

Her busy life in the lodgings is a really splendid piece of acting. As Mary Melrose, the poor but flirtacious and somewhat audacious cousin, Miss Idrene Thornton shines as brightly as in any rôle I have seen her undertake. The love-making scene on the quadrilateral ottoman with Talbot is simply immense, and the many witty points with which the author has studded her lines were made with faultless tact. Miss Violet Sheridan portrayed a typical lodging-house slavey to the life, and the minor parts of Kempster and Poodles in the competent hands of Messrs. Alf Ingleson and W. E. Jermyn added to the success of a really excellent performance.

THE LADY OF LYONS.
 Bulwer Lytton's immortal play both artistically and as a draw even surpassed its attractive predecessor. The fine writing and great excellence in rendering, the author is occasionally blamed for apparent extravagance of diction when the fault really lies with the interpretation. In the present cast the splendid lines were delivered in every instance with a truth and power which banished any notion of excess of melo-dramatic fervour. Claude Melnotte (Mr. Collett Dobson) upon whose shoulders the burden of the piece chiefly rests, carried the sympathies of every one present by a natural and powerful delineation of the gardener's son, one of those characters who rise "on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things." It is impossible to give in detail all Mr. Collett Dobson's triumphs of delivery, but the fine burst beginning "Pauline, thy bride," etc., may be taken as one of the grandest feats of a great performance. Mr. Frank Norton's "Beauseant," the polished and vindictive *roué* of the piece, was so vividly true as to win many complimentary groans and execrations from the audience. His dressing of the part was both elegant and accurate. Mr. H. N. Douglas made more of Glavis than a successful actor could have done with so small a rôle. Mr. J. J. Kennedy's Col. Dumas was of its kind as good as anything that clever actor has done. The bluff republican soldier elicits roars of laughter by his quaint yet natural speeches. I was glad to see Saville again on the gentleman rôle of Mr. Saville acquitted himself well indeed. Mr. Joe had a congenial part in the comical landlord, and made fun out of the rôle. Gaspar, and Dupont were all safe in the hands of Messrs. Jermyn, Ingleson, and Greyton. Turning to the ladies, Miss Idrene Thornton's Pauline adds triumph to that clever lady's long list. Tenderness, pathos, and grace come out at her call, and she made Pauline a loveable and sympathetic woman, as the author intended. The passionate bursts splendidly worked up to and the costumes worn were in the most wonderful and beautiful cast. To the work of the actor Hill, and As Widow Sheridan was not over the part. It has been a blemish in the rôle's affectionate left out in rejoicings the management during the talk anxious to

light (Thursday) "Con the Shaugh- underlined. Friday and Saturday the pretty little play, entitled "The Orphans," is staged. On Monday the celebrated Anglo-Swiss actor-ist, Mr. Chas. J. B. Palmer appears, as Tony Faust, in the musical comedy "Sweetheart." This delightful piece, created for years with the name of Minnie Palmer, is now for the first given in Auckland. It will be followed by "Hans the Boatman" and "Truck Oil," making a most attractive

WIRTH'S SAHARA CIRCUS.
 Her splendid programme, full presented on Wednes-

anything, better than ever, and the splendid riding of the Misses Wirth, Messrs. Montgomerie, Morency, P., G. and C. Wirth, the gymnastic feats of the Valazie Bros. and clever little Benham, the performing horses, and the funny-isms of the clowns, continue to make the entertainment one of the most perfect of its kind ever seen in Auckland. In the new programme now given nightly a prominent feature is "Dick Turpin's Ride to the Scaffold" which is a never failing draw.

A CHORAL SOCIETY. "COMOLA" AND "ZION."
 GARDNER commends itself to all who appreciate a pure chaste style free from meretricious tricks and yet full of splendid effects obtained by legitimate resources only. Last week a full orchestra and a packed audience thoroughly enjoyed rendering and listening to two very fine works. "Zion" opens with an orchestral introduction leading into a chorus, "Hear, O My flock, Israel," rendered with excellent volume, tune and precision. Two more choruses follow illustrating "The departure from Egypt" and the "Captivity in Babylon," and to both the same criticism applies. A melodious and scholarly orchestral prelude introduces the only solo of the cantata, interwoven with some telling choral work. Mr. Arthur Stuart sang the baritone solo very creditably, marking the contrast between the smooth and plaintive "Yet merciful and tender," and the exultant "Arise and shine, O Zion," with artistic appreciation. Occasionally his intonation showed that he was not in his best voice, but the trifling aberrations were amply atoned for by his splendid dash and dramatic vigour. In "Comola," which followed immediately, the customary interval being dispensed with, Mr. Stuart sustained the arduous part of Fingal with no slight measure of success. Occasionally lapses of intonation marred what was in every other respect a really fine performance. Especially good was the burst of passionate grief, "Let me gaze on my beloved. Ah! I see her lying pale and dead," accentuated by the fine choral burst, "O, weep; weep, Comola!" Miss Murray, although Comola's music was in some passages beyond her natural compass, acquitted herself very well indeed. One of her best *morceaux* was the dramatic "Still'd is the fight," with its weird and original orchestral setting. Enunciation, tone, and declamation were all excellent. Dersagrena's music was fairly rendered by Mrs. I. Alexander, who sang the quaint ballad "One day there came from Lochlin," very successfully. This, with the duet and chorus of maidens, is one of the gems in the work, and never fails to charm. To Mrs. H. F. Edger was assigned Melicoma, the contralto part of the piece, in which there is not much to do, but Mrs. Edger did that little very well, singing correctly and with good effect in the *ensembles*. The choruses were excellently rendered throughout. Very fine indeed were "Our pathway is the storm," with its grand harmonic changes; "Far fled is the foe," and the exquisite chorus of maidens, "O, sing not loud triumphant songs." But the grandest effect was produced in the impressive chorus "In the darkness of clouds," which not only reveals the true ring of inspiration, but is enhanced by magnificent orchestral effects. Both singers and instrumentalists covered themselves with glory in rendering this fine chorus. To sum up briefly, the Society has never done better work, and I warmly congratulate Herr Carl Schmitt upon the brilliant results which could only have been achieved by the great care and patient study bestowed alike by conductor and performers upon works which are thoroughly worthy of such praiseworthy attention.

All-round Sport

FOOTBALL.

[BY POSTER.]

SATURDAY proved an ideal day for spectators and players alike. Splendid weather, a moderate sou-westerly breeze, and a dry ground attracted a large crowd to witness the match between Auckland and Tauranga. The exhibition of football was from a scientific point of view not of a very high order, but the game was fast throughout, and frequent scores by both sides kept up the excitement. At Hamilton a second Auckland fifteen was doing simultaneous battle with Wai-

Rugby Union has gained some useful knowledge with reference to the players available for inter-provincial selection, and it cannot be denied that there are men in each of the above teams whose claims for rep. honours deserve more than a passing consideration. For example, in the Tauranga match, Rawiri's forward play was brilliant and effective to a degree which won universal admiration. In the Waikato match Gillett, too, and Sampson, proved themselves a splendid pair of forwards, and in the Thames team several forwards and backs showed grand form. In selecting our team against Canterbury it would be wise to remember such men, to ascertain how many of them could play if chosen, to give those available a trial, and so pick a team truly representative of Auckland provincial strength. Other provinces do not limit their selections to the large cities, but go further afield and take a good man when and wherever they can secure him.

Since the Taranaki match "Poster" has been pondering over a new rule which he ventures to suggest for the consideration of the Rugby Union. Cricketers have a rule enabling either side to call for a new ball. Why should not footballers adopt a similar one? Take the case of a wet day, with a strong wind blowing from goal to goal. The side playing with the wind during the first spell has the advantage of a comparatively light ball. The wind assists the attack and paralyses the defence. As the game proceeds the ball absorbs water and collects mud (half a pint of water weighs half a pound). When sides are changed after the spell the conditions are seriously altered for both attack and defence. The ball, quite doubled in weight, travels much more slowly with the wind, and much better against it. The defending side can kick and dribble with power and effect, while the attacking side, although still having a strong wind in their favour, do not enjoy the same overwhelming advantage which their more fortunate rivals held during the first spell. Surely the addition of the following to the Rugby rules could do no harm, and would as far as possible equalise the conditions under such circumstances:—"At the commencement of the second spell either side may call for a new ball."

AUCKLAND V. TAURANGA.

The teams appeared on the field at 3.6 p.m., and after mutual cheers took their positions, Auckland winning the toss, and having the advantage of wind and sun behind their backs.

At 3.8 Warbrick kicked off, but the ball was called back for off-side, and a scrum formed. The ball was out at centre, and Auckland presently had a free kick. Rushes and counter-rushes followed. Duncan made a good run and pass, but a miss-kick by Burt enabled Cole to get in easily. Penalligan took the place at an acute angle, and went near, but did not convert. Auckland 2; Tauranga 0 at 3.15. After the kick out play continued in Tauranga 25, and Jervis nearly scored after a fine run, but Warbrick tackled well, and Tauranga were presently forced. Braund secured a mark, and Auckland had a free-kick, from which Penalligan nearly placed a goal, and Tauranga forced. After the kick out Auckland worked up to Tauranga 25, Murray, Masefield and Peace doing good work. Tauranga responded with a good dribbling rush, in which Rawiri, Swainson and Darragh were prominent. Masefield replied with a fine run and pass to Mills, but a throw on caused a scrum on Tauranga side of centre. Auckland had a free kick, and fast play followed, Masefield, Jervis, Peace, Duncan, Burt, Rawiri, Elliott, and Clarke doing brilliant work for their respective sides. After a fine run by Duncan, and a good collar by Taylor, a great Auckland rush, with Murray at the head, followed by a smart kick by Peace and a grand run by Elliott, brought play near Tauranga goal, where Burt got his arm hurt, but soon recovered, and continued to play a fine game. A good run by Duncan relieved the pressure, but Auckland came again, Ronayne and Peace playing well, and the latter forcing Tauranga with a good kick. Clarke headed a fine rush to Auckland side of centre, and another rush took play into Auckland 25. Penalligan here received a nasty kick on the knee, and had to retire. A lot of marks and exchanges followed, and play continued in Auckland 25, Tauranga threatening a score. S. Tanner, with a good pot, nearly

land nearly scored, but Tauranga forced. After some play in Tauranga 25, rushes and counter-rushes left the ball near Tauranga 25. Braund passed to Peace, who transferred to Jervis, the latter getting in, but the score was disallowed as Elliott got in the way of would-be collars. Shortly after a free kick was awarded to Auckland for Duncan holding the ball, and Jervis placed a fine goal from it. Auckland 5; Tauranga 0, at 3.45. Four minutes later MacMillan scored a try, which Jervis failed to convert, and the spell ended with the score—Auckland 7; Tauranga 0.

SECOND SPELL.

Murray kicked off at 4.10, and this spell was remarkable for quick and alternate scoring by both sides. After a lot of ding-dong work, Elliott ran and passed to Jervis and the latter got in. Murray did not increase. Auckland 9, Tauranga 0, at 4.27. Shortly afterwards Cole ran and passed to Elliott, who scored, but Jervis did not convert. Auckland 11, Tauranga 0, at 4.30. Tauranga now rallied, and after a fine dribbling rush H. Tanner scored and Burt placed a neat goal. Auckland 11, Tauranga 5, at 4.35. Auckland retaliated presently, Elliott with a magnificent dribble scoring in a fine position and Jervis converting. Auckland 16, Tauranga 5, at 4.39. Tauranga's turn came about eight minutes later, Burt potting a clever goal from a pass by Warbrick. Auckland 16, Tauranga 9, at 4.47. Soon after Auckland came with a rush and Masefield scored, Jervis placing a fine goal from a rather difficult angle. Auckland 21, Tauranga 9, at 4.48. Tauranga replied soon after with a goal from a free kick placed by Burt. Auckland 21, Tauranga 12, at 4.50. A great Auckland dribble resulted in Mills scoring, but Jervis did not increase. Auckland 23, Tauranga 12, at 4.51. After some give and take work Ronayne ran well and passed to Elliott, who got in, scoring Auckland's last try, which Jervis converted, raising the total to Auckland 28, Tauranga 12, at 4.54, and the spell ended with the scores unchanged.

A most enjoyable smoke concert took place in the evening at the British Hotel. The fun did not falter for a moment, and Mr. Duncan and others won musical as well as football glory. Quite a feature of the evening was a splendid *haka*, sung and acted by the Maori members of the Tauranga team. Mr. Fred Edwards made an excellent chairman, and a delightful evening was spent.

WELLINGTON V. CANTERBURY.

The following team has been selected to play on behalf of Wellington against the Canterbury representative team:—Fullback, Davidson; three-quarters, Ellison, Gage, Baker; halves, Puddey, Wynyard; forwards, Stuart, White, Lee, Oliphant, Cockcroft, McLean, Milne, J. Campbell, Bishop. Emergencies:—Buck, Baumber; forwards, Forsythe, Pringle.

Of these, eight represent Ponoke; three the Athletics; two, Petone; and two the Wellington Club.

CANTERBURY V. AUCKLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, August 15,
 The following team has been selected by the Canterbury Rugby Union to make the trip north, on behalf of that province:—Fullback, I. Hobbs; threequarter backs, Mendelsohn, Lang, Balch; half-backs, Forbes, and Price; forwards, L. Ebert, Stokes, Childs, A. Ebert, Evans, Humphreys, Samuels, McKendry, and Johnstone. Emergencies: backs, A. Hobbs, and Whittree; forwards Haskins, Forrest, and Garrard.

The team chosen to represent Canterbury gives general satisfaction in football circles here, but in some quarters it is fancied that Matheson (Merivale) should have been included. He was absent from the Trial Match on Saturday and gave a lame excuse for his absence, so the Selection Committee left him out. The Committee appear to have chosen heavy men, and probably the style of play adopted will be forward, instead of relying on their backs. F. Hobbs is playing in grand form this season, the wing three-quarters are very fast, Lang is both dodgy and fast, and will not pass enough. The half-backs are improved men, passing well. McKendry rushes well. McKendry is playing on the wing. The others are all good, but not very fast. If M...