

burlesque. Moreover he has a good sense of how to write straight comedy. He is a New Yorker, born there in 1880. Most of his life has been spent in and about the theatre, since he was one of the founders of the Washington Square Players and of the Theatre Guild. For the past few years he has been acting as director in the Theatre Guild and has assisted in producing a number of the Guild's plays, among them "R. U. R.", "The Devil's Disciple", "Windows", "Saint Joan", and "Fata Morgana". This fact probably explains why he hasn't written more plays in recent years.

"Philip Moeller, the creator of 'Madame Sand' and of 'Molière', has developed in 'Sophie' more searchingly his gift of satire and sparkling repartee. The lines of his play are closely interwoven in thought, and their significance is often multiple. In the repartee and in the rapid interplay of ideas lies the individuality of Mr. Moeller."—SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN, April 25, 1920.

"Mr. Moeller's divided aim is everywhere apparent. He desires to write plays with enough romantic softness to please the crowd and enough brilliancy of execution to entice the critical. The former he may

PHILIP MOELLER

Sophie. KNOPF.
Madame Sand. KNOPF.
Molière. KNOPF.

In his one act plays and in many of his longer plays Philip Moeller shows an almost impish sense of historical satire and

achieve; for the latter his equipment is moderate. His vein of wit and stylistic aptness is meagre and reluctant. He forces and torments it, but the surface glow he achieves is but that of rouge upon a pallid cheek. He symbolizes the cleavage between our drama and our stage." — From a review of *Molière*, NATION, June 14, 1919.

"But we do know that the play which Mr. Moeller has written for Mrs. Fiske is more concerned with the emotional slantings of the French authoress than with the brilliancy she must have had in order to fascinate the brilliant men of her time. . . . Mr. Moeller has succeeded in writing occasional witty lines, but in no way has he succeeded in sounding the deep notes of Madame Sand's character or in measuring her fascination." — M. J. Moses, BOOK NEWS, January, 1918.