

CHILDREN IN CROWN-UP PLAYS

Mimetic Faculty Utilized in Teaching the Poor Much That Schools Teach and More That They Do Not Teach at All.

The tear fetching story of "the little mother" in the tenements and slums is to be told next by Mr. Haskin. It will astonish most people to be told how hard a life this abused little creature leads, and how little it takes to make her life easier and to train her for happiness and a wider usefulness than just girdling around innumerable slum babies, foredoomed to misery like herself.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright 1909 by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, March 1.—Suppose you should walk down the East Side in New York some day and find two weary sweatshop workers discussing on their way to some particular Shakespearean play, or further on see a group of ragged little children acting "As You Like It" to an enthusiastic audience of "little mothers" and their charges seated on the curb stones, or further still down the street find a bright eyed little girl relating in voluble childish all she could recall of "Snow White," wouldn't you be surprised? Well, you needn't be, for that is an everyday scene since the Educational theatre was built under the auspices of the Educational alliance, in a packed district of lower New York.

The theatre was opened five years ago and in that time has given diversion and inspiration to over 180,000 children, and has seen an even greater number turned away from the streets to the playhouse. The theatre is a small, two-story building, with a stage and a few rows of seats. It is a place where the children of the slums can find a place to play, and where they can learn the value of a good play. The theatre is a place where the children of the slums can find a place to play, and where they can learn the value of a good play.

The Educational alliance exists for the purpose of bettering the condition of Hebrew immigrants and new residents of New York. It had an entertainment committee that, like the usual department of that nature in any club, offered meaningless amusement to the people. Its miscellaneous programs, even if less vulgar, were certainly less clever than the Bowery shows, consisting mostly of meaningless plays and self-conscious declamations by the children. Miss Minnie Alice Hertz, a woman of means and of social and intellectual prominence in New York, was asked to take charge of the department. She agreed under condition that she be permitted to develop the entertainment after her own ideas. Believing in her ability the alliance gave her full permission to do as she pleased.

Then Miss Hertz began to do radical things. She chose plays that had ideas usually considered far above the heads of the East Side folks. She chose her players, not because they had been taught to declaim, because someone said they had talent, or because they happened to have a bit of prominence in their small world. She chose them from the rank and file of the neighborhood. She let it be known that each worker, whether a shifting agent or a playing the part of the star, was contributing something to the entertainment, and that each should have a chance at the bigger things. She allowed several people to learn the same part, and then from among them the one she thought and best interpreted it, and she let the interpretation be that person's own, never a gesture of attitude being suggested. There are over 800 members of Miss Hertz's classes, and nearly every one has acted some part.

When the play was all learned and

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the costumes—donated by more affluent folk—had been finally donned, the theatre was opened on Saturday evening for the old and young, and again on Sunday, especially for the children of the city. Each child present had a ticket given him by some school, and this he had turned in with five cents as the price of admission. The people of the ghetto, Little Italy and other homes at New York's polio-people, saw these plays with pleasure and with understanding.

The first impulse of all childhood is to make believe, in pretence to people the world with wonderful things that do not exist in the naked fact. In congested New York there is little for the imagination to feed on, yet to the children of the more congested places Miss Hertz opened up a new world. For these children who had perhaps never seen a tree or flower that did not grow in Washington Square, "As You Like It" and as the parts were learned and the play progressed, the fertile child mind turned the tiny stage into a forest of Arden. For the while the din and dust of the streets outside were lost to ear and eye, and in the hand with Rosalind the tired little children wandered far in a new world.

"Fauntleroy" came first. Educationalists and workers claim that the children of the slums, the street grown ones, are keenest and quickest when it comes to learning a new thing. The officials of the theatre near the theatre testified later that they had never seen such a demand for Shakespeare as they had seen in the slums. "As You Like It" was very cheaply bound, was brought to the slums and was for the first time the property of the players and the audience. The copies disappeared with a lightning speed. The children of the slums, the street grown ones, are keenest and quickest when it comes to learning a new thing. The officials of the theatre near the theatre testified later that they had never seen such a demand for Shakespeare as they had seen in the slums.

Neighborhood is a characteristic of the poor. As soon as the theatre was managed by Mr. Haskin, he and some scenery added—everybody wanted to be of use. Older members of the family came to help with the sewing of the costumes, while the younger ones were rehearsing their parts. The children of the slums, the street grown ones, are keenest and quickest when it comes to learning a new thing. The officials of the theatre near the theatre testified later that they had never seen such a demand for Shakespeare as they had seen in the slums.

Actors Their Own Teachers. As each actor is not only allowed, but encouraged, to interpret the part as he or she thinks it should be, there is no artificiality in the part of the players. There is much earnestness and much natural grace. With the responsibility resting on them to give the best, they are not only allowed, but encouraged, to interpret the part as he or she thinks it should be, there is no artificiality in the part of the players. There is much earnestness and much natural grace. With the responsibility resting on them to give the best, they are not only allowed, but encouraged, to interpret the part as he or she thinks it should be, there is no artificiality in the part of the players.

Teaches Sensible Doin'g. Miss Hertz finds that her theatre can help in the social as well as the educational up-building of a community. She declares that the plays not only influence manners, customs and morals but also fashions. She tells how 30 little girls who were to play the part of a queen in "As You Like It" were costumed in plain white dresses with only a deep hemstitch for the trim. The dresses had been given for the play and the children's mother were charged that such plain things were to be worn. They wanted to substitute elaborate, lace-trimmed, but very cheap affairs. They were asked to wait until after the first night before they made a change. When they came and saw the little girls with the simple India-rose dresses and the white-trimmed robes, they went home and devoted their sewing hours thereafter to the manufacture of plain, daintier clothes. The theatre had scored another success.

Only Two Stages Struck. Like all other unusual things, the Children's theatre came and proved its worth in the face of adverse criticism and much opposition. To some it meant that the children of the slums were being taught to play. To others it meant that the children of the slums were being taught to play. To some it meant that the children of the slums were being taught to play. To others it meant that the children of the slums were being taught to play.

Closed on Sundays Now. Closing it on Sunday has cut off thousands of children from their one weekly diversion, and the alleys and streets will claim their own. A bigger theatre is needed. In fact a dozen more could be opened and run every night all through the year and the neighborhood actors would always play in a grand room. When Mark Twain went down to see the children play his "Prince and Pauper" he took an interest in the work that has not abated, and that led to his being made president of the Educational alliance theatre with such coworkers as Miss Hertz, Rev. S. Grant, Robert J. Collier and Otto H. Kahn.

There has never been room enough for all the people who attended the plays. Each performance has witnessed a long line waiting as early as 11 or 12 when the play was to be at 2. There has never been need for rules in this unique theatre. If children were competent to interpret a good play and act it, they were considered equally competent to constitute the audience that witnessed such a play. The signs protesting against noise and undue applause were noticeable by their absence in this one. A certain civility sprang to the fore. There was no doubt from the stage, where only good examples received, reflected, and law and order have been supreme.

ADMIRAL EVANS TO LECTURE AT ARMORY

The people's friend for Gregory, see page 3.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON IN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN 1778

Portland, Feb. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In your issue of last Monday John C. Power says he has a newspaper published in New Jersey in 1800, and thinks it the oldest paper in Oregon. I have three copies of the New Jersey Gazette much older than that. They are dated February 11, 1778, July 1, 1778, and June 6, 1781. All are more or less time worn, but are yet legible. They came to me by Mrs. Myers, Rosetta C. Prentiss, who was a grand daughter of the Quakerman, Captain Stanton Prentiss of the Revolutionary army, and who was an intimate friend of General Mifflin. He had visited Captain Prentiss a week or more on his return to this country in 1855. The papers contain a great deal of interesting and spirited correspondence. They discuss means of relieving our prisoners of war, the capture of the British, and there is a lengthy report by Robert Morris on how to raise funds to keep the war going. Also a report by him as to the organization of a national bank.

PAUL GILMORE AND COMPANY BOYS B BIVOUAC AT BAKER

By J. H. M. J. Paul Gilmore and the rest of the Gilmore Company B bivouaced at the Baker last night, and the theatre boys were for the first time introduced to Mrs. Rita Johnson Young's sparkling little report. The boys were introduced to Mrs. Rita Johnson Young's sparkling little report. The boys were introduced to Mrs. Rita Johnson Young's sparkling little report. The boys were introduced to Mrs. Rita Johnson Young's sparkling little report.

WITH THE LAWMAKERS AT OLYMPIA

\$100,000 May Be Raised for Reforestation of Logged-Off Lands; Nine Days Left in Which to Clear Top-Heavy Calendar; and Old Age Disability Law After June 12 for Firemen and Policemen; Local Option Fight Starts Tomorrow; Legislators Visit New State Roads.

(Special dispatch to The Journal.) Olympia, Wash., March 1.—(WV) shall be done with logged-off lands in the state is a problem of more than ordinary vexing elements, now before the legislature. Thousands of acres of heavily timbered lands have been cleared by logging companies, that is, all the merchantable timber has been removed, and the land is left with an immense crop of stumps upon it, making it worthless for any purpose. To remove the stumps and place the land in cultivation will cost more than the land is worth and will require more money than any corporation or number of corporations would be willing to give up in the venture. For this reason the state has been appealed to.

After today the Washington legislature has nine days of life, and in that time an immense amount of business will have to be transacted. With a desperate effort to clear the calendar it is certain that a number of laws with jokers in them will be passed, and the people will regret that the session did not close a week before it had to stop work by the statute of limitations. For over two days the senate has been working on the criminal code. This code will make a volume as large as an ordinary law book, and the reading of it word by word has put out of business every reader in the senate list of employees. And it is in the senate that so few readers could be found. While the senate was struggling with this code the house had more conscientious and of less importance. The senate has also passed the education code, and it will reach the house some time this week. This code is about half as lengthy as the criminal code, but is intricate and will require considerable attention. In addition to these unusually important measures the general appropriation bill is to be considered by each house, it having been given but little attention in detail until last week. This measure will require a great deal of time in committee and may stir up a row in each house. It carries tremendous appropriations for the various departments. Items have been greatly reduced. In addition to these necessary pieces of legislation the calendar in each house is jammed with from 150 to 200 bills of one sort or another, the supporters of each trying every scheme to get their measure from the floor. The session has past both houses before final adjournment.

Members of fire departments and of police departments in Washington will have a chance to get their money back to fall back on after June 12. A law has been passed and approved by the governor allowing not more than 10 per cent of the money collected by cities of the first class, over 20,000 population, to set aside the money and pay it out on order of a pension board composed of the mayor, city council and six members of the police and fire departments. In case of death of a member, the dependent relatives are to be paid \$1000, while nurse and hospital bills will be paid in case of sickness. After a policeman or a fireman shall have served 20 years and the time need not be at one time, a pension amount is provided at one-half the pay received during the previous year. The retirement is not compulsory, but it is required when the age of 55 is reached by firemen and 65 by policemen. Efforts to secure the enactment of the law have been made for a number of years, and a lobby of firemen and policemen this time secured action early in the session, before the crash of business.

Hay has taken a hand, and there is considerable friction among the state officers over the position assumed by the executive. Hay wants the legislature to make good on its election pledges and pass a strong law. The fire forces are maintaining a strong lobby and their forces are well lined up. Speaker Meigs made the statement just before adjournment Saturday that he had been "called on the carpet" by members of the house and given to understand that if he did not vote right on the local option bill his name would be made good on his election pledges and pass a strong law. He asks for an appropriation for the state fair, which is located at North Yakima, his home. A number of appropriations have been jerry-mandered for a month on the strength of the local option bill.

On response to an invitation from the White River grange, between Seattle and Tacoma, a large number of members of both houses went to the location of 16 miles of state road built by the legislature and with state funds, to inspect the work and go over the line in automobiles yesterday. The grange had provided a luncheon for the lawmakers, and a general invitation was extended to the entire body. The day being Sunday a number had arranged to go home and about 40 or 50 were all who could arrange to take the day off. The entire party returned here at 11:30 this forenoon.

REPUBLICANS PLAN CITY CONVENTION

Plans preliminary to holding an old time Republican convention for the nomination of city officers will be discussed at a meeting to be held in the offices of Max G. Cohen this afternoon. At that time a committee will meet and prepare for a mass meeting to be held Wednesday night in the Selling-Hirsch hall when definite steps will be taken towards calling a convention. Those who have been invited to attend are Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher, Dr. Andrew Smith, J. B. Kerichien, J. T. Gregg, R. C. Townsend, E. B. Caldwell, General Charles P. Beebe, W. D. Fitch, Dr. J. C. Leitch, C. H. Gram and D. T. Honeyman.

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Rent payers are wild for Gregory Heights. See page 3.

BLOODY CHASM BRIDGED AGAIN

Bay State Troops Return Call Made as Long Ago as 1875.

Baltimore, Md., March 1.—The Fifth regiment, Massachusetts volunteer militia, on its way to Washington to attend the inauguration ceremonies of President-elect Taft, has accepted an invitation to stop at Baltimore tomorrow. The invitation was extended by the Fifth regiment, Maryland National Guard, whose guests the Bay state soldiers will be during their stay in the city. Upon the arrival of the regiment at Camden station it will form and march to the Fifth regiment armory, where a banquet and other features of entertainment will be held.

The visit of the Massachusetts soldiers is regarded as a most interesting and significant occasion for Baltimore. The first time history tells of a Bay state regiment stopping in Baltimore was in the spring of 1861, when the Sixth Massachusetts regiment marched to march through Pratt street and was attacked by a mob. The Massachusetts soldiers were killed and many believe that really suffered in the civil war. After it happened "My Maryland" was written and it has been the song that has fired the heart of Baltimore ever since.

When the war was over and the wounds began to heal, the Fifth Maryland regiment was invited to Boston to take part in 1875 in the celebration of the centennial of the battle of Bunker Hill, and now the Fifth Massachusetts, after a lapse of 48 years, has accepted the invitation to return the call.

Penny Post to Newfoundland.

St. John's, N. F., March 1.—The new order, by which the postage between the United States and Newfoundland was reduced from five to two cents for every half ounce, went into effect today. This change which constitutes an extension of the postal reduction already in force for years between the United States and Canada and for several months between the United States and Great Britain, is said to be the first of a series of measures, the efforts of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, the Labrador missionary.

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