

At the Theaters



Norman Hackett in "Kick-In" at the Brandeis

Julie Ring at the Orpheum

Ethel Wilson in "A Pair of Sixes" at Boyd's

Dorothy Jarden at the Orpheum

Old Town Four at the Gayety

Shirley Rives at the Orpheum

YRILL MAUDE'S visit to Omaha is one of the things for which we have to thank the war. Had it not been for the conflict in Europe, we might never have known just how much an actor he is. Therefore, hurrah for Mars! Some good has come out of the world conflict. Mr. Maude's engagement is high water mark for the season, and it is not likely to be passed, except purely by the actor's art of acting. Memory brings readily back cherished recollections of the achievements of splendid actors for many years, because of the depth and intensity of impression made by the scene when it was enacted. Janushek in "Bleak House," Coudock in "Hazel Kirke," Salvini in "La Morte Civile," Mansfield in "A Parisian Romance," Irving in "The Bells," Jefferson in "The Rivals," Bernhard in "La Tosca," Blanche Walsh in "Resurrection,"—why call the roll? The gallery is long, and is well filled, but it has room for Grumpy and his kind, although it is not likely that many more such will come. The dear old man, created for us by Mr. Maude's art, deserves a place alongside the best, and whether it was the war or other agency that sent him hither, the means will be blessed, for the end was delight for a large number of Omaha folks, who really showed some sort of liking for a truly acted play. We have had so much of the kinetoscopic drama, and so little of the real, one was almost inclined to wonder what would happen if a real honest-to-goodness company did come here. The welcome given "The Only Girl" at the Boyd to start the week showed Omaha has not lost its desire for good musical comedy, and the "Grumpy" engagement justifies the belief that some taste for the drama still survives. Now, if the western manager will only make a note of this, maybe another season we will not be left in the predicament we have suffered so far. With Omaha it has been a case of two first-class theaters and nothing to show in them.

Word comes from Lincoln that the Dramatic club of the University of Nebraska proposes to put on "Believe Me, Xantippe" at the Brandeis next Saturday night. The comedy has never been seen in Omaha, although it has been much written about here. Its author, Frederick Ballard, being a Nebraska boy and a former student at the university. The Dramatic club of the university for several seasons has planned on an excursion into this village, for the purpose of presenting one of its productions, but as yet hasn't reached us. No very good reason could ever be given for its not coming here. Omaha is as deeply interested as any community in the state in the affairs of the great school at which so many of its citizens have received their educational training, and where so many of the boys and girls from the homes of Omaha are now going through the routine work of acquiring a university degree, not to speak of membership in a Greek letter fraternity. Therefore, Omaha is more than commonly glad to know that the university plays will be among us, even for one night, and we will certainly do our level utmost to make them glad they did come. Two Omaha boys are members of the club, and Maurice Clark of this city is to be in the cast.

"A Pair of Sixes," Edward Peple's laughing success which kept New York in convulsions of laughter for an entire year at the Longacre theater, is announced as the offering at the Boyd theater for three nights beginning today, January 16, with Oscar Figman and the New York cast. The plot deals with two partners who disagree and whose lawyer suggests a show-down poker hand to see which of the two partners will have control of the business, as well as the direction of the other partner's affairs. "A Pair of Sixes" wins and the winner obtaining the services of his partner as a butler in his household for one year, under an ironclad agreement by which not a word of explanation shall be made nor an order violated without the payment of so many fines that the loser would be bankrupt. After awhile the butler is not given in his mental duties. He is actually the partner of her husband, who becomes jealous. This amusing condition of affairs develops the most hilarious fun and twisted situations, which are finally straightened out through the cleverness of the loser's sweetheart, who ultimately plays the winning hand.

The production is under the direction of H. H. Frazee, and the New York cast supporting Oscar Figman will include Kate Guyon, Jack Raffael, Rita Carlisle, George Leffingwell, Hilda Graham, Ethel Wilson, Richard Earle and others.

A comedy-drama "Kick In" will again be seen at the Brandeis for four nights and Wednesday matinee, beginning tonight. "Kick In" deals with a number of crooked people and police department of New York. What the crooked people and those who have reformed do to the police, and what the police do to

them makes the story of the play, which is told in a style so new and refreshing that it has New York set up and applauded "Kick In" for a solid year at the Republic theater.

Perhaps the success of "Kick In" was due in large measure to its strong undercurrent of sympathy. Certainly no two characters could be placed in more predicaments than Chick Hewes, played by Norman Hackett, and his beautiful young wife, a role capably handled by Doris Hardy, find themselves during the course of this unusual play. Although they are reformed crooks who still associate with criminals, the spectator cannot help sympathizing with them when he learns that they are trying to live straight and at the same time befriend former associates. It is this softness of heart, which finally entangles Chick and his wife in a set of circumstances the parallel of which has never been seen on any stage heretofore.

People of Omaha are at last to see "Believe Me Xantippe," the play which started the Nebraska author, Frederick Ballard, on his road to success in theatrical circles. With this play, he won the John Craig prize at Harvard. Upon its presentation in New York, last season, Mr. Ballard became one of America's most popular playwrights. The play has, also, proved successful in London this season. It is known there as "Willie's Trip West."

The story deals with a rich New York idler, who makes a bet of \$20,000 that he can commit a crime and escape the law for one year. He is quite successful until he meets and admires the pretty daughter of a western sheriff. Then complications arise. The new York papers in reviewing used such expressions as "A sure cure for blues," "The merriest farce," "Two hours of laughs," "A breezy as the prairies." The cast is made up entirely of Nebraska university people. The author, because of his former affiliation with that school, has granted the use of the play in Nebraska before it is yet cooled from eastern production.

Maurice Clark, well known in Omaha theatrical circles, will be seen in the leading role. As the rich New York idler, Mr. Clark has gained the reputation of being "irresistibly funny." In the feminine role, Miss Williams, who is a native of the western states plays the part of the charming "deputy sheriff" as if to the manner born. An able cast carries the minor parts and lends strong and cheerful support to the evening's fun.

After the matinee performance at the Krug theater next Thursday, Genevieve Russell will hold a reception for the women attendees.

The play will be "Niobe." Many women have called at the Krug theater box office, and have written letters, asking to meet Miss Russell.

"On the Firing Line With the Germans," the war films which will be presented at the Brandeis theater for one week beginning Sunday, January 23, were filmed by Wilbur H. Dubois, who will lecture with the pictures, telling of his experiences under fire while taking the pictures.

The chorus, which is one of the integral characters in "The Yellow Jacket," which Mr. and Mrs. Coburn will present at the Brandeis theater on February 3, 4 and 5, is a single man who is to speak "takes the chair," and in real life also the contributions of a grateful audience.

"Adèle," the musical play which gained an unusual measure of popularity during its long run at the Longacre theater in New York, will be given its first local performance at the Brandeis theater for four days, beginning February 6. The company that will present it here is the only "Adèle" organization in existence, and is said to be fully competent to interpret both the musical and acting qualities of the play. The roster presents the names of Myrtle Jersey, who has the role of Adèle; Clara Palmer, a favorite with musical comedy patrons generally; Fred Frear and Felix Haney, comedians who are well known and popular; Charles H. Bowers, Maurice Lavigne,

speaking actor of this generation will establish a new record in theatrical farewells. Not since the time of Macready has an actor actually retired after taking his farewell of his public. Macready made his farewell appearance in London at Drury Lane and he never again appeared in public. It will be the same with Forbes-Robertson when he makes his final appearance. Curiously enough, Forbes-Robertson made his London farewell at the same theater that saw Macready's farewell—Drury Lane Theater Royal. But not even Macready knew the tremendous success that has been Forbes-Robertson's. On the final night of Forbes-Robertson's farewell season at Drury Lane an audience which filled every seat and every inch of standing room—over 1,500 persons—witnessed his "Hamlet," which is universally regarded as the greatest Hamlet of this age. Over \$5,000 in actual money was taken in and there was not a single seat given away. The newspaper men who came to witness this last performance all stood; it being their own wish that the public should have the opportunity to buy all the seats in the theater.

"Daddy Long-Legs" will be presented at the Brandeis theater for three days beginning February 14 by Henry Miller's special company.

"Nobody Home," the unique and fascinating musical comedy success by Guy Bolton, Paul Rubens and Jerome Kern, will be presented at the Boyd, February 6, for three nights, under the direction of the Marbury-Cornstock company, with the original cast, headed by Lawrence Grosmith, Mildred Elaine, Charles Judels, Maude Odell, Quentin Tod, Helen Clarke and others.

Admirably endowed as a singer, Dorothy Jarden is also richly gifted in good looks. She will be heard and seen at the Orpheum this week. Of stellar prominence, also, is Julie Ring. Miss Jarden won wide popularity in "Madam Sherry" and in various Winter Garden shows. Miss Ring is a sister of Blanche Ring. In several successful comedies, including "The Yankee Girl" and "The Wall Street Girl," Julie has succeeded her sister with equal effectiveness, and she has been leading woman with such productions as "Get Rich Quick Wallingford." Her vaudeville playlet, "Twice a Week," is by John B. Hymer, and is said to be a decided novelty. Bright bits of variety are offered by Ethel Kirk and Billy Fogarty in a melange of song and patter. As a toe dancer, Marie King has very few equals. Not many years ago she accomplished the feat of toe-dancing down the stairs from the famous Metropolitan tower of New York. Her vaude-

ville dancing partner is Ted Donner. "The Children of the Buddha" is a novel offering of songs and dances, with Miss Don Fung Gue and Harry Hax as the featured performers. Bert Wheeler's latest comedy is said to be exceptionally humorous. His act is called an automobile pantomime and the name of it is "Troubles of a Jitney Bus." Shirli Rives' first excursion into vaudeville was in the principal role of the Viennese operetta, "The Eternal Waltz." For over a year she and Ben Harrison have been associated as entertainers. Wild birds of Scotland, the flocks and mountains of Norway and picturesque Sweden will be shown in remarkable motion photography by the Orpheum Travel Weekly.

With "The Twentieth Century Maids" at the popular Gayety theater the current week, with matinee daily, it is promised that patrons of musical burlesque will be treated to one of the most entertaining shows and most gorgeous productions that the present season has put forth. The Theatrical Operating company, always generous in equipment, has been especially lavish this year. The result is that they have a company and production which have won instant and lasting approval wherever they have been seen.

As the star, Harry Cooper, one of the cleverest exponents of comedy that the stage possesses, and an all-star cast including Jim Barton. The book contains so many complicated situations that it would be difficult to explain them; it is enough to say that the audience is kept in suspense until the orchestra fiddles them out of the doors. While the plot is being unraveled fifteen musical numbers, all beautifully dressed, are heard. Heading the large and competent cast are such well known people as Julia Kately, Arthur Young, Chesleigh Baters and the Old Town Four. Today's matinee starts at 3 o'clock.

For the week starting matinee today the North players at the Krug theater will offer the farce, "Niobe," known as "The Girl in White." This play will give Sport North and Genevieve Russell an opportunity to display their ability as farceurs. This will be the first time the play has been given here at movie prices. Careful attention has been given in the preparation of the stage settings. A work of meritment is in store for Krug patrons. Particular attention is being given to seat reservations, which may be made by calling at the box office or by telephone. Family matinees on Thursday and Saturday of each week.

Want Chapman Back. The Atlanta club is banking strongly on the return of Catcher Harry Chapman. He helped Atlanta win the pennant in 1913 and President Frank banks on him to do it again in 1916.

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SPECIAL NOTE: Madame Paderewski, traveling with her husband, will sell Polish Refugee Dolls at the Hotel Fontenelle Monday 11 to 5 o'clock and again at the Auditorium after the Concert, Monday evening, for the benefit of the Polish Victims' Relief Fund. "Buy a Doll and Save a Life."

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