



Mr. A. Carpenter.
(From Photo.)



"Trial by Jury."

This charming little operetta was presented this week and, thanks to the brightness of the libretto and the beauty of the music, was well received. I must admit that I was not much impressed except with the way Fred Coyne dominated the scene and the beauty of the dresses worn by the plaintiff and her bridesmaids. Richard Andean took the part of the judge with a certain amount of ability but was heavily handicapped by the absence of a voice and much the same can be said to apply to the portrayers of the other characters. As an operatic curtain raiser "Trial by Jury" is a success and fully answered its purpose during the week.

"H.M.S. Pinafore."

I doubt whether among all those who go to see this further production from the pens of Gilbert and Sullivan realise that, like all similar emanations from their fertile brains, it was written with an object. It is a sarcastic onslaught upon the system which pertains in the British Government of appointing men to cabinet offices and in charge of important ministerial departments not only in spite of, but also almost because of, their technical ignorance of the duties pertaining to those positions. The story of the lawyer's office boy, who became First Lord of the Admiralty because he had succeeded in the legal profession, is but another instance of the placing of square pegs in round holes and it is only of comparatively recent years that British Prime Ministers have, in a few instances, made soldiers Secretaries of State for War and pedagogues Ministers of Education. But all this is by the way and will hardly interest even our readers who, like other members of the audience, view these productions with a superficiality that condones their many faults and exaggerates their few virtues. As Ralph Rackstraw, Edward McKeown was very good and his possession of a voice makes him stand out in marked contra distinction from the rest of the cast. Fortunately, the part of the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B. First Lord of the Admiralty does not require the possession of marked vocal ability and Richard Andean played it with the necessary composure and restraint. Christine Lorimer's Little Buttercup was distinctly pleasing while Doris Cameron sang Josephine's lines in good style. It is a pity that either she did not make up younger or her alleged father, Cap-

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AND VAUDEVILLE

tain Corcoran—ably presented by Alexander Haviland—a little older, because from appearances one looked more like the mother, than the daughter of the other. There is no doubt as to the service which Fred Coyne is rendering to this Company. Not only is he the producer, but, owing to the regrettable death of Mr. W. Hartigan, he stepped into the breach and played Dick Deadeye with an able recognition of the possibilities of the role. The scenery is good and the dressing appropriate and I should consider myself impertinent to make any remarks regarding either the music or the dialogue.

L.L.G.

The Empire.

The night of my visit to this popular pleasure resort, the numbers of the programme were somewhat shuffled, but I got them right with the assistance of the electric light indicator. Terry Wilson did not appear, owing to indisposition, but two young ladies stepped into the breach, entertaining us with singing and graceful dancing. For all round quality the second portion of the programme takes undoubtedly first place. The Three Morelly's, two brothers and their sister (I presume) are a wonderfully clever trio of gymnasts, everyone of their acts being clean and interesting, and no little credit is due to the young lady who displays marvelous feats of strength and endurance. Newmann and Wynne earned well deserved applause for their clever sketch "The Trainer's Daughter" which was in-

terspersed with many witty puns. One of the most thrilling turns was that give by Holloway and Austin in their performance on the tight rope, where the male artist indulges in incredulous tasks, crowning his efforts with bicycle trick riding. Skipper Francis's entertainment is exceedingly fascinating and inspires the looker on with unstinted admiration by reason of his versatility. The film production of his cross channel swim forms an interesting feature of his tura. The appearance of Vera Hind was the opening number of the performance; she rendered a few comic songs, whilst Keilderson's "Quickchange Facial and Character Impersonations" greatly appealed to the people, some of them being really clever and true to life, such as the late President Kruger, President Wilson, the late King Edward, Duke Wellington, and others. This artist is also a ventriloquist. Last but not least, Will Tyler gave a fine riding exhibition on his bicycle.

P.J.

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