SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, September 25. Don't miss seeing "The Gay Gordons" when they come to your city! Catchy music, dainty dancers, clever singers, and real funny comedians, the piece can't help but go with a swing. The opportunities for spectacular effect are numerous. A regiment of gallant Gordons, troops of female Highlanders, and assemblies of extravagantly attired society ladies make a display that is attractive and imposing. There are but two distinct scenes, one representing the Highlands on the 12th, and the other the tent in the gardens of Meltrose Castle. Each, however, is master of detail, and furnishes a pleasing setting for the unfolding of the story.

Sergeant Brue" is another chef d'ouvre served by this talented company, and is to be put on the boards Wednesday. The plot revolves round a London policeman, and the fun is said to wax fast and furious. The libretto is smart, and the music tuneful and vivacious, so Welling-tonians are looking forward to another good thing.

Did you know that the queue system has been abolished in Sydney, and the long line of waiting play-goers is no longer a street feature, the "moveon" regulations having been enforced.

Vaudeville is to be remodelled at the Theatre Royal, and the "first part" —that magic circle which has been traditionally associated with vaudeville, is to be no more. A good move too! New times, new manners. For with the large number of specialty acts that the management with characteristic energy arrange for the public, a programme is formed in itself. Mounier and Franz, Vernon and Mack, and Sam-la-Mert are headliners this week.

"Ay, mon, it's a great comic, but it's vera lang," said a robust Scot as he lay back in his seat and bubbled over with merriment at the comedian over with merriment at the comentary in the last act of "The Gay Gordons." "So it ought tae be for five shellin's," said his canny friend, as he opened wider his eyes and ears so that he should get his full money's worth.

Entries are coming in well for the New Zealand Competitions Society's Festival next month. Competitors are coming from all parts of the Do-minion, and the gathering promises to be a record one.



GROUP OF ENGLISH SHOW-GIRLS IN "THE GAY GORDONS," OPENING AT HIS MAJESTY'S ON NOVEMBER 10.

AUSTRALIAN HAPPENINGS.

(From Our Sydney and Melbourne Correspondents)

Melbourne Opera lovers are not losing any time or taking risks with regard to their chances of obtaining seats for the Melba Grand Opera season. Applications are pouring in, though no announcement has been made regarding the opening date or the booking arrangements. So keen is the interest being taken in this event, however, that the applications for seats cover not only the first night productions but many other performances. One enthusiast has booked seats for every night of the season and enclosed his cheque "to

make sure of getting them," as he puts it. Another patron asked for seats for the entire season to the number of eighty. There is every number of eighty. There is every indication that the Melba season of Grand Opera in Melbourne will put up something startling in the way of Australian theatrical records.

After what might be called his "straight" performance in "Hamlet," Sydney audiences were amazed at Mr. H. B. Irving's remarkable character acting in two roles in "The Lyon's Mail." All Sydney talked about it and after seeing it, went to see it again. "He revealed himself in a new light," said a Sydney paper, "that of an actor of great personal resource versatility. extraordinary

seemed hardly credible that the man who one moment personated the generous, sensitive, high-minded Lesurques, should be able, almost in the next instant, to identify himself whoily with the saturnine Dubose, callous and coldly cruel—a human wolf. No one save an actor of the highest ability and intellectual dis-cernment could hope to successfully undertake these two personalitieswidely apart as they are. To say that Mr. Irving succeeds is but to mildly express the measure of his remarkable and memorable perform-

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