

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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BEGIN TO TAKE DRAMA SERIOUSLY

Ed Andrews Points Out Value of the Drama as Educational Force—"The Third Degree" Greatly Enjoyed by Local People.

As a writer of problem plays, Charles Klein stands first among the authors of his time, and, by the way, it seems that the problem play is just now in the height of fashion.

People are beginning to take the drama more seriously than in former times.

We are glad to say that the narrow prejudice of the church is a thing of the past. Christian people everywhere are beginning to realize that the drama is one of the greatest of all arts, and its strong appeal to the emotions as well as to the sense of sight makes it a medium through which stringent and most lasting impressions are made.

Olive Schreiner, the author of "An African Farm," says: "Tell me what a man dreams and I will tell you what he is." Indeed, this is true; our day-dreams become our ideals and our ideals mold and shape our characters.

Every performance that visits our town, every reel of films unwound at our picture shows is doing its part in the molding of the characters of the rising generation, and it is commendable in the ladies of the Greater Medford club that they are arranging a censorship, the object of which is to do away with the pictures that display crime and morbid romance and shows life in a distorted form.

"The Third Degree" is one of the rare performances that it has been Medford's good luck to see.

As to the cast, it was in most respects a very good one. Miss Franklyn Gale, who played the part of "Mrs. Howard Jeffries, Jr.," is a good actress, but she failed to look the part of the girl that the author had in mind.

Mr. Stewart was not quite our ideal as the son of a wealthy man who held first place among New York's aristocracy. Young Jeffries' environment was supposed to have given him a style and polish even though his dissolute life may have led him wide from the path of propriety.

Charles Klein is a writer who carves his characters with the hand of a sculptor, and acting that would be acceptable in the ordinary play will not do in the exacting work laid out by this most exacting playwright.

The senior Mrs. Jeffries looked and acted her part well with perfection; she seemed to be the very person from whom we would expect a queer contradiction of good and bad and the love of wealth, position and luxury being the dominant motive of her life, with now and then a good emotion welling up through the baser elements of her nature.

The part of "Richard Brewster," attorney, was well acted by Raymond Whittaker. Mr. Whittaker is a good actor and played his part at all times with intelligence and dignity.

Harry Foreman did very well as the elder Jeffries, while Mr. Neil Barrett, as chief of police, would be acceptable in any cast.

ED ANDRITS.

JUD PERNOLL BUYS INTEREST IN POOL HALL

Jud Pernoll, the southern Oregon baseball king, who will play with the Detroit Tigers next season, has purchased an interest in the Owl billiard and pool hall of Grants Pass. Jud will go east in the spring to join Hugh Jennings' fast aggregation.

WEST'S NEW REFORM.

BEFORE Governor West's departure for the east he announced that there would be no more hangings in Oregon during his term as chief executive. He stated that he would exercise the powers conferred upon him by the constitution and commute those sentenced to execution to life imprisonment. He recommends that capital punishment be abolished, as in his first legislative message, and that murderers be punished by life imprisonment that will be literally life imprisonment, the pardoning power being taken away from governor and prison board.

Of course Governor West will be malignantly assailed, in fact being so assailed, for his action. He will be misrepresented and harshly criticised—but that is part of the political game to discredit him. It makes no difference what Governor West does, partisan newspapers like the Oregonian will attack him and belittle him, and deny him a square deal. They are survivals of a time, now happily passing away, when it was held that abuse weakened a man politically, and that people believed the stuff dished out in partisan papers.

Governor West has the courage of his convictions. If he believes a thing is right, he does it regardless of criticism or policy. He has a big heart and is full of sympathy for the under dog in life's struggle. If he can lend a helping hand, he is going to do it. He is trying to do right, as it has been given him to see the right—and who can do more?

Only a century or two ago all crimes, from trifling theft up, were punished by execution. But this didn't stop crime. Fear of punishment never did stop a crime committed, as most homicides are committed, in hot blood. Hanging has not lessened murder—on the contrary, homicide is on the increase. As humanity progressed, the scaffold has been discarded for all but the capital crime. Has it not progressed far enough to discard the barbaric punishment altogether?

The red tape and maze of technicalities of the law, which make it exceedingly hard to punish any kind of a crime, if the accused has money enough to fight, have brought the law into contempt and done far more to encourage crime of all kinds than modification in the punishment. This laxity of law enforcement, this over-riding of justice by hair-splitting jurists, is doing far more to increase murder than abolishment of execution can do. Speedy trials, certain punishment, will do far more to lessen crime than the hangman's noose.

THOSE HERO MEDALS.

AMONG the means adopted by Andrew Carnegie of cleverly distributing his tainted money to advertise his name and perpetuate his fame is that of presenting medals to those accredited with acts of heroism.

The Carnegie hero fund, an organization founded by the former iron-monger, gives medals yearly to those who have most earned the gratitude of humanity by acts of valor or fortitude. The medal, on one side, contains a large bust of Andrew Carnegie with the words "Carnegie Hero Fund—Established April 15, 1904." On the reverse is a rectangular space in which is engraved the name of the winner in small letters. This is surrounded by scroll ornamentation encircled by the following legend: "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends."

Here then we have a beautiful instance of selfishness incarnate making use of noble unselfishness for most selfish aims. While the hero's name appears in inconspicuous small script, the philanthropic donor's name and picture takes half the medal. Whose fame is perpetuated, whose heroism rewarded?

And such is the charity and philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie!

EIGHT YEAR HUNT FOR MISSING MAN

New Clues Found—Miner Who Strangely Disappeared in 1903 Near Grants Pass May Have Met With Foul Play, Is Belief.

ALBANY, Ore., Nov. 27.—After searching for almost eight years to gain some knowledge of the whereabouts of T. C. Jackson, who mysteriously disappeared at his home at Grants Pass, relatives have unearthed some clues which may lead to the discovery of the cause of his disappearance. Jackson had been engaged in mining near Grants Pass for four or five years prior to his disappearance in 1903. The last his relatives heard from him was when he wrote to his brother, R. T. Jackson, of Shelbyville, Mo., saying that he intended to go back to the St. Louis fair and would make them a visit. Since then he has not been heard from.

R. T. Jackson came to the Pacific coast recently on a visit and stopped at Grants Pass for a final investigation of the matter. On this trip he unearthed some clues which he believes will assist materially in solving the mystery.

He found that his brother had loaned money to different people in Grants Pass and he met one man who voluntarily confessed that his father owed Jackson \$50. He became convinced that T. C. Jackson's money played a prominent part in his disappearance.

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