

## SIR JOHN HARVEY'S NEXT PRODUCTION

Is Preparing Enlarged Version of Old Morality Play, "Every Man."

London, December 1.—(By Mail)—Sir John Martin Harvey is to produce in London next year an enlarged version of the morality play "Every Man." Sir Aston Webb, the president of the Royal Academy, is at present occupied in making designs for the scenery and production and both Sir John and his wife, Miss N. de Silva, are to appear in it. Sir John Martin Harvey will play the part of Everyman, and Miss de Silva will take either that of Faith or that of Good Deeds. It is to be played for the first time in the country, however, at the Court Theatre, at Liverpool on December 30, and after a tour of the bigger towns of England it is intended to produce it in London.

It was intended to produce this new version of "Everyman" at Covent Garden Theatre before the war, after "Oedipus Rex" had been produced, but the negotiations fell through, and then the war intervened. Sir John, however, has never given up the idea, and all this year he has been doing the spadework necessary for a London production of "Everyman." The history of this version of "Everyman" is interesting. The familiar morality play was first enlarged by the Austrian poet, Hofmannsthal. Then it was translated into English and again enlarged by the Hon. Sybil Amburst

and "Christopher Home." The latter is a well-known London physician who prefers to remain unrevealed as far as authorship is concerned. It is their version that Sir John Martin is following. The production is to be on the grand scale. There is to be one gorgeous "set" throughout the performance and the inspiration for the whole setting has been obtained from the old illuminations of manuscripts. The coloring and design that the monks of the 14th and 15th centuries used in their missals are to be faithfully followed and countless visits have been made to the British Museum by those concerned in the production in order to obtain perfect accuracy in detail. It will be necessary to carry out a good deal of Gothic architectural design and Gothic woodwork in the permanent "set" for which Sir Aston Webb is now making the preliminary designs. Most of the costumes are to be copied from the missal called "Les Trois Riches Heures," which is now in the museum at Chantilly, although reproduction of it is in the British Museum. This missal was produced in the latter part of the 14th century by two brothers and is described by authorities as "incomparable." Many of the artistic conceptions in it are unexpectedly modern and all the costumes shown in it are gorgeous in the extreme. They cannot, of course, possibly provide enough variety for all the characters who are to take part in the version of "Everyman," and the remaining costumes have been designed by Mr. Charles Buchel. There is to be much music and dancing in the production, and special music is being composed for it by M. Elmer Nilsen and Mr. W. H. Hudson. Sir John Martin Harvey's musical conductor. The inspiration for all this music has been obtained from fragments of 14th century pieces.

## 'HOUSE OF CADMUS' BEING EXCAVATED

Interesting Discoveries of Antiques and Inscriptions at Thebes.

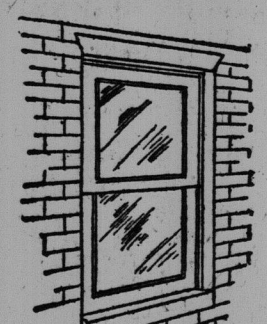
Athens, Nov. 21.—(By Mail)—Dr. Keramopoulos, Ephor of Antiquities, has been continuing his researches in the so-called "House of Cadmus" at Thebes.

It is now clear that this house or palace represents two periods. To the early period, dating from about 1600 B. C. to 1400 B. C., belong the fragments of fine fresco wall paintings found some years ago with a frieze of fashionably dressed damsels, some holding flowers, some vases, and some small ivory boxes. To the later period, roughly from 1400 B. C. to 1100 B. C., belong the ruined chambers which have been excavated. In some of the small store chambers which have been cleared this autumn, Dr. Keramopoulos has found a large number of stirrup vases. A set of about thirty of these, mostly broken but not irreparably, bear inscriptions in the main hand form of the prehistoric "Minoan" script first discovered by Sir Arthur Evans at Cnossos. Some of these inscriptions consist of four characters only, some of ten or twelve. They are symmetrically placed with due relation to the decoration of the vases.

In view of the legend that Cadmus introduced the alphabet into Greece, it is extremely interesting to find what we may perhaps call the Cadmean script in use at Thebes in so early a period. These new Theban inscriptions are similar in character to those previously known from Orchomenos, Tiryns, and Mycenae, and unlike the Cretan script, from which, however, they are derived. It appears possible that the possible difference of script indicates a difference of language between Crete and the Greek mainland at the time in which these Theban inscriptions were written.

It seems to be a fact that lightning differentiates between trees. The general opinion that neither the beech nor the birch is ever struck by lightning has been confirmed by careful investigations. A Mr. McNab, a fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, collected data regarding lightning-struck trees throughout Great Britain and failed to discover that either of these species had ever been struck by lightning. Investigations in this country have given similar results. In the forest regions a beech tree is regarded as the safest place in a thunder storm.

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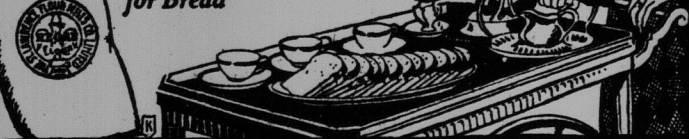
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## A NOTE NOT A WILL

An interesting decision relating to promissory notes was given in Toronto recently.

On a motion by the executors of the will of John Lennox, deceased, for the advice of the court as to a claim made upon the estate, the facts were that John Lennox died on the 23rd April, 1915, and a codicil to his will had been admitted to probate. On the same day that he executed the codicil, he made two promissory notes, one in favor of Frances Dumas and the other in favor of Ida Hoppood. By each note he promised to pay, at a bank, \$5,000, one year after his death.

By his will, he also gave to Ida Hoppood a year's salary and made provision for her having stock in a company which he supposed would be incorporated after his death for carrying on his business.

Ida Hoppood, when giving evidence, said that on the day the codicil was executed, the testator desired to make further provision for her than that contained in the will, and he made out the note in her favor and a similar note in favor of Frances Dumas, handed both notes to her; and upon her asking how the notes should be kept he suggested that they should be given back to him and he would pin them to the will.

Upon his death the notes were found pinned to the will. Justice Lennox held that the notes did not make the payee's creditors of the estate. A promissory note is nothing but a promise to pay money. If there is consideration there is a contract and the promise must be performed. If there is no consideration and the true transaction is an intention to give the note means nothing, for it is a mere promise to make a gift, and is not binding on the promisor.

The judge therefore decided that these notes do not constitute any obligation on the part of the deceased and the claimants are not creditors of his estate in respect thereof.

**Temperance Indigestion.** A temperance lecturer recently burst into the office of the editor of a local newspaper and with an angry frown thrust a marked copy of the latest issue of his paper before him. "I am told you wrote this notice of my lecture on 'The Demon Drink,'" he remarked sternly. "I did," was the calm reply.

"Then perhaps you'll be good enough to explain what you mean by stating that the lecturer was full of his subject?"

**Juvenile Edition Wanted.** "Mamma," said little Fred, "this catchism is awfully hard. Can't you get me a kiddy-chism?"

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## MARTINIQUE NEGRO WROTE PRIZE BOOK

Rene Martin Awarded Prix Goncourt for Best French Novel.

Paris, Dec. 17.—The Prix Goncourt for the best French novel of the year has been awarded to a negro. Its value is 5,000 francs, and it was founded by the Academie Goncourt to commemorate the name and work of the Goncourt Brothers. To win it means for an author that his book will be among the best sellers of the year, and that he will always command a good public.

This year more books than ever before were submitted for the competition, and the voting showed how close it was between half a dozen authors. In the end two competitors, Rene Martin, who had submitted his book "Batouala," and Jacques Chardonne, with his "L'Epithelame," were tied with five votes each. The ruling of the Academy is that in case of a tie the award shall go to the book for which the president votes, and in this case President Gustav Gufray had voted for the former.

Rene Martin is a Martinique negro

employed in the French Colonial Service in Central Africa, and is now at his post near Lake Tchad. His book "Batouala," about which there is certain to be a very heated discussion, is a study of an African chief, Batouala, to whose country Europeans have come with their "magic," their wonderful inventions and their evil ways. The book is not polemical and the author has been careful, as he points out in his preface, to suppress reflections which could be attributed to him, and would not fit his characters, for the negroes of Central Africa are not given to reflection.

His own reflections the author presses in the preface, which is frankly negrophile, and denounces virulently atrocities committed by French and other European administrations in Africa. The novel, however, tells a curiously different story. Instead of dealing with the evil part of the white man, it shows without pretense the ordinariness of the negro, in which the white man mixes. In that respect it is not a pleasant book, but it is both unusual and written in a very attractive and pointed style, which will commend it to French readers.

# COLGATE'S



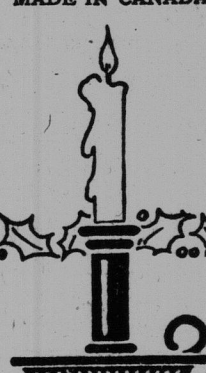
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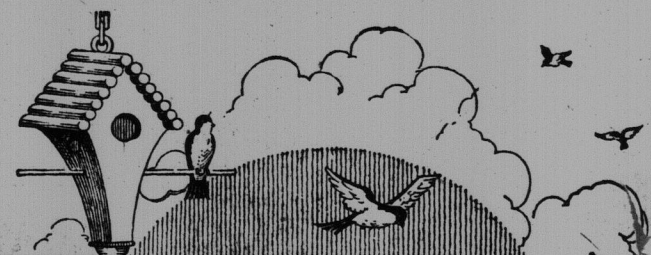
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