

ity of the cold douche; but it still remains that the great institution which suggests the name of Irving, Tree, Booth and a galaxy of distinguished men and women in this and other days is a fine educative force and, as an illustrator of great standard plays, is today—even more than the platform or the pulpit—one of the chief guardians of the grace and dignity of the English language. In the case of the platform, such powers of classic speech as inhere may often be spoiled by nervousness or by the moods of the moment; in that of the pulpit it is not ideally the chief aim; but the main function of the stage at its best is to add interpretive power to verbal accuracy in presenting the artistic product of cultured minds. The purity of the English language in this continent is threatened by a very unwelcome grafting. I do not refer to the impious blasphemy in speech which, in certain circles, disgraces this Western land or to the foul and repulsive modern swear words which put the frequent "Dem it" of Mr. Mantalini into a mild class. These are too gross to stick; but I mean the too common use of slang and hybrid expression which contemn the finger posts of syntax, jump all fences and trample the flowers of style with easy impunity for the questionable gain of a pseudo directness and the desire to be smart.

Apart from provincial idioms and dialects, which are hardly in the comparison, I do not know if in the Latin languages there is anything quite analagous to "Americanisms" in our own—unless perhaps by transplanting. Certainly in the Northern part of this Continent the easy habit is on the increase; like a persistent drip, drip it must eventually infect even those who dislike it most; and the point may well engage the attention of educationists, some of whom of the younger set are perhaps in a mild way rather complacent to the habit, themselves. Nor is the insidious influence confined to us here; and I have been rather surprised recently to notice it creeping into some of the standard old country newspapers and into one or two old country private letters where I looked least for it.

It appears to me, therefore, that a greater encouragement of the best that the Legitimate Theatre has to offer will do much to counteract a growing tendency which promises to leave to the coming generation the legacy of a mongrel speech; and if this term be thought too strong let anyone tabulate for himself a list of slang words and phrases which, by continued use, have already acquired passive recognition in his own polite little circle and yet have no right to be there.

Never in our National history has the Stage been so singled out for Royal honours as in the last twenty years; and it seems ironical that these late honours coincide with a deepening rivalry which threatens its power to merit them in future. Perhaps this danger may be more apparent than real. With its living interest and the strength and attraction of the spoken word the "Legitimate" offers many competitive features to the Motion Picture; and while both require public censorship both are potential factors of great public good.

#### ADVERTISING VANCOUVER CITY.

The value of advertising is a commonplace subject in these days, and every loyal citizen will be glad to see that the project initiated by the Vancouver Rotary Club to raise \$25,000 to advertise Vancouver City crowned with an overflowing success.

If at this time we may venture a comment at all it would be that such an excellent course of action should not be confined to advertising one city or even all the cities in British Columbia, but should be extended to embrace the Province as a whole. In that connection the British Columbia Monthly may have more to say and do. "Independent of party, sect or faction" it is more open for community service affecting British Columbia as a whole.

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