

MAKING A VISIT TO SEE A GREAT PLAY

Dreams of Gardens, Knowledge of Cockroaches and Value of Pepper in Soup Figure in 'Journey's End.'

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

AN overnight journey to the Hartman theater in Columbus, Ohio, enables me to give you the complete lowdown on "Journey's End." It is probably safe to say that "Journey's End" is among the three most discussed plays Broadway has given us this year.

And so it was proper for me to go to Columbus and tell you about the same company in "Journey's End" which opens Monday night at English's.

To begin with "Journey's End," it is not a strong language play. It is the strongest emotional war play, even in its simplicity, that I have ever witnessed on the stage.

While "What Price Glory" cursed the war into its grave, "Journey's End" gives you the natural emotional side of the terrible racket.

In "Journey's End," we are concerned more with the attitude of English officers toward the war than the doughboys.

The entire action of the three acts takes place in an officer's dugout in the British trench before St. Quentin, March, 1918.

At the opening of that dugout is the roar and the almost sure guarantee of death. At times, it all becomes so very still that even the officers complain and worry because it is so still and so different than one naturally expects.

The only light in the dugout is the light of candles on a crude wooden table of Captain Stanhope which serves as his desk as well as the mess table for the officers.

Even around the top of one of the candle holders you even hear from one of the officers that it is the race track for a large cockroach that develops jolly fine speed.

And we learn that when the officers stage a cockroach race there is a trick even to this sport. Just dip the cockroach in whisky and the speed attained is most satisfactory to the master of the cockroach.

Just a Candle
As the curtain goes up on the first act, you see an officer calmly toasting a sock, "a really beautiful sock," over the flame of a candle.

He explains to Lieutenant Osborne that this really "beautiful sock" keeps the feet dry but it really picks up a lot of water.

This first dash of realism struck me a terrific blow right at the beginning of the play. It seemed to me to be a guarantee that R. C. Sheriff, the author of the play, was going to give us real human situations.

Even the officers find time, during hurried meals and not so good when questionable outlets resembling liver is served and the tea tastes of onions, to talk of the natural things of life.

Second Lieutenant Trotter is a cockney who refuses to let the war rob him of his sense of regular humor. He has a garden at home and he proudly exhibits a photograph of one hollyhock that measured over so much in height.

Trotter tells you once that he must write a letter home to his lady and tell her whether he had fleas or not. "Wish they were fleas," he said.

This human background permits the playwright to introduce a serious study that of fear. Fear of death and how to escape the fear as well as death itself is the real problem of this play.

Captain Stanhope, played with such fine restraint as well as complete abandonment when under great stress by Charles Cullum, has fear in his heart that can easily shatter his nerve. But he has carried on for three years and has the reputation of being the best captain that England had over there.

How did he keep fear and the yellow streak out of his being? By whisky. He could drink a quart in no little time and then "pick up his own hat" and walk home, the dug-out.

So Stanhope drowned himself in booze and this at times exaggerated his emotional explosions. And he has explosions, violent, terrible, cruel and damaging, but his real self, his fine sporting and regular self rises out of the ashes and conquers.

The Great Scene
Powerful is the scene when Stanhope looks into the yellow fear eyes of Second Lieutenant Hibbert, played emotional and dramatic artistry by Richard Nicholls, and draws his revolver to kill Hibbert if he tried to put over a fake sick relief just before the drive.

Hibbert crouches and springs at his superior, there is a blow, but the revolver does not smoke. Hibbert becomes the crying dog and out of his ashes of despair comes the real man and Hibbert and his captain go hand in hand to battle because both have fear, one kills it in booze and

the other shows it and advertises his fear.

This is one scene, so marvelously acted, that I will never forget.

As a play, "Journey's End" is the big honest realistic shot of all war plays. It is war and not a play rigged up as exciting theater.

Here is a play with a cast that I can recommend. Please remember I have seen this play, I made a journey to see it and I know its great worth.

There is one of the few plays, both as to cast and as a show, that deserves capacity at every performance when it opens at English's on Monday night for three days only.

Low Leslie opens "Blackbirds," at English's tonight for three days. It is an all-Negro revue.

Other theaters today offer: Charlie Murray, at the Lyric; "Sunny Side Up," at the Apollo; Charlie Davis, at the Indiana; "Welcome Danger," at the Circle; "Why Bring That Up," at the Ohio; "Marianne," at the Palace; burlesque, at the Mutual, and movies at the Colonial.

White elephants are considered sacred in Siam, and they are given a funeral greater than that accorded a prince.

JAPANESE HOLD MIMIC WARFARE

More Than 100 Planes Take Part in Battle.

By United Press

TOKIO, Nov. 14.—More than one hundred airplanes participated in the fall military maneuvers in Ibaraki Prefecture today and will continue to do so for four days. Especial attention is paid to aerial scouting, defense and attack during the war games.

Two armies, an eastern and a western, are participating in the maneuvers. General Inoue commands the eastern force, consisting of the first and second brigades, the first cavalry brigade, a field artillery regiment and other units of the imperial bodyguard division and the first and second infantry brigades and other units of the first army division.

Aviation units are matched into two flight divisions to match their strength against the guns of the first anti-aircraft regiments.

High army officers attending the maneuvers and the emperor himself may hold a grand review on the termination of the trials.

The battle of Waterloo lasted only about eight hours.



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Every one made to sell for MORE than our SPECIAL SALE price.

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\$5

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SEE IT demonstrated

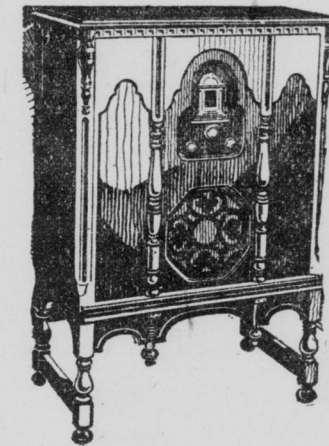
The new Toastmaster is being demonstrated all this week in our store—come in and see this modern automatic toaster turn out the perfectly browned toast without any watching or work on your part at all! You just drop in the piece of bread cut to the thickness you prefer, press down the lever, and the Toastmaster does the rest. Its shining, mirror-like chromium finish is permanent, too, and absolutely tarnish-proof! See the Toastmaster demonstrated at our store—order some for Christmas gifts!



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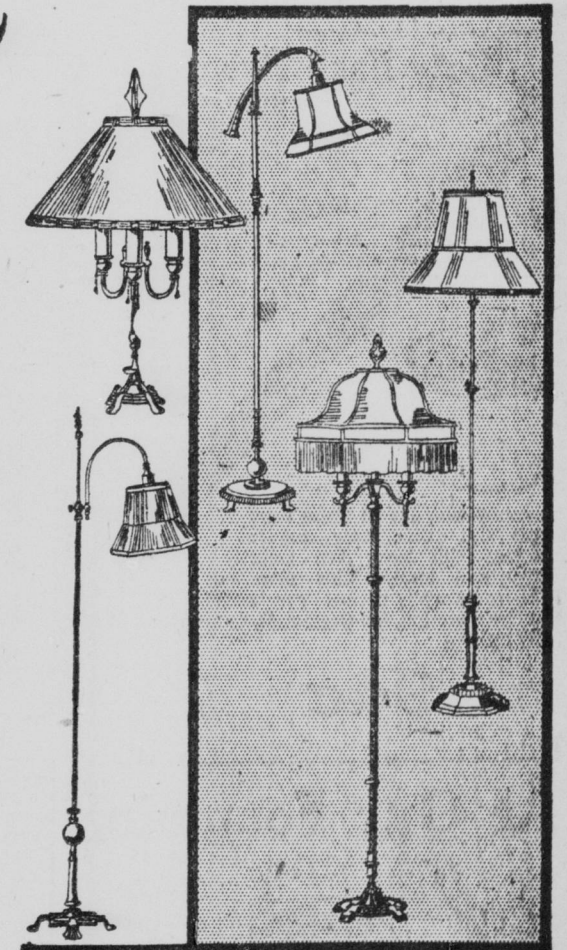
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And Up, Less Tubes

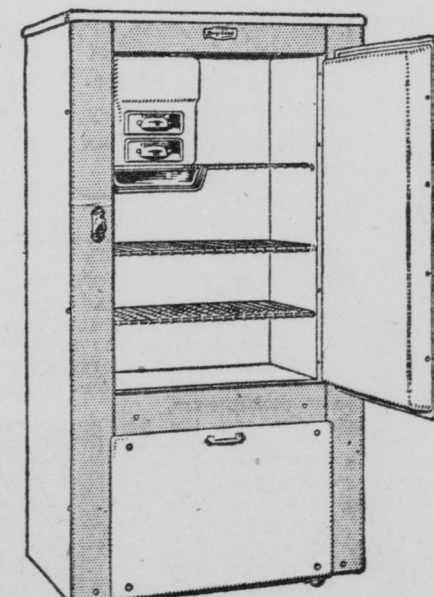
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