

THE STAGE AND ORCHESTRA.

The Theatres in Toronto.

THE experiment at the Toronto Opera House of establishing a season of summer opera here has, after a trial of four weeks, been abandoned for want of sufficient financial support. This is to be regretted, of course ; but little else was to be expected. Summer opera has failed to pay in most of the large cities across the line, cities with twice or thrice our population, and we could not expect any other result in Toronto. Business is dull and employment slack ; people are going out of town or saving their money to do so ; the bicycle is more in evidence among us than ever, and after several dreary months of winter people prefer to spend a light fine evening out in the air to visiting a theatre. This is natural enough, and it was fortunate for the Madison Square Opera Company that the whole of May was dull and cold, or the company would have done much worse than it did. Of the organization about the best I can say is that it was quite as good as one could expect for the prices charged ; but from a musical point of view the performances, were distinct failures. Miss Goldie made a favorable impression as a lively actress and a pretty singer, but she is not strong enough for the position of leading lady in an organization with any pretensions to strength. Mr. David, Al. Leech, and one or two others of the artists we shall be glad to see here again, but as a whole the company was a poor one, and failure was apparent from the commencement. Every possible encouragement was given to the experiment by the Toronto papers, which, while careful not to stultify themselves by saying anything specific in favor of the various performances, took much care not to condemn them, and were persistently blind to many glaring defects. It is probable that we shall not have a trial of summer opera in this city for some time to come.

The return of "The Geisha" to the Grand Opera House for the race week was about the best thing that could come here for the occasion ; many visitors were in town, and the light and lively popular show admirably filled the bill, and consequently the Grand was well filled at each performance. Of course we missed the clever singing of Miss Dorothy Morton, but the lady who took her place (Mlle. De Costa) was a good substitute. Miss Violet Lloyd added to her professional reputation and increased the number of her admirers by her vivacity of manner and the happy nimbleness of her feet.

The Toronto Opera House will re-open in August with Mr. Berte Coote.

Many people will be pained to hear of the death from peritonitis, after a few days' illness, of Miss Emily Bancker. The lady has been to Toronto several times, appearing in the comedy called "Our Flat," and later in more ambitious roles. By her death we lose an artist who had a considerable future before her.

Of the minor shows the Bijou theatre and the Auditorium are still running ; and the Roof Garden at Hanlan's Pavilion has opened for the summer under the management of Messrs. Rich and Ramsay. These gentlemen will, with the assistance of some variety artists from the States, give a new vaudeville entertainment each week until September.

The musical and theatrical season has now closed in Toronto ; it has been a trying one in every respect ; to musical enthusiasts the attendances at the concerts of the higher order have been most discouraging, while from the point of view of the promoter financial results have been disastrous. I need say no more