



It Looks Like a Fight to the Finish
Please, Sir, Don't Die

If Armourites can't go to the theater, then the theater must come to Armour. This thought occurred to Junior Mechanical Harold Monger in October of 1931. He lost little time in converting his thought into actuality. Among his classmates he found enough enthusiastic supporters to warrant the task of forming a dramatic group.

Actual activity began when Professor Walter Hendricks expressed hearty approval of the new undertaking and offered his services as a sponsor. Immediately a committee traveled to the Art Institute to enlist the aid of the architectural department. They found five architects willing and ready to design sets and scenery for proposed plays. Then, dubbing themselves "The Dramatic society," the organization began the actual work of producing a play.

The turnout for the first casting was pleasantly surprising even to the leaders. About thirty theatrical aspirants came to hear Monger and Professor Hendricks extoll the benefits derived from participation in theatrics. Enough actors were chosen from the newcomers to fill the cast of Lord Downing's "A Night at the Inn." The play was then booked for the closing act on the annual Christmas Concert Program. Obstacles took form from the beginning of the activities. There was no money to buy materials with and the staff was forced to resort to drastic measures. They climbed into the loft in Mission, where they removed the dust-covered props and scenery that had been used for church plays early in 1901. The artistic ability of the architects was sorely taxed in converting these relics into presentable scenery. In addition problems with lighting, acoustics and costumes developed that had to be solved more or less satisfactorily.

In the autumn of 1934 Eugene O'Neill's "In the Zone" was featured. With experienced men in the key roles, the play did exceedingly well. Bronx cheers that had accompanied many preceding performances were absent, and the *Tech News* which had been skeptical of the players' ability characterized the program as "A fine performance and a fine audience," featured in an editorial.

In 1935 the players enjoyed a banner year. In March Armourites thrilled to a double feature consisting of Chekhov's "The Boor" and the skit, "Dress Rehearsal." Successful, the players again turned their efforts to producing their additional plays. "The Red Robe" of Eugene Brieux was chosen, and this colossal production was shown in May. This play was really a large production, and it entailed considerable preparation. Seventy applicants were reviewed for positions as both stagehands and actors. Eighteen of these men were finally selected to play the male roles in the cast. A score were given positions on the technical staff, while six actresses were imported from the Hull House Theater for the important feminine roles. The meager treasury of the organization was drained in purchasing new materials for sets and costumes. The performance was scheduled for an 8:30 p. m. curtain, and the play was shown to a capacity-filled house. When the "Red Robe" concluded, Mission shook with the tremendous ovation from the satisfied customers.

In the closing months of the year the Players scheduled "The House of Juke" and "Dust of the Road." Both of these plays were well received, al-

Bring Him Something Stronger than Water if You Want Him
To Come To

