

HIGHER PRICE... BUT HOLMAN'S LIVER PAD CURES

...LIVER COMPLAINT... INDIGESTION... DYSPEPSIA... NEURALGIA... STOMACH AND LIVER... SICK HEADACHE...

PEARS Soap Makers By Special Appointment to HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

DICK WHITTINGTON AT DRURY LANE.

THE PANTOMIME OF THE YEAR. EVERY EVENING, AT 7.30, and EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, AT 1.30. Menus, Dapp, Herbert Campbell, etc.

MAYMARKET THEATRE.

Mr. Waller and Mr. Messell, Managers. TO-DAY, at 2.30, and THIS EVENING, at 8.30, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, by OSCAR WILDE. Menus, Dapp, Herbert Campbell, etc.

COMEDY THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Cowley Carr. TO-NIGHT, at 8.0, Mr. Sydney Grundy's successful comedy, SOWING THE WIND. At 8, A BREEZY MORNING. Doors open 7.30. Box Office (Mr. Scarborough) 10 to 5.

GAIETY THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. GEORGE EDWARDS. EVERY NIGHT, at eight o'clock, THE SHOP GIRL. Written by H. J. W. Deane. Music by Ivan Caryll, and additional songs and music by H. J. W. Deane.

DALY'S THEATRE, LEXINGTON SQUARE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. AUGUSTIN DALY. TO-DAY, at 2.30, and TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, AN ARTIST'S MODEL. Matinee, at 8, by DINNER FOR TWO. MATINEE, TO-DAY and EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, and MATINEE TO-DAY and EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30, a New Musical Piece entitled, 'THE HANDSOME CARBY.'

GENIUMAN IOU (THE HANDSOME CARBY).

Words and lyrics by Basil Hood, music by Walter Slaughter, in which Mr. ARTHUR ROBERTS will appear, supported by a powerful company. Doors open 7.45. Box Office open 10 to 11.

LYRICO THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT, at 8.0, 'TO-NIGHT' by W. S. Gilbert and F. G. Compton. Car. Mr. GEORGE EDWARDS' COMPANY. Proceeded, at 7.40, by PAPA'S WIFE, a New Musical Dialogue by F. C. Philips and Seymour Hicks, music by Ellaline Terriss.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. GEORGE ALBERTSON. TO-DAY and TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, by OSCAR WILDE. Menus, Dapp, Herbert Campbell, etc.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

Sole Proprietors and Managers, Messrs A. and S. GATEL. TO-NIGHT, at 8, THE FATAL CARD. Mr. William Terriss, Messrs Murray Casson, Charles Palmer, W. E. Ayrton, Richard Dando, E. W. Gardner, Messrs Vase, Laura Lester, Sophie Lakin, and Miss Milward. Box Office open from 10 a.m.

AVENUE THEATRE.

Mr. William G. Leece and Manager. EVERY EVENING, at 8.0, a New and Original Opera-Comique entitled DANDY DICK WHITTINGTON, by Geo. R. Sims and Ivan Caryll. Menus, Dapp, Herbert Campbell, etc.

TERRY'S—Proprietor, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.

TO-DAY, at 3.15, and 8, AN INNOCENT ABROAD. Proceeded, at 2.30 and 8, by HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS. Doors open 7.40.

ROYAL PROCESSION'S THEATRE.

HANSEL AND GRITTEL (in English) EVERY EVENING, at 8.30. SATURDAY MATINEE, at 2.30. Seven performances weekly will be given until further notice of this extremely successful opera. Box Office open.

ROYALTY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT (Saturday) at 8.30, an Original Musical Farce, entitled, 'THAT TERRIBLE GIRL.' Mr. H. P. Fox, Mr. George Goddard, and powerful company. Box Office open daily, 10 to 5.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN NEED ENTERTAINMENT.

The Management of the Ritz and Mr. Cowley Carr. TO-DAY, at 8, THE LAST PERFORMANCE OF THE EASTERN MOUNTAIN, MELODRAMATA, a New Musical Comedy, in three acts, by Mrs. Mabel Watson, music by Walter Slaughter, concluding with a New Musical Act entitled, 'LA MODE,' by Mr. George Grass. Seats, 5s., 3s., admission 2s.—St. GEORGE'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.

NIAGARA HALL.

ST. JAMES'S PARK STATION. REAL ICE SKATING—Ice always in Perfect Condition. Pat. 9.30 to 11.30 a.m., 3 to 6.30 p.m., 8 to 11.30 p.m. EXCELLENT ORCHESTRA. FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT OPEN ALL DAY.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

The Queen is to leave Nice on Tuesday, April 23, for Darmstadt, where Her Majesty will be the guest of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse for a few days, and the Emperor William is to meet her there, and probably the Emperor and Empress of Russia.

The Empress Frederick is to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening from Windsor Castle, and on Friday her Imperial Majesty will proceed to Sandringham on a visit to the Princess of Wales. The Empress Frederick is to leave England the week after next, but it is not yet settled whether she will return to Germany or proceed to Italy to spend a month at Rome. If the Empress goes to Rome she will stay at Brussels for a day or two as the guest of the King and Queen of the Belgians, proceeding south by Strasburg and the St. Gothard route. King Leopold is one of the trustees of the present fortune of the late Emperor Frederick.

We stated last Saturday that if the Queen and the Princess of Wales did not meet in town this week then her Royal Highness would proceed to Windsor Castle on a visit to her Majesty. The Princess and her daughters, who arrived at Windsor on Thursday evening, are to return this afternoon to Sandringham, where they will stay until about May 3, when they are coming back to Marlborough House for the season.

The Earl and Countess Spencer will leave Spencer House at the end of next week for Nice. Lord Spencer is to be the Minister in attendance on the Queen for about a fortnight. The Mediterranean Squadron is to visit Nice while the Queen is residing at Cimiez. The Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury are to proceed the

WHO SHOULD BE THE NEW SPEAKER?

THE impending resignation of the Speaker, which he announces in the Times this morning, will be received with very general regret, tempered, no doubt, in some quarters by the lively expectation of promotion to come, and in others by the more innocent and disinterested pleasures of speculation. The Government, on whom the duty of finding a new Speaker is practically though not theoretically imposed, will hardly share in these mitigations of the general regret. Never was a strong Speaker of the House of Commons more essential than in these times. And Mr. PEEL has kept the standard so high that the task of finding a worthy successor is one which entails on Ministers a heavy responsibility.

What are the qualities of the ideal Speaker? In the first place, he must have "presence." This is a very different thing, of course, from pleasant looks, though a handsome profile is undoubtedly an agreeable addition to that imposing bearing, that sense of personal dignity, which is what we mean by presence. In the second place, the Speaker must be able to speak. He need not be clever, or sparkling, or eloquent, in the ordinary sense of that term as applied to politicians. But he must have an instinct for saying the right thing at the right time, and a gift for stately diction, verging perhaps, if anything, on pomposity. And, thirdly, he must not merely have this gift in him, but must be able to get it out. He must, in fact, be an elocutionist. Further, a strong constitution is, in these wearing days, as indispensable in a Speaker as a strong voice. To these physical gifts we must next add a quality which depends in some measure upon them, but also and in greater measure upon other gifts to be noticed presently. The ideal Speaker must be a man who enjoys, or can at will command, the respect of the House. For this, he need not be personally popular. He may, indeed, if he will, be like the gods of CONFUCIUS, who are respected by their worshippers because kept at their distance. But clearly he must not be personally unpopular. On the other hand, he must be no respecter of persons. He must have no fear of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN before his eyes, and he must never be overawed by any "great, wise, and eminent" Front Benchers either on our side or the other. A sycophantic Speaker would really be too terrible. And, above all, he must have—or, which will do as well, must seem to have—an impartial mind. Somebody said rather cleverly of one of the most respected members of the House that he was "an umpire who never gave his side out." That doesn't matter, if the umpire's personal integrity and desire to be fair are, nevertheless, not disputed. Lastly, beneath all these appearances, the ideal Speaker must have the weightier matters of a strong will, a quick judgment, a readiness to take responsibility, and somewhere in the background a large reserve of resourcefulness. That he must have had a long and intimate acquaintance with the forms and procedure of the House, goes, of course, without saying. If we add to these items of outfit a suitable social *entourage* (for the Speaker's house is a social centre, we shall have our ideal Speaker pretty well equipped. No higher tribute can be paid to Mr. PEEL than the fact that this portrait of the ideal will seem to have been largely drawn from the real. But one other important point remains to be taken into account. It is not enough for a Government to have found its ideal Speaker. It has to consider whether, when found, he can be spared. The Times, for instance, mentions Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN as "the man undoubtedly best suited for the Speakership among the Ministerials." That is all very well, but we really cannot spare Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN from the Front Bench. Even if we put aside his of his other and brighter qualities, he is at the lowest our "W. H. SMITH in reserve," and would be missed a great deal too much by the party to be made over to the House.

Who, then, is it to be? There are men on our side—inside the Administration and out—who would do well enough. But for our part we are convinced that if Ministers were wise they would nominate Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY. The command of snug pieces of patronage, and the distribution of them among your followers, are, no doubt, important considerations. But the most important thing of all for the Liberal Party in these days is a strong Speaker, and a strong Chairman. We might have had Mr. COURTNEY for Chairman. But we wouldn't, and the result was that we got Mr. MELLOR. We ought not to make the same kind of bad bargain again.

Such, we are told, is life, art, and truth, as understood by becoming it must have been. There was always a crowd before Mr. Arthur Severn's picture of the ice-bound Thames, which has been purchased by her Majesty the Queen.

The report that Mr. John Hare proposes to make a professional visit to the United States has not the authority of that actor himself. Mr. Hare, we regret to hear, has been again on the sick-list, but it may be hoped that he may be well enough by Wednesday to render a postponement of Mr. Pineroy's play unnecessary.

The temporary lull in the strife of party politics was very strikingly illustrated in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon. Notice had been given of no fewer than twenty-four questions. Of these one only was asked and answered. The remaining twenty-three questions were not put, owing, in some cases, to the absence either of the interrogator or of the Minister, and in the majority of instances to the absence of both.

Last week Commander Bethell called the attention of the Speaker to the practice coming into vogue of Cabinet Ministers on the introduction of Bills not proceeding to the Bar and walking up the floor of the House, but confining their walk on such occasions to the space between the end of the Table and the seats of the Clerks of the House. Yesterday a new departure was witnessed without any protest in the ceremonial observances of the House of Commons. The Right Hon. Robert Spencer, as Comptroller of the Royal Household, in full Levée costume, was the bearer of a message from the Throne. Having delivered the message, Mr. Spencer advanced up the floor of the House, and disappeared behind the Speaker's chair. It has been the invariable practice on such occasions for the Comptroller, on handing the message to the Speaker, to retire down the floor of the House, stepping backwards, facing the Chair and bowing at intervals.

But we daresay we shall. Human nature is weak; and when Mr. PEEL goes out of his way, as it were, to give the command of such a good thing as the Speakership, not to the Unionists but to the Liberals, it will seem to the average party man a very superfluous act of perversity to go and give it away to a Liberal Unionist after all. But it is a counsel of perfection all the same.

THE NEW FICTION. A PROTEST AGAINST SEX MANIA.

BY THE PHILISTINE.

FIFTH ARTICLE: RECAPITULATION. In order to keep these articles within any reasonable compass, I have been compelled to confine my critical analyses within very brief compass. It has been pointed out to me that I do the writers whom I have mentioned an injustice by singling them out from a numerous company which includes others more deserving of censure. To this I can only reply that the necessities of the case compel me to employ the sample method: and to make it as little unfair as possible I have limited my choice to books which are still—so to speak—hot from the press. Moreover, I am less concerned to censure any particular author than to find occasion for saying certain things which we Philistines particularly want to say, and which can be applied by the reader himself, if he chooses, to any similar literature which may come his way.

A Word on "The Woman Who Did."

I am also asked why I have said nothing about Mr. Grant Allen's "The Woman Who Did," and other works which advocate the reconstruction of society by the abolition of marriage. So far as Mr. Grant Allen is concerned, the question enables me to say that I have not the smallest desire to prevent the expression of any conscientious views which anyone may hold on such questions: and though personally I think the choice of fiction as a vehicle unfortunate, I fail to find anything to which exception can justly be taken in Mr. Grant Allen's manner of putting his case. "The Woman Who Did" is throughout decorous and free from coarseness. There is in it none of that morbid analysis which is the special mark of Sebastian's "The Philistine." I need hardly add that he is in total disagreement with Mr. Allen's conclusions. He has already indicated his views on this matter in the second article of this series, "Trophos of George Egerton's 'Discords.' But there is all the difference in the world between a serious proposition for the reconstruction of society put out with gravity as expressing the author's profoundest convictions, and these probrings of the problem of sex which characterise the new fiction.

The Pretensions of the Sex-Maniacs.

For the situation, as it appears to "The Philistine," is briefly this. A claim is being put forward that no novels are to be considered as "true to life," as "art," as really "written," to use the last slang phrase, or as worthy of serious consideration, except those which explore a particular relation between man and woman in its irregular or morbid manifestations: which see everything in the world as a mood of sex: which, as we Philistines should say, abound in coarse details and assume that current morality is a thing for the bourgeois and unenlightened. Everything else is old-fashioned and of no account. According to the same theory, the gratification of natural impulses, without regard to ties legal, social, or domestic, is the business of all men and women under the sun. If the obstacle is a husband, he should not be there; if it is the family, that is a bourgeois arrangement; if it is what some men call conscience, that is a mere superstition. Any man or woman—especially woman—who fails to gratify her instincts, or desires another kind of gratification, is entitled to break loose and, failing that, is justified in assailing the entire universe and the order of the world. The idea of submitting to any discipline because it is required by society as a whole, or of finding consolation in the non-sexual occupations and pleasures of life, apparently occurs to no one. The "triumphant doctrine of the ego"—to use the phrase which George Egerton borrows from the German decadent, Nietzsche—rejects all such old-fashioned submission with scorn.

The Abdication of the Critics.

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becoming it must have been. There was always a crowd before Mr. Arthur Severn's picture of the ice-bound Thames, which has been purchased by her Majesty the Queen.

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