

amateur instrumentalists of this city show how effectively they had been taught the art of playing in orchestra. Mr. F. H. Torrington is to be complimented and congratulated on a result so satisfactory alike to his pupils and himself. He is doing good work, and I wish him all possible success.

### PROFESSIONAL NEWS AND GOSSIP.

All the leading theatres in New York are closed for the season. Business at some houses has been good all along, but as a rule the box-office receipts have been below the average, an unsatisfactory result generally attributed by theatrical managers not so much to hard times as to the prevalence everywhere of what they call "the bicycle craze."

The large number of Torontonians to whom Mr. O. B. Sheppard is a familiar figure, if not a personal friend, will be pleased to hear that his recent official appointment as Inspector of Fisheries will not interfere with his managerial work. Next season he will be prominently in evidence at the Grand or the Princess, or probably at both.

I am pleased to see that Mr. George Edwardes is being well supported by the London papers for his timely protest against the "speech" nuisance. He courteously but firmly declined to make a speech the other evening at the end of a performance, though I read "the calls for a speech lasted fully fifteen minutes."

Mr. Richard Malchien (Captain Dick) has resigned his position as manager of the Robert Mantell company. Mr. Malchien will be in Toronto next week.

Mr. Lewis Browne and Mr. Schuch have both resigned from St. James Cathedral, one as organist, the other as choir-master. Both were capable men in the right place. What is the matter?

Robert Mantell has a record of more than 1,200 performances of the "Corsican Brothers."

Mrs. Potter and Mr. Bellew opened their Australian tour on May 30 at Sydney, with a performance of "As You Like It."

Sir Henry Irving's elder son is coming to America next season with his wife, to play in "The Sign of the Cross" with Wilson Barrett. Miss Baird was the Haymarket Trilby to Mr. Tree's Svengali.

What is the matter with Mr. Jerome Klapla Jerome? This versatile gentleman is bitterly complaining of the reckless way in which his dialogue and arrangement have been treated by the syndicate which bought his "Biarritz." Nobody knows what it was like in its original shape, but as it is now played it has excited the utmost derision of most of the London newspaper critics, and Mr. Jerome naturally is disinclined to be held responsible for the alleged stupidity of the stage managers and actors who have been trying to improve upon his work.

There is a movement in London to restore the ballet to its former popularity. Sir Arthur Sullivan is going to write a ballet for the Alhambra, and the names of Mr. Cowen and Mr. German have been mentioned in connection with a similar task for the Empire. A class for the composition of ballet and light music has also been formed at the Royal College of Music, and at its head has been placed that eminent hero of a hundred ballets, M. George Jacobi.

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