

## GREENROOM GOSSIP.

### "A Woman of Impulse."

The Hamilton-Plimmer Company to play Auckland, commencing Monday, August 4, has been scoring all along the line, and judging by the reports to hand from southern papers, the enterprise of this management in bringing to New Zealand a really "all star" company has been amply rewarded. Particularly successful has been the production of Victor Widnell's great play "A Woman of Impulse," and Messrs. Hamilton and Plimmer must have received a gold mine in the purchase of the rights for this play. Mrs. Brough, Miss Day and H. R. Roberts are said to be exceptionally well cast.

### Cutting out Americanisms.

"Within the Law" has been staged at the Haymarket Theatre, London, but has been materially altered to suit the requirements of London audiences. The American atmosphere has been taken out, and the piece given an English flavouring, whereby the expressive Americanisms that add so much to the humor of the play in the Melbourne production, and a number of the scenes typical of American conditions, have been eliminated or toned down. The thrilling "third degree" scene whereby Joe Garson is made to confess to the murder of the "stool pigeon," Eddie Griggs, is cut out. Instead, Joe Garson confesses from sentimental motives to the crime; and in other ways the play is made to conform to London requirements.

### Genee and her Ballet Shoes.

When a big case, bearing the stencilled words, "Genee, ballet shoes," arrived at Melbourne Her Majesty's, the opinion of the transport staff was that some error had been made. It did not seem possible that one dancer would require such a large quantity of shoes. Mlle. Genee, however, when referred to before taking delivery, cleared up the mystery. "It is quite right," she explained, "the case contains 120 pairs, and will just about see me through the season. You see, I use a different pair every night—sometimes two pairs for a single performance. What becomes of the cast-off shoes? I throw them away, I never use them twice."

### "Americans who Love Australia" Club.

The members of the American section of players in "Within the Law" at Melbourne Theatre Royal have formed themselves into a species of club or society, and its title of "A.W.L.A." appears exceedingly puzzling until it is explained by Lincoln Plumer, its president, that it means "Americans who love Australia." Mr. Plumer, who is Police-Inspector Burke in the play, says that the American members of the company are enraptured with Australia, and simply don't want to go home any more! The climate and living conditions are just great," says Mr. Plumer, "and as for hospitality of the people, well, in New York we don't know what hospitality is. Is it any wonder that when we are given such a dandy time we try to give you the best we can? The audiences, too, are real fine. You've just got to hand it out to them good and easy. It isn't hard work to make them understand. They get you quick. When I touch New York again," added Mr. Plumer, "I'm going to be right in the front rank of boosters of this glorious country."

### The Greatest Tenor.

Messrs. J. and N. Tait announce the return of John McCormack for a tour of thirty concerts, which will embrace the principal cities of Australia and New Zealand. Since he left Australia, the famous Irish tenor has sung at the Royal Opera Covent Garden, London, the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and other opera houses, and besides he has appeared on the concert platform throughout England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as throughout the length and breadth of America, winning all the time a marvellous success. Mr. John McCormack is unquestionably the greatest tenor we have ever had in Australasia.

### Clara Butt and Good Luck.

There are not a few of Madame Clara Butt's many admirers who be-

lieve that the renowned contralto radiates good luck wherever she goes. Plenty of the songstress's friends can relate stories of her marvellous mascot-like qualities, and there is in Paris to-day a successful man who attributes a sudden change in his fortunes a few years ago to the pleasure of a chance introduction to the famous star. Madame herself believes that she is lucky, or at any rate was born under a lucky star, and in proof of this she points to a career never marred by a single failure.

### Going Strong in South Africa.

The Quinlan Opera Company has

that it is a well deserved success, and that the company of talented people who have created Steele Rudd's delightful work have earned the last measure of the popularity and appreciation they have won.

### A Neat Compliment.

The Imperial Russian ballet associated with Adeline Genee at Melbourne Her Majesty's, paid the great dancer a neat compliment the other night. On the conclusion of her brilliantly descriptive hunting dance they presented Mlle. Genee with a small wooden horse, made in the attitude of prancing gaily, and surrounded by

## COSTUME COMEDY COMPANIES.

EDWARD BRANSCOMBE, LTD.

WHY THE FIRM SUCCEEDS.

Edward Branscombe, Ltd., is a name to conjure by in the world of musical entertainment, the "Dandies" being the latest companies to familiarise us with this enterprising firm.

Two of them are operating in New Zealand at the present time, the "Pinks" and the "Reds," and under the masterly management of Mr. Scott Colville and Mr. Leo D. Chateau, they are making their presence felt with no uncertain note.

Lucky in their managers, they are equally fortunate in their managing director, Mr. Nigel Brock, who has a special interest to New Zealanders. A keen business man, and a sympathetic artist, Mr. Brock is a force to be reckoned with in directing the destinies of the Branscombe firm. Mr. Brock is an Australian, and early acquired a taste for drama. At the time he decided to adopt the stage for a profession, the late Wilson Barrett paid his second visit to Australia, and, passing through Adelaide, it was pointed out to Mr. Brock that the visit was an opportune one for him. Arming himself with an introduction, he waited on the distinguished actor on the mail steamer and found the late J. C. Williamson also present. Mr. Barrett received him courteously, told him he did not know if there was an opening in the company, but promised when he reached Melbourne to write. As the young aspirant for dramatic work was leaving, Mr. Williamson called him back and told him that if Mr. Barrett was unable to place him, he would be pleased to do so. He had, however, no occasion to avail himself of Mr. Williamson's kindness, for a subsequent mail brought him a letter from Mr. Barrett's manager, offering him a small part in the "Sign of the Cross," with the result that he joined the company in Melbourne, and with it visited Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, and toured New Zealand.

After that Mr. Brock spent some time at Home and in South Africa, gaining further dramatic experience, subsequently being offered and accepting the management of Edward Branscombe's Westminster Glee Singers. This company, of whom New Zealanders will have pleasant recollections, Mr. Brock pioneered successfully through Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, America and West Indies, and back again to England. The Scarlet Troubadours company was organised just after this.

"I remember once in the South Island," said Mr. Brock to an interviewer, "some people, who had extended their hospitality to us—for it is surprising how many social invitations we had—took the boys over the meat freezing works. They were much impressed with the idea that they could send the carcass of a lamb for six shillings to their parents in London and had one despatched. When it arrived there, the family all gathered around, with true Russian curiosity, as the calico coverings were removed and, as the carcass of the lamb came to view, Cherniavski the elder exclaimed, 'Ah! ah! My boys have been shooting!'"

Thus a Southern paper commenting on "The Dandies" performance:—"The programme swings along so trippingly that even the clock itself seems surprised when the final curtain warns people that it is time to leave."

Adolf Klauber in the New York "Times" repeats a clever bit of repartee from Wilton Lackaye, who enjoys the distinction of being one of the few actors capable of making a certain speech worth listening to. Asked if he thought that a certain manager could produce "Les Miserables," Mr. Lackaye retorted, "Produce it, no. He can't even pronounce it."

"Do you know that I have never felt such exhilaration in playing a part as I have experienced in 'Milestones?'" said Mr. Julius Knight to an Australian pressman. "On the opening night, for example, before the second act was half way through I felt that we had hit playgoers hard, and that the piece was a success. All this has an effect on our acting, and if the audience have the opinion that our acting is all it should be, they are helping us to make it so by their sympathy and approval." "Milestones" will be over here shortly.



Auckland's Champion Boy Dancer, MASTER FRANK STEWART (10 years of age), winner of first prize gold medals for Highland Dancing, Sailors' Hornpipe, and Irish Jig at Auckland Labour Day Sports, Wanganui Caledonian Sports, Frankton Caledonian Sports, and Auckland Premier Picnic competitions.

been appearing in Johannesburg during the strike riots, which caused such an upheaval in the city, and it says much for the attractive powers of the company that business has not suffered. The J. C. Williamson management in Melbourne received a cable sent by Mr. Quinlan from Johannesburg, as follows: "Despite riots we are going strong." The company sailed for Melbourne last week.

### The Bert Bailey Trump Card.

"On Our Selection" is proving no less a boom during its present season in Melbourne than on the occasion of its first presentation at The King's, the popular house being unable to accommodate the large crowds that nightly endeavour to gain admission, and this only six months after its previous season in Melbourne. Though such prosperity as this play has enjoyed is truly remarkable at this period of theatrical rivalry, one cannot help recognising

a huge bunch of violets. Needless to say, Mlle. Genee appreciated the gift and the charming spirit it indicated. The great dancer is exceedingly popular with all those associated with her at the theatre, and has made many friends by her unaffectedness, charm, and friendliness.

### "Autumn Manoeuvres."

Brightness, gaiety, and all the glamour of striking military costumes are characteristics of "Autumn Manoeuvres," to be staged at Melbourne Her Majesty's on the completion of the season of Adeline Genee and the Imperial Russian ballet. The central love story is only a small part in its attractiveness. There is a never-ending sense of liveliness about all the scenes. Gallant soldiers, pretty girls, amusing fellows, a peppery general, and the funniest captain of Territorials that a regiment ever laughed at. The music is original and catchy, and each of the principals is provided with real good songs.