lots 1 and 2, block 8, Jetter's addition, $2,500; Joseph W. Peters to Alice J. Smith, lot 29, block 13, Clifton Hill, $2,600; southwest corner Twenty-first and Paul streets, to A. B. Alpirn, for building, $4,100; A. Cahn to M. Blank, store building and flats, Twenty-sixth and Burdette, $5,250.

Among the people from out in the state who have bought property in Omaha the last week and will come here to live is George C. Johnson of Newman Grove, who will be manager of the Nye-Schneider-Fowler elevator. He bought from the Byron Reed company the new dwelling built by that firm on Harney street between Thirty-third and Thirty-fifth streets, the consideration being $6,400. I. Babcock, who lives in a small Nebraska town, has bought from the same company the house at 3018 Franklin street and will come to Omaha.

Alex Charlton of the McCague Investment company handled a deed from Cairo, Egypt, last week. It transferred lot 13, block 2, Kountze's addition, to James Walter from John and Elizabeth Giffen, missionaries at Cairo. It bore the name of the American vice deputy consul general and was witnessed by S. Chessiam. The deed left Cairo March 20 and arrived in Omaha April 6.

One of the sales of the week, interesting because the property concerned is an old landmark, was that of the Markel homestead by H. Nestor to B. F. Turner. It is one of the pretty Parke Wilde avenue properties, once the center of the social life of Omaha along with some neighboring homes, among which was the T. L. Kimball home. The sale was made by C. W. Cater of the Charles E. Williamson company.

Recent sales reported by the Charles E. Williamson company: Six-room house at 815 North Forty-seventh street, sold to E. Jensen. Five acres with three-room house, block 269, Florence; sold to Jack Dibble. Eight-room house located at 1432 Park Wilde avenue, sold to B. F. Turner. The two houses located at 2515 and 2517 Maple street, sold to C. P. Rateken. Two lots at Thirty-third and Seward for home building, sold to Jonathan Edwards. Lot 14, Ellistone Park Place, sold to Paul Dennison. No. 3516 Webster street, house and lot, sold to William Hirsch. No. 4728 Seward street, sold to E. Judson.

Hastings & Heyden report the following sales of Omaha property for last week: Lot 14, block 5, Sulphur Springs addition, for W. S. Poppleton to Charles Frankenberger, for $700; lots 15 and 16, Ames addition to Hillsdale, Hastings & Heyden to Jennie Campbell; east forty feet of lot 3, block T, Lowe's addition, A. B. Goble to Elmer E. Baum, $750; south forty feet of lot 6, block 9, E. V. Smith's addition, to Samuel Goldsmith, to improve, $450; lot 4, block 5, Grammercy Park addition, Albert Cahn to A. R. Nelson; lot 20, block 5, Grammercy Park addition, E. R. Benson to Ella C. Lauder; lots 4, 5, 6 and 7, block 1, Moe's subdivision, Arthur Redgwick to George Clizbe, $800; lot 19, block 1, Hastings & Heyden's addition, to Albert Schleip, $300; lot 20, block 1, Hastings & Heyden's addition, to Julius Schleip, $300; lot 9, block 1, Hastings & Heyden's addition, to Sydney Taylor, $350; lot 7, block B, Horbach's subdivision, Sophia Rau to George Clizbe, $1,500; west half of lot 7, Tuttle's subdivision to George Clizbe, $1,150; lot 6, block 10, Summit addition, to Gustav Van Meerleghem, $450; south forty feet of lot 4, block 213½, Omaha, R. C. Strehlow to Z. Coreman, $1,500; contract to build on lot 20, Bluff View, for Harry C. Rhynn, $2,500 modern residence; contract to build on lot 6, block 5, Sulphur Springs addition, for George Teozer, $7,000 modern residence.

One of the most encouraging indications of Omaha's growth is the number of comfortable dwelling houses that are being added. In whatever direction one goes throughout the city he is confronted by the piles of building material, of the debris excavated for cellars and the sight of houses just being finished up for occupancy. Lots that were vacant last fall, at a time when the active building season is generally at an end for the winter, are now occupied by handsome homes in which families are snugly ensconced, and alongside them new houses are springing up almost over night. Another feature is the uniform good quality of these new homes. They are being built on modern lines, with every attention paid to the comfort of the resident, so that the Omaha home-owner is better off today than he ever was before. One of the handsomest rows in the city is that nearing completion on West Harney, near Thirty-fourth street. It consists of six houses, built in groups of three in old English style, but with the modern ideas of comfort and convenience included. The exterior appearance of these buildings is most attractive. Architects and builders agree that the present activity is sure to continue throughout the season, and that the predictions made in January that 1906 would be the busiest building season in Omaha's history is sure to be fulfilled.

GETS WIDOW FOR HIS FEE

Estate Has to Wait for the Return from Honeymoon for Its Settlement.

Something like a year ago the complicated affairs of the Paisley estate in New York was placed in the hands of White & Blackford, lawyers, to be straightened out. John Paisley had died, leaving an extensive shoe manufacturing business, several parcels of valuable property, three sons and an attractive widow. There were the usual legal problems to be solved, and Henry R. White, senior member of the firm, undertook the task with a lawyer's usual disregard for the fee. He visited the sons, he looked over the property several times and finally he visited the widow. Then he saw the whole transaction in a different light. He found it necessary to give more and more of his time to the case, and soon he was so absorbed in it that Mr. Blackford wondered where his partner was spending his time.

There were many knotty questions to be settled, and the lawyer found that Mrs. Paisley was the only persons with whom they could be discussed in an interesting manner. His visits at the Paisley home became so frequent that the heirs began to make inquiry, and when they asked Mr. White for an accounting he announced himself as the successor to the late Mr. Paisley, and brought in the widow to prove his statement.

There was opposition on all sides, but it only strengthened the romance, and on March 12 the lawyer married his fair client and bore her away as his fee for services rendered. Then, although there were many details of the administration of the estate still to be settled, the two left on a honeymoon in the southern states. The affairs of the Paisley estate are awaiting their return.

Mr. White is about 45 years of age. He has a beautiful home in Orange, N. J., and is well known among the members of the New York bar.

Band Concerts at Riverview.

Concessionaire Connolly at Riverview park promises Sunday band concerts there this summer. He says the park, which is in fine condition, will be opened Easter Sunday, even though the weather is too cold to assure attendance. He plans to have the first concert on the following Sunday. The cost of the music will come from his receipts.

ITALY'S FLAMING VOLCANO

Pre-Eminence of Vesuvius as the Blow-Pipe of Internal Commotion.

INTERMITTENT ACTIVITY FOR CENTURIES

Characteristics of the Mountain in Action, Its Buried Cities and the Havoc It Has Wrought—An Appalling Record.

Vesuvius holds the foremost place in volcanic history. Other famous vents for earth's internal convulsions have shown equal energy and destructiveness, but their comparative remoteness from the centers of civilization necessarily restricted the details of their activities. The location of Vesuvius, no less than its periodic eruptions, makes it pre-eminent. Since the dawn of civilization it has been a history maker and has never lacked writers of its history.

The present activity of Vesuvius is accounted the most violent since 1872. Several times since that date the crater has given warnings of internal disturbance, particularly in 1897 and 1900. What destruction may be wrought now time alone will tell. As a destroyer of cities the record of Vesuvius is unrivaled. The ruins of its buried cities—Pompeii and Herculaneum, uncovered during the last century, are pathetic monuments to its overwhelming power. Though the record goes back to 63 A. D., the history of volcanic havoc starts from 79 A. D., when in August of that year the furies of Vesuvius burst forth and completely buried the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and St. Abiae. In his "Last Days of Pompeii" Bulwer Lyytton thus describes that appalling catastrophe:

"The cloud, which had scattered so deep a murkiness over the day, had now settled into a solid and impenetrable mass. It resembled less even the thickest gloom of a night in the open air than the close and blind darkness of some narrow room. But in proportion as the blackness gathered did the lightnings around Vesuvius increase in their vivid and scorching glare. Nor was their horrible beauty confined to the usual hues of fire; no rainbow ever rivaled their varying and prodigal dyes. Now brightly blue as the most azure depth of a southern sky—now of a livid snake-like green, darting restlessly to and fro as the folds of an enormous serpent—now of a lurid and intolerable crimson, gushing forth through the columns of smoke, far and wide, and lighting up the whole city from arch to arch—then suddenly dying into a sickly paleness, like the ghost of their own life!

Terrors of the Scene.

"In the pauses of the showers you heard the rumbling of the earth beneath and the groaning waves of the tortured sea, or, lower still and audible, but to the watch of intensest fear, the grinding and hissing murmur of the escaping gases through the chasms of the distant mountain. Sometimes the cloud appeared to break from its solid mass, and, by the lightning, to assume quaint and vast mimicries of human or of monster shapes, striding across the gloom, hurling one upon the other, and vanishing swiftly into the turbulent abyss of shade, so that, to the eyes and fancies of the affrighted wanderers, the unsubstantial vapors were as the bodily forms of gigantic foes—the agents of terror and of death.

"The ashes in many places were already knee deep and the boiling showers which came from the steaming breath of the volcano forced their way into the houses, bearing with them a strong and suffocating vapor. In some places immense fragments of rock, hurled upon the house roofs, bore down along the streets masses of confused ruin, which yet more and more, with every hour, obstructed the way, and as the day advanced the motion of the earth was more sensibly felt—the footing seemed to slide and creep—nor could chariot or litter be kept steady, even on the most level ground.

"Sometimes the huger stones, striking against each other as they fell, broke into countless fragments, emitting sparks of fire, which caught whatever was combustible within their reach, and along the plains beyond the city the darkness was now terribly relieved, for several houses and even vineyards had been set on flames, and at various intervals the fires rose sullenly and fiercely against the solid gloom. To add to this partial relief of the darkness the citizens had, here and there, in the more public places, such as the porticos of temples and the entrances to the forum, endeavored to place rows of torches, but these rarely continued long, the showers and the winds extinguished them and the sudden darkness into which their fitful light was converted had something in it doubly terrible and doubly impressive on the impotence of human hopes, the lesson of despair.

Flight for Life.

"Frequently, by the momentary light of these torches, parties of fugitives encountered each other, some hurrying toward the sea, others flying from the sea back to the land, for the ocean had retreated rapidly from the shore—an utter darkness lay over it, and upon its groaning and tossing waves the storm of cinders and rocks fell without the protection which the streets and roofs afforded to the land.

"Wild, haggard, ghastly, with supernatural fears, these groups encountered each other, but without the leisure to speak, to consult, to advise, for the showers fell now frequently, though not continuously, extinguishing the lights, which showed to each band the death-like faces of the other, and hurrying all to seek refuge beneath the nearest shelter. The whole elements of civilization were broken up. Ever an anon, by the flickering lights, you saw the thief hastening by the most solemn authorities of the law, laden with and fearfully chuckling over the produce of his sudden gains. If in the darkness wife was separated from husband or parent from child vain was the hope of reunion. Each hurried blindly and confusedly on. Nothing in all the various and complicated machinery of social life was left save the primal law of self-preservation. * * *

"Advancing, as men grope for escape in a dungeon, Ione and her lover continued their uncertain way. At the moments when the volcanic lightnings lingered over the streets they were enabled by that awful light to steer and guide their progress, yet little did the view it presented to them cheer or encourage their path. In parts, where the ashes lay dry and uncommixed with the boiling torrents cast upward from the mountain at capricious intervals, the surface of the earth presented a leprous and ghastly white. In other places cinder and rock lay matted in heaps, from beneath which emerged the half-hid limbs of some crushed and mangled fugitive. The groans of the dying were broken by wild shrieks of woman's terror—now near, now distant—which, when heard in the utter darkness, were rendered doubly appalling by the crushing sense of helplessness and uncertainty of the perils around: and clear and distinct through all were the mighty and various noises from the fatal mountain, its rushing winds, its whirling torrents and from time to time the burst and roar of some more fiery and fierce explosion. And ever as the winds swept howling along the street they bore sharp streams of burning dust and such sickening and poisonous vapors as took away for the instant breath and consciousness, followed by a rapid revulsion of the arrested blood, and a tingling sensation of agony trembling through every nerve and fiber of the frame. * * * * * * * *

Oncoming Tide of Lava.

"Suddenly, as he spoke, the place became lighted with an intense and lurid glow. Bright and gigantic through the darkness, which closed around it like the walls of hell, the mountain shone—a pile of fire! Its summit seemed riven in two; or rather, above its surface there seemed to rise two monster shapes, each confronting each, as demons contending for a world. These were of one deep, blood-red hue of fire, which lighted up the whole atmosphere far and wide; but below, the nether part of the mountain was still dark and shrouded, save in three places, adown which flowed serpentine and irregular rivers of molten lava. Darkly red through the profound gloom of their banks, they flowed slowly on as toward the devoted city. Over the broad, east there seemed to spring a cragged and stupendous arch, from which, as from the jaws of hell, gushed the sources of the sudden Phlegethon. And through the stilled air was heard the rattling of the fragments of rock, hurling one upon another as they were borne down the fiery cataracts—darkening, for one instant, the spot where they fell, and suffused the next, in the burnished hues of the flood along which they floated! * * * * * * *

"And meekly, softly, beautifully, dawned at last the light over the trembling deep! —the winds were sinking into rest—the foam died from the glowing azure of that delicious sea. Around the east, thin mists caught gradually the rosy hues that heralded the morning: light was about to resume her reign. Yet, still dark and massive in the distance, lay the broken fragments of the destroying cloud, from which red streaks, burning dimlier and more dim, betrayed the yet rolling fires of the mountain of the "Scorched Fields." The white walls and gleaming columns that had adorned the lovely coasts were no more. Sullen and dull were the shores so lately erested by the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii. The darlings of the deep were snatched from her embrace! Century after century shall the mighty Mother stretch forth her azure arms, and know them not—moaning round the sepulchres of the lost!"

Later Activities.

Then the mountain slept and the next eruption is recorded in the reign of Alexander Severus, A. D., 203. There was another eruption, A. D., 473, during which ashes were carried as far as Constantinople. Between that date and the year 1500 nine eruptions of more or less destructiveness occurred.

December 16, 1631, more than 3,000 persons lost their lives in a severe earthquake and flow of lava that extended as far as Tarentum, and destroyed Bosco Trecase, the town which suffered the other day, and other towns in the vicinity. Another eruption in 1707 lasted four months and kept the people of Naples in constant fear of death. Again in 1737, 1760 and 1767 Vesuvius poured forth rivers of lava and showers of ashes, covering Portici and reaching as far as Naples.

In August, 1775, redhot stones were thrown 2,000 feet above the crater of the volcano, and in 1794 more than 400 people lost their lives. On that occasion the lava flowed to the sea. Other eruptions followed in 1804, 1805, 1822, 1850, 1855 and 1858. In the last mentioned year the crater sank 195 feet below its former height.

A road twenty miles long, commencing at Naples, extends southeastwardly along the shore of the bay and then, winding inland, completely encircles the mountain. This is dotted with villages, all within hearing of the volcanic rumblings and bellowings of Vesuvius.

Cities on the Mountain Side.

Four miles down the bay road from Naples lies Portici, its 12,600 population dwelling peacefully upon lava thrown down to the sea by the eruption of 1631. On this black bed stands the royal palace, built by Charles III in 1738. Resina, one mile farther, is the favorite suburban seat of wealthy Neapolitans. Its 14,000 residents dwell partly upon the ruins of Herculaneum and of Retina, to which latter city Pliny the elder set out during the great eruption which destroyed these cities and Pompeii. He came by boat to save the Roman garrison, but finding the harbor deluged with ashes, he went on to Stabiae, where he died. Resina is the town from which the ascent of Vesuvius is made and is the chief abode of the Vesuvian guides.

Sixteen times has the burning mountain overwhelmed Torre del Greco, two and a half miles farther on; yet within four and a half miles from its destroyer the seventeenth town flourishes with 25,000 population. This little city has been the sorest sufferer from Vesuvius, each lava flood drying and forming the rocky foundation for new edifices. There is a saying among the Neapolitans, "Naples commits sins and Torre pays for them."

After the eruption of 1861 an earthquake fissure in the streets of this ill-fated town was descended by men who found themselves inside a church buried by the products of a previous eruption. Torre del Greco is the center of the Mediterranean coral fishery and is surrounded by rich vineyards as well as fruit orchards. From its grapes some of the choicest wines of Italy are made, notably the Lachrymae Christi.

Five miles farther along is Torre del Annunziata, a large fishing town of 16,000 people. Turning a mile inland here the traveler views the ruins of Pompeii.

Bee Want Ads Produce Results.

BUSINESS WOMEN AS WIVES

Commercialism of Matrimony is the Real Evil to Be Avoided by Everyone.

In a recent sermon delivered by Rev. John L. Scudder, a preacher in a Jersey City Congregational church, he made the statement that the modern tendency of women to forsake the domestic sphere for an industrial career causes fewer marriages, but better wives. The statement comes from him with an added increment of interest because he has, as he states, long since dropped the "unsightly word obey" from the rite of matrimony he uses. There are 5,000,000 women in the United States engaged in industrial and mercantile work to the exclusion of domestic pursuits. Out of these there are many, the preacher suggests, who will not give up an $800 job for a $600 husband, unless he be very kind in disposition. He thus commercializes matrimony in his hypothesis and rejoices over such commercialism in his conclusions. That is wrong.

It is true that the influences of the business world do cause many women to hesitate about marriage," comments the Indianapolis Star, "but does not the qualifications 'unless the man be kind' show the fallacy of the assumption that it were better for women to remain single to maintain financial independence. In the old days the young woman spun and wove that she might have something to give to the home, even though it were humble. The love which leads to matrimony should be stronger than a desire to be kept in millinery and embroidery. Too many women have the idea that marriage is a relation in which a woman may live without cost to herself and frequently without effort on her part. She wishes to be an ornament to her household, not a helpmate. The commercialism of matrimony leads to more domestic infelicities than does lapsing from marital vows.

Bee Want Ads—Best Business Boosters.

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Few Features of the Week Noted by Local Jobbers.

WET WEATHER CAUSES SOME CONCERN

Advance of Ten Per Cent Named in Builders' Hardware, Owing to Extensive Operations—Cotton Market Develops More Strength.

Few features are to be noted in the trade of the week. There have been no advances, except in a few staples, and these are of small moment. The largest was an advance of 10 per cent in builders' hardware, due to the enormous building movement all over the country. Strength in the cotton market is another point of interest. Trade has been good with the local jobbers, but nothing out of the ordinary. Retail trade is reported a little better than a week ago. The dealers are concerned in the fact that the wet weather has made a late season for the farmers, and they are anxiously watching for warm, dry days.

Implement houses have been in the thick of the second order business all week. Seeders, drills and harrows have practically all gone out and cultivators are now moving well. The wet weather has hindered the seeding of small grain and the jobbers expect in consequence a larger sale of listers this year than they have known for a long time.

The shoe business of the week was much larger than that of last. Country retail trade, as well as city, has been good. Some of the retailers have almost sold out their first stock in certain numbers of oxfords and have reordered oxfords and rubber goods. Leather prices are firm, though the trade anticipates no advance soon. All jobbers agree that this will be an oxford season. More oxfords will be worn this summer than ever before.

Builders Hardware Higher.

Hardware orders are more numerous and heavier than a week ago. Spring goods are moving well, lawn mowers and garden hose having enjoyed a good demand. There has also been a good late trade in screen doors and wire cloth. Builders hardware has been advanced 10 per cent, but outside of this item, there no changes of any consequence.

Orders on dry goods for current use have improved in the last week, and house trade also has been fair. The jobbers have enjoyed a big advance business on underwear, hosiery and dress goods, shirts and work garments. Sales of domets also have been good. The price situation on cotton goods is growing firmer every day. As the cotton year grows to a close, the extent both of the crop in sight and the demand for raw cotton becomes more clearly defined. An advance on plain goods of all descriptions may be looked for, says a jobber. Collections with the dry goods houses since the first of April have been satisfactory.

Salmon Closely Cleaned Up.

Not for many seasons has canned salmon been as closely cleaned up from first hands as it is at the present time. Pink salmon is almost unobtainable. Medium red is in exceedingly light supply, and with a very light supply of first-class red Alaska salmon. There is in the hands of some of the packers, a fair supply of sockeyes. The general impression is that the market on red Alaska and sockeyes will both open up at considerably higher prices than have recently been ruling. Under active demand on the coast, red Alaska has advanced 10 cents per dozen and sockeyes are now held at 15 cents per dozen over the opening prices of last season. As the season is just opening for the heavy consumption of salmon, it will be surprising if red Alaska fish does not advance to a point beyond the probable opening figure of $1. Never in the history of the trade has there been such a heavy trade on red Alaska fish.

There is considerably better feeling in the line of tomatoes than has been noticed for some time. There has been some active trading, taking up a large portion of the goods that have been available outside of the syndicate holdings, and the chances for the syndicate are consequently very much better for marketing its holdings. One fact bears upon the situation which will prevent extreme prices ruling, it is that new tomatoes in tin will come onto the market in July. On future tomatoes there has been no change, the market being firm at former quotations.

The demand for spot corn has been very heavy, the amount going out being unusual for this season of the year. While the situation appears a little better, there has been no change whatever in quotations, so that corn is still being sold by both canner and jobber without any profit. Many of the small canners cannot meet the prices on futures named by some of the larger canners. A few of them have already announced their determination to keep their plants closed for this season. Unless the acreage is materially decreased the canners will see another season very much like the present. All information, however, from both label men and box makers indicates that the acreage will be materially reduced, so that jobbers look for considerable improvement before new corn is available.

Further advances have been noted in dried fruits, particularly in gallon apples, gallon apricots, blueberries and blackberries.

Dried fruits are in very strong shape, further advances having taken place in both apricots and peaches, and most packers are holding for higher prices on prunes. The raisin situation, because of the very close control of the bulk stock, is attracting more attention every day. Evaporated apples have shown an advance of ¼@¾c per pound during the last two weeks. Very few raspberries are in sight, and these are very firmly held at extreme prices.

Great activity has been shown in rice during the last two weeks. Advances have been made by the weak holders of from ¼c to ⅝c per pound. Well posted operators in the south say that further advances are sure to take place in the near future, because of the exceedingly light supplies available.

Sugar Unchanged in Price.

The sugar market is in practically the same position as last week. No change has taken place in refined, though raws are a trifle easier. The volume of current business is about normal for the season of the year. There is nothing now to indicate higher prices, say the jobbers, until the heavy demand of May and June comes. There are good prospects for a small fruit crop, and this will increase the consumption of sugar.

Cheese is firm in fancy October-made goods and stocks are reported exceedingly light. It is five or six weeks before the new grass cheese will be on the market. In the meantime the winter-made is offered at considerably less than the fancy October. Fancy brick and limburger are lower, while fancy Swiss is being held at the same prices.

The trade is expecting an advance in Japan teas. In Formosa the market is steady, but the poorer qualities show a tendency to weakness. Ping Sueys are firm and country greens are quiet.

The coffee market has been in an unsettled condition, owing to the big liquidation in the May option. The statistical position is unchanged from a week ago and prices are the same on spot goods. The business is good now and the outlook is bright for an increased trade.

Drugs and Chemicals.

Business in the drug line continues active and the market is in a healthy condition. Few important price changes have occurred. Citric acid is very firm at the recent advance and is quoted at from 48 to 50 cents per pound. There has been a slight decline in codeine, opium and their preparations. The quinine situation is unaltered. Notwithstanding the low price, the demand is light. The former jobbing price on sulfonal of 50 cents per ounce has been recalled. It is now quoted at 60 cents. Glycerine is selling well at 13½ to 14 cents in fifty-pound cans. Opium is selling at from $3.25 to $3.50; powdered, $4 to $4.25. There is an active demand for vanilla beans and prices are tending upward; Mexican especially are higher. Menthol is in a very strong position and prices are tending upward. Gum camphor is very firm at $1.12 to $1.15 per pound. Manufacturers have not as yet named price on paris green for the season, but it will undoubtedly be considerably higher than last year owing to the high price of arsenic and blue vitriol. Blue vitriol has been advanced to 6¼ cents in carload lots; five to ten-barrel lots, 6¾ to 7 cents.

Paints, Oils and Glass.

The window glass situation is strong, prices having advanced 5 per cent in Chicago. Prices have not advanced locally, but it is expected that an advance of 5 to 10 cents will occur at any time. Plate glass is firm. The demand for all grades is good. Turpentine is weaker than last week, the price being 74 cents. Southern lead is quoted at 7¾ cents, while Carter lead is 7¼ cents, both prices experiencing no change since last week. Raw linseed oil is 46 cents and boiled is 42 cents, these prices remaining the same as quoted last week.

Elks and the Y. W. C. A.

At Friday evening's meeting of the Omaha Elks a donation of $100 was voted for the Young Women's Christian association building fund. D. W. Van Cott was elected a life member. Exalted Ruler Dewar appointed S. F. Woodbridge, T. J. Fitzmorris and Al Sorenson to comprise a brass committee.

AT THE NEW YORK THEATERS.

NEW YORK, April 14.—The surest indication that the winter theatrical season is drawing to a close is the unofficial opening of Coney Island. The official opening of Coney Island comes in May. But though the season so far as the ending of cold weather has been unusually late this year, Coney Island has been in full blast for the last Sunday or two save for the large attractions of Dreamland and Luna Park. And these are to be opened on Easter Sunday, though of course many details remain to be perfected.

Not even New York people themselves—certainly not out-of-town people—understand the large part which Coney Island plays in the amusements of the great city. It is only a few years since it would have been as much as a person's social standing is worth to have been seen at Coney Island. Nowadays—at least during the last year or two—even the representatives of the Four Hundred do not object to junkets and excursions to the island. And though New York is such a large city that it would appear as though summer or winter when good attractions are presented the houses are always crowded, yet during the heated term it is safe to say that more persons seek amusements on Coney's sands than seek amusement in the city play houses.

The comparatively open, though late, winter has given all persons interested in Coney opportunities to carry on big operations. Thompson & Dundy have worked under cover all winter and vouchsafe no information other than that Luna will be bigger and better than ever before. As a matter of fact, however, it is known that Thompson & Dundy have spent nearly as much money on Luna's rehabilitation as it cost to open the gates in the first place.

Dreamland, too, is a busy place, and Senator Reynolds predicts for the place a season even more successful and prosperous than last year, and that is saying a great deal. The senator, Sam Gumperts, former Sheriff Bullins, Billy Ellis and all of the executive staff are hard at work preparing for the informal Easter opening.

While no new productions have been made at the New York theaters this week, dramatic affairs have not lacked for interest. Louis Mann and Clara Lipman, whose engagement at the Field theater in "Julie Bonbon" ended when the house passed into the hands of James K. Hackett, have returned to New York after a brief road tour, and have been presenting the comedy at the Lyric until next Monday, when Arnold Daly will be seen there in George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man."

Richard Mansfield has been appearing during this, his last week at the New Amsterdam in some of the best of his productions. On Monday evening he appeared as Arthur Dimmesdale in "The Scarlet Letter," Tuesday in "A Parisian Romance," Wednesday in "The Merchant of Venice," "Beau Brummel," "King Richard III" and others following. Tonight he appears in one act from each of five plays. It is interesting to note in this connection that it has been impossible to buy a seat at the box office all of the week, seats for all productions having been sold out in advance.

The Mrs. Gilbert testimonial performance at the Broadway theater, the proceeds of which will be given to the fund now being raised for the purchase of a window in memory of the much-beloved actress, will take place on Tuesday, April 17. Mr. Daniel Frohman has arranged for the entertainment over which Rev. William C. Stimson, the late Mrs. Gilbert's pastor, will preside, and the plans indicate an event of rare interest. Many prominent men and women of the theatrical profession will take part. The old Huckstone comedy, "Nan, the Good for Naught," will be presented by Miss Annis Hughes and other members of the "Mr. Pinkinson" company; Miss Blanche Bates, Mr. Frank Keenan and Mr. J. H. Benrimo of the Belasco company will appear in a one-act comedy, "My Aunt's Advice;" Miss Clara Morris, Mr. J. Colville and others will give a scene from "Odette," and Mr. Peple's one-act play "The Mallet's Masterpiece," based on the subject of the Venus de Milo, will be produced by a specially organized cast. Other contributors to the performance will be Mr. Sam Bernard, Miss Hattie Williams, May Isbel Fiske and Mr. Fred Walton. Mr. Francis Wilson and Mr. Lawrence D'Orsay will also take part.

F. F. Proctor has been celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of his advent as a theatrical manager in this city in the Fifth Avenue theater all of this week, a jubilee program of unusual interest commemorating the event. To properly typify the diversity of the Proctor theatrical enterprise a combination of drama, comedy and vaudeville made up the amusement bill of fare, the performances being drawn solely from the Proctor resources and presenting many of the most prominent players now before the public. The jubilee has also served to introduce that finished artist, Yvette Guilbert, to vaudeville audiences. There has been a complete change of bill each day during jubilee week, and in addition to one of the season's dramatic offerings there have appeared several special vaudeville features. The Monday program presented Justin Huntley McCarthy's romantic drama, "If I Were King," by special arrangement with E. H. Sothern. At the same performance Henry de Vries made his farewell appearance in America, presenting his famous protean play, "A Case of Arson." On Tuesday the Proctor All-Star players appeared in "Mrs. Jack," with Mabel Taliaferro in the garret scene, from "The Little Princess," as the vaudeville feature. "Mlle. Marni" was Wednesday's dramatic tid-bit, and "La Domino Rouge," whose sensational dance, and even more sensational personality, have been the talk of two continents, introduced her terpsichorean divertissement in the studio scene of the play. Thursday brought a shifting of the companies, when the All-Star stock moved up to the Harlem house, while that organization, with the addition of James J. Corbett, moved down to Fifth Avenue theater for the day in "Mr. Smooth." Vesta Victoria, the English comedienne, was the vaudeville feature this time. Friday marked the first appearance in vaudeville of Miss Guilbert, who sang the most successful of her songs, both in English and French. The regular stock company, or rather a portion of it, will be seen in Bernard Shaw's "Candida." The week ended with an elaborate production of "The Merchant of Venice," and Fred Walton, the English pantomimist, supplied the vaudeville feature.

Mrs. Fiske and the Manhattan company gave the last performance of "Leah Kleschna" in this city at the Academy of Music this week. After tonight Mrs. Fiske no longer will be seen in this drama, in which she has acted for more consecutive performances than any other offering in her repertory. At present the vitality of "Leah Kleschna" seems as great as ever, the Academy having held large and enthusiastic audiences throughout the last week, evidencing that the appreciation of Mrs. Fiske's art seems as keen in Fourteenth street as in Broadway.

Worked by Forged Checks.

Charles Blind of 1224 South Twentieth street and A. W. Peterson of Fifteenth and Harney streets have reported to the police they were swindled out of $28.70 each by forged checks, presumably passed by the same men, as the descriptions of the men in each case correspond. The checks were signed "A. A. Lovelace," one being made payable to Charles Williams and the other to Charles Simins.

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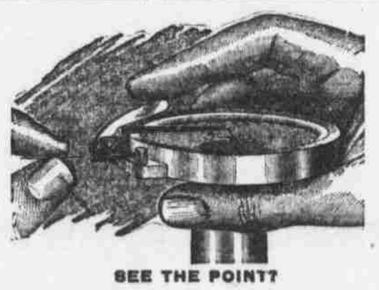
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