

THE STAGE

BOOKINGS.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

July 26 to 30—Williamson Bros. (Submarine Motion Picture)
July 31 to Aug. 18—Allan Wilkie's Co
Aug. 26 to Sept. 9—Allen Doone's Co.

HIS MAJESTY'S.

"MOTHER GOOSE" BOOM.

The "Mother Goose" pantomime season was concluded at His Majesty's Theatre last evening, the whole company being demonstratively farewelled. Bumper houses have been the order of every evening, and the matinees have followed the same line of success. In fact, there was every indication that the J. C. Williamson panto. could have easily pursued its joyous run for a much longer season, but arrangements made a long time ahead precluded any extension. To satisfy some demands, however, an extra performance was given yesterday afternoon, when a large number of returned soldiers were entertained. The principal boy, Miss Lillian de Venny; the principal girl, Miss Maud Fane; the irrepressible dame, Mr. Arthur Stigant, together with the supple Victor Kelly and the other clever leads were uproariously received, while the spectacular scenes and ballets met with unbounded admiration. The company leave by train to-day for Wanganui, en route to Christchurch.

the beautiful tropical gardens down in the Bahama Islands, with all their picturesque life, and the native boys, lithe, striped, brown figures, diving for coins, and so agile that they catch the coin before it touches the bottom of the sea. Other pictures show the innumerable different varieties of fish that abound in those waters, and that range all the way from the beautiful angel fish to the man-eating shark. Then comes the strangest moving picture film that the ingenuity of man has ever constructed. This takes in the journey from Nassau to San Salvador, or Watling's Island, the place where Columbus first set foot on the new world, and the trip, which is 100 miles in length, is taken way deep down below the surface of the water, through the strange garden that grows at the bottom of the sea. Nothing like it has ever been seen before. The pictures are unique, educational and marvellous! They have started and amazed scientific and educational circles throughout the world. They are playing to capacity houses everywhere.

"OFFICER 666."

Messrs. W. G. and F. H. Williams will present their second huge attraction at His Majesty's Theatre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next, when the ever popular and clever comedian Fred Niblo, supported by the late Josephine Cohan and their full original company, will ap-

made their first appearance under the Fuller regime, and met with a most appreciative reception. Mr. Tier, whose height accentuates his terpsichorean antics, made his turn a shriek all through and his quiet methods in handling over comicalities were readily approved. Miss Peggy Ross sang with distinct charm "The Long, Long Trail," and was associated with Mr. Tier in an eccentric goblin dance that evoked an insistent recall. Other newcomers were Connor and Wilt, two dapperly turned out artists, who marked their musical offering with a personality of their own. The tenor sang and played; one delivered himself of a decidedly humorous item, and both sang together agreeably, being accorded special favour. Kingsley and Graham duetted most acceptably, and closed the first portion of the programme. Bert Le Blanc's musical burlesque company took up the running in "The Gay Mrs. Cohn" and supplied frolic and fun for an hour or more to the accompaniment of hearty laughter. Mr. Le Blanc as the old millionaire Ike Cohn with a young spendthrift wife had a part in which he revelled, and with Mr. Jake Mack as Morris Levi, a shopkeeper, keen on their patronage, there were plenty of situations in the comedy line. Miss Maud Miles was well fitted in the title role, and her attractiveness was set off in some striking gowns, while her musical numbers "Men, Men, Men" and "My Pals are Calling" were charmingly rendered. Miss Nellie Fallon as Lily Cohn was a dainty little figure in her songs and dances and was a large factor in the general success of the presentation. Notably popular were "Just Bring Tulips Along" and "My Little Hong Kong Baby." Mr. Carlton Chase was conspicuously in the picture, and had a couple of good vocal numbers that were flatteringly received. Bright dressing and striking scenic effects added to the gaiety of a production that goes with vim from beginning to end.

IN PERSONAL TOUCH.

"Peg o' My Heart," which is being staged under the J. and N. Tait direction at the King's Theatre, Melbourne, made nearly a quarter of a million dollars for its author and producer during its first year in America. It was altogether a surprising result considering that the comedy-drama had only achieved a moderate success on its original presentation at Los Angeles, California. But the first season's success of the piece in America was no brief flash of prosperity, "Peg" has continued to earn enormous profits for all financially concerned in its fortunes. It ran for over 600 nights in New York, and is now well on its way to its eight hundredth performance in London. Also its Sydney season, just concluded, was extended to fourteen weeks of over a hundred performances, owing to the popular demand for seats. According to recent advices "Peg o' My Heart" was still being presented on tour by nine companies in America and six in England.

Miss Dorothy Cumming, the handsome young Australian who made good with J. C. Williamson, Ltd., in several dramatic plays, has left for America to try her luck there. Miss Bertha Ballenger, another promising Australian actress, has accompanied her.

A rather interesting fact in connection with "The Story of the Rosary," the drama J. C. Williamson, Ltd., have acquired for production in Australia, is that after a lengthy run in England, American managers awakened to the attractiveness of the drama and its money-making possibilities, and competed eagerly for the rights of production in the United States. Walter Howard received so many offers that he was able not only to pick the highest bid but to also make his own terms as regards the production. The stipulation was made

by the author that he should produce the play in America, select his own artists, and that the amount spent in putting on the play should be such as to give it an elaborate spectacular presentation. These were agreed to, and the result was an enormous success throughout America. Even Boston, the "City of Culture," welcomed "The Story of the Rosary" with packed houses.

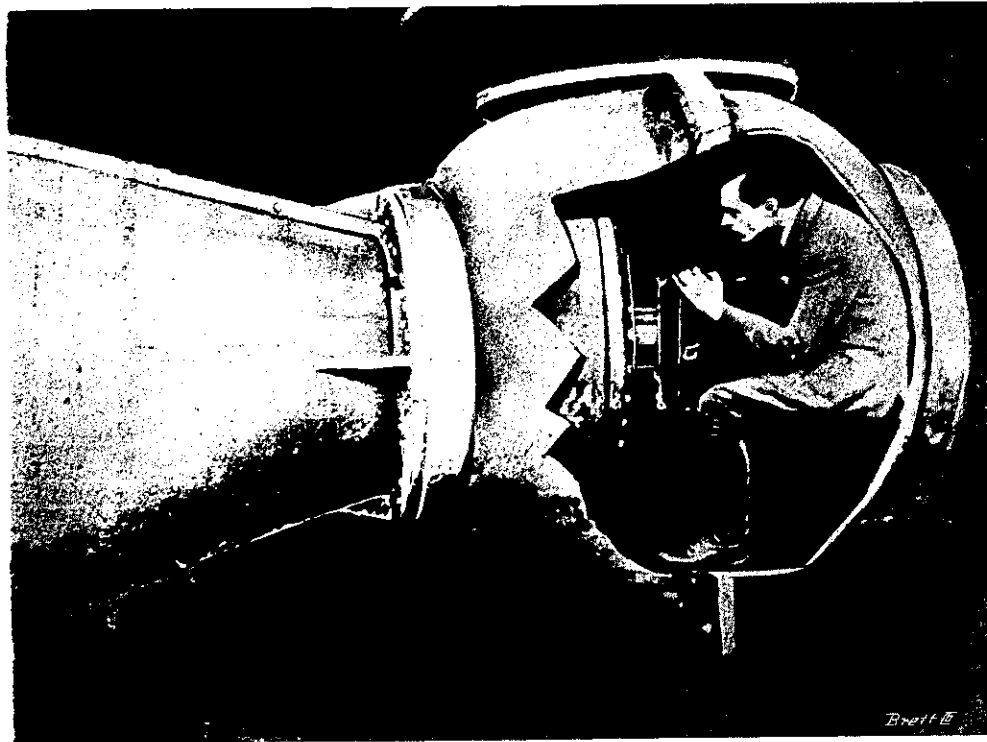
Added to her other gifts, Miss Dorothy Brunton has a remarkably retentive memory that makes the learning of a new song or role a very easy thing for her. The afternoon before the full-dress rehearsal of "Tonight's the Night" at Her Majesty's, Melbourne, Mr. Hugh J. Ward handed to Miss Brunton a new song, "Monterey," he wished included in the Gaiety piece. Miss Brunton played it over that afternoon, and fixed the ear-haunting melody firmly in her mind. That night, after the show, she learnt the words. The next morning, prior to the full-dress rehearsal, she sang it over for Victor Champion, the musical director, and when Mr. Ward asked her whether she could do the number at the rehearsal she smilingly replied that she thought so. Miss Brunton did "Monterey" without a flaw in words or melody, and at the first-night performance it was one of the sensational successes of the evening, receiving six encores. "The less I study a part the quicker I remember it," says Miss Brunton. "I generally tackle it at the last minute—say, three or four days before the final rehearsal. I never seem to have the slightest difficulty in committing it to memory, nor do I ever forget it. I find it merely a matter of mental concentration."

Carter, the magician, who played New Zealand a few years ago, is leaving the stage (so the New York "Dramatic Mirror" states) to practise law.

Mr. St. Ledger, the young pianist who first gained popularity in Sydney as a member of the Mme. Melba concert company, has volunteered for active service. He will join the A.M.C.

Paul Dufault has a number of new songs—75 to 100—which he is interpreting to Australian audiences. They include numbers by Cadman, Bruno Huhn (composer of "Invictus"), Sydney Horner, and other composers of the modern American school. He also has many fine new songs by English writers.

Mr. Harcourt Beatty is serving in France—a corporal in the Volunteer Army.



THE EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHER AND THE SUBMARINE BELL, IN WHICH THE WONDERFUL WILLIAMSON SUBMARINE MOTION PICTURES WERE CINEMATOGRAPHED. The Auckland season of these unique films will commence at His Majesty's Theatre on July 26.

WILLIAMSON'S SUBMARINE MOTION PICTURES.

Picture lovers have a rare treat in store for them in the forthcoming season, opening under the direction of Messrs. W. G. and F. H. Williams at His Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday, July 26.

"What is the bottom of the sea like?" That is the question which caused civilisation to wonder since the beginning of the ages. The Williamson Brothers have answered it. They know all about it! They've seen things that made them marvel down there in the Kingdom of Eternal Peace! They've made friends with the sharks and all the other monsters that prowl around down there: Monsters that glare right at you with big vicious eyes and jaws that could snap your head off without injuring their teeth! They are the first and only pictures ever taken at the bottom of the sea, and depict that strange, unknown noman's land that lies far below the path of the ocean liner. The making of this picture is one of the romances of science that discount all the dreams of the novelist. They are full of fascination and interest and show

pear on the screen for the first time in New Zealand in "Officer 666." Fred Niblo assumes the role of a policeman in order to watch the happenings in his millionaire home, and he revels in the amusing complications that revolve round him in "Officer 666," and succeeds in keeping the audience in a roar of laughter from start to finish of this amusing film. The management have set the prices for this stupendous attraction within the reach of all, and the box plan opens at Messrs. Wildman and Arey's on Friday next.

OPERA HOUSE.

The large audience at the Opera House on Monday night found much to divert them in the capital fare presented by the Fuller management. Two breezy entertainers in Merton and Rydon opened the first half of the bill, and set things going with a will by their happy art. Miss Hazel Morris, a bright, dashing artiste, who specialises in ragtime and coonsongs, gave the necessary emphasis to each and was generously applauded. Old Dandy favourites in Mr. Athol Tier and Miss Peggy Ross



MR. CHARLES HOWARD, who plays the Demon in "Mother Goose" pantomime, which has just concluded a phenomenally successful season in Auckland.