

Creighton College Theatricals

THE art of the drama has been valued by the faculty and encouraged in one form or another ever since Creighton university was founded more than a quarter of a century ago. This excellent institution has always attached high importance to benefits derived by students from training in oratory and elocution, and acting has gone hand in hand with these two studies. For fourteen years a play has been produced annually in public with great attention to detail, staging and costuming. Invariably the productions have been attended by as many appreciative persons as seating capacity permitted. Critics well qualified to judge have praised highly the smoothness, finish and intelligence of the presentations.

"Dramatic exhibitions by students are of admirable training value," say the Jesuit fathers in charge of the school. "Not only do they furnish entertainment, but they give the participants a deeper insight into the nature of dramatic literature; they afford practice in elocution, interpretation, impromptu and public speaking, and at the same time make the young gentlemen more versatile, polished and self-reliant in their intercourse with men."

It is a characteristic trait of the Jesuits, the most practical of all religious orders, to estimate manners and address tangible and desirable assets in the subtle contest with the world for which the students are prepared. Hence the devotion to oratory, which has won first place for the university five consecutive years in the Nebraska intercollegiate debate the time given over to elocution, and the retention of a special instructor in dramatics. There is no intention to furnish the professional stage with talent and there is no record that any Creighton graduate is earning his living that way, but, as Father W. P. Whalen, the present instructor in dramatics, says: "Take a lad who is afraid to hold his head up, much less try to talk, in a company of men. Put him on the stage, give him something to say and a week's instruction and he is a different kind of a boy altogether. You will find that if he has anything at all to say he will know how to say it."

Plan in Operation.
Reasoning along these lines the university teachers from President Dowling down have taken pains to provide facilities for theatrical study, rehearsal and exhibition. Even in the first of the main buildings constructed in 1878 a hall with a small stage was arranged on the top floor. Until 1881 it sufficed to nurture the histrionic impulse into frequent and definite expression. In the latter year "university hall" was built, giving the school a perfectly equipped little theater, second to none, perhaps, of any college in the country. It will seat nearly 1,000 persons and lacks nothing that such an establishment should have. Many a more or more important habitant would be glad to have it for an opera house. So snug and suitable is the playhouse that outside theatrical and musical organizations have used it frequently for plays and concerts. The theater is in a red brick building, constructed for the purpose and nothing else and is handsomely appointed on the exterior as well as the interior. Lectures, oratorical contests and other entertainments are held there besides the theatricals. Located close to the university buildings it is a great factor in assuring

In the Field of Electricity

Electric Heating.
THE question is often asked why electric heating is not in vogue in place of stoves and steam heat. It is hygienic, compact and under control with the touch of a button. The reason is explained by Electricity on the score of cost. To illustrate: A triple expansion engine supplying power to the generators of a steam plant has a net efficiency of about 14 or 15 per cent. This means that for every hundred weight of coal consumed about six-sevenths goes up the chimney in smoke. Or, to be more accurate, the heat energy is largely wasted through radiation and the familiar influences which pull down the neutral efficiency of a steam plant. When the remaining one-seventh emerges, after having passed through various channels of transformation, it appears as electricity. In this form it may be considered in connection with the problem of electric heating.

In a heating system, which provides hot air or burns the coal in stoves, radiation of the heat is just the thing desired, and if steam heating is employed here again radiation of the heat into the room is all right. In these cases there is, as heat, a much greater return for the coal burnt than if its energy had been passed through various devices which give up electricity in the end, which is then again transformed into heat in the electric heater.

Coal burnt directly in stoves to give heat yields about twice as much heat at least, for a given number of pounds, as when its energy undergoes a variety of changes which culminate in electric heat.

The trouble is not with the heater, neither can it be found in connection with the power, because, as already stated, the return in this case is 100 per cent. The difficulty is with the cost of electricity. Selling electricity at so much an ampere hour or so much a horse-power hour means charging at least 4 cents for every four or five pounds of coal burnt. The heat obtained by electrical means from this handful of coal is not sufficient to pay for its use in this form.

A hundred weight of coal burnt in a stove warms a room of moderate size very well in cold weather. Turned into electrical energy, one hundred weight of coal yields about 100 horse-power hours. This cannot give the requisite heat, and cannot compare in heat-giving capacity even with 100 per cent electric heaters, from a financial standpoint, with the old-fashioned methods. The trouble is, as already stated, a dollar and cents one. It is entirely due to the heavy cost of electricity.

Daylight and Electric Waves.
The wave theory is about to have its way, and in its wide embrace may be found the territory occupied by chemistry, optics, heat, spectrum analysis, electricity and magnetism. These great fields of theoretical and applied science have yielded rich returns to those patient investigators whose combined influences have been the means of bringing the world to a recognition of the play and play of enormous forces, which, operating upon matter in an organized and unorganized state, has built up, as it were, the universe around us. Extraordinary effects have been recently observed. Transmutations and transformations are not only familiar forms of energy but of matter. The announcement of Marconi, as referred to by Fleming in his article on wireless telegraphy, that daylight prevented him from reaching more than 700 miles from Poldhu station with his waves, while at night the darkness enabled him to send his impulses 1,100 miles, opens up a line of inquiry that as yet has remained without adequate explanation.

What are the influences of the waves of daylight upon the larger waves emitted by a wireless telegraphic transmitter? Were other influences operating during the daytime which cut down the

the permanence of the dramatic in the school.

Slow Work at Start.
For the first fifteen years the progress of dramatics in the university was slow, but the constant practice in oratory and elocution helped to lay the foundations for triumphs later on. The professors continually urged the students to interest themselves in theatrical production; but it is said that talent seemed to be scarce. Scenes and acts from Shakespeare and others of the classic dramatists were studied, rehearsed and even played before audiences on occasion by the undergraduates, but it was not until the early 90s that a complete play was attempted. In 1892 "Richard III" was given with marked success, which was achieved again in 1894 with "Elmora," a tragedy set in the Druid days in old England. So encouraged were the young actors on this occasion that the piece was produced a second time at the Boyd in the spring of the year. From this time on an annual play has been produced.

Center of the Activity.
In order to insure the annual exhibition the Dramatic Circle was organized in 1899. It is a self-perpetuating institution, the officers selecting the members for their ability and ambition, and holding over each spring until the succeeding fall, when new leaders are chosen. The officers, always, are the most prominent thespians and it is for this reason, perhaps, that failure to prosecute their work with zeal is unknown. The Circle has an average membership of about sixty. With so many competitors for honors in the annual play is certain and the character of the work enhanced by the efforts necessary to secure a role.

The Creighton students have given the following plays:

1904—"The Critic."
1903—"Comedy of Errors."
1902—"Rob Roy."
1901—"The Celebrated Case."
1900—"The Heir-at-Law."
1899—"Rip Van Winkle."
1898—"Guy Raffles."
1897—"The Critic."
1896—"The Dumb Orphan."
1895—"Richard III."
1894—"Richard III."
1893—"Richard III."

Without Women.
Necessarily the feminine characters are eliminated and the plays adapted so that only men and boys are called into action. This has been done very cleverly in each case and by substituting male roles for females little strength or interest sacrificed. Care, of course, is taken not to choose plays having the love motif, as obviously little could be done with them. In 1902 "The House of St. Quentin" was made by dramatizing Hertha Runkle's novel, "The Helmet of Navarre." Forty-five personalities were given opportunity in this piece and it was one of the most pretentious as well as successful efforts of the Dramatic circle.

In all of the plays given to the public the costumes have been adequate and historically correct and the scenery and stage settings used have been in every way called for by the text. In fact in all the way the performance was complete and finished and afforded a pleasing evening's entertainment. The proceeds received from the annual play have been devoted each year to the university library and a large and valuable collection of book made in this way.

Effectiveness of the waves from 2,100 to 700 miles, or can this difference only be attributed to the daylight? These are interesting questions and they bring us face to face with startling possibilities. One of these possibilities is the existence in the sunlight of a perfect storm of electrons. These, perhaps, are the antagonistic influences which destroy the Hertzsprung waves. Shot out from the sun, and moving at 600,000 miles with terrific velocity, they are shielded by the earth, the sunlight neutralizing the waves. At night the waves eventually make their presence felt by falling on the other side with its accompaniment of electric and magnetic currents.

Third Rail Danger.
The controversy respecting the danger of third-rail, electric traction systems continues to wage with unabated vigor in the columns of the English press, both newspapers and technical, writes our London correspondent.

The same may be said of the press in this country, as scarcely a day goes by but what one or more articles appear in the daily papers condemning the third-rail as it now exists on the elevated roads of Greater New York.

The third-rail from which current is taken to operate the cars in the new underground road is covered by a hood. This protects the track inspectors and laborers. On the elevated roads no similar precautions have been taken to protect the employees, nor the lives of passengers who are occasionally obliged, through a break down, to get out and walk to the nearest station. The lives of firemen are also frequently placed in jeopardy by this exposed rail. A correspondent in London states that Prof. Silvanus P. Thompson objects to the third-rail, and even goes so far as to advocate the adoption of single-phase alternating current railways with overhead wires, especially in the open country. In spite of all that is being said in England and this country against the "deadly third-rail" there would seem to be no good reason why it should actually be condemned, says Electricity, provided proper precautions are taken in connection with its use. As we have frequently stated in these columns, it would be a comparatively simple matter, and one not involving an enormous expense, for the elevated roads in New York City to protect the live rail with a hood, in much the same way that the underground rail is now guarded. Whether such an arrangement could be made to work satisfactorily in the open country in winter on a road like the New York Central remains to be seen, but it could certainly be made to operate on the elevated roads of Greater New York and would be the means of saving lives, which through carelessness or accident would otherwise be lost.

Easy to Thaw Out Pipes.
The freezing up of a water pipe has lost many of its terrors. A badly frozen pipe used to mean two or more plumbers, the digging up of pipes, the building of fire around the pipes, and all sorts of other troubles. During the cold weather of last winter numerous water pipes froze, but many of the old fols were gone away with by means of a simple device, depending on the heat generated by passing an electric current along a conductor.

A wire was connected to the faucet of the frozen pipe, another connection made to a neighboring hydrant or the water pipe of a nearby house and a current sent through the circuit. Since the iron pipe was a bet-

ter conductor than the earth the current passed along the pipe, heating it thereby. A service pipe seventy-five feet long could be heated to 150 degrees Fahrenheit by the passage of a current of 25 amperes with about eighteen volts. Care was necessary to avoid too powerful currents, which would overheat the pipes and injure them.

The current was supplied from the service wires of electric companies by storage batteries carried about from place to place, and in some cases by dynamos driven by small engines carried about on wagons. Digging down to the pipes is unnecessary, except in cases where a building is so located that hydrants or other pipe connections to the mains are not available. Even when digging must be resorted to no building of fires or other tedious processes are necessary.

Holiday Low Rates.
To accommodate the holiday travelers the Union Pacific has placed in effect a rate of one fare plus 50 cents for the round trip. Dates of sale December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1 and 2, with final return limit January 4. Inquire of City Ticket Office, 1324 Farnam street. Phone 215.

RELIGIOUS NOTES.
It is stated that Commander Booth-Tucker expects to train his six children for leadership in the Salvation Army.

The Bible class, under which John D. Rockefeller, Jr., presides now numbers over 300 members and is constantly growing.

A mania for religious revival pervades Wales. Often the revivals last all night and the people go from them to their work, singing hymns.

Rev. Robert Collyer of New York a few days ago celebrated the eighty-first anniversary of his birth. He is still hale and hearty. Mr. Collyer was born in Keighley, England.

Bishop Brent of Manila is credited with this remark: "The Methodists raise the people out of the mud, the Baptists wash them, the Congregationalists iron them and the Episcopalians starch them."

Father Ambrose Agius, recently appointed delegate from Rome to the Philippines, was born in Egypt, educated in England, founded a Benedictine house at Malta, and is an apostle of peace.

Dr. Waldstrom, the representative of nearly 1,800 churches in Sweden, has traveled from Montreal to Vancouver down the western coast, overlaid to Chicago, to visit mission stations in the important centers and encourage their more than 60,000 members. Dr. Waldstrom will return to Sweden in a few days.

Rev. F. E. Clark and Treasurer Shaw of the Christian Endeavor have, within a few weeks, visited two hundred and twelve states to interest Christian Endeavorers in foreign missions. Seven thousand dollars of the \$10,000 to help the missionaries carry out their Christian Endeavor work was raised as the result of their efforts.

The last of the great pillars has been placed in the apex of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist of New York. A gift of \$100,000 toward the completion of the cathedral has been announced, while another gift of \$50,000 is offered on condition that four other gifts of the same amount be contributed, making in all a sum sufficient to complete the choir.

Bishop Cortlandt Whitehead of Pittsburgh, the leading Episcopalian divine of western Pennsylvania, makes public a statement upholding Bishop Potter's Subway tavern and appealing to similar to reach workmen who want to drink and who will drink. Says the bishop: "I certainly think that if Pittsburgh capitalists would unite in the establishment of drinking places where there would be no treating, no temptation to get drunk, it might be a step in the right direction. This is a free country and we cannot force men into religion."

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