ABOUT PLAYS, PLAYERS AND PLAYHOUSES

to complain of lack of amusement during the last week. At the Boyd theater two very good plays were given in excellent manner, and at each of the three parks a fine lot of outdoor vaudeville attractions were afforded whenever the rain god turned off the spout long enough. Fact is, the present season has been a very hard ne on the parks. The hights have been either too cold or too wet to get the people out in crowde, and the result has been that the only good attendance the parks have had has been on Sundays and on holidays. The managers do not view this eituation with unmixed satisfaction, but they are going gamely on, providing the that is to be had and looking with trust to the future for the crowds that are to halp them get back some of the good money that has gone to the bad so far The programs offered have been of the enticing order, but the untoward weather has kept the crowds at At the Boyd the Ferris Summer company has been drawing very houses, and certainly deserves the patronage it has received. The company a reasonably strong one, its members all willing workers, and it is being most capably directed by Mr. Long, with the result that its performances are of most satisfying sort.

Criticism, dramatic and otherwise, is treated by the London News in the following fashion

lowing fashlon:

If you had a sense of humor it would be worth while to be a dramatist were it only for the agusement to be obtained from reading the notices of your play. In the main, the crities agree with wonderful unanimity. You certainly cannot read in dramatic criticism the ordinary contradictions which make musical criticism so entertaining. A play appeals more or less to the reasoning faculties, and its appreciation is not so dependent on the keenness of the senses—tricky standards for a fair judgment. Thus, in the criticism of a new singer you may read that, according to one writer, he never sang out of tune, whereas, according to another, the shief fault of his achievement was that his intonation was never quite certain. No, the dramatic oritics seldom disagree to that extent. But when they depart from the discussion of the main lines of a play and show how it might be made so much better, there are as many differences of opinion as there are critics.

The chief point that strikes me in reading

The chief point that strikes me in reading the writings of my conferes is that each has his own idea of what a play should be. This, that and the other is not a play. The author has no idea of what a play should be and so forth. Only the other day a cellic of proved acumen complained that it. "Lady Flirt" the playwright has not made enough of the melodramatic interest; it would have been a much finer play had he developed that part of the plot. Now, in a comedy, or a farcical comedy, if you will, the plot is surely of but very little interest; and in this particular play I must confess I found the melodramatic interest as impertance. At any rate, if you adapt or write an original comedy of manners, it must be disconcerting to be told that it would be much better if it had been something you had not contemplated. Again, we were agreed in the main as to the weakness of "Warp and Woof," but when it came to the explanation of why it was weak there were many divergencies of ordinon. It is not a "play." It is wanting in exercything that goes to make up a "play." Well, I would ask, what is a play? Surely in these days we need not follow Aristotic's crude definitions, and yellay. Well, I would ask, what is a play? Surely in these days we need not follow Aristotic's crude definitions, and the weakness of the contest of the conte

had been managed with the sure hand of, say, a Sydney Grundy, we should have had a "play."

To my mind there was quite sufficient play in the tragic picture of the conditions of existence under which a section of the workers in this city groan out their life. A consistent picture full of delicate characterization, showing the types of workers and the temptations to which they are subjected, and the naturalness of their giving way to those temptations, would have been dramatic enough in all conscience. It would be a difficult subject to treat on the stage, but it could be done by a master hand. The cause of the overwork only need be suggested. The aristocratic only need be suggested. The aristocratic Frank Daniels is reported to be farming world could be invisible. It is extraordiat Rye. Many a good man has gone broke

nary how little our dramatists believe in the imaginations of their audiences; over and over again I witness plays in which the whole of the first act is wasted in ex-plaining circumstances which could be dealt with in a few words. The setting forth of these circumstances on the stage before the eyes of the audience creates atmos-phere, I shall be told. Perhaps it does, but at the same time it leaves but little space for the gradual exposition of the main idea.

at the same time it leaves but little space for the gradual exposition of the main idea.

Apart from the consideration of this particular play, I wish to protest against the manumption that the chief aim of drama should be the telling of a story. That assumption is at the root idea of most of our dramatic criticism. It is ancient enough; it dates from Aristole. A new comedy is produced, and you will find it judged, not by its characterization and its truth as a active on life, not by its witty dialogue, but from its interest as a story. The same standard applied to the novel would result in the sixpenny shocker' being hailed as a more complete work of art than one of Meredith's novels; in a Conan Doyle being held greater art than a Thomas Hardy. In drama it would mean that the most machine-made of Sardou's plays is more dramatic than Hamlet. This kind of judgment is based on a confusion of ideas between the drama and the theater. The scant of the footlights (if I may be allowed the phrase in these days of electricity) produces a curious childishness in all who come under its influence. One of the prerogatives of childhood is to demand, in and out of season, a story. Our playsoers are too much like children; they will have their story, and too many of our critics judge plays by what they consider the lastes of the public. I reproduce, as a specimen of that view of the theater, a sentence I have just read in a Sunday contemporary. Writing of a certain dramatist who has been silent for a long time, the critic plously hopes that a new play will soon come from his pen. "For he is one of the few of them left who appear to can just the few of them left who appear to can just the few of them left who appear to can just the active story leading to a logical conclusion, and not a lot of inconsequent cackle." That sums up, not very elegantly, perhaps, but very concisely, the attitude of the bulk of plays some new critics. The few who have held up the best interests of the art for some twenty years have been in too small a

Manager Burgess of the Boyd spent a portion of last week at Sloux City, where he let contracts for the repairing and decoration of the Grand theater, the work being all assigned to Sloux City firms. This ncludes work by carpenters, plasterers, painters, decorators, uphoisterers and the like. The contract for the electric wiring will be given out during the present week It 's the intention of the new managers, Messrs. Woodward & Burgess, to entirely refit the house, and to give it a first-class modern electric installation. Workmen will be busy for the next two months on the interior of the theater, and when it is ready to open in September the people of Sloux City will have all the advantages of a new house, for it will be modern in every appointment and up-to-date in every

Ethel Barrymore made one of the longest jumps on record in order to reach San Francisco to open tomorrow night. She left London a fortnight ago, barely hesitated in New York, and went through Omaha on Wednesday with members of her company. She is under direction of Charles Frohman, and will play a summer engagement on the coast, commencing with two weeks in San Francisco. On the way back she will play in all the principal western cities, giving Omaha three performances, two nights and a matinee in August. This jump of the star quite eclipses anything in the line. To cross the ocean is common enough, and to cross the continent has ceased to be wondered at, but to cross both ocean and continent is more occasion for wonder when one remembers that Miss Barrymore has been looked upon as being spirituelle.

Coming Events.

Two of the best plays offered this season by the Ferris Stock company will be given during the coming week, beginning this evening with "The Blue Grass Belle." This, as indicated by the title, is a romance of old Kentucky, with the heart interest fully developed. It also has a strong comedy element, and will give the company a will play Louis Berthelot, a French adventurer; Miss Pavey will be Mark Brandt, Raymond, an adventuress and general bad 'un; Mr. Raymond will be Hercules, a negro with fun-making proclivities, and Mr. Prince will be Colonel Decatur, a génuine week, beginning on Thursday evening, "My Lady's Heart," a play new to Omaha, will be given. It is one of the strongest yet undertaken by this company, a romantic drama in which sex against sex is the principal theme. It has been presented several times in the east, and was given once by the Ferris company at Minneapolis, where it made a great stir. Stage Director Long says it is one of the finest plays on the theme he has ever read. Members of the company are all greatly interested in it, and are studying hard to give the play a proper presentation. It should be one of the successes of the season.

Gossip from Stageland.

Bald Heads

SENT ON TRIAI

Pay Only If Pleased.

on that same proposition-rye, not farm-Mansfield has closed his tour in Canada and is now on board his yacht resting. Emma Carus has been engaged by Henry W. Savage for the leading role in "Wood-

It never gets too old. Gus Hill is having "McFadden's Row of Flats" remodeled for mother season.

willie Collier's season in 'The Dictator' was closed last week. Willie will open again in New York on August 29.

Jess Dandy, who was Hans Wagner in 'The Prince of Plisen' last winter, headed the vaudeville bill at Forest park in Kansas City last week.

Lew Dockstader will take the road next.

sas City last week.

Lew Dockstader will take the road next season with a complete new set of scenery and a European novelty that requires thirty-two people to present.

Who will manage the Krug next season has not yet been settled. Only one thing is known, and that is that the house force will be new from front to back.

Charles Frances weed E. H. Sethers Charles Frohman wired E. H. Bothern that he had a new play for Virginia Harned. "So have I," replied Sothern. And now the wonder is, which will win.

Sothern will close his tour at Helena, Mont., next Friday evening. Friday may be an unlucky day, but it's an odds-on bet that Sothern will welcome it, just the same.

Harry Corson Clarke's wife has secured a divorce from him. As most of his money had taken similar action some time ago harry is now in a fair position to begin life anew.

Miss Florence Stone has won the hearts of Minneapolis people by her work with the Ferris Stock company in that city. She played Sardou's "Cleopatra" for them last week.

John M. Sullivan will leave the Ferris.

John M. Sullivan will leave the Ferris Stock company on next Thursday, going to Cincinnati to begin rehearsals of "Sweet Clover," in which piece he will have the leading role next season.

Will M. Cressy says an actor must be a hypnotist. If it wasn't for fear of being called brutal one might say that certainly the people must be hypnotized when they stand for some of the Cressy stuff.

Josephine Cohan will twinkle her little feet and air her little voice with the Rogers brothers next season. It is also given out that Klaw & Erlanger intend sending her out at the head of a company. Charles B. Hanford has returned to his home in Washington, reporting that he has just closed the most successful season he ever had. DeVere Palmer, an Omaha boy, was in Mr. Hanford's company, playing important roles.

important roles.

Harry Cockerill, who has been assistant treasurer at the Boyd for the last two seasons, will be treasurer and assistant manager at the Grand in Sioux City. Joy Parrotte will be Treasurer Monaghan's assistant at the Boyd.

Parrotts will be Treasurer Monaghan's assistant at the Boyd.

Who owns Luiu Glaser? Fred C. Whitney says he does, and Charles B. Dillingham says it's him. And there you are. Luiu isn't saying a word, but the court will get a chance before Dainty Dolly Varden goes on the road again.

Dan Emmett, the old-time minstrel and author of "Dixie," died at his home in Mount Vernon, O., on June 26, at the age of 86. He was a bahjo player and organized the first minstrel troupe to go on the stage, in company with Jerry Bryand.

"The Forbidden Land," a musical comedy with its scenes laid in Thibet, was presented last Sunday evening for the first time in Chicago. It is written of by the critis as being a really delightful work musically and a very ordinary thing so far as the "book" is concerned.

Cheridah Simpson has established to the satisfaction of a New York judge that her husband, Jose Van Den Berg, had a wife living when he plucked the buxom Cherry. She may now spend her own salary and has begun by securing a houseboat to live in while singing in "Woodland" at Boston. "How she must have loved him."

Melbourne Macdowell spent the box office versity for boxes one night recently in

Melbourne Macdowell spent the box office receipts for booze one night recently in San Francisco, wrote a letter to the coroner, telling him what to do with the remains and then went to a bathroom and belied it out of his system temporarily. In the meantime the members of the company are clamoring for their pay. What Macdowell needs is a snake charmer.

Macdowell needs is a snake charmer.

George A. Keseler, who exploits a brand of champagne, has purchased the Luna Park site on Coney Island. He says it is an investment, but some are mean enough to say that it is because his brand of wine was not served at a recent banquet. The deal involves a million. Thompson & Dundy say they have a lease on the site until 1915, and that they don't care a—well, you know, who is the landlord.

Certailly the stars or some of them at

know, who is the landlord.

Certainly the stars, or some of them at least, are making up for last winter's idleness. Maude Adams, for example, is still playing one-night stands in small towns, and Ethel Barrymore will open her season tomorrow evening at San Francisco. She will play in Omaha on August 23. Many more of the "big ones" are working, doing vaudeville and summer stock stunts. It seems the cilly season is turning into a seems the silly season is turning busy season for the mummer.

SOCIETY PRESENTS A CIRCUS Performance in Which No Plebian Were Allewed to Par-

ticipate. PARIS, July &- (Special Cablegram to

The Bee.)-A remarkable circus performance, in which all the performers, musifine chance. Mr. Carpenter has the role of clans and even the clowns were aristo-John Brandt, a young lawyer; Mr. Owen | cratic amateurs, was given this week. The originator of the entertainment was M. Molier, a wealthy gentleman who takes a the heroine; Miss Hill will be Mrs. Violet great deal of interest in the training of horses and other animals.

Every year the leading members of Parisian aristocratic society crowd into the barn-like little wooden circus annexed to Kentuckian. For the latter half of the his house in the Rue de Binonville to see well known society men as jockeys and pretty women perform various equestrian acts taught them by M. Molier,

After M. Moller had entered the ring, whip in hand, surrounded by his distinguished cast, the band struck up a slow walts and eight handsome women, dressed in directoire costume, went through a graceful equestrian divertissement, which was followed by an amusing interlude in which a clown, who is also a marquis and a member of the Jockey club, made love to a pretty equestrienne in short skirts who rode a bare-backed horse.

A troupe of performing dogs, presented by M. Molier himself, and an acrobatic performance by six members of a well known aristocratic club in Paris, were also included in the program, which was brought to a conclusion by a spectacular pantomime entitled "The Apotheoais of Ernest," in which the entire troupe took part, the women members being responsible for some very pretty dances.

BULGARIANS ARE RETURNING

Good Progress Being Made in Restoring Peace in the Disturbed

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 9.—(Special Cablegram to The Bee.)—As far as can be judged in Constantinople satisfactory progress is being made with the repatriation of returning refugees to Bulgaria. According to private accounts received from the Adrianople vilayet, Bulgarian peasants have begun to return in large numbers and are being supplied with bread by the Turkish

No detailed reports have been received as yet from Colonel Maunsell, who is watching the work in that district on be half of the British government, and whose tact, energy and knowledge of the country render his co-operation particularly useful. There can be little doubt that his presence will do much to inspire the refugees with confidence to return to their homes. The statement made in the House of Commons that the French consul at Adrianople was also assisting seems to be the result of some misunderstanding. Such suggestion was made by the French ampassador with the approval of his govern-

not seem to have been acted upon. The porte has now given orders that the Macedonian peasants shall be allowed as before, to seek work in other parts of the

Reports from Major Fairholms show that in the British sphere of activity at any rate, considerable progress is being made with the reorganization of the gen-

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CUPID TAKES ALL THE CASH

One Client Receives Damages Because the Charm Did Not Work.

Altar, However, and Capid Tries to Throw Blame on His

Client.

MAKES OVER NINE THOUSAND MATCHES

LONDON, July 9 .- (Special Cablegram to The Bee.)-'I have brought together about 9,000 couples," said the little man in the witness box, vainly endeavoring to conceal his pride.

exclaimed his honor, Judge "What!" Woodfall, letting his pen fall in his astonishment. "Do you say you have the responsibility of bringing about 9,000 mar-

"Yes," was the firm reply of Cupid. He presented the appearance of no Cupid ever depicted by poet or artist. No reguish, cherubic boy this, clothed in a pair of wings and with bow and arrows. Mr. R. Charlesworth, the proprietor and editor of the Matrimonial Post and Fashionable Marriage Advertiser, is, instead, of age mature enough to be slightly bald, with grey hair and grey moustache. Clad in a conventional morning suit and quite selfpossessed, imagination falled to depict him as one who has brought together hearts

It was, however, an essential element of his defense to prove that he was a Cupid in a very large way of business. For he was being sued by a Miss Hermon for the recovery of £52, a special fee paid to him under an agreement to find her a husband Miss Hermon apparently figured as Mrs Netta Stephens in the delicate negotiations which ensued, and the description she gave of herself for the purpose of the matrimonial hunt was '30 years of age, dark and of commanding appearance."

When she gave her evidence at a pre vious hearing Miss Hermon said that she received letters from, among others, a prince, a count and a man in the West In dies. One candidate for her hand and fortune was a West Indian negro; another was a boarding house keeper. Most of them, she said, were "after money." Mr. Charlesworth gave his version of the contract, led by Mr. Schiller, his counsel,

and it was his opening assertion that so astonished the judge. "She came to me as Mrs. Stephens." con tinued the witness, "and asked me what I could do for her. I told her I could arrange matters. She said, 'I should wish you to see all the gentlemen for me, be cause it is a delicate matter."

Mr. Compton-Smith objected to this evidence, but his honor, turning to his notes, said, "You asked her if he told her that her past history would be a disadvantage?" "Yes," corroborated Mr. Charlesworth. "and that is what I charged her a special fee for. She wished me to see the gentlemen beforehand in consequence. I gave her 696 addresses altogether-all over the globe."

"Your ordinary fee is 10 guineas?" "Yes. I charged her £52 because I had to write to about fifty-two men, abroad in the colonies, where she wanted to go at first." "You also had to specially interview "Yes. I saw about ninety-seven people

for her and four out of five would not entertain the iden. "Did you give her personal introduc tions?"

"To about twenty, and she had interviews in my office. She also met a large number of gentlemen outside." Mr. Charlesworth was quite indignant at Miss Hermon's statement that he proher a husband with between £3,000 and £5,000 a year. "It was between £300 and £500," he said. "It is out of all reason for a lady with a capital of £2,000 to expect

that. I gave her men who had made money out at the Cape." "What is she doing?" "I believe she has a milliner's or a dressmaker's shop. "The people you introduced her to were

wealthy? "They were men of position. They liked her photograph." "It is suggested that one of them was fullblooded negro.

"That is not true. He was an Indian barrister. One was a marquis and another was a lord. I never mentioned such people,"

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The above illustration shows the VACUUM CAP there was no what the approach of the sealp, which is a small rubber to be writed and is gonastred by means of a small rubber to be made to one persuise, extracts the sir from bemand the persuise, extracts the sir from the soil is the following the persuise and the p

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ment, but for some reason or other it does