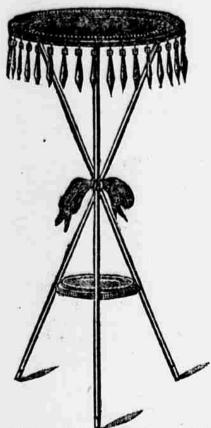
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the New York Stage. PRACTICING WHAT THEY PLAY.

The Grand Opera Too Utterly Sweet

For Criticism-Clara Belle's Pen Sketches of Swelldom.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4 .-- [Correspondence of the BEE. !- A curious complication was seen at one of our most fashionable theatres last evening. On the stage was Charles Sugden, the actor with whom Lady Desart eloped a few years ago, and the singular thing about him was that any woman, in or out of aristocratic society, should fall in love with such a personality. He was forty-five or tifty, and utterly devoid of romantic suggestions-so much so that he failed ludicrously in enacting the role of a fervid stage lover. More over, and dreadful, he more than once dropped an H, and his accent was cockneyish. So much for him. His marrange to Lady Desart still exists, but they are understood to have quarrelled, and she did not come with him to America,

HE IS WOOING MAY FORTESQUE eagerly, in mimicry and reality. The rumor is that Sugden and Fortesque are to be wedded as soon as a divorce shall permit, and it was due to this report that the actress was snubbed by claborate soeiety at Tuxedo, lately-not to her wholly circumspect betrothal to Lord Garmoyle. In the audience, so close to the stage that Sugden and Fortesque could not have feiled to recognize her, sat Selina Dolaro, the actress who something like ten d Desart. Selina was years ago with Lord Desart. a pitiful sight, notwithstanding that much of her old-time beauty remained in her half-yeiled face, and that her cheap attire was neatly stylish; for she is ill and poor, and has said good-bye to the world in which she figured for a time so mer-rity. The play was "Frou Frou" with its story of a wife's elopement; and it struck me that a free and reminiscent discussion of the theme by Sugden, Fortesque and Dolaro would be exceedingly interesting.

One of the acknowledged belles of swelldom has managed to get herself considered along with the stage performanc at the opera. A feature of the season there is an unusually elaborate bailetnot an incident in an opera, but a separate pantomime and dance. The first danseuse is an outright charmer, and Well, the society girl, on the nights when the ballet piece is presented, wears a dress whose bodice is an exact counter-part of that portion of the danseuse's stume; and as there is a close similarity in the two faces and forms, the resemblance is quizzieally observed through opera glasses from all parts of the house. Thus the amateur gets a considerable share of regard fairly above the belt, and with none of the professional's arduous exercise of the feet. A visit to

THE GRAND OPERA in New York this season is like a glimpse of the fairy land—too utterly sweet for criticism. You know, the box owners are the swellest of the swells, and pay \$3,000 spiece for fifteen weeks of opera. There are two full tier of boxes, and a few more on a level with the orchestra. Each box s accompanied with drawing room, connecting with lobbles. In these little par-lors the ladies take off their wrans and do the last primping preparatory to ap-

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and a veritable wonderland for little ones, who are cordially in-

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sleeveless before the audience.

oxes are appointed with hangings, to make a proper back-ground for the delicate shades of dress goods and for the inordinate display of complexions, which are fashionable at full dress affairs. Certainly the sex looks pretty in such a setting at this. The house is simply a grand drawing room, in which the most beautiful women of the most giddy society display themselves. There they view and are viewed, they gossip and whisper, they do everything except attend to the opera, which is the last thing they think of. These reception rooms attached to the boxes are often fitted up at considerable expense. Some men have spent two or three thousand dollars in clothing the walls of their tiny room with golden paper, in adding costly chandehers, lounges, rugs, chairs, por tieres, clocks and I don't know what all Think of turning a room six by eight into a jewel case! And yet that's what Mr. Rhinelander and several other New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis and San Francisco millionaires have done. From one of these peautiful 100ms to another the ladies flit between the acts, visiting and interchanging admiration and toothsome gossip. And all the evening long the gentlemen move from box to box in calls upon the ladies. Never before in the history of this prodigal village was so much wealth lavished upon any ideal of fashion as is displayed here in ladies' dresses, in jewels and in furniture. talk of millions lightly nowadays, but it is not a careless assertion to say that there never is a night when a million dollars' worth of finery is not gathered in this opera house. In one matron's eats I saw \$1,200 worth of diamonds, while on her neck was a necklace worth ten times that, and in her hair was a pin that cost \$1,000, to say nothing of her bodice brooch, finger rings and bracelets, all crusted with big diamonds-and she "wasn't anything wonderful," as they say in New England Her fur sacque cost \$3,750 and her cloak, worn from her carriage to her box, cost \$275. The price of her dress could only be guessed at, as it came from Paris, but it was of satin weighted with gold em-brodery as thick as armor. Why, a husn moderate circumstances would awfully hate to have to pay for her gold opera glasses, or her point lace shoulder And yet she was not only com parable in expensiveness of style to the Indies in the boxes of the Creekers, Moro-sinis, Vanderbilts, Goelets, Warrens, Frenchs, Drexels, Connors or Mortons. SLEEPING CAR GOSSIP.

I have just come from that painful luxury, the sleeping car. How incongru-ous and improper it was for instance, to discover that the grumbler in an upper berth, whose mildest remark in the course of the long night was "It's cursed hot up here!" was none other than a full-fledged major general. By day he was a gor geous vision of spectacular gallantry; by night a howling demon of profanity. But enough of men, the commonplace creatures; their ways are as plain as an open book and their characters as easily read. Let us return to the inexhaustible field for psycho-anthropological resource The first night in a sleeper is nothing to the first morning. Well do I remember my first experience. The toilette is accomplished under such harrowing circumstances. But it is surprising how readily one becomes indifferent to the surroundings. Said a stout young woman from an adjoining section: "I have traveled all the way from San Francisco in a sleeper, and I've lost the last shred of modesty." I believed her when I saw her sitting on the end of her berth in her corset with loosened lacings, draw-ing on her boots with a lavish display of plumply filled hosiery the curtains pushed back and men and women passing to

and from the toilette room. It was a

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Monday morning for the first time in our west basement we will open a 25 cent counter, consisting of toys and fancy articles, all of these will be found excellent quality for the price; among them the following at a

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Imported pianos, Pool's barometer and thermometer, perfumery in fancy glass holders, Hill's spelling building blocks, clarionets, metal and bone pocket whistles, trombones, parlor games, cut up objects, birds and animals, Japanese oracle, American sports,old maid, game of Dickens, game of auction, cellulold tooth pick holders, scrap books, soldiers' caps, helmets, knapsacks, swords, muskets and bayonet, leather rubber balls, bull's eye lanterns, rubber dolls, whips, devil's rattles, toy watches, toy clocks, magic lanterns, rubber balls, paint boxes, chime bells, stove and kitchen set, handsome wax dolls, toy castors, bisque figures, comic wax dolls, china plates, hand painted plates, dressed wax dolls, mustache cup and saucer, skin animals, cradles, beds, after dinner coffee CUPS AND SAUCERS, and

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drapery, boots buttoned and hair smooth as satin to the line where it broke into billows, of crimpiness over her fore-head. How did she do it? She was in the toilette room with the first streak of dawn, for I peeped through my curtains as she passed by in dressing sack and skirts, the voluminous drapery on arms and the crimping pins held by a ovely turban. There was a difference! She could travel to China and back with-

out danger to her modesty. There was a sixteen-year-old girl on that train who will own the road some day, unless they multiply her, and so divide the profits of her peculiarity. She is rather pretty, in an uncultured style, and she looks as ingenious as a babe, but what she knows of the nature of masculine humanity would burst the covers of an unabridged dictionary. She prospers by a combination of wit and lemon drops. she enters the car with a calm smile on her face, and an open package of her wares in her hands. As she walks down the aisle she shakes one drop from the package into the lap of each passenger, and casually remarks: "Nice tresh lemon drops; there ain't none like 'em made; try them before you buy them; only 5 cents a package." The passengers all glare and nobody tries them, at first -not until the shrewd creature is clear down at the other end of the car, meditatively drumming her fingers or the glass of the door as she waits for her silent partner to get in its work. It al-ways does. A lemon drop isn't big, nor is it pretty, but the neatness and dispatch with which it can upset the mental balance of a strong man, when he has received it from a witchy sort of girl, is a caution. One by one the seducive little ampies are transferred from the laps of the men to their mouths. And that setles it. The bits of sugar and acid are fire to the palates. By the time the girl has finished her serenade on the car glass she can face an assemblage whose mouths are animated by but one watering thought-whose souls utter but cry—the longing for more. They all buy them—the man with a sudden tickling in his throat that must be assauged; the chap who hides the little paper under his coat and slyly slips one into his mouth when he thinks nobody is ooking; the aged guy whose frequent hand to the mouth that it necessitates, be trays the entering of another drop; and the bold fellow who mulches the yellow

wealth of the girl. You have doubtless seen train boys working the sample game, but it takes a pretty girl to develop its possibilities.

morsels openly and unblushingly-all

contribute their nickel to the further

THE VANITY OF MEN. My male cousin came running into my presence the other day with the exclama-tion, "Look at me! What do you think of these togs? I've made up my mind to knook out the dudes from this time on." Now, there was nothing remarkable in that speech for a man, but I never yet saw the woman who would have expressed such a sentiment. I am all up in arms now, and I am going to prove by this text that men are several shades vainer than women. And they are vainer about their clothes than women are. I know the world thinks differently. Men done all the speechmaking and most of the writing for centuries, and they have all helped on the vanity of women, and the importance women as-cribe to dress. Now, I've got the floor, and am going to knock out that notion to smithereens. At least, I am going to knock it a wee, tiny, little bit.

In society 1 am continually hearing men say, "I've got a dress suit that will

make the girls all sweet on 'ne." or, "I've ordered a riding coats that will make the

aisle, number three, emerged from her irresistible." All chaff, you say. Yet closet curtains with not a crinkle in her no one fails to recognize the truthfulness of the silly and egotistical expression, and no one ever heard a woman or a girl say such a thing in fun or in earnest. Women are vain about dress. Oh, yes, they are human. But women, that is good and respectable women, don't dress for men's eyes. They don't think of the effect of their gowns on the other sex. Now, if you didn't know that, or if you think I am stretching a little for argument, let me

little for argument, let me assure you that it is true. The ardor of women in dress is due to rivalry with her own sex. Each woman wants to look better than, or at least as well as, each other woman. Let me put it this way please: On next Easter, when we all ome out with our new things, and enter the church doors, we look around at all the congregation with nervous interest. What for? To see if the men are dazzled by the beauty of our costumes? Not for a single blessed instant. When we've finished looking we could not tell you whether there was a man in the church. We haven't seen or looked at or thought

of a single male. Now, did we look to note the effect of our new gown and bonnet on the envous eyes of other women. No, no, no; we are above that, also. Oh, how we are misunderstood. We look simply and solely to see whether any other women is better dressed than we are, and what every other women has on. Upon my word as an expert, we never think of anything else. We do all the thinking of ourselves before we get there—at home in the maid's hands, before the glass and for a week or month before even that, when we are planning not to be beaten by another women.

On this world's stage women play to women in the matter of dress. They play to win applause in complexion, teeth, eyes, manners, speech, coquetry and general lovableness. That's our game before we are married, and if it isn't kept up toward husbands after marriage it is ause wives don't know enough. told that certain, flashy garments, that are never seen in good society except in store windows, are worn by certain women for the benefit of the other sexwrappers, sacques and hosiery and all that. But when I write about ladies, whether they are poor or rich, and I say once for all, we do not dress for men, we do not care what men think of our clothes,

men think of our clothes, we know that men know no more about women's gowns than pigs know of Munkacsy's painting. There, now, is that flat and plain enough? Let me give you some more wisdom in nutshell con-ciseness. Among the men, the dandies dress to attract female attention, to 'knock out the women," as my cousin says; but the dudees dress to eclipse each other. Now, that latter way, the dude's way, is the way women dress-to eclipse

I was saying all this to a gentleman who thought he had the better of me by asserting that women are forever looking in mirrors, and primping and shaking out this part and smoothing down the other, and tittivating their hair, and all the rest. That is solemn trnth. The women do no end of that sort of thing. But it isn't from vanity. Did you ever see a lady whose hair has come down walking along the street with a tail of it down the back? Did you ever see a lady with her skirt of bustle showing behind through a disarrangment of her over-skirt? Did you ever see a lady with her hat tipped over almost on one ear? Well, it is to prevent such humiliating things as that that women always glance glass, and give a shake here, and a touch there, and a smoothing somewhere else. A woman dressed is a mass of devices that are liable to get out of place, and nobs green with envy," or, "Wait till I are only held in place by pins, and clasps,

Umbrella

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hairpins, straps and laces. Her hair may come down, her hat get out of place, her stockings may climb down on her shoes, her overskirt may perch on her hip or bustle, her skirts may loosen and drop peneath the dress. Is it any wonder she looks at her reflection whenever she can't And yet, "kind gentlemen," as the old players used to say, it is none the ess a fact that when a Broadway looking glass dealer set a boy to count the num-ber of persons who looked at themselves in the glass he kept out on the sidewalk it was found that of a given number of women and men twice at many men as women stopped to look at themselves in the mirror.

NATIONAL BANK CIRCULATION An Answer to Comptroller Trenholm's Request for Plans to Preserve

the System.

To the Editor of the BEE: The following clipping is taken from the BEE's Washington correspondence of a recent date:

The forthcoming report of the comptroller of the currency will, it is thought, deal quite extensively with the question of a new basis for the national bank circulation. Financiers realize that unless something is done in this direction very soon the days of pationa banks will soon draw to a close. While it is not believed that there will be any considera ble call of 3 per cents during the next six months, it is evident from the manner in which the receipts from customs and tnter-nal revenue bour into the treasury that the final payment of the outstanding bonds of this character cannot be put off very long. A great many people hold 4 and 4% per cen-bonds for investment and are not disposed to allow them to get into the hands of national banks. Comptroller Trenholm is open to sug-gestions from any one interested and will give any that are sent to him all the weight which they are entitled to. As far as is known no suggestion has yet been made which is likely to meet with the approval of

From the above it appears that the honorable comptroller of the currency invites suggestions on the subject, and admits that no suggestion has as yet been made to meet the difficulty he has encountered in trying to provide a permapent basis for the existence of the national bank system.

The result of the recent congressiona! elections is construed to be a condemnation of the tariff theories of Morrison Hurd and others of the revenue reform school of politicians, and the probabilities now are, an indefinite continuation of the present tariff; large surplus reve a corresponding reduction in the nues: a corresponding reduction in the public debt; a rapid elimination of national bank currency, and, unless a practicable scheme can be devised and speedily put in operation, it may soon re sult in a reduction in number and ultimately wipe out of existence, the whole national bank system.

How can this be prevented, is the ques tion the honorable controller wants answered. It is the object of the writer very briefly to suggest what appears to be one of the ways in which this can be done, and that this result shall follow as an incident to a scheme which would secure other and perhaps much greater benefits to our people.

The United States owns a large number of valuable public buildings, rents a still larger number, and in its various departments should own a building wherever it now rents one: should own all the build ings required for its permanent business and cut off the cost of renting. Even at the rate paid on the lowest class of bonds, three per cent,a building for pos office use in an average county-seat, costing for lot and building say \$10,000, would cost the government but \$25 per month to own, while the rent paid for such a building would probably average | probable cost of all such buildings, of | ical cure.

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12 inches long, with full jointed kid body, moveable head, long carly plaxen hair, beautiful expressive

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Unbreakable body, jointed limbs, trimmed chemisette, movable bisc head, and expressive features, long flax hair.

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17 inches long, full kid jointed body, bise arm and hands, washable face, with stockings and shoes, xtra long, thick hair, \$1.75 each.

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month Much of the vast amount of money appropriated for river and harbor improve ments is wasted by reason of appropriaions being made in dribblets, intermit tingly, from year to year, causing frequent stoppage of work, disbanding of experienced workmen, deterioration of the work and plant, and all this, incident to the ever-recurring want of the necessary funds to push such works, in a prompt manner, to final completion. All such works, when once decided upon, and a start made, should be pushed as rapidly as possible to completion, and this can only be done by providing the money as fast as such works may re-

quire.

The class of public works above referred to should be of such permanent construction as to inure to the benefit of future generations. It is unreasonable if not positively unjust, to tax the pres ent population and business of the country with the entire cost of such public works.

In addition to the foregoing it has been requently urged that all telegraph lines should belong to the general government and become a part of the postal system. With buildings provided as indicated the telegraph lines and business could be under governmental control without adding materially to the present cost of the postal service, while the saving of rent, and of messenger service in our targer cities would greatly reduce the expenses now paid by the telegraph com panies, as well as dispensing with the the double and treble expense where opposition lines have offices. By reason of such economies the cost of the service to the people could be greatly reduced if the entire system were owned by the government. Estimating the entire capital stock of the lines at one hundred millions, the net income at 6 per cent, amounting to six millions, admits of re-duction in charges for telegraphing to pay interest on bonds required to own them of four millions, and a still further reduction in the economies possible if under government control.

Should it be found practicable to devise a scheme for the construction of all the public buildings required; for all lighthouses, all harbor improvements and for the acquisition of all telegraph lines, and to distribute an equitable share of the burthens, to future generations, who will enjoy, with the present, equal advantages in the use of such public works and telegraph lines—would it not be part of wise statesmanship to favor such scheme THE SCHEME PROPOSED.

There should be authorized a depart ment of public works, which should be given the custody of all public buildings heretofore erected, and such department should be charged with all river and harbor improvements, the crection, repair and custody of all buildings required for public use. The active agents in such department should be a corps of skilled engineers and architects, with same tenure of office as officers of the army and navy, with presidential power to transfer, with their consent, especially skilled officers to such department from officers of the army and navy.

In future, and as rapidly as they could be constructed, the United States to own buildings of a permanent character in every city, town or village where such buildings would, under present condi-

tions, have to be rented. As an indication of the character of may be said, generally, that the cost should be based on the population of such town, and its reasonable prospects for growth, and that \$5 or less per capita would pay for the buildings of ample ca-pacity for public use in nearly every place where buildings are required. The

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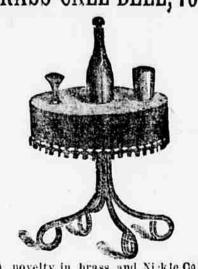


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A novelty in Brass Goods, Letter and Paper Holder with trumpet for standard, at \$1.50 each.

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A novelty in brass and Nickle Call Bell, just received: very pretty exactly like above, 75c each.

armories in each important city for the militia, as a part of the land forces of the United States; permanent barracks and quarters for troops, military and marine hospitals, light houses on lake and sea coast with the river and harbor improvements, all completed, to be carefully, and as nearly as practicable ascer-tained in advance, and the aggre-gate for the whole scheme, including the acquisition of all telegraph lines, to be capitalized as rentes, upon which the United States shall agree to pay a semiannual interest at the rate of 2 per cent per year, the principal never payable, but to be evidenced by certificates show-ing ownership, the same to be trans-ferable on the books of the treasury department as is now done with registered bonds, such certificates or evidences of the debt to be specifically authorized as security to be accepted from national banks for their note issues and public deposits, and after a fixed date in the future to be the only obligations of the government receivable for such purposes.

If it be assumed that \$500,000,000 would be the extreme limit required for all the purposes indicated—the annual charge be but \$10,000,000-less an average yearly apthan an average yearly appropriation for river and harbor improvements alone, while the net receipts from the telegraph lines at present rates and with the more economical manage ment, would pay the entire interest, and the saving of reuts be a act gain. Harbor impovements, the Hennepin canal, etc., could be pushed through with reasonable expedition and without the losses inci-

dent to the present want of system. The advantages claimed for the proposed scheme are many and obvious-not the least of which would be the employment resulting to labor all over the ployment resulting to labor an over the country during the progress of the work. It preserves our national banking system, white drawing from them at a nominal rate of interest, the money tor all these improvements, and leaves the present war debt to be paid off in full as it matures and with it the last evidence of our fratricidal strife.

Pending the maturity of the war debt and during the progress of the public works contemplated, the surplus revenues could be applied to the payment of their cost, and the treasury be reimbursed from time to time by the issue of certificates of this permanent improvement debt, as the same might be wanted by new banks and by the old ones whose basis may have been removed by calls for bonds heretofore made-such certificates in no case to be sold or issued at

less than par. As to the rate of interest-two per cent -it is the opinion of able bankers, who have been consulted, that if issued with the especial conditions named herein, there would be no trouble in placing them at par.

C. M. Tremett.
Major, U. S. A.

'Animals that Look Like Men.

St. Paul Pioneer-Press. There's a big Newfoundland dog that frequents the halls of the Plancer Press building whose countenance so resembles that of James G. Blaine that it startles one. I once knew a Darhum cow that looked so much like her owner, an Leiscopal menister, that it became a matter of common comment. Face's now a little black and tan dog at the St. James hotel which so closely resembles one of the preprietors of that hotel that every guest stops, gazes and is amuzed. There is also a big mastiff in the city whose tass closely resen-bles that of a well-known local politician

Are you restless at night, and increased by a teid cough? Use Dr. J. H. MeLean's Far Wine Long Baim, it will seeme you sound sleep, and offert a prompt and rad-