MADGE KENNEDY IS STARRED IN PLAY AT GOTHAM THEATER

Popular Queen of Motion Pictures Makes Big Hit in Melodrama Which Critics Say Resembles High-Class Scenario.

Ada May Weeks, And Frank Fay In "Jim Jam Jems."

Madge Kennedy In "Cornered."

Grace Valentine

BY ELIZABETH LONERGAN.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—(Special.)—One new play during the last week. Madge Kennedy came to town in "Cornered," by Dodson Mitchell, and proved that she has lost none of her power as an actress by appearing so long in the pictures. One critic said the play resembled a high-class scenario in its treatment, as if to imply that there was still a connection between the fair Madge and the movies.

The story tells of a shopgirl who ultps her place because of the familiarity of the floor-walker, and goes back to her friends of the underworld to "pull just one more trick" before going straight for all times. She resembles a well-known society debutante and passes herself off as the young woman for a short time. In the last act it develops (a la movies!) that the two girls are twin sisters.

Much of Interest Happens.

But there is much of interest that occurs in the meantime and plenty of thrills. It is a good melodrama and shows Miss Kennedy's versatility, because she devoted her efforts mainly to comedy in the past.

Zelda Sears, one of the best known character women in the business, makes her debut as director with this production. The second night she stepped into the leading comedy role, replacing Netta Bourne, who was taken suddenly ill. Needless to say she covered herself all over with glory!

Miss Sears is author of Mitzi's new piece, "Lady Billy," which will come into the Liberty next week. Mr. Savage, who has both productions, announces that there will be no chorus in "Lady Billy." His octette of good looking young women who assist the principals are all solo singers and understudy the principal roles. Last year in "See Saw" he experimented with this plan, giving each girl a chance to understudy at some time in the season and promising the best one a good fat part in a road show. The plan worked splendidly and there was great interest shown on the part of his "solo chorus."

Little Understudy Makes Hit.

The other night at a performance of "When We Are Young," Alma Tell, one of the three stars in the show, was absent from the cast and her understudy, a little Miss Lenihan, stepped into the part at very short notice. The house manager made the announcement and commended the understudy to the audience, but there was not much need to do so because she made a decided hit in the part. It is so seldom that the understudy has a chance to play a really big role and this was one of the exceptional times. Miss Lenihan certainly will be heard from again.

"When We Are Young" is another tale of boarding house life, with Grace Reals as the kindly mistress of the house, George Marion as the butler and Henry Hull as the hero. It is an enjoyable little comedy but strangely suggestive of "39 East," which was produced last season by the Shuberts (who are presenting this show), at the same house with Henry Hull and Constance Binney in the leads.

"Young Visitors" Has Short Run.

Contrary to expectations, "The Young Visitors" had a bare two weeks' run. To those who had read the book, it proved a delightful little show but there must have been more uninterested than interested in the production. Mr. Brady gave it a fine setting and there was much that was charming about it. However, one cannot explain why some shows succeed and others fail—it is all a matter of circumstance sometimes.

Richard Walton Tully, who has been abroad since last September, will return early in the new year to put on a brand new production. "The Bird of Paradise" is to open in Paris early in January, and as soon afterward as he can Mr. Tully will sail for home to supervise the production in America of one of the big London successes, "The Right to Strike," which is one of the present hits of the London season. He controls the American and Canadian rights to the play and will produce it with Percy Burton. It was written by Ernest Hutchinson and is described as treating with the labor question in a new and original manner.

Ruth Chatterton in Barrie Role.

The announcement that Ruth Chatterton will play the lead in the new Barrie production, "Marie Rose," has led to much gossip. Theater goers certainly expected to hear that Maude Adams would play the part, particularly as she has appeared in so many Barrie roles. Whether there is some inside reason for the change is not known, nor has Miss Adams' return to the stage been announced.

At least four companies will play daily matinees during the holiday week to accommodate the crowds that cannot get into the theaters at regular times. "Enter Madame," "The Bat," "The Gold Diggers" and "Lightnin'" already have made the announcement and many other houses will play extra performances. The coming of Christmas and New Year's on Saturday this year does away with the usual "extra holiday matinee" and so the managers have to manage some how. It is rather remarkable about "Lightnin'" and "The Gold Diggers," because they are in their third and second year, respectively and have nto been able to take care of the crowds all this time.

New Plays Are Due Shortly.

"The Begar's Opear" is to be produced by Arthur Hopkins on Christmas day. This is the opera originally written by John Gay in 1728 and adapted with additional scenes by Arnold Bennett and Nigel Playfair and with new airs and additional music by Frederick Austin. It was produced at the Lyric theater, Hammersmith (just outside of London) where it was presented merely as a special divertisment. To the surprise of all connected with the enterprise, it developed into an immediate popular success, its run giving every indication of lasting for years rather than for weeks. The New York production will also be made by Mr. Playfair, who will bring an entire English cast to America and superintend the scenes himself.

A. H. Woods will put into rehearsal this week a new play called "Woman to Woman," by Michael Morton, author of "The Yellow Ticket" and other successes. Willette Kershaw has been engaged to play the leading role with A. E. Anson and Hilda Spong in principal characters.

Musical Comedy for Cort.

"The Rose of Washington Square" is the title of a new three-act musical comedy which John Cort will produce early in January. It is by Sharlee McClure and Mrs. Harry Cort and probably will succeed "Jim Jam Jems" at the Cort.

Montague Glass has written an Irish comedy. It is called "The Black and Tan," and John Golden has accepted it and will feature Bobby North in the play. Mr. Golden's other shows "Lightnin'" and "The First Year" are playing to capacity and it is probable that "The First Year" wil have daily matinees during the holiday week. The Little theater is very small and the crowds are very large and "The First Year" can find no other house—so what can be done?

The Selwyns have placed "Honors Are Even," Rol Cooper Megrue's newest comedy, into rehearsal with William Courtenay and Lola Fisher in the leads. Other members of the company are Boots Wooster, Gordon Johnstone, Horace Sinclair, Paul Kelly, Ethel Strickland, Frank Andrews, Horace Pollack, Mabel Stanton, Laurence Redmond, Ambrose Martin and Salvatore Maltese. It will be produced under Mr. Megrue's personal direction with the opening night in Washington, D. C.

Ancestral Glory Is Erased From Potsdam Palaces.

Hohenzollern Splendor Gives Way to Commonplace Democracy.

POTSDAM, Dec. 18.—Frederick the Great is no longer Frederick the Great to the attendants who show visitors through the various palaces of the late imperial German family and the garrison church, where the body of the most famous of the Hohenzollerns lies. He is merely Frederick II, in accordance with an order issued by the chief of the custodians of the palaces. To the democratic regime which has swept over Potsdam, the most imperialistic and aristocratic center in Germany, even a dead emperor cannot be great.

On the whole the Potsdam palaces have undergone few changes under the new government. In Spartacist days, rioters did not reach them as they were under the protection of loyal troops. Consequently, there was no plundering and looting, and the royal residences remain exactly as they were before the hurried departure of William II, except for the disappearance of the strictly personal belongings of William and his family.

The new palace, where William II lived, is now open to the public on certain days. Its library is almost devoid of books, most of them having been sent to Holland. The smaller dining room and living rooms apparently have been stripped of strictly personal belongings. The furnishings which remain are pretentious.

Gift pieces from other sovereigns and elaborate historical paintings, tapestries and statues are untouched and give the palace a museum appearance. It is not unlike Versailles or Fontainbleau in atmosphere, and there is nothing about any of the three Potsdam palaces to indicate they have been used within the last century.

The shell room in the new palace, whose pillars and long walls are lined by inlaid friezes of semi-precious stones, presents the appearance of a souvenir stand at Colorado Springs. The carpets are rolled back from the great marble floor and strips of matting, lined by guide ropes, indicate to visitors how they may move through the grotto-like hall where the children of the imperial family always had their Christmas entertainments.

The great terrace in front of the orangery, overlooking San Souci park, lacks the ancient Chinese astronomical instruments which were taken from the imperial observatory in Peking at the time of the Boxer troubles. These instruments were erected on pedestals and attracted much attention. But under the Versailles treaty they had to be returned to China.

SERVANTS SEEK LEARNING

Housemaids of Wellesley College Thirst for Knowledge.

WELLESLEY, Mass., Dec. 25.—The housemaids of Wellesley college have a curriculum of their own that makes for a college within the college. The servants have been found to rival their sister-students of the undergraduate body in their thirst for knowledge, and 35 are enrolled in courses that vary from pianoforte instruction to commercial training. One waitress who has exhausted a high school geometry book in a few months is preparing with independent study for admission to the college itself, bent on obtaining a degree. Her instructors say she is well advanced toward her ambition of exchanging the cap of service for the academic gown.

The college within the college is administered by Miss Dorothy M. Stevens of West Hartford, Conn., an undergraduate, as president, and has as its faculty 36 other upper-class students of the college. Music is the most popular course of the curriculum which includes instruction in several instruments. Typewriting and shorthand classes have many members, and several maids have graduated from service at the dormitory rooms and dining tables to a professional secretarial school where they are finishing their preparation for commercial careers. There also are classes in English and in sewing, and in the latter maids have been able to show their instructors both new stitches and old sewing ideas. Dancing classes are conducted as extra-curriculum activities and have a large attendance.

The auxiliary college idea is supported not only by the separate faculty and courses but also by established tuition fees and a regulated dormitory life. The servant-students live at Lake house on the shore of Lake Waban, formerly a student dormitory, where they have study rooms and reception hall in which from time to time they act as hostesses to members of their faculty, while the college students return the courtesy to the maids in socials at the Barn.

MEXICO TO BE VISITED

San Francisco Business Men and Families Plan Trip.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 25.—A first-class electrically lighted train with all modern facilities and comforts has been chartered for a number of members of the chamber of commerce and their families who will leave here January 8, 1921, to visit Mexico City, Mexico.

The trip is to be made to establish a closer commercial and social relationship, to gain first-hand information regarding conditions in Mexico generally. The party expects to spend three weeks in Mexico.

Canada Second in Phones.

OTTAWA, Ont.—Figures of comparison compiled by the Bell Telephone company show that Canada stands second only to the United States in the matter of per capita use of the telephone. The postmaster-general of Great Britain recently stated that there were two telephones in the country for every 100 of the population. On the same basis, the United States has 13.6 telephones per 100. Canada comes next, with 10.8, Sweden, 8.4, and Norway, 4.4.

COMEDIENNE SAYS DANCING IS BEST POSSIBLE EXERCISE

June Roberts Declares It Keeps the Muscles Flexible and in Good Trim, Combining Training With Amusement.

June Roberts.

IT'S all in the way you look at things!

June Roberts, 17-year-old dancer, who comes to the Heilig December 30 and 31 and January 1, with John Cort's musical comedy, "Listen Lester," insists that dancing is the best form of exercise possible for both men and women and she dances for the sheer love of it.

But Fred Heider, young comedian, who is one of the scintillating laugh-producers of the same company, says that it's hard work to learn to dance and he's been working hard for 15 years to master some of the eccentric steps which he uses in "Listen Lester."

"It is a well-known fact that dancing, if not indulged in to too great an extent, will keep the muscles flexible and in good trim, thereby insuring youth, health and beauty," said Miss Roberts. "It is the best form of exercise for men and women of any age, for when you dance you combine amusement and exercise without realizing you are working."

But Fred Heiser hasn't found dancing all one continual round of pleasure and exercise. For him it has been the hardest kind of work. Fifteen years ago he ran away from home and joined a circus. He was peanut and lemonade boy, but later practiced dancing until he became a member of the circus concert forces.

Heider followed the round tops for five years and then went to Chicago, where he was given his first vaudeville engagement at one of the Halstead houses.

"I opened the bill and did 28 shows that week, which was Thanksgiving,"

Fred Heider.

he said, in relating his early experiences. "After the last show the manager came to me and said I had made good and that my salary would be $12 a week. Shortly after I found work with Chris Brown, who gave me my first real start by sending me out on the western circuit. After two years on that circuit I went east and became a headliner of the Keith circuit for several seasons."

France Invites America to Napoleon Celebration.

Death of the Great Frenchman Occurred 100 Years Ago, May 5.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—American participation in the celebration by France of the 100th anniversary of the death of Napoleon May 5 next, was invited by Professor Sloane of Princeton, N. J., speaking for the French committee headed by Marshal Foch. A feature of the affair whose objects, it is stated, are "to bind up the wounds of France," will be a great exhibition of Napoleonic relics at Malmaison, France, to which collections will be loaned from all parts of the world.

Professor Sloane, who for 42 years held the chair of history at Princeton and latterly at Columbia university, said that French statesmen, soldiers and men of law and letters, as well as other professions, compose the committee which is arranging the centennial.

"Making all allowance for every severe criticism of Napoleon's career," he continued, "it is still true that his work unified France, saved it from partition among its foes and, in civil life, prepared alike the foundation and structure of the society which in the world war saved France and helped to save all western civilization. It was by his impulse and guidance that the financial credit of France was restored, that the magistracy and administration took definite shape, that the civil code was promulgated, the Bank of France created, the University of France modeled on that of the state of New York and the council of state organized.

"He made private property safe, opened public charges, great and small, to all classes, founded schools, colleges and secondary schools, built magnificent highways, dug an elaborate system of internal waterways, improved transportation of every sort and, above all, reorganized in his institutions the commanding position of belles lettres, the fine arts and natural science. The superb inheritance of order, progress and prosperity which he bequeathed made the France of 1914.

"The French committee especially desires American participation by contributions, by the loan of Napoleona from American collections and, above all, the moral support of intelligent interest on this side of the Atlantic."

Greek Refugees Cared For.

SALONIKI.—Twenty-thousand Greek refugees from Russia are on their way here and are to be cared for in a camp outside the city. The first shipload of 3000 arrived recently and a like number will come each week. The refugee work is in the hands of the American Red Cross. The Greek government will allot to these refugees land in Macedonia and will give them on credit livestock and agricultural implements for which they must pay in several years. The land will be free.

Army Hospital Building Urged.

HELENA, Mont., Dec. 25.—Because of unemployment, especially among the building trades of Helena, the Helena commercial club has appealed to United States Senator Walsh of Montana to seek to expedite work on the new army hospital that it is planned to erect at Fort Harrison, near Helena. Much material for construction of the hospital has arrived but work has not yet been started.

MIDNIGHT MATINEE DEC. 31 11:30 P. M.

BAKER STOCK COMPANY

MIDNIGHT MATINEE DEC. 31 11:30 P. M.

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SETH PERKINS (Loves His Bitters)
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THE SCENES, characters and story are not of the author's imagination, but are absolutely true to the country, people and times of which they tell.

SEE THE OLD YEAR OUT AND THE NEW YEAR IN (Midnight Matinee) Watching these quaint, lovable characters in this truly remarkable play.

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ASSISTED BY THE SWANSON SISTERS IN THEIR OWN COMPLETE VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINMENT.
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The Female Frisco.
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First Episode of the Great William Fox Serial.
Special New Year's Attraction
Mr. Ted Shawn Presents
"DANCE DIVERTISEMENTS"
WITH MARJORIE PETERSON AND HER DANCING BEAUTIES.
CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE TODAY, COMMENCING 1:30.

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