



### THE KINEMACOLOR.

In these days of bioscopes and cinematograph shows every novelty or novel feature which tends towards improving the picture which is thrown on the screen is hailed with delight by the numerous patrons of this class of entertainment. No wonder, therefore, that the audience which gathered at the Standard Theatre on Monday night showed its appreciation in a marked degree of this invention, which an enterprising company has introduced in South Africa. The Kinemacolor consists of the production of photo-pictures in their natural colouring, and it must be regarded as a most remarkable achievement. We are told that no hand-colouring is done and no machinery whatever is employed in the production of the films, and that the remarkable results which are achieved are due solely to the action of the rays of the sun. In addition to the vividness of the colouring, another wonderful feature of this perfect invention is the stereoscopic nature of the pictures, a thing heretofore unknown. The subjects employed to test the effectiveness of the Kinemacolor were extremely well chosen, and represented a large variety of different types. The first picture thrown on the screen was of some interesting scenes of mixed bathing at Ostend, the favourite Continental health resort, and was instructive and amusing at the same time. Here at last we had an opportunity of admiring not only the chic and style of the bathing costumes worn by the leading ladies of fashion, but also the smartness of the colours employed in the design of the same. The next picture was still more astoundingly beautiful in its effects; it is aptly called "Refreshments," and is a wonderful example of the exact reproduction of familiar refreshments and fruits in their natural colours. Almost every variety of tint and shade is produced, and this picture must be considered as one of the most remarkable accomplishments of the Kinemacolor. The next five films were a complete reproduction of the visit of their Imperial Majesties to India, and were taken by special command of the King. The opportunities afforded to the Kinemacolor in the production of these films were manifold, and full advantage has been taken of the azure of the sky, the gorgeously of the costumes worn by the Indians, the splendour of the magnificent uniforms of the Europeans and the Orientals, the brilliant colouring of the many towers, arches, and edifices erected in honour of their Majesties, and, in particular, the stately edifice in which the Emperor and his Consort received the homage of the Indian subjects, were portrayed with marvellous perfection. There is no blurring or running of colour, the pictures run steadily and in excellent perspective. The next picture, entitled "From Bud to Blossom," showed us the unfolding of flowers into full bloom, and what must be considered a remarkable performance was brought to a close with a charming presentation of the beautiful surroundings of the Isle of Wight, the sympathetic colouring of this lovely spot being produced with great success and constituting a perfect piece of coloured photography—a further proof of the perfectness of the new process.

### THE ARTISTES.

The management has wisely not omitted to intersperse the performance with a number of excellent vaudeville "turns." Miss Kathleen Grey, who comes with a reputation gained at the principal London halls, is an artiste worthy of notice. Her songs, which are rendered with grace, are "catchy" and pleasant, and the calls for encores go to show that she may look forward to a successful season. She is the possessor of a perfect figure, which was shown to great advantage in her sailor-boy costume. Spessels Bros. and Mack delight the audience with their drolleries and clever acrobatic feats, and Robb Gilmore is certainly a first-class comedian, and assists in no small degree towards

making the whole performance a decided success. In conclusion, we wish to compliment the S.A. Kinemacolor Co., Ltd., on their new enterprise, and if we can judge by the reception accorded to the new invention on the opening night, we have no hesitation in saying that a complete success, which the company so well deserves, is undoubtedly assured.

### THE STANDARD CONCERTS.

Mr. Leonard Rayne is inaugurating on Sunday evening next a series of grand Sunday concerts that should prove highly popular with local audiences. The prices in themselves should ensure a good attendance—3s., 2s., and 1s.—but, in spite of the extreme moderate charges for admission, the artistes engaged are such as to justify in every sense of the term the designation of the performances as "grand concerts."

### THE EMPIRE.

The new arrangement which came into force this week at the above theatre is sure to become very popular with its patrons. It is that two new artistes arrive every fortnight, instead of five every month. The first who have come out under this innovation are Bellman and Poluski in "Bits of Vaudeville," and Edis and Lupino in an act entitled "The Gipsy's Wooing." For variety and clever entertaining the palm must be given to the first-named pair, who perform a very amusing and really good act. The lady at first assumes the character of a little schoolgirl in such a perfect manner that one is at a loss whether she is really only a girl or a grown-up woman. Her "get-up" is excellent, and her voice both for singing and speaking is excellently toned for the part she takes. She is indeed many-sided with singing, "patter," acting and dancing. The dialogue between herself and her "Teddy Bear" is very amusing, and a clever bit of acting on both their parts. The second part of their entertainment consists of singing and dancing, when some excellent work, both amusing and entertaining, is gone through. This "turn" has already become very popular. Edis and Lupino also give a very entertaining performance. The scene is laid along a streamlet where the Gipsies have pitched their camp. The turn is more like a one-act comic play with its manifold varieties and is highly amusing. The rest of the programme is made up of old favourites who are, taking them in rotation as they appear, Madge May, serio and dancer; Frank H. Fox, light comedian; Mabel Green, the great favourite; Jenny Hartley, Captain Woodward's animals, Little Ganty, Lil Hawthorne, and Ferry Corwey, the musical clown. With talent like the foregoing the Empire is all that can be desired for an evening's entertainment.

### THE GRAND.

The programme at present being presented to crowded houses at this deservedly popular place of entertainment is a most enjoyable one, both from the vaudeville and picture points of view. Harry Taft's reappearance at the Grand was welcomed on Monday night most enthusiastically, his songs, "patter," and stories being very clever and entertaining. The Franco Midgets, who not long ago formed part of the Standard company, give a wonderfully clever performance with their conjuring tricks and illusions, and their comedy with which they delight the audience is by no means the least attractive part of their "turn." Ike and Will Scott give an excellent entertainment, their humorous singing and "business" being greatly enjoyed, and their clever dancing deservedly praised. The pictures were all very good, especially the one entitled "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

### "WITH HALF A LOVER."

The new play by Mrs. Violet Lezard, in which Miss Muriel Alexander has been said to collaborate as regards the stage-craft and the situations, was produced at the Standard Theatre on Thursday afternoon of last week by members of the Howitt Company, together with Miss Lydia Hayward and Miss M. Alexander. There was a fair attendance in consequence of the charitable nature of the function which was that of affording assistance to the survivors of the recent Titanic disaster, and judging by the applause

which occasionally greeted the drop of the curtain, there were portions of the audience who appreciated both the play and the acting. As a play, "With Half a Lover," is undoubtedly interesting more for what it suggests than what it reveals, and, given careful cutting here and there and an absence of that obvious straining after cheap cynicism, might become presentable. Fortunately the popularity of the writers, together with the sympathy that was felt for the cause of the performance, was such as to induce both critics and public to look more kindly upon the playwrights' attempt than might otherwise have been the case. Amongst the drawbacks is the absence of conviction, too many explanations at one time, and more time should elapse between the last two acts; time for Dudley Chester to prove himself worthy of the girl he loves, and for Dorothea Crompton to settle down.

#### THE PLOT

of "With Half a Lover" is new to us. It deals with a rather unfortunate marriage between Fuller Crompton, an elderly man, and a very young and pretty woman, Dorothea. This woman, belongs to the type who, to use the playwrights' own words, "marry young in order to obtain protection in their old age." As a very natural result she soon tires of her husband, and her main object in life seems to be the experience of a "mad, foolish, ungovernable love." She believes herself capable of such a love; but admits that there is nobody at hand on whom to lavish it, and adds that should such a person turn up she will not think twice of bestowing it upon him. Her husband's character differs greatly from her own. He has sound, old-fashioned ideas regarding womankind, and when his wife reveals to him in a fit of desperation that she cannot, and has no intention of trying to live the life he would have her do, he decides to join a shooting party, and departs for a month, leaving his dissatisfied wife to do as she will. Enter Jeanette Vicars, journalist and friend of Dorothea. For some inconceivable reason, this young lady persuades Dorothea to interview a notorious actor in his dressing-room. It must be said for Mrs. Crompton, however, that at first she is shocked, but after a great deal of encouragement from Jeannette and her own thirst for excitement, she decides to do as she is requested, and duly interviews the gentleman. The latter belongs to the matinee idol variety, and Dorothea, like most women who meet him, falls desperately in love with him. She truly believes he reciprocates her passion; but she merely flatters his vanity, and the climax comes when the actor, Dudley Chester by name, meets her niece, Elsie Wyndham, aged 19. This little lady makes no fuss of the handsome Dudley, and after meeting her constantly at her aunt's house, he falls in love with her. It would seem that up to his meeting with Elsie, Dudley had loved nobody but himself and his profession.

#### THE LAST ACT

is laid at Crompton's home. He has returned from the shooting expedition, and has learned all about his wife's infatuation for Ludley Chester. At the last moment he is saved more trouble by Dudley's declaration of love for Elsie. Poor Dorothea! She is broken-hearted at the idea of Dudley loving another woman, but she has experienced that mad ungovernable love and so is more satisfied. In the end she turns repentant to her always loyal and faithful husband, and then at last they decide to visit their country home together.

#### A FEW REMARKS.

Such is the *motif* of the play, the success of which was not added to by the manner in which it was presented. The part of Dorothea Crompton should have been taken by a particularly good-looking actress, and her dresses should have been such as any woman, desirous of dazzling a man, would be calculated to wear. As a matter of fact Miss Alexander's dresses were both badly conceived and ill-fitting, and the only actress who was suitably garbed was Miss Doris Phillips, whose presentation of Elsie Wyndham was entirely charming. One does not expect a female journalist to be robed in the latest Paris confections, but we should be sorry for the lady representatives of the local papers were they to appear as did Miss Lydia Hayward in her role of Jeanette Vicars, in a black gown that was obviously meant for somebody else, and presumably even fitted that person badly. Parts that perhaps are entitled to special

mention are those of the valet of Digby Chesters, which was ably portrayed by Mr. Cecil Kellaway, and Mr. Sparrow's presentation of the vain-glorious actor, that was both clever and dignified. We understand that a sum of between £50 and £60 has been raised as a result of the matinee, but, if the size of the house be any criterion, a larger sum should be forthcoming unless a considerable amount has been wasted in expenses.

#### DR. CHERNIAVSKY'S CONCERT.

On Sunday night last Dr. Gregor Cherniavsky gave a concert at His Majesty's Theatre, and the event afforded a good musical treat to the music-loving public. The audience was large, select, and highly enthusiastic throughout. Dr. Cherniavsky displayed his mastership of the violin in the famous Tschaikowsky Violin-Concerto, which he admirably rendered. This composition, which reaches the highest possible limit in violin-playing, can only be successfully attempted by a few players, of whom Dr. Cherniavsky is undoubtedly one. The difficult parts, octaves, chords, and *flageoletti*, as well as the *cadenza bravura*, were well rendered, and earned the enthusiastic applause of the audience. The difficult piano-accompaniment, or rather orchestration, was well played by Mr. Pierre de Beer. Previous to the concerto Dr. Cherniavsky played two movements of Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata, together with Mr. Barton, who presided at the piano with great skill. Dr. Cherniavsky also played "Air Russe," by Winiawski, another composition which bristles with technical difficulties, and finally he performed a bracket of three compositions by Miss Elsa Maxwell, who presided at the piano. They were sweet, simple pieces, sure to find their way into the repertoire of some of our less brilliant violinists. The instrumental portion of the programme was interspersed by vocal contributions by Miss Ethel Mann, a well-known local alto singer, as also by two new lady arrivals on the concert platform, Miss Constance Young and Miss Blowden Hopkins. Both the latter possess well-trained, fine, melodious soprano voices, in addition to which Miss Blowden is also an excellent singer of *colleratura*, which she demonstrated in the famous Polonaise from "Mignon," in which she also showed the large range of her fine voice. Miss Young's voice is not exactly strong, but well-trained and sweet. All three ladies sang several compositions by Miss Elsa Maxwell, accompanied by the latter, which showed Miss Maxwell to be a composer of much originality and temperament. The concert was a great musical success from every point of view.

#### THE EISTEDDFOD.

There was a record attendance on Friday last at the Wanderers at this annual Welsh festival, and the standard of the contests was a distinct advance on that of previous years. Among the successful competitors were: Violin (juniors) and violin solo, Harry Cantor; ladies' choirs, Madame Bal's Pretoria Choir; junior recitation, Miss Miriam Levy; senior piano competition, Miss Minnie Freeman (in spite of what a contemporary thinks fit to remark in criticising the award of the adjudicators in this competition; our musical critic fully endorses the decision of the judges); poem competition, Mr. F. Paul Stern, of Woodstock, Cape Colony, who was thus declared the Bard for the 1912 Eisteddfod. We are asked to state that the winner of the gold medal for piano playing (juniors) was Miss Phyllis Wall, while the diploma of merit went to Miss Annie Lynn.

#### OBITUARY.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Herman Youngelson, which took place on Tuesday last. The deceased was in his 63rd year, and an old and well-known resident in South Africa, having been in this country for the last twenty years. Previous to that he had lived for some time in Birmingham, England. At one time deceased had taken a great and active interest in communal matters, and was a member of the first Committee of the Johannesburg Hebrew Congregation. Mr. Youngelson leaves a widow and children to mourn his loss, as well as a large family, one of his daughters being Mrs. Leo Mayer, and another Mrs. Sam Lavenstein.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, and the attendance of relatives and friends was a very large one.