

Gossip About Plays, Players and Playhouses

REBUKED indeed did Omaha go to see the Woodford Stock company, which closed its long season at the Broadwood last night. From the very start the company was a success. Many of the members, who came here strangers, leave behind them a circle of friends wide and warm, who wish a joyous vacation season and hope to see them back here early in fall for another round of merry play. As the company played its last performance last night, it stood by all odds the most popular stock organization that ever made its home in Omaha. Individual members of other companies may have won a deep regard from the public, but not a whole has any other ever succeeded in capturing the genuine affection of the people as did the Woodford Stock company of the season just ended. Recounting the artistic triumphs of the season merely needs the mention of the list of plays offered. Some were done better than others, but all were earnestly undertaken and intelligently presented. It has been the faithful, never relaxing interest shown by each member of the company in the work that has made this result possible, and the appreciation of the public has been shown in the steady patronage bestowed on the theater at which the company has made its home. It is impossible now to forecast the organization of the company for next winter, but it is certain that each returning player will be welcomed, while those who do not come back will be followed into their new field of activity by a more than friendly interest on the part of the Omaha public.

The coming summer is not to be devoid of its theater in Omaha after all, for Mr. J. A. Wolfe of the Wolfe Stock company has arranged for the use of the Krug theater, and will there install his company for the summer. The opening of the run is indefinite, but the season opens on Thursday evening with the play first offered here by Mr. James O'Neill, "The Manxman." Mr. Wolfe is a manager-actor of many years experience, and his organization is one that is well known in the east. In the company which opens on Thursday night, Frank C. Long will be the leading man. He is an actor of much experience in the eastern stock organizations, his home being at Cleveland. Miss Grace Huff, who has already had an introduction to Omaha people, will be the leading woman of the company. Herbert Dobbin also known here, an actor of ability, will be the heavy man. Charles Archer and May Shannon are to do the "characters," and Miss Nellie Long will do the ingenue. Mr. Wolfe himself will do the "Squareman." He expects to take "The Virginian" on his first trip through the smaller towns of the west during the coming season, and may produce it at the Krug during his summer engagement. At all events, Mr. Wolfe promises to give plays that will be clean and interesting, and expects to merit liberal patronage.

With the passing of the winter season, and the closing of the theaters for the summer term, comes the perennial cry for a better stage. This means better things on the stage, and the answer is "Not yet." Regardless of the call of the man with a high, square forehead, Art is still to assume a varying personality, and its manifestations are going to be many. "Facts" have been lifted up in the name of science, and wildness, and some have, with faith which leads them to see certain signs of advancement in the world of Art. This is true, though, only as far as society itself has advanced. The victory is not won, nor is the influence of Art to be any more than meagerly apparent. The theater will continue in the future as in the past to reflect contemporary manners and thought. It has a powerful influence in shaping thought, but only when dominated by a master mind is it only a genuine benefit to the race. It is too often the case that the influence of the theater is in the other direction. Especially is this true of the modern melodrama. For several seasons the powers that preside over the "popular price" drama have vied with each other in an effort to set forth the more lurid and flashy plays; they have all but glorified vice, and have shown how easy it is to commit crime. The social fabric has been turned inside out, and the seamy side has been shown under the glare of the calcium and the flood light. No form of vice now awaits exploitation at the cheaper theaters.

How far this pernicious influence has had an effect on the affairs of society at large cannot be told, or even guessed at with any degree of accuracy, but it certainly has been bad. It cannot help but be evil. Young people, whose minds are not yet formed and whose moral fabric is incapable of resisting the evil instilled by the exhibition of vice and crime on the stage, are inevitably made, and made by the theater, as a result of the familiarity with which the evils are shown. Minds already evil in their tendencies get here that encouragement for which they crave, while the innocent receives such a shock as it never receives from it. It is impossible to become familiar with evil and not become to some degree tolerant of it. Tolerance not infrequently leads to experimentation, and then the end is not far off. For years the influential dramatic critics of the United States warred against the "dirty" drama secured its abolition. At least to such a degree that it is no longer flaunted as the shame of modern thought. It might not be amiss now for them to take up the crusade against the evil of the cheaper theaters, and do what might be done in way of protest against the play that glorifies crime and parades vice in alluring colors. The popular price theater can be and should be made clean as the upper class. More really depends on it, for those whose minds were contaminated by the sinisterness of the elegantly wrought "problem" play rarely did society any serious harm by putting into practice the theories they there imbibed, but the mind that is turned to

him, and the great questions of society were the problem he set himself to solve. His earlier writings were somewhat tinged with a mysticism that is not observed in his later and mature works. The knowledge that was his from deep study and extensive research he reflects in his plays, directing his thought against abuses, moral as well as physical. "A Doll's House," "Ghosts" and "Hedda Gabler" are the play of these best years to the American public. Of these only "Ghosts" has ever been performed in Omaha. This was by Mary Shaw and her excellent company some three years ago. The drama, which is in some regards a continuation or sequel to "A Doll's House," deals with the problem of heredity. In the first of these plays been pointed out the wrong of a wedding between a healthy, pure woman and a man who had stepped himself in sensuality. In the second the sin of the father is visited on the son. In "Hedda Gabler" a deeper psychological rather than a psychological question is presented. It partakes more of a discussion that would ordinarily be looked for in the lecture room of a medical college than on the stage. But Ibsen had ideas, and set them forth with a vigor and directness that make Ibsen many a mirror and not a few converts. He differs from Maeterlinck, Sudermann, D'Annunzio, Shaw and others of the "moderns" in that his mind was evidently clean and he wrote not for the purpose of shocking people, but to enlighten them. Time may come when Ibsen will have more general recognition than for his lifetime at least he was "caviar to the general."

Coming Events.
The most startling moving picture show ever presented in Omaha, will be that of the San Francisco earthquake and fire at the Auditorium beginning Monday night, May 28, and continuing every night during the week, with matinees Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If you have never attended an earthquake, here is your opportunity to see one of the most startling performances of nature without inconvenience or danger. The moving pictures of this great disaster which will be presented at the Auditorium, were taken by Miles Brothers of New York and San Francisco. This firm is known throughout the country as the most complete and completely equipped establishment in that line of business. They furnished the pictures for the Brit-Nelson prize fight, and in fact they have the reputation of doing the finest work in the world in moving pictures. Miles Brothers, being right on the ground, had the advantage of all competitors, and have undoubtedly succeeded in securing the most complete showing of this fearful calamity. These great pictures were shown in New York and other eastern cities last week to crowded houses, and there is no question about their giving great satisfaction in Omaha. The show will begin with a trip up Market street showing the condition of San Francisco before the fire and the original buildings, and then showing the falling walls, and raging flames and firemen battling to save the city. They will show buildings being

blown up, the panic-stricken people, rushing half clad, from one street to another in wild confusion. The pictures will also show the encampment in Golden Gate park where rich and poor, high and low, were compelled to sleep and eat in the open air. This great entertainment will not be entirely void of amusement for the pictures will close with many interesting and amusing scenes of the people who were living the simple life in Golden Gate park. After the great calamity had passed and the flames had been subdued, the splendid spirits of the San Francisco people not only withstood the disaster with fortitude, but in a manner which should be a model to all. It is a play which should be enjoyed by all.

Gossip from Stagedale.
Hattie Williams ended her long engagement with Sam Bernard last week and sailed for Europe for a short vacation. Early in August she will return to this country to help up rehearsals of the new musical comedy which she is playing next season.

Prattle of the Youngsters
Old Lady—Little boy, Aren't you ashamed to wear that way?
Little Boy—Yes, ma'am; but I am just learnin'. You order bear dad.
Mamma—Why, Jimmy, you are getting awfully tanned going to school. You should keep out of the sun.
Jimmy—Taint tanned, ma'm—it's the teacher.
"Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "you may try your hand at writing a short story."
A few minutes later Johnny handed up his slate, on which was written: "Us boys all love our teacher."
"Willie Brown, keep out of that water," cried old Mrs. Fuschy. "First thing you know you'll catch cold."
"I don't care," replied Willie Brown. "Ma says next time I get a cold I kin have a han'kerchief all to meself."
Teacher—What is the meaning of the word "pulverized"?
Pupil—Pulverized.
Teacher—Right. Use it in a sentence.
Pupil—You pulverize your face.
"My son," said the strict mother at the end of a moral lecture, "I want you to be exceedingly careful under any circumstances, do anything which you would be ashamed to have the whole world see you doing." The small boy turned a handspindling with a whoop of delight.
"What in the world is the matter with you? Are you crazy?" demanded the mother.
"No'm," was the answer. "I'm jes' so glad that you don't 'spec' me to take no baths never any more!"

Music and Musical Notes
This week I have been poring over a volume of Sidney Lanier's poems. What a great poet he was and what a beautiful, courageous spirit was his. His real love was music, and he was a dearer lover of it, and the violin was his chosen instrument. His father, meaning to be kind, destined his son for a successful business career, wherein a little money would accrue. Therefore the beloved violin was put upon the shelf, and after much begging the father, less desirous of his son's happiness, gave in, and the instrument was put in its place as a passer of time and comforter of soul. Lanier was a pathetic struggle to become a lawyer as his family wished, but when he was 21 his genius finally assumed absolute sway. "Taking his fate and his pen for sword and staff," he betook himself north to Baltimore. He became first flute in the Peabody Symphony orchestra and also a lecturer in the Johns Hopkins university. With everything before him and the conditions of the time, he made a spark within him, what a pathetic tragedy that his body should give out. When he was 27 his lungs became very weak, and from that time on he was engaged in a constant warfare with consumption. His frequent recuperation trips, the struggling to play, the work he accomplished his work, and the sweet, sunny, undaunted spirit, remind one of Stevenson. It is pleasant to think that in his wife he had a loving, keenly appreciative companion, who shared him in every possible way, and to whom he confided his hopes and dreams. She cared for and encouraged him to the end. He died in 1881, just 41 years old.

Notes and Personal.
Mrs. Milly Ryan is in Europe traveling and studying.
Mr. and Mrs. Borglum will spend their vacation in Europe, nearly two months in June and remaining till September, with the exception of a few weeks at the seaside.

Earthquake at the Auditorium
Great San Francisco Disaster Shown by Miles Bros.' Unsurpassed Moving Pictures
Vivid and Startling Scenes of Falling Walls, Roaring Flames, Dynamited Buildings and Panic-Stricken People Rushing through the Streets.
The show begins Monday night at 8:30 o'clock and will continue all week, with matinees, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
General Admission, 25 cents; Reserved Seats, 35 cents; Matinees, 25 cents to all parts of the house.
Reserved Seats go on sale Monday morning at 10:00 o'clock at the Auditorium.

Temperate Men in Parliament
According to a calculation made by the British Temperance Advocate, there are 113 English, twenty-six Irish, twenty-one Scotch and twenty-one Welsh members of the House of Commons who are total abstainers. The greatest proportion is among the Welsh M. P.s, of whom the teetotalers form 88.5 per cent of the total representation. The Scotch percentage is 34, the Irish 31, while the English show the smallest proportion, which is 25.4. Together the 154 teetotal members are 29 per cent of the whole assembly.

Men, Women, Children
WOMEN'S SUITS \$10 to \$30
RAINCOATS 10 to 15
FINE MILLINERY 2 to 10
SILK WAISTS 5 to 10
WALKING SKIRTS 3 to 13
SHIRT WAIST SUITS 3 to 22
MEN'S SUITS \$ 7 to \$20
TOPCOATS 10 to 20
FINE MILLINERY 2 to 10
BOYS' SUITS 2 to 10
MEN'S SHOES \$1.75 to 4
MEN'S HATS 1.50 to 3

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RAINCOATS 10 to 15
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MEN'S SHOES \$1.75 to 4
MEN'S HATS 1.50 to 3

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Boston, Mass., May 31st to June 9th.....\$29.75
Springfield, Ill., June 1st to 4th.....\$13.25
New Haven, Conn., June 1st to 4th.....\$33.35
Louisville, Ky., June 11th to 13th.....\$19.75
Mexico City, Mex., June 25th to July 7th.....\$53.25

Boston and New Haven trip tickets good on both across Lake Erie, either or both directions without extra charge except meals and berths. Stop over allowed at Detroit and Niagara Falls.

For descriptive booklets, time-tables, sleeping car reservations, and all information call Wabash City Ticket Office, 1501 Parramont, or address Harry E. Moore, G. A. P. D., Wabash R. R., Omaha, Neb.

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