

express their appreciation, but something characterised by special excellence is required before an audience is moved to cheering. That is what the audience in the theatre did when they witnessed the performance of these daring lady aerialists. The gymnastic specialties of the Brothers Artos are distinctly meritorious, and quite out of the ordinary run of triple horizontal bar work. In addition, their 'business' is clever and extremely amusing. The Miles-Stavordale quintette of musicians were enthusiastically applauded for their excellent contributions." The box plan is at Wildman and Arey's, where an extra fee of 1s is being charged for booking owing to the enormous demand for seats. A special matinee will be held on Saturday, July 11.

OPERA HOUSE.

THE WIDE WORLD PICTURES

Convinced of the great popularity of the excellent biograph films being shown at the Opera House by the World's Picture Syndicate, by the good attendances that have been attracted nightly, the management extended their month's season to another week, the closing night being on Saturday next. The new series of pictures contains some remarkably fine specimens which undoubtedly are as good, if not better, than any films ever shown in Auckland. "In Cupid's Realm" is a picture of the highest artistic merit, while "The Story of a Foundling" is another gem of the cinematographic art. Of the sentimental films, "A Redskin's Justice" and "The Love of Slaves" are two extremely fine examples. The pictures depicting motor boat racing at Monaco are of the greatest interest, the very high speeds attained by these crafts propelled by marine engines being little short of marvellous. The humorous taste is well catered for by the presenting of such amusing films as "A Would-be Hero," "Storm and Sunshine," "A Vigilant Police Commissioner" and "A Tale of a Shirt." Another splendid film is that of "A Visit to a Public Nursery." Mr Frank Crowther's orchestra renders a most enjoyable musical programme which comes in for a large share of appreciation.

THE AUCKLAND SKATING RINK.

Now we are in July, the very depth of winter so far as New Zealand is concerned. Winter suggests cold, cold suggests ice, and ice suggests skating. Well, we have no ice skating in Auckland, but there is a capital substitute in the rink. Mr. Forrest's hall in Coburg-street is certainly worth a visit, and when once the roller skates are donned, and the difficulties overcome, then the fascination of the pastime will prove irresistible. A look in at the Auckland Rink will speedily certify to the truth of the assertion. The floor is good, the skates the best, and the management quite up-to-date. Small wonder that the evening sessions, as well as the Wednesday and Saturday matinees, are well patronised.

THE LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

Mr. Fred. Elton kindly forwards me programmes of the London Alhambra and Palace Theatres. At the former the star attractions on May 4 were the Zancigs, Edouard Garceau, the spectacular ballet "Les Cloches de Corneville," "La Belle Leonora," the De Toma troupe of acrobats, L'Incognita, and Mr. Robert Hilton in "The Betrayal."

At the Palace (the finest music hall in Europe) there were Belle Davis and her Piccaninnies, Sam Eiton, the Juggling Mr. Bans, R. G. Knowles, Marion Winchester, Maud Allen, Arthur Prince and his boy Jim, and the Bioscope. It is somewhat interesting to note the prices charged for admission. These are as follows:—Boxes, £1 11s 6d to £4 4s; fauteuils, 7s 6d; stalls, 5s; box stalls (unreserved), 5s; balcony (reserved), 3s; balcony, 2s 6d; pit stalls, 2s; pit, 1s; amphitheatre, 1s; gallery, 6d.

MARK HAMBOURG.

According to the programmes he has sent to Messrs. J. and N. Tait, Australian music lovers may contemplate a rare treat when Mark Hamburg visits the different centres of the Commonwealth and New Zealand in the course of the tour upon which he embarks in Sydney next month. They are of the most varied character. In nearly all of them the brilliant young pianist indicates his love for the classics by including works by Bach, Beethoven, Handel and Mendelssohn, and

one concert will be entirely a Beethoven one, comprising the 32 variations in C Minor, the Rondo in G Major, the Polonaise and the E flat and Waldstein sonatas. In another the composers listed are Handel, Beethoven, Scarlatti, Paderewski, Henschel, Grieg, Schumann and Liszt—surely a wide enough choice, and in others Sgambati's arrangement of an air by Gluck, pieces by Bolbrooke, Gabrilowitch and York Bowen make their appearance, besides, of course, Chopin, Rubenstein, Leschetichky and Hambourg himself.

TAFFIES TO THE FORE.

As before stated, Welshmen all over Australia are already agog with interest in the touring of the Royal Welsh Male Choir, and have written in from all parts to Messrs. J. and N. Tait for particulars of the visit. Melbourne has gone even further than this, however, and last week a meeting was held (at which more Welshmen attended than had ever before been the case) to discuss the best means for entertaining their countrymen in a fit and proper manner when they visit here. All sorts and conditions of functions have been planned and evidently national pride and national hospitality are to run high during the tour.

the audience with a cold and reproachful stare. The ballroom had been brilliantly lighted, but he ordered all the electric globes to be turned off save those on one chandelier. He also insisted that the glass doors should be kept shut, and all curtains drawn. At the close a child student advanced to the platform surcharged with a magnificent laurel wreath and a presentation speech. To everybody's astonishment the pianist abruptly fled through the side door, leaving the embarrassed child to drop the wreath on the stage and beat a precipitate retreat. A few minutes later the pianist's manager issued the following statement: Paderewski never accepts flowers on the stage. There might be wires in these offerings which would prick his fingers. Besides, such tributes are unnecessary, and anyone should know it.

It is interesting to note that "The Mikado" is again being revived in London by D'Oyley Carte. On its first production in 1885 it ran for 672 nights, and had prosperous revivals in 1888, 1895, and 1896.

Leo, Jan, and Mischel Chernivski, the three Russian musicians, who have created such wonderment amongst the musical public of England by their clever performances on the piano, violin, and cello, will visit Australia in August. They have started on a tour of the world, and are



MISS EMILY HOLMES as Louisey, Mr. ADAIR as Capt. Burke, and MR. NED FORT as Robs in "The Tea Girl."

A MAMMOTH HOUSE.

Since the days of Rubenstein no pianist of any note had ever attempted to give a piano recital in the huge Albert Hall in London until Mark Hambourg did so just before his departure for Australia. From the press reports of the performance his faith in his own powers as an executant was abundantly justified. The 10,000 people who filled the immense auditorium were quite carried away by the brilliancy of the performance. "The pianist," says the "Daily Telegraph," "owing to his excellent touch, was heard even in the softest passages. He put forward a splendid programme and aroused special enthusiasm for his Chopin studies."

A SENSITIVE ARTIST.

Paderewski, on closing his American tour, during which he had played in 64 cities and harvested a quarter of a million dollars, made easily a record achievement in a season mainly distinguished by financial panic. Afterwards he played for two hours in the Plaza ballroom in the presence of New York's "Four Hundred" for the benefit of an East-side charity. The great pianist did not seem to be enjoying himself, and the company became restless as Schubert succeeded Beethoven, and Chopin swiftly followed. The ladies insisted upon audibly discussing "The Merry Widow" hats, or the latest shade of Copenhagen blue. Paderewski frequently stopped playing, turned on the stool, and surveyed

at present in South Africa, and the large houses they are drawing there have only been equalled by Paderewski. The combined ages of the three boys only total 38 years, yet their playing compares favourably with the greatest artists.

Miss Irene Ainsley, the New Zealand contralto, will begin a tour of Australia and New Zealand in July. Her first concert will be given in the Sydney Town Hall on July 13.

West's Pictures have now no less than five distinct shows going in Australia—at Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Kalgoorlie—while Adelaide will follow. They employ in all upwards of 300 people.

On July 3rd the Julius Knight Company will open in Dunedin for a brief stay.

On June 20th "Brewster's Millions" opened to an enthusiastic house in Perth, and judging by indications it seems highly probable that the Western season is going to prove quite as successful as those which attended the comedy in the Eastern States.

Mr. Roland Bottomley, the bandmaster in "Miss Hook of Holland," now being played in Australia, was a prominent boy actor. He first appeared in "Olivia" as one of the children, with Irving and Ellen Terry, and was a member of their company

for some years. He next joined Miss Vanbrugh (Mrs Bouchier), and later became a member of the companies of Mrs Kendal, Mr George Alexander, Forbes Robertson and Mrs Patrick Campbell.

Tasmania is to be visited by "The Merry-makers" this week, and early next month Messrs J. and N. Tait are sending the clever organisation to New Zealand.

The remarkable total of £2500 was earned in one year as fees for engagements by the Royal Welsh Male Choir after they had given up winning first prizes at National Risteddfods and devoted themselves to concert work.

It is not an uncommon thing for a London company to give a matinee at Brighton, 51 miles from London, and then play the same evening in the metropolis. Mrs. Langtry did it quite recently with her latest success, "A Fearful Joy."

The Melba matinee benefit for the poor of the East End of London resulted in a box office return of no less than £2000. As much as a hundred guineas was given for a box.

Here is a list of what's doing theatrically in the Commonwealth. In Sydney at His Majesty's "Mother Goose" is in the bill; at the Criterion "The Morals of Marcus;" at the Tivoli, Rickards' Company; at the Palace, West's Pictures; at the National Amphitheatre, Bain's Entertainers; at the Haymarket, "Hands Up." In Melbourne: At His Majesty's, "The Merry Widow;" at the Opera House, Rickards' Company; at the Royal, "The Belle of Mayfair;" at the Gaiety, the National Entertainers; at the Olympian, West's Pictures; the New Bijou, "A Modern Adventuress." In Adelaide: Theatre Royal, "Peter Pan"; Tivoli, Brandon-Cremer's All Star Co..

The theatre (says Mr Shorter in "The Sphere") has gone through many agonies. For generations it was wicked; to-day, the great mass of English people regard it as a sheer amusement and managers conduct it like a business. Only a very small percentage of the English people regard it as an art.

Miss Anglin is said to be one of the most brilliant young actresses on the American stage. According to the "Green Room Book," she was a pupil in the Empire Dramatic School in New York, which is run in connection with the Empire Theatre, when she attracted the attention of Charles Frohman, who immediately offered her an engagement to play the part of Madeleine West in "Shenandoah," which he was just about to send on tour. The offer was accepted, and the young actress made her first appearance in this part at the Academy of Music, New York, in 1894. Afterwards she became a member of E. H. Sothorn's, Richard Mansfield's and other companies, and in 1899 returned to Charles Frohman's management to play leading parts.

Sarah Bernhardt is giving a series of flying matinees of "La Dame aux Camelias" through the English provinces, and also at a few London and suburban theatres. The tour was to commence on Monday, June 1, at the Kennington Theatre. After visiting the Coronet Theatre on the Thursday of that week, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt travels northwards to the principal cities of England, Scotland, and Ireland. She will play in eighteen towns in as many days, which is an eloquent tribute to her indomitable energy.

On one occasion, when a play he produced at the Alexandra was hooted by the gallery, the late Alfred Dampier came to the footlights and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I can understand your indignation; but I have caught the author of the play, and if you will keep still till the performance is over I will liberate him from the side door, and you can do what you like with him." The audience enjoyed the idea, and heard the play through. The few who waited for the author were disappointed, however.

At the conclusion of their engagement with Mr Rickards, the clever Klos sisters journey to France, where an extensive season has been arranged for them. Two of the sisters have been associated in their work for 10 years, while the third has been performing with the combination for nearly five years. The Klos sisters are natives of different countries, one being born in Germany, another in Austria, and the third in Scotland.