

DR. DYE WRITES BOOK ON ENGLISH MELODRAMA

Dr. Foster Gives Interesting Review of Work by Head of English Department.

There has recently appeared from the local press of the The Nittany Printing and Publishing Company a brochure entitled "A Study of Melodrama in England from 1800 to 1810" This little volume from the pen of Dr. William Dye, Jr., Head of the English Department of the Pennsylvania State College, is the required reprint of his thesis offered to the Faculty of Philosophy. The booklet is most interestingly gotten up and merits credit on the part of the author and printer.

In this thesis Dr. Dye has given a most interesting account of the genesis of the melodrama in the form of dramatic competition in Europe with special reference to England during the period mentioned. He traces carefully the various interpretations given to such forms by the public and makes it possible to follow easily the changes in form and method of melodramatic productions from "Thomas Moore's" "The Tale of the Two Kings" to the romantic drama of Bulwer Lytton in 1838-40.

It seems strange that so little attention has been paid to the development of melodrama in the past century. This played in the inception of the so-called romantic drama. In many ways it can be said without fear of contradiction that the main function of the dramatist of the nineteenth century was to demand a play in which there was always something taking place on the stage. Because of an apparent unwillingness to use the mind, the audience had no choice but to accept the drama as it was presented. The dramatist was required to satisfy their dramatic appetites. The desperate deeds of the devilish villain enhanced by the cleverness of the stage-actors held the audience entranced, while the hero and heroine worked out their own salvation despite railroads, saw-mills, chasms, bolts and bars of white-hot steel stood in their way, until in the process, both space and time amidst the cheers and hisses of the gallery and the pit. Here you found also the stock comedian who helped keep the audience in good spirits and added the element of fun in the most unexpected ways. There was "something doing" all the time and the house was crowded to see the ultimate triumph of virtue and the downfall of vice and oppression.

By means of ample illustration Dr. Dye carries us through the various stages of this "malin du siècle" and shows how the different forms succeeded each other leading to the finished type. He shows us how all possible sources were drawn upon for material and how even dogs, horses, monkeys, and birds have been used in the work. It is interesting to see how the music, at first an essential part of the melodrama, disappeared rather early being retained in an inconsiderable number of plays. Only a few attempts, comparatively speaking, were made use of, robbers, foundlings, unnatural parents and brothers, logical relatives, or victims of man's inhumanity in dealing with his fellow beings, the melodrama, the more often it appeared, the stage-actors being rolled upon to camouflage the untrue with an ample semblance of truth. This has a very familiar sound in connection with the movie of today, as the stock in trade is largely that of the melodrama of a century ago. And we can say truthfully that the public has not changed greatly since then.

The writer has acknowledged advisedly the evident influence of the melodrama of France upon the contemporary literature of England. It is a well known fact that the theatre of France was practically monopolized by dramatic compositions of this character from about 1705 until about 1810. During the revolutionary period this form of drama was the only one tolerated in most of the theatres. Pixerot and his brother melodramatists filled the boards with life-ringing tragedy and the stages of Paris ran red with theatrical gore each evening. The effect of this was the crowding out of legitimate drama and a mighty influx of blood-and-thunder plays greatly to the detriment of dramatic development along other lines. The people wanted thrills and thrills they must have, so the managers gave them thrills of all kinds in all ways.

The greater writers as well as the lesser lights succumbed to the popular impulse and dipped their pens in blood. The novelist, in youthful fervor produced "The Two Faces," and "Dumas the Elder" "The Tower of Nesle" "Antony" and "Henry III and his Court", all of them filled with the paraphernalia of poisons, daggers, dungeons, death and destruction and the full panoply of hero, heroine, and villain. Their stock in trade was doubtless borrowed from the "terra litteratura" of England and Germany, so the melodrama that they gave was but a return for services rendered. These plays were tremendously popular and convinced the playwright that this was the style of play to the crowd desired. Victor Hugo made use of the same material and produced his romantic dramas all of which from "Hernani" to "Les Burgraves" show the influence of the theatrical tendencies of the age. In none of them is the comic or bur-

lesque element lacking which fact is also of no little help in determining their origin. "Tint melodrama has lost none of its hold on the people as evidenced by the fact that the "movies" of the day resort to the same tactics to draw the crowd and the emphasis on action still has its reward in the pleasure play as it has had for many years in the spoken drama. It seems almost as if we must admit this type to the field of legitimate drama, especially in this democratic age when the people are the court of last resort. At any rate we cannot help admitting that melodrama has played a large part in bringing life into the drama that once was stilted and mechanical. There is no doubt that characterization has a major part in dramatic presentation yet the thrill of the unknown and the impossible that melodrama brings cannot be neglected in consideration of the drama of today.

Alumni Notes

J. E. Tricker '11 is now with the Air Nitrates Corporation at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, where he is Superintendent of the Liquid Air Plant, U. S. Nitrate Plant, No. 2, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Edward P. Aneona '12 is now with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service, in the Forest Products Laboratory, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Juan Jose Casua '12 is at Columbia University studying in the Teachers' College.

Lloyd P. Burgess '13 is with General Electric Company, Pittsfield, Mass., in the Transformer Engineering Department.

A. S. Wilson '13 is now at Newcomer, Pa., in Fayette County, as Superintendent of the Amend Coal Company.

J. G. Shilo '14 has removed from Detroit, Mich. and is with the Armstrong Cork Company, Lincolnton Dept., Lancaster, Pa. His address is 749 E. Orange Street, Lancaster, Pa.

L. A. Buchanan '15 is managing a milk plant at Kane, Pa., for the Kane Dairy Co-operative Association.

Fred Marshall '15 has "broken into the oil business" at Houston, Texas. He is with the Galena Oil Company, in the laboratory at the refinery.

Ralph W. Herzog '15 is employed as Tool Equipment and Process Engineer for the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., New Haven, Conn.

C. H. Lieb '16 has been in Tampico, Mexico, for some time now, and is still there working on a "million dollar" sea-soning terminal for the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, as Construction Engineer.

On leaving the naval service, Clarence E. Taylor '16 has returned to his old position in the New York Navy Yard, as Inspector of Electrical Material. His home address is 64 Clinton Place, Brooklyn, New York.

C. W. Landis '17 writes that he is now connected with the By-Products Coke Plant of the Birler Hill Steel Co., in Youngstown, Ohio.

Frank Feitz '17 is at Newport, Washington, with the United States Forestry Service.

Edgar A. Hawk '18 is with the Carnegie Steel Company, Duquesne Works as Engineer of Tests in their Experimental Engineering Department.

At present Robert P. Stevens '18 is with Thomas Meakin and Sons, Germantown, Pa., as a Landscape Architect.

James VanDyke '18 is still Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Cape May, New Jersey.

Paul Wolf '18 is at present in the Case School of Applied Science as Instructor in the Mining Department.

**PRESIDENT SPARKS RESUMES DUTIES HERE** (Continued from first page) able to start on an extended tour in his motor car through Wisconsin and several of the middle states. He was accompanied on this trip by his wife and his daughter, Ethel, and during the summer he made his headquarters at Ephraim, Wisconsin. While in Wisconsin he made several extended boat trips and spent much of his time in fishing and in an endeavor to recover his physical and mental strength. The entire absence of even trivial duties is thought to have been responsible for his gradual recovery and there is no doubt that his stay in Wisconsin proved beneficial to him.

With the coming of fall and his gradual change of condition for the better, Dr. Sparks and his family again motored through and were able to reach

**THE First National Bank State College, Pa.** W. L. FOSTER, President DAVID F. KAPP, Cashier

**YOUR WRITING PAPER** is an index to your personality **CRANE'S LINEN LAWN** cannot be surpassed. Also try **HIGHLAND LINEN**

**Choice Candy** Expert Fountain Service **EXCLUSIVE AGENCY FOR UNITED CIGAR CO.**

**THE VARSITY STORE**

Philadelphia in time to witness the Penn-State football game on November 1. At this time Dr. Sparks saw many Penn State students and was delighted with the reception which was given him. His condition was pronounced much improved by the University Hospital and Dr. Sparks was able to spend a few days at his home in State College at that time. He was given a rousing welcome by the student body when he and his family arrived and was delighted to be back among the students and at the activities again. It was necessary for him to make another trip to the hospital, however but he was able to be in Washington during the first part of December and attended the Student Volunteer Convention at Des Moines, Iowa, during the holidays.

**Spent Some Time in Office** Upon his return home after the holidays, Dr. Sparks spent some time each day in his office in order to be in condition to take up his work when pronounced able by his physicians. When this work was received some few days ago and after the meeting of the Board of Trustees in Harrisburg last week, he decided that it was possible for him to take up his duties again as the chief executive of the college and accordingly was found in his office on Saturday for the first time in his old position.

**HARRISBURG FARM SHOW GREAT SUCCESS** (Continued from first page) within the state. All the teams and their expenses paid which enabled quite a few boys to participate who otherwise would have been compelled to be absent.

On Thursday evening the alumni of the college held an alumni banquet at the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg. This was the largest gathering of Penn State men which has ever been held in central Pennsylvania.

Mr. P. D. Jones, who has charge of the dairy herd, gave an address on the subject of "Making Advanced Registry Records". He placed particular emphasis upon the care and feeding of the cow, and showed how a cow often becomes very much attached to a certain attendant. A noted Jersey breeder in Oregon, who has recently made the world's records in the Jersey breed under very ordinary conditions, is so much loved by his cattle that they follow him around like a dog does his master.

Mr. R. K. Welch also of the Dairy Department gave two talks, one on "Co-operative Breeding Associations" and one on "Community Development in Dairying". The first talk showed the advantages of co-operative farmers owning one high-class sire in a community as compared with several farmers owning scrub sires of their own. There are many co-operative bull associations in the state and they are doing a splendid work in improving dairy cattle breeding.

In his second talk Mr. Welch outlined the wonderful development that has taken place at Grove City, Penna., through the good markets provided by the co-operative creamery at that place. He also showed the benefit to the community of cow testing associations, improved breeding methods, the purchase of pure bred cows, and the use of pure bred sires. During the last three years the Grove City community sixty-four new silos have been built, six barns have been improved, 4 excellent Holstein bulls and 3 Jersey sires have been purchased co-operatively, 63 head have been put on the Accredited Herd List and 400 pure bred females have been purchased.

**Dairy Records** Mr. C. M. Cummings gave an excellent talk on "Dairy Records, their Value and Cost". He showed the large increase in the value of animals that

have made advanced registry records, and the comparatively low cost of securing such records. An instance of this was the fact that a bull calf from one of the college cows was sold for \$15.00. The cow then made an advanced registry record of over 22,000 pounds of milk and 681 pounds of butterfat, and her next bull calf was sold for \$200.00.

Mr. A. T. Kearney, of the Dairy Extension Department, gave an address on the subject of "Improved Methods of Marketing Milk". He explained the method by which the dairy men of DuBois co-operated in the purchase of a pasteurizing and bottling plant in the city. The dairymen in the vicinity all delivered their milk to this one central plant where it was pasteurized, bottled and delivered to the retail trade of the city. By this method, the expense of delivery was very much decreased, the farmers were paid a good price for their milk, and the townspeople were given a superior quality of milk at a price less than that paid by surrounding towns.

**Soil Fertility and Soil Organisms** were discussed by Mr. C. A. Hunter. He illustrated the large part that soil organisms play in increasing soil fertility. He showed cultures of a number of organisms which play an important part in taking nitrogen from the air and placing it at the rootlets of the plant.

**Value of Feeds** The feed situation was discussed by Professor A. A. Borland. He stated that cottonseed meal and linseed meal were likely to be higher in price rather than lower, while corn and wheat bran were not likely to increase much in price. He emphasized the importance of summer purchases of high protein concentrates, giving as an illustration the fact that last June the price of 41% cottonseed meal was \$2.70 and in November it was \$3.60, linseed meal in June was \$7.00 and in November it was \$8.30. This same situation has obtained for several years in the past.

The different proprietary feeds were discussed and placed under different headings as good, medium and poor. It was shown that a home-made mixture was more economical and just as efficient for milk production as any of the proprietary feeds. A leaflet giving a number of grain mixtures was distributed.

The exhibits along dairy lines were very interesting. The Dairy Extension Department showed two sires—one a pure bred bull and the other a scrub bull, and illustrated the advantages of pure bred sires. Photographs consisted of two very well-balanced calves—one a pure bred and one a scrub. The cooperative purchase of

testing' association as to the actual production of each cow in the herd.

**Creamery Wins Prize** The exhibit of butter, cheese and milk was of considerable interest. A large number of entries were made and some very fine butter was exhibited. In the creamery class, the State College Creamery was awarded first prize, the butter securing 93 points out of a possible hundred, inasmuch as the judges had no knowledge of the makers of the different samples of butter in the contest, the result is very pleasing to those who are interested in the College Creamery.

In the market milk class the first prize was awarded to J. A. Bell, Jr., of Conopolis, Penna. The remarkable creaminess of this milk is shown by the fact that the lactometer count was only 600 per cubic centimeter. Some other samples of milk that were exhibited contained 378,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter.

**Ag. Extension Exhibit** The Department of Agricultural Extension presented an instructive and attractive exhibit. A chart showing the increased yield and profit of sprayed fields of potatoes in contrast with unsprayed fields was the first part of the exhibit. Included also in this part were colored charts showing the effects of insect pests on fruit and vegetables and the recognition of measures for their control. The extent and influence of boys' and girls' pig and clubs were clearly displayed by photographs and figures. The value of the pipe and engine owned by Pennsylvania club members this year having totaled eighty-five thousand dollars.

The first part of the livestock exhibit consisted of two very well-balanced calves—one a pure bred and one a scrub. The cooperative purchase of

high class sires was suggested as being practical, profitable and efficient. The second part of the livestock exhibit consisted of a field of mature corn with model pigs "hogging off" the crop. As a result of the efforts of the Extension Department a goodly number of Pennsylvania farmers tried out this labor-saving scheme last fall. The men who kept a record of weights and gains sold their corn crop, without the labor of husking and harvesting, for \$1.88 a bushel.

The Home Extension Service also had a large exhibit, which was of great interest and value to the women visitors at the show.

**ARROW** Troy-Tailored SOFT COLLARS  
CLUETT, PARBURY & CO., INC., TROY, N. Y.

**"SERVICE"**  
You are sure of home cooking when you eat at the  
**CRYSTAL CAFE**  
Mabel Fromm W. C. Fromm

**Fraternity Printing**  
Quality Material  
Clever Typography  
Master Printers  
**The Nittany Printing AND Publishing Company**

**17 LEADS**  
**DIXON'S ELDERADO**  
"the master drawing pencil"  
quickens your pencil work, makes it easier and better. It is a friend in deed and in need.  
Sold by leading stationers—at school and in town.

**Best Quality GROCERIES**  
Wholesale and Retail  
Special rates to Clubs and Fraternities  
**FYE'S**  
200-202 W. College Ave.

**W.D. & H.O. WILLS**  
"Most" men prefer the pipe to any other form of smoking. There's comfort, contentment, real satisfaction and economy in a good pipe. W.D.C. Pipes give you this, and more. A special seasoning process makes the genuine French briar bow break in sweet and mellow. Pick a good shape at your nearest dealer's, at your price.  
**W.M. DEMUTH & CO., NEW YORK**  
WORLD'S LARGEST MAKERS OF FINE PIPES

Consider the **WEAR**  
--not the price--  
and you will purchase your shoes at the  
**College Boot Shop**

**EXHIBITION**  
A DISPLAY OF THE FINCHLEY STYLES OF CLOTHES, HATS AND HABERDASHERY. THE THINGS PRESENTED ARE CORRECT IN TREATMENT AND OF THE CHARACTER CONSIDERED MOST ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE.



CUSTOM SERVICE WITHOUT THE ANNOYANCE OF A TRY-ON READY-TO-PUT-ON

**FINCHLEY**  
5 West 46th Street  
NEW YORK

**NITTANY INN**  
Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 2nd and 3rd  
**RALPH W. SHAW**  
Finchley Representative

**BALFOUR BLUE BOOK**  
1920  
The Standard Reference for Fraternity Jewelry  
Individual Badge Price List now ready for distribution.  
**L. G. BALFOUR CO.**  
Attleboro, Mass.  
Badges Jewelry Stationery

**THE VARSITY STORE**