

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

Among the many illusions done by Horace Goldin, at present touring New Zealand under the McIntosh banner, is a vivisection feat. A girl is placed on a table and the illusionist, using a long knife, cuts off her arms and legs, or seems to do so, and throws them to an assistant. The limbless trunk and its appendages are placed in a basket and at revolver report, becomes again a whole girl.

The advisability of staging "Damaged Goods" is being discussed in Australia at present. In view of the recent revelations of the Commonwealth Commission, the time is considered opportune. The J. C. Williamson management is considering the question of production.

Mr. Harold Bowden, who was "lent" to Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh for the Dominion tour of the Tivoli Follies, will be touring manager for "Peg o' My Heart."

"Peg o' My Heart," under J. and N. Tait's direction, established a record of 111 performances at the Palace Theatre, Sydney, and is following up a similar success at the King's Theatre, Melbourne.

Miss Marie King Scott, "the country girl" who sings, dances and talks, at present touring the Dominion with the Horace Goldin combination, is right up in the front rank of vaudeville artists in America. In New York and the other big cities she has often played two and three months' engagements, and always headed the programme.

Every actress is familiar with the type of girl who wants to sway emotions of people across the footlights. Such a girl wrote to Miss Madge Maitland, who is appearing at the Auckland Opera House. After mentioning half a dozen reasons why the dazzling lights of her genius should not be obscured by parental opposition in Travers City, Mich. (U.S.A.), the writer added, as the most important of all, the fact that "everyone who knew her said she looked just like an actress." It was this statement that brought the reply from Miss Maitland: "If, as you say, your personal appearance is such that 'everyone says you look like an actress,' you are most unfortunate. The better class of players are most annoyed by having their occupation detected by the casual observer and general public. Try to overcome this misfortune while you are still young."

The members of the "Mother Goose" Pantomime Company, on departing for Sydney, presented Mr. John Farrel with a set of gold studs and sleeve-links as a token of esteem.

Miss Sara Allgood, who makes a great success in the name part of J. and N. Tait's production of "Peg o' My Heart," says the Abbey Theatre, where she learnt the rudiments of her art, has supplied a number of Irish actresses to the professional ranks. When Miss Allgood herself was recommended for the part of Peg in an English provincial tour of the comedy, J. Hartley Manners, the author and manager selected her because she was an Abbey actress. Three of Miss Allgood's old colleagues with the Irish Players—Miss Anne Coppinger, Miss Cathleen McCarthy, and Miss Bithne Magee—were each engaged to appear as Peg in various parts of the world.

"High Jinks" has just been reproduced by the J. C. Williamson management at the Adelphi, London, and a cablegram has reached the firm announcing an extraordinary success, accompanied by warmly favourable press notices. Two artists of the Australian cast, W. H. Rawlins and Gwen Hughes, appeared at the Adelphi, the former in the important role of the elderly timber merchant, J. J. Jeffries, and the latter in a small responsible part.

Report says that Mr. Charlie McMahon is going on the road again with his own company. "Lady Godiva" is to be the first venture.

Shooting from the barrel of a rifle a cruel-looking packing needle to which is attached a long and gaily coloured ribbon, through the body of an attractive young lady, is one of the tricks Horace Goldin, the Russian illusionist, proposes doing during his New Zealand tour. The needle, after having apparently gone through the lady, scores a bull's eye on the target placed behind her.

Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh was recently elected president of the N.S.W. Returned Soldiers' Association.

On four distinct occasions Horace Goldin, the Russian magician, who opens at His Majesty's, Auckland, on Saturday, September 16, has been honoured by royalty. He holds the record for "command" performances before King Edward VII., having performed before that ruler no less than four times within a space of eight days. This was away back in 1903, when the King of England was entertaining the Emperor of Germany. As a memento of that time he has a beautiful diamond pin, a large "E. VII." worked out in diamonds on a gold base, and a letter from His Majesty's Keeper of the Privy Purse, Sir D. M. Probyn. He also is the fortunate possessor of a diamond pin from King George V., and one from the Queen of Saxony, now, of course, an enemy subject. He also had the honour of mystifying the King of Siam, who takes a lively interest in magic, and who was very keen to know how certain of Goldin's tricks were performed, but as that would have been giving the game away, Goldin had politely to refuse.



MR. HAROLD GREGSON, of Auckland, who is acting as judge of music at the Dunedin competitions which opened this week. Mr. Gregson recently gave a concert in Auckland in aid of the Serbian Fund, the sum of £184 being realised.

Mr. Eric Maxon, at latest advices, was in New York, playing Lorenzo in Sir Herbert Tree's production of "The Merchant of Venice."

Miss Celia Ghiioni's husband, Mr. Ronald McPherson, has left for the front as an officer with the Reinforcements of the Pioneer Battalion.

Mr. Harold Gregson, the brilliant Auckland organist, left on Sunday for Dunedin, where he will judge the musical events at the fifteenth annual festival of the Dunedin music and elocutionary competitions, which commence on September 13. Gisborne lovers of music will learn with pleasure that Mr. Gregson will pay them a visit at the end of September, when he intends giving a number of organ recitals in that township. The well-known organist, who has given many recitals in Gisborne on previous occasions, has always been greeted with crowded attendances and keen appreciation, and is looking forward with pleasure to renewing acquaintance with a musical public.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, September 11.
Mr. Allan Wilkie must have been pleased with the reception accorded his Hamlet at the Grand Opera House last Saturday evening. It was a triumphant success, and proved Mr. Wilkie to be an actor and producer of

high repute. In fact, the performance, taking it all round, was one full of genuine merit. Throughout there was a soundness of acting that made for perfect balance. There is not space enough to do tribute to Mr. Wilkie's interpretation of the title role. It would be difficult to find a fault in such a sound performance. The pathetic figure of Ophelia was sympathetically portrayed by Miss Hunter-Watts.

Horace Goldin, the royal magician and illusionist, and his supporting vaudeville company, brought their Wellington season to a successful close on Thursday evening last. The combination is now playing overland en route to Auckland, where it is due to open at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday evening, the 16th inst.

There are some very fine turns in the programme which the Messrs. Fuller are this week presenting at His Majesty's Theatre. Amongst the most popular acts are those of Mr. Villiers Arnold and Miss Pearl Ladd, Miss Madge Maitland, Les Warton, Clement May, and the Dancing Johnstons.

The Misses Hay and Crawford, the simultaneous stepping girls, who are at present touring New Zealand with

erine Goodson, the famous pianist. She will not appear in public on her present trip.

Director Gheusi, of the Paris Comique, is declared by the London "Daily Telegraph" to have received more than one complete opera score from soldier composers. One of these, sent in anonymously, is said to be a genuine masterpiece. M. Gheusi called in a number of expert musicians to review this work, thinking it might be the work of some well-known composer, who wished to test the value of his composition solely on its merits. They were unable to "place" it in this way, but all agreed as to its high musical value.

Mr. Maurice Farkoa, the French tenor, who recently died in New York left property of the value of £5193, with net personalty £4896.

Madame Melba has presented a singing scholarship of the value of 75 guineas, tenable for two years, in Melbourne, but open to singers in New South Wales as well as in Victoria. Candidates will have to submit themselves to a preliminary examination by a nominee of Madame Melba's and the number of competitors will finally be reduced to twenty. From among these Madame Melba will select the winner of the scholarship. No special work is prescribed for competition; the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate who offers the most promise for a successful career as a public singer. The tuition will comprise singing, harmony, English diction, French, Italian, operatic class, choral class, deportment, lectures and personal instruction in the art of singing by Madame Melba.

Music in Dublin at the present time is at a standstill, and is likely to be for some considerable time. The Sinn Féin Rebellion has put an end to the Féin Civil for the present at any rate. The twentieth Festival for which there were six hundred and ninety entries (a record number), was to have been held during the second week of May but it is now quite uncertain when it will be held.

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MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Mr. Arthur Hinton, examiner for New Zealand under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, arrived in Auckland last week. He is accompanied by his wife, who is professionally known as Madame Kath-