

visible means of support, required an elaborately set stage. Everything was draped in black velvet and the arrangement of light was such that nothing that was not light in color could be distinguished against this mass of black. A black bag thrust over the head of a woman in a white dress decapitated her, while a black bag pulled off the head of a woman in a black dress at the same instant, revealed a head without any support.

Some of the apparatus is amazingly simple, considering the thousands whom it has held spellbound. Prestidigitators declare that De Kola's neatest trick was a little one in which he took a handkerchief out of a candle. The beauty of this was that he showed both his hands, palms and backs, with nothing in them. Then he lit the candle, snuffed it with thumb and finger, and said gravely to the audience:

"The handkerchief is here, in the bit of ash I have taken from the candle."

Instantly the handkerchief appeared. For this De Kola invented a tiny bag, no larger than a man's thumb, in which the handkerchief was compressed. It hung over his thumb by an invisible thread, and his dexterity consisted in keeping it out of sight as he displayed his hands.

There are 200 members in the Society of American Magicians, but there are thousands in the country at large. They range all the way from Harry Kellar to the poor clerk who learns a few tricks and does them of an evening to add a few dollars to his income. Seven-eighths of the whole profession are of the latter variety.

This kind of entertainment is perennially popular for church socials, children's parties and all manner of private or semi-public functions. A man who can fill twenty minutes or half an hour acceptably in this way can often increase his income by a third by one evening's work a week through the winter.

The amateurs who never work for money but like to amaze their friends are innumerable. There are a number of men in New York who although they never appear upon the stage make very good money at entertainments. A German much in demand to amuse guests after dinner manipulates cards, watches, handkerchiefs and such things in a way to mystify even professionals. A certain mechanical engineer is an expert at electrical tricks.

THE FUNERAL OF RAGTIME

Outlook's Interview with Mr. Sousa Given National Circulation.

The interview on "The Funeral of Ragtime," with John Philip Sousa, printed in the issue of the THE OUTLOOK of March 13, has been given national circulation and attracted wide attention.

One New York paper was sufficiently interested to interview hotel and restaurant managers with the result that it is discovered that they have cut ragtime from their programs.

The various interviews follow:

"Our orchestras have not played ragtime in a long time," said Manager Barse of the Waldorf Astoria last night. "We have always made it

a rule to furnish the music our patrons wanted, and most of the programs have been made up 'by request.' The people have simply stopped asking for ragtime tunes. Mr. Boldt, the proprietor, is particularly fond of music, and he always supervises our programs before they are played, but he has always been perfectly willing to let the people have a proportion of good ragtime when they asked for it."

At the Plaza Hotel Naham Franko said that his clientele did not care for ragtime, and he is never asked to play it. "The people like high-class music and are fond of Wagner, Liszt, and Beethoven, among the old composers, and Victor Herbert and John Phillip Sousa among the new. They like the catchy airs from the Broadway musical shows while their popularity is at its height, but, take it through and through, the general public is being better educated in music, and the standard works are growing more popular."

Manager Hahn at the St. Regis, Manager Wood at the Gotham, and Mr. Muschenhelm of the Hotel Astor, all joined in the same opinion as to the death of ragtime and the desire of the people for high-class music.

"We find that our patrons prefer French and Viennese music," said the manager of Sherry's, and we have an imported orchestra to meet their desires. Our musicians know absolutely nothing about ragtime and are, of course, never asked to play it."

Cakewalk tunes have been banished from Delmonico's, and in their stead may be heard the prettiest airs of the musical shows and light operas, interspersed with music from grand opera and the older composers.

A trip through Broadway, where the after-theatre parties had assembled for supper, showed the same condition to exist at Rector's, Churchill's, Shanley's, Martin's, the Hotel Knickerbocker, Murray's, the College Inn, the Marlborough, Imperial and Victoria Hotels, while in the table d'hote dining rooms ragtime music has been made to take a back seat.

Tea at The Piney Woods.

Monday afternoon a jolly party including the Misses Alice and Bessie Griffin of Providence, and Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pottle and Miss Dorothy Pottle drove to Southern Pines and enjoyed tea at the Piney Woods Inn.

A similar party made up of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Ricketts of Johnstown, N. Y., Mrs. Loeb and Miss Loeb of Chicago, Mrs. George Timanus of Baltimore, Mrs. J. Pullman and Mr. Fred Pullman of Brooklyn, drove to the Pines during the week for lunch at The Inn.

Easter Services.

Easter Sunday was very pleasantly observed by both Protestant and Catholic churches in the Pinehurst chapel, the building radiant in its decorations of spring flowers. The services conclude the season's program, but arrangements are already being made for next year and it is expected that Rev. T. A. Cheatham of Wilson, N. C., will return and begin the services early in December.

Supped at Pine Bluff.

Mr. J. V. Hurd, Mr. W. S. Dillon, Mrs. Booth Tarkington and Miss Ethel Check enjoyed supper at the "Lift the Latch" cabin at Pine Bluff, Wednesday evening.

At The Magnolia.

Mrs. George Timanus of Baltimore, is a late arrival at The Magnolia who will remain through the month.



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