

are now an essential part of New York summer life; every one goes to them, and they are certainly attractive and lively resorts.

In London, Sir Augustus Harris' season of grand opera at Covent Garden was magnificently inaugurated by "*Romeo e Juliette*." The title *roles* were filled by Jean de Reszké and Madame Eames; both of these artists have—by the admission not only of the English but of the leading European press—achieved a marvellous success.

In Toronto, the season has wound up with the usual number of pupils' recitals, about which nothing need be said but that they were maintained on much the usual plane of excellence. Our best known musicians are away or preparing to go away.

The recent failure of Thomas's orchestra to secure even a fair audience in Toronto has caused much comment. Actually the receipts were not sufficient to cover the expenses of 65 artists from New York and back. Thomas's orchestra first appeared in this city about twenty years ago; the organization was comparatively unknown then, but sixty musicians came here then, and they played to a grand total of just sixty dollars! Are we progressing backward in these matters?

#### PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

On the 27th of last May the statement was published that Lillian Nordica had been married the day before to Zoltan F. Doehme at the Denison Hotel in Indianapolis. This forms the end of a pretty romance, begun not long after the death of the prima donna's former husband, F. A. Gower. Gower was an electrician, and died in 1887 while attempting to cross the English Channel in a balloon. His body was never recovered. Two years ago Mme. Nordica announced her engagement to Herr Doehme, a talented tenor, who comes of distinguished Austrian stock. Nothing further was heard of the matter, and the prima donna's friends began to think the engagement was off, but it culminated in the marriage at Indianapolis.

When Mme. Nordica, a week after the above interesting event, disappointed Toronto by pleading illness as a cause for breaking her contract to fulfil an engagement in this city, people would persist in saying that it was odd a few days of matrimony should make a widow sick. The statement just issued of Abbey and Grau's liabilities explains the matter. Among several other prominent artists I see Mme. Nordica is down for heavy arrears of salary.

A woman at the London Aquarium fixes a loaded rifle at one side of the stage, goes to the other, places an eggshell on her head, and fires with a second rifle at the trigger of the first. In nearly every case the bullet from the fixed weapon smashes the eggshell.

Here is a cast it would be, I fancy, rather difficult to beat; it was that of the performance of "*Hamlet*" for the benefit of Lester Wallack in New York on May 21, 1888. The *Hamlet* was Edwin Booth; *Ghost*, Lawrence Barrett; *King*, Frank Mayo; *Polonius*, John Gilbert; *Laertes*, Eben Plympton; *Horatio*, John Florence; *Francisco*, Frank Mordaunt; *Ophelia*, Modjeska; *Queen*, Gertrude Kellogg, and *Player Queen*, Rose Coghlan.

According to a London theatrical paper, there are nearly 25,000 actors and actresses in England.