

AN UP-TO-DATE PLAYHOUSE.

Mr. William Anderson has secured a long lease of the Victoria Theatre, Newcastle. He is starting immediately to thoroughly renovate the place, and make it one of the most up-to-date play-houses in Australia. Amongst other things he will install electric lights on the stage, and throughout the front of the theatre.

OFF TO LONDON.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson (Eugenie Duggan) leave for London by the Omrah on April 20th. They will be accompanied by Beaumont-Smith who acts as Mr. Anderson's Secretary. The return route will be via America.

AT BEAUTY'S SHRINE.

There is a "Cinderella" Club in Melbourne. It is (says "The Referee") composed of 16 young men who almost nightly take up their seats in the front stalls at the Royal, and worship at the shrine of the pretty girls in the show. Since the company opened in "Miss Hook of Holland" they have been prominent in the front stalls. They know the whole of "Cinderella" off by heart—words and music; and when William Cromwell hesitated recently during one of his lines, a dozen lusty voices from the front stalls supplied the missing word. The club included a prominent artist, a couple of well-known motorists, a rising young solicitor, two young men who come under the comprehensive category of "men of unlimited money," and others.

"SWEET KITTY BELLAIRS."

Miss Nellie Stewart who arrived in Melbourne last week is still in process of being welcomed, for her multitude of friends have not yet done calling upon her and were it not that Miss Stewart is strong minded she would find it difficult indeed to refuse all the tempting invitations to social functions that she is receiving. But "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" is her chief—one might almost say—her only concern—just now and all her energies are bent upon getting the famous comedy drama into the best possible condition for Easter Saturday.

A STRIKING COMEDY DRAMA.

Like the other Belasco piece "The Girl of the Golden West" now being played at Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" in which Nellie Stewart is to make her eagerly looked for reappearance on the Australian stage, has a very long cast, there being no fewer than 33 speaking parts in the comedy drama. For their interpretation a company has been selected that looks to be ex-

ceptionally even and well balanced. The English contingent of it includes Mr. Claude King, who has done most important work, not only in England but also in India and South Africa where his name is associated with all the latest dramatic successes of the century. Mr. Langhorne Burton, a young English actor of great promise as well as performance. Mr. Fred Moyes, a "character and heavy" who has impersonated Napoleon in "The Royal Divorce" for four years on end. Miss Rosslyn Vayne, an Austrian actress of wide experience and Miss Marjori Chard who brings to her work not only a charming style but also a beautiful presence. Misses Madeline Meredith, Nella Campbell, Harriet Trench, Messrs. Templer Powell, Harry Ashford, Conway Wingfield and a dozen others equally well known on the Australian stage are included in the company.

ROYAL COMMAND NIGHTS.

There have been no fewer than twelve Command Nights at which the King and Queen have been present during the still unfinished run of "The Merry Widow" at Daly's Theatre, London.

A GREAT RUSSIAN DRAMA.

"The French Spy" has replaced "For the Term of His Natural Life" at the King's theatre on Saturday evening next. It is the most powerful of all R. Hall Mitcheison's great Russian dramas, and will be gorgeously dressed. The cast will be the strongest Wm. Anderson has ever got together, including—Miss Eugenie Duggan, Mr. Walter Baker, Miss Frances Ross, Messrs. Edmund Duggan, Bert Bailey, Laurence Dunbar, J. H. Nunn, Temple Harrison, Max Clifton, and Miss Fanny Arris. The production will be doubly important being Miss Eugenie Duggan's farewell appearance in Melbourne prior to her departure for London.

A NEW ANDERSON COMPANY.

Wm. Anderson opens at the Theatre Royal, Adelaide, on May 1st with a specially organised Dramatic Company. Mr. Walter Baker and Miss Frances Ross have been specially engaged to head the company. "Sailor Jack," "My Partner," "The Gayest of the Gay," "For the Term of His Natural Life," and "The French Spy" will be played.

THE PLAY OF THE MOMENT.

Australian's are to have "An Englishman's Home" presented to them in a manner worthy of the interest excited by that wonderful play. Not only will it be produced here in the

WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS

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shortest time on record after its production in London—its premiere is fixed for Easter Saturday at the Sydney Theatre Royal, but before three months are passed it will be played on both sides of the Continent at once and indeed if necessary, a third company will be organised. The first named company already constituted and far on with rehearsals, is an exceptionally strong one, the management having for its organisation drawn freely upon every company under their direction, so that each part should have the very best exponent possible to procure. Mr. Priestley Morrison who is the stage director will only remain with it until it is in good working order and then he goes away to pick up the Julius Knight Company in Adelaide and rehearse them in the same play for the West Australian and New Zealand visits of that Company. Thus at one time the drama will be on the stage at the same time in Sydney and in Perth with the width of the Continent between them.

RECRUITING AT THE THEATRE.

Strong as its influence was from the very first, the present Imperial Defence crisis must have still further accentuated the excitement that has centred around Wyndham's Theatre ever since "An Englishman's Home" was produced there. The papers from London by the latest mail were still full of it. Several people in high positions had made the suggestion that it was the duty of the Government to subsidise a dozen companies or more to take it through the length and breadth of the British Isles or to come to some financial arrangement whereby the cheaper parts of the house should be thrown open to the public. Another scheme meeting with excellent results was the stationing of recruiting sergeants outside the doors of the theatre after every performance—a scheme which resulted in a most satisfactory increase in the establishment of their respective regiments.

A HUMAN PUZZLE.

One of the greatest puzzles ever offered to scientists has appeared in America in the person of a young

mechanic named Frank E. Foskett, of Orange, Massachusetts, who, according to New York papers, has mystified a big committee of trained observers with feats of "physic magic." Professor P. F. Hall, of Boston, invited to his house Professor James, who holds the chair of Philosophy at Harvard, and a number of medical men and members of the American Society of Psychical Research, to witness an exposition of Foskett's powers. All of them came away astounded by what they had seen, and stating so far as they could tell science could offer no explanation of the mysteries exhibited. At Professor Hall's house, in the ring of observers, Foskett sat in the centre of the room before a small table, and performed every feat of a Hindu fakir. He then went through the fire test. First he allowed the flames from matches to curl around his fingers. Then he held both hands over a kerosene lamp until the smoke completely blackened the chimney. The climax was reached when he poured a quart of alcohol into a basin, set it on fire, and bathed his hands in the blazing liquid for ten minutes, also spreading the flaming alcohol over his face and arms. After this performance several physicians examined Foskett, and could not find the slightest trace of a burn or blister. Foskett told them that the flames did not give him the slightest sensation of burning, and that he felt comfortably warm and pleasant—nothing more. Then he performed the greatest wonder of all—namely, that of melting into thin air before them and gradually reassuming the substance of his body again. Those present were simply spellbound with astonishment. One scientist said Foskett was "absolutely and positively dematerialised." He seemed to dissolve into thin air as we watched him. He was gone forty-one seconds, and then materialised. It was so startling that I was afraid he had lost sight of the test conditions, and we asked him to appear before us again. It seems unbelievable, but it certainly seemed so. We hardly know what to think of it." According to those present, Foskett seems in a passive state during the tests, and says he thinks of nothing in particular. Those who examined him discredit the hypnotic theory and express the belief that he has some latent "physic force" that has never been studied.

Leading Tragic Man. "Did you see how I paralysed the audience all over the house!" Stage Manager: "Yes; they knew you weren't really dead."

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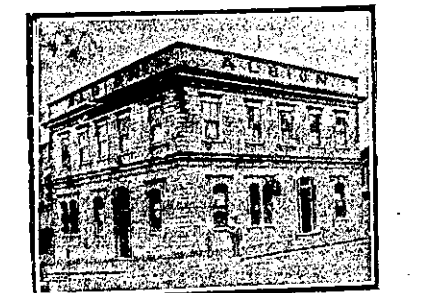


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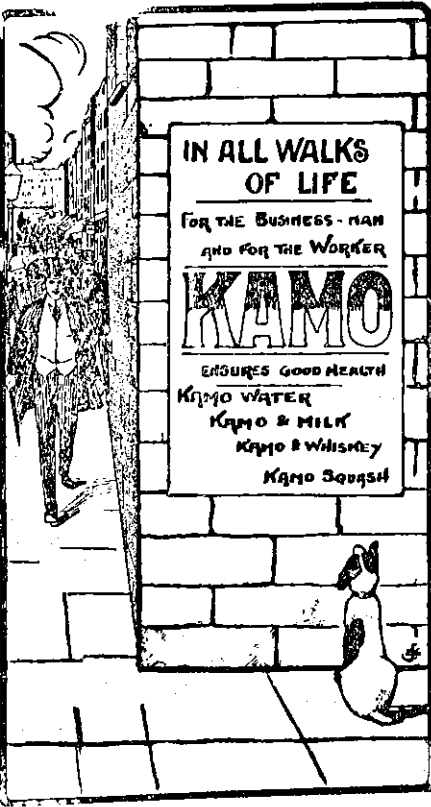
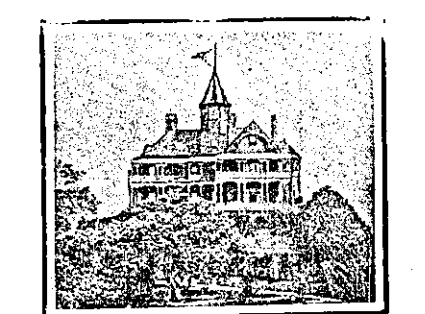
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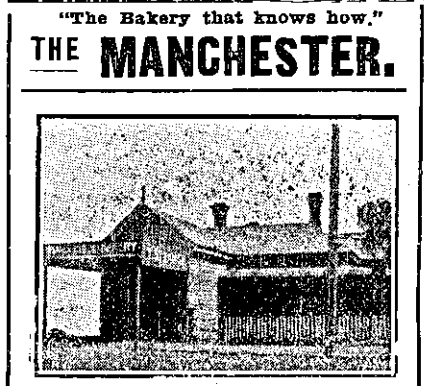
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