

PEOPLE OF THE STAGE.

Theatrical Life Has Few Joys and Much Bitterness.

Booth, to whom Henry E. Abbey would cheerfully have paid \$1,000 a night for 150 consecutive nights, was one of the most unhappy men on the face of God's earth. He had buried two wives, been through the mortification of bankruptcy and so far as worldly wealth is concerned, so far as the comforts of a settled home go, had yet to make the one and secure the other. This being the case, what do you suppose is the fate of minor people? The fact is that they work hard, are underpaid, never play the parts they prefer, pay much, by far the greater portion of their salaries, for stage costumes, invariably have a gang of hangers on who eat the bread they earn, are out of engagements most of the time and ninety times out of a hundred die so poor that they are buried at the expense of their fellows. In the first place, it is extremely difficult for them to obtain a position, and, having a position, how few its advantages. They have to rehearse at inconvenient times; they go out in all kinds of weather regardless of their health or comforts or home desires; they dress in outlandish places, either wet, damp and chilly or overheated. They are at the capricious mercy of speculative managers, and, having found by experience that there is very little sympathy for them, either before or behind the footlights, they wrap themselves in a garment of mental indifference to appearances, which is utterly misunderstood by a cynical and suspicious world.

I know of a girl who was called to a Sunday night rehearsal. Her father was very ill, but the rental of their rooms, the fees for the doctor and money for the drugs depended upon her attending to her business. It was imperative that she should be in the theater at 7:30 o'clock. Having arranged the room as women only can, having placed upon the table by the bedside of her father his medicine, she kissed him goodly and, with a loving touch, promised to be back as early as possible. You know what Sunday night rehearsals mean. They mean 1, 2, 3, 4 o'clock the next day. That is what this one meant. The girl hastened home. The candle light had gone, the cold gray of the early morning was in the room, the father was dead upon the bed.—Boston Globe.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Nine-tenths of the failures intend to do well.

If air castles were real, some people wouldn't be satisfied.

We are always meeting people who recall incidents that we had hoped they had forgotten.

When people do not enjoy doing the things we do, we are apt to think they do not have a good time.

Your neighbor is "funny." If you throw his dog a bone, he suspects you of trying either to poison it or to win its affection from him.

It is interesting for a man to look through his old effects if for no other reason than he will see that he is not as big a fool as he used to be.

You may have such a fierce admiration for the under dog as to be unfair to the upper dog. The upper dog is often compelled to fight to get his rights.—Acheson Globe.

Froude's "Inaccuracy."

What competent critic today doubts the general trustworthiness of Froude's "History of England," in writing which he was obliged to transcribe from Spanish masses of papers which even a Spaniard would have read with difficulty? Yet what sweeping charges of inaccuracy were long made against him! Writing in 1870 to a friend, the historian says: "I acknowledge to five real mistakes in the whole book—twelve volumes—about twenty trifling slips, equivalent to 's' not dotted and 't' not crossed, and that is all that the utmost malignity has discovered. Every one of these rescals has made a dozen blunders of his own while detecting one of mine."—Success Magazine.

Old Times in New York.

In 1789 New York city maintained an official who would whip a servant, either free or slave, for the master, charging a shilling for the job. Petty thieves were branded for life with a "T" on the cheek. Mrs. Johanna Young and another woman convicted of grand larceny were driven all over the city in an open cart, then stripped to the waist and given thirty-nine lashes apiece in public and then banished. "Whereupon," says the record, "they went to Philadelphia."

The Tender Hearted Butcher.

"It must have been a very tender hearted butcher who killed this lamb," said the cheerful boarder, pausing in the sawing of his chop.

"Why?" kindly asked the inquisitive man.

"He must have hesitated three or four years before striking the fatal blow."—London Tit-Bits.

His Choice.

"Are you fond of music?" asked a stranger of the young man at the concert, who was applauding vigorously after a pretty girl had sung in a very painful way.

"Not particularly," said the young man frankly, "but I'm exceedingly fond of the musician."

Full Benefit.

Watts—Let's walk along until a car overtakes us. Potts—No. Let's walk the other way until a car meets us. We will catch it sooner, we will go down town just as quick, and we get more ride for our money.

A RAZOR'S EDGE.

Results That Come From Stropping and Long Use.

Very thick is the edge of a razor blade. Its thickness has been estimated at about one half millionth of an inch. A writer says of this wonderfully thin bit of steel, when seen under a powerful microscope: "The extreme edge of the section is distinctly bent to one side. This is nearly always seen in razor edges. The actual bend represents the effect of the last stroke on the strop which this blade has received. Now, this bending of the metal quite near the edge, minute as it is, has some very important practical consequences. If the razor be used in such a way that the bend is toward the skin there will be a tendency for the edge itself to burrow downward into the skin, instead of sliding easily over the surface and merely cutting away the projecting hairs. If, on the other hand, the blade be applied to the face in such a way that the bend of the edge is away from the skin the edge will slide much more smoothly, with less tendency to cut or scratch the skin, while it will act upon the hairs in a slightly upward direction and thus tend to pull them tight while cutting. The direction of the bend of the edge can be regulated by the last few strokes on the strop.

"This minute amount of bending undergone by the metal near the edge of a razor blade has another practical result. We all know that a piece of wire which will quite easily stand being bent double will be broken if it be bent backward and forward many times. What really takes place is that the metal, which was strong and ductile to begin with, is gradually made hard and brittle and then finally breaks off. Now, the metal near the edge of a razor is being subjected to very similar treatment. Every turn on the strop reverses the direction of the bend near the edge, and, although the amount of bending is too slight ever to bring about actual breakage of such an elastic metal as hardened steel, it is yet sufficient to bring about a change in the metal which renders it less elastic and able to stand the strain. This is why a razor which has been used long ceases to cut well or to hold a good edge.

"Now it has been discovered that steel which has lost its proper elastic qualities by such a process of 'fatigue,' as it is called, is capable of recovering its good qualities under favorable circumstances. It will recover in this way if left at rest, though this is a comparatively slow process, which explains the fact that a tool which has become useless through continued use will be as good as ever after a prolonged rest. But recovery will take place much more rapidly if the steel be warmed, so that a few minutes' exposure to the temperature of boiling water will bring about recovery to an extent that would have required several days' rest at the ordinary temperatures. This fact explains the advantage to be derived from the familiar practice of 'steaming' a razor before use."

Don't Starve Your Bird.

It is a common mistake to think that pets can only be taught when hungry and to commence a bird's training by depriving it of breakfast, dinner or supper is a most unhappy beginning. In reality the feathered folk are just as apt and full of fun after a comfortable meal as before it, and to starve, scold or otherwise ill treat the little creature will usually render it too unhappy to learn quickly if at all. Birds are extremely nervous beings. They love a low, quiet voice and gentle movements—love to be talked to, coaxed and made much of. If the pet is a new one and seems specially excitable or timid, you will have to teach it first of all not to fear you. Any little games he is to learn must be acquired afterward.—Mary Dawson in St. Nicholas.

A Singer's Lungs.

The singer at the end of the practice aria panted heavily.

"I sang 196 notes that time," he said, "without once taking breath."

"Indeed. That must be a record."

"No. The record is held by Courtice Pounds. Pounds sang 316 notes without respiration in 1898. The record previous to that was held by Farinelli, with 300 notes. Norman Salmond has sung 287 notes in this way.

"It is wonderful what lungs trained singers have. The average man could hardly sing fifty notes without breathing, whereas to the singer 200 would be nothing."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Nome Means Home.

It is said that the name of Nome was the result of an error made by some Englishman in writing a letter. He evidently intended to write the word "home," but the makers of the maps read it Nome, and thus the name Nome belongs to history and the great district of Alaska. Some authorities claim that the word Nome is a corruption of the Indian phrase or word Knoma, meaning something like "I know it."—National Magazine.

Happiness.

If you cannot be happy in one way, be in another, and this facility of disposition wants but little aid from philosophy, for health and good humor are almost the whole affair. Many run about after felicity, like an absent-minded man hunting for his hat while it is in his hand or on his head.

Martyrdom.

"Sympathetic people have a hard time in this world."

"In what way?"

"They have to listen to other people's troubles and never get a chance to tell their own."

The most valuable book in the British museum is the "Codex Alexandrinus," said to be worth £300,000.

WHEN VACCINATION FAILS TO TAKE

Health Commissioner Dixon Explains Provision That Is Made In Such Cases So That Children May Not Be Debarred From School.

WHEN CLAIM IS MADE THAT "CHILD IS UNFIT"

In Exceptional Cases, Where Careful Investigation By Local or State Health Authorities Justifies Admission to School, It Is Authorized.

"After three carefully performed but unsuccessful attempts to vaccinate a child have failed, that child should not be debarred from school privileges, but should be admitted, and the Department of Health has provided for this," said State Health Commissioner Samuel G. Dixon in an interview.

"The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania," continued Dr. Dixon, "called attention in the recent opinion it handed down reaffirming the validity of the so-called vaccination law of June 18, 1895, to the hardship involved in the twelfth section of that act when it is beyond the power of children of school age to be vaccinated, although they may not previously have had smallpox nor previously been vaccinated, and even repeated attempts to perform the operation upon such children are without effect and vaccination will not take. In such cases, as the court pointed out, the physician cannot certify that such child has been successfully vaccinated so as to meet the requirement of admission to school. The court's decision suggested the possibility of the health authorities, state or local, making a regulation setting forth the conditions under which a child upon whom vaccination will not take, may be permitted to go to school. The court also suggests that the health authorities would have to consider whether such a regulation would be undesirable as affording opportunity for the evasion of the statute.

"The Department of Health," continued Health Commissioner Dixon, "has taken this tendency to evade the law into consideration, as it was obliged to, and yet we have endeavored to see that those children who could not be vaccinated should be admitted to school. Our method of accomplishing this from the first has been as follows:

"When the cases that we received inquiry about were within the limits of a borough or city having a Board of Health of its own, we suggested that after two unsuccessful attempts to vaccinate a child, the third attempt be made by or in the presence of the physician of the Board of Health. If this attempt failed, then the physician of the board, acting in his official capacity, should authorize the admission of the child.

"In the rural districts, where there are no Boards of Health to pass upon such cases, I have always asked that after three unsuccessful attempts to vaccinate a child have been made, the name of the child and the physician who made the attempts be referred immediately to the State Department of Health. The cases have then been at once investigated by our County Medical Inspectors or some one deputized by them, so that the child might not unjustly be debarred from school privileges. These methods of dealing with the situation have been in conformity with the Supreme Court's suggestion that the health authorities assume the responsibility of authorizing the admission to school of children upon whom, after a reasonable number of attempts, vaccination does not take.

"Taking advantage of the spirit of this part of the Supreme Court's opinion, we have also endeavored to deal with the cases of children where there was reason to believe that the child's physical condition did not make vaccination at the present time advisable. The Attorney General of the State had given an opinion that a teacher was not authorized to accept a certificate from a physician stating that the child was not in a physical condition to be vaccinated. It is reasonable to believe, however, that although the simple giving of such a certificate by the family physician would not be sufficient, the spirit of the Supreme Court's opinion would permit the recognized health authorities throughout the state, after careful investigation, to pass upon such cases.

"Therefore when such cases are now brought to the attention of our department, we have suggested that inside borough or city limits, the local Board of Health, through its physician, decide whether the child is well enough to attend school and yet not in a fit condition to be vaccinated. In the districts where there are no Boards of Health we are having such cases investigated and passed upon by our regular County Medical Inspectors.

"It will thus be seen," concluded Dr. Dixon, "that the State Department of Health is doing everything possible to prevent any child from being unjustly deprived of its schooling. If the parent or guardian, however, refuses to permit a child to be vaccinated simply through prejudice, the health authorities certainly have no power to interfere with the operation of the law. In such cases we have done everything we could to overcome this prejudice by education, so that the innocent child might not be made to suffer because the parent desired to leave it exposed to the ravages of smallpox rather than undergo vaccination, which the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in the exercise of its police power, has made one of the requisites of admission to school."

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So Different.

"Women all have the same fault. They can't pass a shop that has bonnets in the window without looking in." "So different from men! They can't pass a shop that has bottles in the window without going in."—Illustrated Bits.

Beware of worrying about little things. It is the malady of happy people.

It is more heroic to live on one's grief than to die of it.

An Old Proverb.

The proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention," can hardly be traced to one independent source. The idea was expressed by Persius, the Roman satirist, about 60 A. D. and is found in the precise form now quoted in Richard Franck's "Northern Memoirs" (printed in London in 1694) and in various later English writers.

Mutual.

Mother (entering parlor suddenly)—Mr. Snowball kissing you? I am surprised. Daughter—So am I, mother. He has been coming to see me five years and he never got up enough courage to do it before.

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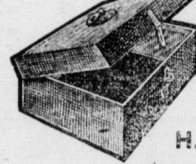
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