



Music & Drama.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

THE ONSLOW MEDALS.

ON Monday week at Government House a large gathering of musical enthusiasts witnessed the award to Messrs. Philpott and McGinley of the *præmium virtutis* which each had won in the Onslow Musical Competition. Lord Onslow and Sir Maurice O'Rorke made felicitous speeches, and Mr. Philpott in a few well chosen words returned thanks on behalf of himself and his fellow prize-winner. Lord Onslow humorously explained that in the haste and confusion of packing, the medals by mistake had been sent to Melbourne and that therefore the presentation would have to be a sort of Barmecide feast. But he would take care that they should be forwarded at once to the recipients. He also announced that Lady Onslow would present similar medals for competition for at least two years to come. So unexpected an intimation was of course greeted with loud applause. Herr Carl Schmitt's services to the cause of music were alluded to in most complimentary terms by all the speakers. The Professor has been presented by Lord and Lady Onslow with a handsome jewelled scarf-pin in recognition of the good music which under his direction has from time to time delighted the guests at Government House.

ON the 28th of March Mr. Bentley opens at the Opera House a season of Shakespeare and legitimate drama. He brings with him a powerful company, and judging by the very complimentary critiques in Southern journals Auckland playgoers may expect a genuine treat.

MISS MYRA KEMBLE, with "Doctor Bill," etc., will probably open in Auckland towards the end of May.

AMATEUR OPERA COMPANIES will be relieved to hear that Messrs. Williamson and Garner have released Gilbert and Sullivan's operas from quarantine—The Gondoliers only excepted.

HUGO's New Idea Minstrels drew a very good house on Saturday evening, and performed an excellent programme without a hitch. The piano has been tuned, and a very competent performer thereon as well as the vocalists now have a fair chance to display their powers. Tom Makanini reveals an infinite variety of humorous resource, and Mr. Voss introduced some clever ventriloquial novelties. Will Hugo, Tommy Oakes and Harry Boulton are better than ever, and with the Misses Linden and Gordon and the clever boy-singer Harry Creswell, a very good variety entertainment is assured for all who patronise the City Hall Saturday nights.

ON Tuesday evening at the Opera House, Madame Goldenstedt's postponed concert attracted an audience which positively crammed every part of the auditorium. Next week I hope to give a detailed criticism of the excellent programme. ORPHEUS.

JOTTINGS FROM WELLINGTON.

[BY WIRE.]

WELLINGTON, March 2,
ONE of the finest exhibitions of swimming held in Wellington was witnessed last Saturday at the Wellington Rowing Club's Annual Swimming Sports. The absence of wind, and the water being calm, added greatly to the success of the afternoon's proceedings, which were watched by three hundred spectators. The members of the club served afternoon tea, an acquisition which was appreciated by the ladies. Mr. J. L. Williams was the starter, while judging was divided between Messrs. Patterson (captain J.R.C.) and S. Waters.

The first event was the Handicap Race of 75yds.—Whitehouse, 10sec, 1; G. S. Hill, 2; J. Gamble, 3. Whitehouse won by half a yard. There were ten competitors.

Coxswains' Race.—D. Plunkett, 1; T. Dix, 2; C. Dix, 3. A good race; won by a yard. The winner swam splendidly.

Headers.—W. Sim, 1; H. Dix, 2; G. S. Hill, 3. The winner's headers were perfect in every respect.

Wellington Rowing Club's Championship of 440yds.—A. Tattle, 1; G. S. Hill, 2; J. Fleming, 3. Hill took the lead from the start, but when half the distance had been rowed Tattle overhauled and passed him, winning the race by 1min. Time, 11min.

Sea-horse Race.—Sergeant, 1; S. Dix, 2; Eales, 3. It was a long time before the competitors could understand the principles of the propelling power. Sergeant, however, was the first to get away, and won as he liked.

Greasy Pole.—Gamble, 1; Lister, 2. The other 15 competitors were unable to remove the flag from its position.

150yds Open Race.—Hill, 1; Tattle, 2; Cooper, 3. This race was exciting and evenly contested, the competitors all reaching the water together, Hill eventually winning on the post.

Long Dive.—Kilner, 1; Rotherham, 2. Kilner gave a fairly long dive, but did not steer a straight course. Rotherham's dive was much admired by the spectators, and great was the surprise when it was known the judge had awarded Kilner first place.

Rescue Competition.—Cales, 1 (44sec); Rose, 2 (51sec); Hill, 3 (55sec). The competitors were placed at a distinct disadvantage owing to the dummy holding too much water.

The proceedings terminated at 6 o'clock, the visitors being well pleased at the courteous manner in which they had been treated by the club.

(BY "PROTEUS.")

WELLINGTON, February 27.
BY the crowded house which greeted the opening piece—"Hamlet"—of Mr. Bentley's season, it was easily seen that the Wellington theatre-goers are not backward in appreciating good dramatic talent. Mr. Bentley is undoubtedly the best Shakespearian delineator that has visited Wellington. His representation of Hamlet left nothing to be desired. His conception of the melancholy Dane is in nearly all points a novel one, but his interpretation of the character is masterly and scholarly. From the start to the finish the audience showed their appreciation of his characteristic display

of Hamlet. At the end of the second and third acts he was recalled, and also at the end of the performance, the audience lastly giving vent to their feelings with loud cheers. The leading lady of the company is Miss Hansen, who sustained the part of Ophelia. This charming young actress created a favourable impression by her acting, which was quiet and unassuming. Miss Deorwyn, Mr. Chas. Holloway, and Mr. L. McGowan, who impersonated the respective characters of the Queen, Claudius, and Polonius, have visited Wellington before—the other members being new to Wellington play-goers. They are all first-class actors. Mr. A. C. Greenaway sustained the part of young Laertes admirably, and the Ghost, by Mr. C. Alderson, was a splendid representation of that gloomy object. The tragedy was well mounted, and the characters were correctly costumed. The orchestra was under the able conductorship of Mr. Frank King.

THE match between the Rival and Phoenix Clubs was concluded on the Basin Reserve last Wednesday evening. The Rival's second innings closed for 35 runs, leaving the Phoenix victorious by 158 runs. Virtue, of the Phoenix, was "dead on" with the leather, he alone taking five wickets for 11 runs. The Rivals cannot be complimented on their efficiency in the cricket field. Perhaps it is due to the sameness which the first eleven is noted for.

THE HAWKE'S BAY CUP.

(BY OUR NAPIER CORRESPONDENT.)

RATHER an important adjustment has just made its appearance in the shape of the handicap for the Hawke's Bay Cup, to be run here on the 17th March next. When there are forty horses engaged in an event such as this, the task of the weight allotter is rendered somewhat difficult, and it requires more than a cursory glance over his production on the part of the turf scribe for him to be able to ascertain the inequality of the handicapping, if such exists. There are to be found hundreds of people the wide world over who glance at a handicap on its appearance and say, "Oh! I can pick it in twice," but in the majority of instances it turns out that his selections never accept, or are conspicuous in the race. Mr. Evitt's handicap for the Hawke's Bay Cup requires careful study, and that says a great deal for the compiler. The winner is at present well concealed, but when a large proportion of that number are weeded out, and we have the results of the Dunedin and Wanganui Cups to go by—the former has not been run as I write this—the task of selection will in all probability be rendered more easy. I do not fancy Merrie England, St. George—Rupe, with 9st 3lb up. I do not doubt his ability to stay a mile and three-quarters, but there are others with less weight to carry whom I prefer. Cynisca, Apremont—Nautilus, must have a show if she shows her partiality for such a journey in the Wanganui Cup. If she runs well in that race she will have a host of supporters, but if she wins her penalty may stop her here. Last year she couldn't win in Wanganui, but beat Dudu at Hastings. On that occasion, however, the daughter of Somnus—Fame had to make her own running, for the pace at the