

REPERTORY, MUSIC AND DRAMA.

G. and S. Company Off To America

D'Oyly Carte Company Pays First Visit to New York Since 1887 —
 "Treasure Island" to be Produced in Auckland — Ivor
 Novello's New London Play, "Murder in Mayfair."

WEARING sprigs of white heather, members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company left London recently en route for New York, where they will produce Gilbert and Sullivan operas, in their traditional English form. The company's last New York season was in 1887. Among the principal Savoyards making the journey are Miss Dorothy Gill, Miss Eileen Moody, Miss Kathleen Frances, Miss Elizabeth Nickell-Lean, Mr. John Dean and Mr. Frank Steward. The conductor, Mr. Isadore Godfrey, travelled with the party. The company is taking with it scenery, wardrobes, and other equipment weighing more than twenty tons. Mr. Frederick Hobbs, manager of the company, stated: "New York has never heard the operas as we play them. They have never had Sullivan's orchestration for one thing, and there are other differences. We are taking the whole show over there just as we should take it to Liverpool or anywhere else on tour. We were at Brighton last week, after a vacation. New York will be just another call. There is a good deal of affection for the operas in America and we are looking forward to a happy time." The company opened with "The Gondoliers" at the Martin Beck Theatre, New York, last month.

OF "Murder in Mayfair," the latest play by Ivor Novello, the well-

known actor and playwright, a critic in the London "Observer" writes:—"The material of which Mr. Ivor Novello's latest play is made resembles the bric-a-brac insinuated on her friends by Mrs. Sherry under cover of cocktails and social intercourse—a mixture of the antique, the precarious, the showy, the vulgar, the amusing, and the specious. Mrs. Sherry, who went into business to support herself and her children, disposed of her stock-in-trade with vivacity; so does Mr. Novello. She succeeded, but success



IVOR NOVELLO

was clouded with tragedy. Her friend, the unhappily married Duchess of Ventyre, loved and was loved by a brilliant pianist, who was loved, dogged, drugged, married, and damned by Auriol, a post-war what-not. And since Bill Sherry—when the Duke conveniently died—was sufficiently crazy about Auriol to cut these knots with a revolver, the gods should have been appeased by such sacrifices of truth and beauty as Mr. Novello and his clever company of actors made to them. Let us call it a just rather than a nice murder; for Auriol neither enjoyed her own love-life nor allowed anyone who entered it to enjoy his. And when, bullet-impelled, she slid head-downwards from the landing of her news apartment into horrid view, we could only feel relief while appreciating the strength of Miss Edna Best's performance. This murder and the party at which it occurred, were fortunately delayed until the second act. Thus we were free to enjoy Miss Zena Dare's wholehearted comedy—her Mrs. Sherry did not falter until demands were made on her for tears—Mr. Novello's mercurial art and his glancing skill at the piano, Miss Fay Compton's incomparable diction, and the play's lighter elements, before the clouds gather, the dramatic tension tightened, the fun (unlike Auriol) died a natural death, and the third act dived into the shallows of sentiment to grope there for a happy ending.

A STRONG cast has been selected by the producer, Mr. Frederic McCallum, for the Auckland Little Theatre Society's production of "Treasure Island," to be given in His Majesty's Theatre for a six-nights' season, starting on November 22. Among the well-known amateurs in the cast are Mr. Peter Dawson, Mr. Val Mulgan, Mr. Dan Flood, Mr. Zante Wood, Mr. Neville Bonham, Mr. Graeme Holder, Mr. H. McK. Geddes, Mr. A. E. Snaith, Mr. L. Herd and Miss C. L. Chambers. The part of Jim Hawkins, the boy hero of R. L. Stevenson's famous romance of adventure, is to be taken by Noel Mabee, a young Auckland lad who has already had considerable amateur theatrical experience. He is a son of Mr. A. G. Mabee, well-known in sporting circles. The production will be staged on a lavish scale and will be the most spectacular presentation the society has yet given, with the exception of "Peter Pan" in 1930. It will be the society's 37th production and the last of the 1934 season.

EXCURSIONS TO CITIES DURING DUKE'S STAY

Sight-Seeing by Schoolboys

EDUCATIONAL excursions for boys throughout the Dominion to Wellington and Auckland are being planned by the Young New Zealand League to coincide with the arrival of H.R.H. Prince Henry in those centres. In addition to joining the Royal celebrations, the boys will take sight-seeing trips, inspect warships, industries, visits to zoos, museums, theatres and other places of interest.

The excursion to Wellington will be from December 13 to December 20, and to Auckland from December 22 to December 29. The Minister of Education (Hon. R. Masters), who has approved of the proposal, has granted permission to boys participating in the Wellington excursion to absent themselves from school for the period. Boys between the ages of 11 and 18 years are eligible to apply. A trained nurse will be attached to the party and visits of medical men will be arranged daily.

The cost, including all meals, accommodation, sight-seeing, train, tram and ferry fares in and around the cities, and sundry expenses is £3/12/6. This amount may be paid with a deposit of £1 and the balance by December next. Parents who are interested in the proposal may obtain a leaflet at their local school and application may be lodged with, and further details obtained from, the honorary secretary, Young New Zealand League, Room 78 A.M.P. Building, Wellington.

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By Michael Fielding, with a
 preface by H. G. Wells.

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