



THE CHAMPS ELYSEES.

more, making the entire expense of this place of amusement something more than ten millions of dollars. Then to properly set off the building two broad, handsome avenues were cut straight through the heart of the city, at a cost of ten millions more.

The Opera House receives a subsidy of about one hundred and sixty thousand dollars a year; that is to say, about five hundred dollars a day, from the Government, and several other theatres and opera houses in Paris are liberally aided from the public purse. You see, therefore, that every French citizen who has anything to pay taxes on is obliged to contribute to the support of the theatre and the opera, even though he may have conscientious scruples against them. I am not aware,

however, that any Frenchman has ever raised that objection.

One of the features of Paris most noticeable to a foreigner, perhaps, is the little omnibus stations so characteristic of Paris. The omnibus system, by the way, is an excellent one when you understand it. But you usually have to be put off a bus two or three times before you appreciate its merits. In time you discover that the vehicles stop regularly at little stations, where those who understand the system obtain bits of pasteboard bearing numbers in the precise order of their application for them, entitling them in the same order to the vacant seats in the busses as they arrive. These little stations being not far apart, it is a matter of no difficulty to obtain these numbers, and when that is done the system