



"The Natural Law"

This play was presented on Monday night last at the Standard, when it was accorded a favourable reception, and has drawn good houses ever since. It is another one of those sex problems of which so many, partly through the medium of the bioscope and partly through live acting, have of late been placed a before the public. The author, Charles Sumner, in an able manner, demonstrates his personal version of a very ancient, but ever new, question, the attraction of youth by youth, to the detriment of the more matured. The crux of the play is centred in the law of nature as against the laws of society and public sympathy goes out towards the doctor, a philanthropic and humane man, who has eventually to give way to the younger athlete, which is the manner in which the author demonstrates his version or rather idea of "The Natural Law". The cast is a short one consisting of eight characters only, who, however, have all been remarkably well placed. Mr. John Cairns in the important part of the doctor, plays with great restraint and that dignity to which the success of his acting must be attributed. Mr. Frank Cellier, his younger rival, imbues his character with the right youthful fire, which contrasts considerably with his recent other characterisations. Miss Freda Godfrey was as sympathetic as ever, rising to a high pitch of emotion at the end of the second act. Miss Florence Glossop-Harris played the part of Della Forbush excellently, and Miss Eileen Gerard as Mrs. Franklin was just sufficiently unforgetful; not to forget, when she had to appear on the stage. The smaller parts of Freddie Donlin and Judge White were well sustained by Dick Neville and Harry C. Payne, while Mr. Ralph Kimpton is the successful producer.

P. J.

His Majesty's.

The revival of Jean Gilbert's delightful operette "The Girl in the Taxi" has given general satisfaction to the large number of patrons of His Majesty's who have been filling this theatre ever since Monday night. Next to "The Merry Widow" probably the most popular,

modern musical comedy, with its charming and catchy airs, three of which, and foremost among them the well-known waltz, have taken everywhere. Mr. Theo. Leonard, our comedian *par excellence*, in his old part of Pomarel, renders Yeoman services and gets, as usual, every ounce of fun out of it, much to the delight of the audience, from whom he draws again and again hearty and prolonged applause. Miss Ruth Lincoln, as the chaste Suzanne, has many opportunities for displaying her excellent voice, in addition to which her superb acting is much appreciated. Mr. Herbert Millard plays the part of the hypocritical Baron Dauvray with just the right amount of verve, finding splendid assistance in the other "members of his family," his wife, Miss Rita Reus, his daughter, Miss Nita Stodel, and his son, the irrepressible Thos. Paunceforte, worthily assisted by his nephew, Nelson Hancock, whose fine baritone is heard to great advantage in several solos and duets. In Mr Grafton Williams' hands, the part of Charcot finds a capital exponent, whilst Miss Dorothy Hamilton is charming as Rose. In addition, Mr. Ray Brown put in some good work as Alexis, and much praise is due to Miss Phyllis Solomon for her graceful dancing in the second act. The orchestra, with Mr. Dave Foote as conductor, plays and accompanies in a faultless manner and altogether "The Girl in the Taxi" adds another undeniable success to the long string which stands to the credit of the producer, Mr. Thos. Paunceforte.

P. J.

Another Cherniavsky Concert.

Apparently Johannesburg cannot get enough of the trio of brilliant co-religionists who have been delighting them during the past few weeks since our advertising columns announce the fact that an extra concert will take place on Sunday evening next. Last Sunday's appearance was a veritable triumph for the entire trio and each piece rendered whether on the piano, violin or cello was greeted with tumultuous applause by a large and enthusiastic audience. On Sunday evening the great Schubert Trio in B Flat Minor will be played and should provide an attraction for all real music lovers. Booking is as usual at Messrs. Mackay Bros. and those who do not wish to be disappointed would be well advised to reserve their seats as soon as possible.

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