



THE STAGE

(By "FOOTLIGHT.")

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.**THE WATKIN MILLS CONCERT COMPANY.**

The exceedingly inclement weather experienced on Monday evening was no doubt in a large measure the reason for the thin house which greeted Mr. Watkin Mills and his concert company at His Majesty's. The audience, however, made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers, and nearly every item was encored. The first item was the duet between Mr. Mills and Mr. Harold Wilde, "Watchman, What of the Night?" (Sargeant), which proved to be perhaps the best on the whole programme. Mr. Mills gave a fine rendering of Gounod's "She Alone Charmeth My Sadness," but earned far more enthusiastic applause for his singing of Bevan's "Peg Away," a charming little bit of optimistic poetry. He also got all there is out of Hill's "Tangi," which appears to many as being somewhat over-rated. A far more enjoyable selection was Hunter's "The Wedding of Shon Maclean," a rollicking, humorous song given with great dash and animation.

Miss Gertrude Lonsdale's first item was Ruth's song, "Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee" (Gounod), giving as an encore "The Happy Song" (Del Regio). Her fine contralto voice was heard to more advantage in L. G. Lemon's ballad, "My Ain Folk," although one missed the Scottish accent. The encore item, a dainty German love song, proved very acceptable.

Miss Edith Kirkwood, the soprano, was recalled for a pleasing rendering of "Caro Nome," from Rigoletto, and earned hearty plaudits for the pretty songlet, "I Know a Lovely Garden." Finden's "A Fleet of Cloud Boats," and the old Irish song, "The Ninepenny Fidel," also found much favour.

Mr. Harold Wilde, the tenor, was perhaps slightly overweighted when attempting the Grail song from "Lohengrin," but completely won his way with his singing of Lohr's charming "The Little Irish Maid." Goring Thomas' "The Willow" was another item which called for applause.

M. Edouard Parlovitz showed much skill as an accompanist, but should break himself off the somewhat irritating habit of having a run up and down the scales before every item. His two selections, Chopin's "Sherzo in B Flat Minor" and A. Rosenthal's "Irish Rhapsody" were very well received.

The second half of the programme was devoted to the Liza Lehmann song cycle, "The Daisy Chain," every number coming in for keen appreciation, all the members working well together in the quartettes and other numbers.

During the week the programme has been changed, and large audiences have been the rule. To-night and to-morrow will be the last occasions on which this talented company can be heard in Auckland.

MISS JESSIE MACLACHLAN.

Next Monday we shall have an opportunity of hearing for ourselves Miss Jessie Maclachlan, the Scottish balladist, whose fame has preceded her. She comes with a great reputation as perhaps the greatest exponent of Scottish minstrelsy who has reached our shores. She has just completed a lengthy tour of Canada, the States, Australia, and Tasmania, where she has sung before most enthusiastic audiences. At Dunedin the fair songstress met with a grand reception, there being an immense attendance at the official welcome by the Mayor. In replying to the hearty greetings of the Dunedinites, Miss Maclachlan said it was one of the proudest moments of her life. As far as mileage went, they were 12,000 miles away from dear old Scotland, but as far as her feelings were concerned she was at that moment in her native Argyleshire. She thanked them for their presence there on behalf of not only Jessie Maclachlan, but on behalf of the lyrics of Scotland. She was proud indeed to find at this distance from the Old Land hearts beat as warmly and truly as if they had never left the land of brown heath and shaggy wood. It was a great thing for Scottish people coming out from the Old Land to find

these societies flourishing and bringing forward memories of and keeping alive the characteristics of Scotland, and the old feelings that used to belong to the grandmothers and grandfathers whose descendants they were. She thanked them for their presence there and for their beautiful gift, but, above all things, she thanked them for the kindly feeling which prompted them to give a partial stranger such a kindly, such an enthusiastic welcome. She thanked them also on behalf of those associated with her in her visit, and thanked her brother and sister artists of Dunedin for entertaining them that evening. The programme for Monday evening contains many old favourites. Miss Maclachlan will sing Bethune's "The Auld Scots Sangs," "Cronin," "Blue Bonnets," "Killarney," a Gaelic Waulking song, and "Rule Britannia." Mr. John McLinden, a gifted 'celloist, will give a number of fine selections, so that lovers of beautiful music are evidently in for a treat.

THE MAGIC KETTLE.

Owing to the impossibility of obtaining dates at the theatre, the Auckland season of Professor Andrews and the Magic Kettle will be limited to two performances, which will be given at His Majesty's Theatre next Saturday afternoon and evening. Of the performance

raw, juicy steak placed on the kettle for a moment or two becomes so hard as a brick. The power of the air forces a wooden plug from an empty iron tube like a shot from a gun. Then the kettle changes its magic tactics. Placed on a block of ice it begins to boil, and with the volume of steam issuing from its spout does what it is quite justified in doing—blows its own trumpet. By way of a little by-play the Professor lit a cigar at the escaping vapour and it broke out into a flame, and then filling a glass of liquid air he wished the audience luck and swallowed it—and there was nothing the matter with the Professor. Just how all this is done is a mystery. At the conclusion of the performance the kettle was handed round for inspection, and was found to be coated with a covering of snow. Professor Andrews explained that it contained about 740 feet of ordinary atmosphere, the liquid air being about 300 degrees below zero. It costs about £5 to fill the kettle for each performance, and a special plant with its engineer is now stationed in Wellington for the manufacture of liquid air. With the company is Alma, a clever magician and sleight-of-hand artist. Perhaps his most marvellous illusion is "Uda, Goddess of the Air," which must be seen to be believed. The English Pierrot Entertainers provide plenty of

voice calling for loud applause. As an encore she sang "Poor Wandering One," a song in which she always scores heavily. Miss Elsie Brown, whose bright, attractive voice always wins the favour of the audience, sang another of her dainty little coon songs, for which she was loudly applauded. Our old friend Sam Wilson then proceeded to convulse the audience, he and Mr. Frank King keeping up a running fire of comicalities that livened up proceedings to some purpose. A newcomer in the person of Miss Viola Price, a trim little Scottish lassie, next sang a lively song and danced a fling that set everyone jiggling from stalls to gallery, and she got a vociferous recall.

The second half commenced with a song by Mr. Frank King, entitled "Jolly Fine Company." Mr. King's voice was heard to good purpose in this, and the house demanded an encore. The next item consisted of what is probably one of the finest acts ever seen in Auckland. In this the Modern Milo posed as several of the best-known of the ancient goddesses, including that masterpiece of sculpture, the Venus de Milo, and the more recently-discovered Brown Venus. Apart from being a most unique series of tableaux, the separate poses of the figure constituted a most refined delineation of ancient art. Indeed, looking at the beautiful form of the Modern Milo one found it hard to believe that the statue itself was not standing before one, the only indication that such was not the case being the slight swaying of the figure inseparably connected in the mind of the art student with the life class of the art school. It would be indeed difficult to pick out the best pose of those represented. That of Hebe was particularly fine, as was also the representation of the "Venus de Milo" and "Brown Venus." The latter pose especially showed that the Modern Milo has a figure quite as fine as anything that has ever been handed down to posterity by ancient sculptors. The Modern Milo should on no account be missed by lovers of the artistic and beautiful. During the intervals in this series of tableaux Cruickshank, the caricaturist, drew lightning sketches of several well-known Auckland men, whose portraits received quick recognition, and were the outcome of much amusement and applause. Another first appearance was that of Miss Malvena Moore, who danced and sang in a most sprightly and attractive manner. Leonard Nelson, who next appeared, came in for a great ovation, and was recalled times out of number. Following him the Rollos, in their original Irish musical comedy, "The Hungry Visitor," caused considerable amusement, and sent the house off in high good humour. Crowded houses have been the rule during the week.



THE MODERN MILO AS "PSYCHE."

the Napier "Daily Telegraph" says that Professor Andrews does not take his kettle seriously. From the moment of his entry on the stage he proceeds, with its assistance, to play practical jokes with the audience. One obliging gentleman lends his hat and another his handkerchief. The handkerchief is not clean, and the Professor proceeds to wash it. The kettle is lifted steaming from the hob, the hat is filled with liquid air, the handkerchief is dipped in it and comes out clean and dry, and there is nothing the matter with the hat. An india-rubber ball is placed in a cubicle, the contents of the kettle are poured on it, and in a second or two it is taken out and smashed on the floor as brittle as glass. There is nothing the matter with the cubicle. Fresh blooming flowers are given a whiff of the air, and in an instant are transformed to a state of frozen beauty. It is wonderful. The Professor proceeds to make ice-cream. He has all the ingredients ready to hand, and the cream and the sugar are boiled on liquid air and in a moment dished up cold. The audience testified that, after it was down, there was nothing the matter with the ice-cream. They could also testify that a glass of whisky after being treated by the liquid air process, was harder than the glass that held it. Freezing under the liquid air system is a matter of lightning changes. A piece of

fun, the Trinity Choir boys, the Misses Elsa Dwyer and Elsie Peerless, vocalists, and Messrs. N. G. Gehde and F. H. Stokes, pianists, also contribute to the programme. The entertainment is one which, from all accounts, should certainly be seen.

OPERA HOUSE.**FULLER'S ENTERTAINERS.**

A packed house greeted the rise of the curtain at the Opera House on Monday evening. The opening chorus by the company, entitled "At the Seaside," went splendidly, and then the Valmore Sisters led off with a double song and dance item, "The Great Big Wheel," which was well received. Mr. Fred. Stanbridge sang "Go to Sea," a good song splendidly rendered, for which he received an encore. Mr. Chas. Moody sang "I Didn't Want Asking Twice," to such good purpose that the audience recalled him vociferously, when he gave "Knick, Knock," in which the number and power of the knocks was fairly bewildering. For this he was again called out, when the "referee" was once more subjected to a terrible grumbling, which pleased the audience immensely. Miss Beatrice English was heard to full advantage in "A May Morning," her fine

West's Pictures and the Brescians brought the four weeks' season to a close on Saturday last, splendid business having been done right through. In fact, it is quite safe to assert that all records for the theatre have been broken in this respect. The company is now playing a round of the country towns, but will return to His Majesty's on October 14, when, in addition to pictures not yet exhibited, new films of local subjects and views of Rotorua will also be shown.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Hodges are giving a concert in the Choral Hall on Monday in aid of the Orphan Home, Parnell. Many of our best-known artists are giving their services in the good cause, and it is to be hoped the attendance will be large.

The Westminster Glee and Concert Party are due here on November 14. This company's last tour round the world established a world's record in respect to concert-giving. The party travelled 62,000 miles in 547 days, visited 219 towns, gave 390 performances, and made 13 sea journeys; their repertoire consisting of 19 pieces, all of which were performed from memory. It is two years since these singers were last in New Zealand, and their return will be awaited with much interest. The present combination left London in April of last year, and have just completed successful tours through South Africa, India, Burmah, and China.