

# High School Students Will Present Old English Dramas

### Under Direction of Briton Who Revised Them For Production In Omaha.

"The Vicar of Wakefield," by Oliver Goldsmith, has been chosen for the play to be presented by the Central High graduating class the week of June 4.

The play will be under the direction of Herbert Rogerson, an Englishman, who recently came to this country. This is the first time that "The Vicar of Wakefield" has been presented in Omaha.

It will be Mr. Rogerson's own version of the story, the play being adapted by him from Goldsmith's book and Tom Taylor's play.

Sixty characters will take part in the production. The cast has not been finally chosen. More than 175 students tried out for places last week.

"The Lady of Lyons," by Lord Lytton, an old English comedy, will be presented by the South High graduating class. Mr. Rogerson has also undertaken to coach the South High students.

The comedies will display quaint costumes of history. The pompous styles of white wigs and romantic costumes of the men, and the richly appointed silk and satin paniers dresses of the women, will bring the old English atmosphere into great prominence.

The idea of teaching dramatic art in public schools is a good one," said Mr. Rogerson. "Its inception comes none too early. Literature generally is more or less to the unimaginative mind a very dry subject. The drama, if taught in the schools, will help the scholar to visualize the subject. Drama is the bridge between learning and the fruits of learning. By reviving old plays we live in those times, and get the delights of color and the



Herbert Rogerson

actual portrayal in life of sterling characters in history."

It is impossible to be both mercenary and artistic, according to Mr. Rogerson. He believes that the two are diametrically opposite, and one must strike a happy medium.

There is more in this world than the acquisition of material wealth. Amateur Company Proposed.

"Playhouses are houses of education," he said. "While coaching the students they will be taught the value of education, self-possession, memory work, delivery and general stage craft, all of which are necessary in the making of successful actors."

Mr. Rogerson hopes soon to produce "Saint Patrick's Day," an old English comedy by Sheridan, which he has revised. A number of the high school actors will be asked to join in forming an amateur company, to be directed by Mr. Rogerson, later in the season.

"Ivanhoe," "Wild Oats," and several other old English comedies have been rewritten by Mr. Rogerson.

impression of Moscow as a town from which the open plague had disappeared, and begged him to explain. "It has gone largely," he said, "because we have treated the economic question of women properly, and so removed one of the great inducements to prostitution. We have introduced some repressive measures, taking the worst cases and segregating them where they

can be taught to work. But one thing from which nothing but good has come is the inclusion in the committee dealing with the special subject of representatives from the Domestic Servants' Professional Union."

The principle of gratuity is carried out pretty thoroughly in this service. Medical education is gratuitous, so is medical service, whether in hospital, dispensary, or at home. The medical service has been nationalized, the most difficult part to organize being the medical service at home. But at last it has been done at a cost of 2,000,000 rubles, and 68 doctors, with 120 assistants, are at the service of the population of Moscow.

Effective Medical Service. How effective this service is I know from personal experience, for I fell ill on my arrival, and a doctor

had to be summoned at a late hour, past midnight. He was promptly in attendance and treated me successfully.

The department maintains clinics of all kinds at various points in the city, and has raised the number of beds in hospitals from 3,000 before the soviets came into power to 25,000—all being for civilians, the military forming a branch apart. Again, I had to come to the con-

clusion, as in other commissariats dealing with the personal life of the people, that the soviet republic is well served by its department of health, while the directors' frankness about the effect of the new form of government is a direct proof that, so far from meaning anarchy, in this, perhaps the most sensitive of all government organizations to interference, it makes for efficiency and for the spread of enlightenment.

### Tries to Solder Gasoline Tank That's Full—Hospital

Norman, Okl., April 17.—Oscar Prock, a blacksmith, made the mistake of attempting to solder a gasoline tank here the other day before having made sure that it was empty. Prock is now in a hospital recovering from severe injuries he sustained when the "joy fluid" container let go.

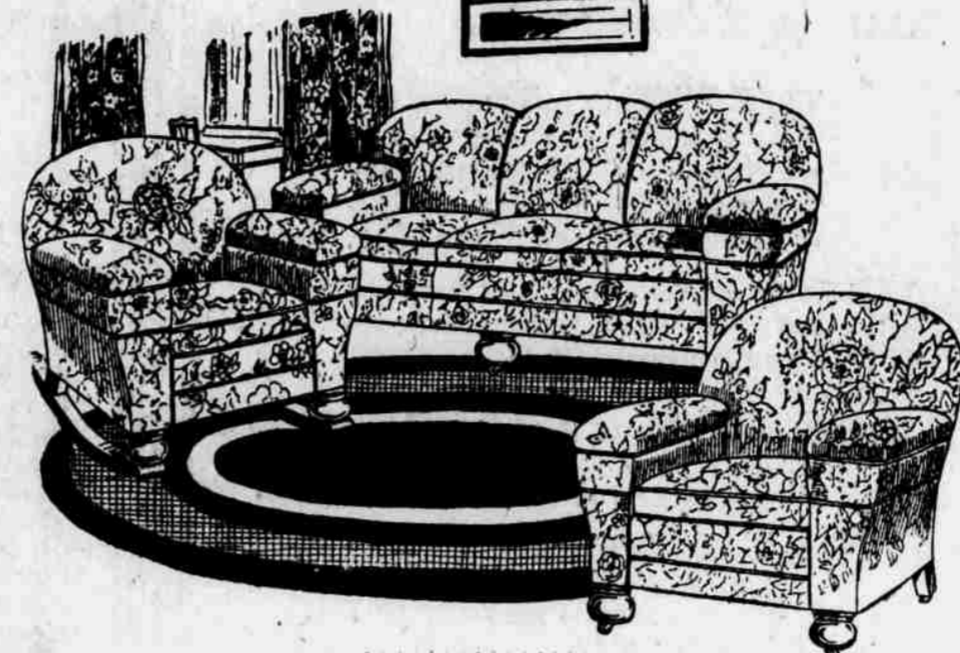
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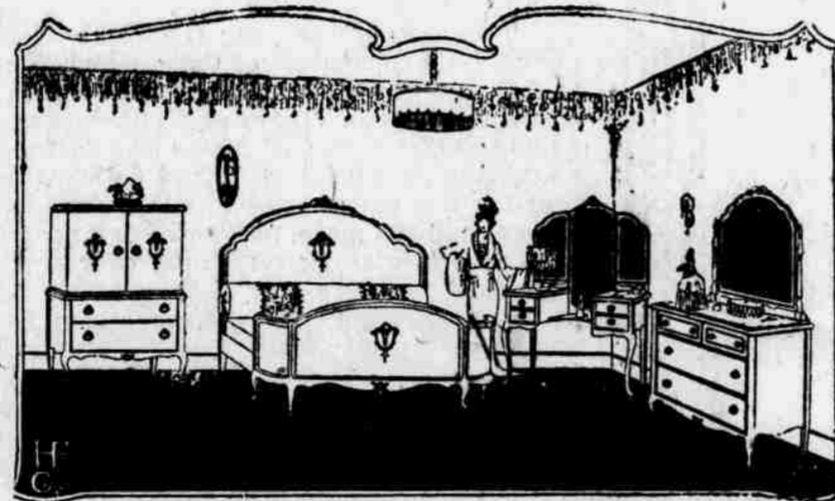
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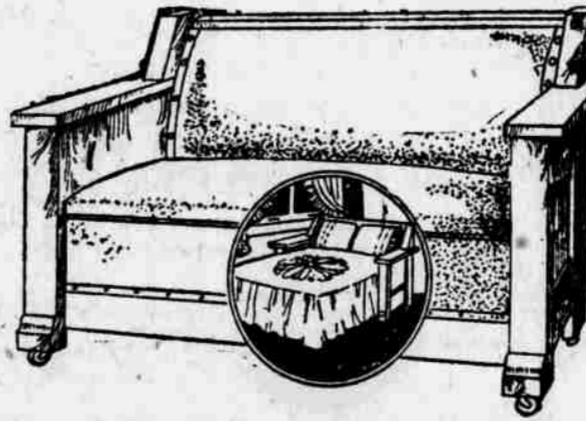


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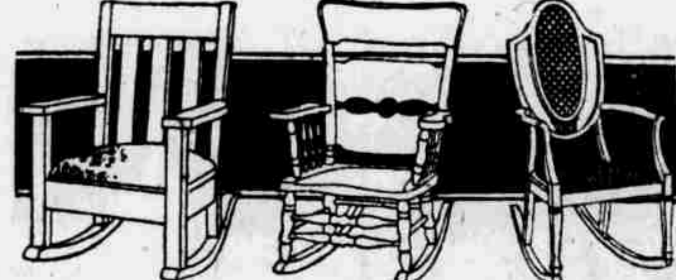
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# Russian Soviets Sanitation Work Very Efficient Says Professor William T. Goode

### All Medical Services of Every Kind Unified Into One Vast Department—Question of Medicaments Serious Since Blockade Against Country Makes It Almost Impossible to Bring in Any From Outside, People Proving Sufficient Unto Themselves.

(Note—The subjoined article by the correspondent of the Manchester Guardian was among the property taken from him when he was arrested last fall and detained on a British warship after his tour of Soviet Russia. The manuscript has just been recovered by him and is herewith published for the first time in this country.)

By PROF. WILLIAM T. GOODE, By Universal Service.

London, April 17.—May interview with Mr. Semashko, the head of the sanitary department, provided not only deeply interesting information, but confirmed an opinion formed from investigation in other quarters—that the blockade, so far from quenching the spirit of the Russians, has roused their combative energy and stimulated them to discover ways of sufficing to themselves.

Proudly Dr. Semashko declared that their chief triumph was the unifying of all the medical services, of whatever kind, into one vast department. This gave them advantages in economy of working, in the utilization of service, in the distribution of medicaments, and, last, in fighting epidemics.

### Medicaments Serious Question.

The question of medicaments is a serious one for Russia. Formerly they were nearly all bought abroad, and the blockade by closing the ports, and the war by preventing them from buying in their usual market, Germany had brought about a condition which threatened to be serious for the public health. Some had been bought in Ukraine—these were German medicines—and much, some millions of roubles' worth, Dr. Semashko said, had been secured by contraband. But they had been stimulated to manufacture for themselves, and had been successful, especially in salicylates.

The sanitary condition of the country is not bad at present. In 1918 there had been a serious epidemic of typhus. (I had previously heard of this during a visit I paid, far into the country, to a huge textile factory, where, as one of the managers, an Englishman, said the people died like flies.) The department had called on everyone, and brought in aid the workmen's committees, teachers and others to preach and teach cleanliness. Now the average number of cases in Moscow was 25, a small number of cases in a city of 1,500,000 inhabitants, had been wanted of cholera, and asked him about it. He said that there were some score or so of cases in Petrograd and in Kursk. In Voronezh there were sporadic cases which proved on investigation to have been brought from Denikin's army, where it was widely spread, as also among the population of the territory he occupied. In Russia it exists, Dr. Semashko said, only among soldiers, not among the country people.

### Asiatic Cholera in Moscow.

In Moscow at the present time there are fourteen cases of Asiatic cholera, bacteriologically proved. I have mentioned already the great care which is taken at the Moscow water works with the water supply, and that Moscow has been singularly free from epidemics. In my opinion, it is a healthy city just now. Again, the department has organized the workmen's committees against disease, so that what might have turned to their disadvantage is promptly concerted

action by all to spread enlightenment and fight infection.

"The department has stimulated research also," said Dr. Semashko. "In the typhus epidemic we isolated the bacillus and got good results by the use of a serum, though I do not yet consider its action as demonstrated."

### Unified Medical Service.

The participation of the people in all departments really helps the movement toward national health set on foot by this department. Dr. Semashko has helped from these committees, who work daily in his department, and on all the committees on venereal diseases, tuberculosis, prostitution, etc., there are representatives from the professional alliances (trade unions). He spoke quite warmly in favor of the new system and of the benefit that comes from participation by the people.

"But," he said, "don't take my opinion; take that of a neutral doctor, Dr. Freiberg, who has been working here for years. He was asked by Peters to go to Ukraine and organize a medical service. He refused, being enamored of the soviet service, and besides because the dream of his life had at last come true—one unified, comprehensive medical service for the whole country."

As he had spoken of a committee on prostitution, I told him of my

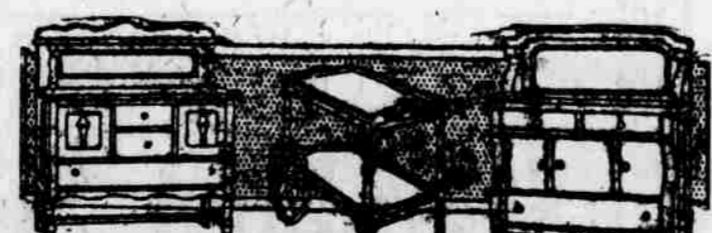
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