



Bühnenbild: „Liliom“ (Admiralstheater, Berlin)

Stage Setting

## NEHER

A stage decoration may be a thing of beauty considered by itself; but if the composition does not harmonize with the style of the production as a whole, it can add nothing to the effect. The immediate and captivating effect of the scene upon the audience can only be achieved when producer and scene-painter derive their scenic effects from the same source. Any individual appeal the picture may make, whatever its basis, must be a distracting element and detract from the general effect. The unity of a stage setting must not be disturbed by an artist's attempt to put his own work in the foreground. Attempts at originality for its own sake in the theatre will never aid in the creation of atmosphere. Complete harmony can only be achieved when the setting takes its rightful place by the side of dialogue, music and acting in the perfect reproduction of a dramatic or musical work.

Caspar Neher, scene-painter, possesses this power of concentration, of absorption in the author's conception. This painter can create literary and musical impressions purely by the use of intense colouring and not by a meticulous and pedantic attempt to achieve the style of the period and this explains the success of his stage settings with the public. We would only remind you of the glorious production of "Liliom", the lasting effect of which was in no small measure attributable