

Review of the Past Week In New York Theaters

By JAMES S. METCALFE.

Something the same novelty displayed in the method of unfolding the plot in "On Trial" is shown in "The Phantom Rival." This is the play rushed into town by David Belasco to anticipate the production of "My Lady's Dress," by Charles Knoblauch. In both pieces a dream is used to help along the telling of the story. Mr. Belasco, evidently was anxious to get to the New York public first. His play is by Ferenc Molnar, who wrote "The Devil," which it will be remembered was hurried before the American people's rival managers in two different versions.

Mr. Leo Ditrichestein not only made the American version of the piece, but also the most important part, and achieved success both as playwright and actor. It is a drama of curious contrast, the main theme being an American husband's jealousy of his wife's preference of the settings of a fashionable restaurant where the matrimonial squabbles begin, and later a living room in the couple's New York home. These are shown with all the literal quality in detail for which Mr. Belasco is famous.

The fanciful turn comes in the hero's dream, the episode of the possible picture in a letter from her youthful Russian admirer which her husband has unearthed and ridiculed. She finds herself at a ball where her lover comes to her first as a great Russian general, then as a celebrated diplomat, then as a famous tenor and finally as a street tramp. The transition from the prosaic surroundings is a marvel of quickness in stage mechanics, and is supplemented by Mr. Ditrichestein's equally rapid assumption of varying characters. He is a finished comedian, and what he does not do is to play the possible illusion is greatly lessened by his foreign accent and his narrow vocal range. He avails himself skillfully of the possibilities of wig, costume, and make-up, but cannot get rid of his personality.

Laura Hope Crews is the heroine, and adds materially to her already established reputation as a comedienne. She is delightful to watch for a moment, and is crowded with just enough seriousness. She contrives most artfully to give the part the subtle touches that carry to the New Yorker the conviction that she had really passed through the vicissitudes of her life in Brooklyn. Malcolm Williams is also expert in the portrayal of the mental processes of a jealous husband and their physical demonstration. The minor parts also show Mr. Belasco's genius in casting a play and getting its performers under the skin of the characters they portray.

"The Phantom Rival" never permits the attention to wander for a moment, and is crowded with contrasts, spiritual and material.

Imitating Mr. Shaw. The slight comedy called "Consequences" came to us as one of the products of Miss Horniman's Theater in Manchester, and therefore having the stamp of some kind of intellectual. It had also pleased some of the London critics. Its author, Mr. H. F. Rubinstein, was certainly unknown in these latitudes, but his other antecedents gain for it an unusually respectful reception.

If imitation is the kind of flattery the proverb says it is, Mr. George Bernard Shaw should feel highly complimented. "Consequences" follows slavishly his method of gilding at the characters created as targets for the author's ridicule, and many of its lines are founded on the Shaw plan of condensed parody. The principal subjects of ridicule in this case are a girl suffragette and a Jewish youth of the type that is continually and continuously spouting immature wisdom, with an air of profound knowledge and conviction.

The girl answers exactly the definition of a suffragette as being one of the sex who wants something but doesn't know what she wants. For the time of the play she wants to be married, and has some one oppose her marriage. There she chooses the young Jew on the theory that her middle-class family will oppose the marriage on religious grounds. This they do until they find out this particular Jew is the son of one of her father's most profitable clients. In the same way the Jewish family is in opposition until they learn that the young woman is a star in amateur athletics to which they are, or pretend to be, devoted. When there is no opposition on either side the young persons find that they are not really anxious to marry each other, and things go back to about what they were in the first place.

Not much of a comedy this, from the dramatic point of view. It might be better described, perhaps, as a mental farce, calculated to please those who can be amused by the antics of an imagination. There is an appeal to their intellects. With this public goes a following which thinks it understands when it doesn't, but which talks tremendously about the things it pretends to like or imagine it likes. Therefore "Consequences" may meet with a success which might be denied to a cleverer composition with less theatrical climax of his furnishing to the guilty woman, out of the sheer goodness of his heart, a perfectly clear explanation of how the fatal shot was entirely accidental.

BRITISH PLAYWRIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY

An avalanche of British playwrights is pouring into New York. The advance guard, composed of Sir James M. Barris and A. E. W. Mason, threw up intrenchments three weeks ago. Since then Louis N. Parker, Henry Arthur Jones, and Herbert Henry Davies have arrived. But until G. B. S. comes the invasion cannot be said to be an overwhelming success. Now that his "Pygmalion" is to be done here by Mrs. Patrick Campbell there is a possibility of a lively encounter between the Shavian wit and the ship news reporters' persistence.—N. Y. Dramatic Mirror.

'WANT' COLUMNS ARE INTERESTING

London Papers Carry "Ads" for Almost Every Conceivable End During War. MANY ASK FOR LOANS. Woman Would Sell Bridal Bag to Help Maintain Fighters—Man Asks to Borrow Revolver.

By HERBERT TEMPLE. London, Oct. 10.—London in war time presents a variety of aspects strange to the habits of the world's metropolis. The public of every country now knows that London is dark of nights in order not to present an easy target for German Zeppelin attacks. But that is only one of the strange things that attract attention.

The "personal" and "want ad" columns of the London daily newspapers in these days present exceedingly interesting reading matter to those who have time to read them. They contain all manner of communications bearing on the war.

One Man Wants Loan. There are to be seen daily a great many advertisements along this line: "Educated Englishman, eligible for enlistment, needs £75 (£175) to pay debts and provide for family in order that he may enlist for service. Best of references. Who will help? Address XYZ."

Another: "Englishman, best of references, has been offered a commission, but cannot accept because hard up. Who will help with small loan to care for family while at the front? Address ABC."

Then there are a great many advertisements like the following: "Educated Englishman, speaks French and German, willing to donate services as private secretary or clerk to enable some young man to enlist."

"Girls of all ages and accomplishments, anxious to do men's work in order that men may go to the front."

World Sell Bridal Bag. In addition to these, there are many curious "personals" inserted in the newspapers. For instance: "Lady wishes to sell her bridal bag in order to help maintain soldiers on the firing line."

"Lady of means, desirous of helping men who want to enlist, is willing to hire substitutes to take their commercial positions."

"Lady, expert chauffeur, owning own car, would like to be of voluntary service, carrying dispatches, conveying recruits to camps, or in any other possible way."

"Lady offers diamond brooch to highest bidder. Proceeds to go toward relieving distress."

Haddon Chamber's play, "Tante," has been produced in London and renamed "The Impossible Woman." Lillian Kingsbury is playing the aunt, the role played in America last season by Ethel Barrymore.

Leopold Stokowski will be the conductor at the initial performance by the Philadelphia Orchestra in this city.

E. H. Sothern, who is determined to number himself among the season's unemployed, has declined thirty weeks' activity in "The Were King" at a salary of \$2,000 a week.

Charles Goddard, who is co-author with Paul Dickley of "The Misleading Lady," has been produced in London and renamed "The Perils of Pauline," the movie serial which has been so widely exploited.

Small Talk of the Stage

Although he aimed his play directly at the Boston state of mind, that community is not overly kind, it is reported, to William Dodge's "The Road to Happiness."

Frank Tinney has been added to the cast of the revue called "Watch Your Step!" The cast already was one of celebrities.

Bills Burke's adopted daughter, Cherie Watson, will be a member of Rose Stahl's company this season, playing an unnamed character by Channing Pollock and Renold Wolf.

Emma Trentini has arrived in America to begin rehearsals of the Vienna operetta, "Poien Blut."

Among the revivals now on in London are "The Silver King," "The Chocolate Soldier," and "The Little Minister."

The Lieber Company has engaged Philip Merivale for the leading role of "Pygmalion." Merivale played "Romeo" at the Lyric Theatre, "Julius" at His Majesty's Theatre, London.

Victor Morley, who will be seen at the Columbia this week in "My Best Girl," and Clifton Clifton, who composed the music for the piece, spent the summer together in London. Part of their time was spent in hard work on the play, but most of the period went to genuine vacation.

The New York season of the New York Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Walter Damrosch, will begin on October 23, with Efrim Zimbalist as the assisting soloist. They will be heard in this city October 27.

Edith Luckett, one of the Washington girls who is rapidly forging to the front as an actress, is reported to have made the hit of her career in Baltimore last Monday night. The leading woman for Chauncey Olcott in "The Heart of Paddy Whack." Miss Luckett is a sister of Joseph E. Luckett, the well-known theatrical manager.

Odetta Tyler has completely recovered from the accident to her kneecap, which caused her to spend several weeks at the Garfield Hospital, New York City. Her home at Berkeley Springs and will be at her Washington home until January, when she expects to spend some time in New York.

Otto Hauerbach, who wrote the book of lyrics for "High Jinks," which comes to the Belasco this week, is a native of Madison, Wis., and, despite his name, he is not of German parentage. When Mr. Hauerbach took up the writing of musical comedies he was a reporter on a Chicago newspaper.

Washington music lovers will have an opportunity again this season to see Josef Stransky conduct the Philharmonic Society concerts at the new National Theater. For the first appearance of the winter the assisting artist will be Mme. Johanna Gadski. The soloists for the other two concerts will be Osgo Gabriowitsch, the concert pianist, and Mme. Elena Gerhardt, soprano.

Before he became a playwright Eugene Walter was a newspaper man, a fact which accounts for the very humorous reporter who is one of the leading characters in Mr. Walter's big drama, "Fine Feathers," which is to have its first presentation in stock in Washington this week.

Otis Skinner's supporting company in his new play, "The Silent Voice," contains the names of George Gail, Owen Meach, Florence Fisher, Eugene Woodward, Harry Sothern, Esther Cornell, Walter F. Root, Winona Denmark, Philip Leigh, Ruth Farnham, Wade Boteler, and Mrs. Otis Skinner.

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PRIZE PLAY TO BE PRODUCED SHORTLY

Winthrop Ames Sets Date for Showing "Children of Earth" to the Public. Winthrop Ames, director of the Little Theater, New York, announces that he will produce Alice Brown's play, "Children of Earth," which won the \$10,000 prize offered by him for the best American play by a native author, about Thanksgiving.

This declaration is still another step in a contest that has aroused international attention and comment. It was begun March 2, 1913, to close the following August, the announcement of the winner to be made as soon as possible after that date; but so many plays manuscripts—1,854, to be precise—were submitted that it was found out of the ques-

tion to peruse them carefully and select the one composition without waiting until June 1 of the current year. On that date Alice Brown was heralded as the recipient of the \$10,000 check. Her play, "Children of Earth," was described as a serious drama of New England life. Adolph Klausner, then critic of the New York Times; Augustus Thomas, and Mr. Ames were the judges. The prize was the largest ever offered in a competition of the kind. And it does not stand for the outright purchase of the play, but merely advances royalties, which may be exceeded by the degree of the play's prosperity.

That a drama by a woman who had already demonstrated her skill in one division of literary craftsmanship, but had not yet ventured into the field of the drama, save with a few one-act contributions, won out, is a tribute to the discernment of the judges and a lesson to struggling authors. Miss Brown has to her credit a number of published stories, mostly about New England life, which she has studied long and thoroughly at first hand.

One of the new features introduced by Manager Peck at the Gayety are the bright green uniforms and caps to match worn by all attaches of the theater.

Julian Eltinge in "The Crinoline Girl" will follow Chauncey Olcott at the Columbia Theater.

"Mr. Wu," Walker Whiteside's new play, will make its debut October 13 at the Maxine Elliott Theater, New York. Among those in the cast are Hollister Pratt, Cecile Waldron, Dierdra Doyle, Frank Wapperman, and E. H. Raitcliff.

A proof that the war is not playing such general havoc with the theatrical interests as might be expected is shown in the number of productions which have been made this season. To date thirty-three new attractions have been offered for approval, and of this list but ten have fallen by the wayside for want of patronage.

Lillian Kingsbury is to play an important role in "The Song of Songs," written by Edward Sheldon and produced by Charles Frohman. It goes into rehearsal shortly.

Agnes Dornes has been engaged by Leiber & Co. for a part in "The Garden of Paradise," which is to be their next production.

The honor of playing in San Francisco during the opening weeks of the Panama Pacific Exposition has been conferred upon "My Best Girl." Victor Morley who plays the principal role in the Pollock-Wolf-Crawford musical comedy is particularly popular on the Pacific Coast and "My Best Girl" is said to be one of the best musical pieces produced in recent years.

AMUSEMENTS. AMUSEMENTS.

WASHINGTON'S LEADING THEATER ALL THIS WEEK Matinee Thurs. and Sat. PRICES—Ers., 50c to \$2.00; Bargain Mat. Thurs., 50c, 75c, and \$1.00

THE SENSATIONAL MUSICAL COMEDY SUCCESS "MY BEST GIRL" WITH VICTOR MORLEY

A Company of Sixty Metropolitan Favorites INCLUDING THE PRETTIEST, LIVELIEST, AND DANCIEST CHORUS OF THE SEASON 21 Musical Gems 12 Big Dancing Numbers ENTIRE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

SEATS ON SALE TUESDAY 8:30 CHAUNCEY OLCOTT "The Heart of Paddy Whack"

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BELASCO WASHINGTON'S PLAYHOUSE BEAUTIFUL PRESENTING ON ITS STAGE AT ALL TIMES ONLY THE BEST

OTIS SKINNER THE SILENT VOICE

THE MISLEADING LADY

THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK ORCHESTRA

KEITH'S BAYES

THE ROSEY POSEY GIRLS

THE MASTER MIND

GAYETY BURLESQUE DE LUXE

THE ROSEY POSEY GIRLS COMPANY OF FORTY JOLLY PEOPLE

BASEBALL World's Series Game Tomorrow

LADIES' MATINEE EVERY DAY, 10c COUNTRY STORE FRIDAY NIGHT

HOPE OF NEW YORK DEMOCRATS

In the United States and Canada. Mr. Jerome's lecture, which is to be given at the Belasco Theater at 4:30 on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 27, is illustrative of his connection with many things pertaining to the stage and its associates, and has as its foundation readings from his well-known "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," from "Miss Hobbs," from "John Ingfield," and from several other plays that have not been produced in America.

Chocolat waterfall, Yosemite, is 2,364 feet high.



MARTIN H. GLYNN

Jerome K. Jerome to Lecture Here. The J. B. Pond Lyceum Bureau announces that it has completed arrangements with Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, the famous English author and dramatist, for a second American and Canadian tour during the season of 1914-15. Mr. Jerome will come to this country for a short time this autumn and deliver a limited number of talks in some of the larger cities.

BETTER THAN SPANKING. Spanking does not cure children of bed-wetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box W, Notre Dame, Ind., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment, with full instructions. Send no money, but write her today if your children trouble in this way. Don't blame the child; the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night. Adv.

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