

London Music Halls Prosper

EUT MRS. LANGTRY'S THEATRE IS BEING TORN DOWN.

It Was One of the Finest in London, Too—Theatrical Losses Driving Prominent Actors to the Music Halls—Vaudeville Favorites Who Can't Be Stars.

The passing of the Imperial Theatre is an evidence that no matter how beautiful and comfortable a playhouse may be these attributes do not necessarily spell success, says the London correspondent of the New York Sun.

The Imperial and the Scala are the two handsomest and best equipped theatres in London, and both the comparatively new. Yet the Imperial is being torn down and the Scala cannot find a tenant.

Mrs. Langtry built the Imperial, and did not spare expense in making it comfortable and beautiful. Marble and onyx were everywhere lavishly displayed and the whole effect was rich. Moreover, it was heated in winter, an innovation indeed in London, where society sits in the chilly orchestra swinging in low-necked gowns and results for appearances, wrapped in furs for comfort.

Mrs. Langtry never had a great success at her theatre and she soon began to lease it to other managers. Ellen Terry was a tenant for a short time, and so was Lewis Waller. But nothing really drew great crowds there, and for some months it has been vacant. Now it is to be pulled down.

The Scala is still struggling, but last winter was disastrous for it and toward the end of the season it indulged in a series of productions of cheap melodrama of the "Worst Woman in London" type. Even these did not bring in money. What will be its fate next winter no one can tell.

Theatrical losses and driving prominent directors of the Palace, where Maud Allan is dancing, make significant reading. The profits amount to \$215,000 on a capital of \$160,000. From this there are certain deductions to be made. That done, with the sum carried forward from last year added, the amount available for distribution among shareholders is \$251,250.

Manifestly the prosperity of this concern for the last twelve months is to a very large extent to be attributed to Miss Allan, though an Australian singer, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Marie Dressler and Miss Evie Green must also be

SHE PATIENTLY BORE DISGRACE

A Sad letter from a lady whose Husband was Dissipated.

How She Cured Him with a Secret Remedy.



"I had for years patiently borne the disgrace, suffering, misery and privations due to my husband's drinking habits. Hearing of your marvellous remedy for the cure of drunkenness, which I could give my husband secretly, I decided to try it. I procured a package and mixed it in his food and coffee, and, as the remedy was odorless and tasteless, he did not know what it was that so quickly relieved his craving for liquor. He soon began to pick up flesh, his appetite for solid food returned, he stuck to his work regularly, and we now have a happy home. After he was completely cured I told him what I had done, when he acknowledged that he had been saving, as he had not the resolution to break off of his own accord, I hereby advise all women afflicted as I was to give your remedy a trial."

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reckoned attractions. The Empire receipts are very large, too, but here the expenditure is greater. The Palace has no ballet, while the Empire depends largely upon this feature of its entertainment for its success. As much as \$50,000 has been spent upon one production, though from \$25,000 to \$30,000 is the ordinary amount.

The outlay does not end here, for the cost of running a ballet may be set down at about \$2,500 a week. This is the principal but not the only item in the programme, which includes a variety performance also. Yet for the last eighteen years the Empire has paid a dividend of 15 per cent.

The Alhambra, while not showing the same brilliant record as the Empire and the Palace, has paid an average annual dividend of 10 per cent. Here also the ballet is a great source of expenditure.

The Coliseum, which was reopened some months ago with a first-class performance and seats at only 75c, 50c and 25c and standing room upstairs at 12 cents, is doing a big business, while the Oxford and the Gaiety, of a lower grade, are always crowded.

One of the strangest features of music hall success is the fact that very few of the greatest popularity is achieved by those who are unable to make genuine successes in a theatre as stars.

Chevalier, a never-failing music hall attraction, has tried starring in legitimate work with but small success. His play last winter, "The House," was clever. His performance was delightful. He even gave his inimitable coster songs at the close of the play, yet only a short run rewarded his efforts. Yet he brings tremendous audiences to the Coliseum, where he is engaged and engaged, and he rouses all the enthusiasm of earlier days.

Yvette Guilbert has also tried regular dramatic work as a star and "The Margaret Cooper" had sung unsuccessfully in legitimate companies for some years before she took the Palace audience by storm last winter. Now she is an acknowledged music hall favorite, with a host of imitators who sit down at the piano as she does and playing their own accompaniment, sing songs of the "Waltz Me Around Again" type. Maud Allan cannot be said to have created a furore in Paris, where she gave her Salome dance in a French revue.

Louie Freear can draw an audience at music hall with even the most wretched kind of sketch, yet for some years she has not been able to have a genuine success as a star.

Music hall salaries here are elsewhere are very large. At the Palace there are sometimes three artists in one evening's performance who are drawing \$500 a week, besides the host of other performers. Often \$1,500 a week salary is paid to a star artist. Mr. Butt, the manager, does not look upon these figures as exorbitant.

"It is all a question of judgment and discrimination," he declares. "One artist is cheap at \$1,500, another dear at \$50. The great thing is to know instinctively the precise value the public is likely to place on each."

In comparison with theatrical salaries in London these figures are astonishing, even as regards successful English actors and actresses at smart West End theatres.

TRIBUTE TO A BRILLIANT WOMAN

MRS. GEO. CORNWALLIS WEST, FORMERLY LADY RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

"The Tatler," a brisk London weekly, has been wakening up society by a "Letter," signed "Candida." This "Letter" is an open one and is addressed to various women of quality. For those ladies who enjoy "Tattle" here is the letter, which is addressed to Mrs. George Cornwallis West, the brilliant mother of Winston Churchill:

"Dear Madam—A woman owes her social success either to her husband's wealth or position, to her own charms and graces, or to a happy mixture of those different advantages. Now it seems to me that much of your life was founded on this latter combination. Brains and looks were your birthright, and your social status was assured by your marriage with that brilliant politician, the late Lord Randolph Churchill.

"Thirty years and more have passed since Anglo-American marriages became an accepted fact in the social life of two great nations, and you were among the first of those brilliant aliens we united to welcome. In the earlier seventies Lord Randolph Churchill went over to Paris, and at a smart luncheon party met the late Leonard Jerome, of New York, and yourself, his daughter, then the handsome Miss Jennie Jerome. The attraction was instant and mutual, and it has been reported that Lord Randolph said to another guest, 'That is the brightest woman I ever met; I hope to make her my wife.'"

"Well, the marriage took place, and you, my dear lady, soon became one

of the smartest women in the smart world of London.

"And no doubt in those early days you scored a record success. Anyhow, no one can deny that your black eyes, raven hair, and dark, rich coloring took London by storm.

"Then, you at once showed much social tact, and your house in Connaught place became a centre of some importance. The dinners were never too large or too long, a silver dinner service graced the board, and your rooms were among the first to be lighted by electricity. This splendor reflected great credit on your housekeeping abilities, for though you were a wit and a beauty you had no sort of claim to be called an American heiress.

"Time went on, and in 1895 you lost your husband and remained a widow for five years. But in July, 1900, you remarried and took as your second spouse a man considerably younger than yourself, George Cornwallis-West, only son of Colonel and Mrs. Cornwallis-West, of Ruthlin Castle, North Wales, and a great friend of your world-famous eldest son, Mr. Winston Churchill, and it is said that this second marriage was regarded with some disfavor in exalted circles and some disapproval expressed.

"However, as I said before, you are blessed with brains and looks above the average, and have now managed to regain the record position you held in society of yore. Your marriage has, as it happened, proved an unmitigated success, and like a shrewd woman you keep yourself well to the fore. You write well and crisply, and at one time edited 'The Anglo-Saxon Review'—a costly toy and the comet of the season.

"Then at the time of the South African war you went to the scene of action in the hospital ship Maine, and worked at nursing our sick and wounded soldiers.

"But it is chiefly in a domestic sense—as the best of mothers—that you have kept yourself before the eyes of the public. You have, as it were, dry-hung your social constancies; you have appeared on platforms, sold the world in season, and even defeated the wiles of the Suffragettes.

"Now, dear madame, I must end up with a word of sincere praise for your artistic taste in art and in house decoration. As regards the former, you once in print gave an epigrammatic summation on the subject: 'To dress well is to dress suitably; to dress suitably is to dress well.' And as for your house, Salisbury Hall, St. Albans, do I not hear stories of rooms hung with old brocade, and of a white marble bath in a rose-pink bathroom?

By the way, I have often wondered what is the secret of that tattoo mark on your wrist, which is barely concealed by a broad gold bracelet. Was that indelible scar a mere freak of fancy or is it the secret sign of some quaint or curious history? I remain, dear madame, your sincere admirer, "CANDIDA."

ASSAY OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The process of assaying gold and silver is identical. The metal is first put through a highly-heated furnace and melted, the samples for "assay" being dipped out while the metal is in a liquid state. Next the sample is thrown into a vessel of cold water, when granulation ensues. Taken from the cold bath it is boiled in sulphuric acid, the silver dissolving, while the gold is precipitated to the bottom, where it is caught in proper receptacles.

The acid was drawn off and the metal placed in another vessel laid with sheet lead, the bottom being plates of copper. Chemical action now sets in, the acid copper and lead being precipitated, the silver, if there be any in the sample under test, is being deposited in thin metallic sheets on what before the fermentation set in were the copper plates, but which have now been transformed into blue vitriol, or sulphate of copper.

After the metals have all been deposited they are gathered up, and, with the impurities still remaining, pressed into cakes by a hydraulic machine which has a pressure of 200 tons. Again it is melted (the gold and silver each in separate vats, of course) the pure metal being again deposited and the impurities, aided by chemical action, left floating on the top. The next and last process runs the metals into ingots ready for the markets of the world.

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LOOKED FOR DEATH IN A SHORT TIME.

Entirely Cured by "Fruit-a-tives." "Gentlemen—The days of miracles are not all past, and I feel that my complete recovery, from what seemed inevitable death, is practically a miracle. I suffered from severe indigestion and dyspepsia for nearly two years. I could not take food without fearful distress and I became almost a skeleton as the result of the suffering. I could not do any work and became so rundown and weak that I could hardly walk. I was attended by two experienced doctors. They both pronounced my case heart failure and incurable, and I looked forward for death in a short time. I not only had the doctors, but after they gave me up I tried many remedies and treatments but got no better.

"At this time my son asked me to try 'Fruit-a-tives,' and from the outset of taking these wonderful tablets I was better and gradually this medicine completely cured me. I took a large number of boxes, perhaps a dozen, and now I am entirely cured and I have gained over thirty pounds in weight.

"I am now so well that I have sold my farm and bought 200 acres more land. I make this statement voluntarily for the sake of humanity, and I am convinced that 'Fruit-a-tives' is a wonderful remedy that will cure stomach trouble where doctors and everything else fail."

(Signed) Henry Speers, J.P. The doctors were all wrong. Mr. Speers had what we call "irritated heart." Indigestion and dyspepsia completely upset the stomach. Poisonous gases were formed which swelled the walls of the stomach and pressed against the heart.

"Fruit-a-tives" immediately strengthened the stomach, insured sound digestion and regulated the bowels. There were no poisons—no noxious gases remaining in the system, and the heart was no longer irritated. Then the pain and fluttering stopped.

"Fruit-a-tives" is put up in two sizes, 25 and 50 cents. If your dealer has not both, write Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

THE MODERN SLAVE TRADER

TRAFFIC IN HUMAN BEINGS THE MOST PROFITABLE IN THE WORLD.

[London Titbits.] It is one of the delusions of modern civilization that slavery does not exist. But there are in the world today thousands of black slaves laboring under the most hideous form of forced labor, which is only accentuated by the absurd attempts to make them offically free by means of the legal document known in the phraseology of the negroes cannot possibly understand.

A typical slave trader's country is said to exist in the Portuguese colony on the southwest coast of Africa. There are immense cocoa plantations in the Portuguese islands of San Thome and Principe, and to obtain laborers for them there is a group of dealers who make a specialty of providing negroes. These men organize special parties who explore the interior of African forests and seize hundreds of unfortunate negroes, who are immediately driven back to the coast in a manacled condition. Whole families are captured and sold in lots, according to physical condition and age.

The irony of the whole traffic is that everything is done on a legal basis. There is a special Government agent at Angola whose duty it is to prevent the exportation of slaves. He, of course, will not admit that slavery exists. The system is too perfect. But the negroes think otherwise. Their fate is one of life-long hard labor, though they are engaged as laborers on the plantation for a certain number of years at what appears to be a reasonable wage. This wage, it is alleged, is never paid, and the legal slave knows that he will never get it. At the point of the sword he signs an agreement he cannot read, the engaging himself, body and soul, to the traders. Once on the island, he never leaves, for at the end of his period of five or seven years the force of signing is again gone through, and so on until he is too old, when he is sent back to his principal dwelling, not a penny the richer for his life of hard labor. It is very seldom indeed that any of these slaves live to old age. Five years is generally enough for the strongest constitution.

To avoid the pangs of wages a system of fines is introduced, by which the worker cannot possibly escape losing his nominal wage. Floggings are, of course, everyday occurrences, women suffering as well as men. They live in huts where they are engaged to the end even if the wretched creatures could escape their guards, they would be utterly unable to leave the island. Thus the geographical position saves the owners thousands of pounds.

King Leopold derives nearly £1,000,000 each year from the Congo property, and most of this huge sum is, according to missionaries and others, made out of the blood and tears of helpless slaves who are forced to bring on much rubber each month to the Belgian monarch's agents. The same force of so-called voluntary signing-on is gone through here, and, of course, a certain price is paid for the rubber, but the dealers are anything but extravagant when treating with natives. Not to put too fine a point on it, the valuable product is obtained for next to nothing by King Leopold's representatives, and the natives require persuasion to induce them to find the rubber for the white man. It is this "persuasion" which has led to the international protest against the Congo atrocities. Very often the persuaders have not stopped at torture and mutilation when dealing with recalcitrant negroes.

Great Britain is a sort of overlord of Zanzibar, but we still have great difficulty in putting down slavery in the Sultan's dominions. The latter is located in Eastland, and to a certain extent sympathizes with British ideas of freedom. But there is the revenue to be considered, and so slavery

To Cure That Pain in the Back

Be warned in time. Don't neglect that biting backache—those sudden twinges of pain in the back—dizzy spells—and trouble with the bladder and urine. They all tell their own story—of weak, irritated or diseased kidneys. Surely you know the danger of neglecting the kidneys.

Diabetes, Dropsy and Bright's Disease usually follow neglected kidney trouble. That pain in the back proves that your kidneys are affected. Now—right now—is the time to take Gin Pills.

34 John St., Hamilton, May 4th.

Being a sufferer from my kidneys and subject to fits of dizziness in my head for some time, I did not seem able to get anything that would do me any good. I saw in the paper something relating to Gin Pills so I got a sample box and they benefited me so much that I bought some and am taking them regularly. They have worked wonders in my case and I can conscientiously recommend them to any sufferer from kidney trouble. Yours truly,

Sgd. GEO. A. BROWN.

Remember there is no trick in buying Gin Pills. If, after taking one box you do not feel that you have gotten your money's worth in better health, or if after taking 6 boxes you are not completely cured, take the empty boxes to your dealer and he will promptly refund the money. No affidavit is required. We will rely on your honesty and take your word for it.

Now—for your own peace and comfort, won't you give Gin Pills a chance to cure you? Sold by all druggists and medicine dealers at 50c. a box—6 for \$2.50 or sent direct on receipt of price.

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