

THE STAGE

PICTURES.

HIS MAJESTY'S.

March 24-31—"Watch Your Step"
 Revue
 April 7-20—J. C. Williamson's Dramatic
 Company
 May 21-June 2—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
 June 4-11—Allen Doone
 June 13-29—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
 Sept. 24-Oct. 10—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
 In season—Brandon-Cremer Dramatic
 Co.

HIS MAJESTY'S.

"WATCH YOUR STEP!"

Considerable interest is being aroused in the forthcoming production of the revue "Watch Your Step," which opens at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday night, under the direction of Mr. Owen Cardston, organiser of the Queen Carnivals held in Auckland. The revue is in three acts, and contains seven original and attractive scenes, including a number of ballets. The company is composed of 200 performers, including the following well-known artists:—Mr. Wallace Atkinson, who has appeared before the Auckland public in numerous local productions; Mr. J. H. Davey, of Mel-

bourne, first appearance in Auckland; Messrs. Evan McCormick, K. Mynott, J. Meredith, O. James, and Misses Eva Cardston, Ethel Rae, I. Histed, and E. Walker. The revue is under the auspices of the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association and the Women's Mutual Aid Society, the object being to found a permanent home for the association in memory of those boys who have fallen at the front. For some time now Mr. Cardston has been actively rehearsing his company, and something out of the ordinary may confidently be expected.

occasion of his daughter's wedding. The maid is a professional "crook," and is engaged to Jack Duggan, another "crook." James Cluney, the bridegroom, was at one time burdened by an uncle who was a kleptomaniac and when he finds wedding presents in his pockets (put there to conceal the guilt of others) he imagines he has inherited his uncle's weakness. With Carr and Cluney both thinking each is the culprit, the fun continues at break-neck speed until in the end the real thieves are unearthed. Mr. Ronald Riley gave an excellent study of the "crook," smart in action and quick to seize on the humorous points. Miss Madge Surtees as his accomplice characterised her work with true talent, acting with quiet effectiveness. Mr. Fred. Coape did admirable work as the harassed Carr, on whom the principal burden of fun follows, and Mr. Gerald Harcourt, as Cluney, speeded up the riot. Miss Margaret Linden looked charming as the bride around whose wedding the play centres, Miss Beatrice Esmond and Miss Mildred Carlton, as her mother and sister respectively, fitting into the domestic picture. "Are You a Mason?" in which the

Grohs, one of the most remarkable trio of acrobats yet seen, their act evoking a furore of applause. The lady member does some marvellously neat hand springs. One member makes a specialty of table spinning with his feet, while the star of the party performs such incredible contortions with his body that no one wonders why he is styled the "spider man." Billy Mann, a coloured comedian, introduced himself favourably with ragtime melodies and merry patter. Miss Maud Fanning and the Elliots had their usual uproarious reception. The De Bakers presented a new set of classical poses, including "Endymion," "The Victory of Peace" (from a local statue), "Tragedy Developing Comedy," "The Joy of Life," "The Call," and "For King and Country." Baroen and Rosetti, the Belgian musicians, added merit to the bill by their high-class act.

Most successful was the Irish National concert held in the Town Hall last Saturday night. The spacious building was packed, and the programme was heartily enjoyed. The contributors were Mr. Ernest Drake, Mr. J. P. Lonergan, Mr. J. F. Monta-

AN OLD-TIME MANAGER.

THE LATE FRED. DUVAL.

The old generation of playgoers will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Fred. Duval, which occurred at the Auckland Hospital on Sunday, after a short but painful illness. Mr. Duval, who was 68 years of age, was known far and wide throughout Australasia as a theatrical manager, and his name will recall many incidents of the early days in connection with the stage. Arriving in New Zealand in 1866, he piloted the way for John Bennett at the Thames the following year, later acting as advance for such prominent artists as Johnny Hall, F. M. Bates, Hoskins, George Darrell, Steele E. Keagh and others. In 1873 he went to India on behalf of the great operatic soprano, Alice May, and ten years later he toured the East with the original Pollards. Then in turn he acted in a managerial capacity for Johnny Sheridan (1884-5), Cogill Bros. (1886-7-8), Montague Turner's Opera Company (1899-90), and Tom Pollard (1891-99). Mr. Duval was general manager for the Dix vaudeville firm for two years and a-half, and had a three years' period as manager for Mr. George Stephenson (the present manager of the Auckland Opera House), on whose account he made a visit to America to bring over a well known comedy company, which made a successful tour of Australasia. He was also advance agent for Mr. Stephenson's "Honeymoon" Company, which starred Mr. Edward Laurie and Miss May Beatty.

Recent years saw Mr. Duval on the West Coast, where he has been manager for Mr. Tom Pollard's picture enterprises, until failing health sent him up to Auckland a few weeks back, where it was hoped he would regain some of his former vigour amongst his old friends. Besides knowing the theatrical business from A to Z Mr. Duval was also an encyclopedia in racing matters, and could recall in a moment the winner of every race of importance since the early 60's, with the weights of all the horses.

At the funeral, which took place on Tuesday, representatives of the theatrical and sporting world paid their last tribute to an old comrade.

KING'S THEATRE.

"WHO KILLED JOHN WATSON?"

The change of bill at the King's Theatre, Newton, next Saturday (24th March) will have a special interest, the piece to be produced being Mr. J. Youlin Birch's original melodrama, "Who Killed John Watson?" Mr. A. Brandon-Cremer, in producing this new work, is setting an example in the encouragement of local talent which other theatrical managers might do well to follow. It is sheer nonsense to suppose that only plays with the hall-mark of London or New York upon them are likely to please New Zealand audiences. We have our own playwrights in this country, and Mr. Birch is already favourably known as one of them. Few playgoers will need to be reminded of the success of the comic operas "A Moorish Maid" and "Manuella," both of which he was the author. "Who Killed John Watson?" will reveal Mr. Birch as a dramatic writer, and it is said that he has so constructed this piece as to maintain the interest right through. In rehearsal the piece is going splendidly. The solution of the question put in the title is said to be kept back until the last moment of the play, and this is bound to cause it to be followed with tense interest. With Mr. Cremer encouraging local talent the theatre-going public may be confidently relied upon to do their share, and big houses are likely to fill the King's all the week.

Mr. Allen Doone passed through Auckland on Monday on his way to America on a brief business visit.

WHAT WOMEN SHOULD KNOW.

When making up your orders for the grocer, be sure to specify Desert Gold, the Queen of Teas. Most delicious, goes farthest, delights everybody.



"THE HOUSE OF GLASS," an eminently successful play, to be produced at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Easter Saturday, under the direction of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., featuring the great American actress Florence Rockwell as Margaret Case, Carleton Stuart as Crowley, Leslie Victor as Jimmie, Boyd Irwin as McCarroll.

company were outstandingly successful on their previous visit, is to be presented as a farewell performance to-night (Wednesday). The company then go on to Whangarei, prior to continuing their tour in the south.

OPERA HOUSE

The usual order of things prevailed at this favourite vaudeville house on Monday, when a new bill was presented. Mr. Bert La Blone and Mr. Jake Mack caught the merry mood of the audience with their quaint drolleries and absurdities as principal fun-makers in the new revue "Fuzzy Wuzzy." By any other name it would be just as bright and breezy in accordance with Mr. Blanc's line of action, and no one is worried unravelling an intricate plot. Musical numbers and dances lent gaiety to the production, Mr. Carlton Chase being responsible for the main vocal successes of the evening, while Miss Nellie Fallon, with her dainty art, leads the ballets. The quartette is a strong attraction and was in popular demand. The first part of the programme was likewise in capable hands. The headliners were Les-

gue, Miss Jessie Bartlett, Miss Eileen Madigan, Mr. J. Mackle, Master Tupp and Miss Linda Murphy. Mr. Leo Whittaker was accompanist. Mr. J. M. O'Connell, honorary secretary, was responsible for the excellent arrangements.

Miss Margaret Linden, a versatile member of the Royal Dramatic and Comedy Company, is contemplating a trip to America shortly, where she intends taking up picture work. A commanding appearance and expressive features should help her along in the movies. She has already made good in Australia in that phase of theatrical work.

The Victor Prince Company open at the Opera House next Monday. The date for the "Robinson Crusoe" pantomime has been fixed for Easter Saturday.

Miss Madge Surtees followed up her success in "Sunday" by fine studies as Betty Graham in "The Fortune Hunter" and Nell in "Stop Thief!" impressing herself on playgoers as a young actress of charm and brains who should go far in her career.

ROYAL DRAMATIC AND COMEDY COMPANY.

Two American comedies "The Fortune Hunter" and "Stop Thief!" engaged the attention of the Royal Dramatic and Comedy Company during their Auckland season, the members readily adjusting themselves to the typical quick-fire humour of the pieces. "Stop Thief!" which had its New Zealand premiere on Saturday night, concern a Mr. Carr, at one time a kleptomaniac, who is not absolutely convinced he is a "cure," when a new maid is engaged on the