

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

People Known Here and Their Plans; New Plays and Other Notes

DAPHNE POLLARD'S LONG TOUR

Frances Brandt in New Lead; Amateurs Here For Patriotic Fund; Edmund Breese in New Play; Klark-Urban Co. Popular

Klark and Erlanger and George C. Tyler announce the engagement of Edmund Breese for "Moloch," a new play, in a prologue and three acts, by Bulah M. Dix, which will be produced early in September in New York. The play deals with war conditions, and will have an exceptionally strong cast. This play was tried in Chicago in May, when Holbrook Blinn had the leading role. It was described in "The Mail and Empire" at that time.

Hall Caine has recently completed a new version of his novel, "The Manxman," which was dramatized and produced about twenty years ago by Wilson Barrett. In the new version the author's son, Derwent Hall Caine, will assume the title role in the play, which is called "Pete" under the direction of Joseph Brooks, and it will be produced about the middle of October in New York. Later in the season Mr. Caine will present the spectacle "Duke," and a new drama by his father.

The patriotic endeavors to swell the funds being raised for various purposes in relieving the strain of war afford excellent opportunity for amateur players. In the past St. John has been well to the fore in this respect. Now, again, an effort is to be made in this connection, the Irish Literary and Benevolent Society being about the first of the local bodies this season to announce a play for early production in the aid of the patriotic fund. The play has not yet been chosen, but the players are soon to be selected, and the piece will be staged once more under the capable direction of John R. McCloskey, who has so well supervised previous theatrical events here.

Going to Coast.
Daphne Pollard, who was popular here with the Pollard Lilliputians, is a member of "The Passing Show of 1915," which will end its engagement at the Winter Garden, New York, this month, and will begin the longest, four-year tour in the history of the theatre. The production will be fourteen months on the road, beginning its tour in Chicago.

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Where it will play a season of two months. From Thanksgiving until the spring the company will visit the largest cities. The organization will travel direct to California and play during the summer on the Pacific Coast, returning by slow stages to New York, where in December it will debut.

Edward Knablich has lately completed a new sketch, which was to be done in the London music halls. It is called "How To Get On," and its characters were to be played by Norman McKinnel, as Bob Trotter, a policeman; Miss Lynn Fontaine as, play beam, and Mrs. Chetwynd as Isabel Farrington. The title is in the nature of a farcical comedy, and tells how Bob Trotter, an all too zealous constable, obtained the chance to promotion and eventually won the paragon of his desire.

The number of actors in England who have gone to war is illustrated in rather a striking way at Kensington, where, in order to complete the cast of Charles Reader's drama, "The Nervous Soldier," the military authorities to their presentation outside the biggest theatre, "Within the Law" and "Stop Thief!" being especially prominent. St. John players have not been slow to take advantage of the fact and crowded houses have proved thus far during their engagement.

Old Favorites
Lella Hughes, who scored in St. John as Nadine, in the first company of "The Chocolate Soldier," has closed her engagement with the Park-Opera Company in St. Louis, after winning highest praise in prima-donna roles. Mabel Wilber, who was the rage as Sonia in "Merry Widow" when it played here, is her successor and she is already a favorite with St. John audiences.

Maude Eburne, a Canadian actress who made such a hit two years ago as the heroine in "A Part of the World," is part in a new farce, "Brother Mason," to be produced in New York.

A writer in the austere and intellectual New Republic defends musical comedy as follows:
"Musical comedy, it must be admitted, is not associated with certain superior beings. We do not associate it with Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, George Washington, Marcus Aurelius. It is rather against it, but it would be a mistake to conclude too hastily that the instincts which are satisfied by musical comedy are therefore of a low or discreditable order."

"If it could be proved that when Herbert Spencer was 'little Bertie Spencer' he never indulged in the exquisite pleasure of playing on a Jew's harp or mouth organ, never made music on a comb, I would admit that the case against musical comedy was damaging. But I firmly believe that at some time even in that powerfully cerebral career, here were moments when nothing but a mouth organ could assuage. And he who once has consummated that desire or hid a break in a package, or secretly practised a dog dance or blackened his face with charcoal or tried on his father's hat, has shown the proclivities on which musical comedy depends."

"Marcus Aurelius must at some time have turned a handspring on the ancestral lawn. History does not say so, but it is wrong to infer from his, or from memorial sculpture or portraits, that all good men stood throughout life in frozen stony attitudes. Most history is written in embalming fluid."

Remember the canvassers are to call next week.

DOG TRAINED TO 'PHONE APPROACH OF ENEMY

Paris, Sept. 18.—According to the Gazette de France, a certain French regiment possesses a dog which is sent out from advanced sentry posts at night with a telephone strapped over his mouth and a wire connecting the instrument with the post. If the dog hears the Germans approaching he barks quickly into the telephone.

Harry Kendall, formerly of the Vitegraph stock company and previously a member of Charles Frohman's and Henry Savage's companies, returned to England recently by the Atlantic, to join a British cavalry regiment.

The Klark-Urban

"Under Cover" one of the latest and most successful Broadway productions has been released for stock presentation. A large royalty is attached to it. The play had a record of seven months in Boston and nearly a year in New York. Patrons of the Opera House will be pleased to learn that it has been secured for early presentation here by the Klark-Urban Company. It has been a noticeable feature of the stay of this company here

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BODY OF DEAN OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL FOUND IN WATER

Boston, Sept. 18.—The body of Ezra Ripley Thayer, dean of the Harvard Law School, was found in the Charles River Basin on Thursday. A curious examination indicated suicide, and this theory gained substantiation from the events attending Mr. Thayer's disappearance two days before.

For two years Mr. Thayer had been in ill-health, a fact which, together with his connection with the Harvard Law School, was held responsible for his refusal of an appointment to the Massachusetts Supreme Bench late in 1913. So ill had he become last fall that he was forced to give up a series of legal lectures which he had planned, and had been closely attended by his family physician, Dr. G. W. Taylor.

The canvas starts Monday—decide now what you will give.

AN AUSTRALIAN VIEW OF WAR SITUATION

(Sydney Sunday Times.)

After the most momentous twelve months in the history of the world, the decision is still unsettled, and until the Allies are organized as are the Central European Powers, the position will remain as it is at present.

We are bound to hear talk of peace. A year like that we have just passed through is bound to find the weak spots in the human machine. The talk of peace will, however, as far as the vast majority of the nation is concerned, remain talk.

Great Britain alone has fought wars in the past which have lasted many years. When not so well fitted to stand the strain she faced a problem in the conquest of Napoleon which was as great, if not greater, than that she is facing now.

Simply because we are not signing peace in Berlin today, we must not imagine that there is any doubt about the ultimate end of the conflict.

We cannot, however, win without unanimous effort on the part of the whole of the people of the allied nations, and it is now for those responsible for the conduct of our affairs to see that this is attained.

Here, in Australia, we have equipped and sent to the front about 100,000 men, and have placed our navy at the disposal of the Imperial authorities. But we cannot say we have done our utmost to assist the Empire and the Allies.

One hundred thousand men and thirty millions of money as a contribution for a year's warfare from Australia, with its wonderful wealth and unlimited possibilities, is a very small portion.

We will have to do better than this, and the sooner we realize that just now there is only one task before each of us, the quicker will the world be at peace again.

While Germany has not won, she has not lost. We have been told so many times that she is short of this and that, and that the Empire is crumbling, that we are beginning to be suspicious of such statements. The feeling is beginning to grow that there is not so much the matter with Germany and German methods, but there is a great deal the matter with those of the Allies.

So pressing is the need for unanimous action that we feel sure the public will not much longer tolerate half-hearted measures, and while we

DISCOVERED NEW LAND

Stefansson, the Canadian explorer, has discovered a new land in the north and has accomplished practically every purpose for which his hazardous journey was undertaken.

In Germany today all are for the state. Individualism has been made subservient to the needs of the Empire. At present the fact that this is not so with us is our greatest and most dangerous weakness.

The canvas opens Monday—are you with us for that \$50,000?

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