

STAGE GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

Interesting Paragraphs From Theatres of Continent

Price Cutting Movement on Foot in New York—Death of Old Canadian Showman—New Plays.

By Ben Deacon. (Canadian Press Correspondent.) New York, November 6.—Where has the New York theatre gone? Or why has he ceased to theatre? This problem is engaging the attention of theatrical managers here at the present time. Undoubtedly there has been a serious slump in the theatrical business. They are no longer "turning 'em away" at the Broadway playhouses. Last season there was hardly a play or a musical show so poor but that it could flout the "Standing Room Only" sign at the lobby door; this year at most of the theatres, that sign, beloved of the managerial heart reposes in some dim corner of the store-room and has not yet seen the light of day.

It appears that there is only one thing wrong with the New York theatrical situation, and that is a lack of audiences. There are plenty of attractions but only a comparatively few of them attract; the producers are active, but the public won't produce. There are some sixty "legitimate" productions from which the public may choose, and a large section of the public, it seems, chooses to stay away from all of them.

This does not mean that the well advertised "Great White Way" is deserted, or that the theatrical profession is in any immediate danger of total extinction through starvation. There is a sufficient number of habitual theatre-goers left in New York, added to the army of transients (including thousands of Canadians) who flock to the playhouses while in the city, to keep the box office employees familiar with the monetary system. It does not mean that many of the habitual playgoers seem to be gradually conquering the habit, and the occasional playgoers are becoming even more occasional. It means that the public is not quite so flush as last season and is spending money more cautiously. It means that theatrical prices have to follow the trail blazed by clothing and sugar in New York, and that trail leads down hill.

The first break in the high prices came this week when the Selwyns reduced the scale at their new Times Square Theatre, where Florence Reed is appearing in "The Mirage." Seats

Women Can Fortify Their Health

With constantly aching backs weary, dragging-down pains, dizzy and nervous headaches, women have a hard burden to carry. It is wise for every woman to fortify herself against those derangements which are present when extra demands are made upon the system by Nature's laws. No better remedy exists for woman's peculiar ailments than Dr. Hamilton's Pills, which possess tonic properties that act upon the proper organs at the proper time. To prevent headache, to overcome dragging weariness, backache, nervousness and pallor—to look well, sleep well, eat well and enjoy the manifold blessings of sound, regular health, every girl and woman should regulate her system by Dr. Hamilton's Pills, 25c per box.

"Raw" From Eczema Doctors Do Their Best

Forty years I suffered. One leg raw from toes to body. No living man could believe what I suffered. It was D. D. D. that cured me, and for three years I haven't had a sign of eczema.

These words are taken from the letter of Rufus Garrett, Chesterville, Ontario. Mr. Garrett will answer any question you care to ask him. If you haven't tried the cooling, healing D. D. D. prescription for skin disease, we shall be glad to sell you a bottle today on our personal guarantee \$1.00 a bottle. Try D. D. D. Send 10c.

D. D. D. THE Lotion for Skin Disease E. Clinton Brown, Druggist, St. John.

FITS

Send for free book giving full particulars of French's world-famous preparation for Epilepsy. This is a simple home treatment. Testimonials from patients of the world over 1000 in one year. Write at once to FRENCH'S REMEDIES LIMITED, 2157 St. James Chambers, 70 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario.

CUTICURA Promotes Beauty Of Skin and Hair



Cuticura Soap when used for every-day toilet purposes not only cleanses, purifies and beautifies but it prevents many little skin troubles if assisted by occasional use of Cuticura Ointment to soothe and heal. Cuticura Talcum imparts a delicate lasting fragrance leaving the skin sweet and wholesome.

Soap, Ointment and Talcum 25c each. Sold throughout the Dominion. Canadian Depot: Lyman, Limited, 344 St. Paul St., West, Montreal. Cuticura Soap shaves without soap.

at that house which formerly sold at \$3.00 may now be purchased at \$2.00. But Canadians who think of coming to New York to get a bargain seat had better plan their trip so that they will not be here on Saturday night. There is one survival of the old scale at the Times Square theatre: top price seats on Saturday nights and holidays will remain at \$4.00. Other managers have so far not evinced any disposition to join in the price-cutting movement. From the office of A. L. Erlanger and Charles Forham, Inc., who control an important share of the theatres here, came the information that no general reduction to the \$2.50 point had been planned so far. Several theatres under the control of this group already have a \$2.50 limit however.

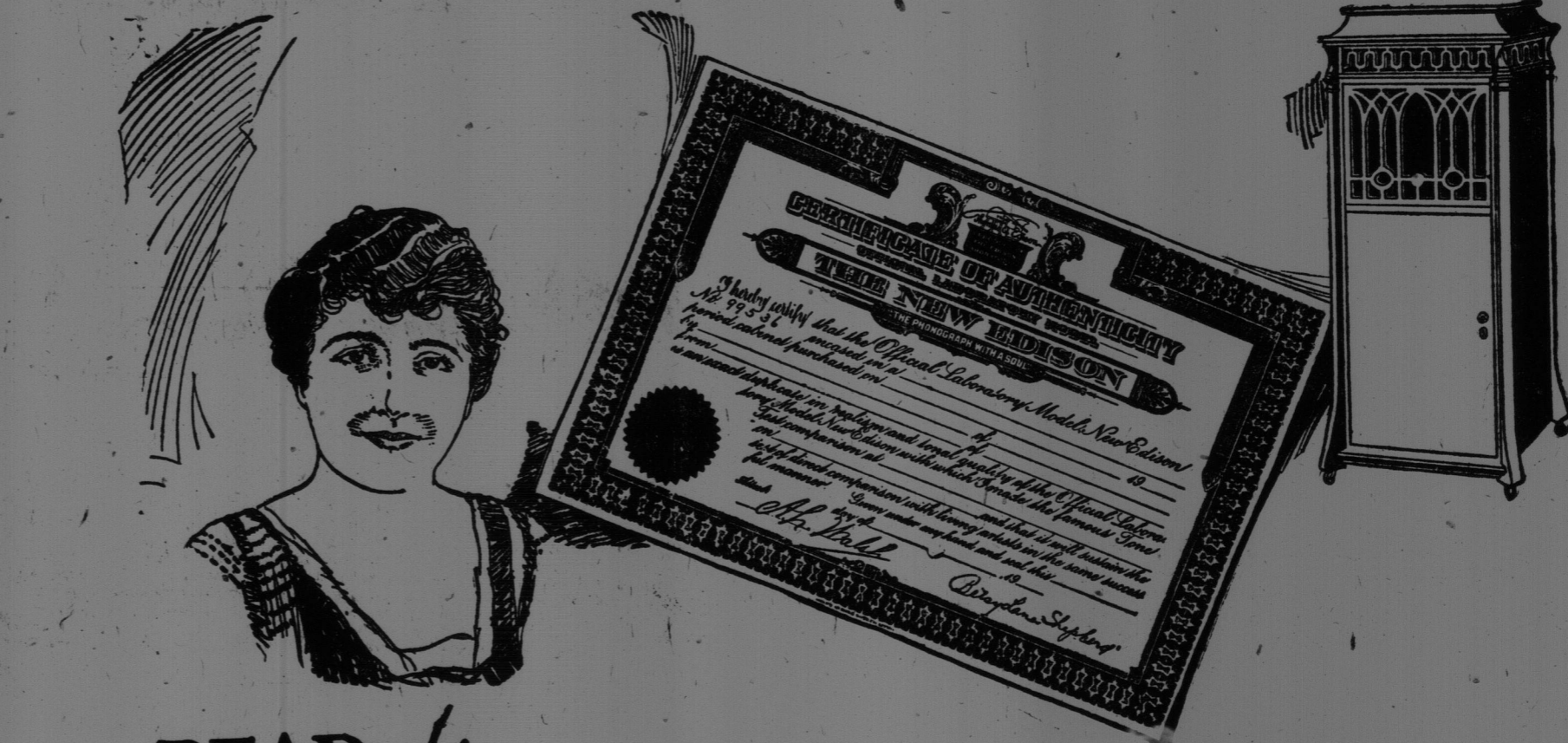
What Erlanger Says. Mr. Erlanger declares the trouble with the New York theatrical business is merely over-production. In a recent interview he said: "Lured by exaggerated stories of the enormous profits made in the business, too many outsiders have entered the field, calling themselves 'producers' and have flooded the market with inferior attractions, and there is no more room for inferiority in the theatre than there is anywhere else, possibly less. This increased competition has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the salaries of every one employed about a theatre, from the man who opens the carriage doors in front to the stage doorkeeper at the back."

Thus Mr. Erlanger has diagnosed the case of the theatre. Meanwhile new shows blossom forth at the rate of three or four per week, and plans are out for several new theatres. Evidently there is not going to be any cutting down of production, or productions, in this industry.

Two new productions were added to the already lengthy list of New York attractions this week. In one "The Prince and the Pauper," William Faversham, a favorite with Canadian audiences, is the star. It is an adaptation by Amelio Rivos of Abby Sage Richardson's dramatization of Mark Twain's famous story. The Prince in the play is Ruth Findley, while Faversham plays Miles Hendon, a role which gives him plenty of opportunity for displaying his ability as an actor of the romantic school. The production is an elaborate one from the scenic point of view and is said to be particularly well staged. The other new show of the week is "The Half Moon," a musical comedy, produced by Charles Dillingham at the Liberty Theatre. It is just a little more tuneful, a little less vulgar, has just as little plot, and is just as amusing as the average mark of the New York musical show.

An old Canadian showman moved off the stage when William Powers died recently. For fifteen years Powers had been trainer of the elephants at the Hippodrome here. He was born in Belleville, Ont., and was fifty years of age. He spent his life as a showman, being secretary and treasurer of the Walter L. Main circus at one time and later with several travelling shows in Canada and the United States before coming to New York. He had a remarkable reputation among animal trainers and was declared to be the only man who ever trained elephants without the use of hook or whip. One of his most famous exploits was the stopping, single-handed, about ten years ago of an elephant stampede which originated in The Hippodrome while a rehearsal was in progress.

An automobile said to belong to Thomas Short was destroyed by fire yesterday morning near the Golden Grove road about five miles from the city.



READ this CERTIFICATE of AUTHENTICITY

BETSY Lane Shepherd has certified all of the Official Laboratory Models of the New Edison that are now in our store. She has signed one of these Certificates of Authenticity to be presented with each instrument. It guarantees that such instrument is an exact duplicate of the New Edison which triumphed at the Betsy Lane Shepherd tone-test given

Tuesday, Oct. 26th IN THE Imperial Theatre

and that it is capable of sustaining the same test. We have just a few of these Official Laboratory Models, executed in "Chippendale" and in "William and Mary" styles. Also, just one in XVIII. Century English (Adam) Genuine Mahogany.

The NEW EDISON "The Phonograph with a Soul"

Come in and inspect these instruments which have been certified by Betsy Lane Shepherd

W. H. THORNE & CO., (LIMITED)

Market Square and King Street

Store Hours: 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Open Saturday till 10 p. m.

Advertisement for Mathieu's Syrup of Tar and Cod Liver Oil, featuring a bottle illustration and text describing its benefits for coughing and general health.

Advertisement for Vox Antiseptic Throat Pastilles, featuring a box illustration and text describing its use for throat ailments.

Advertisement for Aged, Wrinkled Faces Easily Rejuvenated, featuring text describing a skin treatment.

Advertisement for Stomach Trouble, featuring text describing symptoms and treatment.

Advertisement for Pape's Diapepsin, featuring a bottle illustration and text describing its use for stomach issues.