

POSED AS A MAN

California Woman Fooled the Public for 25 Years.

Was Well Known Teacher of Dramatic Art.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 4.—Charged with masquerading as a man for twenty-five years, Prof. "Eugene de Forest," 62 years old, a woman, was arrested late last night at her home and later made an extraordinary confession in which she both admitted and explained the charge. Before City Mother Alethea Gilbert and Detectives Fletcher Felts and Charles Herne, Professor DeForest, who is a well known teacher of dramatic art with offices in the Blanchard building, told of two marriages—in one of which she posed as the wife and in the other as the husband—and of a romance which she explained had reached the point of an engagement.

Her story astounded Chief of Police Snively and the officers who heard it. It was decided to detain the woman in the Clara Barton hospital until a further inquiry into her unusual case can be made.

Well Known Teacher.

For five years Professor DeForest has maintained an office in the Blanchard Hall building. She now has a large class of young women who are studying dramatic art. Both in San Francisco and in Los Angeles she has been regarded as a teacher of unusual ability. None of her students in Los Angeles even suspected that their instructor in elocution was a woman. The long coat which she wore, her short gray hair and other masculine appearances disarmed all suspicion.

To a well known Christian Science woman living on West Eleventh street the arrest and the revelations will come as a particular shock as Prof. DeForest was engaged to marry her. The marriage was to occur late in September as a final decree of divorce from Professor DeForest's "wife" has not yet been entered.

Married Newspaper Man.

In a statement to the police Professor DeForest said that her maiden name was May Bradley. She was married in the east many years ago to J. H. Hart, a newspaper man, and lived with him as his wife for eighteen years. They had no children and on Hart's death she began to wear men's clothes. She said that shortly before her birth her mother lost a son, and mourned constantly for him. When she was born she was physically a perfect girl baby but with the nature of a male.

Professor DeForest appeared in male roles with the late Mme. Janauschek. Five years ago she came to Los Angeles and opened a studio in Blanchard Hall. Later she met a Miss Hawley, and feeling she needed companionship married her. Their relations were purely spiritual, she said. Mrs. DeForest subsequently sued for and obtained a divorce.

Chief of Police Snively stated that if Professor DeForest could be induced to wear women's clothing she would be released.