

GREENROOM GOSSIP

A NEW DAME.

Mr. Marriott Edgar, who plays Dame Spoopendyke in the coming J. C. Williamson "Sleeping Beauty" pantomime comes from a family of "dames," and has played the role himself in all the great centres, London, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Leeds, Bristol, Bradford, and the like. The late George Edwardes engaged him for a particularly strong musical comedy company in "San Toy," and similar pieces at the Cape, whence the combination toured throughout South Africa during the Boer War. George Graves was in the combination, and several of the other artists, Harold Thornley, Frank Danby, Fred Walton, Claude Bantock, became known in Australia. On his return to England, Mr. Edgar remained in musical pieces for a time, and at the Manchester Theatre Royal he played the Village Idiot to George Robey's Dame in "Jack and the Beanstalk," and found the star comedian particularly free from jealousy, and in every way easy to work with. In vaudeville he appeared in a single turn, "The Man in Red," at all the leading London variety theatres during a period of four years. Just before the war the J. C. Williamson direction engaged him for Australia, but he was claimed by the world's big show for three years, during which he rose to the rank of first lieutenant, en-

Miss Maggie Dickinson is premiere danseuse of the J. C. Williamson "Sleeping Beauty" pantomime, and is something by herself as a dancer. She is born to dance. A happy creature with a touch of the sourette vocal in her toes and limbs and lithe little body. Her ballets are the special feature of the pantomime, especially the fantastic compost of the shot swan and "The Pheasant and the Fox" in the forest scene.

Benno Moiseiwitsch, the great pianist who played to audiences of 3000 and 4000 people at every appearance at the Sydney Town Hall, is at present continuing his triumphs in Melbourne. Moiseiwitsch is well described as a "poet of the piano." He touches the heart and the ear of the average man, and musicians are enthralled by his temperament and technique. In Sydney he achieved a record that had never yet been accomplished by any other pianist visiting Australia. He played to a first-night audience of over 3000, and late comers had the amazing experience of learning that there was "standing room" only.

Despite the rumours going the round of the marriage, or the forthcoming marriage, of Constance Talmadge with some mysterious young man, the lady herself still denies it vigorously. "And what is more," she said to an interviewer recently, "I don't ever intend to marry. Men interest me, I will admit—but as for marrying one of them, well, I'm not at all thrilled!"



Avalanche Victims of Davos, Switzerland.—Buildings beneath tons of snow. Avalanches, through unusually heavy snowfalls, have caused many fatalities at Davos, Switzerland. One buried a chalet in which were two domestic servants. Another overwhelmed the Germania Pension, filling the building with tons of powdery snow and killing a nurse and a Russian visitor. Strangely enough, though the mass of snow swept down on and through the building, the walls were intact. A third avalanche struck a Jewish sanatorium, killing two people. Rescue work is everywhere extremely arduous. The illustration shows a four-storey building with the windows smashed.

listing first with the Royal Sussex Regiments, and then with the Mechanical Transport Service. The War Office paid him his commission gratuity the week he was discharged, and a few months later he was facing his old friends, the Aussies, in Melbourne, where he submitted at Christmas his thirteenth dame impersonation in "The Sleeping Beauty."

"The Little Damsel," the latest of J. and N. Tait's hits, made a great sensation in England owing to the character of the hero, Recklaw Poole. In conventional English comedy and drama, the hero must be personally irreproachable, and at least must be a gentleman. But Recklaw Poole was not a gentleman in the arbitrary English meaning of the term. In the first place he had lost his status by being warned off the turf, and had committed the irredemiable blunder of being blackballed at his club. Furthermore, he had accented £15,000 for the pleasure of relieving Captain Partington of pretty Julie Alardy. Yet, despite all these defects, the author had the genius to make the hero acceptable to English audiences. The piece was an immense success, and was played before King George, at Sandringham.

Lee White, the popular London artist, is delighted with the welcome playgoers have extended her in Sydney in the Tivoli production, "Bran Pie." "I've always heard," she says, "that the Australian's chief characteristic is hospitality. Now I believe it. But what also impresses me is their eagerness to enjoy a play and help every character in a piece. They are kind to everybody."

A sunshiny day took me to the cemetery of St. Pierre, on the outskirts of Marseilles (writes "E.V." in the "Daily Dispatch"). Through high, black gates you enter a spacious courtyard where all around are numerous stalls with flowers of every description and colour. The Riviera sends its most beautiful blooms, and the vendors try to tempt the many mourners who stream through the gates. At one of the prettiest spots of the great cemetery, in a sunny corner among pine trees, stands the column which marks the last resting place of Gaby Deslys. A large trellis-work screen has been erected to extend on either side of the stone monument and its steps, and in this are entwined the most beautiful flowers. All around in heaps lie wreaths and crowns and crosses, still bearing white ribbons and cards. One inscription struck me: "A ma Gaby chérie, Harry." And it appears it was Harry Pilcer himself who organised the whole funeral arrangements. On the tombstone is inscribed "Hte. Caire"—Caire being the family name of Gaby, and this the monument and family vault she had erected in memory of her sister. Crowds of townspeople stand gazing at the now fading heaps of flowers. Marseilles has every reason to be grateful to Gaby for her great generosity to the town, but perhaps it would have been better if her villa on the Corniche, one of the loveliest in the district, were sold, and the money set aside for a hospital or for the poor; for the small, luxurious villa is ill-adapted for a convalescent home.



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100 ACRES, WAHAROA.—95 in grass and five acres in turnips. All flat drained swamp. The property will carry 40 cows. Watered by well and windmill; four rooms almost new, six-bail concrete cowshed, also yards concrete; two-cow plant. Glaxo depot 60 chains away. Land Transfer Title. Roads metalled and sanded. Nearest township 3½ miles; rural delivery. School two miles, nearest saleyards seven miles, Glaxo 3½ miles. The farm is all flat and ploughable. First-class Hunga soil. Outbuildings fair. Extra good English grass; stock in good condition. This property is well worth inspecting, being in good heart, and we consider good buying at the figure. **Price, £70 per acre, £2000 cash, balance six per cent for five years.** (3944)

150 ACRES, NGATEA.—The property is carrying 90 cows and young stock. Will easily carry a cow to the acre. Watered by artesian bores and windmill; river frontage, wharf on property. Four-roomed house, where, eight-bail cowshed, four-cow plant (Gane), workshop, implement shed, trapshed. Steamer from Auckland calls three times weekly. P.O. 1½ miles, school 1½ miles, saleyards 1½ miles. The cream is collected by water at present at the wharf. **Price, £105 per acre, £3000 cash.** 100 acres fully improved. When balance is brought in will easily carry one cow to the acre. (3324)

HINUERA VALLEY—304 acres, L.I.P. Rental 4s. 6d. per acre. This is a property which could be greatly improved without much expense. It is now carrying 118 milking cows, 11 heifers, 4 bulls, and 80 calves have recently been sold off. All in grass except about 20 acres; 10 acres bush, and 10 acres fern. About 170 acres drained swamp flat. About 130 acres undulating. All but 15 acres is ploughable. Divided into 18 paddocks; fences in good order. This property could easily be made to carry 140 cows next season. House of six rooms (new), and conveniences. Splendid cowshed, fitted with six-cow L.K.G. plant. The property is nine miles from railway station, and 13 miles from rising town. The roads are sanded, and quite good all through the winter. School adjoins the property. There is a creamery about three-quarters of a mile distant. The electrical supply from Hora Hora current runs along the road in front of the farm, and will be made use of shortly. This Property is in a rising district, where land values at present are not inflated, and a man going in now has a good chance of making a substantial rise before long. **Price, £46 per acre, £3000 cash.** We consider this the best proposition on the market. (H.H.) (G.E.B.)

168 ACRES, PIAKO DISTRICT.—20 acres in crops, balance in grass. About 50 acres undulating, balance flat. This property will carry 40 cows and young stock. Subdivided into eight paddocks. Watered by good stream. Four-roomed house and conveniences; three-cow plant, implement shed, etc. Land Transfer Title. Three miles from town, one mile from station, P.O. and school, four miles from saleyards, dried milk receiving depot 1½ miles. **Price, £45 per acre, £1500 cash; or as a going concern at £50 per acre, £2000 cash.** The following is included in the going concern: 38 cows, 1 bull, 1 horse, spring dray and harness, single furrow plow, 12-blade disc, tine harrows, chain harrows and tripod harrows, McCormick mower, half share in drill (Farmers' Favourite), 65-gallon separator (Alfa Laval), five-cow plant (L. Kennedy), and milk cans, etc. (3637)

NORTH AUCKLAND.—23 miles from Auckland—137 acres, Freehold, 120 acres in grass, 4 in orchard. Area in grass is surface sown, but good. Four acres in orchard, mostly export apples, and four acres turnips; all ploughable. Divided into seven paddocks with five wires, boundary fence seven wires. The property is nicely sheltered and watered by creeks and springs. Contains a new bungalow of four rooms, with all conveniences; cowshed and separator room. Four miles from station, one mile from school. Property will carry 25 head of cattle. **Total Price asked £2200, with £600 cash.** (3533)

FRUIT FARM, HENDERSON VALLEY.—15 acres; all planted in full bearing trees of export apples, few lemons and grape vines. Is beautifully sheltered with live hedges. City water supply. There is a glass house 85 x 24, which grows two crops of tomatoes. The returns for last year were £100. The soil is exceptionally good, and would grow a vast quantity of outdoor tomatoes, which always realise good prices. Five-roomed house, very pleasantly situated, telephone and wash-house. There are all necessary buildings for packing, stable and workshop. The price is as a going concern, including horse, cart, all necessary implements, spraying machines, fruit cases, etc. This orchard is one of—if not the—cleanest in the district. **Price, £3500, £1500 cash.** (3522)

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