

'BILL OF DIVORCEMENT'

OPENS SOUTH BROAD

Puzzling Play of Shell Shock and Eugenics Develops Some Fine Acting

Bread Street—The first serious play of the season opened this house for the year last night. Clement Danes' "Bill of Divorcement" has been produced as a drama with shell shock as its theme, but it is more than that. It deals fundamentally with the question of the heredity of insanity, the problem of eugenics marriages and the right of a perfectly normal person to happiness, despite an early wedding with a mentally tainted mate. And that's a pretty big bill for one play to face.

It is the credit of the author and the producers that the story has been permitted to follow on to its logical, though unpopular, ending. It would have been easy with the introduction of a little of the art known as "choking" to twist it and stir up some things and make it turn out satisfactorily to all concerned. In fact, there must have been a strong temptation to do this. But, had the temptation prevailed, it would have spoiled what now stands as a gripping and really powerful drama, and the current falls on a surprise scene the average playgoer puzzled as to whether he likes it or not. And then, later, he will decide that it was the only artistic thing to do.

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2 LITTLE GIRLS IN BLUE

MORE THAN YOU'D EXPECT

Musical Comedy at Forrest Teneffel, Clean and Bright

Forrest—"Two Little Girls in Blue" is a musical comedy jewel with many brilliant facets, just the kind of entertainment you would expect from A. L. Erlanger, only more so.

The music is there, delightfully tuneful, intriguing enough to be hummed and whistled on the way home. The comedy was sufficiently interspersed to keep the show on at least two occasions.

Jack Donaghy, as Morgan Atwell, a detective, is responsible for most of the laughs, while the young couple, played by audiences will laugh at a thoroughly humorous.

PLAY 'LION AND THE MOUSE'

Orpheum Players Score in Production of Popular Drama

Orpheum—That popular story of the battle of love and high finance, "The Lion and the Mouse" is being played by the Orpheum players this week to great effect. Dwight Meade does the part of the young man who has been seduced by a rich girl, and then, through a series of events, he is finally able to get the girl and the girl's fortune.

New Show at Trocadero

Trocadero—This week's show, "The Village of Babilou," is full of good music and catchy tunes in large numbers.

Continuing Shows

WALNUT—"Love Dreams," Moroso's "melody drama" with a cast of favorites including Marion Green, Tom Powers, Elsie Alder, Harry K. Morton and Maude Bourne.

AUDIENCE SITS ON EDGE OF CHAIRS AT 'THE BAT'

Mystery Play Grips Them and Keeps Them in Suspense Until Very End

Adolph—When the hand with a blood stain on it shot suddenly through the hole in the French window of the drawing room in the second act of "The Bat" last night, hysterical gasps were drawn from all parts of the large audience.

It was a sophisticated audience, too; the kind which had seen "The Thirtieth Chair" and countless other plays of the "mystery" and "crook" variety. To have such a strong reaction as it intended to ferret out the mystery.

PHOTOPLAYS ELSEWHERE

CAPITOL—"Mamma's Affair," the latest Constance Talmadge comedy.

COLONIAL—"Footlights," in which Elsie Ferguson has the role of a Russian actress.

LOCOMOTIVE—"Footlights," with Elsie Ferguson.

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NORMA TALMADGE IS AT BEST IN NEW FILM

Her 'Sign on the Door' a Great Picture—Five Other First Showings

Stanley—Channing Pollock, who isn't mentioned anywhere on the program, but who happens to have been the author of "The Sign on the Door" in its stage form, declared when he saw the picture version that this was the only work of his which had been transported to the screen exactly as he would have wanted it.

'JINGLE JINGLE' AT CASINO

Casino—"Jingle Jingle," filled with pretty girls and up-to-date jingles and pleasing songs numbers, sent the patrons away completely satisfied last night.

Palace—Vistas of mountains and plains and forests never lose their fascination for photoplay audiences, and so "The Great Escape," taken from one of Ralph Connor's best-known novels, ought to be a popular release. It has no stars, but Nature plays so many parts and plays them so well that the most casual of strollers are thrilled.

Victoria—Handsome, smiling 'Dusty'

Farnum comes back to his admirers after a prolonged absence in "The Prim Lady," which has its limitations and does not come up to the standard of some of this star's earlier pictures, but still serves as an entertaining vehicle.

REGENT—'The Princess of New York'

is Cosmo Hamilton, but it is a restrained and moderate Cosmo Hamilton, not the daring author of the risque "Scandal" or the moralizing Cosmo Hamilton of "The Blindness of Virtue."

MARKET STREET

"At the End of the World," with Betty Compson.

LIBERTY—"Shattered Daughters," with June Johnson.

'GREEN TAG' SPECIAL SALE of Gas Lamps and Fixtures

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SHUBERT VAUDEVILLE MAKES ITS BOW HERE

Marie Dressler is Headliner and Milo an Attraction at Rebuilt Opera House

Chestnut Street Opera House—Shubert vaudeville began its career yesterday afternoon and last night was given a genuine welcome. The rough spots inevitable on such a momentous occasion were taken kindly by the audience in the knowledge that they will be smoothed out when the forces get working together and the scenery has had more practice doing what it is intended to do.

Keystone—Bobby Heath makes his

autumnal debut with Adele Spering. Bobby has a new flock of songs all his own and intersperses them with some cracking comedies of the sporting order.

Globe—There are thrills aplenty in the bill with the "bullet-proof lady" taking first honors in this direction. This act is full of surprises and abounds in good marksmanship. Crodo and Nell offer songs worth while. The bill also includes Greenleaf and Drayton, Firman and Olaneth, Paul and Walter Lester, equilibrista; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Emmett, ventriloquists, and Flo and Elsie Burke, singers.

Allegriety—The Romantic Teacher

proved a happy headliner. Smith and Selman have an impromptu review which scored. Prince and Bell have a laugh-provoking skit called "Two A."

GERTRUDE HOFFMANN IS WINNER AT KEITH'S

Artistic Jazz Dancing Pleases Large Audience—Emma Carus Scores Hit

Keith's—The much-tabooed shimmy and done-to-death jazz has killed many an act, but, done in an artistic way last night, it put Gertrude Hoffmann and her dance creations at the head of a sparkling show.

William Penn—The Breen Family,

a group of talented dance performers, proved a big winner. Mack and James appeared in a rip-roaring skit. King and Irwin in "Coontown Divorcement" were a riot. The Garretts Brothers have a skitful aerial act. A feature photoplay was also shown.

Grand—Plenty of things that are new are seen here. "Dancing Shoes," an act which gives a quintet of stppers opportunity to offer the latest wares from Danceland, proved one of the hits of the bill. Coogan and Casey, comedians, aroused continuous laughter. Good acts were also offered by Deannet and Bell, Sherwin and Kelly, and Herbert's Dog. Harold Lloyd, in "Among Those Present," is the film attraction.

Walton Roof—Emilie Lea with her

unique dance creations adds merrier to the list of varied entertainment. Wesley Pierce ably assists. Sheldon, Phons and Babu have a dance-and-song turn which scored. A decided hit. Pauline Herman singing comedienne, is another big feature.

Dumont's Has Good Show

Dumont's—Emmett Welch and his clever company have a show this week every bit as good as their opening entertainment. Some of the former features, including "The Atlantic City Pageant," are held over, and new attractions are added. All the old favorites are congenially cast, and the production is new and elaborate.

Keystone—Bobby Heath makes his autumnal debut with Adele Spering. Bobby has a new flock of songs all his own and intersperses them with some cracking comedies of the sporting order. Arthur and Leah Bell, ventriloquists, entertained with their wondrous head friends. The show also includes Low Ross and company in a tabloid; Richard Kean, character actor, and Jack Hanley, comedian.

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CHINESE PLAY PRESENTED

Desmond Players Appear in "Love of Su Shong" at Opera House

Metropolitan Opera House—Mao Desmond and her players offer something of a novelty this week in the shape of an Oriental play, which has never before been seen in Philadelphia.

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