

### A Handsome Presentation.

On this page we give a picture of a very beautiful and chaste solid silver photo frame, enclosing an autograph portrait of the Countess of Ranfurly. This frame forms part of a very kindly and handsome presentation made by Lady Ranfurly prior to her departure from Auckland to Miss Kelly, florist by appointment to His Excellency the Governor. The other portions of the Countess' presentation consists of an autograph portrait of His Excellency, and a very handsome purse and wallet of real crocodile skin, richly moun'ed in silver. At every entertainment at Government House, Auckland, during the years Lady Ranfurly has been hostess, the decoration of the ball and drawing rooms with palms, greenery, pot plants, and flowers has been the theme of universal admiration. It was generally known that the taste of the Countess was responsible for this, but everyone did not know perhaps that the decorations were carried out by Miss Kelly under the direction of Lady Ranfurly. It was as a mark of her appreciation of the value of Miss Kelly's services in this respect that the beautiful presents reached Miss Kelly from the kindly and gracious lady so soon to leave these shores. Needless to say they form a proud possession and are highly prized.

Mr Beerbohm Tree, in a recent speech at Stratford-on-Avon, outlined a scheme for the training of actors that has at least two chances of success, since it is both simple and practical. Mr Tree proposes at the end of the year to start a school for the training of young actors at His Majesty's Theatre. From the school his provincial companies will be mainly recruited, and these companies in their turn will act as a feeding ground for His Majesty's Theatre. Of course, it is not suggested by Mr Tree that his entire cast should be at once engaged from the graduates of his school, but there is no doubt that his idea, if carried out, will give the talented dramatic aspirant a chance he has never had before.



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Schaefer, Sunony Studios, photo.

### THE NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. A. R. Guinness, in his robes of office, standing in the Speaker's chair. Seated below are: On the left, Mr. H. Otterson, Clerk to the House; and on the right, Mr. Alexander John Rutherford, Clerk Assistant.