



Shakspeare's youthful comedy of "The Midsummer Night's Dream," very brilliantly staged and probably well enough acted, is to run for two weeks at the Hollis, beginning Nov. 16. Among Shakspeare's plays it profits rather more than any other by modern stage setting, for it is pageant-like, and seems even to have been a sort of spectacular masque performed at some wedding festivity; modern scenery, costume and dance are therefore not inappropriate additions. The fairy parts have particularly lent themselves to musical amplification, and the present performance is to include the full and beautiful Mendelssohn music, both the overture, composed in 1826, and the other parts, with the wedding march composed in 1843. Pepys, the frank and comical diarist, records after seeing it acted on Sept. 29, 1662, that he never saw it before and never would again, "for it is the most insipid, ridiculous play that ever I saw in my life;" but the diary rather proves it on Pepys himself that he's for a jig or a tale of bawdry, or he sleeps. The play is now so infrequently given that one may perhaps have no chance to see it twice.



Every theatregoer who enjoys plays as plays and is impatient of literary criticism of the drama will find comfort in Prof. Brander Matthews' short article in the November *Scribner's*. Professor Matthews has just published a little volume, "The Development of the Drama," that is easy reading and accurate enough, and gives one a general idea of great dramatic writing, from the Greek down to the French, Spanish and English work of our own day.



The old actress, Mrs. Gilbert, who might almost rather than Miss Russell be called the heroine of the performance of "Mice and Men," began life as a dancer and still, in the eighties, wishes for parts with dancing.

In her little volume of "Stage Reminiscences" she tells one of the best of stage stories — about a

performance of "Faust." "Something went wrong with the trap that should have let Mephistopheles down to the under world. He went half way down and then stuck; they hitched him up a bit, and he went down better, but stuck again. They tried two or three times and then had to lower the curtain with him sticking head and shoulders above the trap. A voice in the gallery shouted out: 'Hurrah, boys, hell's full!'"

The Mechanical Engineering Society.

The first meeting of the Mechanical Engineering Society was held at the Tech Union last Tuesday evening. Mr. F. W. Dean, the speaker announced, was unable to address the society on account of the serious illness of his father. Mr. Dean will probably address the society at a later date.

Sixty-five members were present to listen to Mr. Byron Eldred, a mechanical engineer of this city, who has made a specialty of combustion. Mr. Eldred gave a straightforward talk about his work in this branch. In one of the most interesting parts of his talk he described the process by which he obtains a wood flame from coal for lime burning. By diluting with waste gases the air supplied to the furnace by forced draft, he reduces the per cent of oxygen, and obtains from the coal a flame from twenty to thirty feet long, of remarkably uniform temperature. The process is applicable to many of the arts, and has been used with great success in tempering large pieces of steel where uniform distribution of heat and a high temperature are indispensable.

The society shingles may be had from the officers, or from Messrs. Poole and Thomas of the Junior Class. Their cost is one dollar.

There was a young lady named Cholmondely
Who played the fiddle but bolmondely;

The neighbors agree

She really can't be

Any good, but she surely is colmondely.