

## MUSIC AND DRAMA.

A few years ago, when our theatres were frequently closed for a couple of months or so at a time, nobody thought much of it. Now, however, "appetite has so grown on that it feeds on" that the almost simultaneous shutting up of the chief theatres throughout the colony is causing quite a wail of sorrow in the principal cities. Ping-pong and predecessors in the matter of indoor amusements, notwithstanding the taste for theatrical and variety entertainments, has grown apace during the last decade, and a fair proportion of the population feel as if something had been missed out unless they go to a theatre or something similar at least once, and perhaps twice, a week. There seems, too, a considerable amount more money available for amusements nowadays than there used to be. The dress circle twelve years ago in Auckland was a frosty desert, even when good companies were here, and it was much the same in other cities. Now even a very mediocre company seems able to fill a house upstairs as well as down, and when a really effective show comes along you have to hustle if you want a decent place.

The Eden and Epsom Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club hold their Dramatic Entertainment to-morrow evening in St. Sepulchre's Parish Hall. If the performance is as good as last year's it will be well worth seeing. Dr. Coates, as before, is the organiser.

Wirth's Circus, in Auckland, have found "Cinderella" such a prodigious "draw" that they have kept it on the bill for another week. It is really a capital show for children, and the youngsters enjoy it amazingly. On Saturday last there must have been 2000 children at the matinee, and the sight of their happy excited faces was good enough amusement and pleasure for any "grown up" to enjoy who could remember his or her own youth.

Mrs "Dot" Bonicault (nee Irene Vanborough), who came out to New Zealand with Toole, and scored heavily with him in "The Don," is to make her re-appearance on the London stage after a temporary retirement, due to domestic happenings resultant on her marriage. Miss Vanborough is one of the very best young English artists, and an exceedingly charming woman. No doubt she will also receive her triumph as Sophy Fulgarney in "Lord Quex," which set the seal on her fame as an actress.

May Beatty is fairly booming on the other side, and has been lengthily interviewed by Melbourne "Table Talk." There is nothing new to most New Zealanders in what she has to say, nothing fresh to us even in the utter absence of side, which seems to have amazed the Melbourne scribe, to whom "Our May" talked as frankly and unaffectedly as she would to any of "her boys" in any of the New Zealand towns, where, publicly and privately, she is such a favourite. For instance, the interviewer spoke of education. "Education? Well I have had practically none, except that which I gained in the two hours of an afternoon while with Mr Pollard—that is, when I attended his school. Then I was away from the opera company for a year, and was at a convent school during that time. This is the extent of my education, but I think travelling about as I have for years is an education in itself." Everyone here in New Zealand will rejoice that Miss Beatty has struck oil, and will wish her further success in the future.

Mr O. G. Adams, youngest son of Mr C. W. Adams, Chief Surveyor, Blenheim, has been appointed director of the Thames School of Mines, Mr Adams, who is at present director of the School of Mines, Stawell, Victoria, was previously assayer to the Zeehan Smelting Company. He received his training under Professor Ulrich, in Otago.

GOLDSBRO' AND WADE,  
ARCHITECTS,  
220 & 321, VICTORIA ARCADE,  
AUCKLAND.  
Telephone No. 1043. F.O. Box 108.

## Personal Paragraphs.

His Excellency the Governor and the Countess of Ranfurly had a brilliant reception at Government House, Wellington, last week. A full account of this successful social function appears in our Wellington letter.

It is rumoured that His Excellency the Governor and Lady Ranfurly and suite are going down to Christchurch for the Grand National Steeplechase Meeting in August. It is probable that the Mayor's Coronation ball will be held during their visit to Christchurch.

The Rev. J. Kennedy Elliott, of Wellington, is staying in Napier.

The Rev. V. A. Barradale, of Samoa, is staying in Napier.

Mr L. Pickering, late of Wellington, has taken up his residence in Napier.

Mr and Mrs D. J. Riddiford, Halcombe, Rangitikei, were in Wellington for the races last week.

Mr Sidey, of Dunedin, is visiting Mrs A. Davidson, of the Bluff Hill, Napier.

Miss Macassey, Dunedin, is staying with Mrs Chaffey, Seatown, Wellington.

Colonel and Mrs Gorton, Rangitikei, are on a brief visit to Wellington.

Mrs Morris, of the Barrack Hill, Napier, has gone for a visit to Auckland.

Mr Spencer H. Gollan, who has lately arrived from England, is staying at Waipukurau, Hawke's Bay.

Mrs and Miss Milson, Christchurch, are staying at Mrs Preston's, Sumner, for a few weeks' change.

Mr Gaisford, Hawke's Bay, has been in Wellington, staying at the Empire Hotel.

Miss Arkwright, "Overton," Marton, is in Christchurch on a visit to Mr and Mrs Wigram.

Miss Braithwaite (Dunedin) is visiting Mrs E. Barber, Merivale, Christchurch.

Mr and Mrs Wheeler, Manawatu, have been staying at Bishops Court, Wellington, for the Diocesan Synod.

Mr Maughan Barnett has come to Napier from Wellington, and, assisted by Miss Large, will give a concert on Tuesday evening.

Mr and Mrs Harold Brauchamp, who have been on a short visit to Australia, returned to Wellington by the Mokoia's last trip.

Mr J. W. Joyn, who has been the guest of Mr Large, "The Mount," Coote Road, Napier, has returned to Wellington.

Mr and Mrs A. Murray-Aynsley, Fendalton, have a trip to England in view, and purpose leaving by the Ruapehu the end of this month.

The Misses Winter, Adelaide, are spending the winter in New Zealand, and are at present in Wellington prior to visiting Rotorua.

Miss Claire Smith, of Epsom, Auckland, is to be married on Wednesday, July 30th, to Mr Walter B. Lloyd, at St. Mark's Church, Remuera.

Mrs W. Rutherford, Montrose, has been staying this week with Mrs Chas. Cook, "Warwick House," Christchurch.

Major and Mrs Hayhurst and Mr W. P. and Miss Cowlishaw returned to Christchurch last week from the Coronation trip to Fiji.

Mrs Arkwright, Wairarapa, is staying with Mrs Wigram, Park Terrace, but will pay a round of visits while in Christchurch.

In a letter to an Auckland Lord Onslow writes:—"Seddon is in

great form and clearly the leading figure in the public mind on this great occasion."

Miss Hewitt, Palmerston North, and the Misses Randall Johnson, England, are the guests of the Hon. C. J. and Mrs Johnston, Pipitea Pa, Wellington.

Miss Payne, matron of the Wellington Hospital, has resigned her position in order to accept a similar post at Rotorua.

A proposal is on foot in the Wanganui district to get up a memorial to the late Dr. Cleghorn, who spent some years in practice in that district after leaving Blenheim.

Mrs and Miss Denniston, Dunedin, who have been spending some weeks in the North Island, passed through Wellington recently on their way South again.

Mrs Jones, of Wanganui, who has been staying with Mrs Stedman, at the Bank of New South Wales, Napier, and also with Mrs James McLean, at the National Bank, returned home last week.

Mr Bayne, formerly director of Lincoln College, Canterbury, has recently been appointed director of the Palestine County College of Preston. The salary is reported to be £1000 per annum.

Mrs Chas. Williamson gave a progressive euchre party at her residence at Takapuna on Friday night. Special coaches ran from Devonport, and a large number of guests enjoyed a most successful function.

Professor MacLaurin, of Victoria College, who has been staying in Napier, has returned to Wellington.

Mr and Mrs Sabine, Christchurch, have gone on a trip to Fiji, leaving the baby and nurse at Mrs Preston's, Sumner.

A few evenings ago the friends of Mr S. Harrison, station master at Te Awamutu, presented him with a beautiful marble clock as a token of their esteem and goodwill, on the eve of his departure for Mercer, whither he has been transferred.

At the first monthly meeting of the Wellington Sketching Club Dr. Fell presided, and Mr James Nairn gave a short lecture on sketching. The winner of the competition for a sketch typical of winter was Mr John Scott, Mrs Adams taking second place.

Mr D. McKenzie was recently presented with an engraved spirit and cigar stand on the occasion of his approaching marriage. Mr King, chairman of the Wellington Rugby Union Management Committee, acted as spokesman and wished Mr McKenzie every happiness from his comrades of the Wellington Rugby Union.

Miss Amy Murphy, of Dunedin, passed through Christchurch last week from Wellington, where she took the principal soprano part in the late successful performance by amateurs of "The Yeoman of the Guard." She broke the journey here, staying one night with Mr and Mrs Ernest Barber, Merivale.

Captain Gilbert Mair (of the Thames) is at present inland from Whakatane, being one of the Urewera Native Land Commissioners, an appointment for which he is particularly suitable owing to his intimate knowledge of the Urewera country and people dating back to the old fighting days.

Dr. "Charlie" Haines, of Auckland, will leave London in November, or perhaps October, for a flying visit to New Zealand. He will remain in Auckland only a month or so, and there is, of course, no truth in the rumour that he is thinking of again practising here. Dr. Haines is living permanently at Home, and his visit is merely one of personal pleasure to enable his wife and himself to look up his numerous Auckland relatives and friends.

Mr R. Bragato, late Government Viticulturist in Victoria, and recently temporarily employed by the New Zealand Government to investigate the wine-producing capabilities of this country, has been permanently appointed Government Viticulturist. His interesting preliminary report on the prospects of the New Zealand wine industry will probably be before the House in a few days.

A private letter received in Auckland by the "Fisco" mail states that the Northern Club of that city was well to the fore at the New Zealand dinner in London. I sat (says the writer) amongst the following group: Holmes, Tegetmeyer, Brassey, Welsted, Thorne George, F. C. Richardson, Dr. Lewis, Ramson, Dr. Haines, Owen Jones, N. A. Nathan, Browning, Dunnett, J. B. White and several others whom I forget at the moment.

Mrs F. B. Winstone, of "Mia Mia," Remuera, entertained a large number of young people at an "at home" in the Remuera Hall on Saturday, the younger ones in the afternoon, and the older in the evening. The hall on both occasions presented an animated appearance, and all enjoyed themselves fully, and appreciated much the kind thoughtfulness of the worthy hostess (who showed that she well understands how best to keep a company of young people entertained). The time was spent in ping-pong, Punch and Judy show, a ventriloquial entertainment, and music and a distribution of an abundance of toys to the younger children. Nor was the weakness of youth overlooked, the appetite being well looked after in a handsome manner, the most tempting of dainties and delicacies being provided on beautifully decorated tables.

Dr. Wohlmann, the newly-appointed Government Balmecologist, with his wife and daughters, arrived in Auckland from Wellington by the s.s. Rotoiti last week. Dr. Wohlmann is comparatively young, being about thirty-six years of age, and he possesses excellent qualifications for the position to which he has been appointed, and he has a considerable reputation as a balmecologist. For the past nine years he has been in practice at Bath, and since receiving his appointment he has visited all the leading Continental mineral water districts, for the purpose of bringing his knowledge up to date. Rotorua will be Dr. Wohlmann's headquarters, and he will also supervise Hanmer Springs and the other health resorts in New Zealand. He will make a tour of all these resorts before settling down at Rotorua.

Among the numerous list of visitors to the Star Hotel during the past week were:—Messrs James Lee, H. Burrows, A. Leonard, J. M. Jolly, W. Nisbet, Henderson, J. Johnston, Percy Turner, Sydney; A. H. Ayden, Victor Torrens, Colombo; Orton Stevens, W. Wight Smith, Wellington; Thos. Meeks, Onaruru; Geo. Jamieson, Christchurch; Mr and Mrs Cutton, Dunedin; J. N. Pike, Wellington; Donald Locke, Napier; Chas. Holmes, Dr. and Mrs Melville and maid, Edward Putter, Harry A. Pelter, Mr and Mrs Murdoch, London; C. Bryant, Melbourne; Mr and Mrs Stuart, Master Smart, Western Australia; Mr J. V. Hardwick, P. H. Hart, Edinburgh; G. Chapman, Adelaide; Count de Reiz and valet, R. N. Wilson, Marseilles; J. Bates, N. Gurdwade, Mr and Mrs McFarland, San Francisco.

Amongst the guests at the Central Hotel, Auckland, during the week were Capt. and Mrs Rae, Dunedin; Mrs and Miss Williams, Wellington; Mr A. B. Woolf; Mr Bush, S.M., Thames; Mr Rendall, Wellington; Mr Evans, Christchurch; Mr Garrowsay, Sydney; Mrs Wilson, Sydney; Mr and Mrs Rial, Misses Mahr and Gwynne, America; Mr and Mrs Manning, Christchurch; Mr and Mrs Bates, Messrs Adams, Tregent, Gardiner, Sydney; Mr and Mrs Fletcher and sons, Mr Riley, England; Mr Redstone, Wellington; Mr and Mrs Rackley, Te Aroha; Mr and Mrs Knight, Waikato; Mr and Mrs Miss Murrill, Melbourne; Mr Meadowcroft, Wellington; Mr Albert Levy, Wellington; Mr Selinger, Sydney; Mr Murphy, Paeroa; Messrs McDuff and Bispham, Thames; Messrs Beat and Hogarth, Sydney; Mrs Lowe, Dunedin; Mr Moulden, Melbourne; Mr and Mrs Selley and Family, Wellington; Miss Gordon, Wellington; Mr Dawson, Mr Beecham, Melbourne; Mr Handcock, Sydney; Mr Carter, Thames; Mrs Pilling, Te Aroha; Mr Miller, Sydney; Mr Amos, Melbourne;