

## GREENROOM GOSSIP.

"Barry of Ballymore," in which the Allen Doone Company open their Auckland season, is said to be set in most picturesque scenes, while the brilliant costumes of the early Georgian period help towards a successful presentation.

Mr. Frank Levy, who has come to New Zealand ahead of the Allen Doone Company, brought over with him a handsome silver cup for presentation to the Sacred Heart College, Auckland. Mr. Levy handed it over to the Brothers last week, a special gathering marking the occasion. Mr. Levy asked their acceptance on behalf of Mr. Doone, who had promised the trophy on his last visit, to be awarded as the Brothers chose. Hearty cheers were given by the students for the generous donor.

Miss Irene Brown, Julius Knight's leading lady, is on her way back to England.

At a recent performance of "The Man Who Stayed at Home" at the Royalty Theatre, London, there were present by invitation a large number of wounded soldiers from the front. "Their presence," said the "Times," "added to the electrical atmosphere that characterised the occasion, and roused the audience to a thrilling expectancy that was in keeping with the object and spirit of the play." The spy drama will be staged at Melbourne Theatre Royal on Saturday, June 5.

Cyril Mackay for the second time is appearing in a real patriotic play in Australia. The first occasion was when he played Geoffrey Smith in "An Englishman's Home." Now he is a German spy in "The Man Who Stayed at Home," at present running in Sydney. Mr. Mackay confesses that he doesn't like being a German, even in acting! "Can you imagine the feelings of an actor playing at such a time an enemy of his country?" he asked. "I can tell you, the part has caused me many conflicting emotions. It is a difficult role for an Englishman to play. One cannot get the deaths of hate that would actuate a German spy in his doings."

Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh has built a palatial theatre in Brisbane. The opening performance was given by the Tivoli "Follies," and entertainments were given both in the theatre and on the Tivoli roof garden, the artists having the unique experience of working two shows a night in one building, before different audiences. Although the roof garden accommodated 1200 and the theatre proper close on 2000, hundreds had to be turned away disappointed.

It was President Wilson who said he prefers vaudeville to the drama. "If there is a bad act at a vaudeville show," reasons he, "you can rest secure that the next one may not be so bad; but from a bad play there is no escape."

Miss Phyllis Nelson-Terry believes that it is perfectly all right to edit Shakespeare's plays to suit circumstances. "Shakespeare is far too human to be revered to the extent that one must not touch his plays," says she. "I'm sure if he were alive and a change of his lines were proposed he would hand over the blue pencil and say: 'Go as far as you like,' or Elizabethan words to the same effect."

A new American actor in the person of Mr. Hobart Cananagh is appearing under the J. C. Williamson management in Sydney. Mr. Cananagh took the place of William Harrigan as Jimmy Gilley in "Bought and Paid For" during the last few nights of the piece, after Mr. Harrigan's departure for America, and is now in "Under Cover," with Muriel Starr and Charles A. Millward.

Just before leaving London Miss Nella Webb, who is now charming Sydney Tivoli audiences, assisted in two great matinees (attended by the King and Queen) in aid of the Belgian and Red Cross funds. These were held in the Palladium and Palace Theatre. In her first week in Australia she sang at the colossal Belgian matinee at Her Majesty's, Sydney, and for a fee of £100 sang in a city business house, giving the whole of the hundred to the Belgians. "What else can you give me to do?" she now asks the organisers of charitable movements.

Mr. Walter Kirby sang at the various cafes in Sydney on Belgian Day. He sang in each case the songs which commanded the highest bids.

Film makers have struck a new lead (says an American paper). They make a movie of a wedding ceremony, with all the attendant entertainment, including the rice throwing, etc. The bride buys a reel. In after years, whenever she gets lonely, she throws the picture on the screen, and dreams it all over again.

Robert Loraine, successful as an actor, aviator, and soldier, and the man who has twice starred in the United States in George Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Man and Superman," is to be married in August to a Miss Hegenbusch, the eighteen-year-old daughter of a wealthy Dutch stock broker. Miss Hegenbusch (we have it on the authority of the "Detroit Press") is being

who ought to awaken to their duty and responsibilities and go to the front. They merely want to be awakened, and I feel sure, having seen the play in Sydney, "The Man Who Stayed at Home," will have this effect. Will 99 other citizens respond?"

It was Mr. Allen Doone's intention during his last vacation to take a business trip to England and Ireland, but owing to the unsettled state of things on the other side of the world, he had to alter his arrangements. His stay in Australasia is now indefinite, as he is booked till the end of 1915. He can look forward to a hearty welcome on his forthcoming visit to New Zealand.

Miss Connie Kyte, of the Allen Doone Company, has arrived in Auckland to prepare juvenile dancers for the opening production, "Barry of Ballymore," in which a specialty is made of the children's part.

"The Face at the Window" continues to make money for William Anderson, and is now showing itself to Sydney audiences. A "Punch" writer observes there was a time when the 'orrible owl of the loup-garou used to cause women to be carried fainting from the theatre, but in these days and nights his blood-curdling yell is received with more philosophic calm. A mere wolf doesn't terrify the world so much since it got to understand the Germans. If the choice were given between an army of loup-garous and a German invasion, an answer for telegram would probably be, "Send along the wolves." The name of the villain of the piece is still Delgado, though topical interest might suggest that it be changed to Hohenzollern. Willie Hohenzollern's face at the window would be a shuddersome thrill.

Probably the most remarkable contract in theatrical history (says the Detroit "Press") was signed by Mary Pickford with the New York Motion Picture Corporation whereby this moving picture actress is to receive a salary of 2500 dollars a week for 52 weeks, together with 50 per cent. of the proceeds from each picture after certain expenses are deducted. Miss Pickford is to select the twelve plays in which she is to appear and is to name her own directors. It is estimated that her present contract will net her £40,000 a year.



MISS EDNA KEELEY, in "The Burglar and the Lady," to be staged in Auckland during the Allen Doone season.

A movement is on foot in Australia to make some appreciative notice of Mr. Fred. N'blo's last appearance there. It has been decided by a committee of admirers that this form should come in the way of congratulatory wires from all parts of Australia and New Zealand from those who have enjoyed his work and would like to send a message before he leaves for America. Thursday, June 3, will be his final performance.

It is an interesting fact that the first appearance of Miss Amy Castles in both Sydney and Melbourne was on behalf of a charitable object. Arrangements have now been made for the commencement of Miss Castles' Australian and New Zealand concert tour.

trained as a singer. Mr. Loraine was formerly the husband of Julie Opp, now Mrs. Faversham, and for years was a London matinee idol. Shortly after his marriage he joined the English Army and fought through the Boer war, in which he gained signal honours for reckless bravery.

An ardent patriot has written to the J. C. Williamson management in Melbourne suggesting the practical use to which the spy drama "The Man Who Stayed at Home" might be put for recruiting purposes. "I for one," he wrote, "would be prepared to do my share to help. I am prepared, if 100 other citizens cooperate in a like manner, to purchase 500 tickets for the gallery and distribute them amongst young men



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