



and Drama.

To-night (Wednesday) the Auckland Opera Company commence their season at the Opera House with a revival of the ever-popular 'Mikado.' The opera has been in rehearsal for months, and the production is expected to be very successful. The cast is a strong one, Mr Archdale Taylor taking his old part of Koko; Mr A. L. Edwards that of Nanki-Poo; Miss Emily Rowe, Katsiba; Mrs R. H. Hopkins, Yum Yum; and Mr E. Keesing, the Mikado.

To-day (Wednesday) a special organ recital will be given on the exhibition organ by Mr Arthur Towsey from 3 to 5, and in the evening a grand concert by the Ladies' Orchestra will take place. Both entertainments are free to visitors to the Exhibition.

On Friday in addition to the usual attractions at the Auckland Exhibition there is to be a free gymnastic display by Professor Carolo.

On Saturday one of the most attractive entertainments of the Auckland Exhibition—the living wheel—will take place in the Exhibition Hall.

Captain Chas. Lorraine, an old Parcell boy, who has won fame as a parachutist in the Old Country, is making arrangements for a balloon ascent and parachute descent in connection with the Auckland Exhibition.

The following are the successful candidates who passed the local practical examinations in music, held by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, London, which were conducted by Mr F. Davenport, R.A.M., who was in Auckland last week for the purpose of holding the examinations on behalf of the Associated Board:—Senior Grade: Alice Batger, honours; Ettie Myers, pass; Audrey Player, pass; Evelyn Wyman, pass; and the following 12 students from Mr J. F. Bennett's School of Music:—Division II: Meta Margaret Oure, Florence Camilla Steele, Emily Walton, Jessie Thorne, Marianne Estelle Davis. Division I: Helen Morris, Ellen May Douglas, Hilda Steele, Helen Aitken Lamb, Harry Steele, Mary Geddes, and George Pete Steele. Some 27 candidates were examined, of which only 16 managed to reach the standard required for a successful pass, and out of these were 12 pupils of Mr J. F. Bennett. Mr Davenport expressed himself very pleased with the candidates who passed, and considers the results most satisfactory. He left for the South last Thursday to conduct further examinations there, after which he leaves for Home, expecting to reach England about the end of January next.

A very successful and enjoyable little concert was recently held at the Hastings Wesleyan Church. Amongst the performers were: Mr Renaud, who gave much pleasure by his rendering of a solo on the organ; Miss Gaulton, who contributed some enjoyable music; Miss Malcolm, who also gave much enjoyment to those present by her singing; Mrs Symonds, Mrs Highway, Mr Jull, and Mr Highway, who took part in some pretty quartettes. There were several other performers, and all afforded great pleasure to the audience.

A banjo, mandolin, and guitar club has been started in New Plymouth, and intend giving a concert shortly.

A musical recital given in London by Miss Mabel Griffiths, the Sydney violinist, with the assistance of Miss Beatrice Griffiths, pianist, and Miss Theresa Siewright, a New Zealand soprano, was a most successful affair.

On Saturday evening last the Greenwood Family opened a three nights' season in the Auckland Opera House, the piece chosen being 'Ju.' The well-known characters were fairly impersonated, and the play was warmly received by the audience.

Herr R. C. Zimmermann gave his seventh annual concert in the Auckland Opera House last week. The programme embraced violin solos by Herr Zimmermann, Master Herbert Patschka, and Misses Sofie Oberg and Sybil Lewic; songs by Miss Ethel McIntyre, Madame Chambers, Mr A. L.

Edwards and Mr T. W. Allen. Humorous recitations were given by Mr Montague, and a violin quartette from Schubert by Madame Chambers, Herr Zimmermann, Dr. Cox and Mr J. A. Reule. Miss F. Thorpe accompanied on the pianoforte.

The first large free concert in connection with the Auckland Exhibition was given on Friday evening last by the Auckland Liedertafel. As was to be expected the auditorium of the Choral Hall was quite full on the occasion. The programme was an excellent one, including in addition to the part songs rendered by the society, solos by Mr John Prouse and Mr Hill, of Wellington. Mr Prouse sang Marzials' 'Leaving, Yet Loving,' and 'Ho, Jolly Jenkins.' For both he was recalled, and gave another item. Mr Hill's songs were 'Twenty Years Ago,' 'Oh, Love of Mine' and Somers's 'Song of Sleep.' Mr Towsey, who conducted, contributed an organ solo, 'Selections from Water Music' (Handel). The items given by the Liedertafel were:—'Reveries,' 'Italian Salad,' 'The Young Musicians,' 'The Retreat,' 'The Sea Fight,' 'Warrior's Song,' 'When Evening's Twilight,' and 'Interger Vitae.'

Miss Florence Menkmayer, a composer and pianist of considerable repute in Europe, is to visit New Zealand shortly, and intends giving a series of concerts there, supported by an excellent company.

The Nelson Harmonic Society's last concert consisted of Cherubini's Requiem, Rondo, for two pianos, and 'In a Persian Garden,' a song cycle. The Requiem proved rather too difficult for so small a society. Both the chorus and orchestra were inefficient for the demands made upon them in the difficult passages in which this work abounds. The first chorus was fairly rendered, but the Dies Irae was weak, also the Offertorium, but the latter part of the work improved. Herr Handke conducted, Mrs C. Wilson led. Miss Melhuish presided at the piano, whilst the organ was capably played by Miss F. G. Sealy. The Rondo, for two pianos, op. 73, by Chopin, was delightfully played by Miss Fell and Miss Melhuish, who received an enthusiastic encore.

'In a Persian Garden' (music by Liza Lehman) was sung by Miss Pratt (soprano), Miss Walker (alto), Mr H. Poole (tenor), and Mr H. Kidson (bass). The music is bright and full of difficult chromatic intervals, but each of the performers was note-perfect. Although the music was too high for Miss Pratt and Mr Poole, and their voices tired towards the end, they both managed remarkably well, and never once lost the true spirit of it. Mrs Walker sang well throughout. Mr Kidson has seldom been heard to better advantage. His singing, especially the two solos, was indeed a treat. The quartette, 'They Say the Lion,' received a well deserved encore. Great praise is due to Miss Melhuish, who again presided at the piano.

Drury Lane is to be the first theatre provided with electrical power for the changing of scenes as recommended in Mr Edwin Sach's work on 'Stage Construction.' Some experiments have been made, and satisfactory progress is reported. When certain alterations have been completed, large sections of the stage floor, measuring 40 feet by 7 feet, will be capable of being raised to any level above or below the stage, separately or together, by working an ordinary switchboard. It is hoped to have everything in readiness for the pantomime at Christmas.

The management of the Theatre Metropole, Devonport, has hit upon a peculiar, but effective method of advertising the drama 'A Spin for Life.' The other afternoon a pseudo-convict, in the broad arroy costume, 'scorched' through the streets on a bicycle, hotly pursued by a policeman, also on wheels. When the sensation naturally created was at its climax both pursuer and pursued were stopped in their mad career by a real limb of the law, who fell into the trap set for him by arresting the pair for riding to the common danger of the public.

'It is a good habit,' says Sir Henry Irving, 'and calculated to obviate some awkwardness, to wear your clothes for a few hours the day previous to assuming them on the stage. Many actors do this—it is my practice; and it is said that Macready carried this to such a length that during the rehearsal of 'Henry V.' he used to go to bed in his armour.'

The Paris correspondent of the 'Era,' speaking of the re-opening of the theatres after the summer vacation, says:—More triumphant than ever has been the return of Miss Loie Fuller to the Folies-Bergere. The inimitable artiste appears in four new dances, entitled 'Le Firmament,' 'Le Feu,' 'Les Fleurs,' and 'La Danse Noire.' The first dance is particularly brilliant, a marvellously pretty spectacle, and the flower dance is also charming. Apropos of 'La Loie,' as she is called here, M. Francisque Sarcy has hit upon the discovery that she cannot claim the invention of the 'fire dance' which has established her reputation and popularity. When perusing Goethe's works, the eminent critic came across a page in the recital of the great German poet's travels in Italy, which shows that Miss Loie Fuller had a precursor more than a hundred years ago, and that precursor was no other than the celebrated Lady Hamilton, Nelson's mistress.

Bergliot Ibsen, daughter of the famous author, before going to Rome for the season will sing at several German concerts. The Vienna impresario Minkus has engaged her for ten concerts in October in Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, Vienna, Prague and Buda-Pest.

Of late years the personality of dramatic people has certainly been brought too prominently before the public. Formerly even the names of those taking part in performances were not published on the bills. But it remained for Mme. Jane Hading to cap the climax in this respect. This lady is now making a tour of the Belgian cities, and the public is informed that all the dresses, costumes and other paraphernalia used in assuming the different characters will be on exhibition prior to the performance, so that ladies interested in gorgeous and expensive clothing will have an opportunity to inspect closely what they admire from a distance on the stage.

During the last scholastic year the Guildhall School of Music, London, has received from its pupils the large sum of £33,600. The pay of the professors is in proportion to this sum. The director, Mr Cummings, receives £1000 a year, ten professors about £750, five professors £500, and twelve others about £400. In spite of this liberality, about £2000 has been added to the reserve fund.

## A STARTLING SCIATICA CURE.

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS AT TE HORO.

ANOTHER NEW ZEALAND MIRACLE.

(From the 'Otaki Mail'.)

Mr Evan Evans cordially welcomed our representative (says the 'Otaki Mail'), and appeared only too happy to give the fullest details required. Mr Evans is an able-bodied man of about 55 years of age, and is engaged by Mr Percy Gillies, of Te Horo, as gardener and milker. He has been in this district for about 54 years, and has resided in the colony for some 20 years. We publish Mr Evans' story in his own words:—

'I have been troubled with chronic rheumatism for the past 30 years; but in July last was taken ill with rheumatic sciatica. The pains commenced in the left hip joint, and soon spread right down the leg to the foot. At night the pain seemed much worse, and I felt as if I were being flayed alive, and really thought I should go mad. Owing to the excruciating pain I could obtain scarcely any sleep at night but lay in bed moaning and crying out in agony. During the first week that I was afflicted I had to give up all idea of work and for some time after this was hardly fit for anything. I tried several ointments, liniments and plasters, but although I fancied they did me a little temporary good, in a short time I was even worse than before. I grew so bad that I contemplated a trip to the hot springs at Rotorua, being of opinion that that was my only chance of recovery, having little faith in doctors. But I was in such a bad condition that I thought I would not be able to stand

the journey. It was after I had been afflicted some three weeks—which seemed an age back—that I saw a pamphlet which a friend of mine had received, and read there of a case which exactly corresponded with my own, and which had been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I had often seen these pills advertised in the 'Otaki Mail' and other papers, and when I read of this case, I immediately sent to Wellington for six boxes of the pills, and commenced taking them in strict accordance with the instructions on the wrapper. When I had finished the fourth box I noticed a marked improvement, and after taking the lot I got another six boxes. When these were gone I was almost well again, but I procured six boxes more, and took these also. I had eighteen boxes altogether, and am now quite cured. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills positively cured me of the most acute rheumatic sciatica which it is possible for a man to experience. It is now some six months since I took the pills, and I have never felt the pains since. Indeed, I feel better now than I did before I was taken ill. I omitted to mention that I also had partial paralysis in my left foot for some years previous to taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, but am pleased to say that this also is quite better. Indeed, my case has been a most complicated one, but thanks to this wonderful remedy, I am once more able to enjoy life. My health is better altogether, and my appetite has much improved.

I am quite willing that this testimonial should appear in print, and I only hope that it will be the means of curing some other unfortunate person who has suffered as I have done. I am positive that any person having the same complaint which I have had can be cured by the Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, if taken according to instructions. I have such faith in this wonderful medicine that I will recommend it on every possible opportunity.

(Signed) EVAN EVANS.

Te Horo, March 4th, 1898.

Thus Mr Evans' experience proves it is better and cheaper to stay at home and be cured than to indulge in expensive travelling for the mere possibility of benefit.

If you suffer from any ailment whatever arising from a weak, disordered or impoverished state of the blood, you cannot do better than take a course of these pills. They build up the constitution and strengthen the system in such a way as to prevent any ill effects occurring after measles, influenza, colds, etc. They are also a certain cure for biliousness, anaemia, sleeplessness, rheumatism, lumbago, loss of physical strength, neuralgia, all female irregularities, debility, indigestion, sick headache, loss of vital forces, etc. Obtainable from all chemists and dealers, or from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Wellington, N.Z., who will forward six boxes for 1/6, or one box for 3/ post free. As imitations are upon the market, see that the full name—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People—is printed in red on the white outside wrapper of every packet you buy. They are only sold in package form; pills sold in any other manner whatsoever are not the genuine Dr. Williams', and should never be accepted.

Be sure you ask for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills; it is only Dr. Williams' Pink Pills which have performed the thousands of wonderful cures as advertised.



Facsimile of Only Genuine Package.

The orders for decoration worn by Emperor William of Germany are worth over 1,000,000 marks (a little over £48,000). His principal and most valuable decorations are the insignia of the Black Eagle, the Order of St. John, of the Garter, and of the 'Union d'Or'. In all, he has over 200 crosses, stars, badges, and other insignia.