IN THE SOCIAL SWIM.

Topics of interest to society people are intelligently discussed in the following paragraphs. The writer also answers many questions on points of etiquette raised by correspondents. The average man or woman, whether in society or out, will find the replies both interesting and instructive:

First—At an afternoon card party, where ladies only are present, am I, as hostess, to go to the dining room first, or to follow the guests, directed by a servant?

Second—And on returning to the drawing room, do I go first?

Third—In taking callers into the parlor, should I lead the way, or step back and say, "Please step into, etc.?"

MISS IGNORANCE.

First—Yes, go first.

Second—Yes.

Third—Lead the way to the door, open it and invite the guests to precede you.

Should a lady and gentleman attend a church wedding in full dress?

Would it be proper for lady to wear light dress, opera cloak and to remove her bonnet?

In the evening yes, if preferred. In the afternoon it is not customary, but in some instances full dress is worn by ladies who contemplate attending a reception afterward. Gentlemen wear full dress at evening weddings, but not at other times.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS.

Will you please write me a letter of congratulations for a lady friend's birthday? M. H. E.

Any simple form suffices for a purpose of this kind, much, however, depending upon your degree of intimacy with your friend. If only an acquaintance, your visiting card with the word "Congratulations" written upon it will do. From this point you can elaborate as taste or inclinations prompt. You can say, "With sincere congratulations," or, "With sincere congratulations, and wishing you many returns of the day," or, "I congratulate you upon your birthday, and wish for you every possible happiness," and so on. These may be written on your card or sent in form of a note. It is not in good taste to send elaborate congratulations or to be in any way effusive.

WHEN VEILS ARE WORN.

Is it customary for ladies to wear veils to the theater? IGNORANCE.

A veil is for the street, and not for the theater, or concert or other public entertainments.

WEDDINGS AT HOME.

First—At an "at home" wedding that is at the bride's house, who receives the invited guests?

Second—Are they introduced to each other and by whom?

Third—When the reception follows the wedding are cards inclosed to the invitation to that effect, or is it necessary when all the guests are to remain to the reception?

First—Some relative or friend selected for the purpose.

Second—No.

Third—Yes. It is customary to engrave on the cards "Reception from ——," here giving the hours.

CONDUCT OF ENGAGED COUPLES.

First—I am a young lady engaged to a man I truly love. We are of opposite religions—he devoted to his, and with a resolution of iron; I, the same. He absolutely refuses to have the ceremony performed in any other than his own church. I desire and demand that the ceremony should be in my church. I told him I have the right, and think the etiquette should be shown to me. Am I right or wrong?

Second—The man to whom I'm engaged also says I must, as a young lady, love, honor and obey, etc. I say not, until I'm Mrs. Blank. Again, am I right or wrong? A.

First—It is customary to yield this matter to the decision of the bride, but circumstances make differences. In cases where one is a Romanist and the other a Protestant two ceremonies take place, the Catholic Church not considering a Protestant marriage valid. Some such feeling may animate a High Churchman, who cannot consider a marriage in an Evangelical church as admissible. In such a case it would be proper for the latter to yield to the wishes of the groom. In fact, too much stubborness on her part does not promise well for the future happiness of the couple.

Second—The obligation to "love, honor and obey" begins with the marriage ceremony.

WEDDING CARDS.

First—Which is the proper way for a young couple in moderate circumstances to send out marriage cards, before or after marriage, or both?

Second—Would it be the proper thing to give a breakfast, or supper if later in the day, where only the immediate families are to be present, and that in a private house?

Third—Is it customary to send out wedding cake or cards, or both, or how? H. J. F.

First—The cards are usually sent before marriage. But sometimes announcement cards merely are sent after marriage.

Second—Yes.

Third—Wedding cake is not now sent out. Guests at the reception after the ceremony are handed a small box containing a piece of the wedding cake.

INTRODUCTIONS AT TABLE.

When seated at the dinner table a gentleman comes in. On being introduced to him by the hostess I find that he is back of me. Should I put myself in an awkward position by twisting my head around to speak to him or should I leave my seat at the table? A. J.

An introduction should not be given when persons are seated at table. If an introduction is forced upon one an inclination of the head and a word are all that is necessary. One should not rise from the table, or twist around, or attempt to shake hands, as anything of the kind is very disturbing to other people at table.

A VARIETY OF TOPICS.

First—"Vivian" wishes to know if a young lady should invite a gentleman, or should he ask permission to call.

Second—In introducing a minister should he be addressed as Mr. or Rev.?

Third—Would it be considered bad form for a couple not engaged to attend church together?

First—The invitation to call should be extended by the mother. If the gentleman asks permission to call the young lady can assent by her mother's permission.

Second—In introducing a clergyman his title, reverend or doctor, should be mentioned, but while, if a doctor, he may be addressed as such, as a reverend merely he should be addressed as mister.

Third—No.

DINNERS AT HOME.

If one has no servants and wishes to give a dinner to one's relations and intimate friends how should it be served? Should all the dishes and desserts be placed on the table and should the hostess assist the host in serving them? What would be suitable and dainty for such a dinner? BESSIE.

First—If there are no servants a dinner in courses is impossible. The dessert, excepting the fruit, should stand on a side table. The fruit may be placed in the middle of the table as a decoration. The host should carve the meat, the hostess serving the vegetables and the dessert, and by necessity she must remove the dishes for the dessert.

Second—The principal dish might be of roast or boiled fowl, and served with Italian macaroni and mashed potatoes, baked, followed by a salad. For dessert a Roman punch, a biscuit glace or ice cream with cake, followed by fruit, nuts and raisins.

ESCORTS AT THEATERS.

"Dick," Martin's Ferry, O., writes: When I accompany my "girl" and her sister or chum to church or a playhouse, where should I sit—between them or next to the aisle?

In church it is customary for the escort to sit next to the aisle; at the theater or concert an outside seat is commonly chosen by the man. Take that seat which would enable you to aid them best in case of danger or an emergency, and recollect that two young ladies at an entertainment love dearly to chat together, which they cannot do if you are between them.

ASSISTING WITH OVERCOATS.

First—Is it proper for a young lady to assist a gentleman on with his overcoat when leaving after a call?

Second—Is it proper for a young lady to attend the theater with a gentleman without a chaperon? H. N. J.

First—No

Second—It is not considered proper among fastidious people, but is often done. Certain classes do not think it objectionable. In Europe it is practically never done.

GENTLEMEN'S CALLS.

It is expected that a gentleman should call on a young lady after having taken her out to an entertainment, a party or a ball? G. A. ROSE.

Yes.

MAKING STRANGERS' ACQUAINTANCE.

If you admire an actor or actress, and wish to meet him or her, as the case may be, simply to exchange a few words and express your admiration to the object of it, what means should you employ, and is such a favor usually accorded anyone who may ask it? ENWIN.

Emphatically do not employ any means to bring such an end about. It would be vulgar and pert. If you chance to meet an actor or actress in society, express the pleasure you have felt in seeing them act, but do not seek them; do not devise means to meet them, for this would be lacking in self respect and the reticence that becomes a young woman.

THE AUTHOR OF "DON'T."

Social Events.

The Shadyside Cotillon Club will give its first cotillon on Friday, March 22, at the Sterritt school, East End.

Miss Butler, of Collins avenue, East End, entertained a number of lady friends on Friday afternoon from 3 to 6.

Mr. and Mrs. E. DeRoy will celebrate their silver wedding next Wednesday at their residence, on Sheffield street.

A reception was held by Miss Manna Wiseman, of the East End, from 6 to 9 P. M., in honor of her eleventh birthday.

Miss Birdie Reed, of Shadyside, gave a birthday party to a number of her friends Friday evening. She was assisted by the Misses Reed, G. Webb and D. Schmidt.

Miss Mame L. Lindsay gave a reception to her friends at her residence on Rebecca street, Allegheny, Thursday evening. Dancing was indulged in until a late hour, after which a lunch was served.

At the Carroll Club, of the East End, literary meetings have become quite a feature. The last one was on Thursday evening, at which a mock trial was held, and served to bring out some very respectable legal talent.

The Misses Dunn, of Fulton street, entertained a number of their friends on Friday evening. Songs, music and recitations helped to while away earlier portion of the night, when cards occupied the attention of the guests. This was followed by lunch, after which the party reluctantly said good night.

The following programme has been arranged for the Y. M. H. A. entertainment, to be held shortly at Cyclorama Hall: Orator of the evening, Mr. Marcus Aarons; reading, Harry Levy; declamations, Messrs. Adolph and Floersheim; journalist of the occasion, Mr. Joseph Feldenheimer.

Miss Jean Jordon was married Wednesday evening to Andrew Herron at her home on Herron Hill, by the Rev. Charles Herron, of Curwensville. The house was tastily ornamented with ferns, palms and flowers. The young bride was assisted in receiving by Thomas Herron and Miss Kate Hay, of Bismarck, Dakota, who are East on their bridal tour. Andrew and his bride went south to spend their honeymoon, and the Western couple continued east.

One of the pleasant social events of the week was the surprise party given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, of Congress street, Thursday evening. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. McCrickart, Mr. and Mrs. Weber, Mr. and Mrs. A. Letche, Misses Lillie Keidel, Lillie Letche, Annie Weber, Dittler, Wilson and Messrs. Keidel, Weber, Miller, L. Keidel, F. Schaffer, W. Letsche, W. Simpson, H. Henninghuse, H. Stone, Sheriff McCandless and many others.

Mr. C. W. Smith gave a delightful surprise party Wednesday to his daughter Sadie. Among those present were Misses Carrie Geisler, Mary Jones, Annie Wilson, Maggie Smith, Winnie Gould, Annie Wasman, Sadie Smith, Jean Goff, Annie Smith, Lizzie Smith, Lizzie Dalzell, Bertha Smith, Josie Johnson, Lizzie Vogal, Mollie Price, Mrs. Ray McLain; Messrs. William Doran, Samuel Brooks, John Jones, Frank Smith, Homer Romic, James Stephens, John Smith, Harley Milligan, Louis Jones, D. R. Hughes, Edward Hughes, George Hughes, Charles A. Hutchinson, and others.

A delightful party was given by Mr. Samuel Truby, at the residence of his aunt, Mrs. Joseph Smith, Zion and Western street, West End, on Tuesday evening, in honor of Miss Blanch Hughes, of Brooklyn. Among those present were Misses May Wilson, of Fairview, W. Va.; Ettie Harper, Lulu Miller, Laura and Emma French, Annie M. Smith, Bella Esplen, Blanch Hughes, Sadie Auth, Mary Gray, Maggie and Lizzie Hains, Emma and Amanda Wettengel, Sadie Work, John Cunnabon, Jim Graham, Harry Wettengel, Sam Truby, Al Easton, Charlie Sprung, Con Wells, Monroe Smith, George Auth, Charlie Dorington, Charlie Pedder and Tom Hawkins.

One of the pleasant events of the season took place near Nicklelville, Venango county, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday of last week, it being the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Downing. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Neithercout, of Bakerstown, Pa.; Mr. H. E. Lynn, New Castle, Pa.; Mrs. F. Lynn and her daughter, Miss Minnie, of Allegheny City; Miss H. Nickle, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. D. Moriarty and her daughter, Miss Nellie, of Emlenton, Mr. Gilger, of Oil City; Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cribbs, Findlay, O.; Mr. J. D. Downing, Eldred, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. George Downing, Rockland; Miss Mary Downing, Marisville, and Mr. and Mrs. James Shannon, also of Rockland.

Among the pleasant events of the past week was the reception given by Mr. Samuel Harper and his wife at their residence, Wabash avenue, West End, Monday evening, to the members of his Sunday school class, numbering some 20 young ladies and their gentlemen friends. It was the occasion of his birthday anniversary. Mr. John Weaver, Superintendent of the Main Street M. E. Sunday School, in behalf of the class, presented Mr. Harper with an elegant hanging and shaving mirror. After Mr. Harper thanked the young ladies. Among the many present were: Misses Emma and Amanda Wettengel, Eva Beacom, Ida Hershberger, Laura and Emma French, Annie M. Smith, Mary Grey, Lulu Miller, Bella Esplen, Mollie Powelson, Annie Craft, Lizzie and Kate Crozier, Annie Roberts, Mrs. Annie Allen, Mrs. Mollie Edwards, Mrs. Ed Allen, Mrs. H. Briggs, Mrs. J. Weaver, Misses Ettie, Ida and Ethel Harper, and Blanch Hughes, of Brooklyn, Pa., Messrs. J. Bailey, Ed Jack, Frank Kay, Jim Graham, David Moore, Harry Wettengel, Con Wells, John Phillips, Monroe Smith, Al Wensell, Ed Jennings, Ed Hays, Sam Truby, Dan Buckley, Joe Allen, Charlie Edwards, Masters Arthur and Willie Harper, and Mr. Samuel Wood.

Wedding Bells.

The marriage of Mr. Alex Gordon Paden and Miss Edna Paul Keslar will take place at the residence of the bride's mother, corner Arch and Montgomery avenue, Allegheny, Thursday evening, March 28, at 7 o'clock.

Personal Gossip.

W. N. Gordon left for Cincinnati last night on a short trip.

Miss Sadie Herron, of Allegheny, is visiting friends in Kittanning.

Miss Grace O'Neil, of Elizabeth, is visiting in Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Miss Bianca DeRoy returned home from an extended visit to her sister in New York.

Mrs. John Gallagher, of Chicago, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Henderson, of Herron Hill.

Miss B. Croese, of Leetsdale, Pa., is spending a couple of weeks with her brother, of Allegheny, Pa.

Mrs. W. S. Cunningham, of Congress street, city, returned home on Friday, after a brief visit to her mother, out the Panhandle road.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Koch, nee Sadie DeRoy, have arrived from New York to attend the silver wedding of their parents.

The Misses Jennie and Nellie McGlynn, of Philadelphia, after a pleasant visit of four weeks with Mr. and Mrs. John N. Hazlett, of Oakland, returned home yesterday.

Mrs. Charles Conavan, of Dickson, Dak., returned home yesterday after spending two or three weeks very pleasantly with Mr. A. Cyphers and family and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haid.

Mr. and Mrs. N. F. McClinton, of Allegheny, left for Carlisle, Ill., last week, which is to be their future home. Word has been received from the young people that they are very well pleased with the country.

Thomas Chalfant and wife, of the East End, and Miss Lizzie Carr, of the Southside, returned yesterday from a two weeks' tour through the East, where they have been visiting Washington, Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

Among the recent arrivals at the Hotel Royal, Atlantic City are: Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thompson, Miss Thompson, Miss Finze, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Porter, G. G. Berry and family, J. F. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Mendenhall, Miss Hennebery, Joseph Dalzell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ralston, Mrs. Robert Stuart, of Pittsburg; Mrs. A. A. Moore, Miss Moore, of Allegheny; J. G. Reading and family, of Wheeling.

NEWS OF THE DRAMA.

BIJOU THEATER.... Emma Abbott
HARRIS' THEATER.. "Keep it Dark"
GRAND OPERA HOUSE.. The Florences
ACADEMY OF MUSIC.. Irwin Brothers Co.
CASINO MUSEUM.... Curiosities, etc.

The above are the theatrical attractions for this week.

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That Messrs. Robson and Crane will never be seen together upon the same stage is a matter of great regret. "The Henrietta" will be seen here again no doubt, with Stuart Robson as *Bertie* the lamb, but there will be no Mr. Crane to make *Old Nick* of Wall street such a truthful picture of an American type. The loss will not be to the public alone. It is very unlikely that Mr. Robson will be able to fill Mr. Crane's place, and there will be a gap in "The Henrietta" which will be painfully apparent.

It would be much easier, to my thinking, for Mr. Crane to obtain a substitute for Mr. Robson, clever as that actor is.

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"The Henrietta, however, in anything like competent hands will be a popular and artistic success for a very long while to come. It is the best work of the best dramatist America boasts. The rare union in it of witty modern dialogue, with an intelligible and sharply dramatic plot, equipped with unforced yet forcible situations, is the source of "The Henrietta's" strength. There have been immense audiences in the Grand Opera House at every performance.

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One of the reports concerning the Abbott company, which will be at the Bijou this week, is that it will shortly be joined by a young tenor, who comes from Southern Kentucky and has already astonished everybody who has heard him sing with the beauty and power of his voice.

So enthusiastic are his friends that one of them has written to Mr. Pratt, manager of Emma Abbott, asking that the youth be heard and given a trial of his powers. Mr. Pratt has replied, saying to send the youth at once to Philadelphia and he will put him in expenses and have a trial by the most proficient masters to be found in that city and New York, Emma Abbott to be one of the examiners. The Philadelphia correspondent of THE DISPATCH found Mr. Pratt at the Continental Hotel on Thursday last and asked to be put in possession of the facts. The latter was loth to say much about the matter, but finally admitted that such an examination was to take place if the young man arrives in time, otherwise in Chicago.

"There really is such a person, then?" the correspondent asked.

"Yes," replied Mr. Pratt, "but I know nothing of his wonderful voice further than what has been written to me. I all is true as has been written to me, a tenor of the first magnitude may have been found, but until his voice has been thoroughly tested, tried and retried and we know exactly what it is, its compass, quality, strength and range, I do not care to give an opinion."

"If his voice is found to be as represented, what then?"

"Why, I shall most assuredly engage him for a term of years, send him abroad for study and in due time possibly introduce the great American tenor that the critics have been clamoring for so long."

"Will you give his name?"

"Not until after the trial. It would be hardly fair to him, and would be distasteful to me."

Possibly the great American tenor has been born at last.

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Referring to the clamor which has been cleverly created about Mrs. James G. Blaine, Jr., the *Dramatic Mirror* asks: "And in the name of all that is sound, and sensible, upon what basis of promise or of performance has she—a pretty, but utterly untried, untrained and inexperienced person—found herself sought and secured as a "star" by a manager to whom we have been taught to look as a sturdy maintainer of the dignity of the stage and supporter of the worthier professional element?"

Upon a basis neither weaker nor stronger than that upon which Mrs. Langtry or Mrs. Potter obtained backing. The basis is usually called notoriety.

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It is a phase of human nature to underestimate the real worth of familiar things and persons. "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country." The schoolmate of an early day can scarcely credit the rumored eminence of some former companion, and people are apt to accept as a matter of course the excellence of a public entertainment or a favorite newspaper without giving proper credit to the ability and effort of those who provide the enjoyment. William J. Florence is one of the many who have suffered from this bane of familiarity. He is popular, everybody likes him, but he is known as "Billy" and has been for many years "one of us." The result is that his eminent merits as an actor do not commonly receive the recognition to which they are fairly entitled. In the rare range of characters which Mr. Florence has essayed during his career and the individual strength he has given to each type, he is today, and has been for many years, a comedian of whom the American people may be as proud as the English are of Toole, and as the French are of Coquelin.

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Some years ago the Florences were among the principal theatrical attractions in their specialities—Mr. Florence in the portraiture of the Irish character and Mrs. Florence as the Yankee girl. Since then Mr. Florence has run the entire gamut of character and comedy acting. *Obbnreiser*, in Dicken's "No Thoroughfare," was conceded to be one of the strongest impersonations of its time. *Bob Brierly*, in "The Ticket of Leave Man," enabled him to show his capacity for romantic character. *Bardwell Slote*, in "The Mighty Dollar," is an original creation, giving dramatic shape to a type of American character which is as distinct as the old-time Yankee. His *Captain Cuttle* is a picture, and he invests it with a heartiness and humor that is simply irresistible. There is not space to recall all his successes, but enough has been written to suggest that Mr. Florence has probably covered a wider range of comedy character than any other American actor. HEPBURN JOHNS.

This Week's Attractions.

THE repertoire of the Emma Abbott company is arranged as follows: Monday, "The Yeomen of the Guard;" Tuesday, "Rose of Castile;" Wednesday matinee, "Chimes of Normandy;" Wednesday evening, "Lucia, Bride of Lammermoor;" Thursday, "Il Trovatore;" Friday, "Norma;" Saturday, Abbott matinee, "The Yeomen of the Guard;" Saturday evening, "Bohemian Girl." "The Yeomen of the Guard," Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, naturally excites most curiosity. The plot is a very humorous one. *Jack Point*, "a fellow of infinite jest," like *Yorrick*, supplies most of the fun, but there is hardly a situation that is devoid of it. *ElsieMaynard* and *Colonel Fairfax*, the dashing officer doomed to lose his head, are the romantic figures of the plot. But through the strategy of *Sergeant Meryll Fairfax* is saved, in the disguise of *Leonard*, the Sergeant's son, who must then take himself off to be out of the way, and matters become shockingly mixed, and poor *Elsie* is in despair. So is *Point*, and *Shadbalt*, and everybody. The yeomen do an abundance of the heroic, as usual, and in conjunction with citizens engage in some tremendous chorus singing at opportune periods. The plot unfolds with constantly increasing interest to the climax, the songs, duos, trios and partpieces being in splendid accord with the conflicting and rapidly changeful succession of events. *Shadbalt* is desperately enamored of *Phoebe*, and she as desperately repulses him, *Fairfax* grows tender toward the fair *Elsie*, and makes love to her with the ardor of *Romeo*, all the while she is his wife, yet he is *Leonard* and must love *Fairfax* only, having wed him for an hour, but alas! he was not executed and she is bound to him, though to all intents he is a fugitive and lost, no one knows where. Some of the ensemble parts grow more and more exciting. *Dame Carruthers* counters everything and everybody and keeps affairs in desperate confusion. At last *Fairfax* is reprieved, and lo! there he is, emerges from the semblance of *Leonard* and assumes his own personality and claims his wife *Elsie*. *Leonard* returns, *Shadbolt* succeeds in winning our *Phoebe*, *Sergeant Meryll* woos and weds *Dame Carruthers*, and all ends gloriously. The orchestration of the opera is its strongest point.

THERE are few in Pittsburg who have not seen Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence, and the fact that they will be at the Grand Opera House for six nights and a Saturday matinee is hailed with delight by their friends and admirers. Their engagement opens to-morrow evening in their well-known comedy, "The Mighty Dollar." It is their intention to present four of their most popular plays, and their repertoire for the week runs thus: Monday and Thursday, "The Mighty Dollar;" Tuesday evening and Saturday matinee, their latest success, "Heart of Hearts," will receive its first representations here. It is a comedy by the author of "The Silver King." It ran 150 nights at the Madison Square Theater, New York, last season, and its success upon the road has been remarkable. Though billed as a comedy, it is really a drama of domestic life, taking its name from a valuable ruby bracelet which the heroine is suspected of stealing. There are several strong dramatic situations in it which admit of fine acting, and its comedy is said to be delightfully original. Mr. Florence assumes two distinct and strongly contrasted parts—an English butler with rare comedy proclivities, and a melodramatic role full of pathos and sentiment. Mrs. Florence impersonates the butler's bride, a titled lady, "married low, but looking high." Wednesday and Saturday evenings, Brougham's dramatization of Charles Dickens' "Dombey and Son," will be given, with Florence as the quaint old English mariner, *Captain Cuttle*. Friday, the only performance of "Our Governor, or His Little Hatchet," will be given. The company supporting the Florences this season is said to be the strongest they have ever had. Mrs. Florence's wardrobe is more elaborate than ever.

Of "Keep It Dark," the comedy by George Hoey, which will be seen at Harris' Theater this week, the Detroit *Free Press* recently said: "Keep It Dark" is clean, amusing, well acted, and a noteworthy popular success. Its musical moments are exceptionally agreeable, inasmuch as there are several good voices in the company and the selections of the kind to tickle the general ear. *Julia*, "Pot" Wilson, one of the "Joshua Whitcomb contingent," sings prettily and displays a good measure of cultivation. She is decidedly an acquisition to the present company. Her personal attractiveness quite equals her musical talent. She is of the "cute" order of little women, and all the ladies in front delight in her. W. T. Bryant's happiest bit in the character of the *Great Fad* inventor is a grotesque and highly original dance at the end of act second. He is a clever fun maker. Miss Lizzie Richmond occupies no inconsiderable space in the representation; she fills her role with much acceptability. James Boyle, a comedian, compels much laughter by his antics. John C. Harrington sings capitally and plays two characters with genuine humor and discretion. A neat and clever impersonation is the *Mosthering* of Edward S. Halstead, and creditable work is done in various ways by W. W. Black, Louis Theil, Miss Lena W. Cole, Miss Lillian Lawrence and Miss Alice Green.

AT Harry Williams' Academy the attraction for this week is Irwin Brothers' big specialty show. It will bring to the Academy a host of particular stars in the variety firmament. James Irwin does balancing, juggling, etc, Alice Raymond is a fine cornet player, and Richmond and Glenroy are capital sketch artists. McNell and McCale are full of Irish fun, and a number of clever people are in the company, which will wind up the performance with an amusing comedy called "McNulty's Misfortune."

THERE will be a series of very attractive entertainments at Old City Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday next, under the management and for the benefit of the Grand Army of the Republic. There is no charge for booking reserved seats, but as a great crowd is expected, people should get their seats early.

THE Casino Museum comes out heavily with Samson, the strongest man on earth, as its greatest star. A new variety bill is offered also.

Echoes of the Stage.

LOTTA goes directly to her hotel after a play, eats a bowl of bread and milk, and retires.

"THE Stowaway" will be revealed nightly at the Bijou during week of March 25. It will also be seen at the customary matinees.

HELEN BARRY will open the next season of the Union Square Theater in a new play by Malcolm Watson, an English playwright, entitled "Love and Liberty." The play has proved successful in London.

IF Mary Anderson ever returns to St. Louis she should take a "tank" along for the Perdita scene in "The Winter's Tale" and dive off the rock in a rubber suit, so as to show the critics out there that she can paddle a little. She is given the opportunity, says *Le Chat Noir*.

KATE LESTER, of "The Cavalier" Company, displayed nerve and judgment at the matinee at Palmer's New York Theater on last Saturday afternoon. A pile of floor cloth caught fire and burned rapidly. Miss Lester saw the blaze, and instead of screaming quietly told a stage hand, who put the fire out before it was seen by the audience. The latter was slightly burned on the hands and arms.

PREPARATIONS for the production of "The Oolah," by Fracis Wilson and his company, at the Broadway Theater, on May 13, are going actively forward. On Monday Phil Goatcher and four assistants began work on the scenery, 50 girls were put to work at Dazian's on the wardrobe, and Richard Barker has begun work on the manuscript. Orders for seats to the number of 240 odd have already been received for the opening night.

THE London correspondent of the *Dramatic Mirror* writes: Mr. W. Shakespeare's fine Roman tragedy, "Julius Cæsar," has been played this week at Oxford University by the Varsity Dramatic Club, usually a good set of players. Among the representers of the minor characters is Henry Irving's other son, Henry B.—B stands for Brodribb, you know, which is our leading actor's very own name. Irving fils, who gets himself up in exact imitation of Irving pere, is not altogether devoid of self-assurance, and he has this week received so many puffs preliminary that I shrewdly suspect that he has been compelled to order a larger sized hat.

THE custom of making-up to resemble prominent personages of marked individuality is a favorite one with some actors. Manager Palmer has been used as a model for benevolent fathers, retired merchants and family doctors time and again. In "A Midnight Bell," Mr. Humphreys, as the bank cashier, builds up his countenance on the J. M. Hill plan very successfully. The bland forehead, the placid mouth, the proverbial whiskers and the familiar soft felt hat are shown with startling fidelity, and when he speaks we instinctively lean forward to hear all about the latest banner week of Murray and Murphy, and to catch on to the prodigious number of oyster stews sold during a month at Boston's bivalvuiar palace. Of course we are delicately pointed—the cashier talks about the robbery of his bank and we settle back with a sigh of regret.

HERE is a chunk of sense from *Le Chat Noir:* There was an intense power of acting that died with Charles R. Thorne, Jr. It was one of the most thoroughly American excellences in our drama that I ever saw. It had the tried gleam of perfect steel in it. It was manhood pure and simple. Lord, what a splendid thing is manhood! We are only pretending to be satisfied with the sweet-fern stage heroes of now. They are as pretty as clean babies and as kissable, but we would every one of us like to see them snap with the true passion of powerful maturity. While they flicker against a background of fine scenery, like sprays of mignonette against a sapphire sky, we are listening for the crack of a thong whip, and looking for the oak to be splintered by tempestuous lightning. Consider Herbert Kelcey's mustache, how it grows, and then try to imagine a tempest near. Regard the curling breaker of Kyrle Bellew's bang, and then try to hear the mutterings of the storm and the boom of the great, mad sea. Examine the cameo precision of Frank Carlyle's profile, the languorous wreath of Maurice Barrymore's upper lip, and the very proper intonation of Henry Miller's lovely declamation, and then try to call up to your drowsy mind the whirpool and avalanche of masculine grandeur.

B. P. O. E. Notes.

How about a social session before leaving the old hall.

MR. GEORGE HEINES took his first degree at the last meeting.

AUGUSTA, Ga., and Fort Wayne, Ind., both want Elk lodges.

CINCINNATI LODGE No. 5 will be here 100 strong at the reunion.

BROTHER LEWIS, of No. 1, was here all last week with Robson and Crane.

THE Benefit Committee made their report at the last communication, and it was very satisfactory.

IT is now Brother Altmeyer and Brother Grabing, Jr., as they both received their second at the last communication.

QUITE a number of members of Pittsburg Lodge attended the Grand Opera House in a body on Wednesday evening.

BROTHERS ROBSON and Crane, of St. Louis Lodge, played a very successful week at the Grand Opera House last week.

MR. VAN OSTEN, of the Lilly Clay Company, received his first and second under dispensation at the last communication.

BROTHER JOHN D. THOMPSON, of Providence Lodge, returned from Europe on last Monday, and spent all the week in Pittsburg.

BROTHER LEW MOORE, of New York Lodge, left on Friday evening to travel through the States of Ohio and Michigan, and will not return until the reunion in June.

BROTHER JAMES ORR, of Lima, O., Lodge, spent a few days in the city last week on his way home, after spending a couple of weeks at his former home, Bradford, Pa.

BROTHER FRED. BREUNING, of Pittsburg Lodge No. 11, will be joined in the holy bonds on April 11. Here's hoping that his future days may be as pleasant as the past.

THE printing committee should also meet on the same evening. They are as follows: George A. Madden, John N. Hazlett, Stepen Hornett, James F. Moore, W. H. Watson and Sheldon C. Freeman.

ANNIE PIXLEY received as a present from New York Lodge, B. P. O. E., an Elk's badge beautifully set with diamonds. The presentation was made on the stage during the performance of "No. 12, Second Floor," in New York.

THE executive committee met on last Saturday evening, and have finally arranged a date for the reunion. June 19, 20 and 21 are the days set. Now that the dates are made the different committees should meet to organize at once and elect their chairman and secretary. The finance committee will meet on Thursday evening in Brother J. J. O'Reilly's office, Smith & Friday building, at 7:30 o'clock. They are as follows: Levi DeWolf, John Wamser, Matthias Weiss, J. W. Piatt, George Reineman, Quincy A. Robinson, J. J. O'Reilly, C. E. Swartwood, Thomas McElwaine, Joseph Ellenberger, A. A. Heiner, E. Z. Wainwright, W. H. Porter, Joseph Beihlman, F. J. Breuning, James F. Galvin, George J. Schmidt, Charles Breuning, George McIntyre, Harry Alden, F. H. Carle, J. P. McCord and H. B. Orr.

THE Gallipolis *Journal* says of the B. P. O. Elks: This is an order the coming of which our city may well be proud. The noble and grand principles of the order make it welcome in every community. It is a friend to the widow and orphan, the needy and distressed, carrying out the tenets of Christianity. Its social characteristics essentially distinguish it. Its members believe in making life pleasant and agreeable to all, and for that purpose hold their "social sessions" for both gentlemen and ladies, to which all are compelled to contribute their part is the way of speech, song, dance or whatever they may be called upon to perform. The groundwork of the order is the "Golden Rule," with its motto as follows: "The faults of our brothers we will write on the sand; their virtues on the tables of love and memory."

ART NOTES AND GOSSIP.

THE Pittsburg Art Society held a meeting last Tuesday morning at which a committee on membership was appointed, and matters pertaining to the welfare of the society and art in general were freely discussed. The outcome of the discussion will probably be that a more active part will be taken by the society in furthering the art interests of this city. An effort will be made to secure centrally located rooms for the society's meetings, and some action will probably be taken looking to the establishment of a permanent art gallery, most likely in connection with the new Exposition building.

THE three old pictures brought from Mexico by Mr. James A. McCormick, which have been shown in Boyd's window for several days, exhibit some of the effects of time upon work executed in unreliable colors by a painter who was probably ignorant of the nature of the pigments he was using. It is not likely that they ever possessed any great merit as to color, but it can readily be seen that they have changed from what must have been their original condition. Bad drawing also shows itself, despite the age of the picture, and a line that is drawn will remain unchanged when the hand which traced it has long been dust, but in looking at very old pictures it is extremely difficult to say what its color may or may not have been.

A BRIGHT and attractive woodland picture, easily recognizable as the work of Mr. George Hetzel, was shown in Gillespie's window during the past week. Tall and stately forest trees rear their lofty crests toward the sky, while through their gracefully intertwined branches the sunlight streams with a golden radiance, falling upon the earth in scattered rays of glowing splendor and producing three brilliant tints of liquid grass only to be seen in midsummer woods. The light in this picture falls broadly upon the background, giving to the whole work an appearance of richness and warmth very often absent in paintings of woodland scenery, and serving to enhance the really delicate beauty of the half-toned green which forms the major portion of the work. For the simple and straightforward rendering of nature's truths, and careful and conscientious finish of detail, particularly in the foliage and the character of the ground, this is a picture which is not often excelled.

THE total value of the property of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is at present not less than $3,000,000, and it is constantly being increased by gifts from public-spirited citizens. As this institution has grown to its present importance from a comparatively small beginning, it may serve as an instance illustrating the rapidly increasing interest taken in art matters in this country, and it may also be taken as fairly good evidence that a similar institution would attain a proportionate success in this city if sufficient interest were once manifested by those interested to bring such a project to the front and place it fairly under way. In regard to voluntary subscriptions of money for public or benevolent purposes our citizens are not behind those of any other country, nor anything the metropolis, and there is little doubt that if such an institution were once established that it would be from time to time enriched with costly gifts and liberal contributions, which would soon render it one of the features of our city that the people might justly be proud of.

IN some of our modern homes the desire for decoration and ornament is indulged in to such an excess as to become positively objectionable, and in nothing is this fact more evident than in the custom which now obtains so generally of tying or otherwise affixing scarfs of various materials upon almost every piece of furniture in the room, and from which not even chairs in constant use are permitted to escape, it is often difficult to make use of chairs so decorated without spoiling or disarranging these delicate pieces of fancy work, and it is embarrassing to find, upon arising from a chair, that one of them has attached itself to the back of your coat. But aside from the question of utility, in the extent to which the custom is followed at present, it is not in pursuance of any well-defined ideas or laws of art. Where mantelpieces, lounges, chairs, tables, cabinets, screens, etc., are all adorned with a sample of every textile manufactures the effect produced is rather that of a shop where every available place is made use of for the display of goods for sale than of a tastefully furnished apartment. In the furnishing of a room with a view to artistic effects there should be nothing admitted save only what serves some clearly defined purpose of use or ornament, and where objects in themselves devoid of utility are too often repeated, especially where they obtrude themselves and get in the way, they become not only useless, but offensive, and may profitably be dispensed with.

WATER colors and autotypes have been the attraction during the past week at the Gillespie gallery, where they will remain for a few days longer. The autotypes are from masterpieces of art, while the water colors are original works, many of them of a high standard of excellence. The collection belongs to Mr. Henry B. Pettes, of Philadelphia, who is here in person with it, and it embraces a great variety of works by different well known artists. Without referring to particular works it may fairly be said that the general standard of merit in the pictures shown is very good, but a mention of a few of the most important may nevertheless be of interest. A marine view by Charles S. Moltram is a very strong work, both in conception and vigorously handled. Another marnie, "Off Ramsgate," by John Selmon, is also a good picture, in which the water is well painted, but showing some faults in the work on the sky and clouds. A rural scene by Fred Davis, and a landscape by C. C. Fox are both excellent works: the latter is very pleasing in color and original in composition. Two large works by W. H. Vernon, both scenes in Florence, are complete pictures, carefully but freely handled, and very effective. A strong and pleasing work by Charles Collins, showing sheep in the midst of a winter landscape, is an example of free and unconventional composition, and is treated with a warmth of color that is very agreeable, without detracting in the least from the appearance of coldness and bleakness characteristic of the season. The works above enumerated are mentioned as indicating the character of the exhibition. There are many others of equal merit and interest, and the collection as a whole will amply repay the trouble of a visit.

Special Bargains in Black Cashmeres.

100 pieces 46-inch width at 50c a yard; actual worth 75c a yard.

50 pieces 46-inch width at 75c a yard; actual worth $1 a yard.

40 pieces 46-inch width at 85c a yard; actual worth $1 25 a yard.

35 pieces 46-inch width at $1 a yard; actual worth $1 35 a yard.

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New styles and colors in moquette, wilton, velvet, body brussels, tapestry, ingrain and low-priced carpets. The Chelsea carpet at 12½c per yard, sold usually at 20c; but a few pieces left. Our lace curtains at $1 a pair are worth examining, as they will compare with $1 50 quality sold elsewhere.

GEORGE W. SNAMAN,
Thssu 136 Federal street, Allegheny.