

M. Y. GIRL MOTHER TO BLIND SOLDIERS

Miss Esther Root Writes Patriotic Story of Suffering in Paris.

HELP IS NEEDED BADLY

The Poor of France in a Pitiable Condition, Her Report.

Hardening sights on the desolation of stricken France are vividly given in a letter just received by Mrs. Charles T. Root of 309 West Ninety-second street from her daughter, Miss Esther Root, who for several months has been doing relief work in Paris.

Every Little Will Help.

No contribution is too small to help those among whom an old skirt in fair condition may enable some woman to get a job and live comfortably without further aid; where \$1 will provide a furnished room decently clean for a week for a mother and half a dozen ill-fed children; where a last year's overcoat would keep warm a boy who carried tuberculosis away from the wet trenches where he fought bravely.

"A little girl in the audience yesterday who was not as brave as Editha and she cried when they turned off the lights and the burglar came in the window with his flashlight. Hence Rue, whose father sings in the Metropolitan Opera House, was the little girl who was not afraid of the dark and of burglars, and Otto Kruger in this play was the burglar. "Editha the Burglar" is not a new play and was first seen when some folks' fathers and mothers were boys and girls.

"There is another play called 'The Traveling Man' but it is not as good as the other two. Most of the children and a lot of the grown people did not understand it. It was probably intended to be allegorical, but little children do not even know what that means.

"Paris! Paris! on New Year's Day. 'Paris! Paris!' always begins promptly. In spite of the sceptical people who doubt it, and who consequently not only miss the play, but also miss the opportunity of seeing it for others by coming in late. After their programme is completed, dancing will begin. Hazy Naty and his orchestra of sixty pieces will play at the next Monday evening, when she will appear in the title role of 'Madama Butterfly.' Miss Farrar will sing again on Friday evening in 'Carmen,' with Charles Krolzig as Don Jose.

"Paris! will be given again on New Year's day, beginning at 1 o'clock. 'Paris! Paris!' always begins promptly. In spite of the sceptical people who doubt it, and who consequently not only miss the play, but also miss the opportunity of seeing it for others by coming in late. After their programme is completed, dancing will begin. Hazy Naty and his orchestra of sixty pieces will play at the next Monday evening, when she will appear in the title role of 'Madama Butterfly.' Miss Farrar will sing again on Friday evening in 'Carmen,' with Charles Krolzig as Don Jose.

Cares for the Blind. Miss Root describes as her 'pet indoor sport' fitting out the blind, which is one of the best branches of the work. After the blind soldiers have recuperated somewhat in a hospital, they are sent away, usually to the country, to learn a trade or to rejoin their families. Their military clothes are taken from them and they must buy their own clothes. This is the kind of civilian clothes. That is when the Student Ateleters Reunions steps in to give them decent clothes.

"A boy, 24 years of age, was wounded in the leg and dragged himself along the ground half conscious to find he was dragging himself toward the German trenches," she writes. "As his mother he was struck again and his eyes put out. He lay between the trenches under fire for days, unconscious most of the time and feeling the death of the next day. He was miraculously escaped being killed. Was picked up and taken to a hospital; had been there six months and is now starting out to join his friends in the dark. I love to do what I can for them."

"The blind soldiers are always interested to know what their new clothes look like. 'It is of what color, name?' 'Dark brown,' I say, 'and I will give you a brown and white tie.' 'Ah, how nice I will then be!' One of his comrades would nudge him and say, 'Wouldn't it be better to see you now, old fellow; it is true that you are now going to be married?' Then they laugh and thank me 'mille fois,' and shake hands and wish me good luck. Sometimes I walk down the street with them and guide them along. I admire their needs and tell them that the passerby looking at them as they go, 'Ah, I do have good times; but there it ends.'"

Miss Root is now merrily (godmother) to several fillets (godsons), but she is only acting as until she can find other soldiers to adopt them. These are lonely soldiers in the trenches, without family or friends to write to them or send them little packages of luxuries each month. I have seen a boy the other day who was the only one in his regiment who never got anything, but tried to go away by himself when he knew it was his last day. He wrote to me, 'I adopted him like a shot,' she writes.

She is willing to continue the labor of fitting out the blind, and she is writing in French, and to make up the packages of dainties each month, but she would like to find people in this country who would like to see you now, old fellow; it is true that you are now going to be married? Then they laugh and thank me 'mille fois,' and shake hands and wish me good luck. Sometimes I walk down the street with them and guide them along. I admire their needs and tell them that the passerby looking at them as they go, 'Ah, I do have good times; but there it ends.'"

ODD LITTLE PLAYS PLEASE CHILDREN

Special Holiday Bill in Cohan & Harris Theatre for Little Folk.

OLD FAVORITES APPEAR

Red Riding Hood, Captain Kidd and Daredevil Dick Help Entertain.

Important note: This is for children! Their efforts are warned that it does not concern them. It is about people, do not interest yourselves.

Little Red Riding Hood, Captain Kidd the "pirate," Daredevil Dick the Indian fighter, and the Wizard of Oz have come to life and have stepped out of the colored picture books right here in New York. They, together with a beautiful barabek rider and a clown from the circus, are in the Cohan & Harris Theatre in the afternoon during the holidays. Grown people may come to see them, but they are here specially for their children's friends.

There is another play about a little girl who met a burglar one night in her father's house. She was not afraid and she did not scream because her father had told her that burglars are not all bad and would not hurt little girls if they were nice. The burglar, who was named Editha, was the little girl's name—talked to the burglar and found that he was not a bad sort of fellow. He only lacked advantages. When her father came in she wrote out a letter to her mother and persuaded him to offer the poor fellow a job and give him a chance.

There was a little girl in the audience yesterday who was not as brave as Editha and she cried when they turned off the lights and the burglar came in the window with his flashlight. Hence Rue, whose father sings in the Metropolitan Opera House, was the little girl who was not afraid of the dark and of burglars, and Otto Kruger in this play was the burglar. "Editha the Burglar" is not a new play and was first seen when some folks' fathers and mothers were boys and girls.

'PARIS!' ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Miss Farrar Will Sing at Two Performances Next Week. Geraldine Farrar, who has already made her motion picture entry into New York, will rejoin the Metropolitan Opera Company for the rest of the season next Monday evening, when she will appear in the title role of 'Madama Butterfly.' Miss Farrar will sing again on Friday evening in 'Carmen,' with Charles Krolzig as Don Jose.

THE AMPICO

Advertisement for The Ampico Reproducing Piano, featuring various models like Knabe, Haines Bros., and Stoddard, with prices and contact information for the Ampico Studio.

NEW HAVEN ROAD GETS SEVERE JOLT

Mass. Public Service Commission Finds Fault With Company.

TOLD TO DO BETTER

Lack of Motive Power One of the Chief Troubles of the Line.

Boston, Dec. 26.—Passenger service on the lines of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in this State is criticized severely by the Public Service Commission in a report made to-night. The company is ordered to furnish monthly statements to the commission, showing in detail each delay of five or more minutes in passenger trains upon all divisions in this State, together with the reasons therefor, and also a statement showing the status of plans for the improvement of the passenger service.

Lack of adequate motive power is given by the commission as the chief outstanding cause for train delays. Other causes assigned by the commission are: The discontinuance of a number of passenger trains, resulting in increased loads on engines incapable of performing the tasks imposed upon them when weather conditions are unfavorable; the heavy and sudden increase in freight traffic; the shortage of coal, due to increased industrial activity, and the disturbance in water transportation conditions; unusual storms during the winter of 1915-16, and the heavy increase in the passenger service.

THE RIVERSIDE OPENS.

New Vaudeville Theatre on the Upper West Side. In spite of the opposition of Oscar Hammerstein and others, the new Riverside Theatre, formerly conducted by William Fox, was opened to the public last night. The theatre is situated at 187 W. 84th St. The large audience, which received the fine bill enthusiastically, showed that there is a demand for a high class vaudeville theatre in this neighborhood.

On the long programme were Rock and White, Melville Hill and Irene Bordone, Cecil Cunningham and a similar supply of well known vaudeville acts. If the Riverside Theatre continues as well as it started there should be no doubt of its enduring success.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

John McCormack will sing at the Hippodrome Sunday evening, January 7. Annette Kellerman, clad in chiffon and fern leaves, made her first appearance before the screen since her picture, 'The Daughter of the Gods,' was shown at the Lyric Theatre yesterday morning at a special matinee for children.

MAIL KEYS LEAD TO PRISON.

Brothers Alleged to Have Stolen \$100,000 Sent to Elmira. Buffalo, Dec. 26.—Richard and Frank Chapin, brothers, who were arrested three weeks ago charged with systematic robbery of the United States mails, pleaded guilty in the Federal District Court today to a charge of illegal possession of mail pouches. Richard was sentenced to sixteen months in the Elmira Reformatory and Frank was sentenced to Elmira for fifteen months.

TO ENTERTAIN EMPLOYEES.

John McE. Bowman, president of the Billmore and the Manhattan hotels, will be host at afternoon and to-night to 2,000 employees of the hotels at a dance and entertainment and children's carnival. Terrace Garden has been decorated for the occasion with seasonal blossoms and American flags. The children will hold away in the afternoon. Vaudeville stars have been engaged for the evening. After their programme is completed, dancing will begin. Hazy Naty and his orchestra of sixty pieces will play.

COMMUNITY CHORUS SINGS 'THE MESSIAH'

Continued from First Page.

afraid of singing off the key. Just sing! Well, that poor enthusiast nearly turned himself inside out trying to turn a voice into self-entertainment. Father Knickerbocker, but it wasn't much use. Toward the end of the third song the audience did lose a bit of its rapture and raised quite a volume of sound.

But sad to relate, though Mr. Barnard declared that he never heard a crowd sing off the key, individual members of that crowd proved that they were in need of his teachings. The choir prince ought to be given to the huge man in the gallery who kept breaking on a high note, all off the key, and then throwing an appealing look to the persons whose avarice he was smothering, while he uttered the unnecessary comment: "Dear me, I got that too high, didn't I?"

ANN MURDOCK AT LIBERTY.

Actress Admits She Has Left Frohman Management. Ann Murdock confirmed last night the report that she has left the Frohman management. She states that she has not decided whether she will accept a motion picture contract, which will take several months of her time, or sign a contract which Lee Shubert has offered to her.

WINTER GARDEN SHOW SQUEEZED INTO THREE

IS THE BIG SHOW. A twelve-hour show squeezed into three. The Winter Garden Theatre is the big show. The show is a twelve-hour show squeezed into three. The show is a twelve-hour show squeezed into three.

THE MAN WHO CAME BACK

Playhouse. The man who came back. The man who came back. The man who came back. The man who came back.

THE 13th CHAIR

By Bayard Veiller. The 13th chair. The 13th chair. The 13th chair. The 13th chair.

PIERROT THE PRODIGAL

Little Theatre. Pierrot the prodigal. Pierrot the prodigal. Pierrot the prodigal. Pierrot the prodigal.

SO LONG LETTY

Public Heeded the 'Voices' of Joan. All Advance Sale Records Broken. Geraldine Farrar as Joan of Arc in Cecil B. De Mille's 'Joan the Woman'.

2000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA

Palace Theatre. 2000 leagues under the sea. 2000 leagues under the sea. 2000 leagues under the sea. 2000 leagues under the sea.

SEEKS WAR PROFITS IN A SUIT.

Polo Wants Administrators of Tocco Estate to Give Up Papers.

Florida R. Polo of 95 South Tenth street, Brooklyn, brought an action in the Surrogate's Court yesterday to have administrators of the estate of Francisco Tocco, who conducted a brokerage business at 330 Lafayette street, turned over to him papers concerning the sale of munitions to the Allies. Polo asserts that he was Tocco's partner until the latter's death on July 27.

ARREST FOLLOWS STABBING.

Customs in Custody After a Grocery Store at 33 Oliver street yesterday, John Costo, the proprietor, was taken to Volunteer Hospital with stab wounds over his heart. It is most certain to cause death, and Lazarus Costello, 28 years of age, of 26 Bowery, was locked up on suspicion of felonious assault.

The Lord & Taylor Book Shop

A subscription to a good New Year's present. Country Life, The World's Work and The Garden Magazine, if you ask us, from our point of view are the best. We take subscriptions for all periodicals.

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Tiffany & Co. Marquise and Emerald Cut Diamonds. Advertisement for high-end jewelry.

Advertisement for Broadway theatres including Empire, Hudson, Elsie Ferguson, Ruth Chatterton, and others, listing shows and matinees.

Advertisement for Carnegie Hall on Friday, Dec. 29th at 8:30 P.M., featuring Christian Leden, Maud Allan, and Alys Larreyne.

Advertisement for Metropolitan Opera, featuring various operas and performances.

Advertisement for Symphony, featuring Olga Samaroff and other musical performances.

Advertisement for Broadway theatres including Star, Cuckow's, and others, listing shows and matinees.