

Alan Hale, Biograph

By Thornton Fisher.

IF ALAN HALE had not been overcome at the first operation he witnessed at the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia as a student of osteopathy, he might today be rubbing the kinks out of human bodies instead of working at the hero business, and this story would not have been written.

He was born to be an actor, however, and during his youth some one told him he looked just like a doctor. Then a gentle neighbor eased the information that he typified a lawyer. Still others thought he resembled a minister. Young Hale listened to so much of this that he began to believe that if he resembled these types he could play the parts as well and thus came the first serious hunch that he would be an actor. Hale was born in Washington, D. C. His parents were not stage people, but they never tried to deter Alan from entering the theatrical profession.

From the old gallery of the Academy of Music at Washington the present writer has gazed with boyish credulity at the old Davis thrillers. In the same gallery, too, Alan Hale, also a lad, but quite unknown to me, gripped the railing with pent-up excitement as the villain still pursued her. While he was still young he was taken to Philadelphia where he began his real career. He spent much time as a youngster in Philly visiting the zoo—in fact, almost daily—and knew all the animals by their front names. It did not require a very long time for Mamma Hale to discover how young Alan's handkerchiefs came home in ribbons after a playful session around the cages and young Hale was the recipient of many a ringing tattoo administered by Papa Hale on certain tender parts of his anatomy.

When he grew into youth he tackled the real estate business and then the newspaper game called him, but he relinquished it in order to study osteopathy. But on that memorable day when he fainted the ambition to become an osteopath beat a quick retreat and not long after he got his first job with the Orpheum Stock Company. The hardest thing he had to do in that organization was to keep from laughing as he carried a spear with the other supers.

Soon after, he became one of the principals in the company and received his first experience as a real actor in "A Message from Mars."

Cast for one of the important roles in "The Merchant of Venice," he assiduously plugged until he regarded himself letter perfect. After the first performance of the play the



ALAN NEARLY BECAME AN OSTEOPATH

stage manager verbally indicated his displeasure with Hale's delivery: "Why," said the indignant young Hale, "I know those lines backward." "Yes," replied the director. "That's just the way you said them!"

Possessing a rich tenor voice, Mr. Hale aspired to operatic heights, but at the moment when hopes burned brightest and success seemed near, his voice failed and he was compelled to relinquish a musical career.

Several years ago he made his debut in the pictures. Prior to his picture work he wrote scenario after scenario which were sent to one of the New York companies. They were

regularly returned—that is, all but one, and when Mr. Hale called to see the scenario editor he was asked, "Are you the man who has been sending me all those scenarios?" "Yes," said the actor, "are you the man who has been sending them all back?" But he landed his first picture job with that company, the old Champion Company. From there he went with Lubin and then came an engagement with K. & E.,



for whom he played the heavy things. Now when Alan Hale's name is mentioned one instinctively thinks of Biograph. He has made good in the pictures.

This fine looking chap and I spent an evening recently at his favorite Italian restaurant in New York, where interesting people are wont to gather, and there he modestly told me of his ambitions and what he hopes to achieve. He likes farce-comedy, and apparently this is his natural forte, for it is in such plays that Hale is at his best. Three farces in which he recently appeared are among his favorites, "Winning the Widow," "Heart Trouble" and "Bob's Love Affairs."

When Hale goes to his books, he prefers Dickens and historical fiction, from which he can glean something applicable in his screen work. For indoor sports the actor resorts to pool and billiards, but the real recreation and joy of his leisure hours is a low rakish gray roadster which he owns and pilots with considerable skill.

Alan Hale is one of the most popular members of the Screen Club in New York, as well as one of the club's comedians, and he has labored indefatigably in its behalf. His engagement with Biograph has been a delightful one and the actor with a loyalty born of faith in the company for which he plays is quick to establish this fact.

The last I saw of Alan Hale that night as we parted was a figure wrapped in a haze of smoke from his auto's exhaust pipe as it sped down the avenue for home.

STRAND TO SHOW WOMEN'S FASHIONS.

The daily matinees at the Strand theater are in the future to have added attractions of interest to women. It will no longer be necessary for them to visit the shops in order to view the latest styles in dress and thus wear themselves out. The management of the Strand has arranged to show moving pictures in colors of the latest styles for women. These pictures were taken in Paris and in this country and will embrace street and evening dresses for women of all ages; cloaks, riding and other sporting habits—in short, everything pertaining to women's wear. These fashion shows will be presented every afternoon, in connection with the regular program, and will be changed every week.

STRAND AT PIQUA OPENED.

Fred L. Adams has opened the Strand theater at Piqua, Ohio. This is a handsome new fireproof structure seating 500, and is equipped with all conveniences for the patrons. Mr. Adams was formerly the manager and proprietor of the Favorite theater in Piqua.