

ments so that the same pictures are shown nightly at both theatres. The pictures depicted upon the sheet are a first-class series, but the turn of Levario, a juggler of no mean order, is perhaps the best item on the programme. To-morrow (Friday) evening the management are holding a ballad-singing competition for ladies, and this should prove a great draw. A change of programme will be made on Saturday, when the usual matinee will be held.

WARDROBE MYSTERIES.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE POLLARDS.

To the ordinary theatre-goer who watches the production of a play, it is only the tout ensemble that troubles him at all. If the dressing and effects please his eye as a whole, that is all he cares for, and he doesn't bother twopence how much careful piecing it takes to make an harmonious whole. But to one who is permitted a peep behind the scenes, a different aspect unfolds itself, as was revealed to a representative of this journal the other morning.

Wending her way down to the lower regions of His Majesty's Theatre, by the courtesy of Mr. Fred. Duval (the touring manager), the writer thought she had fallen upon a dressmaker's establishment. No less than six sewing machines were in busy operation under the hands of as many skilful manipulators, while numbers of the Pollard girls were waiting their turn to be fitted. Soft silks, sheeny satins, rich velvet in all shades, filmy laces and Oriental braids, were in profuse abundance, ready to be converted into handsome dresses. For "Olivette" was in course of rehearsal, in view of its production for the first time by the Pollards on Saturday. So everybody — sempstresses, wardrobe mistress and girls—had to bestir themselves. It is no light matter preparing for a new play, as the "Review" representative could see. First of all, Mr. Pollard designs the dresses, and conveys his plans to the wardrobe mistress (Mrs. Aldous, the mother of those clever little dancers), and her capable assistant, (Miss McDonald). These ladies are entrusted with the work of buying. "No easy matter, either," they both remarked, "but Mr. Pollard knows what he wants. He gives us a free hand and lets us use our own discrimination. We have had a very busy week, and it's nothing but sewing and fitting now till Saturday. But every one of us, old and young, is handy with the needle." The dresses for the principals are being made at Smith and Caughey's. "They made most of the dresses for 'Bong Bong,'" said Mrs. Aldous, "and we can depend on them being just right." The third act in "Olivette" largely brings in sailor boys and girls, the dresses for which are being made in Christchurch, the same lady having made the twenty pages' suits which were so much admired in "Manola." "It's funny to see them getting into their pages' uniforms," said Mrs. Aldous. Half-a-dozen or more of them stand in a row and lace up each other's coats. They haven't any time to waste, you know."

The ladies of the wardrobe had just completed their purchase of ten velvet dresses for court purposes in the first act, purple, old gold, tomato red, champagne, and green; two of each shade, which should look very striking and effective. One dress that was half-finished was of crimson velvet, semi-trained with front panels of white satin, pointed bodice and high-Medici collar. "Olivette" calls for handsome costuming, and Mr. Pollard is sparing neither trouble or expense to carry it out. The girls all get fitted for their own particular dress, and their name is affixed to it, so that no time is wasted looking for their own, which means something when a whole group is attired alike.

Clothes seemed to strike the writer like the proverbial Six Hundred. Clothes to the right and clothes to the left, hanging up everywhere in cosmopolitan array; the peasant's dress side by side with the queen's, the page's fraternising with the courtier; quaker and ballet girl, soldier and sailor, from one end of the hemisphere to the other, all were waiting to run the gauntlet of the wardrobe ladies' alert eye and nimble needle, for "The Isle of Bong Bong" was to be played the next evening, and all clothing was called out for inspection. Fresh lace to be sewn in, rents to be mended, and everything renewed to its pristine freshness. "Yes, there's plenty to be done," said Mrs. Aldous, as the representative expressed the opinion that there was more in it than met the eye, "it will take us all the afternoon pressing the things. But don't forget to see 'Olivette.' Everything will be quite new."

Greenroom Gossip.

By "Footlights."

BENGOUGH ENTERTAINMENTS.

Mr. Bengough, the Canadian humorist and caricaturist, concluded his New Zealand season in Auckland on Monday evening, when he delighted a large audience with his clever sketches and entertaining stories.

AN ENTERTAINMENT IN HIMSELF.

Referring to George Dean, vocal comedian and entertainer, now appearing at the National Amphitheatre, Sydney, the "Newsletter" says he is the light singing comedian, par excellence, of the variety stage. He is never vulgar, is always in key, and is unerring in his choice of songs, which are interpreted with a voice of good range and quality, and to which are given an added significance by appropriate gestures and facial changes.

THE JESTERS.

Following on the success of the "Scarlet Troubadours" comes a simi-

lar company under Mr. Edward Branscombe's direction, with the title of "The Jesters." They open their season at "Arcadia," St. Kilda Esplanade, Melbourne, on Saturday, October 30. Amongst the artists are Miss Lily Fitzgerald, Miss Violet Silvester, Mr. Percy Denton, and Mr. Howard Hall, all of whom are well known in connection with the J. C. Williamson enterprises.

A RUSH FOR PLACES.

William Anderson's recent advertisement for applications for positions in his "Babes in the Woods" pantomime chorus resulted in about 2500 letters being received, with photos enclosed.

FROM THE RUNGS.

Miss Lottie Sargent, of "The King of Cadonia" Company (which opens here in December), began her stage career as a "blue devil" in Sir Henry Irving's production of "Faust" at the London Lyceum Theatre. She was a little tot at the time, and her "salary" was stated at 10s a week, but she actually got 15s, as she was given the additional work of leading on a bevy

way gangers came along the line on a trolley, and seeing a girl being dragged from a carriage by three men they jumped to the conclusion that they happened on another sensational blackmailing enterprise. Leaping off their trolley, they rushed to the assistance of the supposed distressed damsel, armed with pickaxes, and laid about them with such goodwill that all the cinematograph operators concerned have had to go into hospital for repairs.

KEPT IN THE DARK.

"Aladdin," the pantomime for this Christmas, has been receiving attention off and on ever since "Jack and Jill" was completed. The big effects have all been decided upon, and the mechanical department of the J. C. Williamson workshops are now busy with them. It has been arranged, we are told, to keep everything secret and make the enjoyment of the first night performance all the more keen by the audience being entirely in the dark as to what will come next.

AN ECHO OF DRURY LANE.

Mr. J. C. Williamson, during his visit Home, arranged with Mr. Arthur Collins, of Drury Lane Theatre, that as soon as they (Williamson Co.) have completed their present fixtures in the way of pantomime, they are to bring out one of his Drury Lane pantomimes. "It is one of the most magnificent productions of its kind in the world," said Mr. Williamson, "and we are bringing out all the scenery, costumes, and appointments complete from Drury Lane." Whilst at Milan he listened to a large number of voices, from which he selected and engaged several for an important musical venture which will shortly be made. This will include the production in English of "Madame Butterfly" and "La Boheme."

A SPORTING DRAMA.

William Anderson's latest dramatic purchase is a new and original sporting drama, entitled, "The Chance of a Lifetime." The play is by Nat Gould, the celebrated sporting writer, and another ex-Australian, Frank Gerald. Mr. Anderson was very much struck with the play when Mr. Gould read it, and purchased it without waiting to see the first production in London.

SECURED THE OPTION.

In addition to securing Walter Howard's famous romantic drama, "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," William Anderson has (writes a Melbourne correspondent) arranged with the well-known author for an option on all his new plays. At the present time Walter Howard is the leading romantic-sensational dramatist in England, and he has several companies touring the Old Country with his plays.

PERSONAL.

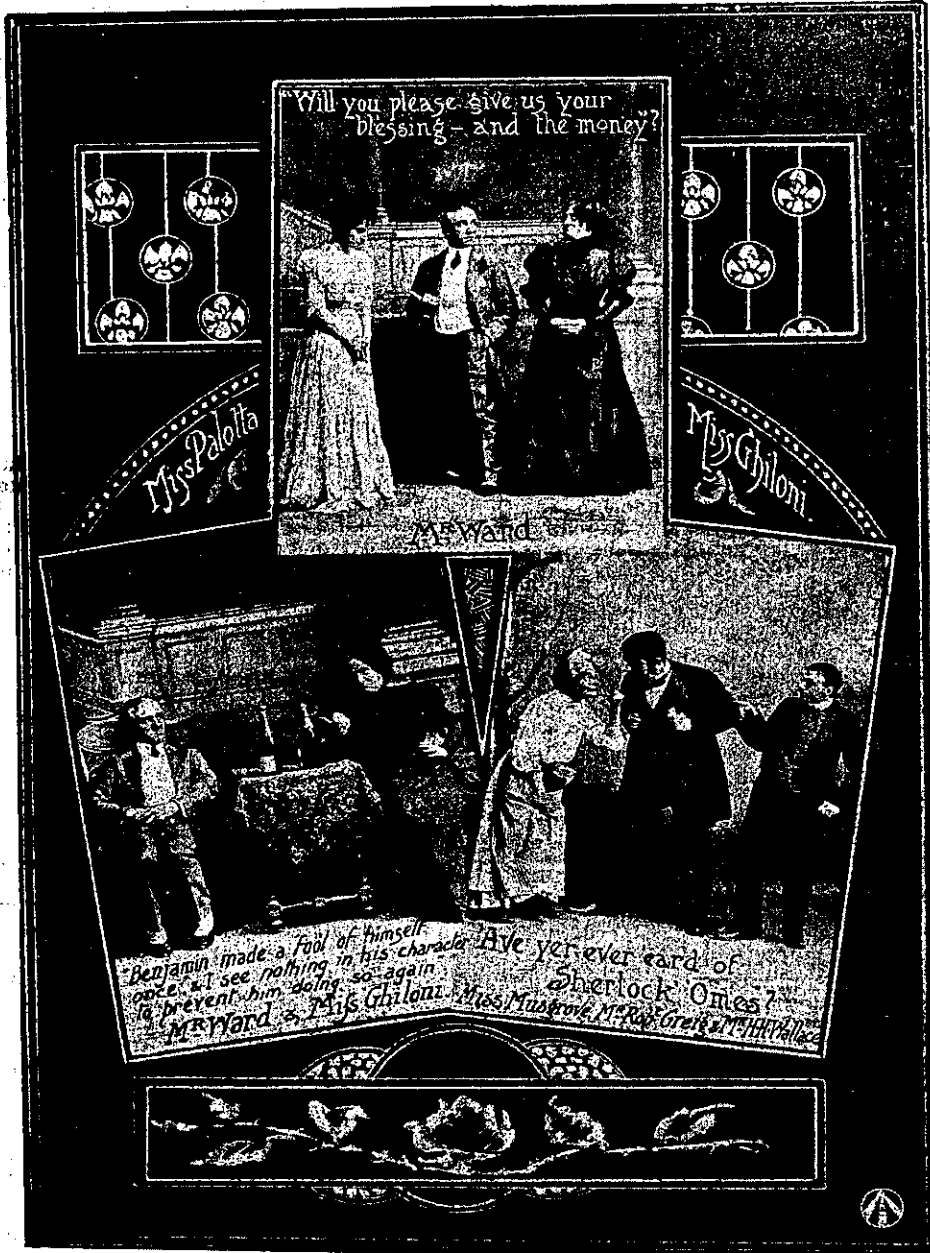
Mr. G. H. Homan Barnes, who for many years was on the managerial staff of Messrs. Clarke, Maynell and Gunn, has joined Messrs. J. and N. Tait, the well-known amusement caterers.

THE WILLIAMSON COMPANIES.

At latest advices the Royal Comic Opera Company was preparing to present "The Lady Dandies," a piece entirely new to Melbourne playgoers, at His Majesty's. The revival of "The Merry Widow" is also taking place. The cast for the latter piece, which follows "The Catch of the Season," is an interesting one. This time Miss Florence Young will be the Marsolian heiress and Miss Fanny Dango will also appear as Fi-Fi, that part having been specially recast for her. Of course Mr. Andrew Higginson will take Danilo and Mr. Victor Gourlet will be Popoff. The production will also give Mr. Claude Bantock the opportunity to reappear after his four months' absence in his old part of the Marquis de Cascada. The new comic opera company is engaged in a revival of "The Belle of New York" at His Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, and "The Country Girl" is now in rehearsal under the direction of Mr. Henry Bracy, who was responsible for the original production. Miss Nettle Stewart has concluded a very successful season in Brisbane, and opens at the Melbourne Princess' Theatre to-morrow (Friday) night. "Sweet Kitty Bellairs" and "Sweet Nell of Old Drury," which are being revived, will be followed by Zaza. The "Jack and Jill" Company, now in Perth, returns to Melbourne shortly to enter upon the rehearsal of the new pantomime "Aladdin."

DEATH OF MR. JOHN GUNN.

Mr. John Gunn, of Meynell and Gunn, theatrical managers, died suddenly at Sydney on Wednesday, from pneumonia. The late Mr. Gunn was a comparatively young man, being on



SCENES FROM "A BACHELOR'S HONEYMOON."

lar company under Mr. Edward Branscombe's direction, with the title of "The Jesters." They open their season at "Arcadia," St. Kilda Esplanade, Melbourne, on Saturday, October 30. Amongst the artists are Miss Lily Fitzgerald, Miss Violet Silvester, Mr. Percy Denton, and Mr. Howard Hall, all of whom are well known in connection with the J. C. Williamson enterprises.

SHAKESPEARE MEMORIAL THEATRE.

A cable from London states that an enthusiastic meeting, arranged by the Shakespeare Memorial Committee, was held in the Mansion House on Saturday, when it was decided to appeal to the nation for half a million sterling for the purpose of founding a national theatre. Of the total, £100,000 will be devoted to the purchase of a site, £150,000 to the erection of a building, and the remaining quarter of a million will remain as an endowment.

AS CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT.

"One of the simplest things to represent on the stage, one would think, is daylight," says an Italian named Fortuny, in the "Theatre Zietung," "and still its accomplishment has always baffled stage managers. Our daylight does not come from one

of children in one of the scenes. Miss Ellen Terry thought she looked a delicate child, and used to dose her with cod-liver oil, and she grimaces still at the remembrance. All the same, she believes this homely tonic built up her splendid constitution; for to-day she is strong, and such is her store of vitality that she has never known it give out. During the time she was one of Irving's children, Miss Sargent attended school daily, her grandmother, with whom she was brought up, having firmly stipulated that her engagement at the theatre was not to interfere in any way with her education.

CREATING A PICTURE!

The series of abductions of the children of wealthy parents have aroused the American public to such a state of suspicion that some awkward results are being experienced by people whose relations with children are quite innocent of fraudulent intent. Late on April 28th a cinematograph firm, anxious to meet the topical interest of abductions by presenting a film of moving pictures on the music halls, elaborately arranged for an abduction scene to be carried out under their photographic instruments close to the railway in New Jersey. Everything was going well when some rail-