

AMUSEMENTS.

Evidence of more life and enthusiasm was discernible at the local theaters last week than at any other time during the present season. Both theaters enjoyed unusually large patronage and every one seemed satisfied with the quality of the amusement furnished. Of the four attractions offered at the Boyd only one succeeded in attracting the regular theatergoers to any great extent. This was the Francis Wilson Opera company, and at both performances of "Erminie" there were few, if any, seats unoccupied.

Joseph Murphy, who has been before the public as long as any other actor, drew large audiences at each of the four performances given by him the last half of the week. Mr. Murphy is not unlike that of Sol Smith Russell's, is made up, not of regular theatergoers, but almost wholly of people who rarely ever attend the playhouse at any other time than when their old favorite is to appear. Mr. Murphy has made "Sham Honk" and "Kerry Gow" almost immortal, just as Sol Smith Russell has made "Edgewood Folks," "A Poor Relation" and "Peaceful Valley" and as Joe Jefferson has made "The Van Winkle."

"I shall always have a warm spot in my heart for Omaha," Miss Glaser, who was at the Lulu Glaser, in her dressing room, last Wednesday evening. It was during the performance of "Erminie." Miss Glaser had a half hour to herself while Francis Wilson and William Broderick, as the two thieves, were amusing the audience. The pretty blonde hair, which falls over Miss Glaser's shoulders in curls when she is before an audience, covered a wig block which sat where the wig could be easily reached and quickly adjusted to her head when she came back from the stage. Instead of the blonde wig the writer saw an abundance of black hair, combed straight back and tied with a wig band, upon Miss Glaser's head. She was busily engaged in "stufing" violets, as she called it, upon a pretty lace lunch cloth. "As you doubtless know, it was in Omaha, six years ago, that I made my debut as a leading woman in comic opera," said she. "Mr. Wilson was on his way to the Pacific coast. Marie Janesch, who was at that time a leading woman, contemplated a starring tour, and severed her connection with the company here. I had been acting as her understudy for some time, and Mr. Wilson decided to let me try the part. I shall never forget how beautifully the audience treated me; they were simply lovely, and I think they had much to do with my success; they encouraged me with applause that was more than generous, and Mr. Wilson decided immediately to give me the part permanently. One little occurrence during that performance I shall never forget. The part I played was that of a boy, a perfume peddler, and I had to wear tights. The front row of the parquette was filled with men, as usual, but one man in the first row, at my feet, at all times throughout the performance, at least I imagined he was looking at me, and it annoyed me very much. I spoke to my mother, who traveled with me at that time, and told her that the man next to me so nervous that I could not get through the performance. She encouraged me and fortunately everything ended well. The next day I happened to be on the street and who should I see coming up the street but this same man, and he was coming with himself with fancy wigs. She says that she would have hysterics if she was compelled to spend many life moments, which is an indication of a remarkably active brain.

There are few, if any, more handsome or better voiced comic opera prima donnas upon the American stage than Pauline Hall, and to a keen observer it is evident that she is just as beautiful as when she was a young girl. It was somewhat of a surprise to many theatergoers when a year ago she left comic opera for vaudeville, and when the announcement was made some weeks ago that she was joining Mr. Wilson it was received with much pleasure by her many friends and admirers; not that her beauty is any the less radiant upon the vaudeville stage or her voice less pleasing, but she has long been associated with comic opera that it is hard to imagine her as a band singer. Mr. Wilson certainly made a tremendous hit when he secured her and congratulations would be due him were it not for the fact that she will remain with his company for but a short time. During the course of a conversation with the writer last week she said: "It is not true, as announced by the eastern press, that I have parted from vaudeville forever. I have closed a contract for next season to appear under the Hurst Seaman management and am having a new act written for me of which I do not wish to be disclosed just yet. Why am I going to leave comic opera again? Simply because vaudeville is not such hard work. You remain a week or more in one place instead of from one to two nights, as is the case in comic opera. You are not worried out with travel and the salaries are much better in vaudeville. Not so artistic? That may or may not be, but after all it is the almighty dollar we are after nowadays and love of art has little to do with the majority of the people of this century."

The following letter, which bears all the earmarks of having been written by a former resident of some rural district and one not accustomed to attending theatrical performances regularly, was received too late for attention in last Sunday's issue of the Bee. At first the dramatic editor thought of paying no attention to it because of the writer's failure to sign his name as an evidence of good faith, but it is so ridiculously funny that it is published below.

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 17, 1930.—Theater Critic: Dear Sir: I have the pleasure in going to see the "Moth & Flame" this week. Some of my friends saw "Black

Patrol," others the "Children of the Ghetto." We with one voice cannot understand on what grounds these plays are charged extra prices, for surely they are not of such superior merit that the increase was justified. I think it is time for the opera house management to make the mistake they make. Can you explain the reason of the advance? About 90 were present Wednesday eve at 1.50 a head.

ONE WHO WAS THERE. Thinking that the readers of this department would be more interested in a knowledge of how a half-dozen people could understand with their voices, the Dramatic Editor respectfully referred it to the paper's authority on voice, Mr. T. J. Kelly, and below will be found his reply.

To the Theater Critic: Omaha Bee: Dear Sir—Your communication received, hasten to return to you the original manuscript and with it the statement that I have submitted same to the careful consideration of the best authorities with the following results and findings: First—In the first place I cannot find any authority for the statement, "We with one voice cannot understand." Neither can I understand how several persons can have but one voice, but suppose it is the result of this abbreviation called the "voice" and it is not natural to suppose that the persons have formed a trust and have united all their vocal cords into one distinct voice. Second—It is possible for a voice to understand. This is a puzzle. There was in old times a "voice" which could do any job and which was "next" to a certain language. But that was not a complaint against the theatre prices. As far as the attractions themselves are concerned, and your correspondent's suggestion as to price cutting, I am in a quandary. I want to get it, see it. You would not think I don't do me any good. Why don't you write me up once in a while? Then the critic said a word about it: "When you do something worth noticing it will be noticed. What have you done to cut prices? Is it the cause of art? Have you sacrificed anything at any time? Some of us have made many sacrifices, introduced new people and new works and done so at much personal loss and without any particularly strong support from the fraternal circles in the city, and all I've got to say is that it is an outrage that musical people are not encouraged in the attempts they make to please the public." He left disheartened.

From this conversation there is much to be learned and noted. The tendency is to expect the press to do everything and yet if that same press venture to criticize or to suggest an improvement, there is a howl which makes day and night. The press here at its business department, and thank goodness, there is one paper in Omaha which does not give away its advertising to one and levy mightily on another. The press cannot pay bills on free samples, and it has left evidence of patronizing the public. They are educated up to the point where they want to get the most for their money—on each side—and good advertising pays.

The concert season is almost over; a month or two at the most. The season what has been done locally? No effort has been made to rise out of the lethargy that is fast becoming a characteristic of Omaha. Can the musicians be blamed? Omaha is growing worse and worse, musically, and for the reasons one can see. The music is patronized only by the light and the simple. Grand opera, with its strong educational impulse, is something which Omaha has heard of, but knows not. The favored children of the muses, locally speaking, are Frank Danica, Francis Wilson, Ed Hoppper, Alice Nelson, Jeff D'Angelo, Barnabee, Macdonald and their companies. Is it that Omaha does not want anything better? These people are good, of course, but are they all that is good in music for the people? It is the matter with the people. It is the matter with the real blame lie at the doors of the musicians, who are perhaps not doing their duty? Any one of these names will be sufficient to pack a local theater. There is a chance for an argument here.

Perhaps what Omaha needs is a good manager, meaning by that, of course, a manager who will work up the interest of the people and whose personality and arguments will secure the necessary financial aid. The most perplexing part of the problem is that a great many people in Omaha are willing to pay for good music and for the best that can be had. Of course there are those who hate music and they will have punishment enough—in being unable to see anything beautiful in the expression of a soul.

Then there is the sly prejudice against music from a business standpoint. People oftentimes feel about music as they do about a check-up—they think it is a waste of money. The man who never had a sick day in his life, and tells you so, what cares he for a doctor? Nonsense! They are only a lot of quacks, they know nothing. What do they know about his case? Now what do they know, anyway? Tableau! The man is taken suddenly ill. This is the doctor's Maria! For heaven's sake, can't you get the doctor? Jim, telephone for another doctor, quick! What is the matter with you people, anyway? You are all so slow! Doctors are so slow! Will he never come? I believe you all want to see me. Maria! I'll connect another message for that doctor!"

And in like manner some men will run out the back way when they see a subscription list for a musical attraction come in the front way, and they will do nothing to encourage the development of a musical atmosphere, or to do anything to help when they give a party, a wedding or a ball, when they organize a parade or are obliged to have a funeral, they make a wild run for music, and usually want even that for nothing.

is most generous in the praise of Julian Edwards' music and Kirk's scenic libretto. Roland Reed had so far recovered his strength last week that he was able to drive in Central, and he is still at St. Luke's hospital, however, and will be obliged to undergo another surgical operation before a complete cure may be effected.

William H. Santovino, the leader of the United States Marine band of Washington, D. C., is writing the score of a new Farquhar comic opera, called "Sad Hill." The libretto is the work of K. T. Miller, the Editor of the Stratford (Pa.) Tribune, and is said to be strikingly original in theme and treatment. "When I was married," said Odette Taylor, "I thought that I would be quite contented away from the stage. There was no reason why I should not be perfectly happy. I had everything heart could wish, but before the fever again and I induced my husband to return to the stage with me."

China Ling Poo, it seems, is going back to China before very long, although in the very height of his success in America. Whang Homan, a well-known artist, a few days ago offered a two-weeks summer engagement in New York City, this entertainer, proposing that his music will be less during that period. The proposition was for the most part, however, the Chinese magister, declining the proposition on the ground that he could not remain in the United States.

thing for the encouragement of life insurance if he gave away several hundred dollars each week in politics? I think not. Why then does he argue that free music will educate the people up to the standard of paying for it?" The letter is signed "Y. M."

When the organist of the First Methodist church gives a series of free organ recitals he will expect Mr. Wheeler to lend the assistance of his beautiful tenor voice, and it is hoped that, on that occasion, he will sing that well-known and much loved little hymn: "Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone, Dare to have a purpose firm, Dare to make it known."

The lovers of the music played by the adherents of the banjo will no doubt feel in the coming treat afforded by the renowned Alfred Parland who, it must be admitted, is a wonder. This man makes everything of the possibilities of the banjo and does some comparatively clever work. He will appear with a local orchestra under the direction of Mr. Gillette.

The choir of St. Matthias church will give a special musical service this evening. Mrs. King will sing the offertory solo. Mr. Keck's pupils will give a song recital at St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church next Tuesday evening.

The music at the Myers-Nash uptown last Wednesday was noteworthy on account of the singing of Gounod's beautiful "Messe Solennelle" by the regular choir of the church, assisted by the following well-known singers of other churches: Mrs. Kelly, soprano; Miss Flora Kostera, Miss Frances Davis, Miss Edith Vapor and Mrs. Hornung, contraltos; Mr. John McCreary, tenor; Messrs. Pickering and Johnson, baritones, and Messrs. Roy Moore and Emmet McCreary, basses. THOMAS J. KELLY.

Ante Room Echoes. The formal opening of the Elks' headquarters, Fifteenth and Farnam streets, last Wednesday night was one of the most prominent events in fraternal circles in the present year. The occasion was in celebration of the finishing touches on the rooms which have for several weeks been undergoing a general house-cleaning process. The painter, the decorator and the carpet-layer were there and have left evidence of their handiwork. There is now not a more gorgeously furnished lodge room in any western city. There was nothing faulty about the rooms prior to the renovation, but the Elks are inclined to want the best of everything, and it was decided to make numerous improvements.

Preparations for the ninth annual convention of Scottish Rite Masons, which will convene in this city next Tuesday for a four-day session, are well under way, and the event promises to be one of the most important of the kind held in this city for a long time. The exercises will consist almost exclusively of secret lodge work. Degrees up to the thirty-second will be conferred and it is said that there are many candidates. When a Mason gets up into the conferring of these latter degrees is an event of extraordinary importance. Two sessions will be held daily. The program, which is in pamphlet form, consisting of several papers, is a gem of typographical art and copies of it are being sought as souvenirs.

Clan Gordon No. 63, Order of Scottish Clans, is moving along rapidly in its effort to raise a fund for the benefit of the widows and children of Scottish soldiers who meet death in the South African war. This movement is general throughout the United States. At a recent meeting of the clan the proposition was discussed at length and the report of collections made up to date is declared highly satisfactory.



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Woodmen of the World. The provincial grand committee of the Sovereign camp held an important session at the home of Colonel B. W. Jewell, chairman, at Manchester, Ia., he being confined to his home since last December as the result of an accident. The ministerial entertainment given by the Sovereign Guards of Seymour camp at Creighton hall Friday evening was a crowning success, which speaks well for the young men of the guards, with a fair prospect of a repetition of the play.

The Canadian order of the Woodmen of the World convened its biennial session at London, Ontario, commencing last Wednesday and lasting several days. Considerable interest is being taken in the order of woolcraft across the border, which promises to become one of the greatest fraternal orders in the Dominion. Sovereign Commander Ross was present in the interests of the entire order.

Hon. Josiah Towne is now located here in Omaha in the new organization and promotion department in charge of the re-organizing branch. Colonel George W. Reed has been doing some excellent work in Holdrege, Neb., during the last week. He is now attending a session of the grand encampment of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Topeka, Kan., as one of the past commanders.

Sovereign Lecturer Hon. C. Farmer is at present lecturing in the interests of the order throughout the south. A great number of camps celebrated the birth of George Washington in various ways. Fraternal Union of America. Banner lodge No. 11 held an enthusiastic meeting Thursday evening. After the regular business was completed, Mrs. Armstrong took charge of the special program. Prater, Bailey and Mrs. Roese acted the part of the returned spirits of George Washington and certain. It was well received. Frater Whidden read a paper on George Washington, and Miss Carlson rendered several of her attractive pieces. A committee was appointed to take in charge the next open meeting, which will be in March. The committee reported favorably to the proposition of providing Banner lodge guards with the necessary paraphernalia and uniforms, and the report was adopted.

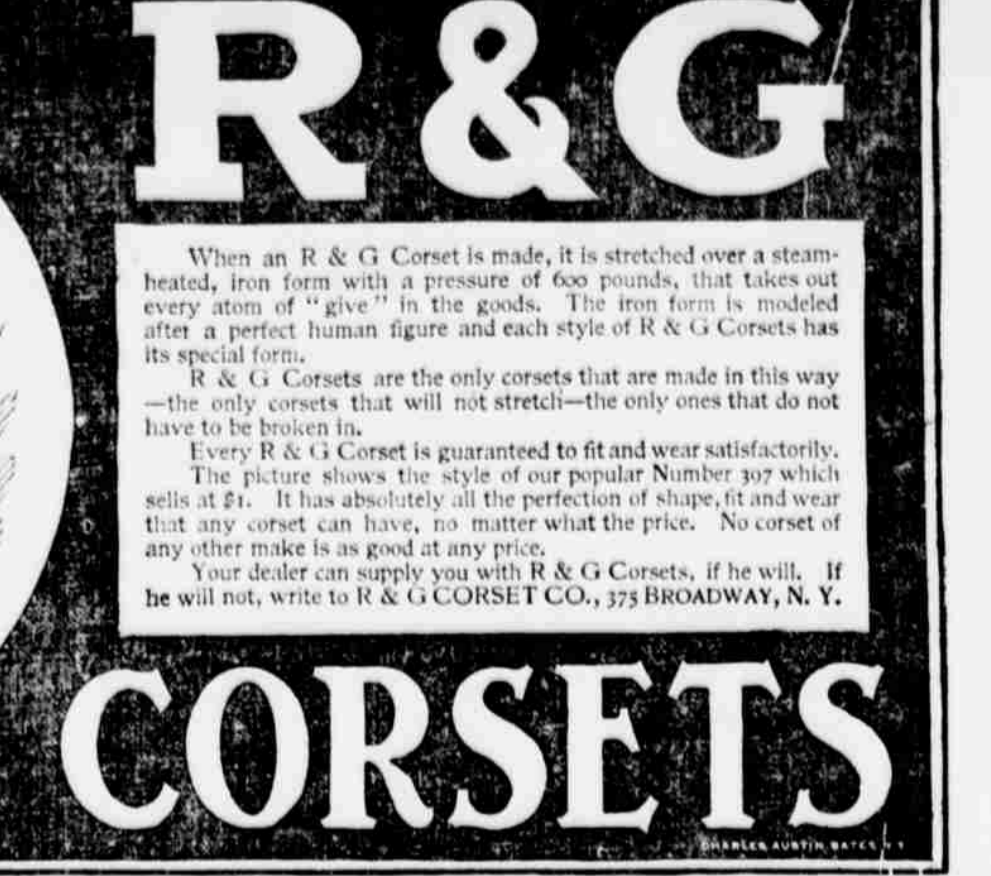
At Monday evening's meeting of Mondamin lodge No. 111 arrangements were made for a public entertainment, also for a campaign for members. Judge Ryan, court secretary, installed officers of Lincoln lodge No. 11 Tuesday night. A. E. Rice acted as installing overseer. The ceremony was followed by a dance and supper.

Lincoln lodge No. 60 held open house Wednesday evening. An address by Mrs. Carver and H. H. Holden, high five and dancing constituted the program. Fraternal lodge No. 2 of Omaha held an enthusiastic meeting Tuesday evening. The lodge is steadily increasing and will soon be among the leading ones of the city. The entertainment committee reported an entertaining and well-received party for next Tuesday evening. A short literary and musical program has been prepared.

Royal Neighbors. Pansy camp No. 10, Omaha, and Clover Leaf No. 8, South Omaha, have entered a membership contest, the camp getting the most members by April 30 to be entertained with a supper by the losing side. Pansy camp will give a hall at Thurston hall Wednesday evening. Prizes will be given for waltzing. Union Veterans' Union. The K. O. B. C. dramatic club will give a military drama in three acts entitled "Enlisted for the War" at Washington hall Friday evening, March 2, for the benefit of the relief fund of union veterans. Dancing from 10 to 12.

Fraternal Notes. The Odd Fellows of Omaha will give a ball Saturday, March 3, in Washington hall. In honor of Maynard E. Skyles, who lost his life at Manila, the Foresters of Omaha will hold memorial services at the hall at 1 o'clock today. Gata City lodge, No. 9, Ladies of the Maccoes, will give a card party Friday evening, March 2, at their hall, Seventeenth and Douglas, LaVerde Temple. "Our A. S. B. B. Foresters will entertain members of the various courts in this vicinity at the hall, Fourth and Douglas streets, Friday evening. Music and refreshments will be the order of the evening. Uniform hive, No. 35, Ladies of the Maccoes, will entertain with a high five party at Royal Arcanum hall, Bee building, on the evening of March 3, which all Maccoes and their friends are cordially invited to attend. A progressive high five party was given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick on Tuesday evening, March 3. When the members of the various courts in this vicinity at the hall, Fourth and Douglas streets, Friday evening. Music and refreshments will be the order of the evening. Uniform hive, No. 35, Ladies of the Maccoes, will entertain with a high five party at Royal Arcanum hall, Bee building, on the evening of March 3, which all Maccoes and their friends are cordially invited to attend. A progressive high five party was given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick on Tuesday evening, March 3. When the members of the various courts in this vicinity at the hall, Fourth and Douglas streets, Friday evening. Music and refreshments will be the order of the evening.

U. S. Grant post of the Woman's Relief corps will meet Tuesday. A great amount of work is being done by the corps in various ways. At the last regular meeting, Monday, March 3, memorial services will be held in honor of the late national president, Mrs. Annie Wittenweiser. On the evening of February 16 a delegation of the members of Mecca court, Tribe of Ben Hur of Omaha, accompanied by the degree team, visited the court of Council Bluffs. The degree team took charge of the initiatory ceremony and the beautiful ritualistic work of the order was exemplified in a very creditable manner. The initiatory ceremony was presided over by Referees were served by the ladies of Jewel court and several interesting



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Opheum. Simmond's and Slocum's. Own Traveling Company—An All Star Vaudeville Organization. Jas. O. Barrows. Edna Bassett Marshall. American Sweet Singer & Co. Presenting "Sunshine and Sorrow." LILLIE WESTERN. Musical Artist. The Beautiful Mlle. Emmy. Introducing Her Wonderful Troupe of Fox Terriers. HANSEN AND NELSON. Terpsichorean Queens. HODGES AND LAUSCHMIRE. Colored Troup. Excellence. NEXT MATINEE SHOW, Friday, Mar. 2. SEATS NOW ON SALE. CLARK AND GANDY. Singing and Dancing Duo.

speeches were made by the visiting members. The contest between Ivy lodge, No. 23, and Ruth lodge, No. 11, for the possession of the Rebekah, Independent Order of Odd Fellows hall, was well worth watching. The hall was packed and intense interest was manifested. The judges were chosen from Council Bluffs lodge and were not interested in the initiatory work and it was done in a most creditable manner, but when the members of Ivy lodge staff marched in their appearance in new robes, as well as their work, made a very favorable impression on the judges, after weighing carefully the merits and demerits of the work done by both sides, awarded the prize to Ivy lodge. REGIONS. The Methodist Year Book, which has just been issued, shows in the United States 7,523 ministers and 2,871,048 communicants. Bishop A. A. Rorer, of the Episcopal Church, who has just returned from his trip to Rome, has reported that the farthest border of Brooklyn has asked leave to go to Rome, and about twenty-five prominent priests of the diocese have volunteered to accompany him. The next great rally of Methodist forces is to be the assembling of the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church in Chicago, May 1, and will continue through most of the month. Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale has decided not to leave the South Congregational church of Boston, but will remain as the pastor until June, and as such will draw his full salary until his death. President Hyde of Bowdoin college favors a religious trust of a national scale which would restrict excessive ecclesiastical corporations and external Christian work to the farthest borders of the nation and beyond. Rev. Henry Thompson, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal church at Kenosha, Wis., has just issued a couple of well-known religious tracts, and is such well-known as has him for having performed two double ceremony of marriage when the two women met wedded sisters. Rev. Dr. Mackenzie, a prominent Presbyterian minister with a charge in San Francisco and professor at San Anselmo seminary, is said to be the richest clergyman in California. He reports that his fortune is estimated in orange-farming which amounts to his clerical and educational duties. General William Booth of the Salvation Army, for the maintenance of the army's work in Arabia and on the eastern coast of Africa, says that "probably more men are doing good work in Arabia than at any time during this century."

A WELL DESERVED PATE. STILWELL HOSPITAL. "Dinner—What's the matter? Ambulance driver—He made a speech at the new year's festival and said there was a tiny such thing as a real Santa Claus."