

THE STAGE

OPERA HOUSE.

The usual crowded house greeted Monday's change of programme, and the Fuller proprietary have reason to be satisfied with their choice of artists, the bills for the past few weeks reaching the highest vaudeville standard. Newcomers were the Campbell boys, who specialised in concertina playing, with airs ranging from ragtime melodies to the "Lost Chord," their harmony being excellent. They were also heard on quaint trumpet-shaped string instruments, which gave out sweet tones. They were accorded a very hearty reception. Sa-Hera re-appeared in her thought-reading seance, and astounded everyone with her remarkable accuracy (while blindfolded) in stating names and figures written on three blackboards by a committee of men from the audience, this part of her entertainment being most baffling and undoubtedly clever. De Car was the only other new turn, and under the style of the acrobatic waiter he performed some amazing and unexpected feats that won rounds of applause. Mr. Fred Bluett scored the main success of the evening. He has an inimitable way of handling a comic song and knows how to extract humour out of every line without ever straining after a laugh. His "One Man Band" was most amusingly characterised, while his other laugh-raisers were "Bally Bottom Button," with a humorous side-tracking on to "Golf" and "I'm a Flirt," his evidence of the latter being irresistibly droll. Brull and Hemsley in their latest sketch, "A Chemist's Shop in Ireland," introduced appropriate dancing, while a recitation by Mr. Hemsley, "When the Minister Comes to Tea," and a character study by Miss Brull of a cockney girl's visit to her sister, represented the individual items, the turn closing with a clever description of a couple catching a tram at a busy time. Miss Nellie Kollé's popularity was easily gauged, and her opening number, "Because I Long For You," written by Mr. Lew James (the versatile Hebrew comedian) and composed by him and Mr. Al Bigwood, was acclaimed with ready favour. "Little Girl" and "Back Home" were two chorus songs that were taken up with marks of approval. Miss Gwen Hasto and Mr. Walter Emerson, who are always received with special marks of favour, provided a diverting few moments—Mr. Emerson in catchy songs and his vivacious partner at the piano, while the "Lady Barber" sketch had everyone in shrieks of laughter. Victor, the Great, gave a number of interesting sleight-of-hand tricks, winding up with an effective patriotic illusion. Ward Lear, in his black-faced comicalities, also contributed to the evening's entertainment.

TOWN HALL.

THE TE KOAS.

SOLDIER ENTERTAINERS.

A unique entertainment will be given in the Town Hall Concert Chamber for a short season commencing July 2, when a party of returned soldiers, under Mr. Owen Pritchard's direction, will be seen in one of their popular concerts which did so much to lighten the tension for the boys at the French front. All the performers have been in actual fighting and were retained at the base owing to wounds or other disabilities. They gave their first show at the Salvation Army Hut at Etaples, and had a great reception. General Baden-Powell, before whom they appeared, warmly complimented Mr. Pritchard on his company, and said it was one of the best shows he had seen in France. The party had many narrow escapes. On one occasion, in May of last year, a bomb burst on a hut in which they had been playing only a quarter of an hour before, and they had to fly for their lives. Returning to New Zealand after the signing of the armistice, they gave a series of entertainments on board

which relieved the monotony considerably, and are still in happy co-operation with a view of showing to people out here the class of entertainment that served to brighten the lives of the "diggers." Mr. Pritchard has been actively rehearsing his "merry men" for the past several weeks, and the result promises to be something unusual. There are some excellent voices among the performers, while their many-sided talents are being effectively combined. There should certainly be a good rally for the "Te Koas."



MR. OWEN PRITCHARD, under whose experienced direction the Te Koa (Merry Men) party of soldier entertainers will appear at the Town Hall, Auckland, on July 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fuller and family, of Sydney, were among the passengers to arrive at Auckland by the Manuka. They are proceeding to America by the Niagara, Mr. Fuller being on the warpath for the best that the world can offer in the way of star attractions for the many Fuller activities.

A London message states that Miss Madge Titheradge (daughter of the late G. S. Titheradge) has obtained a divorce. The case was not defended. Miss Titheradge came out to Australia with Louis Waller's Company in 1913, playing in "The Butterfly on the Wheel."

Mr. Harry Dearth, the famous English baritone, will be the next attraction Messrs. J. and N. Tait are sending over to New Zealand—strikes and influenza permitting.

Miss Sylvia Breamer (it used to be spelt without an "a"), who appeared in several dramatic productions for J. C. Williamson, Ltd., before she became a motion picture star in Los Angeles, has been granted a divorce from her husband, E. W. Morrison.

At St. Anne's, Soho, Eng., the Bishop of Willesden dedicated the war-shrine of the Actors' Church Union. It bears the names of about 260 members of the profession who have fallen in the war. The Lessons were read by Mr. Ben Greet and Mr. F. Llewellyn.

Regarding the intentions of J. C. Williamson, Limited, as far as attractions for the Dominion are concerned, Mr. Bert Royle stated last week that all previous arrangements had been cancelled, and that he really did not know what the next company would be—opera, musical comedy, drama or pantomime. As the mails were so irregular, he did not know what the firm had in mind, but he had no doubt that as soon as the regular steamer traffic was resumed New Zealand would receive its full share of companies.

BRIGHTIE AND CARLYON.

Vaudeville artists who can break away from the conventional strike a welcome note with audiences who hanker after something more than the accepted style of song-cum-dance duo.

Brightie and Carlyon—Brightie is Mrs. Carlyon—are in a class of their own for unusual methods. That is one reason for their success on the Fuller circuit, let alone the fact that they have unlimited resources as entertainers. Both are well-known on the Australian stage, the former as a soubrette and her partner as one of the original Five Carlyons noted for their dancing. During their seven years' absence from Australia Brightie and Carlyon have had a wide experience at Home, with long engagements at the different music-halls in London with their present acts. "In London you can do the same turn indefinitely—that is if the audience once like it," says Miss Brightie. "But out here it is different. The audience demands frequent changes. And so one must keep alive to the requirements of the public." But she affects one style of dressing, and that never changes—the full bloomer skirt which allows plenty of freedom for dancing, and, moreover, gives just that suspicion of piquancy which is such a part of Brightie. With Bland Holt for many years—she used to be known as the child actress—she learnt everything to fit herself for a theatrical career under him—dancing, singing, deportment, etc.—and the training has stood her in good stead for the variety of parts she has played at one time and another in pantomime, musical comedy, drama and vaudeville. Mr. Carlyon, quietly effective, parries his partner's wit with sure touches and demonstrates his expertness as a disciple of terpsichore. Together they both tread the joyous measure of the dance with adroit skill and originality.

Assisting at Mr. Ernest Drake's farewell concert in Gisborne were Mrs. W. T. Drake, Miss Clarice Wood and Mr. Kennedy Black. A local paper in praise of the popular tenor said his voice at times could be heard ringing in every part of the hall, and his sympathetic and refined rendition and interpretations well merited the enthusiastic reception accorded him by the delighted audience.



BRIGHTIE AND CARLYON, diversely-talented artists who have scored a big success on the Fuller Circuit with their original work.

The death is announced by cable from London of Miss Mary Law, the well-known violinist. She was the wife of Mr. H. S. Kingdon, of the African Realty Trust, London.

Mr. Harry Tate, the English comedian, has appeared on the stage of the London Hippodrome over three thousand times.

The King and Queen visited the Globe Theatre, London, and received Miss Marie Lohr after the second act of "Victory."

Music helps drama to live. Go through the list of operas and see how many plays, even successful ones, have been saved from total oblivion because great composers set them to music, says New York "Musical Courier."

Mr. W. G. Sutton, manager of the Crystal Palace Theatre, Christchurch, has received advice that Miss Florence Scapini, the young Christchurch violinist, accompanied by her mother, has arrived in New York, and Miss Scapini has been accepted as a pupil of Professor Auer, the well-known virtuoso.

Miss Bathie Howie-Stewart (Mrs. Crofton Umbers), the clever little soubrette who made distinct hits in amateur operatic work in Dunedin and Wellington, has accepted an engagement to tour for the N.Z. Picture Supplies.