

## English Jottings.

In its way the most noteworthy piece now on the London stage is *L'Enfant Prodigue*, which is played every night at the Prince of Wales's Theatre with the quite unusual supplement of three *matinees* a week. This revival of a very old adventure in theatrical performances came over from Paris a few weeks ago, and was modestly placed on the bills at a *matinee*. It was thought to be too slight and altogether too un-English to justify the approbation of an evening. It caught on at once, was transferred to the evening, and now fills the theatre night and day. It is the domestic story of the Prodigal Son told without words, and so eloquently, humorously, graphically translated by the gestures and facial expression of the half-dozen French women and Frenchmen who reproduce it that words would seem superfluous. Looking on at some of the scenes, one feels, indeed, that words would spoil the play, a conviction which is the highest tribute to the genius of the performance.

The following fragments of a correspondence between Messrs. Maconochie Brothers and the Post office are instructive:—

"Next month we shall have 100,000 circulars for British Colonies. If posted on Continent will cost, roughly speaking, £200; if posted in England £700. Please telegraph whether any likelihood of reduction in British rates. If not, to economise time and expense, shall probably have these printed, addressed, wrapped, and mailed in Belgium."

[REPLY.]

"No reduction is contemplated in the postage on printed circulars for British Colonies."

Mr. E. S. Willard, the well-known English actor, is now at Chicago, where he has achieved a great success in *Jo. n Needham's Double*.

No one but the very young seem to partake of sweets at dinner now-a-days, and most people eschew sugar even in their tea and coffee, in fact the fear of becoming fat bids fair to abolish the sugar basin altogether, and to substitute the little saccharine tabloids which everyone seems to carry in tiny bottles in their pocket. I had the honour of taking tea not long ago with H. R. H. the Princess Mary of Teck, and I observed that she popped a little saccharine tabloid into her cup and took no sugar. At one time our potions and powders were administered in a syrup made from boiled sugar, and I used always to have some ready to hand in my medicine chest. Now, however, pure glycerine is used instead, both domestically and by chemists and druggists. I am told that glycerine does not fatten, but its value as a vehicle for medicine is very great if it can be obtained really pure. It is curious to associate this bright, clear, pleasant syrup with candle making, but I believe it is obtained only in connection with the manufacture of candles, and that about thirty years ago, Messrs. Price, of candle celebrity, took out a patent for the production of glycerine by distillation. Everybody knows the appearance of their squarish, firm-standing bottle with a metal capsule over the top, and now I suppose everybody recognises the many and various uses of its contents. We swallow glycerine by order of the doctor, disguised or prescribed *au naturel*, and nothing is so effectual as an outside application to chapped hands or skin abrasions, if properly diluted. One may defy the east winds with a bottle of glycerine, on one's washing-stand, for a small quantity dropped into the palm of one hand, rubbed over the backs of both when giving the final rinse, and then carefully wiping them dry, will keep the hands soft and smooth, even if the water be hard. It is well to finish off with a dust of powder, which removes all stickiness, and leaves the hands quite pleasant to use. Knowing this, and believing in the use of pure glycerine, I am never without one of these substantial bottles, which I regard as a reservoir, from which to fill smaller and prettier vessels for toilet use.

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