MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici ?

WITH some misgivings I entered the Opera House on Monday night to taste a new bill of fare. Coming immediately after the high-class dramatic work of the Janet Achurch Company, dramatic work of the Janet Achurch Company, a variety show would seem like bacon and eggs upon patê de foie gras! As a rule, variety companies are not my particular vanity. Well, thought I—one can always slip out and hear Mr. Frank Bradley play the organ. But I did not. The Harvey Brothers held me with their relittering ever and I set but the ordinary reserved. glittering eyes, and I sat out the entire per-formance. A famous old French philosopher says, "If you wish to write a popular book, put in good things, put in indifferent, but on no account forget to put in the bad things—they always please." If Mr. Cunard, as his name would suggest, be a Frenchman, he has not followed the prescription of his renowned countryman. He has only given us the good things, unless, which I doubt, the bad are to follow. Perhaps he will demolish us by saying, "Catering for the play-going public is not like writing a book."

Miss Violet Brandon is a charming vocalist and danseuse of the superior music hall type. She is attractive in person, has a fairly good mezzo voice, dances with grace and abandon, and throws archness and naivetée into her business. Her intonation was occasionally faulty, but the defect was manifestly due to indisposition, and I hope to hear her to better

advantage when her vocal chords have recovered their normal tone.

Miss Ella Siegfried is a sweet coquettish little fraulein, gifted with a pleasant and true voice, which she manages skilfully. Her "Cadets' March," sung in German to a catching lilt of a tune, took the audience by storm. When subsequently repeating the song with English words, her soupcon of a Teutonic accent was deliciously quaint.

Of Helen Gordon Cunard's singing I shall

have something to say presently, but first I shall deal briefly with the gentlemen. In doing so I may appear to be ignorant or forgetful of the place aux dames, but the truth is I have reserved this bonne bouche for a more prominent place in this issue.

Mr. Harry Cowan shines especially as a mimic. His soug "Out on the Tiles," with its life-like dialogue between an amorous Thomas cat and a dulcinea of the Tabby order, was realistic and irresistably comic. Mi-aw-aw!

Mr. Vincent Magee, as his name indicates, is the Irishman of the show, and a "broth of a bhoy." He dances excellently, and sings bhoy." well.

Mr. A. L. Cunard plays the banjo in artistic style. He composes for the instrument, and thoroughly understands its resources and capabilities. The instrument he uses has an especially powerful tone, which penetrated to the most remote parts of the house.

The Harvey Brothers are wonderfully good. The Harvey Brothers are wonderfully good. As musicians, acrobats, dancers, pantomimists and burlesque actors it would be difficult to overpraise their performances. The Tyrolese jödelling of Mr. C. Harvey is an extraordinary vocal feat, quite outstripping the familiar tul-lul-lul-lul-lei-tee. That is merely an unctuous glide from the natural register into the falsetto. But Mr. C. Harvey, by some inscrutable method unknown to Ronconi, contrives to jödel in an air in the falsetto and trives to jödel in an air in the falsetto and accompany himself apparently at the same time in his natural voice. The nearest approach to this feat in my experience was that of an old friend of mine who, by dint of hard practice, could whistle a tune and at the same practice, could whistie a tune and at the same time have an arpeggio accompaniment—clever it is true—but not to be compared with Mr. C. Harvey's miracle. Mr. W. Harvey is an accomplished violinist of the non-classical school. He has invented a one-string instrument, which has a tone something like that of the ancient viol di gamba, with rather less body but more sweetness. This strange fiddle looks like a gigantic cherry wood nine the looks like a gigantic cherry wood pipe, the bowl of which the performer holds between his knees, playing 'cello fashion upon the one string. Like Paganini, he guards his secret most jealously. Let us hope that it will not perish, but be some day revealed. It may prove a better cure for consumption than Dr. Koch's! A burlesque opera duet between the brothers set everyone screaming with laughter.

The soprano Harvey uses a sort of Punch and Judy mouth contrivance, executing runs, trills, shakes, etc., with wonderful facility - the baritone brother sings in his natural voice. The acting in this scena was quite worthy of the singing, and the whole performance as supremely ridiculous as the heart that loves burlesque could desire. Other clever numbers by this versatile pair I must for the nonce pass over. The Sporting Review must reserve a little space for sport.

One word to vouch for the refinement of the entertainment. It is entirely free from anything vulgar and objectionable. Ladies may safely attend, and will enjoy a delightful evening.

ORPHEUS.

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

[Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.]

By CARBINE.

THE New Zealand Rifle Association has been favoured this meeting with fine weather, the wind only being high at times. Most of the Auckland men have been doing very well, and will have a nice little pot of money to bring back with them. The scores, carried on from last weak's issue are: from last week's issue, are :-

CHRISTCHURCH MATCH, distance 600yds. shots. Thirty prizes, value £70.

Gun. C. P. Taylor, "A" Battery, £8 ...
Gun. Henderson. "A" Battery, £3 ...
Bomb. J. Webster, "A" Battery, £1 ...
Pvt. O. J Spinley, Ponsonby Navals, £1
Corp. H. Doughty, "A" Battery, £1 ... 40 39 39

OTAGO MATCH, distance 300, 500, and 700yds. Seven shots at each distance. Thirty prizes, value £70.

Bomb. J. Webster, "A" Bettery, £6 Gun. Henderson, "A" Battery, £5 Gun. Taylor, "A" Battery, £4 Sergt. Parslow, "A" Battery, £2.. Gun. Kelly, "A" Battery, £1 86 85

AUCKLAND MATCH (position kneeling), range 300yds. Ten shots. Prizes to value of £70.

Corp. H. Doughty, "A" Battery, £8 Gun. Taylor, "A" Battery, £6 ... Seaman Shepherd, Thames Navals Pvt. McCarthy, Victoria Rifles, £4 Gun. Henderson, "A" Battery, £1 Gun. Greenshields, "O" Battery, £1 38 38 Mr. Hay, Rifle Club, £1 ...

In this match splendid shooting was made by the two first men only being one point off the possible, while the score of the third man was ten points behind.

In the firing for the Cup presented by the Union Company, Gun. Henderson ("A" Battery) and Pvt. Kruse (Wanganui Rifles) tied for first place, and in the firing off Henderson had the misfortune to fire on the

wrong target, and thereby lost the cup.

In the District Representative Match Auckland secured third place, with the grand aggregate of 1,544 points, with twenty men, seven shots being fired at 400, 500, and 600 yds. It is not to be wondered that Auckland did not get a better position, as the other districts had more than the required number and we had just the number and to pick from, and we had just the number, and some of them have been shooting very poor

right through the meeting.

The Teams' Match, consisting of teams of five, was again won this year by the "A" Battery, the scoring all through being splendid. The distances were 200, 500, and 600 yds, seven shots at each range. Last year the match was valued at £60 for the first team, but owing to the small number of of entries this meeting (seven), it has been reduced to £30 1st, £20 2nd, and £10 3rd, with a £1 extra prize for the highest score in the winning team. The scores of the Battery Team are :-

Corp. Doughty	 34	32	33	99
Bomb. Webster	 30	34	28	92
Gun. Taylor	 31	25	. 31	87
Gun, E. Buchanan	 27	29	31	87
Sergt. Parslow	 30	29	. 20	79

It will be seen on referring to the above that Corp. H. Doughty made the grand total of 99 points, only six points off the possible.

This, with Sergt. Parslow's last year's score in the Team's Match, which happens to be exactly the same, is the highest reached all through the meeting, and is stated to be the record of New Zealand.

In the Grand Aggregate Match Gun. Taylor took £2 with the score of 85.

CHAMPION BELT.

Pvt. Kruse, Wanganui, belt, star, & £40 538, Bomb. J. Webster, silver star and £30... 536, Gun. Henderson, £10 ... 510, Sergt. Parslow, £5 ... 505

Auckland's winnings amount to £256

amongst 19 men.

Lieut. Haultain has again been elected a member of the N.Z.R.A. Council to represen Auckland.

Bomb. J. D. Webster brings the largest sum back with him, his winnings being about £60. He had hard luck in the final stage for the Belt, dropping away 16 points and then pulling up two points from the winner, and coming in second.

Sergt. McCallum has surprised everyone in his most consistent shooting all through the meeting, and has come in for a fair share of prizes.

Corp. Doughty started off bad, but eventually

pulled up and wins over £20.
Gun. J. G. Buchanan has been missing all the meeting, his name not appearing in any prize list.

Sergt Craig, City Guards, has also been missing, not having been heard of. He had better stick to the old mountain for two or three vears vet.

Sergt. Parslow has not been up to his usual form this meeting. He is very low in the prize list.

Major Skinner wins the same amount as he did at Wimbledon, viz., £2.

Gun. Taylor, who struggled so hard for the

Belt last year, wins about £20.
Gun. Greenshields has not figured very prominent he comes back the same as Pvt. Osborne, with £1.

The reps. are expected to return on Sunday next by the West Coast, and it is the intention of the Volunteers to give them a reception.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

On Tuesday next, February 3, nominations for the following events will close with the secretary, Mr. Freeman R. Jackson, at 9 p.m.

First Handicap Hurdles of 100 sovs, two and

a quarter miles Second Handicap Hurdles of 100 sovs, about two miles and a distance

Welter Handicap of 50 sovs, one mile. Nursery Handicap of 75 sovs, three-quarter mile

CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB.

On Friday next, February 6, nominations for the following events will close with the secretary, Mr. W. H. E. Wanklyn, at 4 p.m.

Great Autumn Handicap of 500 sovs, one and a half miles

Easter Handicap of 200 sovs, one mile Challenge Stakes of 2,000 sovs, three-

quarter mile Champagne Stakes of 300 sovs (second

payment of 3 sovs)
Whitford Park Racing Club.

On Friday next February 6, acceptances for the following events will close with the secretary, Mr. W. L. Lockhart, or Mr. H. H. Hayr, Tattersall's Club, at 8 p.m.

Whitford Cup of 25 sovs, one and a half miles Handicap Hurdles of 15 sovs, one and threequarter miles

Handicap Maiden Plate of 15 sovs, one mile Handicap Novel Race of 15 sovs, three-

quarter mile Ostrich Stakes Handicap of 15 sovs, one mile Handicap Flying Stakes of 10 sovs, threequarter mile

The following is taken from the Canterbury Times: —"Waterwitch and Vanity will not join the rest of Mr. O'Brien's mares at Mr. Morrin's establishment, Wellington Park, but will be sent to Mr. J. Mackay's stud farm at Ashburton and right Johnny Foulkenger nort. Ashburton, and visit Johnny Faulkoner next season.