

SUNLIGHT SOAP

THINGS THEATRICAL

NOTES ON PLAYS, PLAYERS AND PLAYHOUSES.

"The Servant in the House" a Success in Saxony—Theatrical Chronology for April.

That James Forbes' newest comedy, "The Commissary," will become a fixture at the Park Theatre, in Boston, for many months to come, is assured from the reception given it by the critics and the public.

Henry R. Harris has arranged with Harper Brothers for the dramatic rights of "The Wild Olive," a popular novel, by the author of "The Inner Shrine." The dramatization is being made by Elmer B. Harris, and a production will be made of it early in the coming season.

F. C. Whitney, the American theatrical manager, states that he will open a theatre in London this spring, presenting a light opera called "Baron Trencz." Mr. Whitney has engaged Fritz von Struempel of the Royal Theatrical at Leipzig for the New York production of the same opera next fall. Herr von Struempel created the titular role abroad.

Mme. Maurice Maeterlinck is known on the stage as Mlle. Georgette Leblanc, is considering establishing a theatre of her own in Paris. The interesting part of this news is that Maeterlinck himself will be expected to contribute a number of new plays. Quite naturally many of the Maeterlinck works which have already been staged will be revived.

Anton Lang, the Christus of the Oberammergau Passion, who intended to realize a long cherished dream of visiting the Holy Land this spring, has been compelled to abandon the project. Influential persons have told Lang that his pilgrimage would be in bad taste, particularly as he was to be the guest of an American touring syndicate.

Charles Rann Kennedy's "The Servant in the House," has been produced with instantaneous success at the Court Theatre of the Duchy Saxe-Neinburg. The Duke of Saxe-Neinburg takes personal interest in all the plays presented at this theatre, and by many is considered one of the most talented drama managers in Europe. The Kennedy drama was personally read and approved by him before its production. Its success assures its performance in Berlin.

Maurice Maeterlinck's fairy play, "The Blue Bird," has at last been presented on the French stage with Mme. Maeterlinck, known professionally as Mlle. Georgette Leblanc, in the role of Light. The play made an unqualified hit, being unanimously praised by the critics for the beauty of its verse as well as for its symbolism. It now seems that the play, the production of which was so long delayed in France, will prove fully as successful as it has in Russia and America.

April Theatrical Chronology.

2. "The Haunted Tower" produced Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, 1795.

3. "The Guardsman" seen for the first time in America, Lyceum Theatre, New York, 1893.

4. "Janet Pride" seen for the first time in New York, at Burton's Chamber Street Theatre, 1855.

5. "The Carpenter of Rouen" produced at the Chatham Theatre, New York, 1852.

6. "Man and Wife" seen at Wallack's Theatre, New York, 1854.

7. P. T. Barnum died, 1891.

9. "Brighton," produced with Sir Charles Wyndham, at the Union Square Theatre, New York, 1883.

11. Howard Payne, dramatic author, died, 1852.

12. Burlesque on "Ivanhoe" seen at Kelly & Leon's Theatre, New York, 1869.

13. Barton Hill's first appearance in New York, at Tripler Hall, 1859.

14. Thomas Otway, dramatic author, died, 1685.

15. The Vokes Family made their American debut at the Union Square Theatre, New York, 1872.

16. Tommaso Calvini and Clara Morris played together in "The Outlaw," at Booth's Theatre, New York, 1883.

17. "Husbands and Wives" given first time in America, at the Park Theatre, New York, 1818.

18. Mrs. Thomas Thorne died, 1884.

19. "The Love Knot" seen for the first time in America at Wallack's Lyceum, New York, 1858.

20. "The Mountaineers" produced at

the Federal Street Playhouse, Boston, 1795.

21. "A Child of the State" produced at Wallack's Theatre, New York, 1880.

22. "The Sea of Ice" seen at the Chatham Theatre, New York, 1854.

23. Madison Square Theatre, New York, opened in 1879.

24. "The Road to Rain," with H. J. Montague, seen at Wallack's Theatre, New York, 1875.

25. The opera, "Semiramide," first heard in America, Park Theatre, New York, 1826.

Seeds Orange Forty Years Ago.

Harpers Weekly.

It is a little more than forty years since the seedless orange was first heard of. The late William Saunders, of the United States department of agriculture, brought it from Brazil in 1870. From Washington it was distributed to the orange sections of the United States. At first it was known as the Bahia orange, but the Brazilian name is now forgotten, and its marvellous headway in California has been made under the name of "navel." Normally the orange has ten divisions or apartments of the pulp, with a single axis. But generations of cultivation have increased those divisions, and in some cases created a secondary axis. It is from that tendency to a secondary axis that the modern seedless orange has been bred. With all its size and seedlessness, the California orange has never made serious inroads on the cultivation of the smaller, thin-skinned types of oranges elsewhere. "Florida orange" still means what it did years ago—a smooth, golden orange with normal seeds. In the Bahamas they will tell you that they like their prevailing small, sweet and very juicy orange better than the big "navel."

Squirrels Menace to Health.

National Magazine.

A war on the squirrel? It seems impossible that it should be necessary to take measures to exterminate the little animal.

But report says that the ground squirrel in California is destroying every year over \$10,000,000 worth of fruits, nuts and cereals, and worse still is a menace to public health. The ground squirrel, it seems, has become infected with the dangerous botomie plague through the rats of San Francisco. Nearly 400 infected squirrels have been captured east and south of the city, and eight fatal cases of the new note. Plain blue satin, matching the blue stripe in the foulard, is used for piping and facings and the buttons are of blue satin with rims of the striped material.



MANY OF THE NEW FOULARDS HAVE SAILOR COLLARS.

The sailor collar is the dominant feature of summer dress. It appears on coats, shirtwaists and even on frocks. This little blue and white striped foulard frock has, besides the square sailor collar over the shoulders, many new features. The bodice and tunic appearing to button over a vest and panel in front, are one feature, the shortened waistline is another; and the pleated flounce falling below the tunic is still another new note. Plain blue satin, matching the blue stripe in the foulard, is used for piping and facings and the buttons are of blue satin with rims of the striped material.

NEW RUBBER PROCESS.

An Interesting Advance in Chemical Science.

No one material has ever made such great strides in a commercial way as the humble and commonplace rubber. Within the last ten years the amount of rubber put annually upon the market has increased tenfold and yet the demand is more than ever below the requirements put upon it.

Rubber is a product which nowadays enters into thousands of manufactured processes and its future seems to be one of a certainly ever-growing usefulness.

Because of this chemists all over the world have sought long and earnestly for some process whereby rubber could be produced artificially, so that mankind could put up rubber factories and make the needed supply by simply putting the chemicals that go to form rubber into big vats and thereby secure the valuable substance. All such plants have absolutely failed so far.

To save chemists know what ingredients go to make up rubber just as they know what elements compose man-kind; but it has never been possible to secure rubber by mixing the things that compose it any more than a man can be made by mixing the chemicals that make up a human body. It is this inability to manufacture rubber artificially that lends a great importance to a new process of securing natural rubber that has been investigated by the authorities of the island of Borneo.

According to Prof. John Dybowsky the common jute plant which, to-day, is made up into many woven articles, is capable of giving up a juice that can be worked up into a rubber as good as the raw material that comes from the celebrated Congo district. If this is true, and the authority is one that commands the highest consideration from a scientific viewpoint, the Philippine Islands contain a tremendous source of future wealth and rubber can be plentifully supplied for all possible requirements in manufac-turing.

According to Professor Dybowsky the plant can be made to furnish a liquid that after being treated by a

simple chemical process will give twenty per cent, pure gum that closely resembles the best Congo rubber. From this gum rubber is said to be easily prepared. One factory in Borneo was reported by the chemist as having turned out by the new method 68,000 pounds of rubber made from the pine plant.

The United States has so far been unable to produce rubber in any of its dependent territories that lie in tropical climates. This, however, will soon cease to be the case if the Borneo method is what it seems to be. Rubber factories surpassing in richness any now existing in the world will, in the near future, dot the Philippine Islands; for nowhere on earth is there so plentiful a supply of the wonderful jute-producing weeds.

The chemical treatment reported by Professor Dybowsky as needed to get rubber from the jute plant is decidedly technical in sound, but according to that chemist it is neither difficult to operate nor expensive as a practical process of manufacturing. There can be little doubt but that American manufacturers will carefully investigate the possibilities of what Professor Dybowsky has outlined as an interesting advance in chemical science.

All She Had.

They were quite content with themselves, the six young women who boarded a northbound Broadway car, and they dull enough very little concern for the dull routine and commonplace details of life. It was the announced intention of all to transfer to the Thirty-fourth street cross-town line, to back to this end the girl in the red hat asked for and received six transfers. But the other five changed their minds before they reached the transfer point, declaring themselves in favor of a shopping foray, so only the girl with the red hat held to the original plan, and boarded the Thirty-fourth street car. When the conductor came for her fare she handed him the whole bunch of transfers—the original six. The conductor looked at her, on each side of her, and around her. Apparently she was alone. Also she was oblivious. Then he said: "Where are the others?" The girl with the red hat looked up, startled and confused for the instant. Then she replied, with cold dignity: "That, sir, is all the conductor gave me."—Lippincott's.

Book Worth \$10,000.

At the annual general meeting of the Bedford General Library, the Rev. C. F. Farrar announced that a mortgage on the library buildings having been called in, it would be necessary to find a considerable sum by July 1st next. The council had under serious consideration the selling of their most valuable book, Fox's "Book of Martyrs," the value of which, estimated by Messrs. Sotheby, was probably £800, and possibly a good deal over that sum.

Mr. Farrar stated that the book, which formerly belonged to John Bunyan, was worth more than the entire library buildings and every book they contained.

Some years ago the Bedford Library sold for several thousand pounds Caxton's "Leisure Royal." Some opposition to the selling of Bunyan's book is expected.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Mr. Sifton Offered Nothing New.

Hamilton Herald.

We don't believe that Mr. Sifton's speech would convert any intelligent man who had already thought about the reciprocity question for himself and had reached a different conclusion from that which has been reached by that honorable gentleman.

Mr. Sifton's main points against reciprocity as made in his address last evening are these: It is wisest to let well enough alone; experimenting with reciprocity is dangerous; Canada and the United States produce and export the safe kinds of natural products, reciprocity would endanger Canada's commercial independence.

All of these objections have been dealt with over and over again. Mr. Sifton put them forcibly, but there's nothing new in any of them.

No man becomes a jailbird just for a lark.

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