

**Music and
The Drama**

IN MUSICAL CIRCLES.

Quite as anticipated in this department last week, the concert which marked the debut of Miss Helen Furlong as a violinist was an event of more than ordinary local interest. The programme was well arranged and offered much attraction, but notwithstanding this, justice—which is so frequently in conflict with inclination—compels the remark that the rendition of some of the contributions, was attended by no little sense of disappointment. I prefer to consider the concert from the amateur standpoint, but amateurs though the performers may have been, those from whom the audience had expected special delight did not at all appear to the same advantage as had been the case when they sang in the Mikado. It is a pleasure indeed to recall Mrs. Taylor's singing in the role of Yum-yum in the garden scene in Mikado, but for some unaccountable reason that lady in the concert of last week was not at all in similar form. This I am sure every one regretted very much. Miss Kathleen Furlong who is a favorite, did not seem at her best either. Then there was Mr. Ruel's solo or solos in fact, because he was encored. He therefore must have pleased some of the audience. He left an impression that will not readily be forgotten by those who heard him.

The direct musical interest centred upon the young debutante and her advent was eagerly waited. She appeared in the programme order and received a cordial and hearty welcome from every one in the audience. She won the sympathy and the favor of even the most critical by the nice modest unassuming manner she made her entry on the stage, without any parade or ostentation, or flourish of trumpets, but in a sweet unobtrusive, lady like manner that won all hearts before she produced a single tone from her favorite instrument. Nor was she without an apparent full sense of the severity of the ordeal she was confronting for the first time. Her playing gave perfect satisfaction and nothing but words of unstinted praise were heard on all sides. Every listener conceded that the young lady had scored a decided success and there is no doubt in the near future, with continued study and practice, she will take high rank.

among the more distinguished lady violinists of the world. The concert was under the direction of Mr. James S. Ford, who is a musician of admitted skill and ability but who, I regret to say, despite friendly suggestion to the contrary, persists in playing his accompaniments too loudly. The pizzicato solo on the violin, as an instance, was almost inaudible at times, from this cause. Mr. Robert Seely was in good voice sang one of Mr. Ford's compositions which was much appreciated and in response to an encore gave "The Diver." Miss Kathleen Furlong sang in a duet with Mr. Seely and subsequently gave a solo "Let me dream again." It was a charming piece but I think the lady did not make quit as much out of it as was possible. It was well enough done however to merit the earnest encore she received. Other features there were that pleased. The concert was attended by a large and most select audience.

Mr. Buck the basso cantante of whom mention was made in this department last week, has been secured as choir master in St. Andrews church. He began his engagement on Sunday last, and sang a solo from the "Elijah" the accompaniment being well played by Miss Everett the organist of the church who, I understand, had little opportunity for rehearsal with the singer. Mr. Buck's voice is represented to me as being one of considerable power. I have not yet heard this gentleman sing but I have frequently noticed that "power" does not always indicate music or melody. No expression of opinion is intended as to Mr. Buck's vocal qualities.

It was a real pleasure this week to meet "Fred" Smith who is spending his vacation in his native city. Fred's musical friends are numerous and—there are others. The indications are then that he will not have much rest while here.

Tones and Undertones.

A Miss Suzanne Adams a native of Cambridge, Mass., has been engaged for a term of three years as prima donna at the opera Comique in Paris. Miss Adams had been a former prima at the grand opera in that city.

"The Strike of the Blacksmith" is the name given to a new opera, recently produced and with much success at Nuremberg. The work is by Messrs. Leon and Beer.

It is now stated that Miss Marie Brema will not return to the United States with

the Damrosch opera company she having a somewhat liberal offer made her by Mr. Damrosch. She will remain in Europe where her success is said to be assured. She may however be heard in the states during next April and May.

Mme. Dyna Beumer, the Belgian Soprano, will give her first concert in New York on Nov. 16, next. Seidl's orchestra is secured for the occasion.

A new oratorio, which is called "Hezekiah," will shortly be produced. It is the product of the labors of John T. Walcott a young Detroit composer, who has worked on it for three years.

A new oratorio, entitled "Isaiah" was recently produced in Minneapolis where its author Williard Patten, resides. Its reception was of a favorable character.

It is claimed by the Society of Musical Composers in Paris that there is no hall in that city which has the necessary acoustic properties for concerts on a grand scale. Application has therefore been made for the erection of a building to supply the want.

Miss Lillian Carlsmith, the well known alto, has left New York for a short time and is passing her summer vacation at Old Orchard.

Madame Melba will make a concert tour in England for three weeks during next October, and will come to the United States in November, when the Damrosch-Ellis opera season will open. It is said that Melba was never in better voice than at the present time.

A new tenor named Ibos has been engaged for the Damrosch opera season. He is thirty two years of age and has been singing in Madrid for the past two seasons.

Italian censors prohibited the performance of Donizetti's "La Favorita" at Turin and of Rossini's "La Cenerentola" at Naples, during the recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Naples. The Italians are much mystified over the fact.

Rosenthal, who is now in the Tyrol, will again essay a tour of the United States and give his first concert in Carnegie Hall, New York on 17th, November, next.

Franchetti, the banker composer, is building an opera house where he can have his own works performed without subjecting them to the judgment of managers. He is a member of the Rothschild family.

Jean de Reszkes age is now made public through the publication in the Musical Courier, of a copy of the certificate of his birth. He is forty seven years old.

Mme Bergliott Ibsen, the daughter in law of Ibsen the dramatist, is a recent addition to the musical world. She recently made her debut in Christiania.

Madame Albani will sing at the forthcoming musical festival at Birmingham, which is spoken of as the 39th triennial festival. It will begin on the 5th of October next with a rendition of "Elijah." Other vocalists engaged are Miss Evangeline Florence, Miss Anna Williams, Miss Marie Brema, Miss Ada Crossley, Edward Lloyd, Ben Davies, Andrew Black, Plunkett Greene and Mr. Bispham.

The Metropolitan opera house has been engaged for the New York season of the Damrosch opera company. In the repertoire of this aggregation there are twenty operas, and it is said that Melba may appear in a number of new roles.

Helen Bertram, who is mentioned as the wife of E. J. Henley, will sing with the company at Ubrig's Cave, St. Louis, alternating with Clara Lane, who was so popular in Boston as a member of the Castle Square opera company.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Theatre goes and others have much pleasure in store for them in the appearance of Miss Anglin, a young and talented actress, who will shortly give dramatic performances in this city. This young lady is spoken of in the most favorable terms by the press of the cities in which she has appeared while filling the position of leading lady to James O'Neill, of "Monte Cristo" fame. Miss Anglin is a native of this city and is naturally desirous of playing to an audience in the city of her birth. She is a daughter of the late Hon. T. W. Anglin whose name was at one time a household word in many sections of St. John, and whose talents and abilities were admitted by all. His mantle, so to speak, has fallen upon his daughter, it is said, and there is no doubt that every one who knew her distinguished father will desire to witness her work. The date of Miss Anglin's appearance I learn will be the second of August, and it will probably be the only opportunity to see her, because she is said to be going to Europe in the early fall.

Rice's comedians begin an engagement at the Opera house next Monday evening. They give a change of bill nightly, and they play at what is now called popular

prices. The Vitascopo is a feature that is presented at each performance.

A dramatic entertainment of somewhat unique character was the "recital" of Shakespeare's Comedy "Much ado about nothing", by Mr. George B. Williams in the Mechanics Institute last Monday evening. The version of the comedy presented on the occasion is a somewhat condensed and expurgated compilation but there was afforded an admirable entertainment and Mr. Williams demonstrated himself a close student of the poet, whose works were "not for a day but for all time."

Miss Julia Arthur who begins her starring career this coming season in "A Lady of quality" will travel for four weeks before commencing her New York season, at Wallack's theatre on 1st. November next.

Rose Coghlan has quite recovered from the effects of the surgical operation she submitted to recently and has joined her brother in Prince Edward Island.

Mrs. Leslie Carter will begin her next season at Baldwin's theatre, San Francisco on the 16th August next and in the meantime will take a short vacation in Southern California.

Walker Whiteside the tragedian will add to his repertoire for next season a version of Stanley Weyman's "The Man in Black."

Cora Urquhart Potter (Mrs. James Brown Potter) and Kyrle Bellow are now en route to England from Australia.

Maurice Barrymore is credited with having been paid \$750.00 per week while he was working in the vaudeville. Out of this however he had to pay his support. In the legitimate his salary ran up in the double hundreds. The lack of a suitable play has prevented him being a "star" long since.

Otis Skinner has written a new play, adapting it from a German novel, and has entitled it "Prince Fritz." He will begin his season in St. Louis in September.

Madame Helen Modjeska has booked a short tour of six weeks for next season.

Another feminine "star" will shine in the world theatrical next season, in the person of Miss Annie Clarke Hanson "a well known Boston girl". Two new plays have been secured for her, it is said, and her tour will begin early in October.

Fanny Davenport's new play is yet unnamed. Marie Shotwell has been engaged as leading lady of the company.

Ethel Tucker's company was disbanded in Moncton last Saturday night, several of the members, including Miss Russell passed through this city leaving here on Monday's boat.

"Woman against Woman" has been the bill for this week at the Castle Square theatre, Boston. The summer company at this house is doing good business. For next week "Friends" will be played.

Thomas L. Coleman, who has been selected as leading man for Margaret Mather for the coming season was formerly a member of Julia Marlowe's Company.

Madame Duse, who has taken no pains to secure the favor of the French dramatic critics and was in fact indifferent to them, has completely captured even those most prejudiced against her. Francisque Sarcey the ablest of them all, has at length been won over. In compliance with his request she recently, (July 2nd) gave a matinee for actors and actresses only.

Joe Jefferson's next season will begin in Boston during October next.

Vernona Jarbeau is at Edgemere, L. I. organizing her company for next season in "The Paris Doll."

The Miles Ideal Stock company closed their very successful engagement of a fortnight in this city last Saturday evening. The announcement that they would play a short return engagement here beginning on September 6th. (Labor day) was received with almost tumultuous applause. The musical specialties of Messrs Jimmerson and Howson at each performance were pleasing features that gave much pleasure, but the matinee girls admired "the soulful eyes and pleasant smile" of the latter, whether with or without guitar accompaniment.

"Nature" will be produced at the Academy of Music New York on the 30th. August next, for the first time in nearly twenty years. There are 300 people engaged for the big production. It is estimated that it will cost \$125,000 to "hoist the curtain."

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WHERE NURSES ARE TRAINED.

An Experienced Nurse Tells "Progress" of Something of the Life.

To those interested in nurses and their work, a short sketch of life in a training school and its requirements may be instructive. The applicants for admission to the school must serve one or two months on probation; at the end of which time, if showing an aptitude for the work, they are accepted as members of the school. Their first experiences in hospital life are not as a rule, pleasant. It is all new and strange and the mere fact of being in the presence of so much suffering is depressing.

Many of the applicants have not been accustomed to manual labor of any kind, and find the work very trying.

In the large hospital family every member has her own particular duties. Usually a nurse has a given number of patients under her charge, for whose baths, diet, medication and general care she is held responsible.

There is usually a good deal of good natured rivalry among the nurses as to whose patients shall present the neatest appearance.

A 7 a. m. in most hospitals the day nurses go on duty. Between that time and 9.30 the beds must all be made, the patients made comfortable and breakfast served. The charts are written up and the ward put in order for the day. At 9.30 perhaps the physicians make rounds, stopping at each bed to prescribe it necessary for its occupant. The dressings are then done, the physicians' orders carried out and dinner served, after which the ward is put in order for the afternoon. Baths are then given and any extra work done that may be necessary. Supper is served at 5.30 p. m. The spreads are then removed from the beds and neatly folded; the crumbs are brushed from the sheets which are then tightened and the patient well rubbed with alcohol. The charts are again written up and everyone is left comfortably arranged for the night. Should extra blankets be required they are supplied by the night nurse who takes charge of the ward at 7 p. m. when the day nurses go off duty to spend the evening in recreation or study.

The home occupied by the nurses is generally supplied with a piano and good library, there are cheerful bedrooms, a study and pleasant reception rooms. In many schools the nurses hold monthly receptions.

The life is full of hurry and changes which is perhaps the reason why the two years course seems so short. Many applicants are not fitted for the work and have to give it up on account of the long hours and the amount of standing to be done. The drains on the strength and endurance are such that it is impossible to meet the various duties cheerfully and easily unless in perfect health. There is a great deal of lifting to be done, innumerable steps to be taken and unpleasant tasks to perform; all of which require patience and strength. It is astonishing how much more easily the lifting is done by those who are trained. As in all other things it is the savoir faire that counts.

The successful nurse is the one who is careful about details and who anticipates the needs of her patients, remembering that they are not made comfortable by any one particular thing that is done in the course of the day but by the aggregate of little offices. I remember very distinctly an impression made upon me when quite a young nurse by an old gentleman to whose room I was sent. Shortly after entering, I noticed a picture hanging crooked, and when I had time I straightened it. The old man exclaimed—"Thank goodness you have a straight eye! That picture has been annoying me for a week." It was only a trifle but it showed the power of trifles to annoy.

The interest taken by nurses in their patients is astonishing to those who know little of the inner life of a hospital. Were the sick ones their own friends no greater care and attention could be bestowed. I have known a nurse to go without rest or sleep for days in order to help carry a patient over a critical period of his illness and to feel fully repaid by the improvement in his condition.

The nervous strain, irregular hours and loss of sleep tell on the nervous system and general health. Night duty is particularly trying. Owing to the radical change made by working at night and sleeping during the day a nurse is often so "upset" that it is several weeks before she becomes accustomed to the change. No matter how poorly she may have rested during the day, 7 p. m. finds her reporting for duty, cheerful and willing for the night's work.

The long night hours seem doubly so and there is a weird feeling that is hard to overcome. While others sleep the faithful night nurse watches beside the cots of the suffering ones under her charge—smoothes the

pillows, eases the pain, gives the medicine and nourishment, and helps to while away the long weary hours—Many a life has been saved by the faithful, patient, intelligent watching at night. Few understand the self sacrifice that is required of a nurse. Her pleasures, friends, social duties must all be given up if she is to do her work well. On the other hand, there is no life so full of opportunities for doing good as hers. She comes hourly in contact with those whose bodies are racked by pain and suffering. The physical is often the least part of their troubles. In the hospital all phases of life, all its sorrows and disappointments can be studied. It is the privilege of the nurse to cheer the soul and ease the mind as well as the body.

One might suppose that among so much degradation and suffering she would become sad and mournful but such fortunately is not the case. The cheery bright faces of the nurses are watched for, and as the patient is cared for and encouraged he forgets his troubles and becomes more resigned.

It is wonderful to note the change in some of the poor rough patients after a few weeks stay in the hospital—when they are kept clean and well cared for. No doubt the remembrance of the time spent there remains as a bright spot in the lives of many. Often the most uncouth among them becomes gentle, thoughtful and helpful.

The course of training in most hospitals is two years; but it is hoped that before long a three years course will be adopted by all schools. Many of the larger ones have already done so.

The time spent in training prepares the pupil nurse for her future work; but the ability to dress a wound, arrange a bandage or arrest a hemorrhage will not suffice. To her skill she must add tact, thoughtfulness, kindness, patience, cheerfulness and all other attributes of a true woman. So much can be done to cheer and comfort the suffering ones if the services rendered are the outcome not merely of duty but of good will. It is easy to be bright and cheerful, to have a kind word and pleasant smile, to be ready to render any little service which may perhaps not be absolutely necessary, but which will give pleasure. If one is not naturally possessed of this good will, it may be obtained by persistent effort, and it is the duty of every one coming in contact with the sick, to try to gain it. The best way is to try daily to follow in the footsteps of that great Physician who went about among the sick and suffering, leaving gladness and sunshine.

A good conscientious nurse is a blessing in the home, but unfortunately there are those who enter families only to increase the amount of work. The nurse who goes quietly and cheerfully about her duties, and who falls into the ways of the family without friction is appreciated; and should her services be needed a second time her coming will be hailed with delight and satisfaction by both the physician and family.

No nurse fully realizes what responsibility means till she has graduated and goes to attend her first private case. When the physician goes and she is left alone with her patient, she begins to have some conception of what the strain of her life work is to be. She feels that in a great measure the patients' life is in her hands and that on her faithfulness and watchfulness his hope of recovery depends.

To all high minded nurses this solemn knowledge is an inspiration for better work and greater care. Notwithstanding the fact that there are trials and discouragements, the work has a certain fascination about it which cannot be understood by those not engaged in it.

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