

BEFORE THE CURTAIN GOES UP

Unusual Variety Offered for Next Week by Four Shows Coming In and Three Remaining at Local Theatres

By HENRY M. NEELY
THERE'S a distinctly international flavor to the theatrical situation here next week.

For example, the four opening attractions include:
A comedy from the pen of a noted French playwright, featuring an English actor; a romantic drama of Spain, written by a Polish actress, and two typical American musical comedies.

Incidentally, the preponderance of musical comedy remains the same, five of them with and two without; but with two Shakespearean repertoires companies joining on the horizon, as well as several serious plays, it looks like a rather more mentally varied bill.

THE four opening plays here next week are:
At the Broad, "The Grand Duke," Belasco presentation of the Shubert Theatre, adapted by Ahmed Abdullah and directed by Lionel Atwill.

At the Adelphi, "The White Peacock," of which Olga Petrova is both author and star.

At the Forrest, "Tip Top," Fred Stone's popular musical comedy.
At the Shubert, "Up in the Clouds," new musical show by the producer of "Take It From Me."

It's great to be the sole representative of a minority once in a while. Fellow theatrical reviewers here have been having a lot of fun this week saying clever things about the review of the Charlotte Greenwood show at the Walnut, which appears in these columns almost every Tuesday. The review was altogether favorable, not to say enthusiastic. And the fellow reviewers have asked, with many keen witticisms, if I really meant it.

I've seen the show again since then, but I can't see any reason to change a word in Tuesday's review. It is a Charlotte Greenwood you like her a whole lot; if you don't like her, you can't stand her. I like her.

She has entirely changed her methods this year. In fact, she has almost changed her name. The Charlotte Greenwood there has always been an impression of coarseness about her work that detracted from his humorous aspects. She has now dropped the coarseness and there is now a new Charlotte Greenwood, a new name, a new personality. Her work is now a comedy, a comedy of the highest order, a comedy that is not only a pleasure to see but a pleasure to read.

THEATRICALLY bookings are in a state of flux—not to mention chaos and a few other things denoting uncertainty. Shows are being booked for next week are likely to land miles away.

The other evening Leonard Blumberg, the Shubert's Philadelphia commander-in-chief, strolled over to the office of the "Ledger" and was getting along "drifting" by the way, ends its career this evening for the present season at least, when it goes to the storeroom.

What do you mean "Lilium"? rectorial Plummer. "You mean Petrova in 'The White Peacock.' "Lilium isn't coming until about next week.

And that's what usually happens when the younger generation of theatre-goers see some of the things daddy used to like. Unfortunately, he usually refuses even to go near the theatre, and comes at the mention of "opera bouffe" or "comic opera" or "operetta."

I remember Francis Wilson telling me he was here last year with the never-ending "Lilium" and that was a sample of this. He said when he was giving the revival up in Boston Owen happened to be on the stage at the Shubert and he agreed to give up other, provided he would give up one evening to go with him to see "Lilium." He went less pliantly they agreed. They went skeptical and came away convinced and enthusiastic. And after their father returned home they went to see "Lilium" again to see Hopper and his career about as Calcutta and Ravenna.

There's the answer! If the modern young chatterbox is to be taken into account, the right of seeing "Lilium" is a right that should be protected. The "Chocolate Soldier" had ceased to be entertaining as dull and unentertaining.

The company that's playing it is, with few exceptions, capital, much the same sort of an organization that Brady employed in those revivals of Gilbert and Sullivan of several years ago. Everybody seemed to be enjoying the playing of his or her part and bringing out the fullest values of the inimitable Brins. John Hodgson, the prima donna, is particularly fine. Alexis, Duke, and William Pen were a gorgeous Massakroff (made a "Gypsy" singer) and a "Gypsy" singer, and several papers gave him a "Gypsy" singer and George O'Donnell was a "Gypsy" singer.

It's to be devoutly hoped that "The Chocolate Soldier" does sufficiently well to merit the promised Shubert revivals of many Strauss operas, including the "Queen of Sheba" and "The Merry Widow." The voices in the two were on a high level.

SINCE he last played here, Lionel Atwill has made the mythical jump from being a "season" or "leading man," to that of featured player or "star."

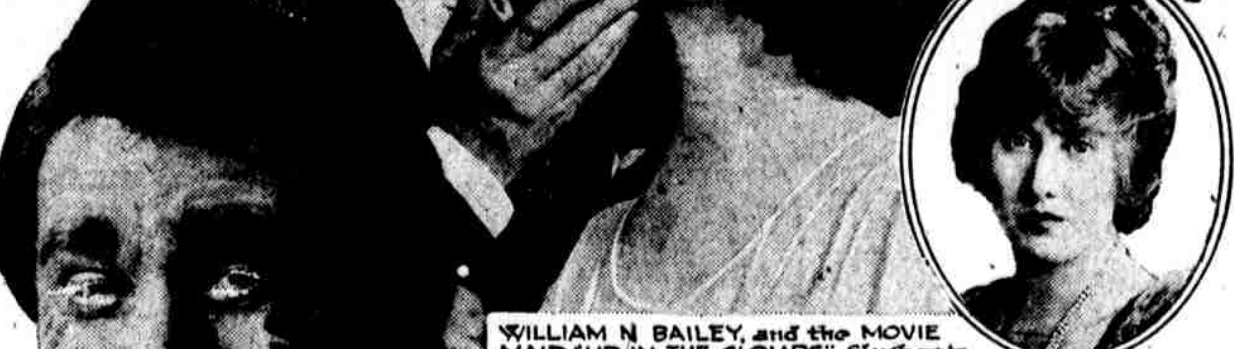
STARS OF THE STAGE COMING HERE NEXT WEEK



LIONEL ATWILL and VIVIAN TOBIN in "THE GRAND DUKE" Duke



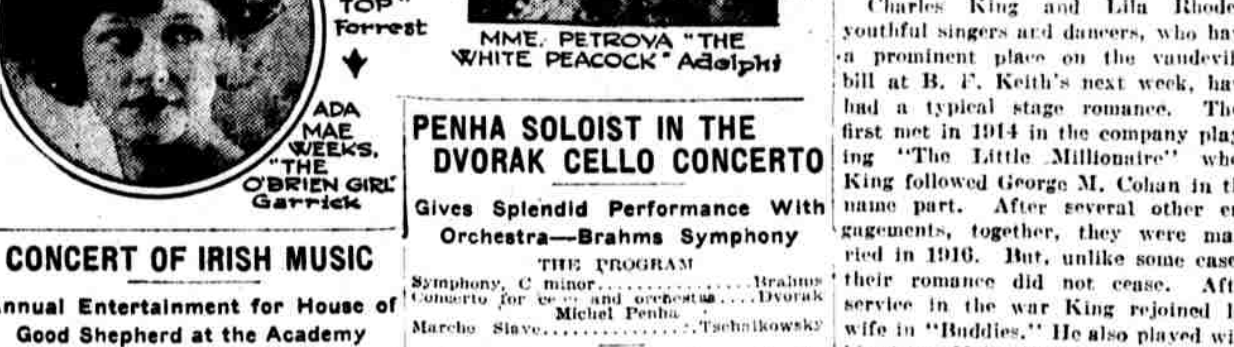
GERTRUDE HAYS in "The Circle" Lyric



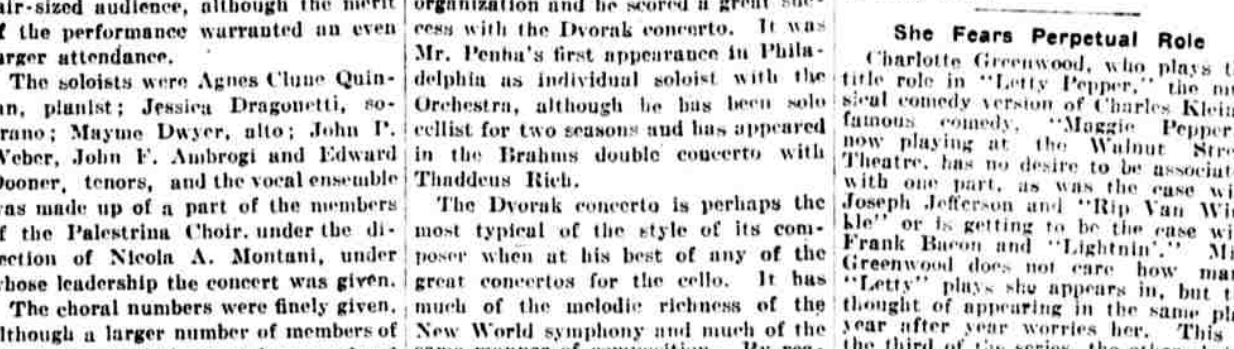
Mrs. LESLIE CARTER in "The Circle" Lyric



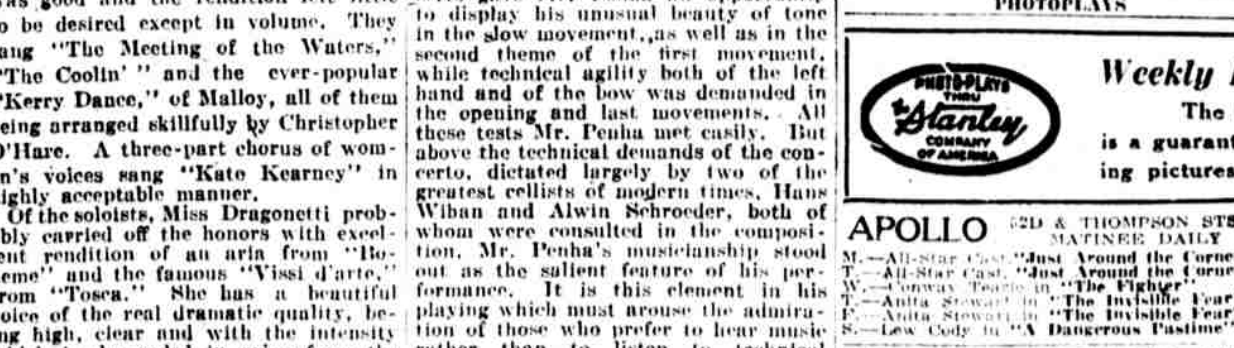
ADELE ROWLAND in "The Circle" Lyric



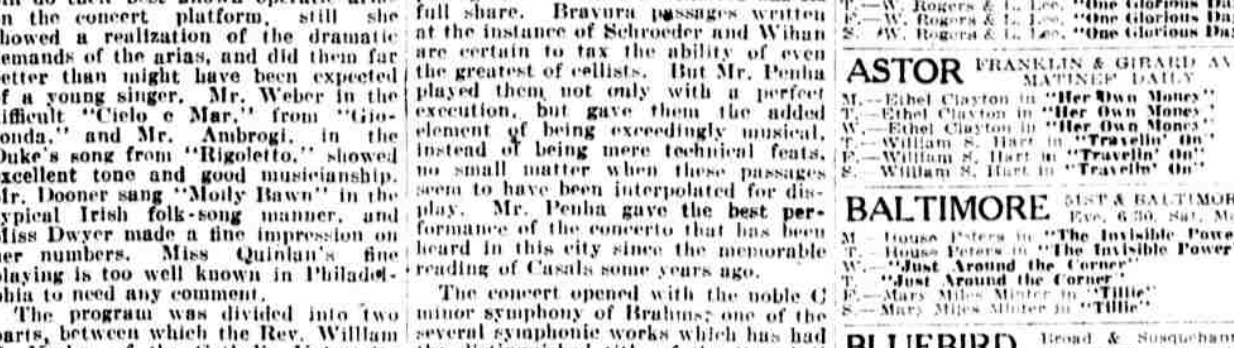
BETTY PARKER in "The Circle" Lyric



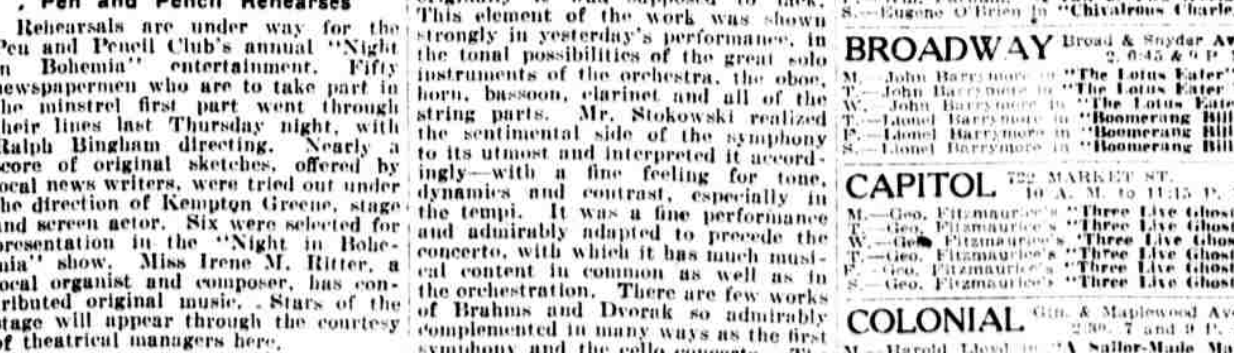
WILLIAM M. BAILEY in "Up in the Clouds" Shubert



CHARLOTTE GREENWOOD in "Letty Pepper" Walnut



DONALD BRIAN in "The Chocolate Soldier" Lyric



FRED STONE in "Tip Top" Forrest



OLGA PETROVA in "The White Peacock" Adelphi

THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS

PHILADELPHIA has a number of musical organizations unique in their aims, but it has one which is probably not duplicated in the United States—a choir of men's voices which devotes its entire effort to sacred music.

The choir was organized—or rather reorganized—for St. Mark's year ago in 1919, with Andrew Wheeler as president, Lewis A. Wadlow, organist of the church, as conductor, and Joseph Bouché as secretary.

During the three years of the existence of the present choir, it has given three or four evening services, and one or two on Sunday, on the second Sunday in January.

AS THE organization has gained in numbers, experience and vocal ensemble, its projected plans have become more ambitious and this year it will render Tschick's grand mass for male voices with instrumental accompaniment, at the morning service on the last Sunday in April.

THE members of the Men's Choir of St. Mark's have that enthusiasm about the work which they are doing without which no organization devoted to a special kind of music can hope to succeed.

These characteristics are especially adapted to the rendition of sacred music, and lower, but not less important, the two tenor parts, the baritone and the bass, the clarity and beauty of the upper voices, and the sonority of the middle voices.

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PENNA SOLOIST IN THE DVORAK CELLO CONCERTO

Gives Splendid Performance With Orchestra—Brahms Symphony

MIHEL PENNA, solo cellist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, was the soloist at yesterday afternoon's concert of that organization and he scored a great success of the performance warranted an even larger attendance.

THE Dvorak concerto is perhaps the most typical of the style of its composer when at his best of any of the great concertos for the cello. It has much of the melodic richness of the New World symphony and much of the same manner of composition.

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CONCERT OF IRISH MUSIC

Annual Entertainment for House of Good Shepherd at the Academy

THE annual concert for the House of Good Shepherd was given last evening at the Academy of Music before a fair-sized audience, although the merit of the performance warranted an even larger attendance.

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Weekly Photoplay Guide Week of Mar. 20 to Mar. 25. Subject to Change

The following theatres obtain their pictures through the STANLEY Company of America, which is a guarantee of early showing of the finest productions. Ask for the theatre in your locality obtaining pictures through the Stanley Company of America.

Table listing photoplays at various theatres including Apollo, Arcadia, Astor, Baltimore, Bluebird, Broadway, Capitol, Colonial, Fairmount, Grand Northern, Imperial, Jumbo, Liberty, Orient, Overbrook, Palace, Regent, Rialto, Sherwood, Stanley, Stanton, Victoria, Grant, and others.

PLAY AT BRYN MAWR

THEATrical Entertainment
A short play, followed by a dance, will be given this afternoon in the gymnasium of Bryn Mawr College by the Russian Relief Committee.

MARRIED HALF CENTURY
Mr. and Mrs. A. Potinsh, 330 George street, are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary tonight at the New Traymore Hall, Franklin street and Columbia avenue.

RUSSIAN RELIEF TO BE AIDED BY THEATICAL ENTERTAINMENT
A short play, followed by a dance, will be given this afternoon in the gymnasium of Bryn Mawr College by the Russian Relief Committee.

AT OTHER THEATRES, MEMBERS OF M. P. T. O. A.

Table listing other theatres and their photoplays, including Ambassador, Germantown, Jefferson, Park, and 69th St.