

STERIES IN REAL LIFE GET FULL SCRUTINY

Business of Mellon Institute
Likened to Detective
Service.

DISCOVERIES OF VALUE

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN.

PITTSBURG, July 5.—If you think that the solving of million-dollar mysteries is confined entirely to detective stories and the movies, you should visit the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh and see how it is done in real life.

That is the institute's business—solving the various mysteries which baffle and obstruct the path of American industry.

That is what the Melons, Andrew W. and Richard B., the well-known Pittsburgh bankers, founded and endowed it for.

While the institute is operated as a part of the University of Pittsburgh and is often mistaken for one of the city's buildings, it is really an independent life with its own separate bank account, its own board of directors and its own fellowship system.

EXPERTS BUSY IN
LABORATORIES.

Working in its many splendidly equipped laboratories are experts, sent to it from all parts of the country by manufacturers and corporations who are anxious to improve the quality of their products, or to discover and cheapen the cost of making them.

Every kind of commercial product, from soap and cement to oleomargarine and glue, is exhaustively studied here, often with million-dollar results.

Each manufacturer pays for his own particular line of experimentation by endowing a fellowship (sometimes two or three) in the institute, so the understanding is that he shall receive exclusive rights to any results obtained.

That is, any new processes invented by the scientist selected for the fellowship are the property of the manufacturer.

It is also agreed that the nature of the research shall be kept absolutely quiet, unless the manufacturer or corporation interested permits it to be made public.

Hence, many of the most interesting problems being worked out at the institute are clothed in deepest secrecy, and the visiting public is merely permitted to smell the experiments that are going on.

To most of the laboratories, however, one is given free access and graciously allowed to ask as many questions as one likes.

FIBER BOARD TEST MADE.

Wandering thus inquisitively about the various laboratories of the institute the other day, the reporter came upon a young man bending tenderly over a box containing numerous glass jars of peanut butter.

Upon questioning him, we found that the box and not the peanut butter was the cause of his solicitude.

The box was made of fiber board, and the young man a fiber board fellow.

It seems that some years ago the fiber board industry was losing money because it could not prove that its fiber board product made just as strong a container as wood. The railroads held that all corrugated fiber board boxes used as containers for freight shipments must meet certain specifications—that is, the fiber board used in their construction had to have a certain minimum thickness, and it had to pass a specified bursting test.

This bursting test was made with a machine called the "Mellen Paper Tester," which was not particularly designed for testing corrugated board, but which was used for lack of anything better.

The results were unsatisfactory, and consequently the railroads refused to permit anything weighing more than ninety pounds to be shipped in fiber board containers.

So the fiber board industry founded a fellowship at the Mellon Institute, with directions to prove, if possible, that fiber board would stand up under much heavier loads.

HE FOUND THE ANSWER.

"And we have," said the young man, running a finger over the heavy corrugated lining of the fiber board box, "although we had to invent a new machine to do it."

He pointed to a queer looking apparatus on a nearby table.

"That's our new Webb paper tester, indorsed by the United States Bureau of Standards," he explained.

"It shows that fiber board can easily stand up under 100-pound shipments, and even heavier ones."

Besides contributing this important invention, the fiber board research men at the institute discovered several substitute materials to be used in the manufacture of fiber board, which are much cheaper and just as good as the ones originally used.

For instance, in place of the former expensive cambric tape used in sealing the joint of a corrugated fiber box, a tan leather paper and half cloth, has been devised which costs just about a fraction as much and answers the purpose equally as well.

GRATEFUL FOR TRUTH.

Sometimes the results obtained from the research at the institute are not as satisfactory to manufacturers, but at least they are gratified to know the truth.

For example, not long ago the manufacturers of butter substitutes endowed a fellowship at the institute, in the hope of getting fair the charge of physicians concerning oleomargarine and other vegetable butters—namely, that they did not possess the important vitamins contained in butter.

The scientists engaged on this work have not been able to refute this charge, but they have proved that butter substitutes are as good as butter, if the vitamins are replaced by some other item in the diet, such as milk and green vegetables.

It is also possible that before they finish their work they may succeed in capturing an elusive vitamin or two and injecting it into the recipe for butter substitutes.

The quest for important industrial secrets is a long and tedious business, often requiring years of research work to demonstrate what, in the end, appears as a simple, common sense fact.

Months of preliminary investigation must often go by before the research man even starts his work on a new process.

Thus, as one of the directors of the institute points out, a scientist is a cardinal virtue in the manufacturer who wants to profit as much as possible from research work.

The world was not made in a day, although to look at it any one might think so and industrial mysteries are not solved in a week or two.

This statement is rather humorously corroborated by a manufacturer endowing a fellowship at the institute for some dental research work.

What was wanted was a new dental cement which would fulfill the requirements laid down by a prominent dentist, of one of the large medical col-

HUCK'S ADVENTURES RETOLD ON MOVIE SCREEN

Drury Lane Thriller at Ohio—Child Singer at Colonial—Talmadge at Circle

DOROTHY ILLUSTRATES THE 'SCALP HOLD'



JAMES RENNIE and DOROTHY GISH.

Demonstrating the "scalp hold" in the silent drama.

If Friend Husband's curves happen to run along unconventional lines it's up to Stranger Wife to model them along accepted lines, which is what the Paramount star does in her latest comedy picture, "Remodeling a Husband," now to be seen at the Alhambra.

Never for a moment does the audience see anything extraordinary in the character of Huckleberry Finn.

Sargent sees to it that his characterizations at all times bear the imprint of carefulness and natural acting.

The cast is good, all the characters of the book appear true to life.

We needn't begin to relate the story of the play because everybody knows this story.

And the movie, like all little boys and girls, "should be seen and not heard."

It is a triumph for the makers of motion pictures to be able to translate Mark Twain's story with such great success as has been done.

Opinion—Lewis Sargent is a premier delineator of the American boy and Sargent realizes his responsibility in the re-telling of Twain's story.

As it is, she's merely showing her affection.

Having similar domestic problems to solve.

The wealthy husband thinks only of making more gold so he can buy his wife more idle pleasures of life, while the poor man slaves to realize his dream of riches for his wife, which fate had denied them.

The result is that both wives see very little of their husbands and so their problems are similar—both are lonely.

Into the home of the idle women comes a new tenant and they handle the problem as their positions in life have dictated them for the conflict.

The settings are as usual elaborate and the direction is skillful.

There is plenty for Norma to do in this movie and it should please her followers.

At the Circle all week, in addition to a Mack Sennett comedy, "By Golly."

AT THE ISIS.

Robert Warwick is on view the first half of the week at the Isis in "The City of Masks."

The musical comedy has been reviewed at length in this space and has decided interest.

It is a good vehicle for the star and his support is good.

Bill includes Hank Mann in "The Coy Copper."

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AT THE OHIO.

Queer things may happen in far away Scotland.

This is proved in "The Best of Luck," which is shown this week at the Ohio.

"The Best of Luck" is another of the Drury Lane stars, and the Ohio's.

But this melodrama becomes, in its scenario form, more of a mixture of romance and adventure than anything else.

Scotland is the scene of most of the action, although some of it is in this country and in England.

Katherine Adams is the star of the production.

She has the part of an athlete girl, who can do most anything from flying aeronauts to riding a motorcycle.

Jack Holt, her leading man, is cast as a Scotch nobleman who has lost his estates and is residing with an aunt near London.

The girl, an American, is a distant relative of his, and has purchased his estates to keep them in the family.

She goes to England incognito, to win the friendship of the nobleman and his tenants.

But a villain appears and causes a bit of trouble.

Then the romance becomes rapid, and ends at rapid fire until the end.

Miss Adams has a big part, one that gives her a chance to do big things.

And Jack Holt is a convincing nobleman.

Opinion—a fast moving play, with ac-

PUSS IN BOOTS JR.

By DAVID CORY.

You remember in the last story how the miserly old miser was going to let Puss kill all the rats and the mice that lived in the castle and then not give him a penny for doing it.

Well, before we go any further, I'll tell you right now that I won't let that mean old miser play any such trick on the rats since the fellowship.

Heating Keith's bill is a dancing offering.

The Rialto is featuring the Dancing Kipples and Gladys Brockwell in "A Sister of Salome." Bandy Field and company holds first spot at the Broad-

way this week.

But a villain appears and causes a bit of trouble.

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Puss took his bag of gold and left the castle.

led Puss into the old broken down castle. And just then a big rat darted across the floor and a little mouse popped out of its hole and this made the old miser very angry.

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SEARLES WANTS COMPLETE LIST OF WAR HEROES

Records of 150, Who Made
Supreme Sacrifice, Not
Available.

PEOPLE ASKED TO HELP

Out of a total of more than 400 Marion county men and women who lost their lives in the world war, the records and photographs of only approximately 250 have been obtained for publication in the Indiana state war history, according to Ellis Searles, who made the collection.

In the remainder of instances, he says, it has been impossible thus far to locate the relatives of the men, although every effort has been made.

The historical commission, which will publish the history, hopes to make the list complete," Mr. Searles said yesterday.

"It would be unfortunate, indeed, if this could not be done. The official war history should contain the record and photograph of every Marion county man and woman who made the supreme sacrifice."

"I'm sure," said Searles, "I'm a woman grown—seventeen," cried Phoebe.

Then they laughed, and the ice was broken. Soon they were deep in the process of getting acquainted.

"You won't want to stay long at the hotel, I suppose," said Phoebe. "But even while you're there you will come to me for lunch and dinner at least."

"We'll see," my sister-in-law replied. "I'd be very busy hunting an apartment."

"Oh, I'd love to help you, Virginia. It's a long time since I've been in the service," said Phoebe.

"I'm sure mothers of men who have been in the service will cultivate a garden and cor-

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