PRINCIPLES OF PLAY WRITING EXPLAINED

Mr. Baker's Lectures Interest Men Who Write For Tech Show.

The Lowell Institute lectures on the subject of the drama, which are being given by Mr. George P. Baker, are of particular interest to Tech men who are expecting to do any work in the way of writing for Tech Shows. In this series Mr. Baker is explaining the value of surprise and climax in adding the interest of an audience, principles of securing proper progress of the action, and the necessity of clearly impressing the author's ideas upon the audience.

In the first act of every play the authors must be "introduced" to the audience. Certain necessary facts about their previous history and relations to each other must be laid down, and the devices used to effect this are called the illustrative incidents. Different devices are employed, one plan being to arrange dialogue between the players, but it is very important that the facts be brought out in a perfectly natural way. The audience should not be allowed to perceive the mechanical details, but it is essential that the idea the author wishes to convey should be made clear with precision. Surprise is a means often used to maintain interest, and it is valuable if used in moderation. An audience enjoys unexpected or mystifying situations, but a play should not depend on these alone. A long series of mysterious and perplexing incidents is a mistake and confuses the spectator to such an extent that he gives up trying to solve them and loses interest. For this reason an attempt to keep the audience in suspense by leaving everything unexplained until the last act defeats its own purpose.

A proper use of climax is one of the best ways of holding interest and maintaining suspense. The author's purpose is to impress very clearly through the emotional incidents—and emotional effects depend on climax. True climax is that which produces the effect desired by the author, no matter what the mechanism. Care must be given to the progress of the play. All the action of the play should have a close relation to each other. Common veins in principle are: inserting a scene which has no logical place in the development of the main theme, omitting a scene which is necessary for a complete understanding of the plot, and adding a superfluous act which is merely an anticlimax.

Mr. Baker, in closing, emphasized the importance of giving an audience a clear idea of the author's purpose in writing his play. Too frequently the writer, which teaches a moral, are not sufficiently driven home. It is essential that the author's ideas be clearly impressed upon the audience.

The next lecture is to be held Monday at 5 P. M. It will be along the same general lines as the last one.

CHESS CLUB MEETING.

This month, in the Union, there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chess Club, to make definite arrangements about future games. The date of the return match with Harvard has been decided upon, and it is hoped to settle it at the meeting this month.

Can you read figures in three languages?

 Turning the logs makes a fire burn brighter. When your brain is dull and inspiration lags—vary the mood with Velvet.

It brushes away the clouds and lends wings to fancy. Grave or gay—Velvet lends itself to YOUR mood. It's a constant delight—always temptingly rich—ever smooth and satisfying.