

she said, "he should be getting bigger parts than he is doing."

"Now, you're not going to interview me. We're just going to have a quiet little chat together," Miss Warwick said, as we sat sipping some delicious tea in the cosy retreat to which we had made our way. "I hate to have to answer questions, but I don't mind talking if you'll lead the way."

"You know I've not always been on the stage"—this in reply to a suggestion that the reasons influencing a choice of profession were always interesting. "I took it up as a profession and studied it as an art. I have amongst my oldest friends in England leading artists—sculptors, painters, and writers. I frequently visited their studios at Home. And it was really love of art that introduced me to the stage. I love it for the opportunities it gives me for artistic work. I prefer the good old dramas. Melodrama does not appeal to me so much, because a good deal of it is unreal and unnecessarily harrowing to the feelings. Even in 'The Cheat' it seems to me the author introduces a great deal of unnecessary suffering. Why should a young girl be made to suffer as Ethel Hardy suffers in that, for instance? A good drama is educational in its effect, and appeals to old and young alike."

Apart from a year or two on the provincial stage, Miss Ethel Warwick's experience was gained mostly on the London stage. About four years ago she went to South Africa, and on her return to England entered into an engagement to appear in Australasia under the J.C. Williamson management.

Miss Warwick finds much in New Zealand to remind her of the Home Land. "Your people and your cities are so English," she said. "I am positively amazed when I go through your towns and parks and see all the



MR. LEWIS WALLER, Jun., with "The Flag Lieutenant" Company.

pretty gardens and ornamental enclosures; they remind me so much of Home. And this was particularly the case in Christchurch. Your Auckland Domain delighted me."

"Then you like New Zealand?" suggested the interviewer.

"Like" isn't the word. "I'm charmed with it, and only wish I could see your wonderful Rotorua and the many other beauty spots of your Dominion. I am positively intoxicated with the beauty of such of your scenery as I have seen. And then the people—well, they are so very nice and kind—"

"Ah! that's another point I want to get at. How do you find our people compare with those of the Old Land?"

"Well, I can only contrast the audiences," was the thoughtful response. "On the whole, I think I prefer New Zealand audiences to Australian. They are more English. But where in England people go to the theatre, because it has become a habit with them, New Zealanders seem to fairly clamour for a popular artist. And yet I have noticed that they often seem just as anxious for the curtain to drop, so that they may catch their trams. But when, as I know many of them do, people take an hour's ride in order to see a play, it seems to me they are entitled to the very best one can give them, and so I always try to give them my best. I have been amused again and again at seeing how readily your people seize a point and appreciate a situation. And their responsive ways

are a very big help to the average artist. I have felt so thoroughly at home in New Zealand, and the people we have met here have shown us so much kindness that I shall feel I am leaving old and tried friends behind me when we return to Australia, as we must do at the close of our Auckland season. It is my first visit to New Zealand, but I hope to renew my acquaintance with it later on."

Miss Warwick would be a distinguished figure in any crowd. She is a tall, dignified woman of stately appearance, graceful features and piercing dark black eyes that, when they rest upon one, seem to have the knack of reading you through and through. But there is nothing impertinent or even inquisitive in the friendly gaze with which she so regards you. It betokens the friendly interest of a woman who believes in making life brighter and better for those with whom she comes into contact, and, if I know anything of women, I should say that Miss Warwick is one of those women who make friendships that are not easily shaken. She has no room for the purely superficial friendships of a passing hour or day. I, for one, shall be glad to renew her acquaintance whenever she comes this way again.—G.M.J.

## THE OPERA HOUSE.

### FULLER'S WIDE WORLD PICTURES

The pictorial fare provided this week by Messrs. Fuller at the Opera House has been proving a strong magnet of attraction to amusement-lovers, and this favourite palace of entertainment has been well filled nightly with appreciative patrons. Another film depicting Lord Kitchener's visit to the Commonwealth is included in this week's programme, the famous British commander being seen reviewing the nurses, cadets and veterans in Sydney. Several companies of Australian volunteers and boy scouts march past the saluting point, and Lord Kitchener appears to be greatly interested in the Commonwealth forces, particularly in the youths who have so patriotically taken up the Baden-Powell scout movement. Kitchener congratulates the nurses on their good work, and has also a kindly word for the veterans, who eye the hero of Khartoum with no little admiration. Lord Kitchener looks the ideal type of soldier, and the pleasant smile which illumines his face when he is shaking hands with a number of ladies to whom he is introduced by Australian officers, presents a striking contrast to the stern countenance he wears when war is in the air. The film enables one to make a close study of the British general, and everyone should make a point of seeing this up-to-date cinematograph picture. One of the most original films ever seen in Auckland, and one around which a good deal of curiosity gathers, is that entitled "Why Girls Leave Home!" The explanation is given in a side-splitting comedy, splendidly acted, and containing the most humorous situations. The comedy opens in a private office, where the typiste, the housemaid, and the washerwoman in turn find a circular advertising the play "Why Girls Leave Home," which is being staged at the local theatre. On acquainting their lovers of their desire to see the play, arrangements are soon made for witnessing this stirring drama. It so happens that all three decide upon the same night, and the fun commences when the trio make their exit from the house one after the other, while the master is dozing in an armchair. The scene at the theatre is greatly amusing, the plump washerwoman being seated in the gallery with her "boy," while the other two occupy seats in the dress circle and orchestral stalls respectively. The play is one of dramatic incidents, in which the hated villain, the ruined woman and the gallant hero control the emotions of the interested audience. The play, however, is only a secondary consideration to the various expressions of sadness, alarm, hate, joy, etc., pictured on the faces of the audience, the occupants of the stalls, dress circle and gallery being shown at critical moments in the acting of the tragic production. The fat woman in the gallery is a whole play in herself, her grimaces and antics as the play proceeds being indescribable. Two very fine films are shown of "Culture in Hungary" and "The Sea," the latter being a most beautiful coloured picture. "In the Watches of the Night" and "The Patriot's Daughter" are two dramatic films of considerable merit, which both appeal strongly to the audience. "An Indian Runner's

Romance" is the title of a powerful story, depicting an Indian's victory over three American miner renegades. The fun portion of the programme is supplied in the films, "To Win the Carnegie Prize," "A Surgical Operation" and "The Biter Bit," all three of which cause a prolonged ripple of merriment. Mr. E. J. Burke's orchestra, as usual, renders a most enjoyable musical programme as an accompaniment to the pictorial entertainment.

## ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

### PATHE PICTURES.

An entirely new programme of pictures was presented at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday evening. A most exciting and thrilling dramatic film is "A Modern Highwayman," and was well received by the audience. Two other splendid dramatic stories are told in "The Hazards of Life" and "A Girl's Cross Roads." The scenic pictures are good, and include "Micycle Channel" and "Beautiful Borneo," the last-named being particularly good. "Billikin," a great comedy drama, finds favour with the audience, while hearty laughter is the result of showing "Who Wins My Heart?" "Uncle Learns Hypnotism," and "Macaroni Soup." The same programme will be shown nightly till Wednesday next, when the usual change will be made.

## TIVOLI THEATRE.

### CYCLERINA RACES.

The cyclerina races have proved a great attraction during the past week, and there was a fair attendance present on Tuesday evening to witness the final between H. Flewellyn and Stewart. The distance was two miles, and the scratch man (Flewellyn) caught his opponent at the end of a mile and a-half, and won easily in 3min. dead. Besides the cyclerina races, an excellent budget of pictures was shown. On Wednesday evening another change of programme was presented, the star picture being "Under the Flag."

## Greenroom Gossip.

### BOOKINGS AT HIS MAJESTY'S.

"Carter the Magician" is booked to appear at His Majesty's on Monday, February 21st; Harry Rickards' new Vaudeville Company will hold the boards from March 14 to 24, and on Easter Saturday (March 26) the Marlow Dramatic Company will make its appearance here. Miss Amy Castles is due on April 18th, and will hold the theatre until the 23rd, another of Mr. Williamson's companies arriving on April 28 and remaining until May 14. Allan Hamilton has the dates between May 16 and 29, Meynell and Gunn from May 30 to June 18, J. C. Williamson from June 20 to July 6, Meynell and Gunn from July 7 to 16, Hugh J. Ward from July 18 to 31, and J. C. Williamson again from August 1 to August 13, and from September 5 to 24. Other dates are held by the Auckland Boxing Association (September 1 to 3), by Allan Hamilton (from September 26 to October 19), and by Fred. Graham from October 20 to November 4.

### AVIATION ON THE STAGE.

Aviation receives its first recognition in comic opera in "The Arcadians," to be presented in Melbourne at Easter by Clarke and Meynell's New Comic Opera Company. The principal comedian—in the person of Mr. William Cromwell—makes his entrance in an airship, from which he is flung on to the island of Arcadia, and finds himself in a new world, in which he is the only commonplace mortal.

### THE NEW PANTOMIME.

The "Aladdin" pantomime has (writes a Melbourne correspondent) undoubtedly caught the taste of the Melbourne playgoing public in an exceptional degree, and though it is now in the fourth week of its run at Her Majesty's Theatre, the returns show no signs of a falling off. Indeed, it is remarkable with this production that the week-night receipts are very little behind the Saturday nights' takings, which are, as a rule, expected to be much bigger than those of the ordinary nights. Last week two of the week-night performances brought in returns which capped the Saturday night previous. This fact simply

shows that the new J. C. Williamson pantomime is more than holding its own with the previous Xmas successes under the same management.

### A CRICKET ENTHUSIAST.

Since she came to Australia, Miss Lily Iris, the popular principal boy in the "Aladdin" pantomime, has become a cricket enthusiast. She paid her first visit to any cricket match when the South Australians were playing the Victorians, and the former team, at the close of the match in which, of course, they were defeated, made her a present of the ball which played such havoc with their wickets, and on it were inscribed all their signatures. Later on, during the progress of the match between South Australia and New South Wales, Miss Iris eagerly scanned the paper each day for news of the play, and when the final result was made known she was delighted.

### MAORI POI DANCERS IN SYDNEY.

Maggie Papakura and her tribe continue to add to the gaiety of stations (the tram and ferry variety) with their bright headgear and native mat outfits, (says the Sydney "Bulletin"). The silk handkerchiefs that tie the heavy hair of the women and girls are of that eye-arresting hue that you see on the rind of the Dutch cheese—magenta, as near as one may name it. The Maoris are giving good performances of poi and other dances at Clontarf, and a little Austral-Maori, a recent arrival, was baptised a few Sundays ago with considerable pride and circumstance.

### A TALENTED NEW ZEALANDER.

Maoriand will (says a Sydney paper) get a fine advt. from its young pianist, Magnus Laing Meason, who went to Europe some years ago to study. Magnus, who was about 7ft. long at the age of 17 and has a wonderful mat of beautiful red hair, is being violently pursued by an amorous, clamorous foreign countess, who followed him from Vienna to London and tried to steal him. His life is made miserable by her affection. As the Irish-American policeman said to Kubelik, when the violinist appealed to him to keep off the girls who were crowding to kiss him: "Young man, you don't know your luck." The London Daily Mirror gives a portrait of Mr. de Laing (the name he plays with) getting into his carriage. Presumably the titled villainess is hard on his tracks.

### "THE BACHELOR'S HONEYMOON."

Judging from the following, Mr. Hugh J. Ward and his talented company are going the pace in Sydney as strongly as ever:—Tenders will be received by The Bulletin until noon on Tuesday, January 32, 20,375, for—(a) something new to remark about "A Bachelor's Honeymoon" (still appearing at Sydney Palace); and (b) supply and delivery of information to The Bulletin dry goods stores as to whether Hugh J. Ward is going to keep the durned piece running for ever; also (c) the repair of one rib broken by the Poetry Editor while laughing (bitterly) at the Kitchener verse in the "Find The Man" song; likewise (d) the re-erection of the affections of the Beauty Contributor damaged by the Twin on the port side of the "Honeymoon"; and finally (e) the supply and delivery of the address of the girl who sat next to the Religious Editor last night in the stalls and declared that Grace Palotta was a bold hussy in her Grecian costume. Tenders for (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), must be in accordance with plans and specifications to be seen at the Blue Anchor Hotel—the usual 10 per cent. conditions—the drunkest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Personal canvass of any of The Bulletin's bar ladies will result in such tenders and bar lady being absolutely disqualified.

### "THE BESSES O' TH' BARN."

According to Mr. Nevin Tait, of Messrs. J. and N. Tait, who has just returned from England via South Africa, the Besses o' th' Barn band will prove as great a success during its forthcoming reappearance in New Zealand and Australia as it was on its former visit to Australasia. Mr. Tait bases his prediction on the fact that the "Besses" made such a phenomenal "hit" in South Africa, and thinks he is justified in accepting their successes as the best of auguries for the result of their tour in this part of the world. Mr. Tait is equally confident on the possibilities of Madame Calve achieving a success in Australia. She cannot fall to appeal to music-loving Australians, Mr. Tait remarked, and will prove to be a revelation not less by