

GREENROOM GOSSIP

The Littlejohns, who have come to Melbourne to present their twenty-five thousand dollar act in the J. and N. Tait and Bailey and Grant pantomime "Sinbad the Sailor," make a dazzling display, which is said to excel anything of the kind ever seen in Australia. In the course of their act they display twenty-five thousand of the original jewels from the famous Tower of Jewels exhibited at the Panama Exposition in San Francisco. Their equilibrist performance is said to be marvellous.

The approach of the J. C. Williamson pantomime "Humpty Dumpty" is heralded by tremendous activity at Her Majesty's, Melbourne. All departments are now hard at work, and in every part of the theatre sectional rehearsals are being carried on, whilst the various workshops and manufacturing departments are going full speed ahead. "Humpty Dumpty" will be one of the most elaborate pantomimes the firm has ever produced, not only scenically—there will be twenty-three scenes in the two acts—but also by reason of the fact that no fewer than 360 people will take part in it. The pantomime will be produced by Charles A. Wenman. Minnie Everett is inventing and arranging the ballets, marches, groupings, etc., and the music is being composed and arranged by Victor Champion. Frank Dix, who wrote the "book" so successfully for the "Sleeping Beauty" last year, is again responsible for the libretto.

Several artists under engagement for the J. and N. Tait and Bailey and Grant pantomime "Sinbad the Sailor," to be staged at the King's Theatre, have arrived in Melbourne. These include Arthur Denton, a well-known English comedian, who will play Dame; the Littlejohns, equilibrists, whose turn was one of the features at the leading London and New York vaudeville theatres; and Edgley and Dawe, English pantomime specialty artists and dancers. The cast of "Sinbad" will include, in addition: Jennie Hartley, who will be principal boy; Jack Cannon, who will play Sinbad; William Hassan, the animal impersonator; Elinor Crane, a well-known English pantomime and musical comedy artist; Colin Crane, Ethel Walker, Bert Nicholson, Elsie Parkes (premier danseuse), Kelso Henderson (principal dancer), and others. Wilmer Bentley, who staged "Irene" for J. and N. Tait, will be the producer.



MR. W. J. H. REYNOLDS as Hon. Hughie Pierrepont, MR. C. L. JONES as Slithers, and MR. E. PARKER as Timothy Gibbs in "Our Miss Gibbs," which was produced recently by the Hamilton Operatic Society.

"Irene," the J. and N. Tait musical production, has characteristics not generally found in a musical play. For example, it has a well-developed story, the interest of which is maintained till the end. So pronounced is this that if the music were taken out of the play "Irene" could hold its own and retain the interest of the audience. There are few musical comedies of which this might be said.

Mr. Edwin Brett, who has arrived in Melbourne, is now making his third visit to that city. He first came to Australia to play the role of Mr. Hook in "Miss Hook of Holland," staged by Clarke and Meynell. Later he returned as Dame in the J. C. Williamson pantomime "The Forty Thieves." His present visit is due to his engagement by J. C. Williamson, Ltd., to play the King in the "Humpty Dumpty" pantomime.

LEWIS EADY

Christmas Suggestions

Violin Outfit: DEEP TONE VIOLIN. "STRAD" MODEL. FINE APPEARANCE. HIGH-GRADE CASE. SET OF STRINGS, BOW AND ROSIN. £3:12:6.

Mouth Organ: SWISS HARMONICA. TWO SETS OF STRONG REEDS. EASILY PLAYED. A GOOD BOY'S GIFT. SINGLE VAMP, 3/-. double vamp, 4/-.

Accordeon: DOUBLE FOLD BELLAWS. EBONY FINISH. TWO SETS OF REEDS. TWO STOOPS. A FINE DEEP TONE. IN TWO STYLES, £3 AND £3/12/6.

Auto-Harp: MADE BY THE STERLING ACTION CO. A GOOD TONED INSTRUMENT, COMPLETE WITH PLECTRUM, KEY AND INSTRUCTOR. SIZE 1, SIX BAR, £4/4/-. SIZE 2, TEN BAR, £5/5/-.

Zither Banjos, £6/- American Ukuleles, £3/10/- British-made Cornets, £7/7/- Bugles, full regulation, £2/5/-

LEWIS EADY & SON LTD.
QUEEN ST AUCKLAND.

Jennie Hartley, who is to play principal boy in "Sinbad the Sailor" at King's Theatre, Melbourne, had the unique experience of never having to start at the bottom of the theatrical ladder and climb to the accompaniment of disappointment and unrealised ambition to the top. This has been the usual experience of stage aspirants. Miss Hartley, however, one day decided to go upon the stage. A well-known London producer was induced to give her a trial. He was highly pleased, and immediately offered Miss Hartley an engagement. She accepted, received a good salary to start with, and has never since been out of an engagement. Moreover, she is booked for the next four years ahead.

WELLINGTON NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, December 13.
Wellington playgoers are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Marie Tempest Company, which opens its season at the Grand Opera House on Boxing Night with "The Duke of Killecrankie." During the tour five new plays to New Zealand will be staged, viz., "The Duke of Killecrankie," "At the Barn," "Cousin Kate," "The Great Adventure," and "Mary Goes First."
The seven nights' season of "A Country Girl," produced at the Grand Opera House last Thursday evening by the Wellington Amateur Operatic Society, was in every way a distinct success. The musical comedy went with a swing that caught on instantaneously with the audience.
On Thursday evening next, Messrs. J. C. Williamson, Limited, in conjunction with Mr. Hugh D. McIntosh, will present at the Grand Opera House the new and delightful three-act comedy "The Man From Toronto," which has enjoyed a successful season in the Commonwealth. The com-

pany is headed by Miss Margaret Swallow and Mr. George Tully, who come to us with first-class London credentials.

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

According to private advices received in Sydney, Madame Clara Butt and her husband, Mr. Kennedy Rumford, are preparing for a world's tour, which will include Australia and New Zealand.

It is stated a proposal is on foot in Melbourne to appeal for funds towards a memorial to the late Florence Young. It is suggested that the memorial should take the form of a new operating theatre at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. I am sure many of the late Miss Young's admirers in New Zealand would be only too pleased to contribute to such a laudable proposal, as she was an extremely popular favourite with Dominion playgoers.

A visitor to Australia at the present time is Mr. Jack Hogg, of North Shields, England, a pupil and friend of Mr. H. Jude, whose music Mr. Hogg has been popularising in the Commonwealth. He intends shortly touring New Zealand, returning to England in March next. His father, Mr. J. R. Hogg, North Shields, organist and composer, who is in his seventieth year, is at present giving a series of recitals in Canada.

After singing before the public for forty years, Madame Calve is making farewell visits to a number of towns in England. "I am grateful to a generous public," she says, "but I feel now that I want a rest. When I am at work I do not live. I want to have plenty of exercise, to see all the museums and picture galleries, and to read a lot; and I have to do without these things if I am to be in good voice in the evening. It is a life of constant sacrifice."