

precautions taken at Strathmore were observed in the operating-rooms of all hospitals, for even where the surroundings are not so favourable as they are there, the risk to the patients would be much lessened if more care were exercised in guarding against infection than I am afraid is now generally the case. It would be well I think if this Board were to appoint someone to inquire fully into the details of the work carried on in the interesting and valuable institution I have referred to. In conclusion I may add that from among my own relations and friends—and I speak with confidence—operations which could not have been performed a few years ago can now be done with safety. The case of my own niece is a remarkable one. She had consumption in the abdomen, and at the time of operation was in a truly desperate state, but an abdominal operation performed by Dr. Townend completely restored her to health. I might indeed say a great deal more, but suffice it to say that the aseptic surgery of to-day, as now practised at Strathmore, is almost beyond one's belief.—*Christchurch Press.*

HE BROKE UP THE GAME.

In public, as well as in private, one should ever be mindful of the rights of others. Not long since a clergyman accompanied by two young ladies was travelling. It was nearing the hour of midnight, yet they had not ordered their sleeping berths made up. Instead, they were indulging in a game of words—trying to see who could think of the most words that begin with this or that letter.

They spent half an hour or more on 'A,' and then went to 'B' with a freshness that seemed to indicate that they intended, despite the lateness of the hour, to go to the end of the alphabet. At any rate, that was the impression they gave to the tired man in the berth opposite, who was trying in vain to sleep.

Presently there came a lull, when none of the three seemed able to think of another B. The tired man took advantage of the lull. Parting his curtain the least bit of a space, he shouted,

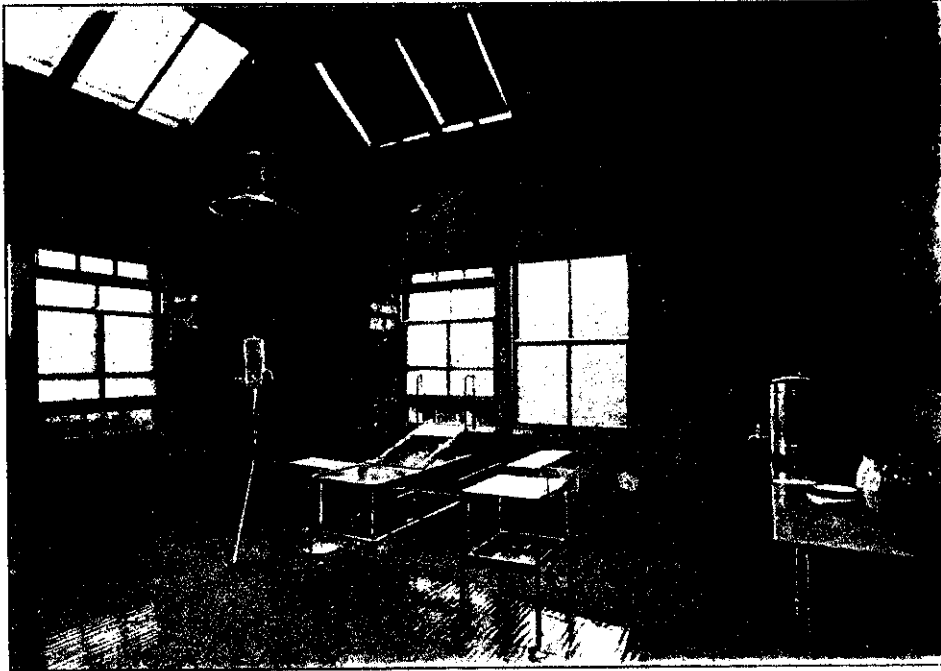
'And "bores," sir—"bores"!"'

THE JAPANESE STAGE.

TO a stranger one of the most curious sights in Japan is a house of public entertainment. A more extraordinary or interesting spectacle can scarcely be imagined, and is certainly not to be witnessed in any other portion of the civilized world. In nearly every street in the city of Tokio is always to be found one or more of these places of amusement. It is rendered conspicuous by placards posted on a square box hung in a prominent place, announcing that Messrs So and So will give an entertainment regularly between certain dates, and at night this box is lit up with candles.

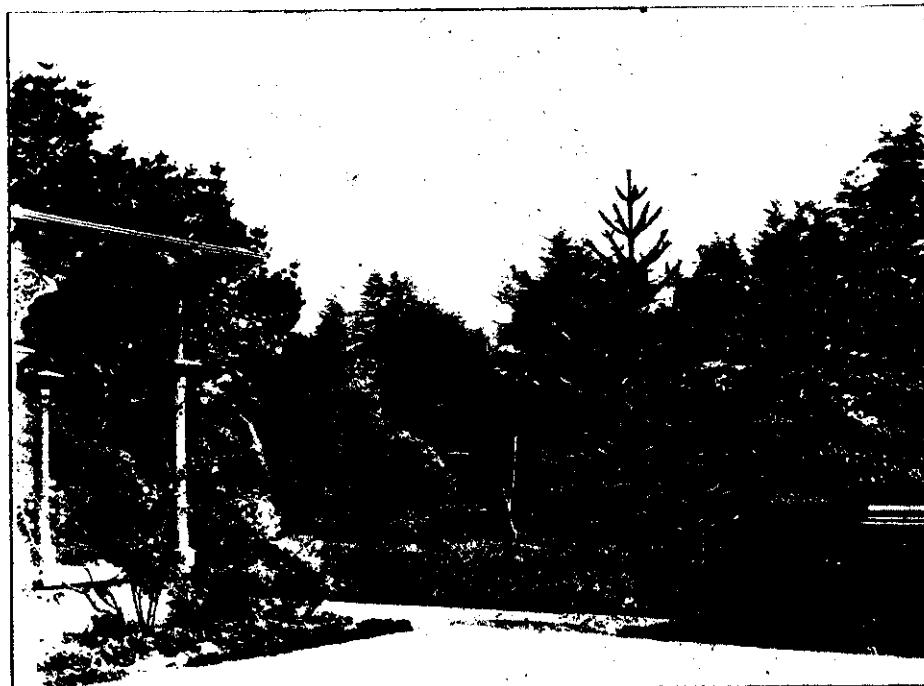
At the entrance to the house is a large wooden till, in which is placed three pinches of salt for 'luck.' Close up is stationed a man who cries at intervals, 'Come in! Come in, ladies and gentlemen, and see our wonderful exhibition. It will tickle your liver and make the lean grow fat from laughing. Come in, my pretty maid, and we will show you the features of your lover.'

The performance usually commences at 7 o'clock in the morning and closes at 6 o'clock in the evening, and, including the intervals, which are frequent and long, the fun is kept up all day. As the dawn appears in the east the sound of music issues from the building. And by the time the sun has risen above the billtops numbers of country people, who have partaken of an early breakfast, may be seen, dressed in holiday attire, with babies on their backs and baskets of food and bottles of wine in their hands, wending their way to the house of entertainment. The married ladies are conspicuous by their closely-shaven eyebrows and black teeth, and the troops of children following at their heels; while the maidens can be distinguished by the powder on their cheeks and ermine-painted lips. In the city the young girls rise earlier than usual and hastily complete their elaborate toilet in order to be present at the commencement of the performance. They are easily distinguished from the country maidens by their less ruddy complexions and more genteel manners.



F. W. Dutch, photo.

THE OPERATING ROOM—STRATHMORE HOSPITAL.



F. W. Dutch, photo.

THE LAWN—STRATHMORE HOSPITAL.



DANJURO ICHIKAWA IN ANCIENT COSTUME.

On arriving at the place of amusement the audience take off their geta or clogs and place them in the custody of a man, who charges a nominal sum for taking care of them. As there are no seats in a house of public entertainment in Tokio, the audience squat cross-legged on the mats in the space allotted to them and make themselves comfortable for the day. The men and women light their pipes and while away the time by rehearsing pleasant reminiscences until the performance begins. Jugglers, storytellers, magic lantern exhibitors, who are considered the forerunners of prosperity and harbingers of peace, entertain the public both day and night.

The performance always takes place in the upper story of the house. At one extremity of the room is an elevated platform for the performers, on which is a firebox and tea service, and at each end are two candlesticks. A storyteller steps upon the platform, drinks a cup of tea in order to strengthen his tongue and improve his voice, wipes his mouth with a handkerchief, snuffs the candles, then coughs a respectable cough. At first he speaks softly, but raises his voices and increases in eloquence as he proceeds. During the recital of his story he trifles with a fan, which is ever in his hand, laughs, weeps, sings and gets drunk; makes erratic movements with his hands and rolls his eyes about in imitation of the imaginary beings of whom he is speaking. At one time