

Music and The Drama IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Despite the fact that the recent engagement of the Jaxon Opera Co. was said to have been a financial failure, I notice that they are booked for a short season in the autumn.

The date of Professor Titus' concert has been fixed for April 12th and the interest which has ever attended these annual events is increased this year by the announcement that the name of Arthur B. Hitchcock, the great baritone will appear on the programme.

There is no need to eulogize Mr. Hitchcock. He has been heard in this city and the excellent impression he made is still pleasantly remembered. Mr. Hitchcock has won for himself an enviable reputation and his appearance next month will be hailed with much pleasure.

Tones and Undertones.

Lillian Carlsmith has retired from 'The Bride Elect.'

Pol Plancon is studying German in order to sing Wagner roles.

Their devotion to the ladies is of occasional expense to musical people. Two years ago Jean de Reszke was tempted to join certain fair creatures in a skating contest, from which gallantry he contracted a cold that kept him out of three performances at the Metropolitan, and, in addition to doctor's bills, cost the tenor \$5000 in salary.

Sousa has arranged to present shortly before his departure for Europe a military, musical and patriotic spectacle, which will be called 'The Trooping of the Colors.'

The scene of De Wolf Hopper's new opera, 'The Charlatan,' which is being written by Charles Klein and John Philip Sousa, is laid in northeastern Russia at the base of the Ural mountains.

May Irwin is not going London this season. She will conclude her present tour in June and then go to the Thousand Islands for a Summer's vacation.

J. F. B. Beckwith, a son of the late Episcopal Bishop of Georgia, will go to New York on Sept. 1, to join the Ward-James-Rhea combination with which he will play the part of the King in 'Hamlet'

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for Europe, and may possibly appear during the summer in a new opera which Mr. George Edwards intends to produce.

It is definitely settled that Jefferson D. Angelis will star next season in a new opera by Strange and Edwards. Lillian Russel has made her plans so far ahead that she has contracted with Manager George Bumenthal to appear, during the year 1900, in a comic opera in his projected American Theatre, Paris, during the World's Exposition.

Camille D'Arville will sing Francesca in the Berlin production of 'The Fencing Master.' If it is a success 'Robin Hood' and 'Rob Roy' will also be given.

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Miss Maude Adams' two-hundredth appearance in 'The Little Minister' was made on March 19.

Mrs. Fiske will shortly produce a play by Marguerite Merrington. She will impersonate a cripple.

In a recent London production of 'Trilby,' the woman who played the title role sang 'Come Back to Erin.'

Minnie Seligman will next week begin a ten-weeks engagement in Chicago. Robert Drouet will be her leading man.

Jacob Litt, who has just acquired McVicker's theatre in Chicago, says, 'I believe that \$1 is enough to ask people to pay for the best theatrical productions.'

E. S. Willard, who has been playing at Hooley's Theatre, Chicago, is stricken in that city with a severe case of typhoid fever. He has closed his American season.

A quartet consisting of Ysaye, Gerardy, Marceau and Lacharme, will tour America. Ysaye is to play next season in Australia, Japan, India and Egypt.

Jacob Litt has made arrangements for the translation of his immensely successful melodrama, 'In Old Kentucky,' into the German language for purposes of production in that tongue in certain American cities, and also in Germany.

A new drama on a biblical subject has been written by C. P. Flockton, a well-known British actor, now in this country, and it is said that it will receive its premier in America. The play is entitled 'Hagar and Ishmael.'

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Before Antonio Terry married Sybil Sanderson, after the lengthy engagement, he exacted three promises. She was to abjure her religion and profess the Catholic faith. She was totally to renounce all operative aspirations and she was to assume complete maternal responsibilities toward the precocious child of his first marriage, a girl of 17.

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'The Coreans' alias 'The Walking Delegate' will introduce a new prima donna when it opens at the Fifth Avenue theatre, New York.

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stance she has been the recipient of all kinds of brands. Packages bearing Spanish labels are consigned to the gutter.

Joseph Jefferson is one of the most persistent anglers on the east coast of Florida. They say that he not only fishes for fish but actually catches them. He is well liked by kodak fiends because he never dodges them, but lets himself be 'taken' at all times, says an exchange.

Richard Mansfield in 'A Devil's Disciple' has had his best season as a star.

'The Heart of Maryland' company sail from New York for London March 30.

Mm. Modjeska will rest this summer in Europe.

Wilton Lackaye, Nance O'Neill, McKee Rankin and Rose Eyttinge are the leading members of a stock company which is to play an extended engagement at McVicker's theatre, Chicago.

Mr. Charles Coghlan is noted as one of the greatest readers on the English speaking stage. His gifts more real meaning out of his lines than almost any other of his contemporaries and the technique of his art is profoundly admired not only by the playgoers and critics but also by his professional contemporaries themselves.

It is said that Joseph H. Worth was offered leading roles with Augustin Daly's company for next season, but refused because of his contemplated starring tour.

'His Honor the Mayor' is the title of W. H. Crane's newest play. It will be given at the Empire theatre, New York, this spring and May Robson will be in the cast.

Sarah Bernhardt has almost recovered from the effects of her operation and will appear in Paris next month.

Nat Goodwin has put away Clyde Fitch's 'Nathan Hale,' after its success in Chicago, because he wishes to have the scenery and costumes fresh when they are seen in New York next autumn.

A member of Augustin Daly's company of interesting lineage is Eric Scott. His father is Clement Scott, critic of the London Telegraph and recently immersed in hot water because of an ill advised interview about actresses, and his mother was a sister of the late George Du Maurier.

Besides 'Too Much Johnson,' William Gillette will probably present a new comedy while he is in London, which contains a part exactly suited to Ida Conquest, who was, for this reason, especially selected by Mr. Frohman as leading lady for the English trip.

Lent has closed all the theatres in Russia the beginning of Alexander III's reign. A recent ukase now permits plays to be performed during the penitential season, with the exception of the first and last weeks. A distinction is made, however, between grand opera and serious dramas on the one hand and comic opera on the other, the latter being strictly forbidden unless given in a foreign language.

Mrs. Barnard Beere will play Peg Woffington in 'Masks and Faces' at the Comedy Theatre, London, March 31.

During Holy Week no dramatic performance will be given at the Lyceum Theatre, New York.

Paris is to see 'The Geisha.'

Boston is to have an Eden Musee.

'Les Miserables' is to be revived in Paris.

A new London sketch is called 'The Blarney Stone.'

Belle Archer is to star in 'A Contented Woman.'

Madame Viarda's receipts of \$158 75 for a full week at the Fifth Avenue Theatre were grotesquely small, but not the smallest on record. There is a first class theatre in London where the gross receipts one night amounted to half a crown, and on another occasion fell as low as one shilling, while within the same week a performance was given to an audience that looked all right but didn't turn in a solitary penny.—New York Telegraph.

RAILROAD CARS AND DISEASE.

How Railroad Companies Assist in Preventing Spread of Disease.

A great epidemic of contagious or infectious disease, like the yellow-fever epidemic which last season brought so much suffering and loss of life and money to New Orleans, must make many persons wonder what the officers of railroads do to prevent the spread of disease by the constant movement of trains back and forth. Obviously, a railroad car is well adapted to convey germs. The plush cushions, the hangings, the carving, and in the case of sleeping-cars, the bedding, all furnish good lodging-places for dust or any fine mater-

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ial which may be flying about in the air; and the common use of the tumbler or drinking cup is very efficient in spreading diseases.

A railroad surgeon has lately reported an instance—uncommon, let us hope—of the scattering of diphtheria through a wide region. A child having diphtheria was carried two hundred miles in an ordinary day car. The next day a number of school-teachers returning from a teacher's institute, travelled in the same car. Shortly afterward diphtheria broke out in the schools in four different places along the line of that railroad, and the evidence which the railroad surgeon was able to collect pointed to the spread of the disease by these teachers, who when examined, were found to have diphtheritic organisms in their throats, although they did not actually have diphtheria.

Perhaps the child had left infected saliva on the arms of the seats, or on the window ledges; or, what is more probable, the infection may have been conveyed through the drinking vessel on the car. In fact, the railroad companies take elaborate and costly measures to prevent the spread of disease. One method much resorted to is the use of formaldehyde gas.

When a car arrives at the cleaning yard all apertures are carefully closed, the toilet room doors are opened, and if it is a sleeping-car the births are let down, and then formaldehyde gas is injected through a keyhole in an outside door. The car is kept closed for four or five hours, then opened and ventilated. Then the floors, water tanks, etc., are thoroughly scrubbed. Many parts are cleaned with a solution of formaldehyde gas in water. In other cases an antiseptic wash is used for the floor and woodwork, then a solution of formaldehyde is sprayed by the use of compressed air into the surface of the plush and into inaccessible places. In the case of sleeping-cars great care is taken to wash the linen after every trip, and to air the births and mattresses.

In suburban service, however, the proper sanitary care of railroad cars is much more difficult, because it is impossible thoroughly to clean and disinfect them after every trip. They can only receive this care at considerable intervals, and meantime, harm is no doubt often done by the distribution of disease germs.

There are some precautions which travellers can easily take, and ought always to take, for themselves. If the journey is short they need not drink during the passage. If the journey is to be longer, every traveller should provide himself with a drinking-cup, or else abstain from drinking while on the car. It is expected to spend the night in a car, it is wise for him to carry his own soap and towels. Bad cases of ophthalmia have been traced to the toilet room of a sleeping car.

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