



THE EMPIRE

The energetic management of the above popular place of amusement is not relaxing its efforts to place the best obtainable talent before its many patrons, which they fully appreciate. The present week brought forth a star of great magnitude in the person of

MAY DE SOUSA.

who can justly exclaim: *Veni, vidi vici*, for she was an instantaneous success. She is more than what she is called on the programme, a musical comedy artiste, being a refined singer and actress combined. She is pretty, dainty, and fascinating, and has, as a welcome addition to these most acceptable qualities, a fine, well-trained soprano voice which charms in its sweetness and appeals in a sympathetic manner, particularly in the "piano" parts, in which the artiste excels. We would be wanting in completeness were we to omit mentioning the artiste's beautiful dresses, which should be the envy of the "upper ten." Her songs are pretty and the tunes melodious, and although simple in themselves, they gain in interest and value by the way Miss de Sousa renders them. Needless to say, the dainty artiste is nightly the recipient of enthusiastic applause which draws forth encore after encore.

OTHER NEW TURNS.

Next to Miss de Sousa in importance comes Wilfred Burnand, who is a character impersonator of high rank, and in addition, also a Protean artist. The most artistic of his "studies" is the impersonation of Sir Henry Irving as Corporal Brewster in "Waterloo." Another excellent presentation was that of Jack Pleasant in "Im Twenty-one To-day," in which the artist gave strong proof of careful study and rehearsing. He also gave an excellent imitation of Neil Kenyon, the well-known Scotch comedian, which fairly brought down the house, whilst thundering applause rewarded the artiste's efforts, being repeatedly called before the footlights at the conclusion of his performance. La Danseuse is a graceful international dancer who charmed the audience by her art, and Miss Violet Trevenon is a comedienne who possesses a fine and sonorous alto voice, whilst her dresses are chic and of the very latest style.

THE OLD ONES.

Boyd and Gilfillan are a pair of clever patterers and good singers. Miss Millie Doris, the hot favourite of Empire patrons, goes as "strong" as ever, in more senses than one. She has now completely changed her extensive repertoire, foremost among her songs being "I want to sing in Opera" and a skit on the Salvation Army lassie. Although she sang numerous pieces, her many admirers are rightly loth to part with her until she has favoured them with her now famous "Hot-cross bun" song. Toch and Tard have still the laughers on their side, Maria La Bella continues to draw much applause in her graceful dancing act, and the Raymont Trio, who finish their engagement this week, have lost none of their attraction. Verily, an all-round programme which leaves nothing to desire!

LEONARD RAYNE SEASON.

Local theatregoers will be interested to learn that on Monday next the popular actor-manager, Mr. Leonard Rayne, will open a dramatic season which should rank among his most successful. Productions and prices will be alike especially popular. The initial performance will be Mr. W. G. Wills's fine drama, "A Royal Divorce." Mr. Rayne himself will take the part of the great Corsican soldier, which so thoroughly suits him. He has gathered round him a very strong company, whose performances recently in Durban, East London, and Capetown have been astoundingly well patronised. This shows that public favour has again swung towards plays with a strong human interest and which tell a straightforward story. Special attention has been paid to the scenery and costumes. "A Royal Divorce" will be followed by such works as "The Christian," "The Bondman," "The Prodigal Son," "Under Two Flags," "The Lights of London," "When London Sleeps," "A White Man," "A Life's Revenge," etc. With that consideration that has tended so much to his popularity, Mr. Rayne has wisely decided to reduce the prices of seats in his cosy theatre, and consequently admission to witness any of these charming presentations may be obtained, according to the wish of the visitor, at any price from one shilling to six.

THE ORPHEUM.

Crowded houses were again witnessed at this popular theatre, and the fare provided this week is as good as ever.

The pictures shown were appreciated by the audience, especially the star film, "The Child Stealers," which is well worth seeing. Another film which calls for special mention is the motion picture of Barcelona, and here we were treated to some very pretty and enchanting scenery of Spain. As Thursday night sees a change in the programme visitors will be treated, without any increase in the prices, to the first appearance of no fewer than 22 performers (if we include animals). Pride of place must be given to the Robins-Collier Trio in their musical comedy burlesque, "Mrs. Bacon's Easter Egg," featuring Violette, said to be the cleverest child comedienne, dancer, and contortionist in the world. An animal turn will be presented by Miss Millie Dagmar and her pony and ten dogs, and as the Orpheum management have discovered that their audiences are particularly appreciative of good instrumentalism and vocalism, the Kennedy Concert Party will give convincing proof of their abilities as musicians.

THE GRAND.

Last night there was an entire change of photo plays at this pleasant little theatre, when the new films included such star presentations as "A Child's Devotion," "In Peril of their Lives," and Pathe's "Gazette." Always up-to-date the Grand Theatre management have secured copies of the matches between the Springboks and the various English counties, and the match with Devon was shown last night. These are the actual pictures, taken specially for the Empire Theatres Co. circuit. On Monday next a new company of stars will commence a season, including the wonderful cyclist, Frank Wilson, while there will be the usual matinee on Saturday at three o'clock.

THE CARLTON CINEMA.

There are few more comfortable bioscope theatres in the town than the Carlton Cinema, so centrally situated next to the fashionable hotel. Night after night, to say nothing of the matinees, there are excellent audiences to witness the different photo plays which are thrown upon the screen, and which are so frequently changed that there is no tiresome repetition. Recognising the heat which at the present time pertains, the management have wisely installed six large exhaust fans so that there is a complete change of air every seven minutes, with the result that the Cinema is one of the best ventilated theatres in town. With excellent pictures, good management, and general comfort, the Carlton should easily retain its position as one of the most popular theatre resorts in our midst.



Correspondence.

IS IT POLITICAL?

To the Editor, S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,—Recently a meeting was held in this town, the ostensible object of which was the formation of a Jewish Working Men's Club. Such a club, established on a proper basis and working on lines such as the title suggests, would, I consider, be a welcome addition to the institutions of the town, and naturally I took an interest in the matter. It is obvious, however, that such a club should be entirely free from politics, and it was set forth that this was one of the conditions in the formation. I was surprised, therefore, to find that the first president elected was Mr. H. D. Bernberg, a prominent member of the Labour Party, and the first vice-president Mr. J. B. Shacksnovis, one of the party's latest recruits. This appears to me to be a move to constitute the club a sort of subsidiary to the Labour Party, and as such it would only appeal to a section of the Jewish working men, and at that a small section. If this be not the case, then it seems that greater wisdom would have been shown in a more careful selection being made of the club's two foremost officials. The political tendencies cannot be screened by the title, "Jewish Working Men's Club."—I am, etc.,

H. L. FREEMAN.

66, Sherwell Street, Doornfontein.

October 29, 1912.

[The above letter is accorded the publicity of our columns on our principle of always publishing our readers' views, but, needless to say, we do not agree with our correspondent. To follow his argument to a logical conclusion would have the following result: If Dr. Manfred Nathan and Mr. Max Langemann had been appointed in the place of the gentlemen referred to, then the club would have been said to have a Nationalist colouring, while if Mr. Emile Nathan and Mr. Bernard Alexander had been offered and accepted the presidency and vice-presidency, then our correspondent would doubtless have claimed Unionist leanings for the new formation.—Editor, "S.A.J.C."]