INTERCOLONIAL TELEGRAMS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

(BY SPECIAL WIRE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, SUNDAY.

The China Navigation Company's Changsha arrived from Hong Kong viâ Port Darwin on Saturday morning, and was immediately placed in quarantine, where she will probably remain till 21 days have expired, counting from 21st February, on which day she left Port Darwin. One small-pox patient was landed at Port Darwin, and the vessel has since been free from disease. She has 12 European and 162 Chinese passengers. The s.s. Guthrie having landed her passengers and crew at the quarantine station, and been thoroughly cleansed and fumigated, was released yesterday.

The frequent occurrence of destructive bush fires in several parts of the colony has been brought under the attention of the Minister of Mines, who has approved of a suggestion by the chief inspector of stock that the pastures and stock protection boards should be invited to consider the best means of saving the colony from further heavy losses through bush fires. The boards will be invited to consider, first, whether any amendments are necessary in the act now in force for the prevention of the careless use of fire; to say what precautionary steps should be taken to prevent bush fires spreading, and whether such precautions should be made compulsory; to show what steps should be taken when fires have spread to check and extinguish them; and to advise whether or not bush fire brigades should be formed at different points of the bush on somewhat similar lines to fire brigades in towns.

The Government know nothing of the £250 reported to have been subscribed by the acting agent-general of New South Wales towards a guarantee fund for the Paris Exhibition, but steps will be taken to have the colony adequately represented.

The third anniversary of the departure of the New South Wales Contingent to the Soudan was celebrated on Saturday evening by the members of the contingent. The officers met at dinner, when there was a fairly large gathering, presided over by Major-General Richardson. The non-commissioned officers and men held a dinner at the new Masonic hall, and in each case appropriate toasts were honoured with enthusiasm. It is understood that the Khedive star medals, presented by the Egyptian Government to the English troops serving in the Soudan, are now on their way to Sydney for distribution to the members of the contingent.

An official return shows that the estimated number of Chinese in the colony at the end of last year is 16,890, of whom not more than 100 are females. The arrivals last year were 4,635, and the departures 2,773, or a net increase of 1,862. It is calculated that there are fully 50,000 Chinese scattered throughout the Australian colonies, exclusive of New Zealand.

The mining market on Saturday was fairly active, and the prices of most leading lines had a slightly upward tendency.

Rider Haggard's "Jess" was produced by Dampier's Company at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday, and was favourably received. "Iolanthe" is still attracting crowded houses to the Theatre Royal, while Brough and Boucicault's burlesque company are meeting with continued success at the Criterion Theatre. "In the Banks," at Her Majesty's, was performed for the sixtieth time on Saturday to a full house.

QUEENSLAND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, SUNDAY.

The revenue returns for the month of February amounted to £214,395, against £177,361 for the corresponding month of last year. Every department shows an increase, the Customs yielding over £22,000 increase.

At Gympie, during February, 8,934 tons of stone were crushed, yielding 7,736oz. of gold. The dividends for the same period amounted to £8,003, and the calls to £5,895.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ADELAIDE, SUNDAY.

George Day, the driver of the train that left Terowie at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning, was taken ill at Manoora, and died before the train reached Riverton. He started on the journey in apparently good health. He was recently re-elected president of the Engineers' Association.

Mr. Salter, the superintendent of the fire brigades, died on Saturday afternoon of typhoid fever, after a fortnight's illness, aged 27 years. He took charge of the fire brigade on its reorganisation in April 13, 1885. He was formerly in the London and Sydney fire brigade service.

Three-fourths of the Moonta miners have accepted the manager's proposal to resume work on Monday.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PERTH, SATURDAY.

The Government have received a telegram stating that Mr. Hamilton White, who was largely interested in the Kimberley mines, was drowned on February 6 while attempting to cross Hall's Creek.

Numerous parties are forming and leaving almost daily for Golden Valley. Yilgarnhill is almost, if not quite, deserted. There is great excitement in the neighbourhood of Golden Valley, and a large number of claims are pegged out. It is reported that wherever stone is picked up in the vicinity of the claims it is studded with gold. Two men left Yilgarn for Golden Valley, but not being heard of again a search party went to look for them, and found their remains on the road. It is believed that they died from exhaustion and thirst. They were named Timothy Sies and Easton Beadless. The greatest hopes are entertained of the success of the colonial. Some of the most experienced miners pronounce the stone exceedingly rich and quite equal to anything seen elsewhere.

TASMANIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HOBART, SUNDAY.

A meeting of the Centennial International Exhibition Committee was held on Friday night. It was decided to enlarge the committee, and a number of new names were added. It was resolved that a joint committee should be formed for Hobart and Launceston for the purpose of carrying out such arrangements as may be thought to be advisable for the representation of Tasmania. There are 54 pupils in the Technical School, and several of them are preparing exhibits for the Exhibition.

A recent analysis of the water supplied to Hobart is very satisfactory. It shows that the water is absolutely free from any deleterious matter. The water supply, however, is rather short, as there are no signs of the breaking-up of the long drought.

The mining news from the Fingal district is to the effect that a rich reef has been discovered in an old claim at Mathings. Fine specimens of the stone have been brought to Hobart.

NEW ZEALAND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AUCKLAND, SUNDAY.

The New Zealand Rifle Association meeting closed at Oamaru on Saturday. Parnell, of Nangauui, won the rifle belt, and Ross, of Napier, the carbine belt, with the scores of 526 and 512 respectively.

Alluvial and quartz gold is reported to have been discovered at Horowhoro, a well-known mountain 12 miles from Rotorua. A find is also reported from Kaipara. The Moroteto Company begin operations on their mine to-day. The prospects of a great mining revival are very promising.

The cost of the war material, &c., ordered by the late Government, is said to be over £100,000.

SHAW'S ELEVEN AT SYDNEY.

MATCH WITH 18 JUNIORS.

(BY SPECIAL WIRE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, SATURDAY.

The cricket match between Shaw's English eleven and 18 juniors was continued to-day. The weather was fine. The Juniors in their first innings made 181, and the Englishmen in their first made 175. The Juniors bowled and fielded well, and Charlton especially performed remarkably well with the ball. The Juniors commenced their second innings shortly before the stumps were drawn. The scores were as follows:—

JUNIORS.

FIRST INNINGS (Continued).

F. Leland, c Pougher, b Preston ..	11
F. Ireland, b Lohmann	8
H. Kelly, b Preston	9
S. Gregory, c Pilling, b Preston ..	0
H. Brewster, not out	9
W. Sweetnam, lbw, b Briggs ..	7
Sundries	16
Total	181

BOWLING ANALYSIS.—Lohmann, 264 balls, 60 runs, 41 maidens, 6 wickets; Briggs, 209 balls, 37 runs, 24 maidens, 3 wickets; Preston, 192 balls, 45 runs, 8 wickets; Smith, 24 balls, 11 runs, 2 maidens; Pougher, 56 balls, 12 runs, 7 maidens.

ENGLISH ELEVEN.

FIRST INNINGS.

Pilling, b Charlton	25
Pougher, b Charlton	11
Shrewsbury, b Charlton	7
Newham, b Charlton	29
Lohmann, b Sweetnam	46
Smith, b Charlton	1
Brown, run out	1
Preston, b Charlton	3
Read, not out	14
Beeker, c T. Dean, b Charlton	8
Briggs, run out	12
Sundries	20
Total	175

BOWLING ANALYSIS.—Charlton, 176 balls, 41 runs, 22 maidens, 7 wickets; Sweetnam, 76 balls, 36 runs, 5 maidens, 1 wicket. T. Dean and Hume also bowled well.

THE TRADES CONGRESS AT BRISBANE.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BRISBANE, SUNDAY.

The delegates to the Intercolonial Trades Union Congress now being held here, were entertained by the united trades of Queensland to an excursion down the bay on Saturday in the Government steamer Lucinda, which was lent for the occasion. A very enjoyable day was spent. At the luncheon the toast of the visitors was heartily received, and suitably responded to. Mr. Fitzgerald, of New South Wales, proposed the toast of "Federated Australia." He contended that the union of the trades throughout the colonies was the first step towards a federated and independent Australia. The toast was received with much enthusiasm.

WAGES OF MINING ENGINE-DRIVERS.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MARYBOROUGH, SUNDAY.

In response to the application of the mining enginedrivers of the district for an increase of wages from £2 5s. per week to 8s. 4d. per shift replies have been forwarded by six of the principal companies, viz.:—The Napier Freehold, Duke, Burnt Creek, Golden Stream, Majorca United Leads, and Working Miners, stating that their directors are willing that the drivers should be employed by the shift instead of by the week as hitherto. With respect to the application for a rise in wages, however, they deem this a matter which requires some consideration, and promise to communicate their determination on the subject to the enginedrivers in the course of a week or so. In any case a concession is already made by these companies to the drivers, who formerly worked seven shifts per week for £2 5s., whereas now, allowing that they receive the ordinary rate of 7s. 6d. per shift, their weekly salaries will be increased to £2 12s. 6d.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

UNITED ANCIENT ORDER OF DRUIDS.

The president and the Grand Lodge officers of the United Ancient Order of Druids attended at Morrell's Hotel, Bourke-street east, on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of opening a new lodge. The president stated that the board of directors had named the new branch the Austral Lodge, which he declared open with the usual formalities. The following were appointed officers for the first term:—Arch Druid, Brother James Parsons; Vice Arch, Brother J. Emden; Secretary, Brother H. W. Ireland; Treasurer, Brother P. Forman; I.S.G., Brother Dell; O.S.G., Brother James Sinclair; Arch Bards, Brothers F. D. Wiser and H. Solomon; Vice Bards, Brothers Somervil and Robbie; Surgeon, Dr. J. V. Eccles; Trustees, Brothers Jowett, Parsons, and Lithgow.

BALLARAT.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SUNDAY EVENING.

The painters' strike is getting of smaller dimensions, most of the men having obtained employment. The matter in dispute is to be submitted to arbitration.

A thunderstorm broke over Ballarat this afternoon. Heavy showers of rain and hail fell. The temperature was exceptionally low.

SANDHURST.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SUNDAY EVENING.

A serious accident on the railway line near Eaglehawk was narrowly averted yesterday. A goods train from Sandhurst to Korongvale stopped at California Gully for shunting, when some of the trucks escaped and ran down a hill a distance of over a mile, and through a gate. Another train from Sandhurst to Raywood was just stopped on the brow of the hill, and would have run into the trucks.

Heavy rain fell to-day.

An indignation meeting is to be held to consider the delay of the city council in dealing with the tramways.

THE IMMIGRANTS' HOME.

The monthly meeting of the committee of management of the Immigrants' Aid Society was held on Friday, in the class-room of the Collins-street Baptist Church. Present—Rev. Dr. Bromby, Messrs. H. Moore, J. London, and Geo. Baker (who occupied the chair). The superintendent reported the state of the house to be as follows, viz.:—Number remaining last week, 595; admitted since, 28; discharged, 33; died, 1 (Edward Walian, 66, native of London). Still remaining inmates, 647. The nightly number of casual cases sheltered and supplied with supper and breakfast during the week was 70 males and 14 females; 61 dinners were granted to unemployed men during the week. Out-door relief was given to one family, or three individuals, on presenting the relief cards of the society. The following donations were thankfully acknowledged:—Mrs. Hearn, Essendon, bag of clothing; "Kilmore," bag of clothing; and Mrs. Owen, South Yarra, parcel of periodicals.

NEW INSOLVENT.

William Stinton, nurseryman and florist, Belmont, near Geelong. Causes of Insolvency—Dullness of trade, want of capital, and pressure from principal creditors. Liabilities, £182 2s. 6d.; assets, £322 3s. 10d.; surplus, £140 1s. 4d. Mr. John Davison, assignee.

THE PRIZE CANTATA AND "THE WARRIGAL."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—As your contributor charged me with error in regard to the use of the word "warrigal," and has not yet withdrawn the charge, would you allow me space for the following quotation, taken from a text-book used in the state schools:—"Although an Australian native, the dingo or warragal" (Kendall and Gordon spell it warrigal) "deserves a passing notice. It is a true wild dog." This is taken from a "Manual of Physical Geography of Australia," by H. Beresford de la Poer Wall, M.A., &c., written (as the preface states) "for the purpose of imparting to the young people of Australia some knowledge of their own country." I might add that the poem of Kendall to which I referred is headed "The Warrigal," and a note at the foot gives as explanation of the term, "the native dog or dingo."

Now, as between man and man, does your contributor think he was justified in charging me with mistaking a horse for a dog, and in ridiculing me for so doing?—Yours, &c.,

March 3. WM. ALLEN.

NUBIAN BLACK, THE PATENT FURNISHER, supply any respectable person in any part of Victoria as follows:—£5 worth, 2s. 6d. per week; £10 worth, 5s. per week; £12 worth, 5s. per week; £18 worth, 7s. 6d. per week; £25 worth, 7s. 6d. per week; £35 worth, 10s. per week; £45 worth, 12s. per week; £75 worth, 20s. per week. 103 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne, and 109 Clarendon-street, South Melbourne.—[ADVT.]

CONFLAGRATION IN THE CITY.

A TIMBER MILL COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

ESTIMATED LOSS £30,000.

AN IMMENSE CONCOURSE OF SPECTATORS.

One of the largest fires which have ever taken place in Melbourne occurred last evening, by which Mr. James Moore's spacious timber mills and yard in the Sandridge-road, South Melbourne, were completely destroyed. The flames lit up the whole of the city, the reflection being visible for miles around, and the destruction of the building was witnessed by at least 30,000 people. A few months ago, it will be remembered, Mr. Moore had the misfortune to have his timber yard and mills, which were then also situated on the Sandridge-road a short distance from the site of the present one, entirely destroyed by fire. He then built the mills which were burnt last night. They covered an area of about an acre and a half, and were almost entirely constructed of corrugated iron, the walls both at the front and back, as well as at the sides, together with the roof, being made of that material. The office, which was situated at the north-east corner of the structure, was built of brick. The building was isolated from the others in the vicinity, being surrounded at the front and sides by wide streets, and at the back is a right-of-way about 200ft. wide, which separates the mills from the timber-yard and stables at the rear. It was a comparatively high building, having three floors, and overlooked all those in the neighbourhood. On the ground floor were the engine, boiler, and heavy sawing plant of various descriptions, and stacks of timber of all sizes waiting to be cut into different lengths and shapes. The first floor was occupied by turning and door and sash-making and other machinery used in timber mills, while the second, or top one, was used as a carpenters and joiners' room. The mills were full of costly machinery of the latest and most improved type, and they were generally acknowledged to be among the most complete of their kind in Australia. As can well be imagined, such a large building required a good deal of light, and its walls were freely pierced with windows, while large doors opened out on all sides on the ground floor, to admit of a free passage to the large beams of timber which had daily to pass in and out of the mills. Special precautions had been taken in the erection of the mills to guard against another fire occurring. The engine was completely enclosed by brick walls, and water mains were laid on to each floor, to which canvas hoses and jets similar to those used by firemen were attached. There were also fire buckets filled with water scattered all over the premises, and stringent orders were issued prohibiting persons from smoking on the mills. There was a large stock of doors, windows, frames, and other carpentry work in the building, Mr. Moore having several large contracts on hand just now, including the erection of the annexes of the Centennial International Exhibition. There were over 200 men employed at the mills, and all of them stopped work on Saturday at 1 p.m., and left the building with the exception of some half dozen hands, who stayed behind to clean up the place and remove the shavings from the different floors into the yard. They finished that work at about 5 o'clock, and left the mills in the custody of a watchman named Egan, who was subsequently relieved from duty by another watchman, Egan, however, came on duty again at 5 p.m. yesterday, and the premises were supposed to have been in his charge until he broke out. About 8 o'clock last night a young man named Jas. Hughes was standing at Messrs. Wilson, Corben, and Co's paving yard, close to the rear of Mr. Moore's mills, talking to the caretaker there. His attention was drawn to the outbreak of the fire by the continuous barking of a dog in the yard, and on looking towards the mills he saw that the carpenters' shop on the second or top floor was on fire near the south-west corner, the windows of which overlooked the swamp towards South Melbourne. He ran across the road to the cottage of Mr. Morris, the caretaker of the mills, which is situated in a corner of the timber adjoining the stables, and apprised him of the outbreak of the fire. Mr. Morris hurried from his tea table into the mills, the back door of which was open, followed by Hughes. They mounted the stairs near the office, and reaching the top floor endeavored to extinguish the flames by bringing one of the hoses there to play on them. The fire by this time had not assumed large proportions, but in a minute or so the heat smashed the glass of the windows. The southerly breeze instantly began to fan the flames through the upper floor, and they spread with alarming rapidity along the whole of the back of the top floor. Morris and his comrade were driven out of the flat by the suffocating smoke and heat, and on the way downstairs Hughes entered the office and tried to telephone the alarm to the Fire Insurance Companies' brigade, but he could not do so owing to the instrument being out of order. They then got the hose on the centre story to play on the burning floor overhead, but the falling cinders and smoke drove them out of the building, and from then they became passive onlookers at the conflagration. Bringing the whole of the time they were in and about the burning structure they did not see Egan, the watchman. The members of the South Melbourne Fire Brigade were the first to see the flames burst through the top windows of the mills, and they were soon on the spot. The look-out man on the tower of the Insurance Companies' brigade also saw the flames break out at about the same time. He gave the alarm, and within a few minutes superintendent Stein and his men reached the mills with a couple of steam fire-engines, and subsequently a third engine arrived at the scene. When it was discovered that it was a timber mill that was on fire, the suburban fire brigades were telephoned to by direction of Superintendent Stein, and they reached the burning building with creditable promptitude. The sight of the fire-engines dashing through the streets of the city with steam up, and the hurrying of fire-reels from all directions, caused a great sensation. Bourke-street, as is usually the case on a Sunday evening, was crowded with pedestrians, and Collins-street was well filled with people coming out of the different places of worship. The cry of "Fire" was raised, and a general stampede such as has hardly ever been seen in Melbourne before, was made along Swanston and Elizabeth streets and over the Prince's and Falls bridges to the scene of the conflagration. One of the fire-engines was driven at such a rapid rate along Swanston-street that it nearly ran into a tramcar which was crossing that thoroughfare at the intersection of Collins-street. The flames had by this time burst through the roof of the mill and ascended to a great height, illuminating the river and the streets of Melbourne. The people ran helter-skelter—jostling each other in their anxiety to reach the fire—along the Sandridge-road and other thoroughfares trending towards it, which were covered ankle-deep in mud owing to the heavy rain which fell during yesterday morning. The night was a dark one, and the burning mills afforded a brilliant though sad spectacle. The flames were roaring and shooting out from every window. It was apparent to all that the premises were doomed to destruction. Presently the roof fell in with a loud crash, the wooden beams supporting it having been burnt through. Then the sheets of corrugated iron forming the upper portion of the front of the structure got twisted and torn asunder by the excessive heat, and fell amongst the firemen and the crowd. Some of the sheets were caught by the draught of the fire, and were carried across the street a distance of about 60 yards, and as they encircled round and round over the crowd of spectators gathered there, they caused considerable alarm, as each person was for the moment under the apprehension that the scorching sheets of iron would fall on him. The wind was fortunately from the south, and therefore the timber and stables at the rear of the mills were saved from damage, though for precautionary reasons the 27 horses in the stalls were turned loose on to the adjoining swampy land. The firemen soon had numerous jets of water pouring on the flames in all directions. The pressure, owing to the presence of the fire-engines, was a tolerably good one, but the flames had made such headway that the efforts of the brigades appeared to have no appreciable effect on it. A strong body of police was present, and acted under the instructions of Inspector Webb and Sergeant Bailey; but the heat which issued from the fire was sufficient in itself to keep the thousands of onlookers from approaching too near the building, and in that way a clear space-way was kept available for the operations of the firemen. Every now and then the joists of a portion of the flooring would be burnt away, and the heavy machinery resting on that particular part would cause it to fall with a loud crash and drag away a portion of the corrugated iron wall, which as it fell made a rumbling noise resembling thunder. It was generally stated amongst the crowd that the high chimney-stack at the back of the mills was in danger of falling, and apprehensive eyes kept watching the flames, which danced half-way up it on all sides, believing every moment that they would see the chimney, from which smoke was issuing, topple over into the sea of flames around it. It did not, however, fall, and then the crowd became apprehensive as regards the safety of the boiler, but it did not burst and scatter itself broadcast, as many thought it would be sure to do. To get better at the fire some of the members of the brigades cut holes in the walls with their hatchets, while a number of others, assisted by a few of the spectators, carried a good deal of light wood, such as planks of pine, pieces of cedar and deals, as well as some doors and sash frames, out of the western wing, and piled them up in a heterogeneous stack on the Sandridge-road. The office was also entered, and the books and accounts was secured. By this time such a large number of sheets of iron had fallen from the walls that the onlookers could see right into the midst of the burning building from whatever point they viewed it, and particularly into the ground floor, where a quantity of packing cases were all ablaze. Every few minutes a turning or some other machine would fall from the floor above to the ground. In its descent it usually brought other parts of the structure with it, and on each occasion the fall was marked by a sheet of flame ascending up towards the clouds, and scattering burning cinders amongst the crowds and on the roofs of the kerosene bonds on the opposite side of the street. The trees lining the roadway in front of the mills were scorched, and a telegraph pole was burnt, so great was the heat. Shortly after 9 o'clock the fire had pretty well burnt itself out, but not before the whole of the interior of the mills had been destroyed. The brick walls saved the office from destruction, and the direction of the wind, coupled with the exertions of the brigades, helped to save a slight portion of the western wing. About half an hour later the firemen had what remained of the fire well in hand, although it continued to smoulder till early this morning. By 10 o'clock most of the onlookers had dispersed, the majority of them having their clothes well smeared with mud. Mr. Moore estimates his loss roughly at £30,000. The mills were insured for about £6,000, and we are indebted to Messrs. Richardson and Kerr, insurance brokers, for the following list of insurances upon the building, plant, and stock:—New Zealand Insurance Company, £500; Scottish Union, £500; Accident Indemnity, £500; City of London, £500; United Australian, £500; Australian Mercantile Union, £250; Phœnix, £500; Norwich Union, £500; Colonial Mutual, £500; Standard, £250; National, £500; National (New Zealand), £250; Glasgow and London, £500.

A number of the men employed at the mills have lost their carpentering tools, and a good many of them will be thrown out of work for some days. Fortunately Mr. Moore has his contract for the erection of the annexes at the Exhibition well advanced, but it is expected that the fire will re-act in their completion being delayed for some time. Mr. Moore will, however, do his utmost to fulfil his contract in the specified time.

The crowd on the whole was well behaved, and the only time that the police were called upon to actively interfere was when a number of youths clambered to the roofs of the kerosene bond.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is generally believed to have been caused by someone smoking on the premises.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Preparations for the autumn show of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria occupied the attention of a sub-committee which met at the offices, 46 Collins-street east, last evening. Mr. G. Lynch was in the chair, and Messrs. Ardagh, Watts, Bell, and Merton were also present. The secretary read a reply from the traffic department intimating to the society, in reply to a request that arrangements would be made for the stopping of trains at Picnic siding on the days on which the society's show would be held, viz., the 14th and 15th March. The secretary was instructed to send postal cards to members of the society informing them when and where the show would be held. Authority was also given for the purchase of "judge" and "committee" tickets in lieu of the rosette, the usual badge of office on those occasions. The preparations for luncheon, display of flags, posters, and several other matters were left in the hands of Mr. Merton and the secretary. The matter of lighting was placed in the hands of the secretary, with power to act. The general business advertising was to be carried out by a committee of two, to whom a sum was granted for that purpose.

MELBOURNE DISTRICT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of the executive of the Melbourne District Teachers' Association was held at the Cathedral Hotel on Friday, Mr. J. Sergeant being in the chair. It was reported that Buxton's Art Gallery had been engaged as the regular meeting place of the association. A collector was appointed to canvass the schools for subscriptions, and arrangements were entered into for holding a series of monthly entertainments during the forthcoming winter. A request from the Male Assistants' Association for co-operation in regard to holding an expression of opinion from the teachers' class-sider as to the reason why no schools were raised in classification at the last supplementary roll, though many were entitled to be so raised, and also as to the irritating delay in the publication of the triennial revised roll was received, and it was decided to co-operate as requested. A number of resolutions to be considered by the conference of teachers at Easter were directed to be forwarded to the executive of the Teachers' Union. The invitatory steps were taken for a banquet to be tendered to the delegates to the conference during Easter week. The question of co-operating with the Assistants' Association in obtaining a legal opinion on a certain matter of interest to the profession was favourably received, but owing to the lateness of the hour was postponed till next meeting.

THE ALFRED HOSPITAL.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

The committee of management of the Alfred Hospital met on Friday afternoon, when there were present—Messrs. R. L. J. Ellery (president), G. Young, J. Blyth, A. Jack, W. Strachan, J. H. Black, R. W. Dickson, and Captain Payne. The superintendent reported the state of the house to be as follows:—Number of inmates, 24th inst., 142; admitted since, 28; discharged, 25; died, 6; out-patients, 219; casualties, 16; total for the week, 374; paying patients, 19. The number of typhoid patients under treatment was 77. During the week nine patients had died, one discharged, nine admitted, and one died. Donations received:—Mrs. Bell, £1 1s.; G. Nuity, £1 1s.; T. Keenan (patient) £3 15s.; F. H. Massie, £2 2s. A letter was received from the secretary to the Archbishop of Melbourne, requesting that in consideration of the large bequest (£700) left to the institution by the late Rev. M. Stack, a former former priest of the archdiocese, the committee would appoint as life governors His Grace and such a number of Catholic gentlemen as would correspond with the amount of the bequest. In view of former decisions upon similar applications from executors and trustees of bequests to the hospital, it was unanimously resolved that the archbishop be informed that his request could not be complied with. It was agreed to grant a testimonial to Dr. A. S. Jooke on the termination of his connection with the hospital as resident physician.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

At the Collingwood Court on Friday, before Messrs. Nettleton and Tait, Charles Kelly was charged with carrying loaded firearms. He had been threatening to shoot some person in the bar of the United Kingdom Hotel, and when a constable was called he presented a revolver at him, but was speedily disarmed. The revolver was loaded in all barrels, and cartridges were found on prisoner, who was drunk. A fine of 20s., or three days' imprisonment was ordered.

At the Williamstown Court on Friday a member of the Williamstown Cricket Club named Guthrie was sued by F. Seidel, of Fitzroy, for assault committed at a cricket match on the Williamstown ground on February 4. Seidel was standing as umpire during a match between Fitzroy and Williamstown, and in the course of the game gave Guthrie out as caught behind wicket. Guthrie retired, and threatened to hit Seidel over the head with the bat. Later on while Seidel was in the pavilion Guthrie went deliberately up to him, and without a word struck him three heavy blows on the head. A fine of £1, with £2 7s. costs, was inflicted.

THE Common Council of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, has adopted a new method of abating the tramp nuisance. Every tramp who is found within the borough limits is to be arrested and fined 50c. If he pay the fine he must leave the town within an hour. If found in the place at the end of an hour, he will be re-arrested and subjected to a similar fine, and so on *ad libitum*. If unable to pay the fine, the tramp is sentenced to break stone on the public streets 10 hours a day for five days. It is confidently expected that Waynesboro will now be crossed from the itinerary of the tramp fraternity.

TO AMATEUR ARTISTS, TRACERS OF DRAWING, &c.—We have the most complete and varied assortment of studies suitable for copies ever offered, from 6d. per dozen upwards. Lewis's Stock of Hand Engravings, Photographs, and Fine Art Productions in Victoria. Inspection invited. Pictures Gallery, Cole's Book Arcade.—[ADVT.]

THE PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

"FAUST."

On Saturday night Messrs. Williamson, Garner, and Musgrove made a new departure in management. It would seem from their advertised announcements that their patrons had often inquired of them why they did not turn their attention to the production of legitimate opera in English, with the same liberal mounting for which they had made a name for themselves in their treatment of pantomime, extravaganza, and so-called comic opera. Their answer to this has been the production of Gounod's opera "Faust" in a manner which left little to be desired in the way of stage mounting. The orchestra has been increased to 32 players—the principal instruments being all well represented. In the matter of instrumental accompaniment the resources of this theatre have been greatly increased, as will be seen further on. The chorus has been largely augmented, and is now the source of a well-balanced body of rich and harmonious tone. Supernumeraries are in plentiful number to give life and picturesque effect to the scenes in which crowds have to be represented. New scenery, which it is a delight to look upon, has been painted by Mr. George Gordon. The dressing of the piece is new and decidedly picturesque, and many ingenious contrivances in stage mechanism have been successfully applied. All this notable expansion displays good taste, good faith, and good will on the part of the management. The following was the cast, namely:—Faust, Mr. Leumane; Valentine, Mr. Knight Aston; Mephistopheles, Mr. Federici; Siebel, Miss Fannie Liddiard; Martha, Miss Alice Barnett; Marguerite, Miss Nellie Stewart. The performance, it is to be regretted, closed with a sad fatality—the sudden death of Mr. F. Federici, particulars of which are given in another column. That deserving actor and singer won the good will of the Melbourne audience by the unsparing use of powers which never appeared to greater advantage than when engaged in the last and highest task in which they were ever employed. The instrumental introduction was conducted in *grave tempo* by Mr. Collier, so that the composer's fine development of that beautiful work was made to be easily understood by the audience. The scene of the scholars' mediæval chamber, with its quaint furnishing of stuffed animal figures, mysterious instruments, and old tomes of necromantic lore, was highly interesting, and fit setting for the dramatic scene enacted. As the time-worn and despairing scholar, Mr. Leumane sang and acted with something of energy and good effect. Mr. Federici, as Mephistopheles, also made a good impression; the vision of Marguerite was beautifully managed. In the scene of rejuvenation, the old doctor is changed into a young man in scholarly-looking garb—not the resplendent youth to which our Melbourne traditions have accustomed us. The curtain fell on this act amidst great applause—the new effect of Mephistopheles and the young Faust flying away through an open window having taken the audience by a pleasant surprise. The second act—remarkable for the skilful arrangement of well-painted scenery—showed both the strength and weakness of the cast. The "Kermesse Chorus" was rendered at a pace which allowed all the parts to be fairly heard at their proper value, and with very full and pleasing effect. Mr. Knight Aston, as Valentine, bore himself in soldierly fashion, and sang with good voice although it is to be noticed that a strong tremolo is becoming noticeable of late in this gentleman's vocal style. The cavatina, "Even bravest heart may swell," was sung by him with good feeling, and met with applause. The "sword-hilt" chorus, "Gainst the powers of evil," was a thoroughly weighty and effective scena, and so also in picturesque and animated degree was the scene of the waltz and chorus. The scene of Marguerite's entry from the church was disappointing. Miss Stewart came tripping down the steps so hurriedly that she gave the impression of being anxious to get away home with the least possible delay. Her voice, however, in this scene and all others in which she was concerned, proved to be of sweet quality and ample power, and adapted to the music. On the part of Faust the splendid passage, "High-born and lovely maid," came to an ineffective conclusion in consequence of the singer omitting the B natural which occurs in the antepenultimate bar. The vocal setting of the third act was necessarily very trying to the singers. Miss Liddiard deserves praise for the easy and well-toned manner in which she sang the "Flower Song." The splendid lyric, "What is it that charms one," which Faust sings in the garden, requires a rare combination of fine qualities in the singer who essays it, and Mr. Leumane was not happy in his rendering of it, being deficient in the low and high tones which are needed to give it perfect effect. Miss Stewart, whose appearance was all in her favour, but whose mannerisms were very pronounced, sang "The King of Thule" quite pathetically, and was fortunate in having a practicable spinning wheel to complete the situation. The jewel song was something of a triumph for this clever young lady, the only drawback to her rendering of it being an imperfect performance of the trill with which it commences; but Miss Stewart has made of late such advances as a vocalist that she may yet perfect herself in the execution of this charming musical ornament. The rest of the music in this great scene was not noticeable for anything calling for special mention. A startling astronomical illusion was produced in this scene by the sudden bursting out in all the splendour of electric incandescent lamps of the familiar constellation the Southern Cross, pointers and all—a rare sight indeed for the people of Wittemburg, or Leipsic, or Heidelberg, or wherever Marguerite had her pretty dwelling-place, and such a distance north of the equator, too! If the management insist upon a constellation, let them try Orion, but with very small lamps instead of those which were used on Saturday. The three principal singers were recalled at the end of the third act. The fourth act gives the scene of the church—the same exterior as in the second act—and the action takes place exterior to the church. The head of Mephistopheles is seen in a niche in one of the towers flanking the great Gothic doorway. Marguerite hears the accusing voice one moment, and the next the swelling harmonies of the prayerful congregation in the church—the effect of which is, indeed, magnificent. Having the advantages of orchestral accompaniment and a proper church organ, recently erected on the stage of this theatre by Mr. G. Fincham, the well-known organ builder—a grand effect is attained by this means, upon which the management may be heartily congratulated. The following scenes between Marguerite and Siebel and Marguerite and the girls at the well have been usually omitted in Melbourne, and on Saturday night this part of the opera seemed to drag, notwithstanding Marguerite's song at the spinning-wheel and Siebel's romance, "When o'er thy loying." The return of Valentine and his soldiers, and their reception by their wives and sweethearts, is an admirably worked-up tableau. The soldiers' chorus, with the help of a military band on the stage, was given with fine tonal effect, and it was only with difficulty that the impatience of the amphitheatre for an encore was appeased. Mr. Knight-Aston made much of the scene of the death of Valentine, but we have heard the final chorus in this act sung with greater refinement by a less numerous choir. In the last act Miss Stewart, as the demented Marguerite, dresses in white, which we think is unbecoming to the occasion, and there is a gigantic wooden cross in one corner of the cell which is unsuitable to the scene. It affords the heroine opportunity for much clinging and stagey gesticulation. Miss Stewart sang to the end with unflagging spirit and fine vocal power, and fairly won the laurels of the performance. As an actress, in the garden scene she displays mannerisms which may be proper to her recent business, but which might with propriety be laid aside in serious opera. As this representation commenced at half-past 7 there were some vacant seats in the dress circle at the beginning, but as the evening wore on every seat was filled.

Owing to the death of Mr. Federici this theatre will be closed to-night.

BIJOU THEATRE.

"INGOMAR."

The announcement that the poetical drama of "Ingomar" would be produced at this house on Saturday evening, with Miss Jenyns in the part of Parthenia, sufficed to fill the stalls and dress circle and to draw a tolerably numerous audience to the upper circle and gallery. The play itself, which has now held the stage for nearly 40 years, has generally proved a favourite with a Melbourne audience, and is associated with pleasant recollections of Ma. G. V. Brooke and Mrs. Robert Heir in the minds of early playgoers. Its success on Saturday evening proves that it has not lost the power to please. The character of Parthenia is probably Miss Jenyns' best part. Her personal qualifications for it leave nothing to be desired; and, taking Miss Mary Anderson as her example, she makes every attitude and position as statuesque as possible; so much so, indeed, that you are reminded too often of a living model in a sculptor's studio, or of a young lady who has been to a fancy dress ball as a Greek maiden, and is posing before a camera in an operating room. She is always picturesque, and never unstudied. She makes you feel that her movements have none of the spontaneousness and natural grace of impulsive girlhood, but are the result of study and deliberation. Apart from this, they are worthy of the admiration they receive. Her interpretation of the character is open to the same objection. It is eminently pleasing, full of prettiness, bright, intelligent, and winsome; but it wants the accent of sincerity, the ring of genuine emotion, the stamp of earnestness. There is the living, breathing image of the beautiful Greek, in whom the writer of the play has combined the characteristics of Spenser's Una, and of the lady in "Comus," who is described as "passing on with unblenched majesty" through "grots and caverns shagg'd with horrid shades" with absolute security, because "a thousand liveried angels lackey'd her;" but the image awaits the Promethean spark which would kindle it into passionate animation—

"So coldly sweet, so smoothly fair,
We start, for soul is wanting there."

Perhaps it has only been suppressed for a time by her teachers, and may flash out when the young lady emancipates herself from their influence; but at present you cannot help feeling that she has in her the makings of a really fine actress, perverted by erroneous instruction and bad example; that there has been an arrest of natural development, and a substitution of artificiality for spontaneousness, emotional warmth, and intuitive sympathy with the character portrayed. Mr. Holloway plays Ingomar, and the defects which render him so objectionable in Shakspearian parts—his harsh voice and bow-wow delivery, his inexpressive and inflexible countenance, his unpliantness of movement, and his utter want of refinement—are advantageous rather than otherwise to an actor who is called upon to portray a barbarian of the fourth or fifth century—an Orson of the woods. And in the second act, more particular