

OVER THERE THEATER LEAGUE WILL SEND ACTORS TO FRANCE NOTABLES SUPPORT THE PLAN

Organization is Perfected to Furnish Entertainment on a Generous Scale for American Sam- mies Under Pershing; Agencies Interested.

THE United States is the only nation involved in the European conflict which has tried in a large way to keep its fighting men contented and happy in their leisure moments. With desire to supply our Sammies with wholesome amusement, this field is being opened up by America's Over There Theater League, its spending thousands of dollars and thousands of hours in the effort to provide entertainment for our men in France.

Recently a mass meeting was held in the Palace theater, New York, under the league's auspices, for the purpose of presenting the objects of the league to the public in general. Among the speakers were Sergt. Guy Empey, author of "Over the Top," and Mrs. August Belmont, a leader of New York society, who, as Eleanor Robson, was widely known several years ago to American theatergoers. We have as yet received no word from the east regarding what action may have been taken by the league at this meeting, but the fact that a special committee consisting of E. F. Albee, head of the United Booking offices; George M. Cohan, E. H. Sothern and Winthrop Ames, is in charge of the league's foreign work, leads us to the belief that genuine entertainment is scheduled for our boys in khaki on the other side of the Atlantic.

More Has Indorsement of General Pershing.

The league's position is strengthened by a letter received a short time ago from General Pershing in which the American commander gave his hearty indorsement to any movement looking toward the entertainment of his men. The present plan, as we understand it, is to send volunteers to France for periods of months, with the league paying their transportation and hotel expenses. The program includes a variety of entertainment, from a "single" act to a six-people playlet," the special committee basing its judgment upon the requirements of the soldiers as learned by members of the committee who have visited the battle fronts.

A great deal has been done for our men in training in American camps, but up to now there has been no regularly organized attempt to furnish entertainment for United States soldiers in France, who have been left largely to their own devices. The present plan, however, will bring into action the big war service fund and practically every branch of the American stage. How thoroughly America's Over There Theater league is organized is shown by a glance at the following list of members of the league's general committee:

E. F. Albee, head of the United Booking offices; George M. Cohan, abbot of the Fars; Charles Crothers, president of the Stage Women's War relief; Walter Damous, president of the Musicians club; Capt. Charles B. Dillingham, U. S. A.; John Drew, president of The Players; Daniel Frohman, president of the actors' fund; Joseph R. Grismer, shepherd of The Lambs; Marc Klav of Klav & Erlanger; Willard Mack, president of the National Vaudeville Artists; Augustus Thomas, president of the American Dramatists and Composers; Francis Wilson; president of the Actors' Equity association, and Lee Shubert of the big producing firm of that name.

Isabelle Lowe, so delightful in "Good gracious Annabelle," seen at the Lyceum in February, is to have her chance on Broadway after coming around the country for several years. She has been engaged for "The Passing Show of 1918," at the Winter Garden.

Had Edwin Booth not been a great actor, he might have made his mark in fiction. He was the first of the birth of his time, as beautiful as, if not more beautiful than, any letter penned by Keats, says an article by David Delasco in the Current Century. His description of a presentation of his wife's death might have been written by Poe.

I was in New York in bed; it was about 2 in the morning. I was awaked; I felt a strange puff of air strike my right cheek twice; it started me so that I was thoroughly aroused. I turned in bed, when I felt the same on the left cheek—two puffs of wind, ghost kisses. I awoke, wondering what would be the cause of my being thus treated these words: "Good-bye, darling, I am almost frozen," as plainly as I hear this pen scratching over the paper.

He reached home to find his wife cold in death in her coffin, and the rest is the beautiful letter of a lover who feels that he can never love life again because he has loved to breathe the air of his wife's body. I am in such haste to reach that beginning, or that end of all," he writes, "that I am breathless with my own impatience."

"Let me close with Edwin Booth's advice to young players: "A frequent change of role, and of the lighter sort, especially such as one does not like forcing. I have had my share of heavy duty in the performance of it, is the training requisite for a mastery of the art." "I had," he said, "seven years' apprenticeship at it, during which most of my labor was in the field of comedy, walking gentlemen, burlesque, and low comedy parts, the while my mind was yearning for high theater. I did my best with all that I was cast for, however, and the unpleasant experience did me a world of good." This advice to players, even more useful than Shakespeare's to the actors of today, should be framed and fastened to the dressing room walls of every theater in America.

Each of these has variety and would run smoothly. In Miss Morterud's it would be necessary that the stage crew work rapidly to set "The Cloud" in time to prevent a stage wait, but it can be done, and the program is the best I received, without doubt. The competition was decidedly successful, both in respect of the number of persons who competed and in the excellent selection of bills. A vast number, of course, included exceptionally good attractions in their exceptionally good attractions in their programs, but failed in arrangement of acts and thus were barred from final consideration. A salient feature of the bills, for the most part, was the inclusion of high grade offerings as against the trashy sort. However, many stars failed to keep pace with so-called "unknowns." I have indicated, many persons simply selected the names of nine stars or stellar acts and failed to return to play them all on one bill. I recall a selection which included eight first-stage acts out of the nine to be offered. Many bills suggested air offerings of this sort, and suggested three or more of the same type, thus conflicting with the "variety" demanded.

Some contestants instead upon making the Travel Weekly and the orchestra "acts" of their bills, and a number of persons stipulated the program of motion pictures and musical numbers to be included. In a unique selection I noticed a four-minute man to act as "one" of the nine—a tribute to patriotic extravagance, no doubt.

Perhaps you will be interested to know the acts and stars which were most popular, and I have had prepared a statement showing the number of "votes" given the favored ones. "Submarine F-7" received the most attention, being included in no less than 62 bills, while Leo Beers—the accomplished pianist—came next with 52. Montgomery and Perry were third, being included in 41 programs, and "For Pity's Sake," was fourth with 39 votes each.

It is a matter of regret that to every one who entered the competition award cannot be presented. To the following persons, however, the writer extends his thanks and appreciation for the interest they showed in submitting their selections of the "best bills":

F. V. Lavette, 1818 London Road; Francis Taylor, 504 Second avenue East; Wilbert Bromlund, 9 East Fourth street; Miss Mildred Kohagen, 2112 Kensington East; Cecilia M. Oppel, 1308 East Fourth street; F. L. C. E. Coe, 2121 Ordway avenue, Superior, Wis.; E. L. Esteroff, 2125 West Tenth street; Ralph McIntosh, 1615 Cummings avenue, Superior, Wis., and

Mrs. J. K. Ronty, 211 2 2 street; Mrs. M. P. Hiltner, 523 East Third street; Geo. A. Stubeer, 108 East Second street; Miss Olga Mandall, 624 Fifth avenue West; Mrs. G. A. Miller, 524 Fifth avenue West; Anna Walsh, 119 Measha avenue; Wm. Flinklestein, 301 East Third street; Melvin De Boer, 629 No. Fifth street West; Oscar Sleverson, 2315 Wyoming avenue, Superior, Wis.; Miss Mildred Peters, 145 Andoka street West; Hansen, 2316 Wyoming avenue, Superior, Wis.

Clare Hendricks, 4333 East Superior street; Bernard Clare, 2121 Ogden avenue, Superior, Wis.; Wm. Flinklestein, 801 East Third street; Vincent Sabin, 4118 Gilbert street; Miss Tess Rush, 145 Andoka street West; Miss I. Smith, Smith's lunch room; Anita Lundberg, 325 West Fourth street; Clarence Thatcher, 812 East Third street; Miss Lucille Taylor, 725 Lake avenue South and Chas. D. Patison, Oak Hill.

Walter Geneson, 428 First avenue East; R. B. McDonald, 4 Munger Terrace; Mary P. Bruce, 3165 7 Avenue East; H. A. Barnstorf, 703 West Fourth street; J. K. Ronty, 211 West Second street; Melvin W. Cooley,

928 Lake avenue South; Marion Jeffery, 244 Woodland avenue; Ralph W. Cronin, 308 Seliwood building; C. E. Van Bergen, Jr., and M. Olson, 221 Lake avenue North.

Mrs. Chas. Eukemon, 610 Eighteenth avenue East; Miss J. M. Norton, 1502 Alworth building; Miss Beryl McLennan, 1509 London road; Miss Bessie Widnes, 916 East Fifth street; Frank Pond, 4220 McCulloch street; Morris Popkin, 214 7 street.

Mrs. Mrs. Thea Ekenvany, 214 Northern Electric company; Mrs. A. W. Uhner, 1021 1/2 Minnesota avenue; Miss Mildred Bengert, 4528 McCulloch street; Harry Benter, 418 South Nineteenth avenue East; Mrs. W. G. Amundson, 2711 East Eighth street and O. L. Davis, 429 East Second street.

Dorothy Rawe, 1631 East Fifth street; Leonard Murry, 420 Woodland avenue; Jack Krayer, Winton, Minn.; C. C. Carson, 1238 Jefferson street; Marjorie Berman, 707 West First street; Mrs. Thea Ekenvany, 214 North Twenty-eighth avenue West; Harey Whittney, 6 apartment D, Geneva Terrace; Ben Slonin, 1115 East Sixth street; M. P. Eban, c/o Geo. A. Gray company and Mrs. B. A. Hernandez, 1529 Tower avenue, Superior, Wis.

Leslie Goodhead, 3915 North Third street; E. N. Gosselin, 8608 Grand avenue, West Duluth; Col. Wm. Winters, 474 Measha avenue, Lewistown; Mrs. E. E. Gosselin, 2142 Grand avenue; Ursula Walden, 121 South Sixty-second avenue West; T. Quigley, 2 Edison building; Arthur Borak, Two Harbors; Hlan; H. Knutson, 123 West Third street; Margaret Powers, 1529 Tower avenue, Superior, Wis. and Genevieve L. Ware, 221 Kentworth avenue, Superior, Wis.

Mrs. J. E. Boltman, 5105 West Sixth street; Mrs. E. Ouse, 109 West Third street; Clarence Lytle, 1107 East Fifth street; Lucy L. Smith, Orpheum hotel; Ruth Groschell, 1725 Van Ness avenue; Alvin Wellberg, 214 North Twenty-eighth avenue West; W. W. McGenty, 1815 John avenue; Lunt Busk Parker, fourth company and Second street; S. Lorosa, 2835 West Third street; Esther Anderson, 122 East Fourth street; and Gedua B. Kiley, 116 East Second street.

Emory N. Dille, 1524 East Superior street; Lawrence Soderholm, Orpheum theater; Clarence Lytle, 1107 West Superior street; Fred B. Albertson, 1107 West Superior street; M. Maloney, 321 East Sixth street; Al Wellberg, 219 North Twenty-eighth avenue West; M. Kirk Finchfield, 316 East Sixth street; Laura Frankenthal, 307 East Third street; Mrs. J. T. Brahnus, 721 East Sixth street; and Clara May Smith, Orpheum theater.