

## DAVIDSON TO BE HOST OF ANNUAL LANGUAGE MEET

Doctors Leavitt and Taylor Are Listed Among Prominent Speakers at Convention

The third annual convention of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association will meet November 28 and 29 at Davidson College. The program starts Friday afternoon, November 28, with registration.

The association is divided into four parts. The English section, of which Jay B. Hubbell, of Duke University, is chairman. The French section is under the chairmanship of W. S. Barney, of North Carolina College for Women. The chairman of the German section is Guy R. Vowles, of Davidson College, while the Spanish section has as its chairman E. V. Gage, of Florida State College for Women.

An address of welcome by Dean J. M. McConnell of Davidson College will open the program on Friday night at eight o'clock. Following this songs in English, French, German, and Scandinavian will be rendered by Mrs. E. J. Cullum and Mrs. G. R. Vowles. The third number on the program will be a one-act play entitled "A Sunny Morning," by the Quintero brothers, and translated into English by Professor Fred K. Fleagle. A lecture with slides given by Professor John N. Ware of Shorter College on "Villon in Paris" will conclude the Friday night program.

Saturday morning will be given over to a business session at which time F. W. Bradley, of the University of South Carolina, will preside. Following a report of the committees, next year's officers will be elected.

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## GREEN WILL READ HIS NEW PLAY ON SUNDAY EVENING

Music Will Accompany Reading of "Tread the Green Grass"

*Tread the Green Grass*, Paul Green's latest contribution to the field of drama, will be read by the author Sunday evening, at 8:30 in the Playmakers Theatre. This is the second Playmaker reading of the year and from all accounts it should be one of the best, if not the best, on the schedule. Lamar Stringfield has written a musical accompaniment for this play and will direct this in accord with the reading. *Tread the Green Grass* is to be produced in New York some time this season. Incidentally, the Pulitzer Prize winner by way of *Abraham's Bosom*, has another play, *The House of Connolly*, preparing for the metropolitan stage.

Concerning the reading of *Tread the Green Grass* Paul Green has issued the following statement:

"A string quartette with flute under the direction of Lamar Stringfield will play the music which Mr. Stringfield is composing for the play. *Tread the Green Grass* is a philosophical fantasy written in the form of a musical composition somewhat in the nature of an opera.

"The story is that of a young girl, seventeen years old, in whose mind the personifications of Christian religion, paganism of sex, childish beliefs in fairies, and Mother Goose (a code of morality) and the common sense of the everyday life struggle for supremacy. The characters in the piece representing the different phases or personifications of the girl's character are a young preacher (Jesus), a young lawbreaker hiding in the woods (Dionysus) with whom she runs away, an old woman

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## The Jitney Players in Action



The above picture is a scene from "The Murder in the Red Barn" which the Jitney Players, renowned troupe of traveling dramatists, will present, along with "The Duenna," in the Playmaker Theatre on December 1 and 2.

## Unique Dramatic Troupe Is To Present Two Shows In Village

On the first and second of December the renowned Jitney Players will present *The Murder in the Red Barn* and *The Duenna* in the Playmakers Theatre, it was officially announced today. The announcement comes as an agreeable surprise to those who are acquainted with the ability and history of this little troupe of traveling actors.

Subscription tickets will not cover this attraction but reservations may be obtained tomorrow at the Students' Supply store. A special rate of fifty cents is offered to students.

The history of the Jitney Players who presented a series of performances here last year with great success, is indeed an interesting one.

Eight years ago the people of any New England town or resort might have been startled to see springing up in their midst a complete theatre, unfolding from what proved, on closer inspection, to be automobile stage. A Ford truck with an unusual body, plus another truck for baggage, plus the unbounded enthusiasm of youth, with a genius for ferreting out good plays, equalled The Jitney Players introducing themselves to the people of New England and to troubled theatrical waters.

Just who and what are The Jitney Players? This question may well be asked as this winter, people of this town will see rolling through their streets trucks and cars labeled "The Jitney Players."

Eight years ago Bushnell Cheney and his bride, Alice Keating Cheney, were beseeched by their many friends who urged them to produce summer entertainment for various charities. Both Miss Keating and Mr. Cheney were well known in theatrical circles, having played on Broadway, so it was natural that the social world, which had had been their background, should turn to them when something different was needed for their benefits. Along with the romantic background of The Jitney Players it must be recorded that the funds for starting the players were the wedding check presents sent to the bride and groom.

The first company, composed of Broadway professionals reinforced by college friends as stage hands, sallied forth in the summer of 1923 in real gypsy

fashion, riding wherever they might perch on the trucks, playing beneath the stars and when the days work was done, sleeping alongside their stage. However, up to the moment of starting the company was unnamed. As they rolled out on the highway, on that first eventful journey, one of the company laughingly shouted, "Here goes the jitney players," calling the company after the more or less stock term for Fords, and so the name conceived in jest has grown into one of the best known of all theatrical organizations, an organization that the New York papers claim is the saving grace of the present theatrical orgy.

Like any new departure from the conventions The Jitney Players were at first looked upon with skepticism. Soon, however, the people of the east began to look forward to the annual visits of this company. Small out of the way places welcomed them; summer resorts sought them; the better drama was coming into its own; the road, in its most primitive sense had returned. The result was the enlarging of company and equipment. Throughout the development of the materialistic side, in caring for the bodily comforts of actors and patrons, the original idea of presenting the unusual and best drama of all ages was not lost sight of.

Out of the demands from new sources came the winter touring company of The Jitney Players, carrying on the principles of the summer company, but acting indoors. The new step was taken in 1928 and has so grown that at present the winter season outlasts the summer one. After all citadels of the drama and education had succumbed to The Jitney Players the only field unexplored was that center of commercialism, New York.

Here meeting the commercial theatre on its own terms, on its own field, The Jitney Players enjoyed a five weeks' run, winning unanimous acclaim from the New York press. Back of all the success of The Jitney Players lies the simple fact that success has never dimmed the ideal. The play has always been considered before the box-office, with the result that those of discernment in the theatre have spread the word, and an ever-growing reputation has opened wider fields.

—P. H. J.

## LOCAL ORDER OF MECHANICS WILL BE DISTRICT HOST

Meeting of Nineteenth District Will Be at Pickwick Theatre Tonight

Members of the 19th state district of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics will meet at 7:30 tonight in the City Recorder's Court room (Pickwick Theatre Building). J. Frank Adams, district deputy, of Durham, will be the presiding officer at the meeting.

Rev. Roy Morris, of Carrboro, will open the program with an invocation, which will be followed by an address of welcome by Mayor Zeb P. Council. L. M. Carlton of Roxboro, will respond to Council's welcome.

After the reports of the various councils in the district, D. W. Sorrell of Durham will introduce Rev. S. F. Nicks, of Roxboro, state vice-councilor whose address will be followed by talks by E. V. Harris, of Tarboro, and Dr. Chas. E. Brewer, president of Meredith College. Dr. Brewer, present national vice councilor of the organization, will be introduced by R. M. Gantt of Durham, who is a past state councilor.

The 19th State District is composed of thirteen councils in Durham, Caswell, and Orange Counties.

## German Club

All applications for membership in the German Club must be turned in before seven o'clock tonight to Will Yarborough, Sigma Alpha Epsilon house. Cards for the dances may be secured every night from seven to eight at the S. A. E. house.

## Candy-Pull Tonight

Tonight at seven-thirty in the basement of the Methodist church there will be an old fashioned candy-pull. Students are invited.

## Law Students Discuss Insanity And Drunkenness As Crime Alibis

By L. S. S.

"There, little murderer, don't you cry. Just plead crazy and you'll get by." This prevailing popular sentiment caused the class in the administration of justice in the law school to invite Dr. English Bagby and Dr. J. F. Dashiell of the psychology department to its November discussion, led by Professor Coates of insanity and criminal law.

The meeting was opened by a talk on responsibility for crime committed while drunk or in the throes of delirium tremens by W. B. Matheny, first year law student from Forest City. He stated that voluntary drunkenness, while it might reduce the degree of a crime, was never an excuse or defense. "Permanent insanity caused by chronic alcoholism, however, is as good an insanity as any so far as the criminal is concerned," he stated.

The court's definition of a defendant's sanity—the ability to know the nature of his act and whether it is right or wrong—was discussed in a paper by Wex Malone, third year law student from Asheville. "The defendant," he said, "must prove his defense of insanity to the satisfaction of the jury." Moral insanity, Mr. Malone explained, was not recognized in North Carolina as the courts maintain that "to know the right and still pursue the wrong is to be under the seduction of the evil one."

## ALUMNI OFFICERS WILL BE CHOSEN BY ASSOCIATION

Committee to Present Nominations at Annual Business Session Here

The nominating committee for officers of the General Alumni Association of the University has been appointed by W. T. Shore, of Charlotte, president of the association.

Judge J. Crawford Biggs of Raleigh, T. Holt Haywood, of Winston-Salem, and Herman G. Baity, of Chapel Hill, will serve on this committee and will present nominations for officers at the annual business session of the association which will convene in Chapel Hill December 5 for two days.

This committee will present to the assembled alumni of the University nominations for president, two vice-presidents, and a representative on the University athletic council, and the association will in turn nominate two candidates for each of these positions to be presented to members of the association by mail ballot. The new officers will be announced January 1, 1931.

The 1930 Alumni Assembly opens December 5 with a dinner at six-thirty o'clock at the Carolina Inn. The program will center around the topic, "What has happened to the relation between teacher and student at the University of North Carolina?" with discussions led by Deans A. W. Hobbs, D. D. Carroll, Francis F. Bradshaw, and Dr. English Bagby, all of the University faculty.

The business session of the annual assembly will be at the Carolina Inn Saturday morning, December 6, beginning at ten-thirty o'clock.

## 'Mental Hygiene' Receives Praise Of National Hygiene Committee

In the last November issue of the *Survey*, there appears a review of Dr. Groves' latest book, *Mental Hygiene*.

Written with Phyllis Blanchard, this book has met with wide approval of the men and women interested in the subject. Dr. George K. Pratt of the *National Committee for Mental Hygiene* reviews the book as follows:

"This is the book that every person in the professional field of mental hygiene has promised himself some day he would write. That Groves and Blanchard should have stolen a march on the rest of us who were laggard, speaks much for their energy and perspicacity. And the best of it is that the book is a corking fine one. The authors have been particularly successful in steering with a nice discrimination between the Scylla of writing a self-conscious and simplified primer and the Charybdis of inditing a ponderous and equally self-conscious tome. *Mental Hygiene* comes as near having a universal appeal as any work of its kind, and its generous bibliography and questions for class discussion at the end of each chapter make it an almost ideal textbook for students in sociology, psychology, social work and psychiatry.

"The reviewer with difficulty restrains his cheers, especially for the excellence of the first two chapters on the origin and development of mental hygiene and the psychiatric background.

Taken together these portions constitute as fascinating (and as authentic) a portrayal of how mental hygiene came to be, as anything yet to appear. Then come successive chapters dealing with the influence of mental hygiene on childhood, adolescence, marriage, the schools and colleges, industry, recreation, religion, literature, social work, and public opinion. Read consecutively and then integrated in the reader's mind as a whole, these chapters give an insight into the amazing thoroughness with which the concepts of mental hygiene have permeated the thinking, and frequently the techniques, of virtually all the social sciences. Probably the most helpful contribution mental hygiene has made to these social sciences is found in its insistence on a dynamic point of view that asks why people act as they do, as contrasted to conventional and static practices that rest content merely to ask what people are, and to paste labels on conduct accordingly. Groves and Blanchard have caught and imprisoned in their book the true significance of this contribution and have demonstrated effectively how education, religion, social work, and the like, can free themselves from some of the fetters of outmoded tradition that render sterile so much of their effort.

George K. Pratt, M. D.  
National Committee for  
*Mental Hygiene*.