

Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton have arrived in Melbourne. The rehearsals of "Kismet" will commence immediately.

Mrs. J. C. Williamson was welcomed home at a reception held at the Hotel Australia, the Lady Mayoress and Mrs. Hugh Ward assisting to receive the guests.

So important a factor is stage lighting in the production of "The Blue Bird," that the J. C. Williamson management has undertaken an outlay of just upon £1000 in improving the electric installation at the Criterion Theatre, Sydney, where Maeterlinck's fairy play will have its Australian premiere on April 6.

Mr George Marlow and Miss Ethel Buckley (Mrs Marlow) leave for England next month on a six months' visit. They intend to look out for new attractions in England, Europe and America.

The Walter Baker-Francis Ross Dramatic Organisation, which has won great popularity in Sydney, will open a two months' season at the King's Theatre, Melbourne, on Easter Saturday, under the direction of Mr William Anderson. They will present a selected repertoire of pieces, including some entirely new dramas.

Thus Andrew Carnegie on the theatre: The theatre has come to stay and it evolves upon us all to avail ourselves of its tremendous power for good. The best way for good people to aid and improve the theatre is to patronise it.

Mr Julius Knight has been engaged as leading man for the Repertory Theatre, Manchester, England.

"Mr Oscar Asche (says the London 'Times') now stands in the very front rank of stage managers and play producers. We have had, indeed, an

uneasy suspicion for some time past that in certain respects of stage-mounting we were drifting behind Germany. This is no longer the case. We stand as ever at the head."

A week or so ago the management of J. C. Williamson Ltd., wrote to the mothers of three Sydney children, of whose ability much is known, asking them to bring the youngsters in next morning for the "Blue Bird" production. The three mothers evidently passed the word around, for next morning the lane beside the Theatre Royal was crowded with women and children.

There will be some strange features about the Asche-Brayton production of "Kismet" at Melbourne Theatre Royal that will appeal to lovers of the picturesque, novel, and bizarre. Prior to the rise of the curtain, a story teller in the Old Eastern fashion, will make his appearance and outline to the audience the story of Hajj, the Beggar, and his beautiful daughter, Marsinah, who dwelt in Baghdad a thousand years.

"Driving a Girl to Destruction" will replace "The Luck of Roaring Camp" on Monday evening, and will hold the boards at His Majesty's until the present popular Marlow season concludes on Thursday next.

The enterprising firm of Messrs George Marlow, Ltd., have recently secured the Australasian rights of the three remarkable Drury Lane successes that have created such a sensation in the Old Country, namely, "Sins of Society," "The Hope," and "The Marriages of Mayfair." These will probably make up the repertoire of the next company the firm of Marlow's will send through New Zealand.

Mr Stanley Grant, who managed the New Zealand tour of the Allen Doone Company, was the recipient of a very handsome travelling case from Mr Allen Doone on the eve of the popular Irish actor's departure for Australia. The presentation was given as a token of Mr Doone's appreciation of Mr Grant's managerial abilities and personal goodwill. Mr

Albert Myers, who acted as treasurer for the company, was also presented by Mr Doone with a solid gold match box.

General regret will be expressed in Auckland at the death of Mr Jesse Worrall, which occurred on Tuesday evening. Mr Worrall was one of the original members of the Orphans' and Savage Clubs, besides being associated with the Liedertafel and Choral Society.

GREENROOM GOSSIP.

Scenes in "Everywoman."

"Everywoman" is as costly as a pantomime to stage. There is a cast of extraordinary length, crowds of men and pretty girls and most expensive frocking.

A Costly Production.

For the production of "The Blue Bird," the J. C. Williamson Easter attraction in Sydney at the Criterion Theatre, the firm have the advantage of the ideas of the various producers of the play, as staged in London, New

tion from the most famous halls of England, and has also been an entertainer of long standing in the English concert world. He is the possessor of many original musical numbers and novelties, which are only performed by the English Pierrots, whose programmes includes: monologues, piano-forte recitals, musical sketches, instrumental novelties—all entirely new to New Zealand.

Jansen, the Magician.

Artemus Ward once announced in big type, that he had appeared "before all the crowned heads of Europe" and then added in microscopic type— "ever thought of appearing." Jansen, the famous transformist, has a wide circle of royal acquaintances, though like a true American, he doesn't give himself airs about it. "While in Pekin (he told a reporter) I played to the boy Emperor of China. Just like any other child he was tickled to death when I presented him with two tiny rabbits, which a moment before, I had taken from a mandarin's pocket. Our season in the Orient was very successful, but we are glad to reach New Zealand, which, as far as I can see, is just like the United States." During his world's tour he was requested to call at the palace of the



The Character of "Nobody" in the Morality play "Everywoman," to be staged at His Majesty's Theatre on Easter Monday.

York, and other centres. The London version, however, will be the one adopted. It is interesting to note that the scenery for this was designed by Joseph Harker, the painter of the Asche-Brayton scenery, whose work will, on the same night (April 6), be seen in Melbourne in "Kismet." To have produced "The Blue Bird" direct from the script—that is creating everything in its entirety to make up the play—would have entailed an expenditure of over £10,000. As it is, over £5000 will be spent before the curtain goes up.

The English Pierrots.

Amongst the many attractions which will be introduced to the Dominion during the present year, will be the original English Pierrots, who made marked impression on the music loving public of Wellington during the run of the Industrial Exhibition there last year. This brilliant company of nine performers have been in existence for the past eight years, giving regular seasons at the Pavilion, St. Kilda, Victoria, where the name of English Pierrots has become a household word. The combination are under the direction of Messrs W. and H. Thomas and Maynard Dakin. Mr Dakin is the comedian of the company, with which he has been associated for many years, and comes with a great reputa-

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