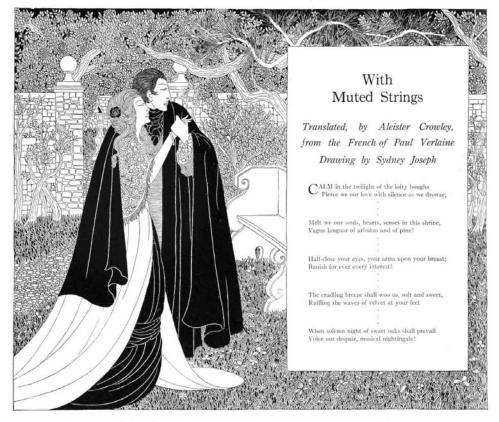
VANITY FAIR



## LE PETIT GUIGNOL—OF BROADWAY

NCE again we are apprised of the fact that Autumn is here. All the old-fashioned signs point to it. But we should know even if our rural foliage were neglecting its annual contract; even if touring cars were not turning into sedans, and if women's clothes vendors were not holding advance sales of last season's furs dyed in next season's colors; even if society were not beginning to trickle into the city from Lenox and other outlying districts.

For the theatres have almost all openedsome, alas, for the second time-and the voice of the press agent rings throughout the land.

Experienced newspaper readers—especially of the Sunday editions—readers who like their news tempered with romance and optimism, with mystery and delightful improbabilities, are perusing the dramatic sections with a warm thrill of expectancy, and the certain knowledge that they will not be disappointed.

It is safe to prophesy that this year-as last year-many of our most prominent feminine players will interest themselves in War Charities, working girls, and the vote. We know the news will leak out that Miss So and So, whose current husband is driving an American ambulance somewhere in France, is thinking of joining him at the front-and that she will limit herself to the thought. It is almost a fait complet that the chorus girls of certain musical successes (whether there are any, or not) will form a literary club, for purposes of dancing, and that the chorus men will take up the question of preparedness (for a siege of unremunerative rehearsals) by meeting daily on the stage for drill. We feel sure that several actresses will be arrested for speeding, and that many others will be torn between the movies and the legitimate.

Already we have heard the tragedy of one well-known theatrical figure, who has, so far, been unable to remove her bronze make up, because the ingredient for its removal is made in Germany, and cannot be extradited.

This is but the beginning. There will be more news, of equal interest from similar sources. Yoicks! WHAT THE PLAYS WILL WEAR

DURING the coming saison, conservatism will be the keynote of fashions in plays. The cut of melodramas, par example, will differ but slightly from those of a twelvemonth ago. Melodramatic heroines will preserve the suggestion of soldierly spareness in the waistline, and in the clothes-line, heroes will be worn with narrowish heads, white souls, and softish, brownish eyes. Aside from this, and the fact that dark-room revolver shots, faced with informal, flowing party-colored oaths are always de rigueur, there will be but a slight reflection of sombre, militaire Europe in melodrama styles.

Musical comedies will be cut a trifle lower this autumn than last, with belle-crowned choruses in which legs, worn somewhat more snuggishly than last season, will be the coup de grâce.

Despite their overpopularity last year farces will still be au fait. Plain, gray-dullish, or patent-laughter jokes, with flat points, borrowed from the latest Parisian styles, plain poke, and slap-stick comedians, and the oldtime, English one-garment baby-these are the foreshadowings of farce fashions for fall.

Bona fide comedy and drama are, as usaul, under the ban.

Chapman Wright