

year. At the present time there are about twenty-five plays in the repertory.

The Circus School

BEFORE going to the Soviet Union we had heard about the Circus School (or School of the Circus Art), but to us at that time it seemed no more a serious educational undertaking than it has since our return to many people to whom the Circus School educational project has been mentioned. However, the experience, first at the performance of the circus, followed by a day at the school itself, has thrown an entirely new light on this project as an educational activity. At the present time a new building is being completed in Moscow as the headquarters for the Circus School. Incidentally, the Circus has returned recently from a tour to Latin America, and, as we passed through Paris on our return from Moscow, we noticed that the Circus was booked for an engagement in Paris, and, according to our friends in Paris, a much anticipated event.

In the Circus School, as in many of the other schools described in this report, the students receive an overall education. The Circus School is a self-contained establishment, offering general education as well as the specialized education to the students. The construction of the new Circus School is in the form of a circus ring.

The Circus School has two faculties: (1) acrobatic training; (2) clowns, including the famous music clowns. There are two courses: (1) four-year course, in which students between the ages of fourteen years and twenty-one years may enroll; (2) seven-year courses, in which are enrolled students between the ages of eleven and eighteen years. Competitive examinations are required in order to qualify for entrance, and there are always many more candidates than can be accepted.

It is interesting to note that, for the course dealing with the training of clowns, only those who have finished the four-year technical music school are accepted. This means that a total of eleven years of music training precedes entrance to the Circus School clown department.