166 MR. PERKINS OF PORTLAND

up-to-date witch. She used every known mode of locomotion, from skates to kites.

She was a grand actress. Her name was Bedelia O'Dale; and, whatever she was doing on the stage, she was charming. Whether she was taking a vapour bath in a \$4.98 cabinet or polishing her front teeth with Sozodont, she was delightful. She had all the marks of a real lady, and gave tone to the whole opera. In fact, all the cast was good. Perkins spared no expense. He got the best artists he could find, regardless of the cost; and it paid. But we nearly lost them You remember when we put the play all. on first, in 1897—the good old days when oatmeal and rolled wheat were still the only breakfast foods. We had a breakfast scene, where the whole troup ate oatmeal, and pretended they liked it. That scene went well enough until we began to get new ads. for it. The troup never complained, no matter how often he shifted them from oatmeal to rolled wheat and back again. They