



THE STANDARD THEATRE.

The staging on Monday night last, by the Carl Meyer's London Company of the farce "Who's the Lady" was a *premiere* in more than one sense, since it is not only the first time that this comedy has been produced in South Africa, but also the first time that the members of the company themselves have performed it. After the exceptionally successful and long runs of "The Glad Eye" and "Baby Mine," the company themselves has "trained," so to say, the local public to high expectations and this fact accounts for the excellent house on the first night which had gathered at the above cosy theatre to witness another success. "Who's the Lady" is a comedy adapted from the French "Madame la Presidente" by Mme. Henniquin and Veber and it possesses all the breeziness and daring to which we are accustomed where a farce is concerned which originates from *la belle France*. But we would allay the susceptibilities of our readers at once on the point of propriety, should there really be any need for it in this, the enlightened, twentieth century. A broad outline of the plot—and there is a real one—was given in our last issue, so there is no need to repeat it here, but what remains for us to state is that this plot has been excellently carried through and that every member of the company who took part in the production, acquitted himself or herself admirably. Miss Jean Harkness, in the principal role Gobette, simply surpassed herself in her acting. There was a total absence of vulgarity and in no single instance did she overdo the part. The scenes, as they were enacted and as they unfolded themselves, have a touch of reality about them—or shall we say possibility?—and although Gobette is a coquette in the full sense of the word, Miss Harkness handled the delicate positions in a perfectly ladylike manner, without any suggestiveness whatsoever. The candle scene with Mr. Ford was decidedly clever and artistic, whilst those parts which she enacted together with Mr. Martin Sands, were most convincing and never exaggerated. The latter actor has another principal part, that of Augustin Tricointe and when we state that it is the best we have yet seen of this artist, we are only doing him the justice which is due to him. Miss Sinna St. Clair, as Madame Tricointe played with a refreshing naturalness and she, together with Miss Harkness, in the *deshabille* scene in the second act were simply irresistible, handling a difficult and precarious situation with great tact and *sangfroid*. Miss Dorothy Ripley, as Denise, who can only speak German, having forgotten her French during her stay in Germany, acted the innocent flapper charmingly and her German words were rendered the more admirably, as we believe the lady has no knowledge of that lang-

uage. Miss Dorothy Rundell had only a small part to fill, that of the servant girl Sophie, but she made the best of it and her get-up was quite original, resembling the national costume of the Normandy maid. A word of praise must also be bestowed on Mr. Landor, the Chief Usher Marins, for his efficient acting. The part of the Minister of Justice lay in the able hands of Mr. Henry Ford, that of his private secretary, in those of Mr. Tom Shelford, both artistes being too well known from their previous roles to require more than recording the fact that they fully sustained the excellent impression they have made on those previous occasions. Miss Ella Daincourt "doubled" the parts of Angelique, Gaudet's *fiancee* and Juliette, the hotel cashier, in a very able manner, looking particularly smart as the former in a very tasteful "creation" in the second act. All the other parts of the long caste were also well filled, whilst the costuming and sceneries were quite in keeping with the company's former efforts. "Who's the Lady" was an instantaneous success and if our readers want to know the answer, it will be solved by an early visit to the Standard Theatre.

MR. SPARROW'S SUCCESS.

The grounds of the Country Club form an admirable stage for the performance of sylvan comedy and so the presentation of the Immortal William's "Midsummer Night's Dream" last week was a complete success. In addition to a caste which had been carefully selected and indefatigably trained, the performance was enhanced by a number of carefully trained children who took the parts of the fairy sprites, led by Miss Katie Dunn, in admirable manner. As Hermia, Miss Hilda Robins was distinctly clever, Miss Phyllis Blaine looked charming as Helena, Miss K. Bradbury, who will be well remembered from comic opera, made a magnificent Queen of the Amazons and Miss Isabelle McLaren sang the little song in the second act as King of the Fairies in a delightful manner. Mr. F. Tarr gave us a manly Lysander and Mr. A. E. Lay took the part of his rival Demetrius with ability. Of course Mr. Sparrow's own presentation of the part of Bottom was an excellently thought-out study, ably presented and he was supported in the more humorous incidents of the play by Messrs. R. C. Bothwell, Alf. Feitelberg, T. Wolff, W. Escourt Lay and E. Teubes. Altogether the production was a complete success and its repeat performance this evening should attract another large audience.

OPERA CO'S FAREWELL.

The Gilbert and Sullivan opera company's performances of "H.M.S. Pinafore" this week make the Johannesburger more sorry than ever that the last few nights of their successful season at His Majesty's are now reached, for the manner in which this, one of the finest and most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire, is being presented by the Williamson's Company is such as one rarely has pleasure of seeing in Johannesburg. "H.M.S. Pinafore"

at His Majesty's, followed by the equally evergreen "Trial by Jury" affords an excellent evening's enjoyment, and the good "houses" that have been the feature throughout practically the whole season evidenced by their instinted applause and verbal and written praise their deserved appreciation of these admirable performances of a series of comic operas that will live as long as the language of the "Englishman-a-an" will be spoken and written. Miss Ruth Lincoln makes a charming "Josephine," specially excelling in the high notes of that part. Mr. Edward McKeown is as nearly the ideal "suckstraw" that Gilbert must have had in his "mind's eye," as one would wished to see. "The Little Buttercup" of Miss Ethel Morrison is an excellent representation of that role, and Mr. Villiers Arnold as Captain Corcoran is all that can be desired. The "make-up" of Mr. Kavanagh as "Dick Deadeye" is admirable and Mr. Derek Hudson makes a very creditable "Bill Bobstay," and as the "ruler of the King's navee," Mr. Chas. R. Walenn is admirable in every way. The other members of the cast, as well as the chorus and orchestra under the skilful baton of Mr. Burton, play with a precision and harmony that fully deserve the oft-repeated applause of the delighted audience. Johannesburg is indeed very loth to part with this Opera Company.

THE EMPIRE.

On Monday night the revue "Splash Me" entered upon its last week and, in spite of its very long run, has been drawing good houses all along. There have been every week quite appreciable changes in the production which caused a total absence of monotony. The engagement of Miss Juta proved a great success and the singer herself a valuable acquisition. The young lady is an accomplished artiste with a fine soprano voice, highly cultured and artistic and we would like to hear her in grand opera, in preference to the light work which she does at present. The personnel of the present Empire company, Miss Flora Cromer, Mr. Woolmer Young, Miss Enil Zajah, Wheeler and Wilson, Guest and Newlyn and the remainder of the cast have all become great favourites with the Empire patrons and their breezy performance will be missed long after their departure. However, all things, even the best, must come to an end and already the programme, beginning next week, has been announced. The artistes are, among others, the Great Golden Troupe of Russian Dancers and Singers; the Corinthians "a costume company," the great Darracy Company and several other artistes. This seems to be a programme of particular strength which, in its novelty, is sure to draw the usual big houses.

The marriage of Miss Queenie Vallentine to Mr. Phil Levi will take place at Durban on Sunday. Miss Vallentine, who left by last Sunday's train or Durban, has been the recipient of a large number of presents,