogether. His scheme of revenge is complete in that he makes him retire from public life. But he has come to care for the girl who married the victim of all this underworld plotting; so he lets him alone at last with his wife in domestic peace and political obscurity.

Edmund Breese did not have a cloven hoof nor wear the customary red trappings of Mephistopheles. But he possessed all the certainty and repose of that satanic intruder. Why he was not thrown out of the country home, which was the scene of the last three acts, it was possible only to an author of melodrama to understand. He interfered most impudently in the affairs of everybody.

"LYSISTRATA" FOR SUFFRAGE.

Aristophanes Done in English at the Maxine Elliott Theatre.

"Lysistrata"—At the Maxine Elliott Theatre.

Lysistrata	Isobel Merson
Calonice	Miss E. Stewart
Myrrhina	Florence Gerrish
Sosistrata	Edith Barwell
Lampito	Mrs. James D. Livingston
Cinesias	Nicholas Joy
Magistrate	Francklin J. Walls
Child	Master Mahan
Committeeman	Edward Coward
First Athenian	Edwin Cushman
Leader	Madge Macdona
	Stanley Howson
Old Man	Sydney Carlisle
	Malcolm Morley

When Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch came before the curtain at the Maxine Elliott Theatre yesterday afternoon to thank those who had made possible the production of Aristophanes's "Lysistrata" she did not conceal her regret that the women of Greece in that early day did not have direct instead of indirect influence to help their cause and their country.

But the speaker concluded with the cheering observation that under such circumstances there might not have been such a play as the comedy of Aristophanes, and she left the stage with the audience agreeing that it was some compensation to have this drama to-day even if the women of Greece never had the ballot.

"Lysistrata" has come to be the comedy of suffrage. Gabrielle Rejane had, of course, no such doctrinal purpose when she made Maurice Donnay prepare a version for the Gymnase Theatre in Paris more than twenty years ago. M. Donnay did not hesitate to declare that he had taken advantage of every suggestion of that wit in the original which would be likely to appeal to the Paris public.

Thus the combination of the imagination of the original and the additions which might be inspired by the imagination of a boulevard playwright was something that even Paris had to take in limited quantities; but the piece was at least once later revived in spectacular form.

Laurence Housman was the translator of the version seen yesterday. Gertrude Kingston used it to open the little theatre which she conducts in London; and it is said that London rather liked it at the time. I tis in two acts and an interlude, and the scene yesterday afternoon was a street in Athens, with the Acropolis in the background and a distant view of a smiling landscape. There were appropriate costumes, sometimes strikingly tasteful in their blend and color.

The long role of *Lysistrata* was declaimed with eloquence and variety by Isobel Merson, who is a member of John Kellerd's Shakespearian company now acting at the Garden Theatre. Nicholas Joy, who used to be in one of "The Butterfly on the Wheel" companies, was *Cinesias*, first of the yielding husbands; Edward Coward gave a striking and vigorous representation of the committeeman's scene, while the old men were amusingly acted by Stanley Howson, Sydney Carlisle and Malcolm Morely. Mrs. James Duane Livingston, Mrs. Evan Evans, Mrs. Edward Livingston Hunt, F. J. Walls, Florence Gerrish, Elsie Stewart, Edith Barwell and Mildred Orme were some of the others who took part. The chorus included Miss Charlotte Delafield, Miss Morris, Miss Gertrude Lynch, Miss Dimock, Miss Katherine Ecob, Miss Lyons, Mrs. Richard Chisolm, Miss Alice Einstein, Mrs. E. Lyon, Miss Marman, Mrs. Percy Jackson, Miss Annie R. Tinker, Mrs. Edward Coward, Mrs. Dixon Boardman, Mrs. Lyle Evans Mahan, Dr. Sutton, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cushman, Hugh Johnson, R. C. Beadle, William Watt.

Iolaus, a Greek dancer from Chicago, had the dances in charge and was assisted by a corps of young lady dancers. They were the Misses Beulah Hepburn, Crane, Buell and Whitman. Charles Knoblauch had charge of the performance, which was altogether delightful.

THE WEEK'S THEATRE CHANGES.

Programmes New at the Combination Playhouses.

The West End Theatre last night offered to uptown theatregoers "Rutherford and Son," with the same company that recently introduced the play so successfully at the Little Theatre. "Snow White" is to be seen every afternoon excepting on Saturday. On that day it will be given at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

"The Commuters," the amusing farce of suburban life, which James Forbes wrote several years ago, is to be seen all week at the Harlem Opera House. The stock company produced it there last night for the first time in this city under such circumstances.

Chauncey Olcott is making the longest stay at the Grand Opera House that this popular West Side Theatre has known in years. But he will not be seen there after this week in "The Isle of Dreams," which his audiences have so much admired.

COL. ROOSEVELT IN MOVIES.

Cherry Kearton's Films Show ex-President in African Hunt.

A new set of motion pictures of wild life and hunting big game, this time shown and described by Cherry Kearton, had their first public presentation in this city yesterday afternoon at William A. Brady's Playhouse in West Forty-eighth street.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who was shown in some of the pictures, introduced Mr. Kearton. He told the audience, which filled the theatre, that as the pictures would show that he was present when some of them were taken he could guarantee that they were not nature fakes.

The pictures, which were unusually clear, showed wild animals in Borneo, India, Africa and the Rocky Mountains. Mr. Kearton's running description of the pictures was found enjoyable.

The pictures and lecture will be repeated this afternoon.

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Full particulars of C. STUDDS, D. P. A., WM. PEDRICK, Jr., A. D. P. A., 263 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Pennsylvania R. R.

Scene From "The Master Mind"

The figures are those of Edmund Breese and Sidney Cushing.

TALKING PICTURES DELIGHT AUDIENCES

Old Fashioned Minstrel Show Is Acted and Sung With Movies Screen.

Thomas A. Edison's recent invention, the kinetophone, which is a combination of motion pictures and the phonograph, had its first public demonstration yesterday afternoon on the stages of four different theatres, Proctor's Fifth Avenue, B. F. Keith's Union Square, the Colonial and the Alhambra.

The kinetophone is a machine which provides for perfect synchronism of voice with action; it makes moving pictures and the sounds from a phonograph jibe. While the invention has been perfected, only a limited number of subjects have so far been taken. At the four theatres yesterday only two reels were shown.

The first motion picture shown this week is in the nature of a description of the invention. A man's figure in photograph on the screen describes through the phonograph the workings of the invention and demonstrates the perfect synchronism of sound and action. Dogs called before the camera bark at the proper time; a falling plate smashes not a second too late and "The Last Rose of Summer," sung with a violin obligato and piano accompaniment, indicates the perfection of the invention.

The audience at Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre yesterday afternoon was clearly pleased and surprised with the new "movies," and so far forgot itself as to applaud after the song and before the picture was finished.

It was unfortunate that the second and last reel did not indicate more action. It depicted an old fashioned minstrel show. The solos and choruses went splendidly with the action, but gave the audience no opportunity to judge just what the effect would be when a modern motion picture play was produced.

CONCERT AT MRS. BUTLER'S.

Proceeds Go to State Charities Aid Association.

Another of the concerts for charity that interest society in the Lenten season was given yesterday afternoon at the house of Mrs. Prescott Hall Butler, 22 Park avenue, for the benefit of the New York city visiting committee of the State Charities Aid Association. The artists were Francis Rogers, barytone; George Barrere, flutist, and Bruno Huhn, who was at the piano. Mr. Rogers sang a group of old French songs, among them the "Angelus" and "Cattle Song" and Rubinstein's "Der Asra," Secchi's "Love Me or Not," and Lungi del caro Bene," by Sarti.

There were several interesting selections by Mr. Barrere, who was accompanied by Bruno Labate, oboe, and Gustave Langenus, clarinet, Mr. Huhn being at the piano.

Among the patronesses present were Mrs. William Church Osborn, Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge, Mrs. Arthur Stuart Walcott, Mrs. Robert B. Minturn, Mrs. Morris W. Kellogg, Mrs. Richard Irvin, Mrs. Austin Heckscher, Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, Mrs. Howard van Sinderen, Mrs. Willard D. Straight, Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Mrs. George McAneny, Mrs. Francis C. Barlow, Mrs. Chester Clark Boynton, Mrs. Walter Shaw Brewster, Mrs. Henry O. Taylor, Miss Ruth Morgan, Mrs. Henry Oothous, Miss Helen C. Butler, Mrs. Edward W. Sheldon, Mrs. Paul Tuckerman, Mrs. S. Sidney Smith and Miss Josephine Wisner.

Others were Mrs. Frederick Lee, Miss Eleanor H. Johnson, Mrs. Edward S. Harkness, Mrs. William B. Rice, Miss Harriette Rogers, Mrs. Roland Redmond, Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler, Mrs. Hiram W. Sibley, Mrs. Norman S. Walker, Jr., Mrs. C. Grant La Farge, Mrs. Gordon Ireland, Miss Emma N. Ireland, Mrs. Edward P. Fowler, Mrs. George A. Crocker, Mrs. F. L. Cranford, Mrs. Frederick Billings, Miss Anna B. Evans, Mrs. William K. Draper, Miss Clara Irvin, Mrs. Everett P. Wheeler, Mrs. Clinton Gilbert, Mrs. Eugene A. Philbin and Mrs. William H. Wheelock.

Beatrice Harraden Comes to Lecture.

Beatrice Harraden, the English novelist, who arrives to-morrow on the Minnetonka, and Gertrude Atherton are to speak on "The Progress of Women" on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock in the Berkeley Theatre, 21 West Forty-fourth street, under the auspices of the League for Political Education. Miss Harraden will tell of the latest phases of the woman movement in England and Mrs. Atherton will describe some of her experiences in California during the Presidential campaign.

A CHILDREN'S STORY BEFORE A TRAGEDY

"Haensel und Gretel" Used as a Preface to Mascagni's One Act Opera.

MME. HOMER AS THE WITCH

Mr. Caruso Appears Once More as Erring Lover of the Seductive Lola.

The fifteenth week of the season at the Metropolitan Opera House began last night in the presence of an audience large enough to give joy to the soul of the impresario. The offering was one of those double bills which have become so popular since Messrs. Mascagni and Leoncavallo furnished the operatic stage with two short tragic works of apparently permanent popularity. Together "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" interest the public, despite the fact that the similarity of their dramatic motives and musical treatment makes their combination devoid of stimulating variety of style.

Fortunately Engelbert Humperdinck created in "Hänsel und Gretel" a type of opera which is as far removed from that of the Mascagni and Leoncavallo works as one of Grimm's fairy tales from a tragedy of Schiller. "Hänsel und Gretel" unites well with either of the one act operas referred to, and it is given at the Metropolitan sometimes with one and again with the other. Last night it was the turn of "Cavalleira Rusticana" to bring upon the stage the elemental passions of its Sicilian villagers after the babes in the wood had put the witch to roast in her own oven, liberated the gingerbread children and been restored to the arms of their parents.

The cast of the Humperdinck opera was the same as on other occasions this season, except that Mme. Louise Homer returned to her old rôle, the *Witch*. In this part Mme. Homer is most happy. She employs a skilful treatment of the voice in delivering the dialogue with fine humor and her action is artistically graphic. Mmes. Mattfield and Alten repeated their capital impersonations of the two children. Mr. Hertz conducted.

The central point of interest in the performance of "Cavalleria Rusticana" was the reappearance of Mr. Caruso as *Turiddu*. He is heard more frequently as *Canio* in the Leoncavallo work, and on the whole the part is one which gives a better opportunity for the display of his present methods. In the Mascagni work, however, an audience can always enjoy his delivery of the serenade behind the curtain, the duet with *Santuzza*, the drinking song and the farewell to the mother.

The *Santuzza* last evening was Mme. Gadski, a conscientious and capable interpreter of the rôle, and Mr. Gilly sang *Alfio* excellently. The conductor was Giorgio Polacco.

Those in the Audience.

Society continues its attendance at the opera and the audience of last night was quite as notable as any early in the winter.

Mrs. Ogden Mills, who has not been at the opera, was in her accustomed box, wearing a gown of black velvet and pearl ornaments. Miss Anna Sands, who was with Mrs. Mills, wore a gown of pale blue panne velvet.

Mrs. Charles Carroll, wearing a gown of black velvet, a coronet and corsage ornaments of diamonds, and Mrs. Robert Goelet, whose gown was of white and palest rose colored satin with touches of cerise at the corsage, were with Mrs. Ogden Goelet, whose gown was of palest lilac satin veiled with white tulle.

With Mrs. Vanderbilt were Mrs. Charles B. Hillhouse, who wore dark blue brocaded satin, and Mrs. R. Horace Gallatin, whose gown was of ciel satin spangled with silver. Mrs. Vanderbilt wore a gown of white satin and a stole of ermine.

Mrs. Cornelius C. Cuyler, wearing white satin brocade combined with crystal spangled net, and Mrs. Joseph Stickney, whose gown was of silver gray satin brocaded with black, were with Charles B. Alexander.

With Mrs. Richard Gambrill were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers Winthrop and Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Bull. Mrs. Gambrill wore a gown of white brocade and an effective scarf of cerise gauze. Mrs. Bull's costume was of emerald green velvet embroidered with gold and Mrs. Winthrop wore a gown of china pink charmeuse.

The Baroness de Meyer, wearing white satin combined with black jetted net, was with Mrs. Edward N. Breitung, who wore a gown of palest lilac satin finished at the corsage with crystal spangled white net.

Mrs. Samuel Welldon, in old rose satin, was with Mrs. William A. M. Burden, whose gown was of white satin spangled with silver.

With Mr. and Mrs. James B. Taylor were Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Burr and Miss Eleanor Taylor. Mrs. Taylor's gown was of cerise velvet, Mrs. Burr wore maize colored satin bordered with bands of sable and Miss Taylor's gown was of palest rose colored satin and chiffon.

Mrs. Goodhue Livingston, wearing old rose velvet veiled with white net, and Miss Evelyn Burden, whose costume was of emerald green velvet embroidered with gold, were with Mrs. Henry Clews, who wore silver gray satin veiled with black net.

Among the others in the audience were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parish, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Duke, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Baker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James B. Eustis, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Amory Hodges, Commander and Mrs. J. W. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Haggin, Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. C. O'Donnell Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. B. Pratt, Mrs. George Henry Warren, Miss Georgia Williams and Amos C. Schermerhorn.

IRISH PLAYERS' NOVELTY.

"Damer's Gold" by Lady Gregory Is Entertaining Comedy.

"Damer's Gold"—At Wallack's Theatre.

Delia Hessian	Sara Allgood
Staffy Kirwan	Sydney J. Morgan
Ralph Hessian	J. M. Kerrigan
Patrick Kirwan	Arthur Sinclair
Simon Niland	U. Wright

The Irish Players at Wallack's Theatre offered last night a comedy in two acts called "Damer's Gold," by Lady Gregory, for the first time in this country, and to finish the bill "The Showing Up of Blanco Posnet," which has already been seen here, was given.

In "Damer's Gold" *Delia*, *Staffy* and *Ralph*, believing that *Patrick Kirwan*, a miser and their relative, is ill almost to death, go to his home to arrange matters, only to be put out by *Patrick*, who is much alive. Comes *Simon*, a nephew of all four, who has a single gold piece which *Patrick* desires because it will keep his almost full money bag from jingling when he shakes it. And they gamble for the coin.

In the second act the nephew has won the uncle's gold and hidden it in a dog kennel. The avarice of the relatives, who attempt to show the miser that he has been robbed, induces the older man to declare that his nephew is a man of business, and they leave together to get some pleasure from the gold.

To-night "Kathleen-Ni-Houlihan," by W. B. Yeats, and "The Playboy of the Western World" will be given.

113 Years in Business at 40 Wall St.

In 1808 the legislature, in amending the charter of the Manhattan Company, reserved for the State the right to take 1,000 shares of its capital stock.

The right was exercised, the capital was increased for the purpose from $2,000,000 to $2,050,000, and the State still holds these shares. It owns no other bank stock.

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NEW ELECTION LAW AIDS INDEPENDENTS

Democratic Party Bill Gives Progressives First Primaries This Fall.

NOMINATIONS MADE EASY

Senator Blauvelt Says Measure Goes Further Than Platform Pledges.

ALBANY, Feb. 17.—The administration bill, proposing election law reforms advocated by the Democratic platform of last fall, was introduced in the Legislature to-night by Senator George A. Blauvelt of Rockland and Assemblyman J. L. Patrie of Greene county. The principal object of the bill is announced to be to reduce the expense of conducting an election and to eliminate some of the red tape.

Some of the features of the bill are:

"Eliminating printing and publication of enrolment and registry lists except in first and second class cities.

"Reducing from four to two the number of Commissioners of Election who may be appointed in all counties except those constituting the city of New York.

"Reducing from four to two the number of registration days in all districts where personal registration is not required.

"Revising the present law dealing with primary and election day tickets in order to make them less cumbersome and expensive.

"Permitting the Progressive party to participate in the official primaries of 1913.

"Encouraging independent designations by reducing to 5 per cent. of the vote at the last preceding gubernatorial election the number of signatures required to independent petitions and by increasing from five to ten days the time within which they may be filed.

"Abolishing personal registration in rural districts and villages having less than 5,000 population.

"Empowering communities to decide whether voting machines shall be used."

In addition to these provisions Senator Blauvelt said the following changes might be incorporated in the bill before it is finally offered for passage.

"Elimination of the power of designation by party committees, the use of the party emblem on primary ballots and the signature requirement on registration day.

"Registration of commercial travellers by affidavit.

"A revision of the primary law bringing primary day on the first day of registration, thereby shortening campaigns and insuring a larger vote at primary elections."

"The Democratic majority in both the Senate and Assembly," said Senator Blauvelt to-night, "is united on the bills. It will be found, I think, that we propose to go even further than the pledges made in the Democratic platform at Syracuse." He continued:

"Formerly it required 1,500 names to a petition to nominate for member of Assembly, even in a county of 3,500 electors. Under the proposed law it would require but 5 per cent., or about 150 in the same county.

"Many of the members of the conference committee desire that the signature clause, the retention of the party emblem and the power of designation by the county committee be eliminated."

"THE MIRACLE" SUPERB SHOW.

Beautiful Pictures, Fine Music and Big Chorus Together.

"The Miracle" moving pictures of the spectacle which Prof. Max Reinhardt produced with great success in Europe were shown last night at the Park Theatre.

The strikingly beautiful pictures with an appealing story were supplemented by the music by Engelbert Humperdinck played by the Russian Symphony Orchestra under the leadership of Modest Altschuler and the effect of realism of the cathedral scenes was heightened by the singing of sacred music by choristers.

The pictures showed the care that Prof. Reinhardt takes in the building up of a pantomime and his superior skill in the handling of large groups of peoples. The effect was more than that of usual "movie plays," for every detail of the acting was so well expressed that the impression was that of a well trained, thoroughly competent company enacting a wordless play upon the stage.

PUJO WITNESSES UNPAID.

Expert Accountant Writes to Speaker Clark About Bill.

Some of those who appeared before the Pujo committee in Washington are finding it hard to collect their expenses for the trip. Among them is Perley Morse, expert accountant who looked into the affairs of the Hocking pool. He was called as a witness, took documents and several assistants to Washington, stayed there for two days with his assistants in a hotel and testified on December 14.

"I have not been able to collect a cent from the committee," said Mr. Morse. "More than two months have gone by since my services were rendered and I have now written a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. My bill is for $216.75, and it covers railroad fare for myself and my assistants, hotel an meal charges and $5 a day for my own services. I believe that some of the big bankers and brokers who have testified have also been unable to get back their expenses."

HOTEL MEN SCEPTICS ON DINNER REBATES

Fear Breslin's Plan to Return 10 Per Cent. of Checks Won't Work.

YET THEY'RE WATCHING IT

"Would Take All My Profits," Says Jack Dunston—Originator Sanguine, However.

Hotel men and big restaurant keepers are watching with interest a plan of the Hotel Breslin management to solve the tipping problem by returning to each customer 10 per cent. of a check of 50 cents or more for food, the idea being, while not directly stipulated, that at least 10 per cent. of the check is to go to the waiter as a tip.

Apparently there is nothing to prevent the customer, whether he lives in the hotel or just comes in for food, putting the 10 per cent. reduction in his pocket. That is left entirely to the customer.

The Breslin management insists that it has not increased its price of food to meet the 10 per cent. offset. On the contrary the Breslin folk say that there will be no extra charge to the customer. Of course he does not to have to limit his tip to the 10 per cent. discount. He may add to it if he thinks the service worth more, or, as other hotel men pointed out with considerable comfort, he may give the waiter nothing.

The Breslin management is convinced, however, that nothing can stop tipping, so it does not fear that the discount will remain with the customer.

When the Breslin plan was mentioned to other hotel men yesterday they were shy at being quoted on the subject. Some of the men spoken to smiled and said it would never work. Thomas M. Hilliard, managing director of the Vanderbilt, perhaps best expressed the general attitude of hotel men on the subject as follows:

"We have nothing to do with tipping. We do not recognize it. It is a matter for the public to deal with."

It was about five days ago when there appeared on the menu cards at the Hotel Breslin this printed announcement:

"Ten per cent. reduction on all checks over 50 cents."

The patrons of the hotel were puzzled. As a result D. B. Mulligan, manager of the Breslin, the originator of the idea, has been answering questions about it all the week. He says he is pleased with the result so far and he believes those who eat at the hotel are pleased. He said:

"Some eight months ago I began to think about this tipping question. I read in the newspapers and heard from customers that there was great objection to tips being paid to the boys and women who check hats and wraps at hotels. We have women here and I felt it would be an easy matter to solve the problem. I gave the young woman hat checker $25 a month and her board. Compared with the pay of women who work in stores the hours they have to stand on their feet and all the rest it was very good pay. I gave instructions that no tips were to be accepted.

"What happened? One day I discovered that this woman was accepting tips. I spoke to her about it. She admitted it and said there was no way of getting around it. Even my brother and my best friend gave her tips, although they knew my orders. She told me that they would watch until I was not looking and then slip a tip into her hand.

"urthermore if a man came in with a woman and the hat check girl refused a tip the man was insulted and so was the woman with him. I saw that plan wouldn't work, so I went back to the old hat check tipping, which is often referred to as piracy and brigandage.

"Then I hit upon this scheme of returning 10 per cent. of checks for f d if the check was more than 50 cents. So far it seems to have worked splendidly. No one has complained and many persons have expressed satisfaction with the arrangement. I have not added one cent to food prices. Of course on a small check the saving to the customer is not so great. But suppose a dinner costs $10, or, as is often the case, $25, 10 per cent. of either sum is a generous tip for a waiter.

"But the great saving is to persons who live permanently in the hotel. You take 10 per cent. of what they pay yearly for food in the hotel and it means a couple of hundred dollars. That is no small item, and the waiter who gets that sum as a regular thing is bound to be satisfied.

"I haven't spoken to other hotel men about this. Why should I? Don't some of them provide bath robes and slippers for guests without extra charge? I don't do that. I would rather pay a waiter $75 a month and board and have no tipping, but would the others do it? Of course not. The result would be that I would have nothing but poor waiters."

Mr. Mulligan did not see how he was going to lose money by his plan. In this other hotel men did not agree with him, although they declined to express any criticism of anything Mr. Mulligan proposed to do. But John Dunston, who is familiarly known as Jack and keeps a restaurant at Forty-third street and Sixth avenue, couldn't figure it out.

"My net profit on the food I sell is only 10 per cent.," said Mr. Dunston. "Now how could I afford to return that to the customer? I would be in business for my health alone. Maybe Mr. Mulligan will make it go, but I don't know how."

One hotel man said that when the restaurant which is now George Rector's—then O'Donnell's—started out 25 per cent. of a check for a dollar or more was returned to the customer, although there was no understanding that it was to go to the waiter as a tip. According to the hotel men this plan was a failure.

All the hotel men agreed that tipping could not be abolished, and they admitted they would watch the Breslin plan to see what happened.

WOULD BREAK ECKERT'S WILL.

Son Charges Conspiracy Defrauded Him of His Share of $3,000,000.

The suit of James Clendenin Eckert for half the estate of his father, Gen. Thomas T. Eckert, for many years president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, went to trial yesterday before Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum and a jury. The plaintiff is suing to set aside the will leaving the bulk of the $3,000,000 estate to the elder son, Thomas T. Eckert, Jr., on the ground that the document was executed through fraud.

The attorneys for the plaintiff said that sensational testimony would be introduced during the trial, which will occupy a week. Gen. Eckert died on October 20, 1910, and a year later his son Thomas married Miss Minnie Egan, formerly a maid at the Waldorf, who had been the General's housekeeper for some years. The case goes on to-day.

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Of course, even 1% means that there will be some errors, and if you are so unfortunate as to have one, we hope you will not judge us by the one time that goes wrong, but will rather judge us by the 99 times that go right.

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HERALD SQUARE NEW YORK

CELL FOR SAYING LEGAL GRAFT.

Automobile Man Wouldn't Apologize to Court or Pay Fine.

"Legal graft" was the way Lauritz Johansen, an automobile dealer, of 434 West 134th street, characterized the $3 fine imposed by Magistrate O'Connor in the West Side court yesterday upon Johansen's chauffeur, Otto Machor, because Johansen's automobile was smoking on Saturday afternoon on Broadway.

Johansen used the expression as he came in to pay the fine. Despite a caution by one of the court attendants he repeated his remark until the Magistrate heard him and called him before the bench, where he refused to retract.

A charge of disorderly conduct was entered against him and he was fined $10.

Johansen said he would go to jail before he would pay. He went to a cell.

CITY JOTTINGS.

Surrogate Noble in Jamaica yesterday admitted to probate the will of William H. Ewbank of Flushing, who died recently. The estate, estimated at $160,000, is left in trust for Annie Ewbank, a cousin, and at her death goes to Flushing Hospital and St. George's Church, Flushing.

Henry Schelling, aged 46, 27 Nessing avenue, South Ozone Park, Queens, died suddenly on the rear porch of his home yesterday. Some time before he suffered a stroke of apoplexy, and was killed by the second one.

Dr. Benjamin S. Van Zile of 518 Monroe street, the sixty-seven-year-old physician arrested Saturday night charged with attempting to bribe Dr. Charles Rynd of the Kings County Hospital, was held for trial yesterday by County Judge Dike in Brooklyn in bail of $2,500.

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