

## The Moving Picture Houses of Slavic Village

### NEW PHOTO-PLAY HOUSE SEATS 2,000

Olympia is One of Largest  
Devoted to Pictures in  
United States.

The Olympia theater, one of the largest exclusive moving picture theaters in the United States, was opened to the public Saturday evening. It is a beautiful playhouse, provided with stage and equipment for any class of theatrical attraction, and is to open with an entertainment of the same nature that has made the Alhambra so popular, and is to be operated in connection with the Alhambra, the Grand and the Globe, under the general management of J. H. Michael.

The building including the Olympia, located at the corner of E. 55th street, Broadway and Hamlet street, was erected by the Canfield Realty Company at a cost, including the ground, of \$250,000. The theater is leased and operated by the Olympia Entertainment Company. The private opening of the house Friday evening, when admission was by invitation only, was a brilliant affair. The big auditorium and its balcony were filled many times Saturday at the regular opening.

The theater seats 2,000 persons. It is absolutely fireproof and embraces every modern idea in theater construction. The decorations are rich and every comfort of patrons has been well looked after. The \$10,000 Moeller concealed pipe organ and chimes are to be in charge of Herbert Sisson and selections will form a part of every entertainment, in addition to orchestral music as accompaniment for the photo plays. The decorations throughout were furnished by the Sterling & Welch Company and draperies by The May Company.

The building includes eight ground floor stores and thirty suites, fronting 200 feet on E. 55th street and 250 feet on Hamlet street.

The Olympia puts Cleveland still farther in the lead of other American cities in the number of its high-class moving picture theaters. The theater is to be open every night from 6:30 to 10:30, with matinee performances every Saturday and Sunday.

In the early years of the twentieth century, Cleveland's Slavic Village was graced with several entertainment houses which featured the new "moving pictures" of "photoplays" as they were called. The most prominent of these was The Olympia Theater, located at 3365 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Opened as a vaudeville house in 1912, it featured "moving pictures" as part of the entertainment. Read the Cleveland Press article chronicling its grand opening on Friday, April 12, 1912. As celebrations progressed, the Titanic steamed steadily toward its historic destiny in the North Atlantic off the coast of Newfoundland. That very same newspaper would headline its sinking a few days later.

The organ mentioned in the article was a Moeller, two-manual pipe organ of 24 ranks, Opus 1299, ca. 1910. The organist, Herbert Sisson, was organist at Epworth Memorial Church in University Circle for many years and was also organist at the Alhambra Theater at Euclid and East 105<sup>th</sup> Street.

It is interesting to note that The Olympia Building last sold in 2014 for \$435,000, a price that included only the ground floor stores and apartment suites as the auditorium had been demolished many years ago.

Fleet Avenue was once home to three small moving picture houses. The site of The Edison Theater at 5331 Fleet Avenue, the corner of East 54<sup>th</sup> and

Fleet, is occupied today by Bert's and Son Auto Parts. At present, nothing is known about this theater other than its location.



Washington Park Theater

Nearby at 5222 Fleet Avenue is the **Roll Call Bar**. This building was originally the location of **The Washington Park Theater**. This small theater seated 300 and was no longer listed as a theater by 1930.



Vandora Theater

**The Vandora Theater** at 6308 Fleet Avenue seated 450 and had stopped operating by 1930 also.

### **The Luna Theater**

operated at 4061 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street. The building was renovated at a cost of \$215,000 and opened in January 1998 as **Looney's Pub and Eatery**. The building is now closed and vacant.



Luna Theater

Nearby at 3990 East 71st Street, **The New Victory Theater** operated as a 780 seat house until the 1950's. Used since its closing for several purposes, it sits now decaying and abandoned.

Several industry periodicals from the early twentieth century corroborate the existence of several of these neighborhood theaters.

In The Moving Picture World of June 25, 1916 is reference to a fund-raising showing of the film "A Baby's Fight for Life" sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Motion Picture Exhibitors' League as part of the "better babies" campaign of that time.



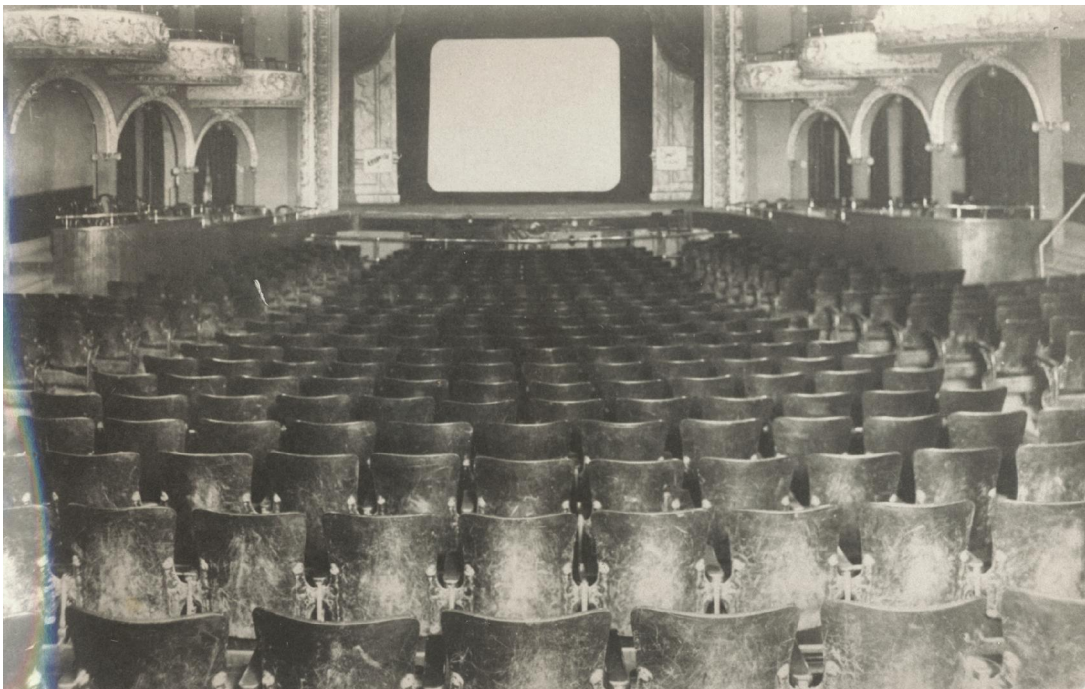
New Victory Theater

In **A History of Cleveland and Its Environs, The Heart of New Connecticut**, published in 1918, is reference to Mr. Samuel Manheim, age 25, who negotiated a lease for **The Olympia Theater** for \$50,000. A prominent real estate broker, he was instrumental in several theater leases in the Cleveland area. See below:





Olympia Theater, c. 1914



Olympia Theater interior

era photo plays.

## MANY ATTEND OPENING

### Olympia Invites Thousands to See Pictures and Hear Speakers.

The opening of the new Olympia Theater, E. 55th and Broadway, Friday evening, was a gala event. Admission on that night was by invitation only and the crowd that packed the beautiful house was representative of the population of that part of the city. Several prominent men of the neighborhood spoke; there was music from the big organ at which Herbert Sisson presided; Mary Glesner Vaughan sang, and several splendid photo-plays were shown.

The crowd cheered everything in the house from the drop curtain to the \$10,000 organ. It all surprised and delighted them. The house seats 2,000 and is one of the largest and most beautiful theaters in the United States devoted exclusively to moving pictures. It is to be operated in connection with the Alhambra, the Grand and the Globe, with J. H. Michael as general manager.

Among those who spoke at the opening were Joseph Hodous, Councilman D. J. Zinner, representing Mayor Baker; Camil Wiesenberger, who spoke in Bohemian; C. J. Benkoski, and Councilman Joseph Pelcinski, representing the city.

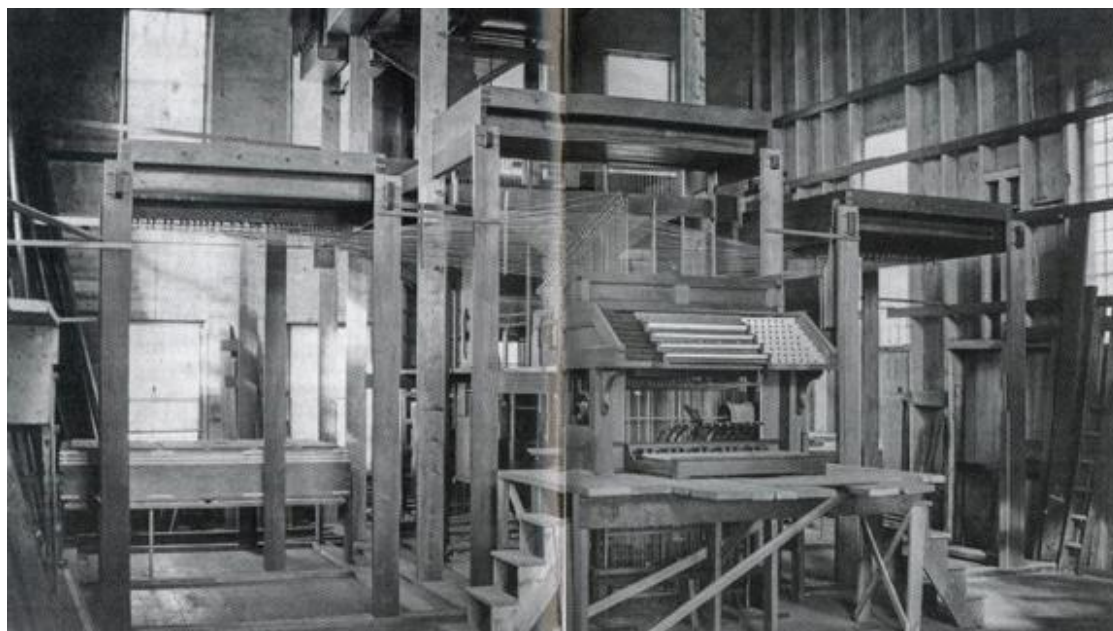
Photo-plays and high-class musical features will make up the Olympia entertainment. It is open every evening from 8:30 to 10:30, with afternoon performances Saturday and Sunday.







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from Lloyd's Church Music Directory, 1910



ations including the Royal Arch Chapter, the Knights Templar Commandery and the Scottish Rite Consistory. He also belongs to the Royal Arcanum and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Harry A. Wadsworth married Etta C. Miller. She was born at Ravenna, Ohio, where they were married, and she died at Garrettsville in 1907. J. L. Wadsworth was the only son. His sister and the younger child is Bessie, wife of A. M. Cline, a resident of Lakewood, Ohio. Mr. Cline is connected with the United Banking and Savings Company of Cleveland on the West Side.

Joe L. Wadsworth grew up and was educated at Windham, Ohio, graduating from high school there in 1897. The following year he attended the high school at Garrettsville, Ohio, and was graduated there in June, 1898. In October, 1898, he arrived in Cleveland and during the next five years was connected with The Lockwood Taylor Hardware Company. That company first honored him with a position in the capacity of order boy, and on his merit promoted himself until he was traveling salesman and covering an important territory in Central New York State. In 1903 Mr. Wadsworth went with the Cleveland Gas Light & Coke Company, remained there a year, and then for three and a half years was circulation manager and in charge of the subscription list of all the publications of the Penton Publishing Company. His next position was an accountant for three years with the Audit Company of Cleveland, following which for two and a half years he was an examiner in the state department of banks and banking. On July 1, 1914, he formed his present alliance as treasurer of the State Banking & Trust Company.

Mr. Wadsworth is a democratic voter. He is affiliated with Gaston G. Allen Lodge No. 629, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Lakewood, Webb Chapter No. 14, Royal Arch Masons, Holyrood Commandery, No. 32, Knights Templar, Lake Erie Consistory of the Scottish Rite, and Al Koran Temple of the Mystic Shrine. His home is at 1212 Ramona Avenue in Lakewood. Mr. Wadsworth at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1910 married Miss Florence H. Keller, daughter of Charles A. and Ellen (Palmer) Keller. Her mother is deceased. Her father who lives on Wade Park Avenue in Cleveland, was a soldier of the Union army during the war and is still active in service and one of the oldest employees of the Cleveland postoffice. Mr. and

Mrs. Wadsworth have one daughter, Ellen Charlotte, born August 17, 1913.

SAMUEL W. MANHEIM was born at Cleveland, March 29, 1893. He has not yet attained the dignity of his twenty-fifth birthday, and when his youth is considered in connection with the business interests he has handled and still maintains, his career is a remarkable instance of success and individual talent. At the outset it should be mentioned that he is not the son of wealthy parents and started life as close to the bottom as any business man in Cleveland.

His father, William Manheim, was born near the border line of Germany and Poland, came to Cleveland many years ago, and is now living in the city, a retired merchant. The mother was born in Germany and died in 1901, when Samuel was eight years of age.

At the death of his mother, he was placed in the Cleveland Jewish Orphan Asylum, where he remained until graduating in 1910. Being thrown on his own resources, he worked for several years in different lines, barely making a living, but in 1913 entered the field where his success has been achieved. This was handling business investments, and since then he has been buying and selling and acting as broker for a number of established business houses.

Mr. Manheim makes a specialty of amusement enterprises. During the past four years he has negotiated and built seven different theaters and has acted as broker for at least 150 theaters, involving lease and investment values from \$1,500 to \$50,000. These theaters have been located all over the State of Ohio. One of the most important of these transactions was the negotiating, building and leasing of the Wind A Mere Theater at Lake Front in East Cleveland. The grounds and building involved an expenditure of \$500,000. The building, besides furnishing quarters for theater and dance hall, has twenty stores. Mr. Manheim negotiated and sold the lease of the Olympia Theater at Fifty-fifth and Broadway for \$50,000, and also handled the lease of the Alhambra Theater at 150 Euclid Avenue, for ten years at \$15,000 a year. In 1918 he sold the Priscilla vaudeville house, East Ninth and Walnut streets, for \$40,000. In January, 1918, Mr. Manheim organized the Manheim-Wolcott Amusement Company, which now own and control four theaters, the Milo Theater, 800 seating capacity, at Miles



Avenue and East One Hundredth Street; Iris Theater, 1885 West Twenty-fifth Street; Uno Theater, West One Hundred and Twenty-fourth and West Madison Avenue; and Liberty Theater, at Geneva, Ohio. Mr. Manheim is president of the corporation. In July, 1918, he organized the Morison, East One Hundred and Fifth Street Garage Company, taking over the garage of the same name, with capacity of 100 cars, the second largest garage in the East End. Mr. Manheim is president of this corporation.

Mr. Manheim is affiliated with Cleveland Lodge, No. 18, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Civic League and in politics is strictly nonpartisan.

**MARTIN L. WRIGHT.** Two generations of Ohio people have utilized and appreciated the services of Dr. Martin L. Wright as a dentist, and he is almost the dean of the profession at Cleveland, where today he is still carrying the burdens and responsibilities of professional work with offices in the People's Bank Building on West Twenty-Fifth Street. He comes of a professional family. His father was both a physician and a dentist, and one of the very first to devote all his energies to the practice of dentistry in Cleveland. Representing the third generation, Doctor Wright has several sons who are dentists, one of them associated with him in partnership.

A native of Cleveland, Dr. Martin L. Wright was born November 19, 1846. His father also bore the name of Martin L. and was born in the north of Ireland in 1806 and was brought in infancy to the United States by his parents, who first located in Massachusetts. He came as a pioneer to Northern Ohio, married in Huron, Ohio, and was one of the early graduates with the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Western Reserve University. He practiced medicine in Huron for several years, and in 1842 located at Cleveland, where he was almost exclusively a dentist. Dr. Wright, Sr., died at Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1863. He was a democrat in politics. The maiden name of his wife was Maria Remington, who was born in Vermont in 1815, and during the greater part of her life lived in Cleveland, dying while on a visit at Paynesville, Ohio, in 1882. She was the mother of five children: Jennie M., who married Chester Stoddard, a lake engineer, and both are now deceased; Mary, who married Lansing Ford, a locomotive engineer, and both of whom died

in Cleveland; Dr. Martin L.; Maria, who died in Cleveland, the wife of John Mullen, an undertaker; Nellie, who lives on East Seventy-Ninth Street in Cleveland, wife of Henry Kein, a hardware merchant.

Martin L. Wright, Jr., was educated in the Cleveland public schools, graduating from high school, and in that early and interesting period of his youth many of his thoughts naturally turned upon the great struggle then engaging the North and South. In 1863, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Cleveland Grays, and in 1864 was called into the National service with the One Hundred and Fiftieth Ohio Infantry for a hundred days. The regiment was sent to Washington and did its duty in repelling Early's attack on the defenses at Washington. After the war Doctor Wright returned to Cleveland and for two seasons enacted with some success the role of an actor with John A. Elsler. He then zealously applied himself to the study of dentistry and has now practiced that profession for almost half a century. He was located at Paynesville and at Chardon, Ohio, but in 1890 returned to Cleveland and has had all the patronage he could well attend to.

Doctor Wright is a democrat in politics. He usually supported the party organization in state and local affairs, but several times has exercised his decided independence when national problems were at stake. Thus he voted for Grant and many years later was a Roosevelt supporter. Doctor Wright is a member of the Christian Science Church and his fraternal affiliations are with Halyeon Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Thatcher Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, Forest City Commandery, Knights Templar, Wellington Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Wellington, Ohio, Red Cross Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and he is a member of Memorial Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Dr. Wright owns a modern home at 1376 Cook Avenue in Lakewood. He has an interesting family. In 1868 he married Miss Elvena Rogers, who was born in Ohio and died at Cleveland in 1893. She was a granddaughter of Eber D. Howe, founder of the Cleveland Herald in 1819, the first newspaper published at Cleveland. Dr. Wright by his first wife has four children: Harry, a dentist practicing with his father; Alta, wife of Dr. John B. Gillette, a Cleveland dentist; Mabel, who married Walter Walsh, a salesman living at Los Angeles, California; and Dr. W. W., who is a



*Samuel H. Manheim*



H. C. HOFFMAN

# MOVING PICTURE WORLD

THE FILM  
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EXHIBITORS'  
GUIDE



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## League's Civic Work

Cleveland, O., Motion Picture Exhibitors Put Shoulder to the Wheel in Campaign for "Better Babies"—Raise Several Thousand Dollars—Theaters That Showed Special Film for the Dispensary and Hospital.

By Hubert Persons, Standard Theater Building, Cleveland, O., Special Correspondent.

CLEVELAND, O.—The biggest and most far-reaching activity Ohio motion picture exhibitors have ever engaged in, is the way Benjamin J. Sawyer, president of the Northeastern Ohio Motion Picture Exhibitors' League characterizes the "better babies" campaign the league has just completed.

For the week ending June 10, 146 picture theaters in Cleveland and suburbs, showed the film "A Baby's Fight for Life," for the benefit of the Babies' Dispensary and Hospital, and contributed one cent a head for every person viewing the film. Not only did the picture men contribute money to the campaign to raise funds to help the babies, but they gave the use of their theaters and permitted Camp Fire Girls in nurses' costume, to solicit funds for the dispensary in each theater.

Ten downtown theaters showed the film June 3, following a parade formally opening the babies' campaign. Contributions from persons in audiences in these ten theaters reached nearly \$600, in addition to the contributions from the theater owners. The total amount the moving picture men have succeeded in raising for the babies has not been tabulated as yet, but it is certain to be several thousand dollars.

### Theaters That Showed the Special Film.

During the week the special film made by Director Weston, of the Reserve Photo Play Company, was booked in the following houses:

Monday.—Princess, Mall, Bijou Dream, Avenue, Dreamland, Corona, American, Crescent, Bronx, Wonderland, Orpheum, Strand, Cameraphone, Reel, Standard, Ray, Alvin, Mt. Lebanon.

Tuesday.—Peerless, New Palace, Columbia, Ideal, Chic, Norwood, Addison, Gordon Park, Eclair, Savoy, Glenn, Doan, Funland, Jewel, Starlight, Atlas, Keystone, Virginia, Crown, Home, Manhattan, Comet, Carlyon.

Wednesday.—Strand, Superior, Ezella, Lark, New Colonial, Dome, National, Plaza, Castle, Ball Park, Orpheum, Wade Park, Monarch, Alhambra, Knickerbocker, Marquis, Metropolitan, Duchess, Penn Square, Wind-a-meer.

Thursday.—Family, Cedar, Delmar, Elysium, Buckingham, Main, Peerless, Dixie, Erie, Royal, U. S., Fountain, Globe, Hainnorth, Temple, Sun, Angela, Glenside, Chaplin, Victoria, Quincy.

Friday.—Kinsman, Park, Rex, Ferko, Palace, 116th St., Milo, Miles Park, Deucan, Harvard, Market Square, Moonlight, Olympia, Tabor, Broadway, Washington Park, Vandora, Luna, Pastime.

Saturday.—Elsonian, Park National, Professor, Majestic, Iris, Marvel, Amphion, Wonderland, Southern, Lincoln, Troy, Denison Square, Troy, "Y," Pearl, Eagle, Liberty, Clark, Norvel, National and Ridge.

Sunday.—Photo Play, Fulton, Randall, Lorain, See It, Gordon, Victor, Cozy, Empress, Boulevard, Madison, Gordon Square, Golden Eagle, Highland Square, U. No., Nemo, Enjoy U., Melba, Homestead, Lakewood and Lucier.

The campaign was in charge of a committee composed of Charles A. Megown, B. J. Sawyer, Frank Kenney and S. F. Deutsch.

### Special Film to Help French Orphans.

Cleveland, O.—Miss Katherine Russell Bleeker, of New York, has just completed a reel entitled "The Perils of Society," to be shown at the Metropolitan theater the latter part of this month for the benefit of the fund Cleveland society women are raising to aid the French war orphans. Some of the scenes were laid in the old

Garfield homestead, the former residence of President Garfield at Mentor. Other pictures were taken at the Country Club, the Hunt Club at Chagrin Falls, the Cleveland Yacht Club, and the town house and country estate of Charles A. Otis. One scene shows a number of society folk disporting themselves in the swimming pool at the Cleveland Athletic Club.

### The Enjoy-U's Own Weekly.

Cleveland, O.—Gustave C. Schroeder, proprietor of the Enjoy-U. theater, 7700 Lake avenue, plans to give his audiences weekly features of his own making, as the result of an experiment he tried on Memorial Day. Schroeder mounted a motion picture camera in his automobile and drove about among holiday crowds in his neighborhood.

The result was a goodly number of feet of snappy neighborhood stuff which his audiences enjoyed a week later on the screen. Now Schroeder will repeat the experiment weekly.

### "Where Are My Children?" in Ohio.

Cleveland, O.—"Where Are My Children", the film argument against race suicide, opened June 10 at the Cleveland Opera House. It was first privately screened by Manager George Gardner, before an audience of city officials, clergymen and educators.

E. P. Strong and Fred Desberg, of this city, have incorporated a company to handle the film in Ohio. It is attracting wide attention.

### Benefit at the Lucier.

Cleveland, O.—The Woman's Guild of St. Peter's Church gave a benefit performance at the Lucier theater, Wayne and Detroit avenues, June 13. The film offering was "God's Country and the Woman."

### Children Dance at the Olympic.

Cleveland, O.—The Olympia theater, E. 55th street and Broadway, was packed to the doors the nights of June 10 and 11, when Miss Katherine Ressler, presented seventy-five children of the neighborhood in a dance revue. According to W. H. Miller, manager of the Olympia and the Hainnorth theaters, the children are the best drawing card of the year for him.

### May Build Theater in Youngstown.

Youngstown, O.—C. W. Deibel, in seeking a permit from the city council to construct an elevated foot bridge over an alleyway connecting two pieces of property he owns, declares he intends to construct a motion picture theater with a seating capacity of 2,500 if council grants him the permit.

### CINCINNATI NEWS LETTER.

By Kenneth C. Crain, 610 1st Nat. Bank Bldg., Cincinnati Correspondent.

### McMahan & Jackson Get Another Big Film.

CINCINNATI, O.—McMahan & Jackson have added to their list of big features the Great Northern Film Co.'s production, "The End of the World," a six-part film portraying what happened when a comet struck the earth. It will be handled on a state-rights basis, like some of the other features which the Cincinnati firm controls. "The Dumb Girl of Portici," which McMahan & Jackson own in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, is showing to capacity business, they report, while "Diana,"

which was shown here in conjunction with the Pavlova film, is also drawing well. The firm entertained a remarkable assemblage of stage and literary notables recently on the occasion of the visit of the touring Friars to Cincinnati. The attraction was a private showing of "The Burglar and the Lady," a film version of James J. Corbett's stage success, in which he is featured, and as Mr. Corbett was a member of the Friars' company, the occasion was opportune for the special exhibition, which was apparently much enjoyed.

### Small Fire at Museum Theater.

Dayton, O.—A small fire in the operating room of the Museum theater, at 213 Valley street, caused a loss of about \$75 by the destruction of a film and some other damage, and incidentally illustrated that a panic is not necessary when a blaze occurs. Manager Charles Wood calmly announced to the audience that there was a small fire, but that there was no cause for alarm, and the audience, under his instructions, moved out with equal calm. The fire department prevented a possible spread of the fire, extinguishing the blaze at once. Manager Wood's coolness undoubtedly contributed largely to the prevention of possible trouble.

### Children's Films at Zanesville.

Zanesville, O.—The organizations interested in having pictures designed especially to interest and instruct children have succeeded in making arrangement for special programs once a week, on Saturday mornings, and the several exhibits which have been held were all well attended. A typical program shown recently included a Pathe colored picture, "The Adventures of a Madcap," and several other comedies, as well as some scenic pictures.

### MICHIGAN NEWS LETTER.

Special to Moving Picture World from Midwest News Service.

### Michigan Showmanship Notes.

JACKSON, MICH.—A local paper was conducting a cooking school and Manager McLaren, of the Majestic theater, showed at a Merchant's matinee a timely Essanay Domestic Science film "One Girl in a Thousand."

Red Jacket, Mich.—Manager William N. Paananen, of the Star theater, has added 125 seats, bringing the capacity up to 425. The house has been redecorated.

Big Rapids, Mich.—A summer policy at the Cozy and Princess theaters has been arranged. Special features will be shown each night.

Ahmeek, Mich.—Manager Kosman, of the Rex theater, is conducting a young ladies popularity contest.

### Michigan Theater Changes.

Jonesville, Mich.—E. D. Rice, of Leslie, Mich., has purchased a moving picture theater here.

Bay City, Mich.—The Aladdin Theater Co. has purchased the Star theater. Lloyd Simpson is now manager of both the Aladdin and Star theaters.

Hubbardston, Mich.—Russell Bangle has opened a moving picture show here.

Manistee, Mich.—The Gem theater operated for the last two years by Allen and Frank Christianson in connection with the Electric theater, has been closed. An extra machine has been placed in the Electric which will handle the business.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—The Empress theatre will run vaudeville and films this summer.

Bay City, Mich.—Richard P. Leasy, head of the Wenonah Theatre Co., has purchased the Washington theater here.

Jackson, Mich.—Frank R. Lampman has resigned as manager of the Orpheum theater.

Ishpeming, Mich.—M. L. Clancy, of Ishpeming, and J. D. Heritage, of Va., have taken over the Princess theater at Thief River Falls, Minn.