

STAGE FOLK HAVE SPECIALISTS FOR NUMEROUS 'ILLS'

Voice 'Lifters' and Glass Eye Painters Thrive in New York.

By Gilbert Swain.
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NEW YORK, July 23.—New York attracts all sorts of unique "specialists."

For instance there is a "voice surgeon" who has made a considerable fortune "changing voices." His patients are almost invariably theatrical folk from Broadway seeking to have their "voices lifted." Enter his office any day and you will see the waiting room jammed with stage folk. Here is a young man who feels he is handicapped by a "too feminine" voice. He has had small jobs in "little theaters," but has felt timid about going after any important engagement.

And here, too, are innumerable women with "baby voices," other women upon whom age is encroaching and whose golden quality is slipping, still others have talent but bad speaking voices. They are ready to pay fat sums for the operations.

Has Picture Gallery
Glancing over the gallery of autographed pictures with which the walls are plastered, one is astounded to note the number of "favorites" who, not long ago, were balancing precariously on the rim of success. There is another "specialist" who takes care of most of the famous "grand opera throats."

Most of the great Metropolitan Opera singers are in his charge. No Burbank was ever more watchful of some delicate hothouse plant than is he of the voices that stir audiences the world over.

A million and one little germs and bugs that fill the air compose an army ever ready to attack these, as well as other throats.

Makes Glass Eyes
And there is an entire family of famous "glass eye specialists" to whom folk come from every section of the country.

One, in particular, is an artist who studies the patient's "good eye" and has "sittings" to paint a glass replica, as an artist would paint a portrait.

Sittings are made at various stages of the day to get variations in contraction and expansion of the retina, each of which is carefully reproduced.

He tells me that certain very sensitive persons have from ten to a dozen glass eyes to fit various lights and times of day.

His success lies in the ability to get exact coloring and lifelike appearance.

19,000,000 Children Defective

By Times Special
WASHINGTON, July 23.—Of every twenty-two school children in the United States nineteen are physically defective, according to figures made public Thursday by the United States Children's Bureau.

The bureau estimates there are 22,000,000 school children, 19,000,000 of whom have body defects.

Of these latter children, 15,000,000 have defects which might be prevented, the bureau believes.

The figures were released in a plea for better care of the "runabout child," the latter being defined as a youngster constantly on the go.

UNCOVER DOPE RING

French Drug Traffic Approximates U. S. Liquor Deals in Size.

PARIS, July 24.—Paris police after scratching the surface of the underworld dope traffic by the arrest of forty persons, including doctors, traffickers, and importers of dope, have been surprised at the immensity of the task of cleaning up the drug traffic in France.

Their investigation has revealed that the traffic has assumed proportions only comparable with the running industry in the United States.

Police claim the dope ring is undoubtedly the greatest criminal organization in France. Montmartre is said to be the center for the general distribution of dope.

One physician at Darwin, in the north of Australia, has a practice covering an area ten times the size of Great Britain.

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