EDITORIAL

Shakespeare in Connecticut

The Bard of Avon, if all goes well, will have a new home in our own Connecticut, where Governor Lodge last week signed a bill incorporating the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy, to be established at Westport. It would seem to us a most happy transmigration. The Puritan Fathers, of course, looked upon the theatre as one of the works of the devil; and they hoped that the settlement which came to be known as Connecticut would be free of even such heresies as afflicted old Boston. But Shakespeare, when he has a mind to, can speak with tongues of angels; he can evoke the beauty that is almost holiness, and sound the note of freedom that abides in man's soul.

The new venture, for which some $500,000 is to be raised, is sponsored by the Theatre Guild; it promises a repertory devoted exclusively to Shakespearian plays, with a company sent on tour when the Westport season closes. The theatre itself is to be patterned after the famous Globe of London. Much depends, needless to say, upon the skill with which the enterprise is managed. But no one can suppose that the opportunity is less than magnificent. From such a company as this, trained in the classical tradition, there can go forth actors to enhance and illumine the American stage in all its aspects; and to such a center men and women can come to drink deep of some of the greatest glories of our civilization.