AMERICAN PLAYS CHEERING LONDON

Theatrical Editor Says They Are Seriously Competing with English.

MELODRAMAS AND FARCES POPULAR

War Has Made Simple Plays Most Effective—"Potash and Perlmutter" Praised.

[From a Special Correspondent of The Tribune.]

London, Nov. 17.—After a careful study of the American plays offered this season in London, Henry Belcham, editor of "The Era," the leading theatrical paper of England, has expressed some gratifying opinions in regard to the situation. In an interview with a Tribune correspondent Mr. Belcham said:

"The writers on things dramatic used to call the annual crop of plays from the other side 'the American invasion,' or a phrase of an equally frigid significance. We have learned better since, and now gladly acknowledge that the stage of the States and the United Kingdom are simply interchanging their attractions, and that the process is good for both.

"'Romance' comes to London and 'Quinney's' goes to New York. Surely the theatrical entente between the two great English speaking nations could be more happily consummated. We are not perturbed at the real success of those American pieces which we have welcomed and which are drawing Londoners in crowds to our leading theatres. But we may pertinently seek out the reason of their success.

"An American writer says that Europe is satisfied with pretty much the standard type of play. Within that type, however, the American playwrights put forward a great body of stimulating thought.

"There was stimulating thought in 'The Lion and the Mouse,' by Charles Klein, which made the London critics hail it with some approach to rapture. It was produced at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1906. That was the beginning of the influx, which has increased steadily since then.

"The 'highbrows' just now are at a discount. Plays must be on the simplest lines. That is the reason for the attractiveness of the American output. Londoners prefer sheer relaxation, and they find it in 'Peg o' My Heart,' an excellent specimen of the 'star' play, in which a child of nature brings about a juxtaposition of the sympathetic and the austere.

"Before the war we were welcoming new thought in the theatre and looking for a new vision in everything. Now we are satisfied with the play of ingenuousness as long as it possesses vivacity and color and is distinguished by the heartening faculty.

"We have learned, moreover, to look to the American playwrights for fun at high pressure in their exhilarating farces and for genuine thrills in their melodrama. These traits are to be found in plenty in the attractions from the other side.

"We find these qualities admirably and agreeably suffusing every scene in 'Potash and Perlmutter.' The farce element is never really obtrusive, and there is a wonderful piece of character drawing—that kindly, lovable soul of Abe Potash.

"As for Edward Sheldon's 'Romance,' while it may be a case of the player making the play, it completely holds in thrall large audiences at the Duke of York's. Since those days in the '80's when Augustin Daly introduced Ada Rehan to London to play in comedy, we have had no greater personality from the other side than Doris Keane. She realizes to the full the southern temperament of Cavallini. She makes us feel the singer's soul-torture is her own.

"One cannot resist the melody and charm of 'The Only Girl,' the best American comedy with music that has reached London since 'The Belle of New York.' It is pleasant throughout. The lines are smart and the comedy is exhilarating.

"Then, there are the more solid, melodramatic thrills of 'Kick In' and the lighter joys of 'Stop, Thief!' and the frivolous irresponsibilities of New York revues to be found at our chief variety theatres. All indicate the ingenuity and advance of the American playwright, who, to use a cant Yankee phrase, is delivering the goods and seriously competing with our own stage authors in the English play market. But the competition is good; the increase of dramatist signifies greater variety of play, greater opportunity for the player and ampler means to serve the stage."

WILLIAM D. BENISCH.
Leader of the police band.

POLICE TO GIVE CONCERT

Band to Be Led by Patrolman Benisch, Ex-Metropolitan Cornetist.

Patrolman William D. Benisch, leader of the police band, will play the solos that won commendation for him when cornet-soloist of the Metropolitan Opera House, at the annual concert and reception in Sulzer's Harlem River Casino December 8. The leader's offering and other features of the programme will be repeated on December 9 at Prospect Hall, Brooklyn.

Details of the two-day affair have been arranged by President Floyd Pitts, a sergeant assigned to the Detective Bureau, and Secretary William Mahoney, a patrolman assigned to West 123d Street station.

Benisch, who is attached to Traffic C since his appointment as a patrolman, has added to the efficiency of the band. When he became leader he rapidly developed many musical stars. He led the band at the inauguration of Governor Whitman, with whom the band had always been a favorite.

In the last ten years the police band has offered its services to many charitable affairs. Many times it has been asked to go out of town. The band's service is gratis, and often the members have played in the afternoon and evening after finishing an eight-hour tour of duty. Often the band has paid its own expenses to reach balls where charitable affairs are being held, and it also pays to keep the instruments in repair. To meet these expenses the annual concert and reception is given.

THE WEATHER REPORT

Forecasts and Records for the Last Twenty-four Hours.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The disturbance central Friday in the upper lake region has passed to the northeastward beyond the field of observation. It has been attended by light rains throughout the lake region and the Middle Atlantic States. An area of high pressure of considerable magnitude is advancing eastward over the northern States and Rocky Mountain region. In general the weather has been fair, with moderate temperatures. The pressure distribution indicates fair to partly cloudy weather, with small temperature changes, east of the Mississippi Sunday and Monday except in New England, where light rain is probable Sunday.

Winds for Sunday and Monday—North Atlantic and Middle Atlantic, moderate east; South Atlantic, light to moderate northeast; East Gulf, light and variable; West Gulf, moderate southeast; upper lakes, light to moderate west; lower lakes, fresh east.

Forecast for Special Localities.—Eastern New York, southern New England, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Eastern and Western Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and upper Michigan, fair to-day and to-morrow; Northern New England, light rain to-day; to-morrow, fair and cool; Western New York, fair to-day; to-morrow, partly cloudy.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows the changes in the temperature for the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

	1914.	1915.		1914.	1915.
8 a. m.	50	45	6 p. m.	45	47
9 a. m.	49	45	9 p. m.	45	50
10 a. m.	50	45	12 m.	45	
11 a. m.	50	45	12 p. m.	45	
12 m.	50	45			
4 p. m.	52	50			

Highest temperature yesterday, 51 degrees (at 4 p. m.); lowest, 43 degrees (at 4 a. m.); average yesterday, 47 degrees; average for corresponding date last year, 49 degrees; average for corresponding date last seven days, 46 degrees.

Barometer Readings.

8 a. m.	30.01	8 p. m.	29.99
12 m.	30.00		

Humidity.

8 a. m.	45	8 p. m.	45

Local Forecast.—Fair to-day and to-morrow; moderate west winds.

CANCER SURGERY CALLED USELESS

Nine Cured by Nature, Says Dr. Robert Bell, of London.

DIET REGULATION A VITAL FACTOR

Specialist Asserts He Has Never Known of a Successful Operation in a Malignant Case.

[From a Special Correspondent of The Tribune.]

London, Nov. 16.—"Operation in cases of malignant cancer has now been found to be useless," is the statement made to The Tribune by Dr. Robert Bell, the famous cancer specialist. But, according to this authority, the great scourge is capable of eradication by purely normal treatment.

"We can demonstrate," said the doctor, "and place beyond doubt that the healing power of nature, if sufficiently assisted by regulating the diet and regimen of patients, together with the administration of therapeutic agents, has proved in many instances quite competent not only to overcome the disease but to bring about complete recovery.

"Three years ago the Battersea Hospital, London, organized a cancer department for the study of cancer, and I have been in charge throughout. Experiments upon animals having failed, we thought that, by studying the disease in the human subject, as opposed to vivisection experiments upon animals, more satisfactory results might be obtained.

"When it is borne in mind that cancer in man differs so very materially in many of its aspects from that in animals it must appeal to every unbiassed individual that the only method of obtaining reliable information on the subject is by closely observing the circumstances which lead up to its development and which promote its growth, and which we always find accompany its incidence.

Operation "Means Big Fee."

"We have worked throughout on these methods. Operations we would have nothing to do with. I think every cancer specialist of any note will agree with me in this. I have been engaged in cancer cases since 1895, and for seventeen years was accustomed to operate. I can truthfully say that in not one single cases of malignant cancer was a cure effected by the knife. Eminent doctors, including the late Sir James Paget, have agreed with me on this point. Doctors continue to operate, partly because patients wish it, partly because it means a big fee.

"But in every case of operation the patient not only runs a great risk, but in at least 90 per cent of cases has no chance whatever of cure. The only case where operation can be of the slightest avail is where the cancer is undoubtedly of the non-malignant order—and then there is less reason for operation than ever.

"The importance of a cure for cancer apart from operation can be judged from the fact that the mortality in these cases has increased 200 per cent in the last fifty years, and that as things now are 25,000,000 of the population of the earth are destined to die of this disease unless we find a means of avoiding it. I think at Battersea we have found the means.

"The war has caused us to close down our cancer wards during the last year, but despite this, by merely assisting nature's efforts, I have been able to give a clean bill of health to nine people. The names and addresses of eight of them are:

"Mrs. Taylerson, 28 Kerry Road, London, S. E., cancer of the breast; Mrs. Anderson, Park Lane, Ware, Herts, cancer of the womb; Mrs. Rubery, 250 Queens Road, London, N. E., cancer of the womb; Frank Childers, 11 St. Luke's Road, London, S. W., cancer of the stomach; Annie Sterling, 56 Carlyle Road, S. E., cancer of the womb; Rose Taylor, 18 Sherborne Street, London, N., cancer of the breast; Horace Ledger, 78 Pelton Road, Greenwich, cancer of the stomach; A. H. Cook, 12 Ashmere Grove, Brixton, recurrent sarcoma in glands.

"All these cases are absolutely cured. In numbers of other cases, where absolute cures have not been recorded, it has invariably been our privilege to afford considerable relief to the suffering which always characterizes this disease.

"Our method of cure is founded on the fact, discovered by actual observation, that cancer in its varied forms possesses one invariable characteristic, which is that it is a fungoid growth of a malignant type.

"The polarity of its cells is opposed to that of the healthy cells of the body. Its method of obtaining nourishment is that of a fungus. The nature of the soil upon which it is planted, namely, devitalized organic matter, is that of a fungus, and this soil yields to a fungus the nourishment which accounts for its marvellous rapidity of growth.

Ripens Like Other Fungi.

"But by far the most conclusive evidence which I bring forward is the fact that it ripens like any other fungus and produces spores as other fungi do. I have taken micro-photographs of these spores, which are so very minute in size that they are discernible as separate entities only under a microscope giving a magnification of 1,000 diameters.

"Now, it is a well known fact that a fungus is able to take root and develop only on decaying, dead or devitalized material. Does it not follow, then, that if the soil upon which the fungus has hitherto received its nourishment is revitalized by judicious treatment the lower form of life will be starved out of existence and gradually succumb to the improvement in its environment?

"Beyond doubt this is the means which proves effectual when cancer is subdued and overcome by dietetic, hygienic and therapeutic measures as used by us. And, if we can cure cancer by these methods, it follows all the more that mankind can avoid and eradicate the disease by preventive measures—reformed diet, attention to hygienic laws, especially those bearing upon a sanitary condition of the colon, which would make it impossible for that soil to exist in the body without which the cancer neoplasm could never obtain a footing.

"To prevent cancer the blood must be kept absolutely healthy. In my opinion, this can only be done so long as it is supplied by products derived from materials which have not been deprived by heat or other means of their vital principles. This is nature's law, and man is the only animal on the face of the earth who contravenes this law by destroying his food value by cooking. I maintain that for a perfect diet we must eat far less meat and that a large proportion of our food should be consumed exactly in the condition which nature has provided it.

"Departure from nature's precepts in regard to diet invariably leads to constipation. An undue retention of obnoxious and toxic decomposing material is caused within the colon and is absorbed into the blood, and predisposes to cancer.

"We can eradicate cancer, but it will only be by obeying nature's laws."

LOST GIRL PICKED UP HERE

Miss Ramsey, of Harrisburg, Says She Fled Mother's Scoldings.

Paul Loser, a teacher in the Bayshore (Long Island) High School, was walking along Broadway at Forty-third Street yesterday afternoon, when he stepped up to a well dressed, attractive young woman and said:

"Aren't you Frances Ramsey?"

"No," she replied.

"Don't you come from Harrisburg?"

She shook her head.

Confident he had recognized the girl for whom the Harrisburg police issued a general alarm a few days ago, Loser took her to the West Forty-seventh Street station. She told the lieutenant she was Ruth Nyman, twenty-one years old, an artists' model, living at 206 West 106th Street.

Not until a detailed description of her sent out by the Harrisburg police was furnished by Detective Fitzgerald did she admit she was Frances Ramsey, the girl who disappeared from the Pennsylvania city on November 17. She revised her statement to say that she was twenty years old, a bookkeeper. Miss Ramsey said she was so nervous she could not stand reprimands from her mother. She was taken to the women's night court to await instructions from Harrisburg.

SLIDES TO HURT CANAL FOR YEARS

Professor Miller Tells of Great Lateral Movement of Earth at Panama.

MAY EXPECT TROUBLE IN RAINY SEASONS

Return of Steam Shovels to Aid Dredges Urged by Lehigh University Expert.

Uninterrupted service through the Panama Canal must not be expected for several years, according to a statement issued last night by Professor Benjamin Le Roy Miller, who occupies the chair of geology in Lehigh University. Professor Miller returned Wednesday from a tour of several months in South and Central America, where he investigated mining conditions. On his way back he made an examination of the slides at Gaillard and Culebra cuts.

At the Hotel Breslin last night he said:

"When the Panama Canal was opened to traffic the public generally and steamship companies seemed to feel that the canal was completed, and if ever closed on account of slides the closing would be of very short duration.

"When the slides started a few weeks ago optimistic views were expressed. One authoritative report, originating in the Canal Zone, stated that the canal would be clear in two weeks. Instead of that, however, the slides became much worse, and on the date set people were walking across the canal from one slide to the other, dry shod.

"One who has not been in the region can scarcely appreciate the extent to which the slides extend. In the Culebra Cut cracks have formed over 1,300 feet back from the canal and all the ground intervening is gradually moving toward the cut. Macadamized roads, constructed where the earth was supposed to be stable, have been destroyed by the movement and scores of houses have had to be moved to save them. The ground has cracked under the old Administration Building, and as it is in line with a great cliff formed by an enormous block of earth breaking off, there is no doubt but that this building must be removed before very long to save it.

"Persons are apt to consider slides as due to the steep slopes of the canal banks and conclude that they can be checked by decreasing the slopes. However, the earth from the higher points does not go into the canal directly. Instead, when the loose material is filled with water, as it is during the rainy season, great blocks from the higher lying regions adjacent to the canal settle downward almost vertically, and force the underlying material into the cut by a lateral pressure.

"The amount of material that lies now broken loose and is moving toward the cut is immense, and there is no doubt that much rock now apparently stable will also move as its support is withdrawn by the removal of the loose earth and rock. Before the canal can be said to be completed and permanently opened to traffic the amount of material that must be taken out does not fall far short of the amount already taken from the Culebra Cut.

"Transportation companies planning to use the canal should realize that they must not expect uninterrupted service for several years. During the dry season the canal may be opened, but it is certain to be closed during the rainy reason, when the earth is soaked with water and it movement toward the canal facilitated.

"When the canal was opened the steam shovels were disposed of to various companies, and many can now be found in mining camps in several parts of South America. Dredges operating in the canal were substituted for the shovels and these are now at work on both sides of the slides. Some days they can keep pace with the incoming material, but on other days they lose.

"In view of the extent of the material that has now started toward the cut, it seems as though steam shovels should again be employed to more quickly remove the earth that in time will enter the cut. Practically all, if not all, of Gold Hill, and much of Zion Hill, must be removed, and to wait until the earth breaks loose and enters the cut, where the dredges can attack it, seems to be unwise and unquestionably longer delays the completion of the project."

Professor Miller was accompanied on his trip by Dr. Joseph T. Singewald, of Johns Hopkins University.

NEW STEAMER TO BERMUDA

Evangeline, Chartered for Service, Makes First Trip December 24.

To handle the increasing tourist traffic to Bermuda, the Quebec Steamship Company has chartered the Evangeline for the winter service. The vessel will leave on her first trip midnight, Friday, December 24, and will return Sunday, January 2, to give those who can spare only Christmas week from school or business, an opportunity to complete the trip in seven days.

The Evangeline will alternate sailings with the company's swift steamship Bermudian, which holds the record of thirty-nine hours and twenty minutes for the route, made when President Wilson visited the resort. The Evangeline was built in 1912 by Harlan & Wolff, and is equipped with every modern convenience and safety device. The hull is divided into water tight compartments and her engines develop a speed of eighteen knots.

Wealthy Widow Hangs Herself.

Suffering for years from melancholia, Mrs. Flora J. Wheeler, a wealthy widow, sixty-two years old, committed suicide yesterday, in the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Cleveland, with whom she lived, at Westerleigh, Staten Island. Mrs. Wheeler took a window curtain cord and hanged herself from the upper jamb of the door leading to her bedroom.

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