

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

The New York representative of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., Mr. Walter Jordan, cabled to the firm that Miss Dorothy Brunton had made her first appearance in America in a musical play entitled "Follow the Girl," and had achieved a great success. The Australian rights of this new piece have been secured by J. C. Williamson, Ltd.

The Camille Trio, whose knock-about acrobatic specialty is one of the features of the J. C. Williamson "Dick Whittington" pantomime in Melbourne, were asked whether they ever hurt themselves by their rough-and-tumble acrobatics. "Well," replied the leader, "we get so many bruises that we no longer count them. In fact, I don't think there is any room on our bodies for more!"

The home-made "Rajah of Shivapore" is proving that an Australian production can hope to hold its own with the imported article (says a Sydney paper). Numerous changes are being introduced, although even now there is scarcely a number in the whole show that is not encoored nightly. It has now been decided that at the conclusion of the Sydney run the piece will be taken on tour to another metropolitan centre and then to New Zealand.

In "The House That Jack Built" at Sydney Royal are two children, members of one family, who are under contract to the Williamson management. Their joint incomes exceed £500 a year.

One of the vocal features of the J. C. Williamson "Dick Whittington" pantomime at Her Majesty's, Melbourne, is Miss Pauline Bindley's singing of "The Songs My Mother Sang to Me." Made up of the sweet old songs of long ago, and old-time ballads that still cling to the memory, the song is beautifully rendered by Miss Bindley, who has won success as a sweet singer of unusual brilliancy. Miss Bindley has lifted the pantomime into vocal brilliancy that few Christmas productions have previously enjoyed.

Leading Fuller artists recently appearing at the Empire, Johannesburg, were Lieut. Gordon, ventriloquist; Mankin, the Frog Man; Harry Tsuda, spherical equilibrist; St. George statutory illusion act, and Margaret Jewell, soprano.

Miss Eileen Boyd, the Australian contralto, who has returned to her native land after some years' absence, is to take one of the principal roles in a big musical show to be staged at the Tivoli, Sydney, next month.

a significant fact that Messrs. J. and N. Tait have not so far booked any dates.

The J. C. Williamson Musical Comedy Company are at present playing a highly successful season at the Grand Opera House. "You're in Love" ran for six nights, and was withdrawn on Saturday in favour of "Canary Cottage," which is to be staged for five nights. The last two nights of the season will be devoted to a revival of "So Long, Letty."

The star attraction at His Majesty's Theatre just at present is the Kennedy trio of musicians. Their performance is an outstanding feature in a very fine programme. In fact, the company at present appearing at the Fuller's popular vaudeville house is one of the best seen here for months past.

Mr. Charles M. Berkeley is now acting as touring manager for the J. C. Williamson Musical Comedy Company.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Recent musical news from America shows that the United States will now cease to be the happy hunting ground of German and Austrian artists, as it was during the first three years of the war. Fritz Kreisler, one of the greatest violinists, was wounded on the Austrian side of the Russian front, after which for some time he resumed touring in America with unabated success. At the end of November, however, there was trouble, and the violinist at once voluntarily cancelled \$9,900 dollars' worth of engagements, at the same time promising to fulfil all charity contracts without compensation. Kreisler's wife is an American, and he himself is personally popular, so that he will be allowed to devote himself to serious composition in New York. Julia Culp, a famous singer scheduled for an American tour, will not fulfil the engagement in view of the fact that her husband is one of the personal military chauffeurs of the German Emperor. On November 22nd Madame Melba made her farewell appearance in Chicago in "La Boheme," in which performance a marvellous success is attributed to Signor Crimi as Rodolfo. Two days later Madame Melba, who had been travelling incessantly, was heavily struck by falling scenery at Fort North, Texas, and was replaced in the cast by Anna Fitzu as Marguerite. This artist was declared, by her ravishing appearance, and the mixture of poetry and realism in her art, backed by a fine voice, to present the best rendering amongst young singers heard for eight years. Muratore, the French tenor, and Baklanoff (Mephisto) were in the cast. However, as regards sopranos, Madame Galli-Curci's supreme art is consistently lauded; and no doubt the Chicago Opera Company includes several great artists.



THE "MAHUTONGA" PIERROT TROUPE, consisting of New Zealand boys, mostly hailing from Auckland, who have been touring the New Zealand hospitals at Home, providing amusement for their wounded mates. They gave their opening performance at Hornchurch on October 15, 1917, and had a great reception for their bright and clever entertainment. Their names, reading from left to right, are:—Top row: Sergt. Borley, Sergt. Brand. Underneath are: Trooper Simpson, Sergt-Major Hollis, Pte. Taylor, Pte. Coales; and in front are: Pte. Ker-mode, Cpl. Ross (stage manager), Sergt. Pritchard (musical director), Pte. Leth.

Mr. Borneo Gardiner, the New Zealand whistler, was at the Palace, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, at latest advices.

J. C. Williamson, Ltd., have secured the control in Australia and New Zealand of the productions and representation of the Goldwyn Pictures Corporations of America, one of the biggest producing factors in the moving picture industry in America. The artists who will be seen on the screen under the management of the Goldwyn Corporation include Jane Cowl, who created the leading role in "Within the Law"; Maxine Elliott, who visited Australia with Nat Goodwin some years ago; Mae Marsh, who gained popularity and prominence by her performance in "The Birth of a Nation"; Madge Kennedy, who created the leading roles in "America in such comedies as "Fair and Warmer" and "Baby Mine," and others. The Goldwyn pictures include screen versions of Rex Beach's novels, including "The Silver Horde" and "The Auction Block." The deal between the Goldwyn Corporation and J. C. Williamson, Ltd., is said to be one of the biggest ever pulled off in the picture business in Australia.

CHILDREN'S RESTLESSNESS.

A feverish and fretful child is a great bother in a household and disturbs the rest of others. Narcotics and soothing syrups should be avoided. Half-teaspoonful doses of Fluenzol (1/8 and 2/6) will rapidly allay feverishness without any injurious effects whatsoever. Health authorities commend Fluenzol.

Miss Nance O'Neill has contradicted a report that she will return to Australia shortly.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, January 28. Judging from the bookings of the Grand Opera House, the playgoers of the Dominion will not be troubled with many attractions this year. So far the following dates have been booked:—Fox Pictures, 11th to 16th February; Jack Waller's company, 18th February to 4th March, with a probable extension to March 16; April 1st to the 13th, J. C. Williamson; April 27th to May 11th, J. C. Williamson; May 14th to 22nd, H. D. McIntosh (pencilled); July 11th to 20th, J. C. Williamson; October 19th to 31st, J. C. Williamson. It is

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