



THE STAGE

AUCKLAND FIXTURES.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

May 31—Beebe's Vaudeville Company.
 June 9-25—George Marlow's Dramatic Company "The Monk and the Woman."
 June 26-July 5—"Puss in Boots" Pantomime (J. C. Williamson, Ltd.)
 Sept. 8-29—Royal Comic Opera Company (J. C. Williamson, Ltd.)
 Oct. 22-Nov. 1—"Milestones" and "Bella Donna" (J. C. Williamson, Ltd.).

TOWN HALL.

March 28—"The Smart Set" Costume Comedy Company.

PICTURE SHOWS.

Queen's Theatre (Continuous).

OPERA HOUSE.

Fuller's Vaudeville

OPERA HOUSE.

OLD AND NEW FAVOURITES.

Packed houses are the order of the evening at the Opera House, and that the vaudeville bill of fare submitted by the Brennan-Fuller proprietary meets with approbation, is manifest by the generous applause meted out to the artistes, both old and new. Prominent amongst the newcomers this week is Murphy, the Yankee juggler, who departs from the stereotyped custom of silent juggling, and punctuates his dexterous balancing acts with monologues that prove as diverting as they are novel. With a quaint humour of his own, the juggler-comedian invests his dual turn with an originality that tickles the audience hugely, and earns for him deafening applause. Those old-time Pollard favourites, Harry and Nelly Quealy, are back again after some years' absence, and are adding to their popularity in an amusing sketch entitled "Fun in the Kitchen." With a song or two, a dance (in which Mrs. Quealy excels) and characteristic funnyisms, the pair succeed in putting everyone in high good humour, which culminates in a regular hysteria of laughter when the couple wind up with their boxing match. Mrs. Quealy proves herself no mean exponent of the pugilistic art, and delivers some blows that would do credit to a "white hope." And it was flattering to the lady that Harry Quealy's invitation to the audience to take his place, was not accepted! That their turn meets with hearty applause goes without saying. That exponent of refined work, Miss Violet Carmen, is charming all with her dainty interpretations, which are enhanced with the sympathetic playing of her composer-pianist, Mr. Alf. J. Lawrence. These finished artistes give a cultured turn that indicates the new era of vaudeville. One of their features this week is Mr. Lawrence's song, "Come down the Wanganui," which promises to make a hit with the topical words and haunting refrain. It could have no more winsome exploiter than Miss Violet Carmen. Miss Gertie Johns sings and dances again to the accompaniment of general satisfaction, and meets with the usual penalty. A new artiste, manifestly in high favour, is Monty Walker, the breezy Lancashire comedian, whose songs and jokes are seasoned with traditional vaudevilian spice and win a triple recall. Last, but by no means least, in the head line section come the Stagpools, who provide a fitting finale to a bright entertainment. "Potted Pantomime" is the subject of their sketch, and the fun waxes fast and furious, the outstanding feature being Mr. Ted Stagpole's amazing comedy-acrobatic feats, which bring down the house. In addition, the sketch is a study in lighting effects, and is an innovation in vaudeville work. But the Stagpools are nothing if not enterprising. A storm at sea, a beach scene, and surf bathing by the quartette are realistically represented, and add another triumph to the progress of vaudeville in general and the Stagpools in particular.

The Crimson Ramblers are in their last week, and are making good their claims to popularity with a refreshing budget of songs and choruses, one of the best items being a humorous and melodious sketch, "At the Seaside."

HIS MAJESTY'S.

BEEBE'S POLITE VAUDEVILLE.

Mr. Vincent M. Beebe's celebrated company of vaudeville and minstrel stars will commence a season of seven nights at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, May 31.

The company consists of 17 performers, and is claimed to be the strongest in point of numbers and general excellence of any similar organisation that has toured Australasia in recent years.

Mr. Dan Keilderson the protean actor, impersonator, ventriloquist and mimic, is the only member of the company who has previously appeared in New Zealand, and as he has but returned to the colonies after an absence of several years in England, with an entirely new act called "The One Man Music Hall," every item and artist on the long programme can be said to be new to the Dominion.

Mr. Beebe has had many years' experience in conducting successful theatrical enterprises in America and Australia, and is well known both inside and outside the profession, as a manager who never does things by halves. His companies have toured Australia and the East with marked success during the past six years, and it is his intention, if the present New Zealand tour is fairly successful to establish his personal headquarters in New Zealand and devote his entire time to supplying theatre-goers of the Dominion with the best in refined vaudeville at reasonable prices. Artists in the present company all possess established international reputations, and include, in addition to Mr. Keilderson, the Rollicking Rockleys, clever sketch artists and producers; Miss Rubee Raymond, a charming American toe dancer; Miss Ella Conrad, soprano, and Miss Ruby Cox, contralto, operatic vocalists; the Acrobatic Arteens, lady and gentleman acrobats imported from England by Mr. Beebe; Mr. W. White, coon singer and dancer; the Musical Bartletts, who combine humour with harmony, and play every musical instrument from a mouth organ to a set of musical motor car horns; Messrs. Spilker and Fairbank, comedians, who know how to amuse without being vulgar, and Miss Edie Leeder, a dainty little serio and dancer.

The company opens in a 45 minute production of modern minstrels called Merry Moments, for which elaborate scenery and stage properties are carried, and the long programme of speciality acts follows in quick succession, an innovation being to give one or two large speciality items before the half time interval.

TOWN HALL.

THE "SMART SET."

OPENED LAST NIGHT.

The "Smart Set," who are making an extended tour of the Dominion, commenced their season at the Town Hall last night. The "Smart Set," who claim to be the originators of this class of entertainment, are very much on the lines of Pelissier's "Follies," who keep London laughing all the season with social and political skits, satires on current happenings, and "poted events." No sooner does a political event come to the surface than the "Smart Set" travesty it, and a successful play is at once put into the melting pot, to come out a good-natured farce, with all the serious points of the original turned topsy-turvy, and even the chief actors' peculiarities hit off to life. To

be done by Pelissier's "Follies," one of the sure signs of success. The "Smart Set" entertainers are credited with being one of the best combinations of its class that have visited Australasia, and were highly criticised by the London "Daily Telegraph" when referring to their performance: "New entertainments and ideas are so rare that the appearance of the 'Smart Set' will be hailed with pleasure." Each member is an artiste of considerable merit. Their numbers are rendered with a dash and swing that is positively exhilarating. In addition to the complete company, Mr. Maynard Dakin, the well-known comedian, is also a welcome member, and is heard in a complete new budget of songs and humorous sketches. The box plan is now open at Wildman and Areys.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.

Two fine pictures of strong interest were the star attractions at Messrs. MacMahon and Lodder's picture house on Monday—"The Keeper of the Secret" and "A Woman." The former told a story of love and diplomacy, revolving round a woman's love and sacrifice. In "A Woman," the plot dealt with the wife, a roue and a suspicious husband. How the villain insinuated himself into the home and nearly wrecked the happiness of two people, was told through a series of powerfully acted scenes, which culminated in a happy ending that was highly appreciated. Ostrich-farming in New Zealand was the subject of an interesting study, the clearness of the views and the demonstration of the various processes of the industry, familiarising the spectators with its aspect. "The Bricklayer's Joke" and "Wild Man

for a Day" were two good samples in the humorous line, judging by the hearty laughter the incidents provoked. Some excellent scenic and topical views were interspersed through the programme, which was enlivened with excellent incidental music. Patrons should not forget the usual change takes place to-day.

GLOBE THEATRE.

No more thrilling tale has been pictorially told than that disclosed in "The Leopard Avenger," the head liner at the Globe Theatre on Monday. Crowded audiences witnessed its presentation with tense interest. It tells of a story of a chemist who with his daughter and assistants, lives in the heart of Africa, to pursue his scientific studies. He succeeds in learning how to make diamonds, and the secret is about to be stolen from him by an agent of the diamond trust, when his daughter's pet leopard attacks the thief, and avenges its master. The story teems with life and adventure, and takes one through all the excitement of a leopard hunt in the wilds of Africa, in addition to the other sensational incidents. An absorbing detective drama was unfolded in "Thumb Prints," with Maurice Costello in the leading role, while plenty of romance was attached to the story of a factory girl who came into a fortune. "Sam goes Yachting," "Tweedledum as Cabman," convulsed everyone with laughter, while beautiful views of Germany, and items of interest from an English gazette, ranked high in pictorial merit. The accompanying music added to the general enjoyment.

IN PERSONAL TOUCH.

Mr. Stanley Grant, the well-known theatrical manager, is in town heralding the arrival of "The Monk and the Woman" on behalf of George Marlow, Ltd. "It's one of the most-talked of plays yet produced in Australasia," said Mr. Grant to a "Review" representative. "It is full of life and action cemented with an uncommon theme, and it goes big everywhere."

"The Monk and the Woman" make their first appearance at His Majesty's on Monday week. "This is not melodrama," emphasised Mr. Grant. "It's a real good stirring drama. I shall be along again in August with a dish of sensational melodrama! 'The Girl who took the Wrong Turning' will be included in the bill of fare."

Mr. William Murdoch, the brilliant pianist of the Kirkby Lunn Company, is with Madame Clara Butt in a similar capacity. A hearty welcome awaits the Australian artist in New Zealand, where he made so many friends during his recent visit.

The "Dandies" had a great reception from a packed house on Friday night, every member being vociferously endorsed. The company are now in the South.

Madame Clara Butt and Mr. Kennerley Rumford achieved an enormous success on the opening night of the Australian season in Melbourne. The receipts were a record amounting to £1020.

Nothing less than tremendous is the vogue of Mr. McCormack in New York. Frequently was it his experience in his recent tour to receive telegrams like this—"Every ticket for your fifth recital next Sunday sold five days in advance, establishing a New York record, as far as anyone associated with musical enterprise can remember. A few dollar tickets picked up by speculators are selling at five dollars."



A CHARACTER STUDY.—MISS GEORGIE MARTIN, comedienne and danseuse of "The Smart Set" Entertainers at the Town Hall.