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NEWS NOTES

be dispersed and lost to the country. It has been suggested that an embargo, similar in principle to that adopted by Italy, be laid upon works of art, but the suggestion is referred to as a "counsel of despair," since the probability is that it would only stimulate smuggling by whetting the appetite of conscienceless collectors.

The prices paid for pictures at the auction sales in London, and which set continuing high records, indicate that there is plenty of money available for art, but whether the purchasers are acting for English or foreign collectors does not always appear, although it is announced that the Romney portrait of the Misses Beckford, just sold at auction for above \$250,000, was bought for a New York purchaser.

"The Mocking Bird"

As indicative of the state of the arts and their popular appreciation, one will find it hard to believe that the paragraphs reprinted below were clipped from a weekly newspaper published within thirty miles of New York City, yet it is so. Only the names of persons and places are omitted:

"The Mocking Bird," a musical comedy will be produced at the Palace Theatre next Tuesday evening, Nov. 23rd. The production necessitates the action of about seventy-five persons in various assumption of characters. Among the cast will be not only gentlemen of dramatic ability, but ladies of beauty and venus-like of form and feature, while also being endowed with unusual theatrical talent. The situation is Colonial as to period; musical largely, and effectively scenic. The staging is noticeably picturesque, and is under the direction of Dr. ———. The necessity of a musical director of extraordinary ability to harmonize a production of the like, can be only partly imagined by theatre attendants. However, ——— audiences realize that no matter what betides, we have in our vicinity a musical director whose name—that of ———— means musical erudition of extraordinary concentration.

To ———'s strenuousness, technique and arrangement of musical situations; with also the staging under the direction and close inspection of Dr. ———, whose work is, to our mind, almost the equal of professionalism, and in addition, the gathering together of each and all taking part in this presentation; mean that the Palace Theatre will be not only filled, but many will be unable to gain admittance, unless seats are secured quickly. A large orchestra under direction of Prof. ———, will harmonize. Many beautiful women, and a wonderfully clever performance, next Tuesday night at the Palace Theatre, with the commendable sensation that one is adding to the ——— Nurses' Fund; mean much enjoyment and great satisfaction. Remember, "The Mocking Bird" is not motion pictures, but superb acting and music.

Tickets may be had at theatre box office.

A Pertinent Question

How shall the professional spirit take courage to break through the network of defences now maintained by private initiative and put its knowledge and skill squarely at the public service? It is the height of folly to suppose that business, commerce, industry, labor, politics, or any other

group of material activities can rescue mankind from the morass in which it now flounders. Only truth, knowledge, science, used professionally as public service, can point the way.

President Holsman, of the Illinois Chapter, in an article in the *American Contractor*, deals with this hiatus in our civic life, and asks the same questions:

"How can the professional technical man apply his motive power and his mental processes to civic progress? First of all there must be created a professional class consciousness. The public must be conscious of the nature of the professional mind—the training it has been subjected to—and it must be conscious of the extent or numerical strength of the professional class. The professional class must be conscious of itself, and conscious of its ideals and its duty to the whole public, and it must lift higher and higher the banner of SERVICE and fix itself immovably upon the principle that public interest must have precedence over self interest." . . .

"An example of the use of the professional class for the public good may be seen in an analysis of the recent conference on industrial conditions in Washington. It was a comparatively easy matter for the President of the United States to summon to Washington men representative of the employee class. It was doubtless comparatively easy to find able representatives of the employer or capitalist class; but one must assume that it was very difficult to find representatives of the public or the middle class, for we find as representatives of the public such men as the head of the great organized steel industry and such men as the head of the oil monopoly attempting to function in a conference of national moment as representatives of a class having no prejudice for or against either the capitalist or the laborer. I venture the assertion that if the professional classes were one-half as well organized and visualized as the laboring class today is, or as the capitalist class has been for many years, it would not have been difficult to select from the professional men those who were able to weigh and balance contending principles of the opposing classes, to survey and evaluate the motives of action and reaction and to render a just balance between the two."

[Unfortunately, the absence of disinterested knowledge and science seems to be as conspicuous in the second conference as it was in the first.—EDITOR.]

Obituary

Charles F. Schweinfurth
(further notice later)

Hill C. Linthicum

Elected to the Institute in 1913
Died at Durham, N. C., October 6, 1919

Mr. Linthicum was born in Virginia in 1860, attended school at the Danville Military Academy, studied architecture in Baltimore, and entered the office of his father, Mr. W. H. Linthicum, at Durham, N. C., about 1883, practising continuously in that city up to his death. He had made an extensive study of school buildings, of which he had built about forty.