

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

A CONCERT in aid of St. Paul's Church took place in the Choral Hall on Wednesday, 20th. Madame Burton kindly assisted, and a good house was consequently ensured. Madame Burton sang four songs—two on the programme, and two in gracious compliance with the inevitable encores. Although, in some respects, I do not consider this gifted lady's method strictly in accordance with that of the best models, yet her fine dramatic instincts and truly artistic temperament always afford pleasure and compel admiration. "The Worker" she sang perhaps more effectively than ever; but in her encore song, "The Three Fishers," the tempo appeared to be much faster than the pace she usually sets for the first verse, which is very properly sung faster than the last. In the sustained phrase, on the word "moaning," the singer, doubtless with the intention of conveying the meaning, gave occasional fresh impulses to the same breath, resulting in a vocal imitation of the sigh of wind and waves on the harbour bar. This is an original effect, and on onomatopœic principles a quite legitimate resource. In the second part Madame Burton gave Sullivan's "Sleep, my love, sleep," the last passages being rendered with exquisite finish. As an encore, "The Banks of Allan Water" delighted the audience, who bade the popular cantatrice an enthusiastic yet reluctant farewell. Mrs. A. Coates accompanied Madame Burton with nice discretion in all her songs. Mr. E. Barber was not in good voice, his intonation being consequently defective, and we feel sure that he can do much better under more favourable conditions. His second song, "Thy Knight am I," by Jude, was a great improvement on Parker's "Flying Dutchman." Miss Freda Marsden played Raff's cavatina with a power and earnestness of purpose surprising in a young lady. Her phrasing, tone, and intonation were beyond cavil. In striking contrast to the passionate and plaintive melody of Raff was Winiawski's mazurka, in which the brilliant *figiure* and difficult double-stopping were neatly and effectively rendered. Miss Marsden also played the violin obligato to Mrs. Raynes' song "In die Ferne," with taste and expression. In the opening quartette for violin (Miss Marsden), piano (Mrs. Butt), 'cello (Mr. Davies), and organ (Mr. Knight), Gound's smooth and melodious setting of the "Arrow and the Song," Miss Marsden again shone, while the instruments were nicely balanced, and the number entirely satisfactory. The 'cello part, too, was excellently rendered. Mrs. A. Coates, accompanied by Mrs. Butt, sang that old favourite Scottish ballad, "The Land o' the Leal," with intense sensibility and artistic simplicity, and was rewarded by an enthusiastic recall. An apology, on the score of a bad cold, was tendered on behalf of Mr. T. Jackson, whose absence is always a disappointment to all who admire a pure and fresh tenor voice. Mr. Maitland's song, "Will of the Wisp," was therefore transferred to the first part from the second. He was not in his best voice, but sang very acceptably under the handicap of a somewhat relaxed throat. Mrs. Kilgour's song, "I Heard a Voice," by Pinsuti, elicited an undeniable encore, in response to which that lady sang Milliard's "Waiting," a song which suits the singer to perfection. She was even more successful than in her first song. Blumenthal's duet, "Venetian Boat Song," was nicely sung by Miss M. Harper and Mrs. A. Coates; but their voices do not blend quite perfectly. Miss Harper possesses a fine natural organ, and executed the *staccato* intervals with accuracy and purity. She should study the effect of combination in part singing, and keep her splendid voice under control, so as to mark the light and shade contrasts with more telling effect. I feel sure that with care she will become one of our best sopranos. Altogether, the concert was a most enjoyable one, and must have yielded a handsome contribution to the good object for which it was organised.

MISS JENNIE LEE, on Monday, appeared as "The Grasshopper," and won all hearts by a very naive and clever impersonation. The piece is adapted from the French "La Cigale," by Mr. Burnett, who has done his work with

no slight literary skill. It abounds with absurd situations and atrocious puns. One especially funny piece of word-twisting is where Theophilus is pronounced to be "The-orphilest name I ever heard!" Space will not permit me to analyse the characters, but Mr. J. P. Burnett, Mr. Edwin Lester, Mr. Charles Hill, Mr. Fred Cambourn, Mr. D. C. Smith, and Mr. G. P. Carey, all acted capitally, while Mrs. Bolton, Miss Ada Lee, and Miss Mary Hill fully sustained their reputation as capable and clever artistes.

IN M. AND MADAME PATEY Auckland has now the advantage of hearing singers trained on the most unimpeachable method. I would beg our budding amateurs to attend, and listen to examples of an even blending of registers. Observe in Madame Patey that it is not a case of soprano notes in the upper register, contralto notes in the lower, and a *hiatus valde defendus* in the middle register, but one equal voice in all. This happy result is attained by the good old system of cultivating the middle eight notes of the voice first, and gradually expanding the compass both ways. Mr. Patey's unfortunate accident *en voyage* will I trust not seriously impair his voice. Anyhow, he has bravely determined to sing, and not disappoint his audiences. I regret that the SPORTING REVIEW going to press on Wednesday precludes my criticising the concerts this week, but I have heard both these great singers many times, and could almost write a true criticism in anticipation.

In my notes of the concert at the Choral Hall I inadvertently forgot to mention that the blank in the programme caused by Mr. T. M. Jackson's indisposition was ably filled by Mr. Leon Driver, a pianist of exceptional ability. He played a fantasia by Listz on "Trovatore" with power, vigour, and a clear, distinct touch, which was unanimously encored. In response he gave an "Andalusian March," composed by himself, and produced an equally good impression—the piece containing less fireworks, but considerable merit of the more solid order.

MISS JENNIE LEE is adding to her triumphs as Jack in the Box, a farcical melodrama, not altogether faultless in construction, but full of strong situations, good business and capital lines. Mr. Carey's Toroni and Mr. Lester's Professor O'Sullivan are splendid impersonations. Songs and dances are interspersed, and the piece goes well and is very amusing. The scene in Toroni's with song and chorus, "Funiculi, Funicula," is very effective. "Run Wild" now occupies the boards, but too late to notice this week. It is well criticised in the Southern newspapers, and should succeed here.

ORPHEUS.

ATHLETICS; ETC.

The Napier Amateur Athletic Club propose forming a Sports Protection Association to prevent anyone taking part in any branch of athletics till his subscriptions to all other Clubs are paid.

A meeting was held at Hasting, Hawke's Bay, on the 18th inst. for the purpose of forming a Bowling Club. Some twenty gentlemen handed in their names as donors of one guinea each, and about fifty others have promised to join. The following committee was appointed to carry out all arrangements in connection with the formation of the Club: Messrs. Vickerman, Ellis, Reynolds, Cooper, Galway, Jull, Hayes. Mr. A. B. Greene was appointed secretary *pro tem*.

FOOTBALL.

LAST Saturday was an off day for football, Potter's paddock being taken up with the trotting races, so the Grafton and Ponsonby clubs took teams to Mercury Bay and the Thames.

Ponsonby took a strong team to the Thames, where they played the Wanderers at the Parawai Gardens. In the first spell the play was very even, both sides playing well, Roto securing a try for the Wanderers. At the commencement of the second spell Ponsonby made the game fast, and owing to good passing Otway was enabled to secure a try, making the scores even.

During the last half hour both teams played fast and well, neither having any advantage, so the match ended in a draw. In the evening the visitors were entertained at a dinner at the Queen's Hotel.

The Graftons took a team down to Mercury Bay on Friday evening, and played the Bay Club on Saturday. The Auckland team had some good backs, but were very weak in their forwards. At the commencement of the game the Grafton team were kept at their own end during the first quarter of an hour, but the Bay team failed to score. Grafton made a good rush just before the end of the spell, and Elliott by a grand rush secured a try. During the second spell the game was very even until Stephenson secured a second try, and shortly afterwards Elliott scored a third try. Grafton therefore won by three points to nil. The Mercury Bay Club played well, but had hard luck.

Teams from Whitianga and Coromandel also visited the Thames last Saturday. The former played Nelson Club (senior), and were beaten by six points to nil; while the latter were also beaten by the Rovers (junior) by one point to nil.

The Excelsior met the Ellerslie II. on the latter's ground last Saturday, and suffered defeat by 5 points to nil. During the first spell the Excelsior had, if anything, the best of the game; but they died away in the second spell, and the Ellerslie boys forced them down time after time, but could only manage to score two tries, neither of which were converted. Hamlin, by a clever screw kick, secured a goal from the field. Clark, Somerfield, and Wilson, were conspicuous for Ellerslie, and Crisp, Mens, and a three-quarter back, played well for Excelsior.

CHRISTCHURCH ATHLETICS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SATURDAY'S matches were from first to last a succession of surprises. At North Park Canterbury College were generally supposed to have a "moral" with Christchurch, and at call of "time" no one was more surprised at the result than the Christchurch men themselves. Throughout the first spell the latter seemed to take matters much too easily, with the result that on several occasions they were caught napping, and allowed the College to score soon after the kick off. Wilson scored a goal; but the College were not to be denied, and Cresswell and Balch, between them, had raised their score to six points. On changing ends matters assumed an altogether different aspect. The Christchurch forwards played a rattling game, and from a scrum near the College lines Wilson got the ball and passed another goal to his side's credit. Tries were also secured by Berney and Hall, the former being improved upon. At call of time the scores stood: Christchurch, 10 points; College, 6 points.

Another surprise was in store for supporters at the Merivale Sydenham match, when the latter, for the first time for years, put down the suburban club. Play was not of an interesting character, being confined to the forwards of each team. Soon after the kick off Sydenham obtained a goal from a penalty kick, and for the remainder of the spell more than held their own. On changing ends it was thought that the "blues" would soon wipe off the score against them, but although they had somewhat the best of the game they only obtained one point. Sydenham were thus victorious by two points to one.

At Lancaster Park, although the result of the match East Christchurch v. Linwood, was not a great surprise, it was not thought that there would be a difference of eight points at the finish of the game. For the first spell play was very even, neither side being able to claim an advantage. On changing ends, however, the Linwood forwards fell to pieces, and before call of time East Christchurch had ran up a score of 8 points to nil.

The appeal in the match Canterbury College v. Merivale, was awarded to the latter, who now claim the match.

So far East Christchurch is the only senior team that has not suffered a defeat.

At Dunedin the Pirates defeated Taieri by 6 points to 1.

Kaikorai defeated the Union by 6 points to 1; and Dunedin did likewise to Zingari by 4 points to nil.