

BROADWAY FANFARE

By Glenn Hasselrooth

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—(Special)—An old-fashioned frame-work receives the bright mark of newness in John Patrick's touching comedy at the Hudson called "The Hasty Heart."

The setting is a convalescent ward of a British general hospital behind the Assam-Burma front. Having attended the play in the company of a colonel just back from that section of the war, I now have no doubt that the hospital trappings and other production aspects are, as he says, correct.

No less real is the story, which tells of a "dour" Scot, who, although he doesn't know it, has only a few weeks to live. The men in the ward and their nurse, hoping to make his final day pleasant, become friends with him after breaking down several walls of resistance, which he has set up to protect himself against repetition of heartbreak known during an underprivileged youth. When he discovers his fate, he accuses them of hypocrisy.

Playwright No Amateur

All this, you may believe hardly comes under the heading of "comedy." But Patrick has handled it with humor which goes from delicate to most virile. His development of the change in the Scot is well planned, understandable, and the major members of the cast of nine emerge as tractable and believ-

able human beings about whom you care. They, along with the play, reveal that they have heart—and not merely the hasty one mentioned in the title, from which "sorrow springs."

Richard Basehart enacts the rough-brooded Scot, but is pushed for honors by John Lund (who, incidentally, has now been signed to a Paramount contract). Lund is the Yank inmate of the ward, whose homely and vehement philosophies bring applause when he is provoked into proclaiming them. Anne Burr, as the lone feminine member of the cast, has an excellent voice but sometimes gives the impression that she is fully aware of its skill in modulation. A smaller role is taken by John Campbell, recently returned from Hollywood where he was one of the five brothers in "The Sullivans." Comprising the remainder of the cast are Douglas Chandler as the Tommy, Victor Chapin as the New Zealander, Earl Jones, Francis Nielsen, and J. Colville Dunn.

"The Hasty Heart," being presented by the intelligent and rather clairvoyant Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse who wrote Broadway's "Life with Father," indicated more than a little promise, even before its opening. Breislage Windust has staged it to give the maximum interest and movement to a scene in which stand six hospital cots. The fact that the men in them are recovering rapidly and able to move about gives the action reason for being and seldom pausing.

Openings, Closings

ALONG THE ALLEY: Max Gordon's musical version of "The Firebrand" has been retitled again, this time to "Much Ado About Love." . . . The new Vinton Freedley musical, co-starring William Gaxton and Victor Moore, is in the process of re-writing. It's called "Call Me Lucky." . . . Betty Field has returned to the cast of "The Voice of the Turtle," opposite Elliott Nugent. The part was originated by Margaret Sullivan, who left the cast in December for a hospital stint; during Miss Field's illness, Florence Rice substituted.

The John van Druten comedy has been running since December, 1943, and is still playing to the capacity of starthees which theater rules will permit. . . . "The Two Mrs. Carrolls," fourth-longest runner among present offerings, departed from the Booth on Feb. 3. Since the August opening of two years ago, Elisabeth Bergner has had three leading men (in order): Victory Jory, Onslow Stevens, and Philip Ober. . . . Daphne du Maurier's own dramatization of "Rebecca" opened to mixed notices, with Bramwell Fletcher as Maxim, Florence Reed as Mrs. Danvers, Diana Barrymore as the second Mrs. de Winter. . . . The undressed farce, "Good Night Ladies," received the kind of notices expected but, so far, hasn't had to worry about business. It's strictly off the Idaho. . . . "Laughing Room Only," the Olsen and Johnson orgy, had a similar panning, but attracted long lines at the Winter Garden box office. . . . The ice revue starring Sonja Heinie at Madison Square Garden, set for Feb. 8 closing, had Eugene's Mary Anderson among the skating chorus.

Funny how the New York critics' words are twisted by those who make up the theater ads. The most harmless and, actually, un-praiseworthy phrases emerge with exclamation points after them, but not much point otherwise. The favorite remark gleaned for "School for Brides" and given subsequent plugging in its ads, was "Pretty girls . . . wearing very little." The phrase is true, the psychology behind it not at all senseless, and the success of the show the envy of the Freres Minsky.

ENROLLMENT SOARS
PORTLAND, Feb. 1.—(AP)—Lewis and Clark college enrollment for the spring semester is twice that of last year, Dr. L. O. McAfee, registrar, said today.

Airmen Try Out Rockets At Night

A MARINE BOMBER BASE, MARIANAS—AP—The airmen at this base are trying out a new style of warfare—night rocket offensives.

But although the idea is new, the job already has become routine to the rocketeers who operate here as a unit of the 4th

marine aircraft wing.

The crews here don't go in for naming their planes. They have a task to do—an unromantic one—and they don't dress it up with fancy words. Their pass word is: "Hit 'em first and then don't hang around."

This comparatively small unit has scored 14 rocket hits on enemy shipping in two months of operations. Its commanding officer, Lt. Col. Jack Cram, Seattle, Wash., sank a merchantman and probably sank a warship on the

rocketeers' first mission south-west of Hoka Jima.

Most dangerous attacks are those in harbors, such as that in Chichi Jima in the Bonins.

(Several lines censored.) The six-man crew of the low-flying marine PJB's include a pilot, bombardier-navigator, radio-man, tail gunner and a photographer.

On their missions they also keep track of enemy shipping and help rescue B-29 crews.

One officer said PJB crews

Juvenile Problem Outlined By Writer

PORTLAND — (AP) — Officials who say their cities have no juvenile delinquency problem usually are "kidding" both themselves and the public, John Wooster Martin, columnist for True De-

have been responsible for saving airmen from two Superfortresses, and have led others back to their base.

ective magazine, declared here. Here speaking to a business men's club, he suggested strengthening the home, schools, and churches—all resources used in child training—as the first step to combat delinquency. "Three other obligations are protection of the child, regulation and control of harmful influences in a community, and control provisions to offer special services to already delinquent children," Martin said. He recommended

that juveniles be kept out of the county or city jail. **OPEN STOP** **PENE**

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3 delicious flavors—cin-a-mint, mint cocktail and fruit cocktail.

5¢ a package

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Valentine Seals 20 in pkg. **5¢**

NOVELTY

Valentines

Assorted novelty cutouts and lace folders with envelopes.

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Valentine Napkins 24 in pkg. **10¢**

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