

## Gossip About Plays and Players

WHEN the curtain went down at the Boyd theater last night, it was to close the most successful summer stock engagement ever played in Omaha. Summer stock is not a novelty here; we have had it in all its various forms, including opera, and Omaha people have always been a little partial to it. Some very clever people have played here at one time or another in summer stock, and a wide variety of drama has been enacted. So it is saying a great deal to pronounce the Woodward company the best organization that has ever played here in summer, and its work in general by far the best. The members of the organization have shown themselves capable and versatile, and each has been called upon to do a number of parts, so that the capacity of each has been thoroughly tested. The success that has attended the season is the best possible indication of the attitude of the public towards the company and its members.

Nearly all of the company have plans for the winter season. Mr. Morrison will go to Chicago, where he will be leading man of the stock company at the College theater, one of the most popular of the Chicago "stock" houses. His season there opens about the first of next month. Miss Miller will go east, where she will prepare for a busy winter on the road with a sketch in vaudeville. She will play over the Orpheum circuit, and will be seen in Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. Beamish (Miss Kniskern) go to Kansas City, where they will be in the Woodward and Stock company at the Auditorium during the winter. The season opening on August 23. Mr. Fowler and Mr. and Mrs. Wallock will spend several weeks at their home in Council Bluffs, and then take the "road" for the winter. Mr. Schroeder will also tour during the winter. Miss Duke will return to Kansas City. Miss Spencer has no plans for the winter. Miss Power expects to remain in Omaha.

Mr. O. D. Woodward came up from Kansas City to be present at the closing performance and to arrange finally for the work that is to be done on the road. The Boyd will be looked up for four weeks and will then open for the winter season. Henry Miller and his company, in "The Great Divide," playing the first performance on Wednesday August 26. "The stock company season has been very satisfactory in every way," said Mr. Woodward, "and I would not think of closing it without a bit of a party. The next season will be a bit different, but it is necessary in order to get the electric wiring installed in time for the winter season. I am not only pleased with the patronage, but with the work of the company, so far as I have seen it. I promised the people to give them good plays by a good company, and I have made good on that promise. I think the next season will look good at this distance. My bookings are not complete yet, so I do not care to make any announcement beyond the opening play. I will say that among the list I have on my table are Maude Adams, John Drew, Florence B. Fox, Elsie Janis, and others of that caliber. It is the intention to run the Boyd during the winter as it always has been, a first-class theater, offering the very best companies. Mr. Monaghan will remain in charge as local manager and will have the same staff of assistants. I expect to return to New York soon, there to complete the list of bookings for the winter and later, may have something to say on that. The Woodward stock company will begin its winter season at the Auditorium in Kansas City on August 23. I will conduct the Willis Wood theater here as a first-class house, and will also have the Shubert, in which attractions of a high grade will be played at the cheaper prices. The election does not seem to have affected business as much as usual and plans are being laid by eastern managers regardless of politics. A number of new plays are to be produced and quite a number of last season's successes will be sent on the road. Omaha will get an early chance to see "Paid in Full," as well as other pieces that have made such a furor. I do not like to say just what the season will bring, but I will promise that it will bring the best that is to be had to Omaha."

English theatrical invasion  
Influx of Stars This Week Will Include Many Notables.  
LONDON, August 1.—(Special Correspondence)—If an Englishman, strolling along Broadway next autumn imagines himself in his big, grey, smoky London, it will hardly be a thing to wonder at. For every day I hear of fresh announcements of English actors and actresses, who are to try their luck along the Great White Way and to the westward before another frost rolls around. Just to mention the most important there are Seymour Hicks—a sort of Willie Collier and Edna Purcell—one-half wife, Elaine Terrill, Cyril Maude and his wife, Winifred Emery, Constance Collier, George Grossmith, Jr., Gertrude Miller and Alexandra Cartledge. And now I understand that Julian Eltinge, husband of Constance Collier, who could not bear the thought of being parted from his beautiful wife, has obtained his release from a contract with the Drury Lane theater people to permit of his becoming leading man for Maxine Elliott in the United States this fall.

Although the exact date of his departure has not yet been decided upon, it is pretty certain that Sir John Hare also will soon call upon these shores to the United States to say his last "farewell" to his many admirers over there. He has just finished a similar job in London in which he appeared in "The Day Lord Quix" and "A Fair of Spectacles," and is now getting ready to tour the provinces in the same plays. But despite the fact that there are all "farewell" performances no one takes the announcement very seriously. Sir John himself has publicly announced that he hopes to be "enticed back to the stage again" at some later date by a part which especially appeals to him.

A has been written of late years on the subject of "musical plays versus straight drama" and the declining taste of the theater-going public inasmuch as they are supposed to prefer the former. A striking refutation of this argument is to be found in the season now drawing to a close in London, where there have been more than sixty plays as against only seven musical comedies, and thirty revivals of spoken drama against three of plays with music attached.

The season has also been remarkable for the prominence of female dramatists, for five of the plays have come from the pens of the gentler sex. Of the lot, however, only one, "Diana of Dobson's," by Cicely Hamilton, which was produced by Lena Ashwell, made a big success. Curiously enough, the scene in this play, which attracted the most attention was a dancing scene very much like that in Clyde Dick's "Girls," which is soon to be presented in London.

Women were also the authors of five of the thirty-five one-act plays, which have been tried on at the London houses during

the season and part authors of four more full-grown plays.  
No less than five London theaters—the Garrick, Terry's, His Majesty's, the Haymarket and the Prince of Wales—closed their doors during the week just passed. The holiday season has worked havoc with the local houses, except in the cases where the attractions are remarkable hits. "The Merry Widow" is still playing to crowded houses and the box office is devoid of tickets for three weeks ahead. Lily Elsie, the popular and original London "Merry Widow," has gone on her holidays and her place is being filled by an understudy, who, by the way, is the fifth woman to play the part in the Daly's theater production.

Of the other plays which hold their own are "Mrs. Dot," in which it is expected that Marie Tempest will play at the Comedy until after Christmas; "A Walrus," which is soon to go into a second edition; and "Lady Frederick," which has now filled no fewer than five different London playhouses.

Somerset Naughton, the remarkably successful new dramatist, who now has four of his plays running at London theaters, has at last suffered or is to suffer a slight reversal. The run of "The Explorer," which is being played by Lewis Waller, will be brought to a close on the 26th and the James K. Hackett of England will take a rest. There is some talk of reviving the piece in the fall, but this is not likely, unless Waller should be compelled to fall back upon it temporarily by the failure of Justin Huntly McCarthy's new version of "The Duke's Motto," which will reopen the season at the Lyric on September 8.

"The Girls of Gottenberg," which you will see this fall in the United States, will be revived in London for a few weeks in the immediate future and then sent on a tour through the provinces. As Gertrude Miller is booked for the American production, George Edwards has been compelled to look around for some one to take her part in the play. To everybody's amazement, he has hit upon "Happy" Fanny Field, that joyous little American comedienne who has been making England laugh for many months past, and who has just returned to London from a vacation of rest in her native land. "Happy" Fanny has long been a favorite in the English halls and in pantomime, but has never tried anything so serious as musical comedy and she is very nervous about her first "plunge." The American girl will certainly add an element of humor to a part which was devoid of it in the hands of more serious-minded Gertrude Miller.

The revival will open at the Adelphi, Strand. Less than a year ago, when Fanny appeared at the same house in pantomime, she got into legal difficulties with the management of the Tivoli Music hall, which took her across the street. The latter claimed that the American girl had entered contracts with them in which she bound herself not to appear within a mile of their hall. Fanny lost and was ordered to pay rather steep damages. I wonder if she has made some arrangements with the hall people or will again "take a chance?"

JOHN AVA CARPENTER.

Coming Events.  
Some years ago several vaudeville "headliners," each claiming to be the most popular "act" in vaudeville, had entered into a very spirited discussion as to which of them really was the most desired and popular act. Naturally, each artist claimed the distinction, only to be panned by their fellow artists. Eventually the argument waxed very warm, until one of the number had a happy inspiration. He suggested that the matter of deciding the most popular act before the public be left to the judgment of the vaudeville audience. B. P. Keith, the man who holds the un-

der of twenty-two pounds up to date. No more summer vacations for me! "P. S.—When I am through with this stunt I shall probably need a doctor. Do I pay the bill or do you?"

"The Traveling Salesman," a new comedy of American life, by James Forbes, which Henry B. Harris will offer in New York August 10, is what is said to be a true conception of the modern drummer, showing his little follies and general characteristics. The story of the play opens on a snowy Christmas day, when Bob Blake, a traveling salesman, alights at Grand Crossing, a small western town. Blake at the station meets Beth Elliott, a pretty country girl, who is the telegraph operator and the ticket agent in the station. Immediately, in typical drummer style, he makes up to her. She invites him to share her noon lunch, and over some sandwiches and cakes they tell each other something of their lives. The girl explains to Blake that it is not a very happy Christmas for her, as a piece of property left her by a legacy by her father is about to be sold because she has been unable to pay the taxes on it. The property adjoins the town, and because of its rocky character has been dubbed by "Billie" as "Billie's Bluff." This land, which at first seems of no value whatever, takes on considerable importance later in the day when Blake discovers that it is in a direct line of an improvement which the railroad is making. Blake's old employer is scheming to secure the property for the amount of the taxes and then hold out for a large price from the railroad, thus defrauding the girl of her just profits. Blake, of course, takes sides with the girl against his employer, and many complications ensue in consequence.

The cast includes: Mr. Frank McIntyre, Miss Gertrude Coghlan, Mr. William Beech, Miss Sarah McVicker, Mr. H. B. Blake, Mr. Arthur Shaw, Mr. Percival T. Moore, Mr. Nicholas Burnham, Mr. Edward Ellis, Mr. E. M. Dresser, Mr. Robert C. Turner, Miss Maude B. St. Claire, Miss Frances Golden Fuller and Master Martin Fuller.

departure from the usual run of plays in its offering for the amount of the taxes, a former circus rider, has been adopted as a Peacock, a retired farmer. The girl makes every attempt to reconcile herself to the new mode of life, but unfortunately is a victim of somnambulism. In one of her nightly wanderings she steals money belonging to her father, thereby putting him in the power of Ezra Flint, an unscrupulous lawyer, who holds a mortgage on the farm. The ultimate recovery of the money and the reconciliation of all parties concerned forms the plot of the interesting, three-act comedy. Miss Mona Lee, whose work gave much satisfaction last week, will have the title role. Specialties will be introduced between acts.

The last week at Lake Manawa has broken all records for big daily attendance, thousands seeking refuge from the torridity by a cool plunge at Manawa beach. Local park-goers seem to realize this year more

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Keith hit the nail squarely on the head, as all Omaha knows that though theaters have closed and parks been abandoned, the magnificent moving picture display at Burwood beach has become more and more popular as the season advances. In fact, so popular is the Burwood brand of motion picture photography that it will be continued on alternate afternoons from the matinees to be given by the stock company during the regular season. An entire change of program will be offered during the week from 1 to 5 and 7 to 11 p. m.

The Hillman Stock company has a marked

than ever before what a "good thing" they have in Lake Manawa. Many easterners who visit the resort daily comment on the fact that they have no water rendezvous or any spot of natural beauty where they can seek a few hours of cool recreation after a hot day at the office. The bathing facilities are ideal for a western park, the hard sand bottom, gradual slope of the beach, fine new bathing suits and modern devices in the water for aquatic sports make the place hard to surpass.

Another "stunt" which is proving a leading attraction in the east has recently been inaugurated at Manawa is dancing and its popularity proves without a doubt that it is a much needed feature on all park programs. Sunday special diversions will be offered, among which is a balloon jump by Prof. Andrew, a new show at the Casino and a fine musical program by the Manawa Concert band, under the direction of Bandmaster Jones.

Gossip From Stagehand.  
Fred Niblo at the present time is in Africa. He has with him a camera and a number of various aids, also a motion picture camera, besides several operators to assist him. He is expected to return to New York in a few days and he hopes to bring back with him some of the most novel and interesting pictures ever seen in America. Many of the pictures, such as the wilds of Africa, have never been placed before the public in the form of lectures. He is expected to return to America the latter part of October, and his tour will begin on or about November 5.

Manager Edward C. White has arranged for Mildred Holland's appearance in Cleveland for a period of ten weeks, during which time she will present all the productions in which she scored success in New York recently. It is possible that she will also produce one or two new plays during her Cleveland engagement, at the request of which Miss Holland will return to New York.

"Americans love ballet dancing," Miss Gene told her friends in London, "and in particular they received with the utmost enthusiasm my 'riding dance' from 'High Society'." It is possible that she will also produce one or two new plays during her Cleveland engagement, at the request of which Miss Holland will return to New York.

**Edith Ellis' New Comedy a Success**  
Mr. Henry W. Savage produced a new comedy drama, entitled, "I Take This Man," by Miss Edith Ellis, at the Court Square theater, Springfield, Mass., last Monday night. Probably the success of the new piece is best indicated by the following dispatch taken from the columns of the New York Press:

Springfield, Mass., July 26.—At the close of the third act of "I Take This Man," which was produced by Mr. Henry W. Savage in the Court Square theater last night, a record for curtain calls was established. The audience applauded until the curtains had been raised and lowered forty-seven times. "I Take This Man" is a three-act comedy drama by Edith Ellis, a Hartford actress, who has been moved by a nomadic spirit, leaving her wife and children. He returns home after eleven years' absence, when his wife is contemplating a new marriage. Interesting dramatic incidents ensue.

policy supports an honest politician in his fight for a seat in the legislature against the commercial boss of the village, thereby incurring the enmity of the latter. In the thick of the fight she falls in love with her own candidate, and is considering his proposal of marriage, when Hiram, her husband, reappears after an absence of eleven years. In the clothes of a tramp still imbued with his old dilettante spirit.

Naturally she is shocked by his resurrection, and after giving him the cold regards of the family supper she asks him what he expects to do and where he expects to go. To which Hiram indignantly and smilingly answers: "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." She angrily refuses to go back to the old life and will not accept Hiram as her husband, still she has not the heart to turn him out of doors and gives him an ultimatum saying: "I won't drive you away homeless, because you are the father of my children. On the other hand, I will not accept you as the head of this house. Here's my proposition: You were always a good cook and handy about the house, when you wanted to be, so I'll offer you \$10 a month to do my cooking and general housework, with Thursday as your day off, and I'll throw in the understanding that you shall know you are my husband. Take it or leave it."

To her surprise, Hiram accepts the offer, and the interesting story, that follows is based upon this singular agreement. Mrs. Anne Sutherland has been engaged by Mr. Savage to play "Bertie Perkins," the leading female role of the piece. When "I Take This Man" was presented on Monday last in Springfield, Miss Sutherland scored an impressive success.

Meanwhile his wife, who is a determined, ambitious woman, becomes editor and proprietor of a small country newspaper and takes a living for herself and children. In the conduct of her paper she stands for good morals, and in line with her

departure from the usual run of plays in its offering for the amount of the taxes, a former circus rider, has been adopted as a Peacock, a retired farmer. The girl makes every attempt to reconcile herself to the new mode of life, but unfortunately is a victim of somnambulism. In one of her nightly wanderings she steals money belonging to her father, thereby putting him in the power of Ezra Flint, an unscrupulous lawyer, who holds a mortgage on the farm. The ultimate recovery of the money and the reconciliation of all parties concerned forms the plot of the interesting, three-act comedy. Miss Mona Lee, whose work gave much satisfaction last week, will have the title role. Specialties will be introduced between acts.

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plishment. What apparently they most desire over there is variety, and, luckily, I was able to give them a good deal of it. They had been accustomed, to a large extent, to see dancers attired in short "tutus," and when I appeared in an empire gown their surprise was not more decided than their delight. As a matter of fact, dancing as a form of entertainment is less cultivated in New York than it is here. There are, of course, the ballets at the opera, but only the richest patrons of music can afford to go there regularly.

John Barrymore, with "A Stubborn Conviction," is a cartoonist of note. Barrymore has been studying art in Paris for some time, and he is now in the city, where he is doing some special art work for the New York World, and Ida Conquest of the same company paints in water colors and oils for recreation.

Robert Edison is an American actor who designs his own printing, the "Strongheart" and "Classmate" posters, both of which were attractive, being originated by the actor. Many of his leisure hours during the last two months have been devoted to designing and coloring for the advertising matter for his new play, "The Call of the North," in which he will appear at the Hudson theater, New York, on August 24.

An invitation has been extended to Walter Damrosch by the Philharmonic society of London, England, to conduct one of their concert next winter.

A new musical comedy will make its appearance at La Haye theater, Labor day, September 7. It will be called "A Girl at the Helm," and will be by Robert B. Smith and Raymond Hobbs, authors of "A Knight for a Day." This will be the first musical comedy staged at the La Haye in three years that does not come from the workshop of Will Hough, Frank Adams, and Joseph Howard.

The silly season in London is beginning and, for lack of more interesting matter, some of the newspapers are printing the opinions of well known actresses concerning the suitability of the stage as a profession for young girls. Edith Terry, Marion Terry, Lena Ashwell and other well known performers have been asked to give a good funny familiar truth, but none of them had anything new or valuable to say. The sum of their observations is that a good deal depends upon the girl.

Several of Arthur Wing Pinero's plays have been translated into foreign languages.

Charles F. Mackay, whose former wife is now the bride of Robert Edison, has been assigned to the title role of "The Man of the Hour," as well as the company that is to give the Broadway play in Boston and throughout New England. He has been playing the role of Gliffa, the broker, in the play.

Lee Kohlmar, a dialect comedian who was with David Warfield in "The Music Master," and more recently one of the principals of the La Salle theater company, will make the debut in vaudeville at the Majestic theater next Monday matinee in a one act sketch which has been arranged by De Mille, the famous playwright. It is along the order of "The Music Master." His principal support will be Miss Bertha Johnson, a south side girl who, while a student of Anna Morgan's school, was selected by Mr. Warfield, himself, as a member of his company. Last season she played with Miss Frances Starr in "The House of the Raucous."

"On one occasion I tried to be serious on the stage," says Robert B. Smith, an English monologist. "This was at Cologne during a time when, by order of the police, nothing funny was to be included in the entertainment provided in that city, because a religious festival was being held there. I went to the hall, and gravely told the audience that I wished them not to laugh at me, and I endeavored to be serious. Unfortunately, the spectators roared with laughter, and the next morning I was fined by the authorities for breaking the law."

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THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: AUGUST 2, 1936.