

### WHAT ACTORS DID IN THEIR YOUTH

When Robert Edeson was selling tickets in a theater in Brooklyn or Raymond Hitchcock was selling hats in Auburn, N. Y., none of the friends of either of them thought that he would become an actor. But when Richard Carle, under his real true name of Carleton, was going to school in Somerville, Mass., everybody who knew him thought that at some time he would go on the stage. For he was always getting up shows and giving them in barns, to which temples of Thespis the admission fees consisted of pins.

In the case of many actors and actresses the inclination to the stage is evidenced at an early age, while in other cases the actors or actresses show no disposition of becoming players until shortly before they go upon the stage.

William Charles Macready, James K. Hackett, Hall McAllister, and many other actors of high and low degree have been intended for the law, but have forsaken Blackstone for prompt books. Many others have been intended for the priesthood or the ministry. Wilton Lackaye did not decide to be an actor until he had left his home in Baltimore to go to Rome, there to enter the American college that he might fit himself for the Catholic priesthood. Otis Skinner's father, who was a clergyman, thought that his son would follow him into the church. Kyle Bellew's father, who also was a clergyman, thought that his son would become an officer in the English navy, and young Bellew did spend several years on board one of the English training ships.

Edmund Day was in the newspaper business in Detroit, Mich., before he began to write vaudeville sketches, from which occupation he transferred his activities to the stage itself, where he first acted in vaudeville and then in "The Round Up," which he wrote himself.

Eleanor Robson never thought of the stage until after she had spent several years in a convent. Her mother, who is the actress, Madge Carr Cook, and who at the time was playing in a stock company in San Francisco, had her daughter cross the continent to see her son. Then there occurred a small vacancy in the company and Miss Robson went on to fill it. She has been an actress ever since.

Good old Mrs. Gilbert was a dancer long before she spoke a word as an actress. Vestris also was a dancer, and so was Annie Russell, who in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which she appeared last season, found an opportunity for the exercise of a few of the steps she used years ago before she decided to become an actress.

Hattie Williams, Frances Belmont, Billie Burke, and plenty of other actresses became such by gradual changes from the chorus, which body of hard working and much misunderstood young women also gave the acting stage Marie Cahill, Marie Tempest, Lulu Glaser, and many others.

Anna Held trimmed hats in a shop in Paris until she became a singer in a cafe chantant, and she might have been singing there yet had not F. Ziegfeld, of Chicago, happened along and made an actress of her.

Maxine Elliott got her first engagement because she was so tremendously good looking. At the time that Nat Goodwin first met her she was acting in Frawley's stock company in San Francisco. It was under Goodwin's tuition that she learned the rudiments of acting.

To drop a way in the scale, Weber and Fields used to make cigarettes before they became smitten with the idea of uplifting the stage. There is a current story to the effect that one of the most prominent actresses in comedy, a young woman who began her career in musical comedy, used to make cigarettes in a shop window in Boston. The story had it that it was while the young woman was engaged in this interesting occupation that she first was seen by the manager that afterward made her theatrical fortunes for her.

Everybody knows that Edna May is the daughter of a letter carrier in Syracuse, N. Y., and that it was not until she was 20 years old that she went to New York and got a job in the chorus of the musical comedy "Santa Maria."

Many other players have started much later in life than this, although some of them, like Joseph Jefferson, Ellen Terry, and others first set their feet in the theatrical path when they were young. Miss Terry "went on the stage" at the age of 5 years.

William A. Brady first saw the stage from the vantage ground of a call boy's position and Willie Collier almost was discharged by Augustin Daly because the youthful Collier

mimicked the austere Daly, when the latter was lord of all he surveyed, and then some at Daly's theatre in New York.

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### COLLEGE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW STAGE

Everybody who has seen Robert Edeson either in "Strongheart" or "Classmates" must remember the portly young actor who has contributed so much to the success of each of these plays. The portly young man is Frank McIntyre, who left his classes in the University of Michigan to go upon the stage.

Norman Hackett, who is James O'Neill's Iclius in the O'Neill production of "Virgilius," attended school at the university of the City of New York.

Frank McVicar, who was the best of the dozen or more actors who played Horrygan, the boss, in "The Man of the Hour," was a graduate of Trinity college.

Henry Woodruff was educated at Harvard, but he had been an actor for several years before he was sent to Cambridge.

Robert Dempster, who was last seen in Chicago as the hero in "The Road to Yesterday," is a Cornell man. He was prominent in the dramatic club at the college at Ithaca.

Alice Fischer, who is a leading actress of considerable power, used to be a school teacher in Indianapolis.

Olga Nethersole was a governess in England before she turned to the stage. So was Adelaide Neilson, and the latter acknowledged with cheerfulness that during her earlier years she had been a maid servant also.

Isabel Crothers, who wrote "The Three of Us," was a school teacher in Bloomington, Ill., before she went to New York to become a teacher in a dramatic school.

—Milner's pocket knives will hold an edge.

### WRITING INSURANCE ON DANCERS' FEET

Everybody remembers how Kubelek had his right hand insured for \$50,000 and kept it with the other one in a nice little fur muff. It cost him \$1,500 to do it, but it was worth it, for one-handed fiddlers do not draw down large salaries except in dime museums. If Jan misses an engagement owing to an accident crippling the hand he is entitled to \$10,000 insurance. The capital prize is for the loss of his hand.

Paderewski, the pianist, has his money digits insured for \$45,000, while Carolus Duran, the famous French painter, has a policy for \$30,000 in case he loses his eyesight and can no longer see to assemble his wonderful color combinations.

La Belle Otero, the fiery Spanish fandangoist, has insured her twinkling feet, the same pair which has kicked thousands of dollars into her bank account. And these tribbles are valued higher than the greatest pianist's fingers, the greatest violinist's hand, the sum to be paid her in case of the loss of her feet being \$150,000. And each toe is insured separately, too, so if "this little pig goes to market" and gets run over by a butcher cart the danseuse gets \$15,000 for it.

Just to show how much more important a pair of high priced feet are compared with a beautiful voice it may be mentioned that Mme. Lina Cavalleri, the handsomest grand opera prima donna, insures her throat for \$50,000, placing on it only a third of the value that Otero places on her feet.

And just to indicate that feet are valuable possessions worth insuring recall the fact that an accident to Mme. Zambelli, who sprained her foot while dancing in "La Ronde des Salons" stopped the performance.

—Fresh loaded duck shells at Milner's.

### REFUSE TO WORK WITHOUT GRAFT

Egyptian Officials Insist Upon Tips for Performing Regular Duties.

Alexandria, Oct. 26.—Grafting on a large scale has been discovered in the Egyptian government, and Socrates Bey Spiro, the directors of service, together with the chief of the staff, the inspector of Alexandria harbor, the captain of the Port of Rosetta and numerous other officials have been banished from Egypt.

The officials involved have been found guilty of accepting bribes for every kind of service it has been in their power to render. They would not perform any of their duties without being bribed. They had a regular scale in operation, ranging from a box of figs to \$250.

Foreign shipping masters are held responsible for the spread of the grafting system, they being anxious to evade harbor regulations. Investigations are continuing and are expected to involve at least 100 officials.

### WEDS IMPETUOUS MEXICAN RANCHER

Texas Girl Marries Wealthy Cattleman After a Short Courtship.

Los Angeles, Oct. 26.—Miss Willie Ben Peck of Gonzales, Tex., whose extensive purchases of fine clothing have astonished local merchants for the past week, became the bride last night of Charles L. Nelson, a millionaire young ranch owner and cattleman of Muzquiz, Coahuila, Mexico. Dr. Robert J. Burdette performed the ceremony, after which one of the most elaborate wedding feasts ever spread in Los Angeles was served. Nelson and Miss Peck met but a few weeks ago. He proved an impetuous suitor and followed her to Santa Barbara, where she had traveled with her aunt, Mrs. T. C. Karnes, and several days ago the party came here.

Miss Peck seemed disappointed because her wedding gown cost only \$1200, and said if she were married at home she certainly would have had one costing three times as much. She regarded her trousseau as inadequate, and expressed regret that she had not had time to do better. Her father is a wealthy Texas merchant. The couple will go to San Francisco tomorrow, and afterwards will visit eastern cities before going to the Mexican stock ranch.

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