

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

"DADDIES."

AN ALL-APPEALING COMEDY.

Like an oasis in the midst of problem, crook and triangle plays comes "Daddies" with its happy sentiment and simple appeal to human nature. "Daddies" was given its first presentation at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday night, and the large audience by their delighted appreciation proved that the spirit of childhood, the theme of the story, struck an answering chord in every man and woman present. The comedy is written around a New York bachelors' club, several of the members meeting at a dinner to congratulate themselves on keeping their vows to remain single. Wives and children are a special abhorrence to them, and they renew their celibate resolutions. There is one backslider amongst them who has to forfeit 5000 dollars, as he has fallen a victim to the sister of his host, Robert Audrey, a pronounced bachelor. His mother, a sweet old lady, obsessed with a creed that every man should have a home of his own, suggests that if they will not marry they should each adopt a war orphan. So the four of them agree, and then the fun commences. Dour, crusty James Crocket, hardest of all to convince, and stipulating that it must be a boy, has a precocious, inquisitive little girl named Lorry thrust on him, who pesters him with questions and makes his life a regular torment, but in the end entwines herself round his lonely heart. Then there is Henry Allen, who has triplet boys assigned him, and Nicholson, whose share is a six-year-old small girl whose father had died in France. Robert Audrey, determined to do the thing properly, buys a shop-



"Daddy, I've found a hair!"

remarkable, and her masterful ways and pertinacity with the picture book, for instance, keep the audience in roars of laughter. Miss Georgia Harvey capably impersonates the kindly Mrs. Audrey, who sees her cherished ideas consummated, and Messrs. Harold Moran, Louis MacHilton and Charles Lawrence make up a trio of desirable daddies. The comedy is mounted with commendably good taste.

OPERA HOUSE.

The change of programme on Monday was greeted by a packed house, transit difficulties being easily overcome by vaudeville patrons. Those delightful vocalists, the Mantanas, returned after their southern season, their items being well applauded. "Come Sing to Me" and "The Ros-

ers, the Zoe Sisters (aeroplanists), Louis London (character singer), and Vince and Eva Courtney (vocalists).

Messrs. J. and N. Tait have definitely decided to send their pantomime "Mother Hubbard" to New Zealand. This is the first time this management has sent its Christmas pantomime to the Dominion, and judging by the huge laughing success it has achieved in Sydney and Melbourne, with Barry Lupino and Jack Cannot as the chief laughter promoters, it should have a popular run in New Zealand. The tour is to commence in Wellington next month. Other artists in the company will be Moon and Morris, the famous international dancers, and Hassan, the animal impersonator (from Drury Lane).



MISS ERNITA LASCELLES as Ruth Atkins and MR. HERBERT RANSON as Robert Audrey in "Daddies," the charming comedy now being staged at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland.

ary" were given as duets, the harmony being excellent, while as ballad soloists each disclosed a voice of uncommon richness and quality. Mr. George Edwards and Miss Rosie Parkes gave another of their enjoyable interludes, comprising humorous dialogue, a ragtime duet, and a dramatic monologue by Mr. Edwards, entitled "The Shooting of Dan McGrew." Merry musical fragments were provided by Mr. George Ross, a pastmaster in the art of entertaining at the piano. The sensational trapeze work of the Fentons gave the audience any amount of thrills, the athletic man and his slim partner receiving warm rounds of applause. Princess Mysteria was attentively followed through her thought-reading seance, and the remainder of the bill was in the hands of the Musical Carlsons (who have a penchant for extracting music from all sorts of instruments, ranging from the xylophone to cow bells and frying pans); Webber and Shaw, in their popular oddments of melody and nonsense; Kate Gourlay in Scottish songs, and Ray and Olga in patter. Miss Maggie Foster, who exercised such a charm with her violin playing during her last visit, is giving additional drawing power to the bill.

Four new acts will be presented at the matinee next Monday. These are the Cevenne Troupe of wire-walk-

"The Little Damozel," one of the pieces to be presented by J. and N. Tait's Comedy Drama Players, is concerned with the fortunes of a young harpist in the bijou orchestra of a none too select

cafe. Julie, the lady in question, has matrimonial designs upon one Captain Partington, and is in a fair way to wed him when he makes a bold bid for his liberty. Partington is aware that the matter is going to cost him something, as he has furnished Julie with quite a little evidence suitable for production in breach of promise proceedings. So, to avoid unpleasantness, he pays a young and handsome waster £15,000 to win the lady and take her off his hands. The plan succeeds, and all goes well till the story of it quite unexpectedly leaks out. Then there are very interesting developments.

Mr. Harald Bowden is business manager with the Tait Company at present playing "Daddies."

"The Miracle Man," the star attraction at the Strand Theatre this week, is a demonstration of how a good thought can be materialised. The story deals with a notorious band of criminals operating in the slums of New York. They learn of an aged blind man who can heal the sick and make whole the crippled. With the intention of utilising these miraculous powers for their own advancement the criminals go into the hills by the sea to meet the healer. Their transformation into good citizens makes a most fascinating story, elemental in its simplicity, strong in its passions.

"I have never had a more congenial character to play," said Mr. Lionel Walsh, the noted character actor, "than Old Bill in 'The Better Ole.' As soon as I slip into those dirty old khaki clothes and untidy puttees and gum on that fearful and wonderful old mo', I seem to feel the character of the sad old dog, who found rest and peace in the trenches after the continuous bombardment of his wife's tongue. He is a real type, I think, and it is only real types that the character actor can make a genuine success in, and what success I have achieved in the part I credit to Bairnsfather, who must have known Old Bill at the front."

After seeing the "Lightnin'" Company off to Sydney, Mr. John Farrell returned to Auckland on Sunday and is spending a few days in Rotorua before picking up the J. C. Williamson Pantomime Company in Wellington.

Owing to the dislocation of the railway service on Monday, due to heavy floods, the J. and N. Tait Company had to postpone their opening in Auckland until Tuesday.

The Allan Wilkie Dramatic Company, now showing in the South Island, open at Palmerston North on the 21st inst., and will play "The Luck of the Navy," "The Rotters," "A Temporary Gentleman," and "Hindle Wakes."

Mr. J. L. Goodman, who was specially engaged from Australia as business manager for the English Pierrots, has had thirty-five years association with the managerial side of theatrical work. He points with pride to the almost unique fact that some years back he went over to England and personally picked a company of 36 performers solely off his own bat, without the intervention of any agent. The company toured South Africa with burlesque pieces and met with a large measure of success. This is Mr. Goodman's first visit to New Zealand.

Among the members of the "Better Ole" Company is Miss June Addell, who was the Peg in the South African production of "Peg o' My Heart."



LITTLE ELVIE POWRIE who brings the crusty bachelor under her spell in "Daddies."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Direction J. AND N. TAIT

TO-NIGHT TO-NIGHT.

J. AND N. TAIT'S COMEDY DRAMA PLAYERS

In the Fascinating Comedy,

DADDIES.

A Play to Capture Daddies, Enrapture Children and Delight Mothers.

Presented by A SPECIALLY SELECTED COMPANY.

Headed by MISS ERNITA LASCELLES, The Brilliant English Actress.

And HERBERT RANSON, The English Actor.

TOGETHER WITH A BRILLIANT ARRAY OF ARTISTS.

Entire Production under the Personal Direction of MR. E. W. MORRISON.

NEXT PRODUCTION:

THE LITTLE DAMOZEL.
THE LITTLE DAMOZEL.
THE LITTLE DAMOZEL.

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