

FIRE BRIGADE ENTERTAINMENT.—The overcrowded house, on Wednesday, April 28th, and the hearty applause which was accorded throughout the evening to the performers prove the immense popularity of these entertainments. From the opening overture "Mapolitaine," which was very tastefully and correctly rendered by Miss Latton and Miss Ward, to the finale, the audience continued in excellent temper and were evidently pleased with the whole of the programme. The picturesque and charming group the Zingari band (the Turner family), were received with great manifestations of pleasure, and many complimentary remarks were made on the undoubted improvement shown at each succeeding appearance. The Rev. S. R. Standage sang with much pathos and artistic skill, receiving a loud encore to which however he did not respond. The dramatic pieces commenced with the immortal "Breach of Promise trial" in Dickens' Pickwick. Here the insinuating but demonstrative eloquence of Sergeant Buzfuz (Mr. T. A. Manchip) rivetted the attention of the audience, and mesmerised one of the intelligent dozen in the jury box. Mrs. Elizabeth Chippins (Mr. W. H. Bennett) created uproarious fun, while under examination; Mr. Winkle (Mr. T. Smith) sustained his nervous declination amidst shouts of laughter and the cheeky repartee of Sam Veller, (Mr. T. Bennett) fully sustained that gentleman's well known exposition of low comedy. The dignified attitude and well delivered oration of Sergt. Snubbin (Mr. C. Hobley) called forth loud plaudits, and the character of Mr. Justice Stareleigh found in Mr. G. S. Hedges a first rate exponent. Mr. Pulker (Mr. F. Wheeler), Mr. Pickwick (Mr. J. Bennett) Tom Weller (Mr. Green), Mr. Griffin (Mr. J. F. Mitchell), the Clerk (Mr. A. Sturch) and Mrs. Bardell (Mr. A. Taylor) were characters well sustained throughout. In the operetta, "The Two Blinds," the actors were Mr. J. F. Mitchell and Mr. W. H. Bennett, and during the whole of the performance the house was in a continuous roar. It will be long before the skylark warbling of No. 1 Cadger (Mr. W. H. Bennett), and the graceful grimaces of Cadger No. 2 (Mr. Mitchell) are forgotten. The last farce "A night at Notting Hill," was a splendid wind up. In this Mr. Hobley as Alderman Syllabub was completely at home. Mr. T. Smith as Private Tight Leathers made an admirable and characteristic dragoon, the Mrs. Chutney of W. H. Bennett was excellently performed, Mr. F. Wheeler, as Lizzie, sustained the character of housemaid capitally, while Mr. T. A. Manchip as Policeman O'Mutton, made a model rabbit pie-bobby. The most ludicrous portions were the "Drill Scene" between Ald. Syllabub and Prvt. Tight Leathers, and also the supper and bed scene when Messrs. Hobley and Smith fairly kept the fun up to a furious pitch. "God save the Queen," by the Zingari Band and *dramatis personae*, brought to a close a highly successful evening's amusement. Great thanks are due to Mr. Robeson, of Banbury, for his kind assistance in making up, and to Mr. J. B. Whyte as prompter. The takings will leave a substantial balance in aid of the funds of the Fire Brigade.