

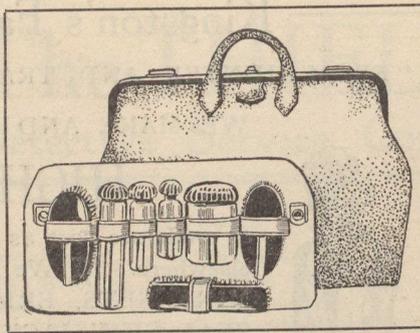


THE committee of the Mendelssohn Choir announce that arrangements have been completed for the annual cycle of concerts to be held in Massey Hall during February next. The dates chosen are February 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th. These concerts will be followed by an appearance of the Chorus in Convention Hall, Buffalo, N.Y., on Monday evening, February 11th, and two appearances in Carnegie Hall, New York City, on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday, February 12th and 13th. The services of the Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra in its entire strength under the baton of the eminent conductor, Mr. Emil Paur, have again been secured for the entire cycle. It is no exaggeration to say that the best wishes of the Dominion are with this ambitious organization and its able conductor.

The first appearance of Mr. H. B. Irving in Canada was an entirely enjoyable event. The admiration for his dramatic ability was united to a personal appreciation which the English actor gracefully recognized. It is a nice question whether Mr. Irving is helped or handicapped by his father's histrionic greatness. That he was able to make an individual impression is a tribute to his original power. The plays in which he appeared, ranging from the dainty "Mauricette" to "Charles I." and that old-time thriller, "The Lyons Mail," demanded a versatility of artistic interpretation to which the actor proved himself equal. Miss Dorothea Baird, in her refined grace and tenderness, was a gratification to a public that sees such qualities all too seldom in modern acting.

Last week Mr. Kyrle Bellew and his large company played "Brigadier Gerard" at His Majesty's theatre in Montreal. Why successful short stories should be set to drama, no one seems able to explain. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's yarns about the sprightly Brigadier seem to have made a poor play which even Mr. Bellew could not make a thing of brightness. The composition is described as a rickety dramatic erection on a strong foundation of story. The "Sherlock Holmes" play was a poor production and "Brigadier Gerard's" stage clumsiness ought to convince the knightly author that he is not a writer of plays.

Mr. Kyrle Bellew has been called the greatest stage lover of the day. Mr. James K. Hackett, the Canadian actor, is also dear to the heart of the matinee girl and seldom fails to win the applause of a feminine audience. He appeared in the Sutro play, "The Walls of Jericho," in Ottawa last week and met with the usual favourable reception. Perhaps there is no city in Canada so prepared to appreciate the worldly aphorisms of "The Walls of Jericho" as our Capital. Most Canadian audiences are inclined to the rural, even in theatrical taste, but picturesque Ottawa ought to be equal to enjoying the Sutro flavour.



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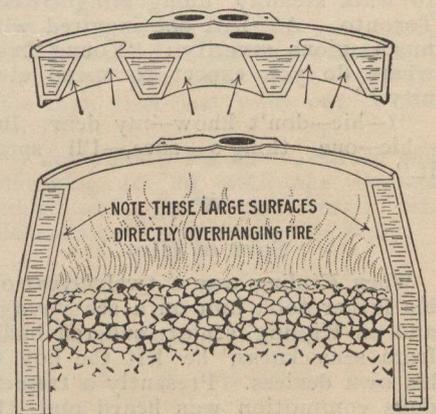
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