

AROUND THE THEATRES

PLAYS AND PEOPLE

The producer of "High Jinks," the next musical offering at Her Majesty's, is Harry Burcher, who for twelve years was principal stage manager at the Gaiety, London.

Mary Turner in "Within the Law" gave Muriel Starr exceptional acting opportunities. As Marya Varenka in "The Yellow Ticket," however, people in a position to know say that Miss Starr will have the biggest dramatic scene in her career.

How Far It Goes.—According to Michael Morton, author of the play to be staged next Saturday at the Criterion, the Yellow Ticket is the most potent passport in Russia. Its owner can come and go almost as she pleases. The one thing she may not do, however, is to leave Russia.

Various are the ways of spelling one name. Thus, in one day's advertisements concerning "Amusements," we have Lawrence Campbell, Laurence Godfrey Smith, and Lawrance Phillip. Perhaps St. Laurence (or Lawrence or Lawrance) was fried on that gridiron because he wouldn't standardise the spelling of his name.

James O'Neill, who played Simeon in "Joseph and His Brethren" and Fournal in "Sealed Orders," and was immediately marked down by discerning playgoers as an admirable actor, will appear in "The Yellow Ticket" as the chief of the Russian police. Mr. O'Neill is a man with a brain and has with it a pleasing lack of any-

the Russian police. Mr. Maxon is a man with a brain, and has with it a pleasing lack of anything like "swelled head."

A Professional Chaperon.—"The Chaperon," which is included in the Smith-Meyer comedy company's repertoire, will be seen in Sydney next month, along with "The Glad Eye" and "Who's the Lady?" "The Chaperon" is a farce-comedy dealing with the difficulties which beset a young man who has undertaken the position of "professional chaperon."

Something in a Name.—The professional name of Edward Platt-Ruskin, manager for the Cherniavskys, whom he "discovered," shows a good deal of ingenuity. M. Platt-Ruskin is a son of French parents, and was born in Russia. The family name, du Plat, became Russianised to Platkin. Afterwards, in the case of the son, who went to England, it developed into Platt-Ruskin, thus holding for those who know suggestions of the three nationalities through which it has passed.

Cast of "The Yellow Ticket."—The two big acting parts in "The Yellow Ticket" at the Criterion are to be played by Miss Starr (the Jewish heroine) and Mr. James O'Neill (the chief of the secret police, Mr. Eric Maxon will play an American journalist, and Mr. Winter Hall an Englishman resident at St. Petersburg (Petrograd). Mr. E. W. Morrison, Mr. Lincoln Plumer, and Mr. Harold Richards will be of the Okrana (Russian police), Mr. Boyd Irwin a Russian count, and Miss Gwen Burroughs an English girl.

A Country Success.—"Within the Law" is proving remarkably to the liking of country amusement lovers. Every town visited has come under the spell of the powerful play. The

come under the spell of the powerful play. The company toured as far north as Charters Towers, and is now playing return dates to all the towns. Glen Innes will be visited next Friday, Armidale on Saturday, and Tamworth the following Monday. Miss Tien Hogue, a daughter of the ex-Minister for Education, is playing Aggie Lynch in the touring company, and has everywhere scored a big hit.

Giddy Milliners.—The giddy variety of young milliner, who, no doubt, is quite the exception, is looming large on the Australian boards just now. In Sydney Nellie Stewart is playing Du Barry, the girl from the hat shop who attracted Louis XV., and in Melbourne Ethel Dane has been scoring heavily in "The Glad Eye," in which she appears as Kiki, a more modern milliner than the other, but with an optic every bit as keen for business. The Smith-Meyer laughing success will come to Sydney Palace early in October, with a cast of twelve, ten being special importations.

Delighted Alan Dale.—Alan Dale, the prominent New York critic, describes "The Yellow Ticket" as a vital theme vividly treated. "It is a well-written play," he states. "What is more, it is a Russian story with Siberia out of it. Nihilism is for once mute, and awful names ending in 'ski' and 'witch' are barred."

A son of an English general, James O'Neill, who is to appear as the Chief of the Okrana (the secret police) in "The Yellow Ticket," is having an anxious time just at present. Mr. O'Neill is the only masculine member of his family not in the British Army. His wife's father and two brothers are with Sir John French in France.

Stockings.—Miss Fanny Erris, of the George

STOCKINGS.—MISS FANNY ERRIS, of the George Willoughby Dramatic Company, is not altogether pleased. "I am sorry to enter on a controversy with you," she writes, "but the stockings I wore in Act I. of 'The Soldier's Wedding' were boy's ribbed stockings, and if they looked 'ladylike' from the front it is not my fault. I spent exactly an hour going from shop to shop to get what I wanted for the part, as I found a difficulty in getting boy's stockings long enough in the leg and not too vast in the feet. However, it seems I might just as well have been inartistic, and not bothered myself about it, but I have never played a boy's part in 'girly' things yet. You critics have the power to print what you like, without ascertaining whether your remarks are correct or not, but I don't suppose your paper would print my contradiction." What the present writer said about Miss Erris was that she was "excellent in a boy part, though with rather ladylike stockings in the first act." In view of her letter, the assertion regarding the stockings is hereby withdrawn, but there is no necessity to withdraw the assertion regarding the excellence.