

June 15, 1923



### THE KESSLER SEASON.

This Friday evening sees the opening of Mr. Joseph Kessler's season in Johannesburg, when no fewer than seven plays, six of them of particular Jewish interest, will be presented. We have already given some account of not only the achievements of Mr. Kessler but also of the members of his company, all of them be it noted are performers of mature experience. Never before has such a great attraction been presented to lovers of the Yiddish stage and it is to be hoped that as a result of the Kessler season much good will be derived. For the opening performance the attraction will be William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and, when this play was presented in London and the provinces, commendable notices were written concerning Mr. Kessler's wonderful interpretation of the title role. The play which is to be presented on Monday and Thursday evenings "Back To His People" is one of more than ordinary Jewish interest and, a week or two before leaving England for South Africa Mr. Kessler gave a performance of it before our co-religionists in Leeds and so delighted were they that they subscribed the money to have this distinguished actor's name written in the golden book. Other plays which will be given during the first week are "The Wedding Gown," "Der Uebriger Mensch," "The Wheel Of Life," "The Stranger" and "Solomon The Wise" During his season in Johannesburg Mr. Kessler in addition to giving other plays of particular Jewish interest such as "So World famous Pieces as "The Dibbuk" and "Uriel Acosta" will also give Shakespeare's "Shylock" and possibly "Romeo and Juliet." Crowded houses should be the rule during the stay of the company in Johannesburg and in our next issue we propose giving a detailed criticism of the plays presented.

**NEW BIJOU**  
**Over The Hill**

### His Majesty's

That funny and laughter-provoking French Comic Opera "Adele" entered into its second week on Monday last before an appreciative audience. The plot is somewhat reminiscent of "The Bartered Bride" by Smetana, and from a musical point of view, the piece under review contains many pleasing and attractive airs. The leitmotif is based on the solo "Adele," charmingly rendered in the first act by Ethel Cadman, who takes the title role, which gives her many opportunities for displaying all the charms of her winning personality. In the part of Myrienne, Vera Pearce fully sustains the excellent impression which she created in the part of Delphine in the first production of this company and her vivacity, in conjunction with her fine acting and her pretty voice, stand her in good stead. Isa Bowman also has some excellent songs to her credit, and in several duets with Victor Crawford, contributes considerably to the success of the piece. Although the latter, in the part of Jacques, has not so important a role as in "Whirled into Happiness," he makes the most of his opportunities and is never on the stage without raising a hearty laugh. In conjunction with him, Rowland Hill and Frank Barclay make an excellent trio of comedians, whose incessant quarrels bring to one's mind the partnership of Potash and Perlmutter. But Gordon Sherry, as the somewhat weak-minded disappointed lover, Robert, is also well in the picture and contributes considerably to the fun, especially in the Toreador-Cococo scene, which is one of the most amusing of the play. Last, but not least, mention should be made of Martin Iredale, in the part of Baron Charles, who becomes the husband of the charming Adele. The mis-en-scene is as faultless as everything else. Captain Maxwell Stewart has hitherto produced. Thus taking it all round, this comic opera is as bright and attractive as anything that has recently been placed before local audiences.

### The Empire.

The programme at the Empire this week contains a number of very fine new turns. First and foremost comes Bert Maddison, who gives a series of impersonations which are exceedingly funny and keep the house convulsed with laughter. Then come Russell and Durbin who give a really remarkable as well as a most unusual dancing turn, whilst Les Nossellas prove themselves to be athletes of note giving a really clever exhibition of juggling and slack wire walking. Of the turns remaining over from the previous programme, Archie Graham and Company, as usual, give a novel as

well as a lively performance in their act "The Army And Navy," the Reeve Sisters and Leslie introduce several new features in their musical ensemble whilst Jack Shields adds to his laurels by his comic impersonations. Last but not least come Cliff Barrett and Nellie Clark in a clever skit on a boarding house-keeper's troubles with her actor lodger.

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Bert Maddison  
Russell and Durbin  
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