

Audience Only Judge of Scenes That "Go"

As a rule, it is easy for the author to discover before rehearsals draw to an end where the weaknesses, if any, of his play exist. It is a peculiar thing that a play which reads well often acts badly, and vice versa, writes Cosmo Hamilton in the Saturday Evening Post.

I have noticed many times, with my own work and with the work of other men, that there are certain scenes which seem to be extraordinarily amusing on paper, but which have only to be put to the test of rehearsal to drop head first into the pit in which, in less expensive days, the orchestra tuned up. It is, too, quite impossible to ascertain, until a play has been well rehearsed, what lines are to be cut, what entrances altered and what exits are to be brought about with greater or less rapidity.

It has been proved again and again how hopeless it is to make a true estimate of a play's appeal to an audience until it faces one. There are few authors and even fewer directors who dare to prophesy exactly how a play will take. Scenes which have been rehearsed for laughs and which have appealed to all concerned as being extremely funny during rehearsal may be received with stony silence by the people in front on "the night."

Other scenes which appear to be trivial and unimportant may go with roars of laughter, while tragic moments and those in which the whole drama of the play has been worked up to a high pitch may fizzle like damp gunpowder when put to the final test.

People Have Learned Value of Thermometer

A man named Galileo invented a thermometer in 1592. The liquid was in an open vessel, and there was no mark or scale to show temperatures. After a while a mark was used showing the temperature of snow and another for the heat of a candle.

Half a century later a man found he could make a thermometer of a glass tube with a bulb on one end, so by sealing the other end you could carry the thing about. Another half century or more passed, and Fahrenheit became interested. He developed the thermometer until it was a practical instrument, and by 1714 he had established his now famous Fahrenheit scale.

That was over 200 years ago, says Good Hardware, yet people are just realizing how actually useful this instrument is. For centuries it was looked upon with superstition; a score of years ago school children could tell you the owner of nearly every thermometer in town. The incubator, and then our scientific dairymen, cooking and gardening, brought the thermometer into common use.

Thermometers are an important item now. They are in demand every day of the year among folks who have learned a little about their uses. Many people demand a specially designed thermometer for each different purpose.

Misunderstood

An old negro named John Jones upon leaving Atlanta, Ga., went to his bank, a negro institution, and had his book balanced, which showed a balance of \$200.

Landing in Cincinnati, the old darkey issued a check on the Atlanta bank for \$200, payable to a Cincinnati bank. In a few days the check was returned marked "Insufficient Funds," whereupon the Cincinnati bank sent an inquiry to the Atlanta bank about the old negro's account and the balance they showed on the pass book against which no checks had been issued. The following reply was received:

"Gentlemen—We don't mean that John Jones ain't got sufficient funds, but we mean that our funds are insufficient."—Forbes Magazine.

Betrayed French Secrets

Major Esterhazy became notorious through his connection with the Dreyfus case. It was he who accused Dreyfus of being the writer of the famous "bordereau," alleged to have been sent to certain German military officers, revealing French military secrets. In 1896 Colonel Picquart, head of the intelligence bureau of the war office, made discoveries pointing to Major Esterhazy as the author of the "bordereau." Investigation was made and it was believed that Esterhazy forged Dreyfus' handwriting and was the real traitor. He was not convicted, however, but was forced to leave France and is said to have died in England in 1923.

Ant's Toilet Equipment

Ants are always moving about in close touch with the ground, and yet a dirty ant is practically unknown, for they are continually stopping to clean themselves. The ant is, indeed, very well equipped in this respect, having a most extensive toilet set. The ant's tongue serves, when wet, as a sponge. When dry, tough, file-like bands on the side make a splendid brush. Four of its legs are fitted with hairs which make clothes brushes, and the two forelegs are each fitted with a fine and coarse-toothed comb.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

FARM VALUES DECREASE 25 PER CENT IN 5 YEARS

Shrinkage From \$66,316,002,602 to \$49,546,523,759 Reported After Agricultural Census.

Washington.—A shrinkage in the value of American farms and farm buildings from \$66,316,002,602 in 1920 to \$49,546,523,759 in 1925 was estimated in the Department of Commerce in a preliminary report on the latest agricultural census. The decrease amounts to a little more than 25 per cent.

Farm acreage in the same period declined from 855,883,715 to 924,880,380 acres, and the department's division of land economics calculated the decline in the average acre value of land and buildings at 22 per cent, and for land alone at 28 per cent. The value of farm buildings, it explained, increased 6 per cent.

The 1925 figures, compared with those for 1910, indicated an increase of 35 per cent in the average farm value, but considering the drop in the purchasing power of the dollar during that interval, the economists concluded there was actually a net decline of 10 to 12 per cent during that period.

The decline during the last five years was not general, the department's experts found, the shrinkage in values having been greatest in the range country, the wheat and corn belts, and the eastern cotton states, while a slight increase was recorded in New England and the Middle Atlantic states. In the Mountain states, the decline amounted to 41 per cent. In Iowa 34 per cent, and in Georgia 40 per cent. The increase in New England was 6 per cent and in the Middle Atlantic states 1 per cent. Pacific coast values remained constant.

Collapse of the war land boom, with a fall of corn and hog prices, accounted largely for the decline in Iowa, the experts reported, while the decrease in Georgia was due chiefly to the boll-weevil and the exodus of negro workers. In the range country and mountain states, they said, drought and the collapse of wheat prices were the leading causes.

The increase in farm values in the Northwestern states was attributed to a great extent to the development of the dairy industry, the favorable position respecting markets, and an increased demand for farm land for recreational purposes.

Eight-Months-Old Boy Adept at Feats of Balance



At the tender age of eight months, Kenneth Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Montgomery of Washington, is adept at feats of balance. In this photograph he is shown balancing on one foot in the palm of his father's hand.

Gives Wife to Buddy, Then Gets Divorce

Milwaukee, Wis.—Judge Gustave G. Gehrz granted a divorce to Roman Wisniewski, who charged that his wife, Helen, had been stolen from him by Benjamin A. Miller, Chicago, who was his buddy in the Russian army and best man when he married.

Wisniewski located in Milwaukee and Miller in Chicago. In 1924 his wife joined him. Miller came from Chicago to visit. The husband began to suspect Miller and his wife.

Each acknowledged love for the other, whereupon he told his wife his friend should have her. The husband accompanied him and the wife to the depot, bought the tickets and gave Miller \$5.

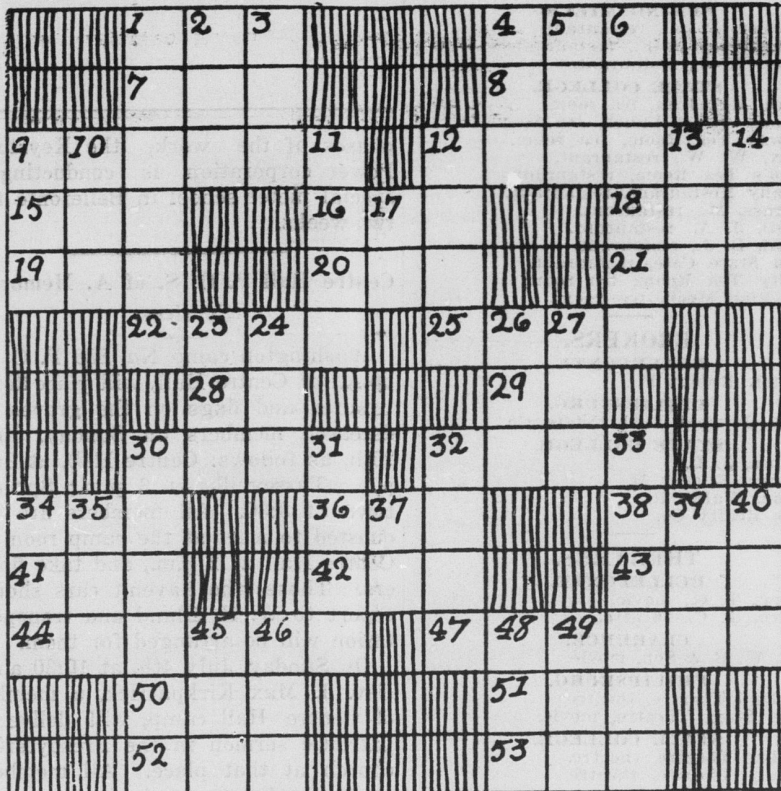
The following month Mrs. Wisniewski returned to her husband and he took her back. Later the husband again began to suspect his wife and he sued for a divorce.

Through an interpreter Mrs. Wisniewski denied she ever had been in love with Miller. She admitted that she had gone to Chicago with him but said she had done so because of anger. While in Chicago she lived alone and supported herself, she testified.

Caveman Protected
New York.—Bad news for wives whose husbands "treat 'em rough," was broken in White Plains by Supreme Court Justice Tompkins. "There is no law in New York state," he said, "which permits a wife to sue her husband for alleged assault, no matter how badly she may have been treated."

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE
When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 2.



(© 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| Horizontal.
1—Jewish territorial organization (abbr.)
4—Part of a circle
7—Born
8—By way of
9—Secret
12—Paradise
15—Single
16—Part of "to be"
18—Native metal made
20—Mechanism for actuating a valve
21—Uncooked
22—To try out
25—Half a quart
28—Negative
29—Note of scale
30—Small whirlpool
32—Lizard
34—Emperor (abbr.)
35—Compendium of information
36—Frozen water
41—Also
42—Short sleep
43—A fracas
44—A Canadian (slang)
50—Suffix forming names of rocks
51—Finish
52—Humans | Vertical.
1—To put money into
2—Mound of earth
3—Over (postic)
4—Avenue (abbr.)
5—Long, narrow inlet
6—To caper
9—Shy
10—Single
11—Diplomacy
12—Material from which rope is made
13—Period of time
14—Of recent origin
17—Sun god
23—Termination
24—Grass
26—Anger
30—The person from whom a family takes its name
31—An American soldier
32—Part of the neck
33—Censorious speech
34—And so forth (abbr.)
35—Extinct, flightless bird
37—North America (abbr.)
39—Part of a gear wheel
40—Young lamb
45—Shoshone Indian
46—Century
49—African antelope
57—Novel
48—Boy's name |
|---|---|

Solution will appear in next issue.

Asbestos-Cement Water Pipe New Development.

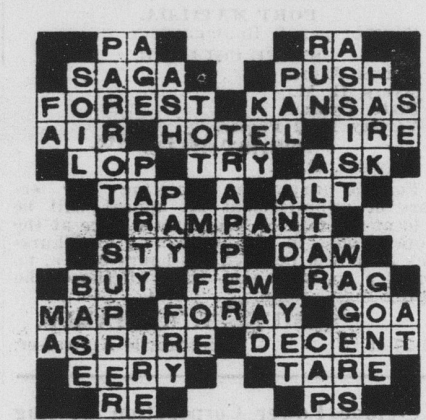
A recently developed water pipe, made of cement and shingle asbestos, was discussed by delegates to the American Water Works Association convention at Buffalo a few days ago. The new pipe is said to be permanent and to have a permanent carrying capacity. It can be manufactured for any pressure and the composition is such that there is nothing in the pipe to oxidize or corrode under ordinary conditions of service.

The new pipe is claimed to have an advantage over the cast iron pipe, which often decreases in carrying capacity as much as twenty per cent. within ten or fifteen years.

Scientific tests are said to have shown that the bursting pressure of the new pipe is considerably in excess of the American Water Works Association test for cast iron pipe.

In considering the pipe for general

Solution to Cross-word Puzzle No. 1.



use the principal disadvantages are the types of joint used and the method of making service taps.

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