

FLASHES FROM THE FOOTLIGHTS.

THE LATEST LONDON THEATRE.

THE most notable theatrical date of 1899 must be set down as the opening of Mr. Wyndham's new theatre in Charing Cross Road, not merely in point of London's having got a new structure, but in point of the assurance it gives that Mr. Wyndham, so far from retiring, is enlarging his activities. Mr. Wyndham, who has been our best David Garrick, has appropriately settled himself almost at the apex of a triangle formed by the Garrick Theatre and the Garrick Club. Originally a doctor to the body, he has become a physician to the mind, for the actor's art resolves itself into no less. Born sixty years ago, he served throughout the American Civil War, and took to the stage in 1864. As lessee of the Criterion (from 1876), he never had a failure. As owner of Wyndham's, he will prosper surely as heretofore. Mr. Wyndham has a public all his own. Probably one of the reasons of this is that he edits the plays which he produces. Thus it is

that Mr. Pinero, who does not permit that process, has never had a play produced by Mr. Wyndham. Perhaps at his new theatre Mr. Wyndham may yet give us our greatest dramatist.

MISS SARAH BROOKE.

Miss Brooke, who increased her reputation in the autumn by her work in "An Interrupted Honeymoon," has Italian blood in her veins, which accounts for her pale complexion, made more striking by the jet-black hair, which she coils in a characteristic way. She has adopted a curious plan of making herself quite different from everyone else, for she always wears a pair of handsome earrings, such as Italian gondoliers affect. She owes much of her skill in acting to her apprenticeship with Mr. Forbes Robertson and, latterly, with Mr. Wyndham.

"THE CALIFORNIAN LARK."

Every opera manager nowadays must avail himself of American talent. Nobody has done more so than Mr. D'Oyly Carte, who



Photo. by Barrauds, Oxford Street.

MR. CHARLES WYNDHAM.



Photo. by W. and D. Downey.

MISS SARAH BROOKE.

brought Miss Geraldine Ulmar to town, and gave so many excellent American singers at the luckless opera-house in

for she possesses wit, pathos, prettiness, and, most desirable of all, a personality. She is staying in London with Mrs. Ryley, the author of "Jedbury Junior" and of "An American Citizen" (in which Miss Elliott played so charmingly).



Photo. by Reutlinger, Paris.

MISS ELLEN BEACH YAW.

Cambridge Circus. His latest acquisition is Miss Ellen Beach Yaw, the "Californian Lark," who appears in the new Savoy opera. Miss Yaw, who claims to be the highest soprano in the world, made her first appearance at Buffalo when she was seven. She studied in New York, Paris, and then in London, where concert-goers know her well. She is very tall and handsome. Another high soprano is Miss Ada Colley, an Australian, who has done good work in the halls—notably, by singing the one and only "Intermezzo." Australia, so like America in many ways, has given us some of our best singers. Witness the mellifluous Melba.

MISS GERTRUDE ELLIOTT.

She was too good for London to lose; so when her brother-in-law, Mr. Nat Goodwin's, season at the Duke of York's came to an end, she was readily annexed by the Court to play the Princess Angela in "A Royal Family." Left an orphan at a very early age, she has been brought up by her elder sister, Maxine, whose marriage to Nat Goodwin gave the pretty little girl her chance. She is going to do big things,

THE "SMARTEST LADY OF TO-DAY."

The American actress is having it all her own way, for Miss Fanny Ward's toilet-table now glistens with the two-hundred-guinea diamond brooch which the readers of the *Pelican* awarded her (by 27,572 votes) as the "smartest lady of to-day." Miss Ward, who made her first appearance with us at the Vaudeville in "A Night Out," used to play boys' parts in America. Whether she is the "smartest lady of to-day" or not, it is certain she drives one of the smartest victorias in town, for you may often see her reclining behind a pair of blue-rosetted high-stepping chestnuts and a smart tiger.

MR. BEN WEBSTER.

Mr. Ben Webster might fitly pose as the "smartest gentleman of to-day," for few men look so well on the stage as he. He is



Photo. by Rockwood, New York.

MISS GERTRUDE ELLIOTT.

a member of the great theatrical family of his name (one of them was the wife of Sir Edward Lawson), and inherited the



Photo. by Ellis and Walery.

MISS FANNY WARD, ACCLAIMED "THE SMARTEST LADY OF TO-DAY."

instinct for the stage to such an extent that he flung up the Bar, for which he was trained by Montagu Williams, and to



Photo. by W. and D. Downey.

MR. BEN WEBSTER.

which he was called fifteen years ago. Before that he had played with the Kendals, whom he rejoined in 1887. Since then he has played in nearly every theatre in London. His wife, Miss May Whitty, comes of an old Liverpool family. His sister is Mrs. Sydney Brough.

MISS ELLA SNYDER.

You all know Miss Snyder in her Bowery frock. Its tawdriness cannot hide her good looks, for her clever face peers laughingly out from among her curls, and she is all the prettier when she puts on her smart frocks and sups o' nights at the Savoy or whirls round Covent Garden at one of the Fancy-dress Balls. She makes an excellent Belle when she deputises for Edna May. Indeed, she is the best Belle that has appeared when Edna has been resting. She is no relation of Miss Leonora Snyder, who was Mr. Carte's prima donna once.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS.

Very few actors have become so well known in a short time as Mr. Seymour Hicks, who bounded into popularity

almost on his first appearance, for his ambitiousness at once fascinated the public. Born at St. Heliers in January 1870, he flung up an Army crammer to walk on at the Grand Theatre, Islington, with Mr. Charles Warner in the year of Jubilee. He had two years in the provinces, and toured America with the Kendals, making his London debut at the Court Theatre in "Pamela's Prodigy" in 1891. Six months later he figured as a young medical student in "Walker, London," at Toole's; but it was not till he returned to the Court in September 1893 that he really made a hit. He proved himself to be not only a smart actor, but a clever playwright, for he produced and acted in "Good-bye" and "Under the Clock," the *revue* in which he collaborated with Mr. Brookfield, the greatest wit among modern English actors. Then he married Ellaline Terriss, and went to the Gaiety, where his enormous physical energy seemed to tire him out sometimes. He has written (or partly written) seven plays, including "One of the Best" (which he recently turned into book form) and "With Flying Colours,"



Photo. by Ellis and Walery.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS.

now running at the Adelphi. He and his wife have adopted a little girl. They have no children of their own.



Photo. by Ellis and Walery.

MISS ELLA SNYDER.