



"Betty."

This charming musical comedy entered upon its second week at His Majesty's on Monday night last, meeting with the same success and undivided admiration. This is fully justified, for, although the operette does not possess many tunes which will become popular, in the broad sense of the word, it abounds with melodious airs, especially the waltz theme which has a sweetly pretty tune. There is no doubt that Paul A. Rubens, the composer, has given us of his best. Certain incidents of the plot remind one, however, of the "Merry Widow," although the principal character is diametrically opposed to that of "Betty." Nevertheless the plot itself is quite feasible and one never loses interest in it from start to finish.

Miss Gladys Moncrieff is admirably suited to the part of "Betty" and by her acting added another large quota to the excellent name she has made for herself, whilst by her singing she has further strengthened the conviction that in her we possess an exponent of the vocal art of no mean order. We would not call hers a "strong" voice, but she sings artistically and in a refined manner, two important factors which go a long way to make up for "volume." Mr. Fred Hearne surprised us by the excellent manner in which he acquitted himself as Gerard, the most important role with which he has so far been entrusted. The return to the stage of Johannesburg's favourite, Theo. [Leonard] was hailed with delight by his numerous admirers and his entrance was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Miss Dorothy Pardell makes a charming youth assimilating herself well to the male impersonation. All the other leading members of the present company fill very suitable parts, so that it is a foregone conclusion that the performance of "Betty" means another success for these popular artists, the presence nightly of large audiences being therefore very natural.

P. J.

"What Every Woman Knows."

In an open letter addressed by Miss Katherine Pole to the Johannesburg public, the popular artist states that she has chosen Sir James M. Barrie's play "What Every Woman Knows" (which has been staged at the above theatre nightly since Monday last) for her next production, "because it is a masterpiece of humour and humanity, of wit and brilliant dialogue." In answer to this we can only say that

Miss Pole's choice could certainly not have been happier and that Sir James Barrie's clever play must give infinite pleasure to all those who enjoy art in its highest form and who delight in a faithful portrayal of human nature with all its failings and weaknesses, its humour, pathos and quiet heroism. The secret "What Every Woman Knows" is subtly revealed during the play and yet remains a secret still; it is never stated in so many blunt words, yet the author's deep meaning of the phrase comes to us as we sit and watch the great happenings in John Shand's and Maggie Wylie's life. Though quite uneducated and leading a monotonous domestic existence with her aged father and unworldly brothers, it is Maggie, who has a true perception of life, who takes up serious study and acquires a very fair knowledge of a foreign language, so that the student John Shand when he, by agreement with her family, becomes her husband, should find her a suitable mate. It is she who with her strong love for the impetuous young man, her deep insight into his nature (and above all because she is in possession of the elusive secret) enables him to soar high and reach the much coveted goal, a seat in the Cabinet.

Miss Katherine Pole's rendering of Maggie is a fine piece of work—nay, of art; it is a picture made up of little tales of humour and pathos, deep emotion and hard inner struggles, wonderful unselfishness and a true rating of her own value, a just realization of how indispensable she has become to her ambitious husband. These shades are blended so artfully, that there emerges a creature full of charm and wisdom, a personality to love and admire. Mr. Frank Cellier is equally successful in drawing a fine portrait of John Shand, the man who will allow nothing to interfere with his career and yet comes so near wrecking it "through the calf-love of a young hog," to whom a bargain is a bargain, who has never laughed and always misses the shafts of humour with which his wife and her good friend the Comtesse de la Briere—admirably played by Miss Yvonne Orchardson—illuminate his path. Messrs. M. R. Morand, Hubert Parwell and Wm. Mollison as the father and brothers of Maggie, form an excellent trio of careful scheming Scotsmen, each of them presenting a really fine study and their work especially in the first act, is deserving of high praise. Miss Kathleen Sinclair makes a very graceful attractive Lady Sybil Laxenby, but we would suggest that a little more passion and "letting herself go" in the second scene of the 3rd act would make her part more convincing and effective, and Mr. Gordon McLeod's im-

personation of Mr. Venables leaves nothing to be desired.

M. I.

The Empire.

The programme presented this week at this popular place of amusement is interesting in many of its items though it must be frankly admitted that there is just a little too much Clive about the business. Admitting Mr. Clive's remarkable ability as a conjurer and an illusionist, it must not be forgotten that he has only recently closed his season at the Standard and the sketch which he and Mabel Bunyea present "When Two Hearts are Won" was played by them when they first appeared. The principal interest attaching to this sketch is the first appearance of Miss Asta Meave as the maid to the bride, this being the *nom de theatre* of a well-known Johannesburg lady, Mrs. Edward Lichtenstein. Although not having a large part, Miss Meave comports herself admirably and succeeds in crying at the right time. Charles Brown and May Newman are quite good in their way and Carrie Johnson plays with distinction and ability, the interest in her renderings being much enhanced by the appropriate stage settings and her costumes. Redhead Wilson gives a very clever turn and Delino is a slack wire performer of great ability so that, altogether, an enjoyable evening's entertainment is provided.

Interesting to the Provinces.

We learn that Mr. Martin Harvey has obtained from Sir. Charles Wyndham the provincial rights in "Rosemary," in addition to those of "David Garrick," which he intends to make the main feature of his autumn tour. That will include, among other principal cities, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Dublin, and Belfast.

The Stratford Festival.

The summer festival at Stratford-on-Avon began on the 29th of last month and will extend over four weeks. Performances in the theatre, under the direction of Mr. Ben Greet, include seven of Shakespeare's plays, together with "The Rivals," "The School for Scandal," and "She Stoops to Conquer," while there will also take place a number of conferences and other attractions.

MATRON WANTED.

Applications are invited for the position of Matron to the S. A. Jewish Orphanage. Salary to commence £180 per annum, with board and residence. Applicant must apply in writing stating qualification, age etc to Hon. Secretary, P. O. Box 2697, Johannesburg.