

# 'American Drama Had Real Origin in 1920,' Clark Says

### Previous Playwrights Clever Craftsmen, Critic Thinks

"A full-grown drama has developed in this country from its first birth eleven years ago," Barnett Clark, dramatic critic of New York, said in his lecture, "The American Drama Comes of Age," Tuesday night.

Until eleven years ago, America's playwrights were no more than ingenious craftsmen, according to the visiting lecturer, who presented the fourth of a series of talks by visiting lecturers.

"Some of these craftsmen seemed, at times, to point a wavering finger toward some valuable drama," he said, "but out of the 30,000 to 40,000 plays written in America none can be found that have real art."

February of 1920 was given as the date for drama's birth in America by Clark. On this date Eugene O'Neill's first full-size play was produced. Before this date, according to the speaker, no dramatic work in this country was genuine.

"It is better to cry incoherently than to say nothing intelligently," said Clark. "Before, men like Hearn were clever and nothing more."

"The artist talks reality, and makes a symbol for it which becomes reality," he said. "We remember Victorian times, not as they were, but very likely as Dickens painted them."

Modern dramatists care little about pleasing an audience, he said. Their interest in technique is slight. They have no set rules, are unhampered. For this reason, among others, they are successful.

These new playwrights deal with any character. They do not seek "queer" people or important people, the dramatic critic said. Paul Green was his example of one who dug down his net and picks up enough characters to last him for a lifetime.

"And a play is, first of all, a person," he said. "All great plays revolve about one man."

Clark told of the inability of producers to lead the modern playwrights, binding them and checking them, cutting and revising. No person would dare to touch a comma in Eugene O'Neill's work, he said.

"A playwright in Newark refused half-a-million when a producer suggested he should cut and revise," said Clark. "The man stayed for two years, but he's now among the best of the modern field." The man he referred to was Philip Barry.

"The new school of playwrights deal with things and people they know and know well," he declared. "That is why they write glamorously."

**FRUIT TESTS AROUSE WIDE INTEREST AMONG GROWERS**

Unusual interest in orchard fertility experiments at the College has been shown by fruit growers in ten states and Canada. Prof. F. N. Fager, of the department of horticulture, revealed yesterday.

Talks on the subject of maintaining fertility in the apple orchard, based on experiments here, have been given by members of the horticultural staff at meetings in Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

## Lions, Lafayette Omit Grid Game in 1932

According to a newspaper account released from Easton, Penn State will not play Lafayette on the gridiron in 1932 because of schedule difficulties. The Lions will meet the Leopards this fall at Easton.

Two football games for the Penn State eleven have already been scheduled for 1932. Pitt will be met Thanksgiving Day at Pittsburgh and Harvard has been scheduled for earlier in the season.

## CLARK FORESEES DRAMATIC LIBERTY

(Continued from page one)

New York's experienced dramatic critic believes in Europe, if you say that you once saw a play of Eugene O'Neill's, you'll be fated and invited to any number of dramatic gatherings," he said. "Europeans are intensely interested in O'Neill and his American contemporaries."

Most of the checks laid upon dramatists in the past have been removed, Barnett Clark believes. Producers no longer treat playwrights as something to be shipped to the South Sea islands while the play is being rehearsed.

"Hollywood's chief hindrance in its attempt to produce genuine drama rather than 'lollypops,'" Mr. Clark explained, "is that there are too many restrictions. One cannot hurt the feeling of any large group, one cannot afford to offend, one must play first and always to the box-office."

"Owen Davis went to Hollywood," he said, "at the request of one of the major studios, to 'reform' it. At least this studio suggested that Davis could do a little reforming."

"Within a month he left. 'You don't really want to be reformed,' said Davis. 'You couldn't be satisfied if you were reformed.'"

"And so American drama will remain on the stage for some time," Barnett Clark says. "A change in motion picture production is very much to be hoped for, but as long as the 'lollypops' satisfy the public, 'lollypops' will be produced."

He smiles, shakes hands as he rises, and lights a third cigarette.

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## COLLEGE DIRECTS HOME EDUCATION

### 12,000 Students in 27 Years Have Taken New Correspondence Courses From Here

More than 2,000 persons have taken correspondence courses in agriculture and home economics offered by the College during the last twenty-five years, according to Professor Mairs, director of the courses. Professor Mairs has recently announced a new free course in Potato growing, prepared by D. E. L. Nixon, "potato wizard," the College research plant pathologist.

The new course consists of eight lessons on seed selection and care, soil preparation and tillage, harvesting and handling the crop for economical potato production. Doctor Nixon stresses what he calls "potato mentality" as one of the chief factors for success in the industry.

Eight free home study courses are offered in general agriculture, eight in animal industry, eight in horticulture, six in dairying, five in home economics, and seven in miscellaneous subjects. A printed college bulletin containing descriptions of all the courses will soon be available.

## PROF. WURFL TO TALK ON GOETHE'S 'FAUST'

### Gives 4th Lecture in Drama Series Tomorrow Afternoon

"Goethe's Faust, One Hundred Years After Its Completion" will be the subject for Prof. George Wurfl, of the German department, in a lecture on drama in room 315 Mineral Industries building at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The lecture is one of a series on the drama of many countries, given by experts in various phases of drama. Previous talks have dealt with Greek, French and English drama.

Prof. David D. Mason, of the department of Romance languages, discussed "Francois de Curel's 'The New Idol'" in the third lecture of the series last Friday afternoon.

## KAPPA DELTA PI, PSI CHI IN COMBINED MEETING TONIGHT

Kappa Delta Pi, national honorary education fraternity, and Psi Chi, national honorary psychological fraternity, will hold a joint meeting at the University club at 7:30 o'clock tonight.

Dr. P. E. Davidson of Stanford University will speak on "Character and Moral Guidance," and Dr. G. H. Ficke, of Lafayette College, will discuss "Religious Education." Faculty and students who are interested may attend.

## PEACE CARAVAN COMING

Under the auspices of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom a Peace Caravan, formed in San Francisco, California, is now on its way through the country informing the people concerning the International Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, next February.

## Electrical Application To Bacteria May Solve Man's Greatest Problems

An application of electricity to the smallest of living creatures promises a new approach to understanding some problems in the life of man, according to Dr. M. W. Lisse, professor of biophysical and biological chemistry, and Prof. R. P. Tittsler, of the bacteriological department.

These Penn State professors are actually measuring the electrical difference between life and death in College laboratories. In living bacteria they find a small electrical charge. These bacteria will die if the charges are lost.

The experiments show that this electrical charge comes from chemical elements in the soil, a fact which shows that science may be able to discover how farmers can select for

## Ag Chemists May Make Better Golf Greens in Future

The possibility that agricultural scientists will be able to produce better golf greens in the future has been enhanced by experiments conducted by the School of Agriculture, under the direction of H. B. Musser.

For the past two years Mr. Musser has been experimenting with a trial green. He selected 150 perfect blades of grass from thousands of blades on the finest greens procurable. Blades of grass, according to Professor Musser, often like a family of children. Some have a special quality for putting greens, standing upright in a uniform carpet instead of lying in lumps. They also differ in their color and resistance of disease.

The experimental fields, for more than one can be developed from a single field, are found to become green in the spring, and also stay green in dry weather than regular greens. A single plant in the green house in February spreads to a six-foot circle by mid-summer. In last summer's drought some remained green throughout an August with only one-sixty-four-hundredth of an inch of rain which followed an unusually dry July.

Mr. Musser believes that this kind of cultivation will eliminate a dispute between the patrons of two methods of producing a good green. One side favors seeding, the other planting cuttings. The College work in this line indicates the possibility of producing strains hardy enough to retain all putting qualifications year after year, regardless of whether seeded or cuttings.

## FRATERNITY HOLDS SMOKER

Alpha chapter of Iota Lambda Sigma, national industrial education fraternity, held their annual smoker last Thursday night at the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house. One hundred and twenty-five members and their friends attended the smoker which was addressed by Dr. F. Theodore Struck, head of the department of industrial education, and national president of the grand chapter of Iota Lambda Sigma.

soon return in "The Smiling Lieutenant," regarded as his best to date. Claudette Colbert, Miriam Hopkins and Charlie Ruggles are in support.

Polly Moran, famous as a partner with Marie Dressler in some side-splitting comedies, recently underwent an operation on her nose that was designed to straighten the protruding "beak." Some thought Polly's career would terminate with her chief beauty (?) mark gone, but in the latest Dressler-Moran comedy, "Polly," these two women comediennees have what is considered to be their funniest story to date. Marie's unique methods of whipping the politicians into line will bring you many a laugh.

Tallulah Bankhead, daughter of a U. S. Senator, who went to England and achieved success on the stage, then was brought back to America for pictures, is reported to have gained 10 pounds after being placed on a milk diet at the request of Paramount. Her first picture was "The Tarnished Lady." She is now working on a new production.

After three years of "See You, See Me," Flag and Quilt, famous movie Leathernecks, are to be given a change of personality. Starting with their memorable "What Price Glory," these two toughneck Marines, played by Victor McLaglen and Edmund Lowe, have battled each other in every part of the world in succeeding pictures. While it is likely they may team together in some future pictures, the characterizations will be quite remote from the Flag-Quilt formula. McLaglen, by the way, has quite a different role in "Annabelle's Affairs," in which he is co-featured with beautiful Jeanette MacDonald.

Two famous pictures of former years may be remade into sound productions, according to recently an-

nounced plans. University is considering remaking "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," with Bela Lugosi, star of "Dracula" in the part made famous by Lon Chaney, while Metro is adding sound to "The Big Parade" in expectation of re-releasing it.

Warner Bros. and First National will make no more gangster pictures, according to recent announcement by Sam E. Morais, general sales manager. This, despite the fact that in "Little Caesar" and "The Public Enemy," Warner's had two of the best gang pictures of the year. More children's pictures will be offered instead, he adds. This is welcome news to most families.

## MARQUARDT, HOFFMAN AT 3-DAY CHICAGO CONFERENCE

To enter a discussion of the new college curricula established at Chicago, Harvard and Yale, Dr. Carl E. Marquardt, College Examiner, and Registrar William S. Hoffman are attending a three-day conference of college administrative officers at Chicago last week.

The president of Chicago university will speak at the conference. Deans of Harvard and Yale, as well as college administrators throughout the country, will be present.

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## Movie Chats

Less than a year ago, Irene Dunne was comparatively unknown to motion picture audiences. Then she was given the role of Sabra Cravat in the epic "Cimarron" and her brilliant work carried her to stardom. She is now very much in demand and Metro has recently borrowed her from Radio Pictures to play opposite Adolphe Menjou in "The Great Lover." The latter picture has been made from the famous stage play in which Leo Dittichstein starred for so many years. The brilliant cast includes Ernest Torrence, Neil Hamilton, Cliff Edwards, Hale Hamilton, Roscoe Ates and Beaulonva.

It remained for Maurice Chevalier, famous Parisian Prince of Personal-ity, to demonstrate that pictures with music are still in demand—if they are good pictures! The outstanding picture of the summer—with a record of two months in New York at \$200 pieces—is "The Smiling Lieutenant," in which Chevalier sings a number of songs and for which a number of songs and for which music was written by Oscar Straus, noted Viennese composer. Maurice was last seen in State College several years ago in "Innocents of Paris," his first American picture. He will

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