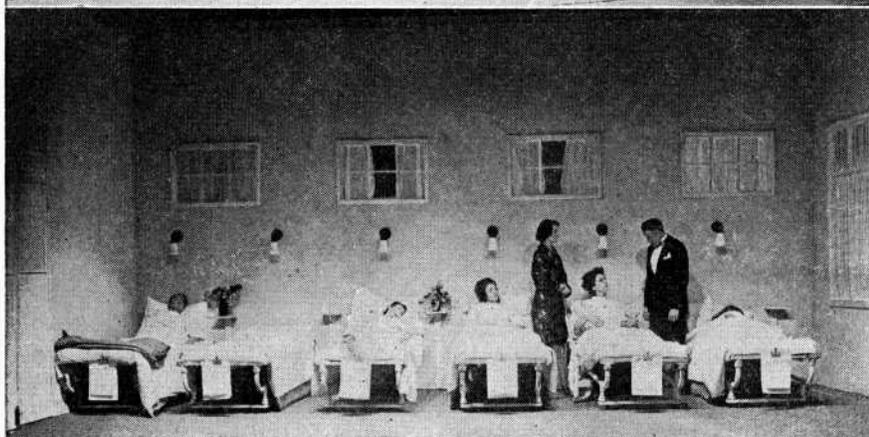


Here are two scenes from «Birth,» as produced by the Morningside players in New York. This play by Margaret McDougal Axelson, ex '13, is proving a sensation in New York. Richard M. Dickinson, ex '30, below, won second place in the national long play tournament of Little Theaters in New York City with his Oklahoma play «Black Jack Davey»



## Drama successes

PLAYS by two Sooners won national recognition during January. *Black Jack Davey* by Richard Mansfield Dickinson, ex '30, director of the Tulsa Little Theater, won second place in the national long play tournament in New York City. *Birth*, a play produced by the Morningside players of Columbia university and written by Mrs Margaret McDougal Axelson, ex '13, is soon to have Broadway production.

Mr Dickinson's play won the second annual playwrighting contest last year sponsored by the Playhouse of the school of dramatic art of the university. It is a dramatic picture of early Oklahoma, the locale being Vinita. It was presented at Norman, later at Tulsa, and a cast of the Tulsa Little Theater presented it in New York. It is expected that the play will be published by Longmans-Green.

Mrs Axelson is the daughter of Mrs D. A. McDougal of Sapulpa, and she is the wife of Ivar Axelson, M. A. '28, former instructor in the school of business of the university. She has been a nurse, served on the food board under President Hoover during the war, has been in the publishing business, and with her sister wrote a volume of verse, *Wandering Fires*, and is an ex-newspaper woman.

*Birth* is creating favorable comment among well known dramatic critics in the east since the theme is remarkably original. Its originality lies in the locale which is a maternity ward. Mrs Axelson's play is a study of contrasts of motherhood.

Stephen Rathbun of the *New York Sun* dramatic staff says, "Mrs Axelson has treated a delicate subject with the greatest delicacy. I presume it would be impossible for a woman who is both a poet and a mother to write an indelicate play about childbirth and motherhood.

"Her play is a study in contrasts of motherhood, rather than a play with a definite story. There is, however, the thin thread of a tale about a young man and his equally young wife. The latter has been convicted of murder and the state prison sentence is to be carried into effect as soon as her child is born."

Owing to its favorable reception, additional performances of the play were given in a Broadway playhouse. Immediately Mrs Axelson received offers from producers and movie producers, and it is possible the play may receive Hollywood production.



*The Congressional Digest* for the month of January, a magazine published



monthly at Washington, and which reviews outstanding arguments made on both sides of the leading questions debated in congress, quoted at length from a speech made recently by Jed Johnson, ex '15, of the sixth district of Oklahoma, in opposition to the moratorium. Of the thousands of pages of argument on the subject, the *Digest* quoted only five other members of the house and two members of the United States senate.