

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Shea opened in the Opera House, Monday evening, to a good house in his popular play, "Escaped from Sing Sing."

This is apparently the dull season in the provinces as well as in the States. I do not think there is a company on the road in this section, unless the "Crust of Society," working homeward.

One of the good stories in connection with Mr. Haystead's maritime tour that escaped publication was the closure placed upon him by a Halifax hotel which he and his wife patronized quite liberally during their past and present tours.

A niece of Ellen Terry, who was trained by her aunt, has just made her debut in London.

Mme. Modjeska carries in "Henry VIII." a handkerchief which is said to have been the property of Queen Isabella.

One lady suggests apropos of the big theatre that when women will cease to wear it when men leave off going out between the acts.

The oldest actor in England is believed to be Mr. James Doel, 90 years old, who played First Gravedigger to Edmund Kean's Hamlet, and has played with Macready, Sheridan, Knowles, Buckstone, Miss Cushman, Miss Fanny Kemble and Mrs. Keeley.

Octavia Allen, an old time actress, died last week at her summer home in Fort Lee, N. J. Some years ago she was a personator of old women roles in the support of Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Edmund Keene, and other tragedians.

Mr. Sydney Granby is the only living dramatist who seriously embarked in play-writing as a profession; Mr. G. R. Sims was first a journalist and remained one.

One of the marked changes in opinion during the last few years is shown by the notices of Mr. Booth given in the religious papers of the country. There was once a time within the memory of quite young newspaper readers when no religious paper, whatever the opinions of its editor, would have dared to devote an editorial to the consideration of an actor's life and death.

Tones and Undertones.

Paderewski has left Paris and has gone to his native Poland for the rest and recreation. He will be in London early in October, bringing his hair with him.

Miss Florence Nightingale has just celebrated her seventy-third birthday. Although for many years confined to her home by constant ill-health, she is ceaselessly at work for the welfare of her fellow creatures.

Dr. Hans von Bulow has no admiration or even toleration for the prevailing style of light opera. He says the composers may be divided into two classes—those who plagiarize from the hand organs and those who write for them.

Though it is a curious fact that several eminent musicians, as for instance Handel, Hayden, Cherubini, Verdi, Rossini and Spohr, passed the three score years and ten by considerable space, the average professional musician only reaches 40 years, while doctors lawyers and clergymen average 60.

Messrs. Carl and Theodor Rosenfeld have arranged to bring to America the Royal Bohemian National Opera company for a twenty weeks' tour next season. The contract was signed by Theodor Rosenfeld and Frague last week.

Mr. Arthur Lloyd, who, with his company, sails from London, August 2, will open his first American tour the latter part of that month. Mr. Lloyd has, through the medium of his popular comic songs, a world-wide reputation, and his appearance in this country in his own funny and successful musical comedy, "Our Party," in which many of his newest compositions will be heard, is sure to be a successful one.

thoroughly successful, and I am the more sanguine of this, as I know by long experience that your talents have only to be understood to be widely and deservedly appreciated.

Madame Adelina Patti made her last appearance in London this season on July 1. Madame Patti will not sing again in London until after her return next May from the farewell tour which she is about to make in the United States and Canada.

ITS SUGGESTED LIFE INSURANCE.

The Doctrine of Probabilities Evolved by a Game of Cards.

A game of cards suggested the idea of life assurance.

More than two hundred years ago a Flemish nobleman attempted to divide equitably the money staked upon an interrupted game of chance.

He was assisted in the task by a Jesuit priest, one of the most accomplished mathematicians of any age.

Pascal solved the problem, and in doing so enunciated the "doctrine of probabilities," or laws governing insurance of all kinds.

The theory is illustrated by the throwing of dice. When a single die is thrown the chance of turning up an ace is precisely one out of six, or one out of the total number of sides or faces.

From this Pascal laid down the proposition that results which have happened in any given number of observed cases will again happen in similar circumstances, provided the numbers be sufficient for the proper working of the law of average.

The life of a single individual is one of the greatest uncertainties, but the duration, or rate of mortality, of a large number of individuals may be predicted with great accuracy by comparison with the observed results among a sufficiently large number of persons of similar ages, occupations, and climatic influences.

Bismarck's Last Cigar.

"The value of a good cigar," said Bismarck, as he proceeded to light an excellent Havana, "is best understood when it is the last you possess, and there is no chance of getting another."

"At Konigsgratz I only had one cigar left in my pocket, which I carefully guarded during the whole of the battle as a miser does his treasure. I did not feel justified in using it. I painted in glowing colors in my mind the happy hour when I should enjoy it after the victory. But I had miscalculated my chances."

"And what was the cause of your miscalculation?"

"A poor dragon. He lay helpless, with both arms crushed, murmuring for something to refresh him. I felt in my pockets and found I had only gold, and that would be of no use to him. But, stay—I had still my treasured cigar! I lighted this for him, and placed it between his teeth. You should have seen the poor fellow's grateful smile! I never enjoyed a cigar so much as that one I did not smoke."

Couldn't Teach Him Spelling.

A showman had an announcement stating, "Come and see the greatest sawed fish."

A learned gentleman read it, and informed the showman that he had made a mistake in the word sawed; that it ought to be sword.

"Yer'd better come in an' see fer yerself; the hadmission is only tuppence, sir," said the showman.

So the learned gentleman paid his "tuppence," went in, and was shown a large codfish sawn in half.

"Yer ain't the fust gentleman wot has tried to teach me 'ow to spell; but I tell yer I've 'ad a good eddication, an' I'm runnin' this show jist to prove to people I 'ave," grinned the showman.

The learned gentleman left, deeply indignant with the world in general, and the showman in particular.

The Place of Danker.

"How did this happen?" asked the surgeon, as he dressed the wound, in the cheek and applied a soothing poultice to the damaged eye.

"Got hit with a stone," replied the patient.

"Who threw it?"

"My—my wife," was the reluctant answer.

"Hum—it's the first time I ever knew a woman to hit anything she aimed at," muttered the surgeon.

"She was throwing at the hens next door," explained the sufferer. "I was behind her."

It is to Dr. Von Bulow that is debited the curt criticism of a young and very pretty girl's effort on the piano. When she had struggled through one of Bach's fugues after the fashion of the ambitious maiden aspirant, and asked the great master what he would advise her to do.

"Go and get married," he answered, as he turned away and left her.

It is only a poor sort of happiness that could ever come by caring very much about our own narrow pleasures. We can only have the highest happiness, as goes along with true greatness, by having wide thoughts and much feeling for the rest of the world as well as ourselves.—George Eliot.

One of the most distinguished medical practitioners used to say that he considered a fee so necessary to give weight to an opinion, that when he looked at his own tongue in the glass, he slipped a guinea from one pocket into the other.

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William Black. 77 Stand Fast, Craig Royston! 134 Sabina Zembra. Clarence M. Boutelle. 143 The Man Outside.

Miss M. E. Braddon. 61 The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. 79 Whose was the Hand? Charlotte Bronte. 128 Jane Eyre.

Rhoda Broughton. 68 Alias! Robert Buchanan. 110 The Heir of Linne.

Mrs. H. Lovett-Cameron. 25 A Lost Wife. Lady Colin Campbell. 4 Dorell Blake.

Rosa Nocheette Carey. 12 The Search for Basil Lyndhurst. 29 Merle's Crusade. 62 Lover or Friend? 68 Mary St. John.

Count Lyof Tolstol. 71 Work While Ye Have the Light. Sophie Fethch. 121 The Dean's Daughter.

Jules Ferne. 138 Texar's Revenge. Mrs. Walford. 11 A Merc Child.

Florence Warden. 98 The Killburns. 131 Scheherazade. Beatrice Whitby. 64 A Matter of Sex.

132 The Duke's Secret. Oscar Wilde. 63 The Picture of Marjan Gray. John Strange Winter. 117 Beautiful Jim.

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Edna Lyall. 15 Knight Errant. 10 Donovan. 20 We Two. 21 Won by Waiting. 23 In the Golden Days. 24 Dorris Vaughan. 126 A Hardy Norseman.

Justin McCarthy. 28 Roland Oliver. Hugh McColl. 3 Mr. Stranger's Sealed Packet. Frank Merryfield. 140 Molly's Story.

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