



German Stage Filled by Employment Bureau

Berlin.—All theatrical contracts for employment of actors and actresses must be made after January 1 through the German national employment bureau.

Theatrical agencies have been held to come within the scope of a movement under which all private employment agencies will be nationalized by December 31, to be maintained thereafter free from public taxes and to charge no fee for services.

WORKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

"YOU'LL have to go to bed and be flat on your back for some time," the doctor said to me.

I knew his reputation and that he was no doubt right. There would be no argument. I had a tremendous lot of work that should be done—writing most of it. I had no temperature; I was not really sick; what little brain I have was working in as active and normal a way as it had ever done. It was only that an accident had made it necessary to spread me out and hang weights on my left arm to pull it back into a position which it refused to assume. I write with my right hand; even lying on my back my knee can be flexed and a pad of paper balanced upon it. I would write even if I were on my back!

The process was slow and wearisome. I had to rest at short intervals, but it was amazing how much I could get done in a day, strained though the position was. And the work made the time pass more quickly. I was more cheerful from having something to do; my back ached less because I had less time to give to pondering over my aches. Difficult as it was, I came to enjoy it; and the work got done.

A friend of mine, because of a peculiar accident was forced for a month to be face downward on her bed. She could look over the edge of the bed which was low and near the floor, and she devised all sorts of things to occupy her time—some of them useful work, others play—and so, while doing something worthwhile, kept herself cheerful and happy. It was not an easy condition under which to work, but she was resourceful and energetic.

I have just been told of two men lying in a hospital, neither permitted to move his body, but free to do what he wished with his hands. One was a stock broker who had a long-distance telephone installed and did business regularly during business hours. He admitted that he got on more successfully than when he was in his office in the city because, lying prone in bed, he was not interrupted, not disturbed. He gave his letters to his stenographer early in the morning and then he had all his time to himself.

The second man was a writer. He had a typewriting machine suspended



"Air Baptism" Marked by Certificate Reward

Paris.—Certificates of "air baptism" are being given in France to encourage people to travel by air.

The first of these were given in 1913 by the Aeromatic club of France to its members, but air-club officials all over France now are suggesting every person on his or her first air trip should be given an interesting and worth-while souvenir of the voyage as a method of propaganda.



DIPPING INTO SCIENCE

Fairy Characters Do Exist

Pygmies, the little people of the fairy stories really do exist. They live in parts of Africa and Asia. All pygmies have short curly hair, large mouths, thin noses and woolly hair all over their bodies. The African pygmy is yellow or light brown while the Asiatic is dark brown or black. All have the most primitive habits.

The Gift

"Whilst I was over in Twypolly turther day," said Tobe Sagg of Sandy Mush, "they tried to give me a church."

"Why, what in the world?" ejaculated Mrs. Sagg.

"I didn't know persily, but they had a sign up at a corner saying, 'Welcome to the church! I axed the first feller I seen what they would give along with it for boot, and he started to explain and got to gobbling so I just driv' on.'—Kansas City Star.



MR. BARBER, deep in thought, seated at a broad desk, heavily laden with papers which bore evidence of her many responsibilities, planned and pondered the question at length. She was of slight build. Her hair was tinged with gray, her complexion clear, her eyes brown and sparkling, her facial expression most pleasant, although one could not help but note at the moment a trace of worry.

There were exactly one hundred and fifty old people in the institution depending upon her care and judgment. Never was this fact brought so forcibly to her attention as it was at Christmas time. To be sure, people were generous and thoughtful in remembering this group. That was exactly it. How could one put this generosity into a form which would benefit the largest number in the group? The agitation of the question had begun but today, when Mrs. Barber had received a note and a donation of fifty dollars from a group of fine, public-spirited citizens who were endowed with the true Christmas spirit. The accompanying note merely stated that its use could best be determined by Mrs. Barber, and so would be left entirely to her good judgment. She read the note once more as it lay on the desk before her.

"Our group or society has a little fund raised in various ways by its members. Each year at Christmas time, we give fifty dollars of this fund to the head of some institution, and leave it to the judgment of the person in charge as to how it will be disposed of to best advantage in their particular or peculiar situation. It has occurred to us that the children are more apt to be well taken care

Perfect Physical Student



The photograph shows Miss Dorthea Smetzer, senior at Holyoke college, who has been awarded the annual prize silver cup for the most perfect physical student out of 200. Miss Smetzer is twenty-one years old, weighs 117 pounds, and comes from Brooklyn, N. Y.



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of than are the institutions such as ours. We therefore wish to remember the Old People's home with our small sum. We have enjoyed accumulating this money and hope it, added to your other yearly contributions, may help to bring cheer and happiness to your home on Christmas day."

The evening failed to disclose the adequate solution for this problem. However, on the morning, Mrs. Barber awoke with a radiant face. With the crispness of the air and the invigoration which had come through sound, restful sleep, the perplexities vanished, and Mrs. Barber saw her way clearly defined before her. Her feet and hands couldn't work fast enough to comply with the wishes of her brain. Time was limited. Plans must be drawn up quickly and executed immediately.

The first day saw the telephone as a center of interest. It was constantly in use either for outgoing or incoming calls. If Mrs. Barber had realized how many phone operators she would certainly have made her spread her phone calls over two days. She was so enthusiastic and absorbed in her plans that she was not aware of her excessive tax upon these girls. The last phone call brought smiles and added energy to Mrs. Barber as she hurried off into the heart of the great smoky city. She spent perhaps an hour behind closed doors in conference with the matron in charge of the large settlement house. At the end of that time she emerged with a piece of paper bearing the names of some fifteen young boys and girls. Glancing down the list she swallowed forcefully, uttered a peculiar sound and shook her head as she said: "Can't exactly say I am very apt at pronouncing these long foreign names."

The settlement house matron put her hand on Mrs. Barber's shoulder in an affectionate manner.

"Don't worry. They understand and are used to it. They will help you and you will soon learn their Americanized versions."

The next two days were spent in the city library. From the stacks of books which Mrs. Barber went through in her two days there, but one did she select to take away with her.

For some few days after this Mrs. Barber occupied her time with the white paper with the list of unpronounceable names, the book, and last but not least, fifteen vivacious young persons, grimy and a little crude, but low sweet, earnest, happy and eager they were. The training had to be patiently undertaken. The response was altogether what might have been

Emma Is a Champion Milker



Here's Miss Emma Handy, eighteen years old, of Marysville, Calif., who extracted 11,068 pounds of milk from a Jersey cow in three minutes, making a record never before equaled by a milkman or woman. Miss Handy won the title of champion dairy maid of the West at the Pacific Slope Dairy show held at Oakland, Calif.

Gold Bootlegger Is Captured

Toronto, Ont.—Bootlegging in gold is the newest crime operated on an extensive scale in the northern Ontario mining camps.

The other day a suspected couple were observed to leave the gold town of Timmins hurriedly in a motor car. They were captured, the car and their belongings searched, but nothing incriminating found. But the woman's secret, like the secret of the Black Cat in Poe's story, was too ingenious to keep. She said they were carrying "high grade." "But where?" asked the police.

She wore a specially constructed canvas brassiere in which was secreted between \$9,000 and \$10,000 worth of gold. The husband assumed all responsibility and the woman was not charged.

This capture led to the arrest of an operator who had \$29,000 in gold secreted in his premises and is credited with disposing of \$128,000 worth in the last few months. He pleaded guilty and was given the option of a \$1,500 fine.

Leads to Wide Drive.

The incident with its evidence of wide ramifications in the traffic has led to a drive against suspects on the part of the police. A dozen cases are awaiting trial.

The gold is stolen by employees of the mines. No others have access to them for all the works are surrounded by wired barricades, the only indication of possible romance in this prosaic-looking treasure house.

In some of the richer stopes gold is sometimes blasted out in flakes as large as a pigeon's egg—\$40 or \$50 in a single lump. One thief, in such a stop, can make away with the native metal at an amazing rate.

The thief requires an accomplice on the outside to get his stuff to market. The accomplice generally assumes the role of a hard-boiled farmer who has ample opportunity to hide the loot. A second accomplice is necessary to carry the hoardings hundreds of miles away where a market for such unusual merchandise can be found. This whole criminal business is dif-

Earth's Crust Settling

Sir Oliver Lodge Says

London.—The earth's crust is settling, declares Sir Oliver Lodge, explaining the abundance of earthquakes, tidal waves, typhoons and hurricanes, rainstorms and floods.

"There is nothing abnormal in the operation," he says, "but improved methods of communication broadcast the news of earthquakes and typhoons all over the world in a few seconds. A century ago typhoons and earthquakes, such as have happened in Japan, Mexico and the Black sea, would have been unheard of for many months.

"The crust of the earth is continually settling down. If a crack appears in the fabric of a house the house does not necessarily collapse at that spot, though another part of the building may fall because of the crack. Similarly a crack in the earth in the Pacific may cause another crack in a different part of the world."

WOMAN PREACHER WINS WAY IN WEST

Spokane, Wash.—Across a pastorate that stretches 35 miles through the Colville valley of Washington, Rev. Gertrude L. Apel drives her car throughout the week ministering to the spiritual needs of 150 members of two Methodist Episcopal congregations. Each Sunday she preaches three sermons, one at Valley and two at Chehalah.

In this little empire there is only one other resident Protestant minister to assist her in burying the dead, baptizing the babies and marrying the young couples.

During ten years of her ministry Miss Apel has held three pastorates. The first was in Montana and the other two in Washington. All of them were frontier communities. She attends to all the usual duties of a pastor and also takes part in the civic affairs of the community.

To her ability to meet people on a common ground Miss Apel attributes much of the success of her pastoral work. "She believes that success of the church's mission is dependent upon making Christianity practical.

"People recognize their need of the church when we make Jesus Christ real to them and help solve the problems of their everyday lives," she declares.

"I do not believe the young people of our times are different from those of other generations. In some cases, it is true, they have come into contact with materialistic theories in their school work and the church has offered them nothing that they felt met the situation. We must approach the people of today, young people as well as their elders, on a ground of common understanding, if we would hold their interest and loyalty."

Beginning her preparation for the

ministry before the canons of her denomination provided for admission of women into its pulpits, Miss Apel was one of the first of her sex to be ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church.

She says she has found few obstacles to her service because of her sex.

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Biggest Library

New Haven, Conn.—A permit for the new Yale Sterling Memorial library, to be the largest library in the world, was issued at the office of Building Inspector Austin. The cost is estimated at \$5,800,000.

father Sage says:

Wise is the man who does his own dirt free will that which he would otherwise shortly be compelled to do.

Can They Count on You?

By E. R. ROBINSON
In Farm and Ranch

Can they count on you to always do the thing that you know is right? Or do they think you're sure to shrirk when the cause demands a fight? Do they say of you "He is true blue" in the work committed to you? Who will stick to your work and never think 'Till you carry your contract through? Or do they say "He'll run away in the time of stress need; His dearest treasure is his selfish pleasures His idol is lust or greed?" Do they also say "He loves to play When the game goes his own way, But he gets lame when he loses the game, And is ready to charge foul play?" Do your friends all feel you'll stand like steel When the great test comes? That you'll face the strife, and give your life For the cause you know is true? Or do they fear when that test draws near Shall try your utmost heart, You'll sell the Christ for a paltry price, And play the traitor's part? We are needing men who can clearly km The things that are most worth while; Who can look ahead and forget the dead, And at misfortune smile. For the thoughtful man who can work and plan When the untrained lose their head; With the skillful hand at his command, Who can honestly earn his bread. They look long in the common throng For the man of faith and love, Who can think and feel for his brother's weal, And plan for the life above. With a tender heart to take the part Of the wretch cast down in sin; Whose help is sure for the weak and poor, Who keeps the Christ within.

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There Were Willing Hands Which Helped Trim the Tree.

about the approval with which the entertainment was received. The young people were worth of all the praise which they received. The coaching had been successful. The day had been delightful and was a topic of conversation for a long time. Mrs. Barber was even happier over the occasion than the old folks. If such a thing could be possible. She realized that this vision, her scheme, had been practical. The fifty dollars had given pleasure to not only the old people but it gave these young foregn Settlement-house children a chance to share in the joys of Christ- mas, the joy of giving of their own talents, reaping the consequential rewards of pleasure, praise and remuneration, the joy of finding the true Christmas spirit in giving freely of themselves, as well as having had a sumptuous Christmas dinner which otherwise might have been merely a thing of their dreams.

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