

HAS INDIGESTION HE SAYS

American Stage Is Suffering With It, Ben Greet Tells Students.

Manager of "Everyman" Com- pany Delivers Address at State University.

The American drama is suffering from an indigestion of sensationalism, in the opinion of Ben Greet, the noted London player and member of the Elizabethan Society of England, which has for its object the purification of the drama. In an address before the students of the State University delivered in Denny Hall this morning, Mr. Greet presented what he regarded as the function of the stage, and attacked the modern tendency toward extravagant scenery and settings at the expense of the real merit of the production itself.

Mr. Greet is manager of a company of sixty London players, mostly graduates of Oxford and Cambridge universities of England, with whom he is touring the United States and playing at the principal universities of the country. His company presents "Everyman," a fifteenth century morality play, at the University during the present week, and at a number of the universities has presented "Hamlet" as Shakespeare wrote it, and without any stage settings whatever, at American universities, including the University of California.

Attacks Sensationalism.

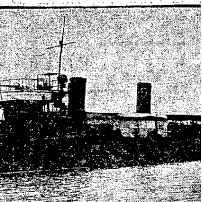
After giving a historical outline of the condition of the drama at the time "Everyman" and the other plays of the fifteenth century were produced, Mr. Greet outlined the objects of the Elizabethan Society and attacked sensationalism of the modern drama. The great difference between America and France, the speaker said, was that in France they had one religion and a hundred sauces, while here we had one hundred religions and one sauce. The fact that there was such diversity of thought in this country, Mr. Greet stated, made possible a wonderful future for the drama. On the other hand, if Americans would only use less of the sauce of sensationalism in the drama, they would get more of the beef-steak of the grand old dramatists. In part the speaker said:

"But, you ask, why do you want to revive the old play? Why do you want to look at the old pictures? What do you want of Raphael and Michael Angelo when you have Buster Brown and Happy Holligan? You laugh, but much of the drama of today is, when compared to the old plays, as these modern productions of the artist's pen to those great paintings of the past. Why must we have the mere staging of plays take so much time and such an important part? I cannot understand the terrible hold that sensationalism seems to have on the people.

Anyone Can Amuse.

"It is the function of the stage to entertain. I see in your papers the theatres are advertised under the head of amusements, and I fear that we too often conceive the drama's function simply as that to amuse. I believe it has a higher duty than that to perform. Anyone can amuse. The veriest fool can set people to laughing, but to do more than that should be the purpose of a profession with the mighty power that the

Paul Jones Brief Visit



Paul Jones arrived in the harbor Saturday from target practice of the Pacific squadron, to be for orders. The Paul Jones left port this morning.

drama has. The two great factors in uplifting the drama should be the church and the universities. In this they have a task worthy of their best efforts and for which they can do more than we suppose.

Today the American stage, brilliant with promise for the future, is suffering from an acute attack of indigestion from feeding on the rich sauces of sensationalism. Let it be for you young ladies and gentlemen of the higher education to help the drama back to a more rational life and by so doing render your time and your country a great service."