FRIDAY EVENING,

MOVIE SUBJECTS ARE CRITICISED **BY MINISTERIUM**

Clergynten Declare Too Much Attention Is Given to **Immoral Plots**

Immoral Plots The report of the Harrisburg Min-sterial Association on moving ple-ture shows in this city was made puble last night. The elergymen are unanimous that the treatment of subjects is not good and that too much attention is paid to giving the addence a thrill instead for edu-tating it. Alleged immorality in many of the Street Presbyterian Church, spresident of the Ministerial Asso-ciation of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-mon of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-Marrisburg; Floyd Appletor, E. E. M. There of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-mon of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-mon of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-mon of Harrisburg; W. H. Dali-Marrisburg; H. Dali-Marrisburg; M. H. Dali

It's Mighty Important

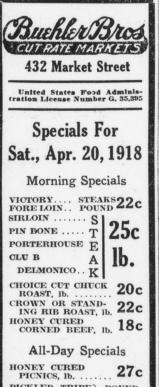
what kind of lubrication you use. Ordinary oils and greases won't stick on the job of preventing friction.

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Movie Faults Found "We are convinced this institution contains immense possibilities for good. In the hands of men con-cerned at least as much for charac-ter as for the dollar it can be given marvelous potency for education and inspiration; but with the eye of the management on the dollars princi-pally, and meeting the public demand for amusement, it is, on the whole, an institution that, as it now stands, ought to be far more rigorously cen-sored." by City Ministers Of 157 moving picture shows n Harrisburg with seed by a com-mittee of the Ministerial Associa-tion, forty-five were found good: sixty bad, one very bad, eight good and bad, forty-three indif-terent.

Hangen and M. E. Shafer was almost as severe, but they held out some

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In twenty-seven the clergymen

In twenty-seven the clergymen found immorality, marital infi-delity, free love, cheap senti-mentalism, improper relations with other men's wives. In thirty-five were one or more suicides or murders; twenty-five showed intemperate drinking and drunkenness; twenty-five exhibit-ed robbery or theft; fourteen showed gambling; eleven showed low resorts or habitues of the lower world; thirteen showed kid-napping or blackmail; forty-one showed gun-play. The committee reports that the "educational plan is very low;" that the "predominating tendency of the plays seen was, on the whole, for evil, decidedly; ruin-ous to the morals of children, and that, the cleaning up of moving pleture shows is the most im-portant social work that can now be accomplished."

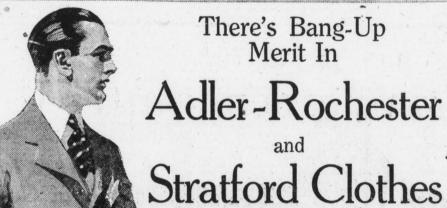
ought to be far more rigorously cen-sored." The Ministerial Association pledges itself to work for strifter censorship and calls on parents, school teach-ers and churchworkers to help. This report concludes: "We are firmly of the opinion that if the Pennsylvania Board of Censors would adhere strictly to the letter and spirit of the seventeen (17) "Standards Adopted by the Board," a great part of what we saw in our investigation that was fundamentally objectionable would not have been produced except in violation of the standards by the moving picture managements. (A strong sidelight on the situation here in this state is the disposition of makers and owners of films to get the illegitimate through' to the public, as evidenced by the fact that between June 1, 1915, and November 30, 1915, the Board collected in fines \$3,965 for various violations of the act of As-sembly.)"

bad. On an average 250 to 300 school children composed the audi ence. Much applause was given at the exciting points in fighting, street immorality: ten of the films han murders and gun plays as their prin cipal excitement. In all we feel that the tendency was for evil. The dime novel feature was very strong. Six teen and two-thirds per cent. of the films were entertaining, but not elevating. Of the films seen perhaps 66 per cent. should never have com before the eyzes of children. Quita astonishing is the fact that we saw only two educational films, each of which was short. "There is no doubt in our minds that the possibilities in the moving; pictures are very great and that, if the right kind of films were shown, strat good could be produced more numerously the good would be great. There is no doubt that the pictures are reaching millions of people. A smashing drama with a sermon punch in it will make men go away first be done is to call the attention of the public to the things were and more wholesome plays." **SiX Are Bad** Albert, J. Greene and B. M. Warda are reaching millions of people. A smashing drama with a sermon punch in it will make mengo away feeling like being better men. "As to what should be done: of course the obvious thing that must first be done is to call the attention of the public to the things we, as investigators, saw. Then the public conscience must be aroused so that the people will demand clearer and more wholesome plays." <u>Six Are Bad</u> Albert J. Greene and B. M. Ward witnessed eleven films, six of which were bad. They say: "General im-morality prevailed. The tendency as for evil, decidedly. They were all entertaining; few. if any, elevati-ing. Not above 35 per cent, should have been shown to children. The principal lessons now taught are murder, theft, marital infidelity, im-morality, gambling, intemperance and features ought to be eliminated, or until this is done, the finmatur-minds should be restrained from at-tending the shows as are now given.". In the eight films and plays wit-nessed by Kevs. Rupp and Shafer it was their conclusion that 75 per cent. were not fit to be seem by chil-drean and they observed that the ave-rage proportion of children in the adue: so by Rever. Rupp and Shafer it was their conclusion that 75 per cent. Wenes 12 and 13 was about 30 per cent. Good Power Unused In the twenty-seven films viewed

APRIL 19, 1918.



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ways.



addences between 12 and 18 was about 30 per cent. Good Power Unused In the twenty-seven films viewed by W. H. Daliman he estimated the children present from 50 to 75 per cent. The evil that most impressed him was "The improper relation of other men's wives with married men, and vice versa, seems to be the only theme presented as a main attrac-tion." The so-called funny films he estimates as not even entertaining and certainly prone to debase the humorous vein in one's character." "To sum it up" said he, "I saw not a single reel that would elevate one's character." Messrs. Hallman and Williams found four good, eight indifferent and sit bad films in a galaxy of eighteen. They say: "General Im-morality appeared most frequently, yun play next, then drinking and theft, murders and gambling being next, the last in evidence. One could not help feel, after having seen these films, a depressing influence rather than one of uplift. "The influence and power of the 'movie' are unlimited when under proper conditions and censorship; but, until certain eliminations of the false, the unreal, the immoral are made, let us not expect any high development of character in the young who see them." "Murder, suicide and eternal press-ence of the 'cup'; offering 20 per cent, of good and 80 per cent, of could in the participation he "Murder, suicide and eternal pres-ence of the 'cup'; offering 20 per cent, of good and 80 per cent. of evil" was the characterization be-stowed on movies by Revs. Reisch and Swengel. They also touched on the constructive side, saying there are unquestioned and unlimited pow-ers for good in the use of moving picture plays. But in the hands of men with sinister motives they work untold evils in the lives of such whose characters are in the formative per-iod: iod: William Seibert Houck, M. D., gave perhaps, the most damning re-port, after seeing ten films. He said: Bad Points Exaggerated "Every detail was much exaggerat-ed to meet the insatiable taste of the public for thrill and the spectacular. public for thrill and the spectacular. In moments of murder, gun play, in-cendiarism, dime novel tragedy, or appearance of hero or heroine, the applause was deafening. During those scenes which were rich in im-moral suggestions the younger ele-ment—12 to 18 years—applauded lus-tily, and occasionally cried out such sentiments as 'good, good,' 'hold er tight!' 'ah boy!' and the like. "There were a few times when it would have been for better morals had the actresses been more com-pletely clothed; also had the passion-ate embraces, prolonged kisses and had the actresses been more com-pletely clothed; also had the passion-ate embraces, prolonged kisses and the like been eliminated." "One thing that impressed me deep-ly was that so many little children remained-till the very end of the show, 10.45 o'clock. After 9.30 there was a gradual thinning out, but, de-spite this, many children under 12 tarried till a late hour. The air of the house was very foul and hot. "On stepping out of the show-house one suffered a severe chill. The movie places are, as a rule, poor-ly ventilated, and so are physically hurtful to those who frequent them. Until these conditions are overcome, first, by a more careful construction of the playhouses relative to proper ventilation, and, second, by a more strict and impartial censorship of the films to be brought before the public, we ought by every possible influence, in public and private, in pulpit and pew, in home or on the ways, op-pose the business that is so ruinous to both the moral and physical na-tures of our own and succeeding gen-erations." count registered by A.

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