

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

J. AND N. TAIT'S COMPANY.

"Daddies," with its delightful vein of comedy and humanness, was withdrawn on Tuesday night after being witnessed by large audiences at every presentation. The plight of the newly-made daddies, so capably assumed by Messrs. Herbert Ranson, George Bryant, Charles Lawrence, and Harold Moran, was keenly enjoyed, and little Elvie Powrie, who regenerated the crabbed old bachelor, made a special hit with her natural acting. Miss Ernita Lascelles, by her clever handling of comedy and the one emotional situation, gave a taste of what she could do in a play that offered fuller opportunities. In "The Little Damozel," which will be presented for the remainder of the season, she has scope to exercise her dramatic qualities.

In New York the play ran two seasons, and it is still being played throughout America by several companies, who have found it to be a veritable gold-spinner. "The Little Damozel" is the romance of a young harpiste, Julie Alardy, who finds that the course of true love runs anything but smoothly, however blameless she is for adverse conditions. Julie's musical duties include playing in a restaurant, where she is wooed and won by the elderly and wealthy Captain Partington. Meeting someone else, this unscrupulous person decides to break with Julie, and to do it decently, as he thinks, promises an attractive young waster, Recklaw Poole, a handsome cheque if he can win her hand and marry Julie. Poole succeeds and the marriage turns out quite a happy one, until Poole finds that Partington has become engaged to his former fiancée, Sybil Carew, which causes no end of a stir in the emotions of everyone concerned. There are two or three blazing scenes before the dramatic fire is put out, but they give Miss Ernita Lascelles and Mr. Herbert Ranson a great chance to show their powers in emotional acting.

OPERA HOUSE.

First class vaudeville reigns at the Opera House, several headlining acts being introduced for the first time on Monday. The Cevene Troupe of six, rightly billed as wire maniacs, take pride of place with an act remarkable for celerity of action as well as daring. Slender wire affords them as safe a footing as a whole stage would to an average person, and each in turn excelled in skipping, fox-trotting, running or performing athletic feats on parallel wires. Sometimes the whole six would be operating and piling up fresh sensations. It was in more ways than one a live wire act. Another picturesque and thrilling turn was provided by the Zoe sisters, whose simulation of aeroplanes as they flew about the stage at dizzying pace suspended from a trapeze by their teeth, was highly effective. A newcomer with plenty of snap and vigour was Mr. Louis London, who has decided methods of his own in handling character songs, and getting them across the footlights. He instantly infected everyone with his breeziness and was one of the first favourites of the evening. Vince and Eva Courtney also won ready approval at their first appearance, the latter in eccentric dancing, and Vince in droll character studies and chorus songs, which he writes himself. "The Silver in My Mother's Hair" caught on popularly. Edwards and Parkes repeated their amusing sketch "The Charm," and kept the audience in roars of laughter. Miss Maggie Foster was charming in her violin numbers, "Saltarello," Intermezzo," and a medley of ragtime airs. The Mantanas in their refined vocal offering, the Carlsons in their quaint instrumental scena, Ray and Olga in a fresh dish of song and jest, and Princess Mysteria helped to satisfy everyone's taste.

Madeline Rossiter, the lissome dancer with the late Sydney James' Company, who was on tour in India, has married Mr. Orley, of Calcutta.

A CHANCE FOR TALENT.

Mr. Harald Bowden, manager for J. and N. Tait, has received a great many applications for membership to the special school of dancing the firm intends opening, with a view of placing chosen ones in their musical companies. If selected they will have the opportunity of appearing in the forthcoming tour of "Mother Hubbard," which opens in Wellington next month. Mr. Bowden is well pleased with the local response, and says that the applicants so far show satisfactory talent for singing and dancing, and, moreover, have an attractive appearance.

Miss Alice Parkes (sister of Lizette), whose art as ballet mistress has a wide Australian repute, arrives in Wellington on June 21, and will come up to Auckland to personally select the girls, who will eventually be sent to Wellington for "Mother Hubbard" pantomime. The nucleus of the chorus will, of course, be sent over from Australia, but as Mr. Bowden says, there must be talent in

According to report, Jack Waller's "Look Who's Here" Company has disbanded on the completion of the Indian tour. Some of the performers return to Australia. Those going to England include Jack Waller and Wylie Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fuller, Senr., leave by the Niagara this week on a trip to Sydney. Mr. Fuller has been in ill-health for some time, and it is hoped the change will have beneficial effects. Mr. Ray Fuller, who is transferred to Australia, was also a passenger by the same boat.

The latest comedy of the old school to come under consideration for an opera book is "She Stoops to Conquer." Two Englishmen, A. Kalisch and P. Colson, are writing respectively the book and music for the Carl Rosa Opera Company, which will present the work in America during its trans-continental tour in 1921.

The Allan Wilkie Company open at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne, on July 31, with "The Rotters."

With Carter, the magician, in Sydney, is Miss Evelyn Maxwell, a psychic marvel.

Miss Bathie Stewart has returned to Auckland after a tour of the Dominion with Charles Smythe's Concert Company. Maori songs and chants are Miss Stewart's particular forte, and those who have heard her prophesy a rosy future for the young New Zealander if she carries her talent into the Old Country. Her work is distinctive as well as unique, and she seems to get inside the spirit of the Maori songs whether it is a haunting melody or a wild war whoop!

Miss Emilie Polini is still the reigning comedy attraction in Melbourne. This gifted actress, who was so popular in New Zealand in "De Luxe Annie" and "The Eyes of Youth," has made the biggest comedy hit known to Australia for many years. She came over for six months to J. and N. Tait and has remained two years at the urgent solicitation of that firm.

"Three Green Eyes," the latest World release, has an all-star cast consisting of June Elvidge, Evelyn Greeley, Carlyle Blackwell, Montague Love and Johnny Hines and many others. The three verdant optics belong to the same number of jealous people, none of whom happens to be blind in the other eye, and they furnish plenty of comedy and drama in what is the best World feature seen in many a long day.

An All-English production that fairly throws down the gauntlet to America is the Broadwest special, "A Daughter of Eve," in which the English beauty actor, Stewart Rome, and Violet Hopson, most prominent of screen heroines in the Old Land, are starred.

An American paper recently stated that no tenor in the world has ever made the money that John McCormack does. No one would suggest that as a singer he was in the same class as Caruso, or perhaps even Bonci or Hipolita Lazzaro, but in actual box office returns he makes their incomes look ridiculous beside his own. The secret of his great popularity—and it is quite an open one—is that he gets to the hearts of the people by singing amongst the best class music ever written those songs that they can appreciate without an effort. John McCormack made "Mother Machree" and "I Hear You Calling Me" all over the world, and latest advices tell what an overwhelming success he has made of that simple little ballad "That Tumbledown Shack in Athlone." Mr. Donald McBeath, the brilliant violinist, is to accompany Mr. and Mrs. McCormack and family.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

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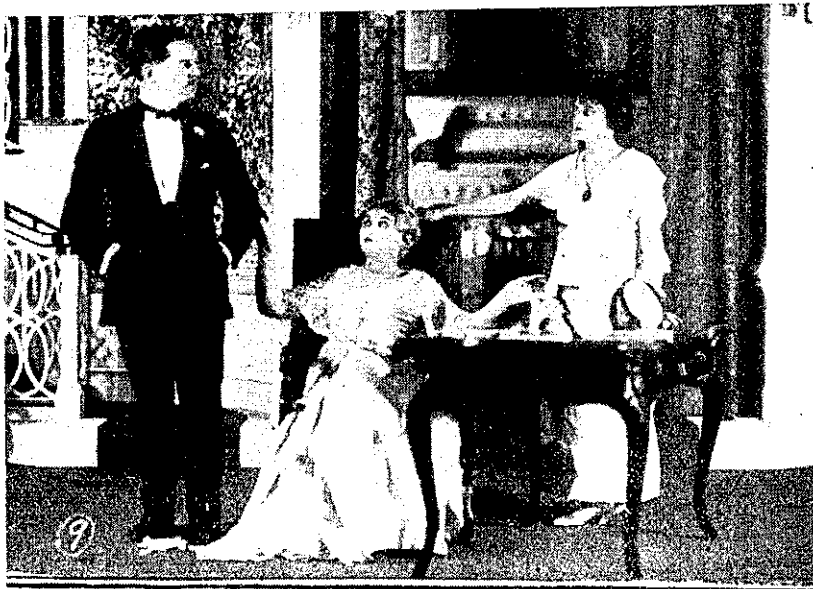
It is a play that will appeal to all lovers of Bohemia, the Band-room of the Cafe Angeli in Soho, bringing back fond memories to those who have been fortunate enough to visit the World's Metropolis.

Interpreted by a Cast of Distinguished Players, including

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And the Many Popular Members of the "Daddies" Company.

PRICES: 7s., 3s. 6d., 1s. 6d. Early Doors Stalls and Gallery 1s. Extra (all plus tax). Box Plan at Wildman and Arey's. Day Sales at Coleman's.



SCENE IN THE SECOND ACT OF "THE LITTLE DAMOZEL," to be presented at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland to-night by J. and N. Tait's company. "Recky" discovers he has been duped.

New Zealand equally good, though up to the present it has not been exploited. In this latest move of Messrs. J. and N. Tait, who, by the way, intend sending over various musical comedy companies in the future, the girls of New Zealand are being offered a wonderful chance, and the manager has every confidence in Miss Parkes being able to give them that finishing touch which divides the professional from the amateur. "Mother Hubbard" was an immense success in Sydney and Melbourne, with Barry Lupino and Jack Cannon as principal comedians.

One doesn't often come across a character singer with the individuality of Mr. Louis London, who is at present making himself known to Auckland Opera House audiences. Mr. London has a commanding and unconventional way of delivering a number, and he adds all sorts of unexpected little twists and touches that give it an intimate connection and makes you get the humour and sentiment all in one.

Dancing enthusiasts will be interested to know that Miss Maggie Dickinson, solo dancer with the J. C. Williamson pantomime "The Sleeping Beauty," will take pupils for ballet work during the company's season in the different towns. Her partner, Sydney Culver, will give lessons in fox-trotting.

Mr. Morris Gest, the producer of "Aphrodite," in New York, has invited Lord Sandhurst, the British censor, to pay a special visit to the United States to witness the play, and decide if it is fit for London. The offer covers Lord Sandhurst's full expenses on the trip. "Aphrodite" is said to reveal an astonishing lack of clothing, Aphrodite, in the full nude, posing in the "Temple of Love."

"The Little Damozel" is said to bear more than a suggestion of the Bohemian atmosphere which rendered "Trilby" so delightfully romantic. It is, however, essentially English, but there is a touch of the careless yet happy life of the Latin quartier.

Miss Dorothy South, who is arriving from America shortly to sing the leading role in "Irene" with the new J. and N. Tait Musical Comedy Company, has many fine performances to her credit in the United States, where she has been appearing with marked success in such bright musical comedies as "High Jinks," "So Long, Letty," "You're in Love," "Katinka," "Going Up," and many other recent successes not so well known on this side.

London theatrical managers have been outbid for the services of Mr. Randolph Sutton, the new comedian discovered when he was playing in a touring pantomime by a special correspondent of the "Daily Mail." He has been engaged by a provincial manager at a salary which, next year, will be approximately equal to that paid to the Premier. "I have had enquiries and offers from London managers and agents, including Sir Oswald Stall, Mr. Albert de Courville, Messrs. Wylie and Tate, Mr. Herbert Blackmore, and Messrs. Reeves and Lamport, but the best one has come from Mr. J. Morrison, proprietor of "The Dream Girl" revue," Mr. Sutton said. "Mr. Morrison is paying a large sum for my release from present contracts, and he not only offers me £20 a week more than any London manager for this year, but is doubling my salary next year. I believe the revue is coming to London in May, on tour. I should very much have liked to take a permanent engagement in town, but not at a sacrifice of £20 a week. I owe the "Daily Mail" a very great deal for bringing me to the notice of so many people."