

SCENES OF LIFE

THE PANORAMA of life becomes exceedingly interesting where the human tide moves most swiftly and is most congested. The ideal place for a review is a great central railway station, particularly in one of our eastern metropolitan cities.

It is fascinating to watch the station crowd from a place of vantage, preferably from a nook where you are un-observed. Find an advantageous view-point, for example in the Grand Central station in New York, and lo, the world unfolds itself in kaleidoscopic vividness before your eyes.

To the accompaniment of the constant train-calls from the doorman, which by the way sounds like the litany in a Russian church and almost as intelligible, you see the apparently aimless hustling; people moving and crowding for the sheer fun of it, the strong pushing the weak aside with stoical indifference to every known code of courtesy.

Some immigrants attract the attention. They move slowly, the women with heavy bundles on their heads. Two men in clerical garbs are eyeing one another. It is easy to see by the mutual aloofness in their manners that they belong to different denominations.

A party of Italian merchants are gesticulating and speech-making in a minor key. A bridal couple rushes in, pursued by a mob of rice-throwing wedding guests. A child, lost in the crowd, is taking vocal exercise while the doorman raises his voice a trifle and in a slight falsetto continues his chant.

On the scene comes half a dozen stately nuns, marching two by two. They move with measured pace in the direction of the elevator that is unloading passengers for up-state and "all points West." A man with an odd looking bundle under his arm is dodging the station police while trying to reach a subway exit. The metropolitan flapper sans all raiment, even remotely termed modest, engages considerable attention with her quiverations and wiggily walk.

And on and on moves the crowd with constant changes and repetitions of the scenes.



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H. J. LANGOE, Editor

Associate Editors:

Charles M. Herlihy, State Supervisor Adult Alien Education, Massachusetts
(President Department Adult Education, National Education Ass'n. U. S.)

William Chandler Smith, Chief State Bureau Immigrant Education, New York
(Chairman Editorial Board "Interstate Bulletin")

Robert G. Deming, State Director of Americanization, State of Connecticut
R. E. Dugdale, Director Extension Dept., Board of Education, Toledo, Ohio
Geo. A. Green, Director Citizens' Bureau, Immigrant Aid, Cleveland, Ohio
A. C. Strange, Superintendent of Public Education, City of Astoria, Oregon

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Offices and Publishing House

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