PLAYS and the PLAYERS

MABEL WILBER IN "THE MERRY WIDOW" AT THE BUNGALOW WEEK BEG JUNE 20.

MAX WITT'S SINGING COLLEENS AT THE Orpheum

FAMOUS MAKARENKO TROUPE, RUSSIAN GYPSY SINGERS & DANCERS. AT THE GRAND.

William Schoen with the Imperial musical comedy company at the Lyric.

DRAMATIC CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

LYRIC—Imperial Musical Comedy company in "The Isle of Zaza."
ORPHEUM—Vaudeville.
GRAND—Vaudeville.
PANTAGES—Vaudeville.
BAKER—Burns-Johnson fight pictures.
STAR—Moving pictures.

COMING OFFERINGS

BUNGALOW—Week of June 20, "The Merry Widow"; June 28, 29, 30, Ethel Barrymore, in "Lady Frederick"; July 1, 2, 3, John Drew, in "Jackstraw"; July 5, 6, 7, Mrs. Fiske, in "Salvation Nell"; July 8, 9, 10, "The Servant in the House."

PROMISES MADE BY THE PRESS AGENTS

The "Merry Widow."

As is well known, "The Merry Widow" is no mere show, designed to catch the applause of the unthinking, to dazzle the ignorant by empty display, but a well devised, consecutive story in which spoken dialogue and music have been employed to give brilliant meaning to that story in all its varying moods and phases; music which is full of vitality and above all essentially faithful to the text.

All of this has come to pass by the genius of Franz Lehar, the composer, and Victor Leon and Lee Stein, who wrote the book, but as far as the interpretation goes the American public is much indebted to Henry W. Savage for his superb production, and most of all for the splendid cast which made the "Merry Widow" famous in this country. Among the celebrities to be heard here are Miss Mabel Wilber, who has won the hearts of all, and is proclaimed the best of any of the prima donnas that have sung the title role; Miss Amy Bussert, the young cantatrice, who sings the role of "Natalie"; George Dameral, who has sung the part of the Prince Danile over 200 times, and has a beautiful voice, together with a very handsome presence; John O'Donnel, the grand opera tenor, and others of almost equal prominence, such as Thomas Leary, Oscar Figman, Charles W. Kaufman, Harry H. Meyers, W. Straunz, J. G. Briggs, Minnie Olton and many others. The special "Madam Butterfly" orchestra will be under the direction of John McGhie.

The engagement will be for one week, at the Bungalow theatre, beginning Sunday, June 20, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. The seat sale will open Friday, June 18, but mail orders, accompanied by remittances, will be filled in order of receipt as near as possible to location desired.

Mail orders will be received from both in and out of town beginning tomorrow (Monday). Regular box office sale opens next Friday. Mail orders take precedence. Address letters and make checks and money orders payable to W. T. Pangle at Bungalow theatre. A self-addressed and stamped envelope must be inclosed to help insure safe return.

★★

Miss Barrymore's Leading Man.

Bruce McRae is Miss Ethel Barrymore's leading man this season in "Lady Frederick," the three act comedy by W. Somerset Maugham, in which Charles Frohman presents Miss Barrymore at the Bungalow theatre for three nights, beginning Monday, June 28. Mr. McRae, who is conceded to be one of the best leading men of the present generation, was born in London. His father was a surgeon in the English army, and as the name would imply, a Scotchman, while his mother was English. His uncle is Sir Charles Wyndham. After an early childhood passed in India, where his father was stationed, and later in England, he was sent, when a lad 10 years old, to a military school at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, where he remained until he was 16. He then went to New Zealand and engaged in cattle ranching, after which, having become a skilled surveyor, he spent five years in Australia, opening up government reservations for pioneer settlers.

Mr. McRae came to this country in 1890, and for a year was in charge of a cattle ranch at Fort Laramie, Wyo. He then came east and decided to follow an actor's career. He made his debut October 5, 1891, at Proctor's Twenty-third street theatre in New York in Sardou's "Thermidor," in the support of Elsie De Wolfe and Forbes Robertson. After appearing in the support of various stars and creating the role of Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes," Mr. McRae became Miss Barrymore's leading man. In her support he has played the following parts: In 1902, Mr. Leipsic, in "Carrots" and Archibald Vyse, in "A Country Mouse"; 1903, Heath Desmond, in "Cousin Kate"; 1904, Colonel Brinthorpe, in "Sunday," and Torvald Helmer, in "A Doll's House"; 1905, Colonel Grey, in "Alice Sit-by-the-Fire," and in 1906, the title role in "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines," Jones, in "The Silver Box," and Sir Montague Martin, in "His Excellency the Governor." This season in "Lady Frederick," Miss Barrymore's new play, Mr. McRae is appearing as Paradine Foulder.

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Orpheum's New Bill.

The 17 year old English singer, dancer and comedian, Laddie Cliff, who scored such a success in New York, is making his first western tour and will be at the Orpheum theatre next week as the feature. Unspoiled by a success that would turn the head of many an older performer, this breezy, refreshing youth is as much a natural born fun maker as he was when he first reached New York unknown. His is a kind of humor that appeals to the American as well as to the Englishman and his eccentric dancing sets the audience wild with enthusiasm everywhere.

"The Eight Original Madcaps," are coming to the Orpheum, although nearly every producing manager in New York has tried to entice them away from vaudeville, after their remarkable success at Wallack's theatre, New York, as the feature extraordinary of "A Knight for a Day." They are an aggregation of twisting, twirling, whirling dancing wonders, and all possess youth, beauty and uniform agility, while their performance is marked with precision not obtained by many of the other "pony ballets" seen on the stage.

A trio of popular comedians, known as "The Three Leightons," will present a new version of "A One Night Stand in Minstrelsy," which is full of laughs, clever dialogue and unique dancing. The action of the little comedy has to do with two minstrels and a quaint colored porter in a "One Night Stand" hotel and they are entertaining from start to finish.

A feminine quartet, which presents a tuneful novelty that is termed, "Songs of the Old and New World," is Max Witt's "Singing Colleens." Many of their numbers, such as "Come Back to Erin," and Irish melodies have a peculiar fascination which make a strong appeal to the audience.

Ollie Young and Brothers, offer a distinct novelty this season, for in addition to their hoop rolling, which, by the way, Ollie Young was the first to put into use on the stage, they are presenting a marvelous exhibition of diabolo playing and a skillful display of boomerang throwing. "Diabolo" is a French pastime and it forms a most interesting portion of their entertainment, as they are extremely expert and deft in playing it.

The Gartelle Brothers are clever entertainers who sing and dance well, but who excell as roller skating artists. They present a new absurdity called "Skatorialism" which is a funny exhibition of falls and bumps, and ends with a remarkable buck and wing dance on roller skates.

Miss Lizzie Evans and Mr. Jefferson Lloyd present a unique one act character study, called "Turning the Tables." The action takes place in a ranch house in California.

The Orpheum Orchestra will have an interesting program of music and the Orpheum motion pictures will close the bill.

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Burns-Johnson Pictures at Baker.

The famous Burns-Johnson battle, which occurred at Sydney, Australia, on Boxing day, December 26, 1908, has been reproduced on moving picture films and by special arrangement with Hugh D. McIntosh will be presented in this city at the Baker theatre every afternoon and night this week. Afternoon at 3 o'clock, evening at 8:30.

This fight occurred at 11 o'clock in the morning in the open air. The sun was shining brightly and conditions for successful photography were ideal. It has been said by people who were fortunate enough to witness these pictures in London that they were the cleverest ever shown of an event of this kind. The famous "golden smile" with which Johnson taunted his opponent, showing his dental improvements and which was commented on by Jack London, the American novelist, in his cable dispatches to Chicago, can plainly be seen in the pictures. the most minute detail is brought out and emphasized by the camera. In fact, the audience that witnesses these pictures will see the fight much more clearly than did the majority of spectators at the ringside in Sydney as their point of vantage at the picture reproduction will collectively be that of the camera which was only a few feet from the ring.

Mr. McIntosh, who was the promoter and referee of the Burns-Johnson fight, brought the pictures to America with him recently. His mission here, apart from his desire to exhibit the pictures, is to arrange a match between Johnson, the recognized champion of the world, and James J. Jeffries, who some time ago relinquished the title. To this end he has offered a purse of $50,000, which fact has been commented on at length by the press of the United States withing the past few days, but to this writing Jeffries has refused to give an answer. Jeffries is at present appearing in vaudeville in the east and Johnson is filling similar engagements in New York and vicinity.

When the pictures are shown here with an expert lecturer to point out the incidents of interest, they will be at popular prices, despite the expense of bringing them to this country.

In addition to the above the best rounds of the Jeffries-Sharkey fight will be shown, so that you can judge who is the best man. Seats are now selling at Baker theatre for the entire week.

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New Bill at Pantages.

One of the best acts that the Pantages theatre has offered will be that presented by the Four Bards, marvelous American gymnasts, which will be the principal feature of next week's program, which will commence with the usual Monday matinee. The Bards have a reputation that reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and they never fail to create a sensation at each and every performance.

In competition with the Bards for first place on the bill, will be the troupe of 40 trained rats, cats and dogs, which will be introduced by Professor Roberts. He has trained all sorts of animals, but for this particular vaudeville tour he has selected this unusual combination, particularly on account of its oddity. It is surely out of the ordinary to see cats, rats and dogs performing together, and the rats trusting themselves in the very teeth of their traditional enemies.

Next on the list comes the Terry Twins, who are so much alike that one cannot tell them apart. They will introduce a series of comedy acrobatic stunts, and in their performance is a burlesque boxing bout, which on account of their remarkably close resemblance to each other, is unusually funny.

Adams and Mack will be seen in their comedy magic act, which they call the "Mysterlarch and the Mystagogue," whatever that is. However, their performance is said to be a scream.

Music lovers are promised a surprise with Marie Hedlicka, a Bohemian lyric soprano, who is said to possess a remarkably sweet voice.

Ella Garrison and company will present a travesty on Anthony and Cleopatra which they call "Tony and Cleo."

Leo White will sing a new illustrated song, and the Pantagescope will show the very newest comedy moving pictures.

Remember that today will be your last opportunity to see the present great bill of advanced vaudeville acts, which is headed by Bonner, the horse with the human brain.

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Star Moving Pictures.

Now that festival week is over the Star management offers a performance of extraordinary merit and novelty, beginning with the matinee this afternoon. The leading feature will be one of the celebrated biograph pictures entitled "The Lonely Villa," in which the remarkable action is displayed of a sensational ride for a life on the part of the husband to save his wife from death at the hands of desperate burglars.

The Vitagraph company contribute a splendid dramatic picture entitled "Romance of Old Mexico," and Pathe Freres of Paris, the leading foreign producers, offer an intensely interesting story under the title of "A Woman's Intrigue." Connected with this film is an educational one showing in detail the operation of the snake skin industry. For entertaining comedy, the Vitagraph company contributes a rattling farce entitled "Caught at Last," and the Biograph company presents as its comedy "A New Trick."

This together with a new illustrated song right from the producers, splendid music, and other features, makes up a show which for excellence has rarely been equaled.

The management is asked to announce that a special matinee will be given Saturday afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock at which the prize baby contest will be ended, and the prize awarded to the successful contestant. During the past week the votes have run into the thousands, and much excitement and rivalry have been engendered between the mothers of the little ones, all of whom are anxious to secure the coveted prize.

At the Arcade theatre the management has decided, beginning with tomorrow, Monday, June 14, to put on the celebrated French singing and talking pictures which in the last 60 days have undergone wonderful improvement and are now presented as the greatest feature in Paris, London and New York.

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Vaudeville at the Grand.

Commencing Monday afternoon Sullivan & Considine will have another all-star and feature vaudeville program at the Grand. The past week the management gave an exceptionally attractive bill and the coming program promises to even excel it.

Among the many excellent specialties will be Clara Thropp, an actress who was a successful star in Ibsen dramas, but who is now rated as one of America's cleverest comediennes. Her songs are all new and crisp. Those who have seen Miss Tropp in the serious drama will be surprised at her versatility as displayed as a comedienne.

The great Makerenko troupe of Russian gypsy singers and dancers will be a positive feature. These people are probably the best Russian dancers to tour this country. This is their first west-bound trip, and the reports from cities where they have appeared are most flattering.

The Torleys are premier trick cyclists who know the ins and outs of their bicyclists and can do more and difficult tricks than any of their rivals. The act stands at the head of trick cycling specialties on the American vaudeville stage.

Mann and Franks are a well known and popular team who appeared here twice before and made unquestionable hits. Since then they have been in the east, where their success was almost phenomenal. As singers and general entertainers they have few equals. Their singing act is called "From the Sublime to the Ridiculous."

Faust Brothers are pantomime comedians, as funny as can be found anywhere. There will also be a new illustrated ballad and new motion pictures.

The present splendid bill, headed by the distinguished soprano, Miss Mabel McKinley, will be repeated this afternoon and night for the last times.

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"The Isle of Zaza."

This week at the Lyric, beginning with today's matinee, Ed Harrington will present the Imperial Musical Comedy company in the latest musical skit, "The Isle of Zaza." Last week demonstrated that this company can give a clean, moral musical show that will please the most exacting, and it'll be even better this week, with a larger chorus and more comedians. There are a dozen song hits in "The Isle of Zaza," all fresh from Broadway. There is a lot of pretty work by the beauty broiler chorus, and the fun flows fast and furious.

Ed Harrington, Karl Karey, Charles Connors, William Schoen, Barbara Holland, dainty Naudia Melville, Clara Howard, Dorothy Newman, Mabel Simpson and the other favorites will be seen to advantage. "I'm So Lonesome" and "Patricia Salome" will make you open your eyes some. There will be the regular Lyric matinees on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and two performances each evening, at 8 and 9:15 o'clock. It is the hot weather show in the city's coolest and safest theatre.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

Ida Mulle headed a benefit program at Boston.

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Frank Dumont is general stage director for Lew Dockstader.

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Georgia Caine will play the title role in "The Mother Girl."

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Paul Gilmore will be seen next season in "The Call of the North."

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Klaw & Erlanger announce a dramatization of "The Inner Shrine."

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The only actor a member of the English parliament is A. E. W. Mason.

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Hattie Williams will have a new comedy called "Detective Sparks."

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Fred Niblo sailed for a three months' tour of Europe with his wife, Josephine Cohan.

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Joe Weber has received bids for the English and Australian rights of "The Climax."

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Marie Wainwright is to journey to San Francisco with the Marie Doro company.

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Belasco has decided to star Marjorie Patterson, the beautiful grand niece of Betty Bonaparte.

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Al H. Woods will have 14 melodramas on the road the coming season, besides other attractions.

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Lewis Waller has accepted a new play, in which Sir Walter Raleigh is the central figure.

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It is said that the finest ballet in the world is at the Maria theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia.

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The Dramatic Mirror's London correspondent says Elly Burke's production of "Love Watches" "failed lamentably."

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Katie Barry has joined the Aborn opera company, after having completed a successful season in vaudeville.

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Harold Crane, of "The Golden Girl" company, served four years in the English army before he went on the stage.

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Annie Russell will have the leading woman's role in "Husband," and her husband, Oswald Yorke, will be featured.

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Margaret Anglin has signed a contract with Frank McKee, to appear in "The Awakening of Helen Ritchie" early in autumn.

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William A. Brady is to produce a new play by Thomas Buchanan, the author of Grace George's play, "A Woman's Way," coming season.

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Gertrude Coghlan has been engaged for Robert Edeson's company next season in "The Noble Spaniard," a new comedy by W. Somerset Maughan.

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At the end of her present tour in "Lady Frederick," Ethel Barrymore will be seen in a new play by Arthur Wing Pinero, as yet unnamed.

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Joseh Weber announces a new play, called "The Saddlemaker," for next season. The author is Edward E. Locke, who wrote "The Climax."

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The only American actor a member of the lower house of congress is Honorable Julius Cahn, of the Third California congressional district.

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Eben Plympton and Kathleen Clifford enact the chief roles in "The Debtors," based on Dickens' story of Little Dorrit. Margaret Mayo is the author.

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A new play by Mrs. George Cornwallis-West, formerly Lady Randolph Churchill, is soon to be produced in London and, possibly, later in New York.

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Grace Filkins is to play a prominent part in "An American Widow." Kellett Chambers, when that play is produced in August by Henry B. Harris.

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John Barrymore is to star in "The Fortune Hunter."

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Wallace Munro, who was manager for Louis James, has resigned to assume the position of manager for Olga Nethersole. The arrangement goes into effect at once.

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Miss Edith Taliaferro has just closed her season in "Polly of the Circus." After a brief vacation she will begin another season the last of June to last until May.

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In September, 1910, Robert Mantel will begin a two years' tour of the world, sailing first for Australia and appearing later in India, South Africa and England.

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A new play, "The Narrow Path," was produced at Philadelphia the other day. Several critics denounced it as vulgar and a palpable imitation of Eugene Walter's "The Easiest Way."

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Amelia Bingham is going to England shortly and will make her debut in London on July 19, in "Great Moments From Great Plays." Miss Beth Franklyn has been engaged to accompany her.

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Clyde Fitch's "Girls," which was a hit in New York, failed in Chicago, while his comedy, "The Bachelor," which was not a brilliant success in New York has been well received here.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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"We will," said A. L. Erlanger, "put out Adeline Genee in a musical comedy by Maurice Levi and Harry B. Smith. This will give us the chance to introduce 'The Dryad,' one of the best ballets ever written."

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Hans Robert, a young comedian, who has been playing in "Checkers" for four years, has been chosen to take up the part in "The Golden Girl," recently abandoned by Harry Tighe, and more recently by Harry Stone.

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News has been received of the death in Paris of Leon Hermann, known in recent years as the Great Hermann. His death was due to consumption. He was the nephew of the elder Hermann, and was billed as his legitimate successor.

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Kyrle Bellew, accompanied by Frank Connor, has sailed for an extended European tour, having brought his season in "The Thief" to a close. Mr. Bellew will return in August to begin rehearsals of Alfred Sutro's new play, "The Builder of Bridges."

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The season after next William Gillette will make a farewell tour in all his famous parts, from "Held by the Enemy" to "Secret Service," and will then retire permanently from the stage. Next season Mr. Gillette will not play at all, on account of poor health.

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The New York Telegraph says Mark Twain is peddling among the managers the libretto of a comic opera right from his own pen and based upon his story, "A Connecticut Yankee in the Court of King Arthur." M. W. Colwell has composed the score that goes with the book.

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Gertrude Coghlan will be Robert Edeson's leading woman next season, when he makes his appearance in W. Somerset Maugham's "The Noble Spaniard." Miss Coughlan will have the part of Marian Nairne, a young widow and the object of the fiery Spaniard's wild courtship.

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"I am," said Nat Goodwin, "disgusted and sick and tired of the American dramatist. Three of the biggest of them—Augustus Thomas, Clyde Fitch and George Broadhurst—each handed me a lemon. I'm going abroad and I'm going to stay there till I land a real play."

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Mrs. Kendal, the famous English actress, celebrated her sixtieth birthday anniversary recently. Mrs. Kendal was the youngest of 22 children. Her oldest brother was born when his mother was 19, and the youngest arrived when mamma had reached the age of 48.—Cleveland News.

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Mark Smith, leading man in "The Traveling Salesman," playing at a Boston theatre, and Anna Murjel Feeney, a member of the Maris Cahill company during the past season, were united in marriage at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, by the Right Rev. Michael Splain.

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In memory of Morris Solomon and his son, Gustavus, famous as Gus Rogers, of the Rogers Brothers, a white granite mausoleum was dedicated in Washington cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y., Sunday afternoon May 23. The mausoleum was constructed on the order of Mrs. Rogers. It cost $14,000.

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In the Paris success—for many months the reigning triumph of the French stage—the detective play, "Arsene Lupin," William Courtenay will play two roles in one, that of a hardened but polished thief and burglar, who is, at the same time, universally accepted in the best society as a full-blooded duke of ancient lineage.

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"As for the 'booing,' it is, said an English actress an old custom. There's no doubt that it is cruel. It is brutal and merciless, and no mistake; but there is this to say for it; it has done a lot to keep utter trash off the British stage and to keep the English theatres of the first class from swarming with incompetent players."—New York Sun.

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A new play is to be produced by Klaw & Erlanger and Joseph Brooks, which is a dramatization of a novel, "The Inner Shrine," published by the Harpers, from whom the managers have obtained the dramatic rights. The novel has made a sensation in literary circles, interest being enhanced by the fact that the authorship is kept secret.

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Kellett Chambers, the author of "An American Widow," a new comedy which Henry B. Harris will produce this coming season, is the husband of Kate Carew, the well known New York artist, journalist and caricaturist. Mr. Chambers is a brother of Charles Haddon Chambers, the dramatist, whose plays, "Captain Swift," "The Idler," "The Awakening," "The Fatal Card and "Sir Anthony, were well known successes.

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From the shadow of the Alps comes a mournful little missive from Beatrice Cameron Mansfield, the widow of Richard Mansfield, and a widow who is still dazed and mystified and moaning in her heart over her loss in that great man. She never seems quite to understand that he is irrevocably gone from her, and there is a plaintive mixture of wild, uncontrollable grief pent up and a kind of solace in his presence which she feels all the time wherever she may carry her tears and her courage. She is in Switzerland with George Gibbs Mansfield, her boy, whom she is educating among the learned Switzers.—Amy Leslie in Chicago News.

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Clean shows have paid the best in the long run, and the spasmodic, fatuous, apelike indulgence which craves filth in the drama and immorality in its spectacles has no permanent basis for financial solidity and is a menace to commercial integrity of the box office. That is all there is about it. The theatre canot be diverted to the ill-gotten gains of indecency, because it is an institution which addresses the public, and not a parcel of lascivious degenerates and decadent weary Willies who have the price. Even the feeble-minded crew of easy or bad morals tire of their own coarseness, but the sane and lovely thousands who delight honorably in the laughter, tears and tableaux of the stage are the pioneer supporters and promoters of the drama.—Amy Leslie in Chicago News.

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Elizabeth Baker three weeks ago was an obscure stenographer and typewriter at a wage of $5 a week; today she is the most widely discussed playwright in England, not excepting the redundant Bernard Shaw. She is credited with having written a remarkable play in "Chains", which has made so deep an impression that already it is listed for production here next fall. Every London critic praises the young woman for a sympathetic realism surpassing that revealed in any other play in London in a year or more. She has resigned her $5 position and has signed contracts for the delivery of two new plays. "Chains" deals with the class which H. G. Wells in one of his stories describes as "damned little clerks." The play bears upon the practical slavery of the struggling office workers. It is strange, says William Bullock in the New York Press, the theme was permitted to lie untouched for Miss Baker, who has not been inside a theatre half a dozen times in her life, and who never heard of the term dramatic technique. Her success proves anew that all there is to drama is truth.

Widows---Their Ways and Wiles

BY GEORGE DAMERAL.

The widows are complicated and dangerous toys. They are wise beyond other women and have seductions which their unmarried sisters know naught of. I am glad that Sonia is a widow and a merry one. Why be a sad widow when the departed has met the common fate of mankind? A few short years and the widow will join him who has departed, so why not wine, flowers and song and the despotism of dancing feet?

My first sweetheart was a widow, whom I met when an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, and living at a boarding house kept by an elderly Juno whose ample charms caused me to lose my heart. The enchantment was not for long, for I met a slim girl with eyes like a deep well lighted by a moon, and forgot my ancient charmer. I like the widows because one can talk to them about all sorts of things. You know that they know, and no matter how they may protest or blush, yet you feel that your soft nothings have conveyed insinuations and intentions to their understanding with efficiency unrealized by girls and spinsters.

A widow is one who has been driven from the Garden of Eden by the Angel of Death. She has eaten of the fruit of the tree of knowledge and she is therefore wiser, more subtle and more adroit than her maidenly sister. I love sophistication, and the widow is always sophisticated. If she were married to the right kind of a man she comes to one a post-graduate in all the vivacities and all the endearments and all the little arts of love. She makes passion a science blended with fine art. Beside her, the crude amateurism of the unmarried is appalling.

I like widows who are beginning to look again upon the world with interest and smartly gowned, groomed to their finger tips, exquisite in every detail, go forth upon the main thoroughfares looking with a languid curiosity upon men. To provoke this languor into passion is piquant, for I know nothing so volcanic in its intensity as the love of a widow. She knows exactly what she wants and exerts all her fascinations to gain the desired end. In common with other men of my company I have received many so called "mash notes" during our tour, and several of them are from widows. I have not replied to any of them, but I hold them in reserve. A few good widows in reserve are a fortress of strength to a man who is wooing a reluctant maiden.

I must admit that I care greatly for widows. I prefer the stake horse who has been tried in campaigns to the maiden 2-year-old who has never headed a field. I believe in betting my money on a winner, and the fact that a woman has been married is a proof that she has won at least one matrimonial event.

I went to Europe last summer to study the methods of different "Merry Widow" companies, of which there are hundreds on the continent. My direct intent was to observe the Prince Danilos, but being a connoisseur of women I devoted my best efforts to the cultivation of Sonias, and I must say that I found a most delightful diversity of merry widows, between St. Petersburg and Rome, and London and Moscow. The original "Merry Widow" was in Vienna. Frau Guenther is the original widow, and a learned, artful creature she is in all the lore of love and passion.

If I may say so, hers is a beauty which appeals to the back of a man's neck and jolts him as with shocks from an electric generator. She has a seduction and a magnetism that fairly pull you over the footlights, just as has Lily Elsie in London, and our own beautiful Mabel Wilber. I found a very interesting widow in Rome, and a Greek

George Dameral as Prince Danilo in "The Merry Widow."

Juno cast for the part in Athens. I made love to the Greek, but she was as cold as a sculptured marble of the Parthenon. In Naples I had better luck, for Sonia there was a black haired, dusky, voluptuous creature who I should judge had been cradled on the slopes of Vesuvius. It is well for me that I was soon called from Naples, else I might have been consumed. Hence I shall always be interested in widows. They are an engrossing study; take them by and large, north, south, east and west, any degrees of latitude and longitude, they are wise folk, and he who plays the game of love with them plays it at his risk.

I have a friend who tells me that in India they burn widows upon the funeral pyres of their husbands. That custom certainly relieves India of a great deal of dangerous material apt at any time to flare up and cause explosions in the breasts of men. There are widows who are honey and poison, as well as widows who are milk and honey—but I say, long live all widows, and may they have everything their hearts desire!