

### No Joy in Plays

#### Gotham Has Sad Week and Looks for More Like It—French Uplift Failure

By PERCY HAMMOND.

New York, Dec. 20.—The recent missions of Mme. Simone and M. Gemier from France to America did not, it seems, serve to weld the sister republics more closely together. There was not, of course, any disagreeable feature about the visits save that of the public's indifference; and the two emissaries departed overflowing with compliments. But their hearts must have been a little heavy as they contemplated the chill nature of their welcome on these shores. One wonders what will be the character of their report to their fellow countrymen across the sea.

Mr. Gemier, I think, would be less than human if he did not feel hurt when his American managers were forced to cancel engagements in other cities because there was no sale of tickets at the box office. That justification must have overbalanced the halloes and hosannahs of his arrival in New York. Being an artist, and therefore sensitive, his chagrin naturally was deeper than it would have been otherwise. Whereas such bluff fellows as Mr. Comiskey and Mr. McGraw could laugh at the bleak reception of the baseball players in Paris, M. Gemier and Mme. Simone suffered. They will not, perhaps, come again.

One grieves also for the well-meaning New Yorkers who underwrote the two embassies. Their intentions were noble and their generosity complete. They sought to tighten the embrace in which France and America are now enfolded, a worthy aspiration. Miss Anne Nichols, thankful for "Able's Irish Rose," desired to discharge an obligation, and so imported Mme. Simone, Mr. Otto Kahn, Mr. Lee Shubert, Mr. James K. Hackett and others expressed their gratitude to their fellow men by offering them M. Gemier. The trouble was that they started something they could not finish. The result is that there is blood and melancholy. Foremost among the forward arts, the inclement theater thus retards rather than advances love among the nations.

The opera, like polo, is more effeminate as an instrument of international amity. As you may have heard, New York's Monday Opera club, desiring to banish the frontiers, has been hostess to the "Czarina." Nothing but warmth and appreciation marked the "Czarina's" pilgrimage down and into democracy. Subvented by the Monday Opera club, with all expenses paid, the imperial lady received our homage and departed with memories full of hospitality. She left admiring us for a profuse and munificent people and was almost as enthusiastic as the prince of Wales. Music hath charms.

I wish you could have been at the Hotel Plaza the other day when the "Czarina" received the proletariat. Outside the royal suite the bourgeoisie were assembled, with here and there a sprinkling of peasants. Everything real seemed to be at hand, from holy oil to the fanfare of trumpets. There was a purple carpet and outsiders from the Monday Opera club. As the gracious princess stepped from her private elevator she did not in the least resemble Edgar Saltus' description of her dynasty as "the last of the imperial Carnivora." The event was made complete by the "Czarina's" address to her subjects. "Although," said she, "we are of different social standings we are all Russians."

The plays last week were pretty bad. Mr. Morosoff's "Artistic Temperament" was the worst, a dull and flimsy anecdote about a novelist. . . Papa Schildkraut, the most thorough of the stage's photographers, did a thing called "The Monkeys," adopted by Elmer Rice from the rural European of Herman Bahr. It was well acted and tiresome. . . The only gleam of light in the week was the Actors' Equity matinee revival of Mr. Shaw's "Candida." Played by Miss Katherine Carnell, Pedro de Cordova, Ernest Cossart and Richard Bird (from England). It was as musical plays are, better than its audience plays are. . . Meantime, if you are coming to New York and wish to see a top-notch musical comedy, go to "Lady Be Good." The Astaires are in it and so is Walter Catlett, and I plan to make a further report of it later on.

The Japanese palm for the best smile goes to Helene Chadwick, according to word from 437 members of the Cinema club of Tokyo, who, by a process of photographic elimination, which Rex Ingram will direct.

## At the Theaters



Nance O'Neill AT ORPHEUM



Edith Murray AT WORLD



Billie Shaw WITH "PASSING SHOW" AT BRANDEIS

Betty Morgan AT ORPHEUM



Fiske O'Hara COMING TO BRANDEIS



Mildred Cecil AT GAYETY

Olga Brooks AT EMPRESS

"Three Weeks" to Give Joy at the Empress All Week

Merry Christmas Bill Will Show at World This Week

A Merry Christmas vaudeville bill is now current at the World theater. Headlining the six acts is Edith Murray in a spectacular all-girl revue. Featured with the act are the dainty Caprice Sisters supported by Alice Allen, Nell Wood and Mitzi White. Chester Spencer, premier, funmaker, has the assistance of Lola Spencer in a hilarious comedy act entitled "Putting It Over."

Chester and Arthur Celebrate After Fifteen Years of Separation

Chester Spencer, comedian, at the World theater this week, and Arthur Freudenfeld, manager of that playhouse, are renewing their acquaintance after 15 years. Back in 1909, when the present World manager had a vaudeville theater in the suburbs of Chicago, Chester Spencer was a clerk in a neighborhood bank. He had achieved

considerable reputation as an entertainer in numerous amateur affairs given locally and one day was pressed into service at the vaudeville theater. Chester Spencer and his wife, Lola Williams, both then and now, walked out on the stage of the small variety theater for their first professional appearance. Chester had a new idea in the line of provoking laughter, and Miss Williams proved an admirable foil. At all events the act was an immediate success. The next day Spencer went to the president of the bank and told him to get a new clerk.

The success attendant at the first performance of Spencer and Williams resulted in a season's vaudeville bookings, and since that time the comedian and his wife have been featured in the best vaudeville theaters of America, time after time, as well as having appeared with several big Broadway musical comedies.

Now Playing Ends Friday



A merry musical play is "Three Weeks." All about a trio of trifling sheiks. Three sailor men, "Weeks" was their name. The way they got in trouble was a shame. Wine, Women and Song drove them to despair. Christmas laughs await you—get your share.

The Show of Unlimited Laughter, "THREE WEEKS" Yuletide fun for old and young

Louis Joseph Vance's well-known novel made into thrilling photoplay, "THE BRASS BOWL" With Edmund Lowe—Claire Adams And fourth exciting story of the "Go-Getters"

Matinees—10c, 35c; Nights—10c, 50c

### Orpheum Bill for Christmas Week Has Many Fine Features

Nance O'Neill, the distinguished dramatic actress, and Jim and Betty Morgan and their collegiate orchestra share top position on the Christmas bill at the Orpheum this week. Miss O'Neill is featured in a gripping satire entitled "All the World's a Stage," written by the well known English author, Alfred Sutro. In the supporting cast are Alfred Hickman and Beresford Lovett. Mr. Hickman appeared with Miss O'Neill in "Mary Magdalene," one of the greatest triumphs of the classic stage in a decade. Nance O'Neill is among the foremost American actresses. In vivid roles of emotion she has few equals in any land. Among her most recent successes are "The Wanderer," and "The Passion Flower," in which she starred for three years. Jim and Betty Morgan are among the elite in songland. Jim Morgan is the composer of such well known songs as "Don't Bite the Hand That's Feeding You," "Cleopatra Had a Jazz Band," and "Frisco's Kitchen Stove Rax." Jim and his partner have backed up with an orchestra this season—nine capable musicians, who play the accompaniments for their songs and provide a little music on their own account.

Claude and Marion have fine singing voices which they employ to good effect while not engaged in a marital argument, which supplies a whirlwind of merriment. William Demarest and Estelle Collette have an unique song and dance act entitled "Strings and Stringers." One of the youngest dancing geniuses the American stage has ever known is Baby Henderson. Critics have predicted that she will have a future equal to Pavlova. Not only has she the instinct for dancing but the fitness and technique rarely found without years of experience. Vivian Holt and Myrtle Leonard present one of the finest musical offerings of the season. Miss Holt is a soprano of wide range and flexibility and Miss Leonard's voice is a contrast of extraordinary depth and richness. Miss Holt had made several phonograph records and Miss Leonard has sung as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, the New York Symphony and the New York Oratorio society. Both are well known in the concert field. Sim Collins and Lew Hart have a neat acrobatic act which provides plenty of thrills. They are assisted by Julian Brack. On New Year's eve there will be two complete shows at the Orpheum, the first show starting at 7:45 and the second at 10:30 o'clock. Reservations may be made by calling the box office.

### "Passing Show" at Brandeis on Christmas Said to Be Best

Hailed as the climax of pictorial achievement, the 11th annual revue, "The Passing Show," due at the Brandeis theater Christmas matinee and night and through Saturday with the regular Saturday matinee, represents the last word in stage sumptuousness and extravaganzas. This "Passing Show" is said to have cost the Messrs. Shubert \$243,000 before the first curtain was raised. George Price, Maraget Breen and Roy Cummings frolic and sing through the merry course with that subtle ability to make it appear their own humor is as great a delight to themselves as to their hearers. No less than 100 players are employed in the action of "The Passing Show," the personnel including an all-star beauty ensemble that typifies woman in all her glory. The costumes are said to be the limit in gorgeous coloring and quality. Alfred Goodman, composer of the melodies, has certainly done himself justice in the 20 or more lyrics that adorn the program. One number, "Kissable Lip," has already swept the music centers. The production is replete with dance numbers, with Fred and Dave Breen especially noticeable. There are so many unusual happenings during the long performance. One of these in a superbly beautiful setting is "The Ball Begins." A stage full of pretty girls have many scenes of brilliance to themselves, among them being "The beginning of the French Revolution," "Ten Best Sellers," "My Dutch Lady," "Rainbow Girl" and others. In two acts and 24 scenes, the mammoth production has been staged by J. C. Huffman, written by Harold Atteridge and set to music by Al Goodman.

### Fisk O'Hara Looms Ahead in New Play Based on Money

Fisk O'Hara will be seen at the Brandeis theater for four nights, commencing Sunday, December 28, with popular-price Wednesday matinee, in his new play, "The Big Mogul," by De Witt Newing. The play is said to be a little different from the usual run of plays that Mr. O'Hara has been seen in for the last few years, as it is a story of modern life, dealing with a plumber from Troy, who is unexpectedly left \$7,000,000 by an old man whom he has befriended. He immediately starts for New York, where he wants to show the natives a few things in the art of spending money fast. Naturally he is taken into camp by a smart manipulator and is freed of his entire fortune. How he gains it forms the dramatic background for one of the most novel of comedy dramas. Miss Pat Clary will be seen in the role opposite to him. The play is in four acts and takes place during a period of three weeks. During the action of the second act a musicale will be given in which Mr. O'Hara will be heard in several new songs. "BANJO LAND" IS RIALTO FEATURE "Banjo Land" is the stage attraction at the Rialto theater this week. Seven men appear in a novel singing and dancing musical act using seven banjos. A beautiful stage setting is used that is different. This act has been staged and produced under the personal direction of Jack Fine one of America's greatest producers.

## BRANDEIS THEATRE

wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and offers an exceptional list of stellar attractions for your entertainment during the gala holiday season.

### THREE DAYS STARTING CHRISTMAS MATINEE

Matinee Christmas, 3:00 P. M. Saturday Matinee, 2:30 P. M.  
LEE AND J. J. SHUBERT PRESENT  
**GEORGE PRICE ROY CUMMINGS MARGARET BREEN**  
and Company of 100, in the

## PASSING SHOW

AMERICA'S FOREMOST MUSICAL INSTITUTION  
NEW YORK WINTER GARDEN REVUE  
GREATEST ENTERTAINMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE STAGE

"The Living Chandelier"—"World's Most Beautiful Stage Spectacle"  
Celebrated Castle House Orchestra  
PRICES: Evening Floor, \$3.00; Balcony, \$2.50; \$2.15; 50c; 2d Balcony, \$1.00; Matinee, Lower Floor, \$2.00; Balcony, \$1.50; 10c; 50c—Plus Tax

## A WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT

FOUR DAYS BEGINNING SUNDAY DEC. 28  
POPULAR MATINEE WEDNESDAY  
A Notable Cast

# SEE FISK O'HARA and MISS PAT CLARY IN "THE BIG MOGUL"

THE SENSATIONAL COMEDY DRAMA WITH MUSIC

Mail Orders Filled in Order Received  
SEAT SALE Tomorrow 10 A. M.  
Nights: 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00  
Popular Matinee Wednesday Best Seats \$1.00 Plus Tax  
Attention: Secure Seats Early

### THREE DAYS ONLY STARTING New Year's Night

MATINEE SATURDAY ONLY  
Start the New Year Right  
ORDER YOUR SEATS NOW FOR

# OTIS SKINNER

In the Merry Spectacular "SANCHO PANZA"

As big if not a bigger production than "Kismet." A brilliant, whirling, colorful panorama of drama, music and dance. "SANCHO PANZA" is based on that gold mine of Spanish humor, "Don Quixote."

PLEASE ENCLOSE SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO INSURE SAFE AND PROMPT RETURN OF YOUR TICKETS  
Mail Orders Filled in the Order of Their Receipt  
PRICES: Lower Floor, \$2.50; Balcony, \$2.00; \$1.50; \$1.00; Upper Balcony, 50c; Saturday Matinee, Lower Floor, \$2.00; Balcony, \$1.50; 10c; 50c—Plus U. S. Tax.  
"You'll want to take to the open road with Sancho and forget your hobbies."

## Orpheum ORPHEUM CIRCUIT VAUDEVILLE

WEEK STARTING TODAY'S MATINEE

**NANCE O'NEIL** Supported by **ALFRED HICKMAN** In a Comedy Drama of the Present  
**"All the World's a Stage"** BY ALFRED SUTRO

**JIMMY & BETTY MORGAN** AND THEIR COLLEGIATE ORCHESTRA Present SONGS AND MUSIC SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT

**BABY HENDERSON, The Child Wonder**

**CLAUDE & MARION** "STILL ARGUING"

**HOLT & LEONARD** "A Intimate Song Recital"

**COLLINS & HART** "RED AND BLUE"

**DEMAREST & COLLETTE** "STRINGS AND STRINGERS"

**ASBOP'S FABLES TOPIC OF THE DAY PATHE NEWS**

**TWO SHOWS NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
7:45 and 10:30—Order Seats Now

## VAUDEVILLE WORLD

Holiday Fun and Good Cheer Merry Christmas Bill

The Tiny Comedian **Little Lord Roberts** America's famous midget funmaker

**Two Stenards** Wizards of the Xylophone

**Bob, Bob & Bobby** Direct from the New York Hippodrome

Remarkable All-Girl Revue  
**Edith Murray & Co.**  
Featuring the **Caprice Sisters**  
With Alice Allen—Nell Wood—Mitzi White

Added Attraction **Spencer and Williams** "Putting It Over"

Special Engagement **Lucille Benstead** Australian Nightingale