

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

Signor A. Carpi, an Italian impresario, who is at present visiting Sydney, has engaged the Russian artists, Messrs. Mirovitch and Piastro, for a long tour of the East.

Mr. Julius Knight is appearing at Melbourne in a revival of the war play, "Under Fire." This will be followed by "A Royal Divorce" and "The Silver King."

Mrs. George Gardiner, well-known to the vaudeville stage as one of the Musical Gardiners, died suddenly in Sydney the other day. The Musical Gardiners were on tour in New Zealand a few months ago.

Gabrielle Ray, of musical comedy fame, has been engaged for "Flying Colours," the next Hippodrome revue. This will be the first appearance of this charming actress in revue.

The Steele Payne Entertainers, now on the Fuller circuit, can look back on a variety of experiences met with in travels throughout the world. The late Nazam of Hydrobad, the Maharajah of Benares, and the Rajah of Patiala are counted among their patrons, and the presents in the possession of Miss Lizzie Payne testify to the manner in which the musical family pleased the Eastern princes. In Africa the family appeared before Botha and Smuts. The eldest son of Mrs. Steele (Miss Lizzie Payne) has already been in two campaigns. He was with Botha when the African forces were clearing the Huns out of South West Africa and afterwards fought in France till he was invalided home, when he returned to his African farm.

Great success attended the first production of "Peg o' My Heart" in the New Zealand capital on the 11th inst. J. and N. Tait are very pleased with the reception accorded the remarkable comedy-drama, and expect that results during the rest of the New Zealand tour will be equally gratifying. The company appears in Auckland on October 28th, and subsequently visits Dunedin, Christchurch, Invercargill, Wanganui, Palmerston and other populous New Zealand centres. "Peg o' My Heart" returns to the Palace Theatre, Sydney, at Christmas.

There was a remarkably enthusiastic scene in the Theatre Royal, Christchurch after the fall of the curtain on "Othello," with which the highly successful season of the Allan Wilkie Shakespearean Company was brought to a close. After several recalls, Mr. Wilkie said the wonderfully successful New Zealand tour and Christchurch season of his company marked the foundation of a permanent Australasian Shakespearean Company. He and Miss Hunter-Watts would remain at the head of that company, and they would include in the repertoire practically the whole of Shakespeare's works that had been dramatised, as well as some of the old English classical plays.

Messrs J. and N. Tait have decided to engage the brilliant elocutionist, Lawrence Campbell, for a series of further recitals from "The Sentimental Bloke."

It can safely be said of Mr. Brandon-Cremer—both from the managerial and acting standpoint—that there isn't a man better equipped for the project that he has now in hand—"Sydney Theatre," referring to Mr. Cremer's dramatic venture at King's Theatre, Newton.

Eric Maxon, who came here first with H. B. Irving, and later with "Ben Hur" and "Within the Law," has gone into khaki with the Canadian forces.

Dog actors are not often seen on the legitimate stage—though often in vaudeville—but in "Peg o' My Heart" there are two canine members of the company. One is an Irish terrier, who may be said to be a comedian, and the other a toy specimen, who is an ingenue. A lively "scrap" between the two is a feature of the play.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, October 23.

The J. C. Williamson American farce-comedy company inaugurated a Dominion tour at the Grand Opera House this evening with "It Pays to

which he is president, fairly floated to all public appearance, and the inspirational title "Thirteen Soap, Unlucky for Dirt," is plastered on every window within view. Cyrus Martin is cutely handled by his son for tens of thousands, and is on the point of paying when Mary Grayson unwittingly gives the scheme away. There is hardly a thing on the level. Even the Thirteen Company's first order is faked by old Martin in pity for his son. But at the finish advertising triumphs genuinely, and soap is booked here and there by the million cases, whilst the three young adventurers draw cheques of great magnitude, and father, who never believed in advertising, supplies soap in quantities he had never dreamed of.

The farce is full of tricks, and even up to the last moments the whole fabric of impudence and boost appears only to have broken down after many narrow escapes. It introduces to New Zealand playgoers a trio of American comedians, Miss Myrtle Tannehill, Mr. Hale Hamilton and Mr. Donald Bowles. Miss Tannehill, as Mary Grayson, showed herself completely wise to some of the little stage tricks conceived by the author, and scored a distinct success. The "fat" parts in the farce belong to Mr. Hale Hamilton, as Ambrose Peale, and Mr. Donald Bowles, as Rodney Martin, and needless to say they made the best use of their opportunities. Miss

form by Mr. Bert Royle. The performances were in aid of the Countess of Liverpool's Red Cross Fund and the Blue Cross (wounded horses) Fund. The scenery, dressing and general mounting were a special feature of the performances.

The patrons of His Majesty's Theatre have nothing to grumble about in the way the Messrs. Fuller are catering to their wants. This week's programme is one of the best submitted by this enterprising management for quite a long time, and that is saying something.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Mr. Peter Dawson, the Adelaide singer, who toured New Zealand some months ago with his concert party, was at latest advices appearing at the Tivoli Theatre, Capetown.

Miss Clara Simons, the Australian soprano, has been engaged to sing in the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company during its present (the 47th) season in England.

Paul Rubens, the author of "Tonight's the night," has, it is stated, never been known to be on time for an appointment. He contracted this incorrigible habit at school, and has never since conquered it. "Tonight's the Night" will shortly be seen in New Zealand.

William Murdoch's latest move in the musical world has brought him to the front as a euphonium player. This brilliant Australian pianist learnt the instrument in order to join the band of the Brigade of Guards. At the same time Albert Sammons, a leading English violinist, enlisted with the reed section of the same military musicians, so that it was a case of fiddle to clarinet, piano to pom-pom. Mr. Murdoch, who is now a recognised exponent of Dubussy in English art circles, hails from Bendigo, and as a boy carried off 36 first prizes at important Victorian eisteddfods. He studied at the Melbourne University Conservatorium on one scholarship, and at the Royal College of Music, London, on another. At the Royal College his prize-winning proclivities were re-asserted. This besetting weakness of his student days caused him to deprive the other fellows of the gold and silver medals, the Brinsmead grand piano, and the Dannreuther prize for concerto playing.

A country correspondent writes: "We have found Desert Gold Tea very economical and at the same time a good tea." Thousands of New Zealanders enjoy the same experience.



MRS. PATRICK COLE, as she will appear in the "Bell Song" from Delibes' opera "Lakme" at Miss Cecil Hall's dance carnival at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on October 27, in aid of the Red Cross Fund.

[Photo, Nellie E. Ferner.]

Advertise," and were greeted with an audience that packed the theatre from floor to ceiling. "It Pays to Advertise" proved a winner from the start, the uproarious fun of the first act completely capturing the audience, and the smashing applause that brought the curtain up again and again at the close of the act must have been exceedingly gratifying to all concerned in the production. The plot of the farce is, in brief, that old Cyrus Martin is a hard-headed millionaire, with a son who apparently has no brains for business. Cyrus has entered into a compact with Miss Grayson, his typiste, that she shall direct any abilities the son may have into business channels. And she does it. She makes the son fall in love with her; she fires his ambition, and when the boy and the typiste are ordered from the house he goes with a promise of dislodging his father from his corner in soap. Mr. Hale Hamilton, who plays the part of Peale, assures him it is all a matter of advertisement. Why does a man eat a hen's egg in preference to a duck's egg for his breakfast? The hen advertises the laying of the egg; the duck does not. Then out goes Rodney Martin on his soap and advertisement campaign. The second act opens with Rodney's company, of

Nancye Stewart, as the fake French countess, played well. Mr. Maurice Dudley, Mr. Edwin Lester, Mr. Charles Wheeler, Mr. John de Lacey, and Mr. Leslie Victor all did fine work in their respective parts. There are several minor characters in the farce, all of which stood out well in the picture. "It Pays to Advertise" is staged in the best J. C. Williamson style.

As the Wellington season is limited to ten nights, only four performances of "It Pays to Advertise" will be given. The second production will be "The Boomerang," a comedy by Winchell Smith and Victor Mapes. The first performance in New Zealand will be given on Friday evening. The last three nights of the season will be devoted to the spicy, side-splitting farce "Twin Beds."

The New Zealand Natives' Association Band gave a very fine concert in His Majesty's Theatre on Sunday evening.

The Wellington season of the charming comedy "Peg o' My Heart" was a rare treat, and also a distinct success in every possible way.

Miss Estelle Beere and her clever pupils are to be congratulated on the two evening and matinee performances which they gave in the Grand Opera House on Friday and Saturday last of Sir J. H. Barrie's lovable child story "Peter Pan," arranged in ballet



MISS KATHLEEN ARNOLD, leading lady of the Brandon-Cremer Dramatic Company, playing at King's Theatre, Newton. Miss Arnold in private life is Mrs. Brandon-Cremer.

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