

## THE CHAPERON ISSUE.

Lincoln society, content to bear the taint of provincialism, has not been affected by the chaperon question, the different phases of which have of recent years, occasioned considerable discussion in the larger American cities, and in some instances caused a modification of time honored usage. The following is an amusing comment on the subject, being a western view—from the *Kansas City Star*:

"The chaperon agitation is breaking out again in the west. Just as people had begun to believe that society had resigned itself to the blessings or the evils of the chaperon the whole question bobs up again and the old battle must be fought over. Of course the trouble is in Chicago. That is where all western outbreaks begin. And the pity is that this is not a matter where the Federal authorities can interfere, so it may be expected to run a long and wearisome course. The truth is that the chaperon system had a hard time gaining a foothold in the west. The girls were gay and competent to protect themselves, and the young men were gallant and generous and not averse to paying all reasonable expenses. But along came fashion, that arbitrary and domineering old lady, and said that chaperons were the proper things; so the girls told the boys that hereafter they would not be expected to put up for any more polite recreations, and the boys very reluctantly assented. Of course this could not last. The chaperon principle was all right, but the chaperon as a purveyor of recreation did not materialize, and the young women found to their horror that their amusements were cut down to the least common denominator. Then they began to revolt, and to hint to the young men that after all there was no way like the old way, and that they were perfectly willing to overlook the extreme and silly demands of fashion and return to the good old custom that has aided so materially in building up the west. But the young men were not so sure that the point was well taken. They had tried the chaperon system, and had found to their surprise that it possessed manifold advantages.

They had discovered that dropping in at a party when one pleased dancing with whom one pleased, and going home or to the club when one pleased formed a combination of charms that could not be overlooked. They had learned that a cigar, a cab and ticket for one were much cheaper than flowers, a carriage and theatre tickets for two, and they had admitted that as far as they were concerned they were persuaded that the chaperon system had been much maligned and that it represented in good faith the bulwark of society. They would be very sorry to see society revert to the dark and heathenish customs of the past, and were resolved to throw their influence in favor of the continuation of a scheme of such manifest benefit to a well ordered community.

Of course this was tantamount to a declaration of war, for no western girl of spirit is going to submit to any masculine interpretation of the proper or fashionable thing. It was all very well to run the chaperon fad while they, the girls, proposed and favored it, but to continue it because it pleased the men—s' death, that was quite another proposition. But the young men were inexorable. And what was worse, they had all the argument on their side—that same miserable, unhappy argument which a short time ago the young women used so effectively. So there is war between the sexes, and the matrimonial industry is much depressed in consequence. Nobody will pretend to foresee the end of this conflict. It may be confined to Chicago, or a general strike may be ordered involving the entire west.

As far as Kansas City is concerned the chaperon idea has not taken a firm hold, but each year marks its insidious growth. When parents are young and frisky they are not averse to giving to their daughters the attention which juvenile blood requires, but as age and rheumatism steal on apace this enthusiasm vanishes and home begins to present more endearing charms. In the meantime the young men are growing up in selfishness and avarice, and another decade will witness the disappearance of the gallantry of a past generation. This is the problem which is confronting society of today. This is the momentous issue of the chaperon."

## CHOLERA INFANUM

That most dreaded summer complaint occurring mostly among children from six months to three years of age, is quickly cured by the use of HUMPHREYS' SPECIFICS 4 and 5. For sale by all druggists.

## AMUSEMENT NOTES.

Very generous encouragement has been given to the popular entertainment course of lectures and concerts, which Mr. Zehring will inaugurate at the Funke opera house next month. The subscription lists have been very generally signed, and there is every assurance that there will be a large attendance at all of these entertainments. The best people in the city have taken a lively interest in this course, and the universities and schools will contribute largely to their support. The course will include lectures by John J. Ingalls, John Temple Graves, who is known as the successor of Henry W. Grady, Eugene Field, the poet-journalist, and Rev. Robert McIntyre, the eminent divine; and concerts by the Mozart Symphony club of New York, one of the leading concert organizations of the country, and the new University conservatory of music.

Nat Goodwin is among the coming attractions at the Funke.

Pauline Hall in "Dorcas," who was to have appeared at the Funke opera house Tuesday evening, November 6, the night of election, has changed her date a couple of weeks later, at the instance of Manager Zehring.

It is stated freely by the officials of the Columbia College that the abolition of skirt dancing is due entirely to the pressure brought to bear upon the students by Professor Low. Newspaper comment has been very severe upon the students for several years, but no attention was paid to it until this year, when the students themselves announced that they had abolished skirt dancing at their entertainments. The general public, which does not attend college entertainments, has little notion of the extent to which the mimicry of feminine skirt dancers was followed by Columbia College students. A little group, composed of six notable members of the college, not only became expert dancers, but mimicked the action and voices and manners of women so thoroughly that it was difficult to tell to which sex they belonged behind the footlights. The climax was reached two years ago, when the son of a prominent New York banker, who was a Columbia College student, gave an order for a costume which was absolutely feminine in all its details, from the hose to the dress. The finest linen was employed, and the student's monogram and crest were worked upon every single article of attire. These garments were on exhibition in a dressmaker's room on Fifth avenue for several weeks before the youth, in full regalia and paint and powder, gave his dance in public. It was this performance which resulted in a sharp reversal of public opinion upon the matter, and it had the effect of crushing out the skirt-dancing craze among the students.

One night last season Della Fox said she would be willing to pay \$50 for the first pair of tights she ever wore. She had no idea what became of the tights, but remarked that the offer would stand good until she recovered them. The news of the reward spread like wildfire, and within a week Miss Fox had received three pairs of tights from three different parties, each claiming that the "inclosed tights" were the original and giving the reasons. Since then Miss Fox has received 63 pairs of tights and 63 requests for the \$50 rewards, the tights are varying in size from a pair which might fit little La Regalocita to a set which would be too large for George K. Fortescue.

Every theatrical manager at one time or another has been taught the perilousness of small type in announcing an artiste. October will see the trial of an action in Liverpool wherein Lady Mansell will seek from the lessee of the Park Palace Music Hall substantial damages for putting her name on the bill in small type, says the *Philadelphia Press*. Eminent London counsel has been briefed for the plaintiff, and presumably the claim will rest upon the fact that anything under "ten-line pica" was an insult to the lady's reputation. If Lady Mansell succeeds she will have added a new terror to the many which beset the path of a theatrical manager.

Nat C. Goodwin played to more than \$10,000 at Hooley's theatre, Chicago, last week. He appeared in Henry Guy Carleton's "The Gilded Fool."