

HOW TO GET ON THE STAGE

By Mrs. E. L. Fernandez.

It is I suppose, on account of my close association with the theatre as a manager of a dramatic agency, through which actors secure positions, that I am asked to discuss the subject, "How to Get on the Stage." This question asked by thousands of people each year, is not altogether easy to answer. Indeed by many of these people an answer is never found, owing to their lack of intelligence, of opportunity, or of fitness for stage work. This fact alone brings up the important consideration: What are these qualities essential to success?

In the case of a woman these qualities may be easily summed up. They are youth, beauty, talent and magnetism. Of course no one can understand what the quality of magnetism is; it is the indescribable something that makes people interesting. We frequently go to see artists who have acquired all the technique of the stage, but who make no impression simply for the lack of that one essential. It is utterly foolish for a woman who is no longer young to think of going on the stage, because in this day, even for old women parts, managers prefer to cast young women, considering that they have a vitality and "go" that older women have not. In the case of men, beauty, youth and magnetism may not be as important as with women, but they certainly help. Men who wish to act should unquestionably have good voices, adaptability and a gift for submerging their personalities in many types of character, and in other words, versatility.

A great many people have the impression that money—so much money—brought in and handed to a manager or agent will secure success on the stage. It may secure positions, because managers and agents work on business principles and expect to be paid for what they do, and if they make unusual efforts they expect to get unusual remuneration. But the securing of a position is only a small thing. Once in a position, the actress or actor must use a theatrical expression, "make good," that is, justify it by their work. It has been noticed, by the way, that the people who pay for their positions and rely upon their money as a means to success very rarely rise above mediocrity.

People often ask if education is necessary for an actor. In the past it did not seem to be; but today it is almost absolutely necessary, because acting is obtaining a standing now as a profession and as an art. I believe the time is approaching when parents will educate their children for the stage just as they do for legal and medical professions. At any rate, the number of aspirants to the stage is steadily increasing. They come from all over the world, from all walks in life; they are of all ages, sizes, colors, temperaments. In fact, it seemed to me when people fail in everything else, they immed-

ately resolve to go on the stage. Last week I was consulted by a woman who was fully fifty years of age, fat, coarse, and unattractive; she had been a trained nurse for eighteen years, and she had taken it into her head to go on the stage. I asked her what qualifications she thought she had that would lead her to suppose she would make an actress. She said: "Preservation and an indomitable will to succeed. I reasoned with her but of course I could do nothing to dissuade her."

As soon as young people decide to go on the stage they frequently come to New York. Occasionally, they secure chances of joining small companies that happen to play in the places where they live. In this way a number of well known players have made their start. But New York of course is the head centre. The best companies and the largest number of companies go out from here. Then, too, in New York the best dramatic schools are established. Every player has to learn the rudiments of the business, in some way, and some of our dramatic schools certainly teach the rudiments and teach them well, because they have for teachers tried and well known actresses who from their own personal experience can tell what to do and what to avoid. Again, the better class of managers, when they want people for small parts or beginners' parts, take them from the schools, knowing that they will get people who have studied their art, and while not experienced in it, still have the necessary technical knowledge.

Most actors serve about three years on the stage before they are entrusted with work of any prominence. Occasionally, however, owing to the illness of some one, or to the unexpected occurrence of a vacancy, an actor secures a fine chance and makes a reputation in a night. The best paid men are the young leading men, because they are the scarcest. It is remarkable that while at the matinees given by the dramatic colleges a manager can go in and pick up from four to six clever women, it is rarely that those colleges get four desirable young men in a year. I cannot tell you why. It may be that the profession does not appeal to brilliant young men, or that the young men prefer to work their way through the profession itself rather than through a course of tuition. Leading men and women receive from five hundred dollars a week down to one hundred. No leading player of any standing receives less than one hundred, and comedians and character people of the first quality receive about the same salaries as those who play "leads." Of course there are a number of actors who receive smaller salaries; but the average salary is fifty dollars per week.

This sounds alluring, but remember that the theatrical season averages about thirty weeks only. Think of being out of work for nearly half the year! I have 8000 actors registered in my books and the larger proportion of them are employed with fair regularity. A great many more women are in the profession, almost five to one; consequently a large number of women are disengaged. It is worth noting here that the dramatic profession is the only profession in the world where women with the same ability receive the same remuneration as men.

Some one asked me the other day if, from my experience, I would advise any one to go on the stage. Now, that would depend entirely upon the person and the opportunities. My one great objection to our profession is that it has no future. While in every other profession years of experience count to your advantage, in our profession it is the other way. A woman, after los-

ing the flush of youth, and after becoming a thoroughly equipped actress, is immediately succeeded by some pretty doll faced girl. Though in Europe women in the fifties go on playing young leading parts, they will not be tolerated here. Therefore, the wise actress makes hay while the sun shines. As a matter of fact, the average actress is far more provident than her brother player.

One hears a good deal moralizing about the effect of stage life on the character of the people in it. In my opinion the effect depends wholly upon the people themselves. There is no absolute reason why the men and women of the stage should not be as fine as the men and women of any other profession. True, there are a great many more temptations, especially for the actress, because the man of the world all over the world seeks the actress, and she has the opportunity of meeting men whom in the ordinary walks of life she would never know. Besides, it seems as if every man had a sort of pride in being seen with an actress. Therefore the women of the stage have the temptations of great wealth and, of course, many fall, but not any more than in any other walk of life where the same temptations are offered. The stage itself does not corrupt, and the association of the theatre itself, inside, is that of strict discipline and entire respectability.

During the past few years a number of people more or less conspicuous in society have gone on the stage. At first, they attracted a good deal of attention; but I have lately observed signs suggesting that the public no longer takes an interest in actors merely on account of any social prestige they may have. Some of these people, it is true, have done very well, and won good positions for themselves others have failed completely or have sunk into obscurity. Few have obtained great success; one or the greatest exceptions, of course, is Mrs. James Brown-Potter. As no distinctions are made among actors society-players have to accept the rough side of life as all players do. Some of them very sensibly accept the conditions and make themselves popular among their companions; those who show snobbishness or discontent soon become disliked. I have in mind now a young man, a member of a prominent family and who is determined to go on the stage. He is not really obliged to earn a living, but he loves stage work, and in spite of the opposition of his family, he is determined to act. No serious objection to his course might be made if he possessed marked talent; but, as a matter of fact, he possesses no talent at all. I have told him frankly that I think he would do his people a great wrong if he were to drag their name throughout the country as a member of cheap theatrical organizations. A few years ago a young society woman secured an engagement by offering to act without salary of a manager on condition that he should pay her hotel bill. After a few weeks the manager found her bills so large that he was only too glad to make other arrangements by which she paid her own expenses and received a salary of \$25 a week. She was really clever both as a woman and as an actress. But after a time she discovered that acting was by no means the easy work she had supposed it to be, and after travelling for a part of the season, she left the stage.

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Dear Sirs.—A few days ago I was taken with a severe pain and contraction of the cords of my leg, and had to be taken home in a rig. I could not sleep for the pain, and was unable to put my foot on the floor. A friend told me of your MINARD'S LINIMENT, and one hour from the first application, I was able to walk, and the pain entirely disappeared.

You can use my name as freely as you like, as I consider it the best remedy I have ever used.

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C. G. Archer, of Brewer, Maine, says: "I have had Catarrh for several years. Water would run from my eyes and nose for days at a time. About four months ago I was induced to try Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, and since using the wonderful remedy I have not had an attack. It relieves in ten minutes." 50 cents.—7

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Lenders—Well, you might try a money order or a check.—Catholic Standard and Times.

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Tete a Gouche, N. B.—You do not praise Catarrhzone highly enough; it is worthy to be written in letters of gold. One small bottle has done more for me than all the doctors medicine I have taken in the last three years. I have been troubled with Bronchitis Asthma, but by using Catarrhzone I have been entirely cured. Do you wonder that I am the enthusiastic friend of Catarrhzone? A. J. Kemp.

Catarrhzone is an absolute cure for Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Hay Fever. All druggists sell it, or will send you complete treatment by mail for \$1.00 or trial outfit for 10 cents in stamps. N. C. POLSON & CO., Kingston, Ontario, Hartford, Conn.

"This is a great story," said the new reporter, "but I can't think of a good head for it. It's about a trusted employee whose accounts were found to be crooked and when he was accused of it he dropped dead."

"That's easy," said the snake editor helpfully. "Head it, Died From Exposure."—Philadelphia Press.

Death or lunacy seemed the only alternative for a well-known and highly respected lady of Wingham, Ont., who had travelled over two continents in a vain search for a cure for nervous debility and dyspepsia. A friend recommended South American Nervine. One bottle helped, six bottles cured, and her own written testimony closes with these words: "It has saved my life."—20

Papa was cutting Freddy's hair. He did it very well, but was not quick at the job. Fred, who is 6 years old, found the function very tiresome. At last he said: "Have you nearly done, daddy?" "Very near. I've just the front to do now." "All I'm afraid is," sighed the martyr, "that the back will grow again while you are cutting the front!" Then papa put on a spurt.—London Tit-Bits.

Thousands of Canadians can vouch for the efficacy of that peerless cough remedy, Pyny-Balsam. It cures a cold very quickly. 25c. of all druggists. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

Customer—Have you taken care that in taking the bicycle to pieces you didn't lose any of the parts? Mechanic—Oh, none of them were lost. In fact, when I got the machine together again there were a dozen pieces left over!—Fliegende Blätter.

"Some devil is inside of me tickling my throat with a feather," said a deacon with a sad cough. "Well, this is the holy water that will cure the devil out," said his wife, as she produced a bottle of Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam. 25c. at all Druggists.

"I tell you," said the practical citizen, speaking with emphasis, "the secret of permanent roads is!"

"How did you get the idea that I was interested in the subject of permanent roads?" interrupted the paving contractor, with a frosty smile.—Chicago Tribune

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The Canadian Order of Foresters

For 20 years this society has been doing business, and each year it has been growing in strength and influence. The following table, which gives the standing of the order since its organization in 1879, will show how it has prospered:

Total Reserve.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Total Reserve.	\$88,500	\$100,000	\$110,000	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$140,000	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$220,000	\$230,000	\$240,000	\$250,000	\$260,000	\$270,000	\$280,000	\$290,000	\$300,000
Claims paid.	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$23,000	\$24,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
Membership.	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,100

In November, 1895, the insurance premiums payable by the members were put upon a sliding scale, and since that time the surplus in the insurance fund has been rapidly increasing, and today it is over \$223,000, all of which is invested in gilt edged securities in the Dominion of Canada, to which the operations of the society are confined. The membership is upward of \$33,000, distributed in every province of the Dominion, and is growing unprecedentedly. The society issues insurance policies for \$500, \$1000, \$1500 and \$2000, at the following rates, the fees being paid monthly in advance:

Between the	On	On	On
Age of	\$500	\$1000	\$1500
18 to 25	35c	60c	90c
25 to 30	40c	55c	85c
30 to 35	45c	70c	1.05
35 to 40	50c	85c	1.25
40 to 45	55c	1.00	1.50

Not a dollar of the money collected for the insurance fund is or has been used for the expenses of management. Over two million dollars have been paid to members and their dependents since the organization of the society.

The Sick and Funeral Benefit Branch is a very popular department, and upwards of 16,000 of the members of the society are participating in this feature of the order. The benefits are \$3 per week for the first two weeks of illness, and \$5 per week for the succeeding ten weeks, and \$50 during any year, besides a funeral benefit of \$30. The fees, payable monthly in advance, are as follows:

Between 18 and 25 years	25c.
" 25 and 30 years	30c.
" 30 and 35 years	35c.
" 35 and 40 years	40c.
" 40 and 45 years	45c.

During the year 1898 over \$43,000 was paid out in sick and funeral benefits, and \$143,000 in death benefits. All physically and morally qualified males between 18 and 45 years of age, who are not debarré on account of their occupation, are accepted for membership.

For further particulars enquire of any of the officers or members of the order or address

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DEAR SIRS,—Please pardon my delay in answering yours of weeks ago. Yes, I have no hesitation in recommending your

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During the fall and winter of '96 and '97 I was greatly distressed with indigestion. I tried several remedies, each of which gave me no relief. I was advised to try your Invigorating Syrup, which I readily did, and have felt grateful ever since to the one who gave me such good advice. The very first dose helped me, and before half of the first bottle was used I was completely cured. I have not been troubled with the disease since. I have taken occasion to recommend your medicine publicly upon several occasions, and heartily do so now. You are at liberty to use this in any way you please.

Yours truly,
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Chatham, N. B., Oct. 15th, 1900. Telephone 19

ESTATE NOTICE.

All persons having just claims against the estate of the Late E. Len Stewart, late of the Town of Newcastle, in the County of Northumberland, Druggist, deceased, are hereby notified to file the same, duly attested, with us within three months from this date; and all persons indebted to the said estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

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