



[BY ORPHEUS.]

"Orpheus" will be glad to hear from those managers of theatrical companies touring New Zealand who desire that the public shall know the movements of the companies. Any information as to dates, etc., will be acknowledged in these columns, as well as any other items of interest to the theatrical world. All letters should be addressed—"Orpheus," SPORTING AND DRAMATIC REVIEW, Vulcan Lane, Auckland.

MADAME ALBANI's great vocal gifts are equalled by her kind and charitable disposition. She has been delighting an East End audience of some thousands at the Stepney Sunday Union with "Angels Ever Bright and Fair," "Home, Sweet Home," and "God Save the Queen." In the second verse of the National Anthem (by her special request) the whole audience joined with impressive effect. Madame Albani received a tremendous ovation, and left behind her a memory which will not soon be forgotten in East London.

On Tuesday next, at the Opera House, the Auckland Banjo, Mandolin, and Guitar Club tender a complimentary concert to Mr Arthur Towsey, their able and popular conductor. The specially-prepared programme includes well-known and favorite performers, viz, Misses Ethel McIntyre, Mary Towsey, Messrs Hamilton Hodges, Abel Rowe, A. L. Edwards, and Arthur Ford, who will sing choice selections. The instrumentalists comprise Messrs Wynyard-Joss, C. McFarlane, George Rowe, and J. Lawrence. The full strength of the club will play their best *morceaux*, and Dr. de Olive Lowe will contribute a ventriloquial sketch.

BREAKING THE LATE POET LAUREATE'S HEAD.—At the Waxworks Exhibition, in Edgeware Road, London, an amusing fracas led to legal proceedings. Some lively youngsters, it seems, had a difference with the management and proceeded to smash up figures. The custodian interfered and a free fight arose, during which one of the attacking party pulled off Lord Tennyson's head and flung it at the caput of the defending guardian. The latter head proved the harder, and the poet's was smashed into a shapeless lump of wax and hair. £20 was claimed for the laureate's broken head. The case was adjourned for the production of another witness.

Poetic Alfred's head, when turned to wax,
Did break itself in breaking of the wax!
Poor Jarley, straight appealing to the p'leece,
Was bound to keep the pieces and the peace!"

MR EDWARD CORRIE RIGHTON, familiarly and affectionately known as Teddy, whose lamented death began the New Year, rose to the top of the theatrical tree from a very humble start. As call-boy at Sadler's Wells, under Mr Charles Phelps, he persistently begged for small parts, and so graduated into Mr Charles Kean's Company at the Princess'. After a long struggle in the provinces, he established his reputation and returned to London to become a popular favorite. At the old Court Theatre, under Miss Marie Litton, he found many congenial roles, playing in Gilbert's famous satire, "The Happy Land," interdicted by the Lord Chamberlain because of the caricatures of Messrs Gladstone, Lowe, and Aynton. Teddy Righton's skits of Irving, Wilson Barrett, and high-kicking Miss Wright were immensely droll. Latterly he shone most in domestic drama, his old bookseller in "Liberty Hall" and the breezy mariner in "Wild Oats" being special successes. He had been in harness on the stage for upwards of fifty years.



Hemus, Photo., Auckland.

THE LATE MR LESLIE DIK.

At the conference of musicians, held at Plymouth (England) in January last, an interesting paper on "The Influence of Prejudice" was read by Mr Frederick James, of Leeds. He condemned the prejudice which existed in some quarters against music by English composers, and regretted the absence of such music from programmes of State concerts. Much English music, he held, was equal, if not superior, to foreign. Mr James also referred to the question of Sunday musical performances. None of them, he said, would wish to countenance any desecration of the Sabbath, but he maintained that listening to good music could not be harmful, and was certainly on a higher plane than discussing politics. Bravo! Mr Frederick James, says "Orpheus."

THE ERNEST TOY CONCERT COMPANY.—While these lines are being printed—Wednesday night—I hope the Opera House is well filled with lovers of good music, and so proving that the decay of taste for something higher than leg-shows and comic rubbish has not quite demoralised Aucklanders. The company of artists led by Mr Ernest Toy, and under the management of kindly and capable Mr Marcus, comes with a high reputation. Throughout New Zealand the critics have with one voice bestowed unstinting praise on each member of the combination. Although still in his teens, Mr Ernest Toy has earned marked distinction for finished and brilliant performances on "the king of instruments," having won important prizes in competition and his L.R.A.M. His tone, bowing, execution, and deep sympathy are pronounced truly artistic. Miss Rancee Rees (the pianist) is a still younger, though equally brilliant, musician who has met with enthusiastic approval at every performance. A firm and elastic touch, with marvellous power and ripe intelligence, are characteristics which astonish all who hear this young lady play. Miss Alice Simmons is an Australian soprano of recognised ability. Without great volume her voice is pure, sweet, and true, and her method sound. Miss Maud Dalrymple is gifted with that rare organ, a true contralto voice—not the commonplace mezzo which so often has to do duty for the real thing. Her taste and sympathy are pronounced exquisite. Such a combination should not fail to attract and delight large audiences throughout their short season.

"The Belle of New York" finished her Melbourne season last Wednesday. The company left the same day for Sydney, and opened there on Saturday night.

The Heller Mahatma Company were doing very good business at the Victoria Theatre, New castle, when Manager Callender last sent word of the company's progress.

Sydney exchanges regret the absence of Mr Charles Fanning already. Surely they do not grudge New Zealanders a short season of a really attractive variety comedian?

The Broughs, who, by the way, are doing exceptionally well with Sidney Carton's "Lord and Lady Algy," have booked the Grand National week for their Christchurch dates.

The David Garrick of Mr H. R. Roberts pleased the Wanganui folk greatly. The Moore-Roberts Company played in the West Coast River town last week, and return for a three night season on the 23rd inst.

A benefit concert is to be tendered to Mr J. Ryan, at the Foresters' Hall, Newton, on Friday, May 26. Mr Ryan is desirous of returning home to Sydney, and his many friends are going to give him a good send-off.

The Pollards have been doing excellently well with the evergreen "French Maid," "The Gay Parisienne," and "A Gaiety Girl" at Christchurch. The local papers praise all the artists, and I am glad to see, give Miss Marie Metcalfe a good word for her Lady Virginia Forest in "A Gaiety Girl."



Photo by Talma, Melbourne.

MISS MAUD DALRYMPLE OF THE ERNEST TOY CONCERT COMPANY.

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

[BY PAUL PRY.]

Mr G. W. Anson is at present playing in "The Man in the Iron Mask" at the London Adelphi.

Sydney papers speak highly of Mr George Rignold's impersonation of Sir John Falstaff in "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

The Henry Dramatic Company was in Wanganui last week. They are due at the Opera House here on Saturday, the 20th.

Miss Pattie Browne's benefit at the Melbourne Bijou was a big affair and a great success. The "little soubrette" is now on her way to the Old Country.

Ruben Fax, who played Svengali here three years ago, broke his kneecap whilst coming down from his dressing-room, at the Bijou Theatre, New York.

The farcical musical comedy, "The Two Scamps," now running at Sydney Opera House, has caught on, and has filled the house night after night.

The Royal Comic Opera Company has left Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, and departed for Brisbane, where "The Geisha" and "La Poupée" will be given.

Harmston's Circus is at present at Brisbane. Very good business is being done. Mr Bob Love shortly leaves Australia for a tour in India, China, and Japan.

Mr Roy Cushing, who lately retired from Bland Holt's Company, has been engaged by Miss Midge Ray for heavy lead in "The Dangers of London," which is being played at the new Imperial Theatre, adjoining the Royal Aquarium, London.

Messrs Williamson and Musgrove notify me that Mr Bert Royle has been appointed their representative in New Zealand. Mr Royle will in future act for The Firm here, transacting all business relating to copyrights, grant licenses, and receive all royalties. Mr Royle's address is Box 395, G.P.O., Wellington.

A Sydney paper is responsible for the statement that Miss Maggie Moore and Mr Harry Roberts have indefinitely postponed their visit to America and England, and have commenced a further six months tour of New Zealand. When the company was in Auckland, Mr Roberts was not in any doubt about his trip to the Old Country.

I hear that Rawei, the Maori orator, has been lecturing to crowded houses during his tour on the west coast of the South Island. Very good business was done at Greymouth, Hokitika, and Westport, also at Nelson and Blenheim. Rawei will visit Auckland about August next.

Last Saturday the Broughs put on Anthony Hope's comedy, "The Adventures of Lady Ursula," at Sydney Theatre Royal. The whole of the costumes for the characters were made by Messrs L. and H. Nathan, of London.

Mr L. J. Lohr writes to me from Melbourne that "Dante has knocked them very hard here, and is doing a wonderful business. Hope to beat Sydney record of one hundred and one performances here. Dante plays a return and farewell tour of New Zealand next summer." Both *The Argus* and *The Age* have been very enthusiastic over the young American's performances, and in the cuttings Mr Lohr sends me the critics waxed very warm in their praise of the conjurer.

It is not very often that the "low comedians" act the tramp in reality; they generally manage to get their cue to shift in time to save their feet. However, quite recently, during the tour of the Henry Dramatic Company in the Rangitikei district, the two low comedians of the company (Messrs Humphries and South) lost the train at Feilding—through having a prolonged discussion on the Japanese war question—and, like the sun-downer, had to foot the journey, arriving just before the rise of the curtain—worn, worn, and, oh, how thirsty! They had nothing but a wood hen and a pint of whey (whew!) from a wayside factory. Loo Humphries is a brother to Miss Llewellyn—who was lately married to Mr W. J. Winton in Napier—and his friend in distress ("Laddy" South) is the son of the well-known and clever actress, Miss Fanny Wiseman.

Mr Andrew S. Hodge, the advance agent of the Henry Dramatic Company, arrived in Auckland yesterday. In the course of a brief chat, Mr Hodge told me that the company had had a most successful season right through the colony, putting up record attendances at several of the larger towns. On Saturday week the company makes a first appearance in Auckland in their trump card, "The Shamrock and Thistle." During the following week the dramas "Under Two Flags," "Blind Justice," and one of the latest London sensations, entitled "True Metal," will be staged. The company is much stronger than when it was here last October, when it will be remembered the Henry Company played to full houses throughout the season. During the whole of the present tour of the colony the company has only lost eleven nights, including travelling from port to port. The box plan is now on view at Wildman and Lyell's.

The City Hall has been well attended every night since our last issue, the public evidently appreciating the varied amusement provided by the Gaiety Specialty and Comedy Company. On Saturday night there were several new items. Miss Georgie Devoe and Mr Charles Fanning made a great hit in "The Two Humpty Dumpties," in which they successfully introduced their comical parody "On the Benches in the Park." Mr Fanning also scored with "It Will Take a Bit of Wearing Out" and "Settled," a couple of songs which afford the humorous artist plenty of scope. Mr Tom Edwards introduced himself as "The Hottentot" and also as "Zobetta," a quaint four-legged creature who sings and dances much to the edification of the audience. On Monday night the Sisters Howard made a very successful first appearance. They sang "In Town" and "Daisy McIntyre," amusing songs with very clever dances. The Howards were recalled time after time until they must have been completely exhausted by their efforts. The public could not have too much of the high-kicking and graceful dancing. Miss R. O. Duvall played a mandolin solo and also gave a Polish Bell Dance, receiving warm applause for both her items. Miss Daisy Chard sang "My Onliest One" and "All of Us," and was loudly encored until she complied with the demands for "The Whistling Coon." Mr Walter Rivers, who is now a very great favorite at the City Hall, gained tremendous applause for his admirable rendition of "The Tar's Farewell" and "Sons of the Sea." There was another change of programme last night, and on Saturday there will be several new items for the delectation of the people.



Hanna, Photo., Auckland.

MR J. LAWRENCE.

At a meeting of playgoers at the Hotel Cecil, London, recently, presided over by O Koto San, "a beautiful geisha from Tokyo," Mr Edwards complained that no English dramatist had ever taken the Japanese subject seriously, and, as an instance of "the blind leading the blind," he quoted Mr Gilbert, whose "Mikado," he averred, was simply Chinese with the pigtail cut off. "The Geisha," said Mr Edwards, was a more faithful portrayal in respect of color, custom, and surroundings, but even that was a lampoon, for while all London laughed, an eminent Japanese editor, then resident in London, wept. The geisha, he said, was in reality a nice young lady.