

## WITH THE PLAYS, PLAYERS AND

A PARTIAL description of the new theatre on the Century Roof in New York, to be devoted exclusively to the entertainment of children, has been given out by the Liebler company. W. K. Vanderbilt provided the funds with which the theatre was built. It is to have the play-house intimate, yet spacious; open air, yet enclosed, and a nursery and yet a parlor. The theatre, while it has but one floor, surrounded by twelve boxes, has a seating capacity of 800. The roof is arched and groined, the stage is low and has the general appearance of the stage of a toy theatre in some garret, and the seats are somewhat lower than those of the ordinary theatre. The frame of the proscenium is decorated with a frieze, a playful adaptation of the Italian art of the middle of the sixteenth century, modeled by Philip Martiny. The base of this frieze is supported with bits of animal life illustrative of the fables of Aesop and La Fontaine. This idea is carried out through the interior of the building, through eight pictures in Cameo relief in the spandrels of the arches to the boxes. The general color scheme is French gray and subdued white, given play by light tints and suggestive coloring. The open air character of the theatre is obtained by the penetration of its arches with windows and the large French glass double doors that lead out upon the terraced esplanade of the Century theatre roof overlooking Central park. There are windows in the rear of all the boxes, yet the theatre has a warm and cozy aspect. It is the purpose of the Liebler company to use the theatre afternoons only, performances to be given at half past three o'clock, a time convenient for school children.

That Miss Annette Kellermann had married her manager, James R. Sullivan was not altogether a surprise to her friends for the couple's engagement had been announced on occasions, while the actual ceremony was kept from public knowledge ever since last week, when a license was taken out at Danbury, Conn.

Chicago has now under construction one hundred and ten new theatres. Seven of them are first-class houses, with a seating capacity averaging 1,200 persons. The others range from 300 to 800, and average more than 500. This means an increased seating capacity for Chicago theatres of 60,000. The total seating capacity of the theatres now operating is 348,300. With the contemplated increase this will go up to 408,300, or one theatre for each 3,355 population. The total cost will be in excess of \$2,000,000.

Another good holiday bill is the promise at the Orpheum for the week commencing Sunday afternoon. The headliner comes in the form of "California," a one-act musical comedy. Cecil De Mille, Robert Bowers, Frant



Ralph Morgan and Edith Lucket in "Broadway Jones."

Steward and Jesse L. Lasky are responsible for this comedy. "California" has a record of its own. Produced a short time ago it scored a decided hit. The cast is headed by Leslie Leigh and Harry Griffith and includes many stunning girls. James J. Morton is right there at the top. Among monologists, he is without a peer. He is a thorough comedian and causes laughs with his helter-skelter rapid rush of words. The inimitable delineator of broad comedy, George Felix and the charming and intelligent Barry Girls will undoubtedly prove an irresistible vaudeville combination. "Nonette," the violinist who sings, although a very young woman has a professional record that may be well envied by many an older artist. She was a favorite pupil of Ysaye, the famous Belgian violinist, and he thought so well of her ability that he gave her two years of his personal instruction. Delamar & Delamar in their aerial act promise something bordering on the sensational in the way of aerial feats. They are said to cause their audience to hold its breath during some of their wonderful performances. "Snoozer" is an English bull terrier, and in appearance as fine a piece of canine as any one would wish to see. Mr. Meredith is the professor of the college from which "Snoozer" graduated and the animal reflects great credit upon his teacher.

DeWit Young and Sister, presenting the "College Boy Juggler," will prove to be a novel and interesting feature. Miss Young is the only woman Australian boomerang thrower in existence. The Animated Weekly in its showing of current events includes the Yale-Harvard game, Lord Mayor's Procession, Pennsylvania Train Wreck and several other interesting features.

Report comes from California that the McKee Rankin company was stranded at Oxnard, in that state. Though the company is composed of excellent material, and the production said to have been very good, poor business attended the venture, as a rule.

If it be true that variety is the key-note of success for a stock-star, the engagement of William J. Kelly and his players at the Colonial should surely fulfill all the good things that are being predicted for the star. Mr. Kelly has varied his offerings the past five weeks so widely that Colonial patrons have witnessed the actor in work of exceedingly wide scope and for the coming week his announcement of a big production of Rida Johnson Young, a comedy success "The Lottery Man," promises even a greater treat than Mr. Kelly has yet furnished in the lighter lines of entertainment

in which he is so proficient. "The Lottery Man" is without doubt one of the funniest and most original farces written these last ten years. The development of its unique story is so entertainingly carried out and the humorous incidents follow one another so rapidly through the story that the play has scored a huge hit with American audiences. Mr. Kelly's production the coming week at the Colonial will follow the original presentation of the comedy very closely and the star will be seen in the role of Jack Wright, a happy-go-lucky, good looking newspaper man who convinces the managing editor of his paper that there are a couple of hundred thousand spinsters who will pay a dollar apiece for a ticket in a lottery in which he will be the prize—the holder of the winning number at the drawing to take him in marriage, or if she prefers not to do so, they divide all the money that has come in on the scheme. The fun tumbles along through three uproarious acts and as the story unfolds the situations becomes just one long laugh with a pretty love story interwoven.

The Empress has had a harvest of playgoers this week that the management will not soon forget, in all probability. The holidays seldom fail to fill the big and handsome house and the Christmas week program has offered so many unusual features that the attendance has run away above previous marks. The present bill runs through until next Tuesday evening and beginning Wednesday of next week the New Year's week bill goes on. Prince Floro, the educated monkey, headlining the current program is a marvel of intelligence and training and his act is worth almost any other two animal features the Empress has ever offered. The ape was caught in Africa and was found so quick to learn that he was carefully trained to do a most complicated and difficult act that embodies many unusual features. The rest of the bill is above standard. McClain and Mack are fun-makers who develop a new line of laughs and both the man and the woman are clever and versatile. Cathryn Chaffonder and her company have a funny sketch in "Kate's Press Agent" and the star is capable enough to make herself and the sketch immensely popular. McGinnis Brothers demonstrate the fact that all of the hard shoe dancers who have preceded them did not corner the new steps in the business and their work is splendid. Fred Morton is another favorite whose act includes an unique paper tearing feature. Marsellies, the equilibrist, is a wonder in his work and his actions made attractive by the manner in which it is staged and by the performer's costumes. For New Year's week the Empress will offer Paul Spadoni, the famous strong man; the three Spa brothers in gymnastic work; Collier and DeWalde on roller skates; Van and Carrie Avery in a sketch;