In reviewing the dramatic season, the theatregoer recalls chiefly the impression, that on the modern stage the acting is likely to be several grades better than the play. In the history of English drama the time of the greatest acting has been a time even of the worst playwriting. And though the present would impress one as a time only of good, not of great acting, the plays of the year seem almost uniformly inferior to the players. Recent mention has been made, for example, of Mr. Sothern. Similarly, Mr. Bellew and Miss Crosman and Clara Bloodgood show capacity too high for extravagant romantic melodrama or Clyde Fitch shows.

The romantic melodrama seems to have had most of the field this year, running through time, from French kings, Louis XI. or Henry of Navarre, down to our Civil War, or even to modern American soldiers of fortune. Such plays, fortunately, even when well acted, are hard to remember over-night, and need only momentary appreciation.

In plays that, though insubstantial as dramas, are yet vivid and memorable as character sketches, two American actors have made and ought long to enjoy popularity and praise. Mr. Jefferson has done, perhaps, as much as Washington Irving himself to make a national and perpetually charming figure of Rip Van Winkle. Without the local value of Rip, but equally delightful, are the two other droll portraits he again showed us on the winter's stage,—Bob Acres and Caleb Plummer. I am inclined to couple with Rip Van Winkle — fully realizing the extent of such praise — Mr. Crane's David Harum, which we ought never to allow him permanently to withdraw.

It has been the fortune of the more vigorous contemporary plays to be astonishingly well acted. Of these, Mr. Jones' "Middleman" and especially "The Rogue's Comedy," given by Mr. Willard, and Mr. Pinero's "Mrs. Tanqueray," given by Mrs. Campbell, were most acceptable. D'Annuzio's mawkish rhapsodies deserved no such power as Madam Duse's. Mr. Pinero's last play, "Iris," thoroughly well done by every player in the company, was too loathsome for the sincerest pleasure. And too painfully grim was Mrs. Campbell's fine performance of Sudermann's "Joy of Living." I should, on the whole, call the finest piece of acting of the year, both in the title rôle and in the support, Miss Mary Shaw's performance of that slimiest and most hideous of modern plays, Ibsen's "Ghosts."

We have to be thankful for Mr. Sothern's fine acting of "Hamlet," and for Mr. Mansfield's brilliant presentation of "Julius Caesar." — Theatregoer.

Chemical Society.

The last meeting of the Chemical Society this year was held at the Union Friday evening, May 15, for the election of officers for the following year. A. D. Smith, '04, was chosen president; A. W. Burnham, '04, vice-president; W. H. Keen, '05, secretary; F. W. Farrell, '04, treasurer; and W. W. Duncan, '04, member of the Executive Committee. After the election of officers W. C. Martin reviewed the visit of the Summer School to the Murphy Varnish Works of Newark, N. J. In the thesis work M. H. Clark spoke on the "Functions of Diaphragms in the Electrolysis of Brine."

H. B. Pulsifer spoke on the "Effect of Temperature upon Catalytic Agents," and G. R. Spaulding reviewed the great advances made in Bacteriology by Pasteur. Mr. Samuel Cabot of the Corporation and Dr. Walker of the Faculty were the guests of the evening.

Civil Engineering Summer School.

Twenty-two men have thus far signified their intention of attending the Civil Engineering Summer School this year. The work will be at and in the vicinity of East Machias, Me. The instructing staff will consist of Professors Burton and Robbins, and Messrs. Sweet, Hosmer, Hanna, and H. S. Morse. About half of the party are Sophomores, as this year, second year men attending Summer School will be excused from third year surveying field work.