

THE ECCENTRIC

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LIFE AND DRAMA

The vocabulary of the average American layman in criticizing a book, a play or a moving picture can be summarized in two expressions: (1) "I liked that play; it was funny." (2) "I didn't like that picture; it was sad." But let him tell of a base-ball game and such a rush of words and phrases dealing with minor points and technicalities you never heard! Yes, as dramatic critics we admit our supremacy!

Outside of sports, the American supports but one art: Music. To be sure, Jazz still holds the ears of the majority, but we exhibit a greater knowledge of music than that painting, sculpture, drama, etc. When it comes to drama we wish to "check our brains at the door" and give ourselves up to frivolity. "We have enough troubles in real life," say some; "give us something funny with a happy ending!"

This is our ideal—a happy ending! It usually is found when the hero clasps her in his arms and together they face the light. But in real life most people find that this is not the ending at all; only the beginning. And instead of seeking drama with a purpose, instead of seriously trying to draw a lesson from a book or a play and going home to apply it to their troubles in real life, they wish only to be diverted for an hour or two from their cares. So be it. The people will always get what they wish in the way of entertainment. It is always pleasant to gaze upon the make-believe happiness of someone else. But would it not be wiser to put more serious thought into the solving of human problems, and into learning of the trials and misadventures of others whereby we may find a way out of our own difficulties? Any hog can enjoy himself; it is the human province to think and learn.

MARRIAGE VOWS

A few evenings ago we witnessed a marriage ceremony. This ceremony was but one of millions that have been solemnized, and but one of countless millions that will take place in the future. Since most of the earth's Christian population have been married, we have often wondered just how much of the marriage ritualistic vows the average husband and wife remember. We suggest that every wedding anniversary be attended with the reading of the vows which the contracting couple took. It will stimulate love—perhaps assist in lowering the divorce court trials.

SMALL TOWN HUMOR AND PHILOSOPHY

By BUCK CAMPBELL
The student who stops to think usually thinks to stop. A man can do nothing to trouble, but he can't do much. There is always an opportunity to do good if you will only grasp it. Life in the small towns is just one piece of gossip after another. It is all right to tip your hat to the humiliated lady in the lead, but only a cad will tip his hat to another man.

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will cherish her and the fidelity with which you will perform the sacred vows which you have now made? "And this ring you now accept from him whom you have now taken as your lawful husband, and will wear as a sign and evidence of your affection for him, and the fidelity with which you will discharge your duties as a wife? "Let this be the seal of your plighted faith, and of your mutual affection and fidelity; a memorial of this sacred service, and of the holy bonds of marriage, by which you are bound henceforth till death shall separate you. As you have thus solemnly agreed before God and these witnesses, I pronounce you lawfully married husband and wife."

In truth, wouldn't this old world wiggle along a bit merrier and be more content, if all marriage vows were more rigidly adhered to? FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS Forty-three Years Ago Miss Nettie Bloomberg, who has been a guest of her aunt, Mrs. Ellis, for several weeks past, returned to her home at Au Sable on Tuesday last.

We can stand it just three weeks more, and then if man dares come into our office and talk politics, we'll just grab our pet crow-bar, and as his headbroken wife receives a mangled remnant in a basket, she will murmur between her sobs, "I always told him to quit fooling 'round 'breathing machinery."

Luther Hunt, an early settler of this town, and once well-to-do, died at the county hospital, aged nearly 80 years. No one claiming the remains inside of twenty-four hours after death, they were sent to Ann Arbor for scientific purposes, according to law.

The census shows that in Detroit, the total number of productive industries and establishments is 820. The total number employed during the year is \$13,424,473; total wages, \$5,154,744; total gross products, \$26,151,972. Total number hands employed, 7200.

Up to the time of writing this item, the State University has 1,390 students. The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions report the number of the past year, 1922, a larger amount than that of any previous year. The number of suits and suits of men and women for missionaries is reported on the decline.

Chicago celebrated the ninth anniversary of her great fire last Saturday.

A dispatch from Valparaiso says that Chili and Peru have accepted the offer of mediation by the United States.

Twent-five Years Ago.

Miss Ida McKinney entertained the "Flashlight Club" at her pleasant new home on Brown street, Tuesday evening. These parties, thus far have all been jolly affairs, and this one was no exception to the general rule.

A vote for Mitchell means Birmingham's fame. It is a mark of honor to be able to say that a man from our town is County Treasurer. Everybody, irrespective of politics, should support her fellow townsman, and give him a vote that will astonish the entire county.

Mrs. Sarah Bond, aged 80, celebrated the sixty-ninth anniversary of her residence in Niles. When she first went to Niles there were only three log cabins there.

On July 1, there were 802 prisoners in custody at the state prison, 101 of whom are serving life sentence.

The United States is now formally in possession of the island of Porto Rico as sovereign. The war department has received the following dispatch from Gen. Augustus Ford: "Flags have been raised on public buildings and forts in this city, and the occupation of the island is now complete, Brooke, Commanding."

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Our Leagues of the Nation Convene

