

MATINEES AND CIGARETTES.

BY OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER.

It is a question, in my mind, whether the practiced observation is a source of pleasure or of worry. It is certainly very pleasant and very amusing to remark the various peculiarities and characteristics of our neighbors, and when one has made a special practice of this more or less minute observation, the result is frequently unseen smiles produced by the recollection of what had been noticed through the day. On the other hand, there are very often painful, unnecessarily painful, reflections that spring from such observations, and which disturb the peace of mind to a degree unknown to the one who drifts along with life's current without paying any special attention to what is taking place around him. I have frequently observed things that I would have been much happier had they never come to my notice. Amongst these distracting and unpleasant observations none have ever worried me more than the day-theatres—as far as the young girls are concerned—and the cigarette smoking—as far as the young boys go. It was my intention to dot down a few of my observations regarding both of these subjects, but I read, in an Ontario organ, an editorial upon the former question, which expresses so exactly my ideas that it saves the necessity of writing them out; as to the second question I will have frequent opportunity of fully treating it in detail so I will confine my observations to a few general statements.

As to the theatres, I will take the liberty of reproducing a few of the most striking passages in that editorial, after which I shall add a few personal observations. The editor in question writes:—

"The increase of coarseness in the theatre, and the complacency with which offences against good taste are regarded by audiences supposed to be representative of the most highly cultivated classes of the community, are among the most disgusting social phenomena of the day. There never was a more striking illustration of the truth of the old proverb that familiarity breeds contempt. Not so very long ago the production of a play from the French was always preceded by assurances that it had been subjected to a careful process of disinfection, but now the managerial plan in many cities—not Toronto, he it said—is to stimulate public interest in a new piece by preliminary hints concerning the improprieties contained in it, and domestic audacities are added to European abominations. It is no exaggeration to say that the conventionalities of civilized life are outraged to-day upon the American stage—not in all theatres, of course—as habitually and as flagrantly as they are in Paris, not excepting even the Theatre Antoine. And these nudities of speech and action are not only not resented, but are vehemently applauded, and are accepted as matters of course, even by young girls, still in school, or just out of it, who never ought to be exposed to such pollution, least of all in the company of young men. The evil is a very serious one, and one not at all easy to deal with. Undoubtedly the baser daily press has made itself partly responsible for the existing condition of affairs by the encouragement which it has given to unscrupulous managers and the demoralization which it has wrought in the public mind and conscience by its exploitation of all that is abnormal and disgusting; but the newspapers, although they can help a dirty play by advertising it, cannot hurt it by denunciation. Things have come to such a pass in the larger cities that the surest way to crowd a theatre, and thus to fill the pockets of the manager, is to say that the show in possession of the stage is not fit to be seen. This fact is notorious, and must be perfectly well known to the writers who make a practice of minutely describing all the more or less atrocious features of a vulgar or salacious representation, under the pretence of exhibiting a virtuous indignation."

"Of course, there is a considerable body of reflective and intelligent playgoers, who avoid the degenerate drama as they would the plague, not only on account of its bad morals, but its general stupidity and tediousness, and who are influenced by unfavorable journalistic reports. But these are, after all, a very small minority, and are treated as a negligible quantity by the ordinary speculative promoter of stage plays, who cares nothing about art, or manners, or morals, so long as he can draw a crowd. His excuse, when rebuked for a policy debasing to himself and his profession, is that he is impotent in the matter, being compelled by the necessities of the business to supply what the public demands."

"But if the self-respecting part of the community, the men who frequent the best clubs and the women who fill the churches, could be induced to absent themselves from the theatres which offer salacious, indecent or vulgar shows, and to turn a cold shoulder to the men who write them, as they would to any other person who did not know how to behave himself properly in private

life, much good might be done. There is still much force in example."

On general lines nothing could be more exact than what the above-quoted article contains. Coming down to special cases, it has struck me forcibly that the afternoon performances in many theatres are a source of injury, or danger—to say the least—for young girls. I am not questioning the morality of the plays; I suppose them to be thoroughly good. It is the fact of so many girls and young ladies frequenting the matinees, standing on the curbstone outside the different theatres of our own city I daily observe troops of girls ranging from ten to twenty, flocking in about two o'clock in the afternoon. About half past four they all come out again, and generally go off for a walk with the young men who accompany them. It is vain that I ask myself what these young girls should be doing during the two or three hours that they spend, almost daily, with their "fellows," listening to some sensational dramatic representation.

Not a few of them should be in school; others have duties at home to perform that are thus seriously neglected; and all should be under the eye of some interested and attentive person, parent or relative. Many of those girls are too young to appreciate or benefit by the legitimate drama; yet they are sufficiently young to receive false impressions from the sensationalism upon the stage; and not one of them is old enough to be self-reliant and to pass through the dangers of company without risk. It is not of the theatre, nor of the manager that I complain; but of the parents who should be able to find some less dangerous past-time for their children. In this matter the parents have a sacred duty to perform the neglect of which they are sure to run sooner or later.

I have observed, more and more, as the weeks go past that the young boys, from eight or ten up to any age, are becoming (with rare exceptions) terrible smokers of cigarettes. A man in the north end of the city, who keeps a little candy shop, told me that he paid his rent each month with the profit made upon the sale of cigarettes. I am not going to preach a sermon on this subject; I merely intend relating a few scientific facts, and I will leave the rest to the studious perusal of the readers:

I claim that cigarette-smoking is purely and simply a method of suicide. The young lad who can do away with a couple of packages in a day is on the highway to death and misery before death. There is no poison like that of the cigarette. Liquor is preferable; it may exhibit dangerous symptoms, but a good sleep will generally get rid of the immediate effect. Not so with the cigarette. They do not intoxicate one until later on in life.

There are five ingredients in each cigarette, any one of which is calculated to destroy human life. First, there is the oil of tobacco; second, the oil in the imported paper, which is nearly as destructive; third, the arsenic introduced to make the paper burn white and add a peculiar flavor; fourth, the saltpetre put in the tobacco to prevent it from moulding; and finally, the opium that is sprayed over the tobacco to give it the insidious influence which it possesses over the brain. Can you wonder that the animal life of a young man is killed with such a disease? In the cigar and pipe we have but one poison—nicotine—but it is not inhaled.

While tobacco is comparatively dangerous, the passion for cigarettes, with their opium, arsenic, saltpetre, seems to have become almost universal, and it is visibly destructive of energy and even life. I will take occasion later on to dwell more fully on this subject.

A GOOD PRICE.—At an auction sale at Charlestown, N.H., last week an almanac of the year 1667 was sold for \$155. Only one other copy of this issue is known to be in this country, and that is in the library of the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester.

They Don't Match...

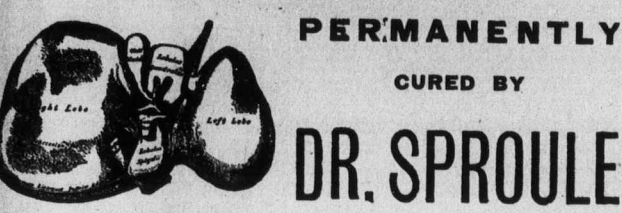
Many people don't notice that the new papering and drapery don't seem to match with some pieces of well used furniture. It is easy to make them match properly by having the furniture re-covered and polished up like new. We can tell you exactly what it is going to cost if you ask us.

RENAUD, KING & PATTERSON,
652 Craig Street,
2442 ST. CATHERINE ST.

CARTER'S 10c Cold Cure

Subscribers are requested to notify us of any change in their address, in order to ensure prompt delivery of the paper.

Chronic Constipation (CATARRH OF THE LIVER)



Have you ever thought that your chronic constipation caused all your other wretched feelings? Perhaps your hands and feet are cold. Or you feel dull and heavy during the day. You can hardly keep awake after a hearty meal. Your skin is either a muddy yellow, or covered with unsightly pimples. Perhaps you feel blue, without energy, and generally miserable; or your food doesn't taste good. Yet, perhaps, you feel sometimes hungry, at other times no appetite at all. This is because the waste matter, which should be promptly thrown out, is kept in; it poisons and disorganizes the whole system. Chronic constipation is particularly bad at this time of year. The body should now be getting rid of the accumulated poisons and refuse of the winter. If it does not succeed it means a low state of health all summer. It cannot succeed unless the bowels are open and regular.

Chronic constipation comes from a liver which is diseased, and so cannot produce the necessary bile. The bile is Nature's Purgative. Artificial purgatives can never cure. The more you use them the more you have to take. They usually do much harm. Notice how weak they make you feel. You can't keep on draining your system like that without suffering for it. To help Nature you must strengthen. The only way to cure Chronic Constipation permanently is to cure the liver. In America, the most common liver trouble is Catarrh. Dr. Sproule was the first to discover this. As a result he has cured where all others had failed. Under his treatment the liver is thoroughly cleansed and toned up. The wretched feelings disappear, the "bilious" complexion grows clear and healthy. The cure is gentle and painless BUT IT IS PERMANENT.

SYMPTOMS OF CATARRH OF THE LIVER.

This condition results from the liver being affected by Catarrh extending from the stomach into the tubes of the liver.

- 1—Are you constipated?
- 2—Is your complexion bad?
- 3—Are you sleepy in the daytime?
- 4—Are you irritable?
- 5—Are you nervous?
- 6—Do you get dizzy?
- 7—Have you no energy?
- 8—Do you have cold feet?
- 9—Do you feel miserable?
- 10—Do you get tired easily?
- 11—Do you have hot flashes?
- 12—Is eyesight blurred?
- 13—Have you a pain in the back?
- 14—Is your flesh soft and flabby?
- 15—Are your spirits low at times?
- 16—Is there a bloating after eating?
- 17—Have you a gurgling in bowels?
- 18—Is there throbbing in stomach?
- 19—Is there a general feeling of lassitude?
- 20—Do these feelings affect your memory?
- 21—Are you short of breath upon exercise?
- 22—Is the circulation of the blood sluggish?

Address **DR. SPROULE, B.A., English Specialist in Catarrh and Nervous Disease.** (Graduate Dublin University, Ireland, formerly Surgeon British Royal Naval Service), 7 to 13 Done street, Boston.

...Legion of Honor...

CHICKERING Pianos.

From 1823 to 1901 the BEST piano in the world has been the "CHICKERING." For 78 years it has been tested, and for 78 years it has stood the test and proved its leadership.

KARN Pianos

Is the "KARN" dear at the few dollars extra cost over ordinary good pianos? Of course it isn't. Is a watch, that you know is going to give you life long satisfaction, dear because it costs ten or fifteen dollars more than other watches?

Call at our Warerooms and see our fine stock of these celebrated Instruments.

The D. W. Karn Co., Limited,
KARN HALL BUILDING, ST. CATHERINE STREET.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that at the next session of the Parliament at Ottawa, the company called "Le Credit Foncier du Bas-Canada," incorporated by the Act 36 Vict. Ch. 102, will apply for amendments to its charter for the purpose of changing its capital stock and board of management; of providing for a change in its place of business; of regulating shares, securities (letters de gage), loans, deposits, and the keeping of accounts; of amending and making new by-laws and for other purposes.

LE CREDIT FONCIER DU BAS-CANADA.
Montreal, 19th February, 1901.
GEOFFRION & CUSSON,
Attorneys for Petitioners.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

The INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Leaves Montreal daily at 9 a.m., reaching Toronto at 4 p.m., Hamilton 5.40 p.m., London 7.30 p.m., Detroit 9.40 p.m. (Central time), and Chicago at 7.30 following morning.
A Cafe Parlor Car is attached to this train, serving luncheon a la carte at any hour during the day convenient to passengers.

FAST SERVICE BETWEEN MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.
Fast train leaves Montreal daily, except Sunday, at 9.50 a.m. and 4.10 p.m., arriving at Ottawa at 12.15 noon and 6.35 p.m.
Local trains for all C.A.R. points to Ottawa leave Montreal at 7.40 a.m. daily, except Sunday, and 5.50 p.m. daily.

CITY TICKET OFFICES,
157 St. James Street and Bonaventure Station.

BE SURE TO ORDER ROWAN'S

Belfast Glycerine, Soda Water, Apple Netter, No. 1, Cream Soda, etc. Note our "Trade Mark" on every bottle. The Glenora, Glenora and Bottlers of the "Heaven Brand" and "ALBIONIA" WATER. **NEW A. B. ROWAN & CO.,** Phone, Main 718. 251, Valley Street.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

'MOST EVERYTHING' IN HOUSE FIXINGS

We keep 'most everything in House-Fixings! Furniture and Carpets excluded; we can furnish almost everything needed to make a house home-like, comfortable, and well-equipped. This is "moving" week, and much will be found "wanting." We will be pleased to supply anything in the following lines on the best terms:

Brooms, Brushes, Varnishes, Paints, Furniture Polishers, Tubs, Pails, Laundry Soap, Enamelware, Tinware, Glassware, Chinaware, Woodenware, Oil Stoves, Lamps, Refrigerators, &c.

All the latest novelties in Curtains, Rugs, Carpet Squares, Cocoa Mats, Feather Pillows, Cushions, Quilts, &c.

Window Shades made to order.

BUTTERICK'S PATTERNS and PUBLICATIONS.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

2348 St. Catherine Street, corner of Metcalfe Street.
TERMS CASH. Telephone 958.

W. GEO. KENNEDY,

..Dentist..
No. 758 PALACE STREET,
Two Doors West of Beaver Hall Hill.

EVERY CATHOLIC

..Young Man..

Should possess a copy of "The Catholic Student's Manual of Instructions and Prayers." For all seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year. Compiled by a Religious, under the immediate supervision of Rev. H. Bonxcl, P. S. S., Professor of Moral Theology, Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada.

It contains Liturgical Prayers, Indulgences, Devotions and Pious Exercises for every occasion, and for all seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year.

718 pages, four full-page Illustrations, flexible cloth, round corners.

PRICE 75 cents.

PUBLISHED BY
D. & J. SABLIER & CO.
1639
Notre Dame Street, Montreal

CANCERS Cured.

The Absorption Process a conceded success, no knife, no blood, no pain. Write Dr. B. B. B. Grand Rapids, Mich., for particulars and references. For cancer of breast, if not broken out, treatment can be sent.

The Drink Habit

CAN BE CURED AT HOME
without pain, publicity or detention from business,
by the use of the
DIXON VEGETABLE REMEDY

The greatest specific on earth for the cure of Alcoholism. Dr. Mackay of Quebec, a specialist in the treatment of Indigestion, writes that it is far superior to all the "Gold Cures" or other treatments. Those indisposed, will do well to call and see our long list of testimonials, or write for our pamphlet giving full particulars.

J. B. LALIME,
Manager the Dixon Care Co.,
572 St. Denis Street, - Montreal,
-OR-
Dr. MACKAY, QUEBEC.
All communications strictly confidential.

C. A. McDONNELL,

Accountant and Liquidator
150 ST. JAMES STREET,
..Montreal..

Fifteen years experience in connection with the liquidation of Private and Insolvent Estates. Auditing Books and preparing Annual Reports for private firms, and public corporations a specialty.
TELEPHONE 1182