



[By ORPHEUS.]

MR W. H. WEBBE'S PIANO AND ORGAN SCHOOL.—On Thursday evening the 81st open evening for visitors crowded Mr Webbe's tasteful and commodious music-room to its utmost capacity, over 150 being present. Part I. opened with two piano quartettes—"Nocturne" (by Gurlitt) and "Witches' Revel" (by Holst). These were admirably rendered by four juveniles, viz., the Misses E. and G. Spooner, M. Webb, and M. Scott (pupils of Miss M. Spooner). Miss Mabel Maxwell followed with "Vainka's Song" (Whishaw), rendered with excellent and crisp vocalise. A piano and organ duo concertante by Prout proved a delightful number, executed with great taste and precision by Miss Flossie Garlick and Mr Webbe. Mr A. Walton, a promising baritone (well accompanied by his brother), gave a dashing rendering of Prince Poniatowski's "Yeoman's Wedding Song." As a piano solo Miss G. Spooner scored a genuine success with a Spanish dance by Sarakowski. Miss Maud Howard sang "The Better Land" (Jude) very well indeed, although manifestly nervous. Her pure and true soprano voice, with steady practice and improvement in production, promises great things. Four young ladies—the Misses Bertha Russell, Dawson, Fuller, and Hart—played, as a piano quartette, Schubert's brilliant military march, the ensemble being excellent and the morceau one of the most captivating during the evening. The Misses Florence and Mabel Maxwell sang "It Was a Lover and His Lass" (E. German) with spirit, and the first part closed with Spindler's "Hasarenritt," brilliantly rendered as a piano quartette by the Misses Edwards, Squire, Lambourne, and Mr T. C. Timms. This was a specially taking number. Part II. opened with an excellent morceau by Nicolai, "The Merry Wives of Windsor," in which the Misses Garlick, Cole, W. Lambourne, and Mr A. Walton made a capital quartette, the ensemble being excellent. Miss Florence Maxwell sang very charmingly Madame Sainton-Dolby's tuneful "He Thinks I do Not Love Him." A delightful classic (Mozart's sonata in D), played as a piano duo by Miss M. Spooner and Mr Webbe, was listened to with keen relish. Miss M. Howard sang, with much sympathy and perfect intonation, Pontet's "The Love-tide." A selection from Beethoven's magnificent sonata in G minor served to display Miss Flossie Garlick's elastic touch and deep sympathy and taste. The adagio was played with breadth, and the presto with brilliancy. Mr Manning's resonant baritone voice was well suited by Piusuti's "Let Me Love Thee," and a splendid programme ended with a dashing piano quartette, "Marche Nuptiale" (Schmitt), brightly rendered by the Misses Teasdale, Buchanan, Atkins, and G. Lambourne, with a tasteful organ obligato by Mr Webbe. That Mr Webbe is advancing good music in Auckland is amply proved by such performances, and he has reason to be proud of his

Rowley's Waxworks.—A protracted and very successful season closed on Saturday evening. The show is now opened at the Thames, where it is safe to receive approval and patronage. For the benefit of my readers in the goldfield districts I will give a brief sketch of the attractions of this capital show, and take last Wednesday evening's programme as an example—apart, of course, from the permanent exhibition of wax figures, splendid peep-shows, musical boxes, etc., etc. Signor Antonio's delightful "Punch and Judy" lasts some twenty minutes, followed by a competition for a silver watch, awarded for the best Irish song sung by an amateur. No. 1 competitor is rather nervous, but gets through "Riley and I were Chums," and is loudly applauded by his supporters. No. 2, however, possesses a better voice and more confidence. He scores well with a humorous ditty entitled "Don't Tickle Maria," and, on a show of hands, wins and receives the prize, singing another song by request. The ever-popular Johnnie Collins sings several songs and encores. A charming young lady wins loud applause for a song and dance. Mr Griffin gives a display of marvellous juggling, and, also, is the

principal exponent of a very original Devonport Brothers), which mystifies both audience and committee. Professor Beckford paints an excellent picture upside down in a couple of minutes. A number of boys compete in the basket-balance trick, amid roars of laughter. Imagine such an evening's entertainment for sixpence! Constant changes in the bill-of-fare are made, including baby shows, cat shows, mouth-organ competitions, and the wonderfully clever bicycle trick feats of the two K.'s—Messrs Kerr and Kingsley.

THE KINEMATOGRAPH SYNDICATE COMPANY.—On Monday night a well filled house greeted the re-appearance of—taken all round—the best instrument of its kind ever exhibited in New Zealand. The pictures—for the most part new ones—surpass any previously shown, with the exception of some of the old favorites, which are popular as ever. In the first part, among the most effective are—"Arabs Descending the Great Pyramid"; "Humorous Skating Scene"; "A Game of Cards," in which the players come to blows and are pacified by a douche from the

Dix, or his double, is seen managing the business of tooth-extraction; "Babies at Play," most life-like and interesting; "Boating on the Thames"; "A Steeplechase," showing the water-jump gallantly taken by horses and riders (some ladies) alike: one, jumping short, slips back into the water, but the rider cleverly alights and pulls his nag out of the way of those following; "Circus Clowns," doing clever hat-juggling; "A Steamer Arriving"; "A Motor-car Race"; "The Haunted Chamber," a splendid bit of comedy; "The Lady Acrobats"; and "Lottie Collins" performing a skirt dance. The scenes in the second part, chiefly taken from the Diamond Jubilee Procession, arouse the usual enthusiasm. The wizard transformations shown in "Faust Up-to-Date," taken from the Comedy Theatre at Paris, bring the views to a splendid climax. Faust astonishes a couple of visitors by a series of most marvellous ghosts, who appear and disappear with bewildering celerity, and cause inextinguishable laughter. In addition to the Kinematographic attractions, an excellent musical programme is provided. A very effective orchestra, led by Mr A. Eady and including Messrs Waud (piano), Jackson (clarionette), Hunter (cornet), with a double bass and drums, plays capital selections and music incidental to the views. Miss T. A. Hargraves' sweet and true soprano voice was heard to great advantage in "I Promise Thee" (Koven) and "The Loch" (Milton Wellings). Mr Robin Hay sang "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes" very well indeed, and was equally successful with "My Sweetheart When a Boy." Mr P. J. Blackman won tremendous favor with his eccentric comic songs and grotesque make-up—"There's Danger on the Line," "I Was There," "Selected," and "By the Sad Sea Waves" (two encores) each and all convulsed the audience. Returning for a moment to the Kinematograph, a capital plan in respect to encores has been adopted. Instead of at once repeating the encored views, they are reserved for the end of the programme and then shown in proper succession. This (Thursday) evening is the last night.

At the forthcoming Auckland Exhibition we are promised really excellent music. The orchestra will number some sixty instrumentalists, and with the united strength of the various Auckland choirs and choruses, Sullivan's splendid work, "The Golden Legend," never hitherto performed in this city, should prove a rare treat.

The St. Benedict's fortnightly entertainments continue to crowd the commodious new hall. On Monday night a choice programme of musical and dramatic items was most successfully given. The management deserve high praise for their tact and enterprise.

The Auckland Banjo, Guitar, and Mandolin Club will hold its First Grand Quarterly Concert of the season, at the Opera House, on Monday, June 27th. Full particulars of the programme will appear in our next issue. The Banjo Club's concerts are always popular, and a goodly attendance is sure to appreciate the cultivated talent exhibited.

SOME coming stage events are a performance by the Fredo Family of acrobats (June 24), Auckland Banjo Club's Concert (June 27), Auckland Society Dramatic Club (July 1), bringing us up to July 4th, when Miss Florence Hazelwood's Dramatic Company opens at the Opera House.