

ganui, 21-23; Dannevirke, 24; Hastings, 25; Napier, 26, 27; Marton, 28; Hawera, 30; Eltham, October 1; Stratford, 2; New Plymouth, 3. The Auckland season opens on October 5, for ten days.

The Oscar Asche Season.

The New Zealand tour of the Oscar Asche-Lily Brayton company opens at Auckland on Monday night, September 16. The initial production will be "Kismet," staged on exactly the same scale as in Sydney and Melbourne. An immense amount of interest is being taken in the Dominion in the visit of this big attraction.

An Alluring Opera.

"Nightbirds," staged by the J. C. Williamson New Comic Opera Company in Brisbane, put up an absolute record for that city. All Brisbane raved over it, and packed His Majesty's Theatre every night. This alluring opera will be seen in Melbourne on Derby night.

"Taming of the Shrew."

Playgoers will see the identical production of the "Taming of the Shrew," by Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton, which ran in London for over 500 nights—a record run for Shakesperian plays. "Never at any time," says Mr. Asche, "have we failed to draw full houses with 'The Taming of the Shrew,' no matter what the theatre or the season it happened to be." In this play the company will be seen at its best, for each member of the cast was specially picked for his or her part.

The Harem Scene in "Kismet."

No less than eighty applications were received from ladies who described themselves as expert swimmers and divers, offering themselves to play the part of the harem lady, who dives into the bath in the harem scene in "Kismet." This is the scene to which the English Censor took exception after the play had run for eight months in London. The lady is clad in fleshings, and as the curtain rises she is seen to dive into the water and swim about. The Censor asked that the lady be provided with more covering; so she was given a piece of draping, and his conscience was satisfied. Already arrangements have been made to heat the water for the Auckland production.

The Competitions.

The Auckland competitions were successfully concluded on Saturday night by a big demonstration concert, featured by first prize winners. The contributors included Misses Ina Bosworth, Seccombe, Jessop, M. Mitchell (winner of the solo pianist recital), Bartlett, Fenton, L. Gardner, Major, G. Evans, Grey, Spargo, C. Whitburn, Mrs. Tate, Mrs. Dreaver, Messrs. Ripley, M. Orchard, Pritchard, Walter, H. Jones, A. Bailey, McCormick, J. C. Bell, and E. Casey. In the course of the evening the winners of the premierships medals were announced as follows:—Premier lady vocalist: Miss Gwennyth Evans (Devonport). Premier gentleman vocalist: Mr. A. H. Ripley (Newton). Premier lady elocutionist: Mrs. J. Tate (Mount Roskill). Premier gentleman elocutionist: Mr. J. Culford Bell (Wellington).



MISS RITA SULLIVAN, The accompanist for the "Royal Follies," opening in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on Monday next.

The Last of the Dandies.

The "Dandies" bade farewell to Auckland on Saturday night after a mutually pleasant acquaintance of nearly eight weeks. The Concert Chamber was packed in every part, and proceedings were of a most enthusiastic nature. Misses Evelyn Ward, Hilda Lane, de Vere, Messrs. Claude Dampier, Peacock, Wood and Morgan gave their most popular items and were recalled every time. Bouquets to the ladies, and tokens to the male members testified to admirers in the audience, and Mr. Dampier made a happy little speech on behalf of the company. The "Dandies" proceed to Wellington, playing several towns en route. They can depend on a hearty welcome if their lot is cast in Auckland again.

Paul Dufault.

In Mr. Paul Dufault, the tenor of the Cisneros Concert Company, Auckland music lovers are to be introduced to a tenor of the foremost rank. If the critics of Melbourne Sydney and Adelaide are to be believed, he is the finest concert tenor that has yet been heard in Australia. The reason is not far to seek. Combined with an attractive personality Mr. Dufault has a voice of great power and sweetness, which in some songs rings out like a trumpet, in others is employed in the most delightful mezzo-voice singing.



MISS AUDREY HAZEL, The Singing Comedienne with the "Royal Follies."

Mr. James Liebling.

Not the least distinguished member of the Cisneros Concert Party is Mr. James Liebling the 'cellist, who was acclaimed by the Australian Press as the equal of the great Gerardy, who visited us some years ago. He has refined and noble tone and plays with a splendid artistic reserve. A delightful feature of the concerts is the sympathetic way in which he plays 'cello obligatos to several of Madame de Cisneros' numbers.

A Long Run.

"Kismet" ran for 12 months in London, and it had to be withdrawn on account of the agreement entered into by Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton to visit Australia.

As Americans see Her.

The New York "Dramatic Mirror," to hand by the last mail, thus pithily summed up "The Quaker Girl," which has proved one of the biggest musical comedy successes ever staged in that city:—"The Quaker Girl" is a winner, and one of the few of the kind that have come across the

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