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WEEKLY NEW YORK LETTER

New York, April 27.—That some form should be made in the form of legal procedure in this country is the belief among the members of the New York bar. Never, to their minds, has the need been more clearly shown in the Thaw trial. The fact that such a large percentage of the murder trials in this city have ended in jury disagreement has convinced these men that it is impossible to get a body of 12 men to agree on a verdict.

Several members of the New York bar have expressed the opinion that something might be done to hasten trial proceedings by conducting them in a manner fashioned after that of the English courts. John F. McIntyre, formerly an assistant district attorney, is among those who advocate reform. He thinks that juries in this city are often influenced in a great measure by outside sentiment, and that one of the needed reforms is an adoption of the English rule permitting a judge to charge the jury on the facts in the case as well as on the law. In nearly every case in England, says Mr. McIntyre, the jury is guided by the tenor of the judge's charge out of the maze into which the arguments of the opposing counsel have led them, precluding mistrials and tending to make the verdict in every case just.

Eugene Philbin, former district attorney, said that in his opinion there were a number of reforms that could be made with advantage. He said that at the present time the technical rules of evidence were so strict in favor of the defendant that they prevented a speedy disposition of the case. He said that any reform that would expedite the deciding of a case of this kind would be of great advantage.

In every club or place where lawyers meet the mistrial in the Thaw case has been the subject of argument, and the need of some reform has been freely acknowledged.

The city has secured a noteworthy addition to its pulpits. The new comer to the ranks of metropolitan ministers is Charles Frederic Aked, who not only desired to dispense with the title of doctor, to which he is entitled, by his degree of doctor of divinity, but even with that of reverend, which is universally bestowed on members of the clerical profession.

In this he goes a step farther than those two greatest pulpits of the last century, on both sides of the Atlantic, Henry Ward Beecher and Charles Hadden Spurgeon, neither of whom would allow himself to be dubbed doctor, but did not reject the title reverend.

Mr. Aked preached his first sermon in the Fifth avenue Baptist church to which he has been called last Sunday. The church to the pastorate of which Mr. Aked succeeds is one of the largest and wealthiest of the Baptist denomination in this city. It is popularly known as Mr. Rockefeller's church. But the senior John D. Rockefeller, although he attends it when in this city and presumably contributes largely to its support and benefices, holds his church membership in Cleveland. The promise has been made to Mr. Aked that he shall be hampered in no way in his pulpit utterances here, but that he shall feel free to say or do what his conscience dictates.

Easter weddings have this year an element of novelty so far as the presents are concerned, which the talent of a French medalist now in this country had made possible. The wedding medal has just been put on the market by a firm of Fifth avenue jewelers, and at many of the spring marriages there has been such a gift on the table of presents. It is usually given by the bridegroom to the bride, or by the bride to her husband, although it may be presented by any friend or relative in lieu of an ordinary gift.

These marriage medals are made of silver and are about two inches in diameter. On one side is a pair of figures in classical fashion, and on the other is a wreath of laurel bearing the words "Souvenir de Mariage," and after that are the names of the contracting parties with the date, and the words "Prosperite" and "Bonheur." The silver is frosted and the workmanship of the medallions exquisitely fine.

Men have asked why Mark Twain is adored so widely by women. The answer isn't hard to find. Everybody who has seen the white-haired author in their society could supply it. The answer is that few Americans treat them with such marked deference as that invariably shown by the creator of Huckleberry Finn. He isn't the least timid of them. On the contrary he approaches them with manifest confidence, born, doubtless, of his unflinching success in fascinating them. But if he is conscious of his popularity he conceals the consciousness admirably. Women admire men most when men appear unaware of admiration. There was a benefit a year or two ago in the Casino, at which Sarah Bernhardt appeared. Mark Twain followed the great French actress, and he began by complimenting her on her French, saying, "Whenever I hear the beautiful language of French rippling so rhythmically from such lovely lips, I am so entranced that after a while I almost think I'm going to understand it." The laugh he caused placed him immediately in sympathy with his audience, which consisted chiefly of women, and every succeeding sally was greeted with enthusiastically feminine applause.

Society has taken up roller skating. The lure of the little wheels has crept into the innermost circles of the Fifth avenue set, and dinners, dances and theater parties are second in popularity to the newest fad. Since the end of Lent the fad has become so widespread that Lennox Lyceum, Madison avenue and Fifty-ninth street, has been hired, and what is known as the Friday night club meets as often as its name indicates. There is a membership of from 75 to 100, and on these occasions outsiders are strictly barred,

although many have pleaded to be admitted only as spectators. The best of music is provided, games such as "Snap the whip" are played and many of the most dignified young women and chaperons enjoy the sport.

Some of the stouter members of the club have assured friends that they have taken up roller skating on the advice of the physicians, that it is an excellent reduction regime, but it is an open secret that the younger women at any rate, the attractive personal qualities and surpassing skill of one of the instructors has something to do with the cause.

Although only 20 years old, he has already wrought havoc in so many young hearts while gracefully gliding their possessors over the smooth surface, that several of the matrons are on the verge of protest, while certain erstwhile society cavaliers are threatening to have such a dangerous rival removed from his position.

Mr. Walker Whiteside.

When Walker Whiteside makes his appearance with his new play, "The Magic Melody," at the Grand opera house, May 3rd, local theatergoers will be given an opportunity to see one of the strongest organizations that the firm Liebler & Co.



Scene from the "Magic Melody."

have yet sent forth in a modern play. While Liebler & Co. are known for their artistic productions and the excellence of the casts they supply for their various plays, they feel they have furnished an array of talent that should appeal to the lovers of the best in dramatic art, and are satisfied that few of the productions that come this way have surpassed Mr. Whiteside's company in point of artistic possibilities. Each and every member of the company is an experienced player with a wealth of stage history, and each has come to be known as among the best in his or her branch of endeavor on Broadway, where after all, the bulk of the critical analysis, as far as the managers are concerned, is done.

It is unusual to find such artists as Miss May Buckley; Miss Olive Wyndham, Miss Martha George, Mr. Henry Bergman and Mr. Howard Gould in one organization, even when such a star as Mr. Whiteside is to be supported, and Liebler & Co. take pride in the result they have achieved. Mr. Whiteside's engagement with this firm is for a term of years, and during that period he will be seen only in modern plays, as he has decided to abandon his classic and romantic portrayals for some time to come. He says he regards his work in that line as the surest foundation for the work he is now attempting, and it can be said that his managers have given him every opportunity with the splendid cast that has been provided.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup. Immediately relieves hoarse, croupy cough; oppressed, rattling rasping and difficult breathing. Henry C. Sterns, druggist, Shullsburg, Wis., writes, May 20, 1902: "I have been selling Ballard's Horehound Syrup for two years, and have never had a preparation that has given better satisfaction. I notice that when I sell a bottle they come back for more I can honestly recommend it." 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by D. J. Fry.

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I saw the circus and smelled the menagerie. I didn't leave out anything in the program of a whole, long, filled-to-the-brim with excitement, glorious circus day.

If I have breath enough left in me I am prepared to tell you all about it. Norris & Rowe invaded this city this morning. I followed the parade as it passed through the streets.

Oh, I turned back 25 years of my life and was a boy again.

The band was playing, the lions roared, the callopes screamed, the bagpipes squealed, the Russians and Cossacks smiled and chattered, the ponies and horses ambled along, the chariots, tableaux and glided cages lolled majestically along on their way, and I plodded with the side-

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