

Music and Drama.

[BY THE PROMPTER.]

The reigning sensation at the Westminster Aquarium is a headforemost dive from an altitude of 115 feet into a tank 18 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 6 feet deep. The daring diver is C. O. Peart, a young man some twenty-four years of age. Peart says that the reason he does not come into contact with the bottom is because directly he touches the water he lifts up his hands, brings his legs towards his face, and turns sharply on his back. When he springs off his little platform 115 feet above the water he leaps forward about 20 feet, descending head foremost into the centre of the tank, which, remember, is only 12 feet in width. Supposing he dived 2 feet outside the 12 feet arena! The act is said to be not so dangerous as it looks, but Peart can have it. I don't think many men would care about the contract.

The transformation scene at Drury Lane this year was to have been of a highly comprehensive character. The arrangements provided for the inclusion of a snowstorm, the waits, a little child saying her prayers after having placed her stocking in readiness, Santa Claus bringing her many wonderful toys, then more snowstorm, Christmas puddings, etc., and finally a hurricane of harlequins, clowns, etc.

Mrs Kendal let out in breezy style to a San Francisco paper man who interviewed her. Business had been slack in 'Frisco, so she informed the interviewer that the city was a "jay town," and that "The Second Mrs Tanqueray," which had been adversely criticised as an unnecessarily "steep" production, was the greatest religious moral play of the age, and one that would survive "long after the hills of San Francisco have been levelled to the ground." The irate artiste added, "I go through your city, not looking at the spittings on the pavement, but at your beautiful blue sky. Your audiences come to the theatre with never a look at the sky, but everyone looks at the spit." No doubt business was very bad, and Mrs Kendal must have been "riz," as the Yankees put it.

A decided Music-hall novelty was given at the London Royal recently. This was the realistic production of a "sermonette" sketch entitled "The Unbeliever." An agonised father is represented tending his dying child. It is conveyed that Death has recently snatched from him his beloved wife, and that this and the second blow impending have turned him to Atheism. The minister of a neighbouring church seeks to console the grief-stricken man, but is sternly ordered from the house. From a church close by the little sufferer's playmates are heard singing the hymn, "Call upon me in the day of trouble." The overwrought father, listening, is moved to tears and anon to prayer for strength to bear his sorrows. Presently he hears a feeble cry of "Father!" and, rising from his knees, he beholds his darling child restored to consciousness and stretching her little arms towards him. When the clergyman returns he finds the recent unbeliever bending over the child's bedside in thanksgiving. This playlet was listened to with rapt attention by a music-hall audience, the members of which are generally held by clergymen to be utterly lost to any higher appetite than a feverish hunger for living pictures with a minimum of clothing on.

Some extraordinary scenes are said to have been witnessed in Dublin recently in connection with one of Henry Irving's dramatic seasons. It was announced that the booking would open at 10 a.m., and when the office opened it is said that between one and two hundred ladies and gentlemen were soon engaged in a struggle that reminded spectators more of a football match than of anything else. One gentleman fainted and had to be carried out of the shop, ladies had to be rescued to save them from suffocation or injury, the box office was smashed by the pressure of the crowd, all the glass in it was broken, and, writes an eye-witness, "ultimately the semi circular top of the framework was pitched over the heads of those who were handing out tickets." Amongst the struggling crowd were a Lord Justice, a Member of Parliament, and four learned Q.C.'s. Could anything speak more eloquently of Irving's great popularity?

Weights, etc.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include Prime Warden, Au Revoir, Liberator, Hippomenes, Saracen, Skirmisher, Lady Zetland, Pegasus, Glanymai, Beadonwell, Mount Royal, Golden Fleece, Three Star, Stepfeldt, Dilemma, Musket, Wolseley, St. Valentine, Casket, Outpost, Speculator, Victim, Rothamstead, Banner, Esparto, Campagna, Solano, Claremont.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include Dancer, Saracen, Vogangang, Lady Zetland, Beadonwell, Mount Royal, Golden Fleece, Three Star, Stepfeldt, Britomarte, Rangiatea, Wolseley, St. Valentine, New Forest, Casket, Outpost, Barnaby, Speculator, Victim, Rothamstead, Banner, Esparto, Lady Lear, Solano, Miss Madge, Uva, Maremma, Jane Eyre, Speedwell, Raneor.

POVERTY BAY TURF CLUB SUMMER MEETING.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include First Hurdles, Turanga Stakes, Welter Handicap, County Stakes, Flying Handicap, Shorts Handicap.

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB SUMMER MEETING.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include Anniversary Handicap, Hurdle Handicap, Welter Handicap, Disposal Handicap, Telegraph Handicap, First Hack Handicap, January Handicap, Metropolitan Handicap, Juvenile Handicap, Farewell Handicap, Second Hurdle Handicap, Second Hack Handicap.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include Wanganui Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, Flying Handicap, First Handicap Hurdles, Second Handicap Hurdles, Nursery Handicap, Harrison Memorial Stakes, Turakina Jockey Club Hack Meeting, Handicap Hurdles, Flying Handicap, Turakina J.C. Handicap, Telegraph Stakes, Welter Handicap, Railway Handicap, Maiden Handicap Trot, Handicap Pony Trot, Summer Handicap Trot.

V.R.C. AUTUMN MEETING.

Table with columns for race names, stlb, and stlb. Races include The Newmarket Handicap, Flying Handicap, First Handicap Hurdles, Second Handicap Hurdles, Nursery Handicap, Harrison Memorial Stakes, Turakina Jockey Club Hack Meeting, Handicap Hurdles, Flying Handicap, Turakina J.C. Handicap, Telegraph Stakes, Welter Handicap, Railway Handicap, Maiden Handicap Trot, Handicap Pony Trot, Summer Handicap Trot.

NORMANBY HANDICAP TROT (in saddle) of 40 sovs.—Sloper, Jersey, Otakeho, Carbine, Conway, Maori Jane, Eric, Kentucky Wilks, Comet, Day-dawn, Deceiver, Cyclone, Missing Link, Midget, Grenadier, Maid of Killarney, Tinker, Stockboy, Sailor Boy II., Acme, Dan, Toi, Flossie, Barmaid, Dinah, Mokoia.

JOTTINGS FROM WELLINGTON.

The Pollards are again with us, this time producing "The Forty Thieves" Pantomime in a very satisfactory manner. The company opened in the Opera House on Boxing Night to one of the largest audiences ever gathered within that building. The old favourites were well received, and the piece altogether ran smoothly throughout.

Besides the Pollards, the New Zealand Pantomime was on view at the Skating Rink, and attracted large crowds. The artist is Mr Thos. Nicholson.

Cyril Tyler, the boy soprano, is giving concerts at the Theatre Royal, and, despite counter attractions, is doing good business.

It is with a deep feeling of regret that I announce the death from brain fever of Mr William J. Morrison, of Blenheim. Poor Morrison was only confined to his bed three weeks before his death. He was champion high jumper of New Zealand, and his record for this branch of sport still stands unrivalled in the Australasian Colonies. At the Hibernian sports held in Blenheim last St. Patrick's Day he cleared the bar at 5ft. 10in. In Feb. again was successful in a high jump contest, winning the event at the Druids' Sports in Nelson with a leap of 5ft. 9in. Great sympathy is felt for the family in their sad bereavement. The deceased was only twenty-three years of age.

The Caledonian Society's Sports were a great success this year, although rain fell at intervals throughout the day. There were five amateur events on the programme, including two bicycle and three flat races. T. Herbert won both cycle races, the distances being four and five miles. In the sprint contests, O. McCormack (champion weight and hammer thrower) won the 100yds, receiving a start of six yards from P. J. Nathan. F. M. Harley got home in the 220yds race, with a start of 16yds. He also ran M. G. Dodwell close in the 440yds event, the latter just breasting the tape an inch in front of the latter.

Both Dodwell and Angell are rapidly coming into prominence as athletics. Although it is only about 18 months since Mr D. C. Ingram prepared them for their first races, Angell has twice beaten the N.Z. standard for three miles run and ran a dead heat with Morpeth from 30yds mark, when the latter beat the F.Z. standard time for the mile flat. Dadwell won mile run easily last Amateur Sports. He has about 6 firsts, 14 seconds, 3 thirds, and 8 unplaced. Angell has competed in fourteen races, eight of which he won, secured two seconds, and was twice unplaced. These performances are not bad considering the youth of the athletes, neither of them being out of their teens. Angell is looked upon as a certainty for the championships to be run at Napier.

"PROTEUS." The Melbourne Cup winner, Patron, has made his re-appearance on the Flemington training track, and report has it that nothing looks better than Mr Purches's hero. He has put on a lot of flesh and is said to look a better horse than he ever did. As it is believed that Portsea will not stand another preparation, Patron will be Mr Purches's only chance for the champion race. To win that great event last year with Portsea and score the following season with Patron would indeed be good business.



IN BANKRUPTCY IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND, NORTHERN DISTRICT.

In the matter of the Bankruptcy Act 1883, and of the Bankruptcy of JABEZ JOSEPH FITNESS, of Tokatata, Storekeeper. Notice is hereby given that Jabez Joseph Fitness, trading as J. and J. Fitness, of Tokatata, storekeeper, was this day adjudged bankrupt; and I hereby summon a meeting of creditors, to be held at my office on the 14th day of January, 1895, at 2.30 o'clock. Dated this 4th day of January, 1895. J. LAWSON, Official Assignee.