Star System Still Supreme Despite Managers' Edict

By BURNS MANTLE.

EW YORK-(Special Correspondence)—As we approach the ides of May and the end of another dramatic season it is interesting to note how supremely the star system still reigns, despite many a manager's confessed determination to change it. Of fifty current attractions on Broadway, 35 are "sold" on the strength of the name or names at the head of the

It has long been a debatable question in theaterland, this one of whether the star "sells" the show or the show "sells" the star, according to the S. E. P. School of Salesman-ship. The answer you get to any inquiry depends entirely upon the personal interests of the authority consulted. The author, particularly the author of a successful play, will assure you it is the play; the star, that it is the star; the manager, that it is the combination, plus intelli-gent direction. But by the proofs and the records the stars have all the best of the argument.
"Lightnin'," as an example, was a

popular play months before Frank Bacon was officially named as its star, but probably nine on of 10 of those who saw "Lightnin" talked much more freely and entitusia.

ly of Frank Bacon's performance as Bill Jones than they did of what they could remember of the play. Which is why they made F. B. a siar. And the other day when A. H. Woods put the then idle Majorie Rambeau into the cast of Channing Pollock's "The Sign on the Door, though the play was already soundly established as a drawing attraction, the business increased and the gossip concerning the play was noticably more general than it had been before. Which is in no way a reflection on the actress who created the part and gave an excellent performance in playing it. The Rambeau mame simply has better advertising value.

Another interesting development of the star situation in this suffrage year has been the unusual number of successful male stars. Usually the women outnumber the men two they are practically on even terms. are men and 10 are women.

Ethed Barrymore in "Declassee. Jane Cowl in "Smilin' Through." Elsie Ferguson in "Sacred and It remained

Marjorie Rambeau in "The Sign

Ina Cliare in "The Gold Diggers." Emily Stevens in "Sophie." telligent of American sponsors of choreographic dancing. She has

Theda Bars in "The Blue Flame."

Frank McGlyna in "Lincoln."
Frank Bacon in "Lightufn'."
Leo Ditrichstein in "The Purple Mask."

Frank Parcol in "Lightufn'."
Leo Ditrichstein in "The Purple de fullest measure of all of the combined arts story exacution. ask." combined arts, story, execution, ef-ltichard Bennett in "Beyond the fect, lights, color, scenery, costumes,

tured players, with Fay Bainter in production.

"East is West," Adele Rowland in
"Irene," Helen MacKellar in "The
Storm," Martha Hedman in "The
Hole in the Wall," Wilda Bennett
in "Apple Blossoms," and Jeanne

Attended 1,017 Fu Eagles in "The Wonderful Thing," John Charles Thomas in Apple Blossoms" and Edwin Nicander in "The Bonehead."

The time may come when all plays will sell on their merits as plays, and all the stars, stuffed with humble rice will sit meetly in the humble pie, will sit meekly in the background, content to be even a modest part of so perfect a system. If it does I shall be glad to ouija back congratulations and a statement from whichever section of the hereafter I happen to be occupying.

The Russian vodka drama is ably represented by Arthur Hopkins' revival of Maxim Gorki's "Night Lodging" at the Plymouth. It is not the sort of entertainment that the pollyanna American playgoer takes to readily, even after he is lectured into believing that it is real art and should be indorsed. But it happens there is a large public of foreign playgoers in New York that delights in serious foreign drama, finding it much more soundly dramatic and more intelligently written than the native output. This public, added to that of the theater's serious student, promises a successful spring run for the Gorki opus. It is splendidly done at the Plymouth, so well acted and staged, in fact, and so carefully characterized, that it loses much of its power to depress the thoughtless her in his assumed radicalism par-

Superficially it is a somewhat formless jumble of misery studies 10:45 she is begging him to take her as they are found in a Russian "flop;" a damp, ill lighted, odorous cellar filled from time to time with a late Sir Herbert Tree, made the prosquirming nest of humans bewailing the fate that has brought them low, or accepting it philosophically; all featured member of the cast, and of them seeking a way out, but none of them with the courage or the strength to attempt the climb, however plainly the way may be revealed to them. Through the main portions of the picture-and there is no attempt at narrative-a sort of moral influence is represented by an ment of a children's theater. Her aged wanderer who drifts in, gently Wonderland," done into a new verfortunates, and drifts out, leaving them back again in the midst of debauch, a hopeless, helpless, spiritless dy. Audiences of children have approved the

and it offers fine opportunities for a successful in suggesting the wonlong cast of carefully slected players. dering and wide-eyed Alice, plays W. H. Thompson, Gilda Veresi, Cecil the heroine, tumbling into the rab-Yapp, Roslind Ivan, Clyde North bit's hole in the prologue and emergand Edward Robinson are among ing therefrom later to find that she has been asleep and dreaming all the the most successful.

A new comedy and a trival one is Little theater for a series of special called "The Bonehead," and the title 3 o'clock matinees



Promised Joys at Theaters

Symphony orchestra do not bow with any more rhythm, harmony with any more rhythm, harmony and unity than do the motions of these of the co-stars the honors are evenly divided;
Blanche Bates and Henry Miller in "The Famous Mrs. Fair."
Francine Larrimo and Charles Cherry in "Scandal."
Peggy Wood, Donald Brian and Ralph Morgan in "Buddies."
Irene Bordoni and Sam Bernard in "As You Were."
The women, however, have the better of the men in the list of featured players, with Fay Bainter in production.

Symphony orchestra do not bow with any more rhythm, harmony with any more rhythm, harmony with any more rhythm, harmony and unity than do the motions of the same unit, and here a series of pictures have been put to gether that go to make scenic art a high art. The music is as descriptive as the story. It is a mass of movement with colorful expression.

Marion Morgan's dance drama may be divided into a hundred separate heads, but either separately or as a whole, no detail has been overlooked or any expense spared in the production.

The appearance of Mrs. Fiske in a new truck.

(EMPRESS)

THE appearance of Mrs. Fiske in a new a play is the significant announcement which the management of the Brandeis theater holds for Omaha theater-goers, beginning Thursday, May 6, for a limited engagement of three days only. The comedy has been written by Laurence Eyre, directed by Harrison Grey Fiske and will appear in Omaha with the New York production intact. Attended 1,017 Funerals Providence, R. I., April 24 .-

'Patsy" Mulhern, who recently said NE of the featured acts at the Empress today will be the musical novelty, 'A Night in Venice," to be presented by Little Caruso and company. The other featured acts will be provided by the Stratford Comedy Four, who give "School Frolles" a replica of their own school frolles in their childhood days. The Rosa King Trio, maryels of the wire, are known for remarkable ability. Andrew Copeland, who will provide one of the important attractions, is the composer of some popular song hits, which he features in his act. that he had attended 1,017 funerals

HELLO AMERICA" will appear at the Gayety theater all week. Joe Hurting is responsible for the production. Heading the company are Sam Lewis and Sam Dody, better known as the He was extremely religious and homes where some member of the

to be following him, the motorman

on a street car here stopped his

car the other night and started to

The little girl had been car-

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER"

Gayety Daily Mat. 15-25-50c Evngs., 25-50-75c, \$1

"HELLO, AMERICA!" Musical Burleague

with the 2 Crown- LEWIS & DODY all-Star Cast. Beauty Chorus of Gingery, Snappy Girls.

LADIES' DIME MATINEE WEEK DAYS

The Creighton

University Stage Club

Presents

"The Hidden

Gem"

By Cardinal Wiseman

Varsity Glee Club

"Between the Acts"

25th and California

May 3'and 4, 1920

Parquet, 75c; Balcony, 50c

Tickets at Beaton Drug Store

15th and Farnam

On the fender he found

investigate.

could as legitimately be applied to the producer as to the leading character. Frederick Arnold Kummer wrote the play some years ago, one suspects, seeing that it deals with such new subjects as the Greenwich villagers' radicalism and their pretended belief in the freedom of all things, including love, liquor, and bobbed hair. The attempt has been to treat these things in a spirit of

family had died.

as a dance drama of the time of Attila. Marion Morgan has been one

of the most serious and most in-

given the stage a group of exquisite

amusing satire. A normal young husband from 3-year-old daughter of Ernest Mil-Flatbush, which is the comedian's ler. idea of a joke on Brooklyn, being a ried two blocks. She was uninsuburb in that borough, finds his jured. wife slipping gradually into the ways of the villagers. To cure her he pretends to receive the village "message" himself, and so outdoes ticularly as it applies to his selection of satin haired soulmates, that by

back to Flatbush. Claude Beerbohm, a son of the Myrtle Tannehill his chief assistant.

Rachel Barton Butler has taken a part of the money she made with her successful comedy, "Mamma's Affair," and put it into the establishproved the entertainment, however, It is the fusing of an infinite number of individual tragedies into the greater tragedy of human misery, dering and wide-eyed Alice, plays time. The play is to continue at the

Lionel Barrymore in "The Letter the Law."

Barney Bernard in "His Son, Abe class,"

Clifton Crawford in "His Lady riends."

The story is so graphically told it can be followed without drawing upon the imagination; the execution is perfect. The first violins of a symphony orchestra do not bow riends."

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H ARRY DAVENPORT, of the cast of "Three Wise Fools," (an impending attraction at the Brandors) has a collection of stage relies well-nigh invaluable. He is a son of the famous tragedian, E. L. Davenport, and consequently a brother of Fanny, Harry Davenport married Phyllis, daughter of Mc-Kee Bankin, to whom he made love in "The Belle of New York," Both families have been related to each other, the Drews and the Barrymores by several marriages, Davenport's daughter, Dorothy, is the wife of Wallace Reid, photopiay star.

MTS. FISHE (COMING TO BRANDES)

POR the week of May 2 the Orpheum is to present Chic Sale as one of the stellar acts. Another important head-time attraction will be contributed by Louise Dresser and Jack Gardner, who Louise Dresser and Jack Gardner, who are to offer a cycle of individual songs. Dan Bruce and Marget Duffet have a comedy playlet in two scenes, "Through the Keyhole." A dancing and singing feature is to be contributed by the Lightner Sisters in association with Newton Alexander, In this offering Winnie Lightner is to be featured.

Dan Desdunes' Band IN POPULAR CONCERT BENEFIT UNIFORM FUND Auditorium, Sun., Apr. 25 2:15 P. M. ADMISSION 55c, 30c, 25c War Tax Included

Here's the Baby Carried Three Blocks On Trolley Fender Unhurt Reason Salina, Kan., April 24.-Horrified by the shricks of a child that seemed

why so many people are eating their meals daily at

HOTEL ROME **CAFETERIA** Because they get what they

Like and Like what they

Bring the family for Sunday Dinner and save work at Home.

ROME MILLER

LITTLE CARUSO & CO. In "A Night in Venice" Elaborate Musical Tabloid STRATFORD COMEDY FOUR Presenting "School Frolics"

ANDREW COPELAND PAUL KLEIST

Presents Shirley Mason "Molly and I" The Sweetest Girl

Wm. Fox

London Must Emulate Skyscrapers of N. Y. to Economize City's Space

Should Have Garden Suburbs Connected With London By Elevated Roads Suitable for Fast Motor Traffic to Average at Least 20 Miles an Hour.

BY LORD MONTAGUE OF BEAULIEU.

London, March 20.-In a very few years, neither streets, railways nor subways as they exist in London today will be adequate to convey the daily traffic, and the consequent acute congestion will compel the adoption of new remedies and ideas, such as the crection of higher buildings in central London and of erecting overhead highways for fast mo-

New underground railways are, and always will be, much too expensive to make and work successfully, and even the former cost of con-struction of the present subwaysover \$3,500 a mile, which would now doubled-has proved unsound financially, as witness the recent reports on the various underground railways, desperately overcrowded though they are. We should have garden suburbs

connected into London by elevated roads suitable for fast motor traffic to average at feast twenty miles an

hour.

The speed of street traffic must also be increased, and slow traffic rigidly kept to the curb.

The London county council

should jump at the chance of securing a large amount of extra revenue by allowing higher buildings. As it is now, thousands of people of all classes working in London and benefiting from trade in Lonion are paying rates in places outside the London County Council area, and not one cent toward London's expenses.

As to the fear of high buildings, knowing New York, I personally think the so-called "skyscrapers" there magnificent and strikingly beautiful in many aspects. From a health point of view higher build-ings are better in every way. The atmosphere high above the streets s far purer and more bracing than ower down, and anyone who has flown over London knows that the more or less permanent smoke layer is seldom higher than 150 feet normal weather.

And over a large area of tall

Blame Execution Of Beautiful Dancer To Envy of Women

Budapest, April 24.—In Von Per-nyi, the leader of the Budapest ballet has, according to news received here from Transylvania, paid a tragic penalty for her beauty. Mile. Pernyi, acknowledged to be the most beautiful woman in Budapest, long resisted all overtures for her hand. Shortly after the departure of the Roumanians from Budapest after a stay of several months, she was reported "missing." | buildings such as has been sug-

It was rumored that a high officer gested at least 300 feet high a landing ground for aeroplanes might be on the staff of General Maderescu made of glass, open at the sides, and had been fortunate enough to capthrough which the light would pass ture the heart of the capricious unhindered. dancer. A short paragraph in a

WEEK STARTING SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Martin Beck Presents

The Marion Morgan Dancers

In a Dance Drama in the Time of Atilla

Created and Directed by MARION MORGAN

JACK KENNEDY & CO.

Matinees, 15c, 25c, and 50c; Few at 75c Sat. and Sun Nights, 15c, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00; Few at \$1.25 Sunday

ED MORTON

Vaudeville's Pleasing

CONCHAS, JR. & CO.

Artistic and Heavyweight Juggling, Assisted by Julius Newman

KINOGRAMS

WINTHROP

MERLIN

In "Wit and Wonderment"

EARY & EARY

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Roumanian newspaper recently announced her death for spying against

Mile. Pernyi had apparently excited the envy and hatred of the Roumanian women, for from a letter she wrote to a friend before her death she declared she was the vic tim of a hideous plot, and that criminating documents had been placed in her baggage, which formed so powerful an indictment against her that even her friendship with General Madereseu's staff officer availed her nothing.

General resentment against the Roumanians is felt in Budapest, as Mlle. Pernyi was a universal favo-

Alice Cary, whose centenary was elebrated April 20, had her first literary efforts published when she



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