

which tired workers need on the weekly day of rest.'

MR. LYTTON, a famous English interpreter of Gilbertian rôles, has just been interviewed. He talked of the operas and their author. 'I was present at a rehearsal,' he said, 'when one of the members of the company sat down on a piece of scenery, which collapsed, and Gilbert reproved him by saying, "I wanted you to sit down in a pensive, not an expensive, manner."

'Once he was showing me how to perform a certain action. Not reproducing it quite correctly, I said, "I have not done that before, Sir William." "No, Lytton," he replied, "but I have," for he had shown me many times, and his humor was sometimes very cutting. He was a magnificent stage manager and his genius is reflected in every production to the present day, for there is not one of his instructions that is not still being carried out.

'When *The Sorcerer* was being played in Ireland the trap door through which John Wellington Wells disappears in the midst of red fire stuck when I was half way down, and I could descend no farther. It did not take long for an Irish wag in the audience to shout, "Hell's full."

Irish wit he found strong, too, in the rebellion of 1916. 'We had,' he said, 'to get passes to cross the bridges, and while I was standing in a queue at the Castle, an officer passed and said, "Take your hands out of your pockets," for men had been shooting through their pockets. I asked my shabby-looking jarvey, who had kept his hands in his pockets all the time, why the officer had not spoken to him. "Shure," he replied, "he could see I was a gentleman."

Another of his stories of the same period is that of an old Irish woman who had been looting in a bootmaker's shop. She had left the stolen boots in a little heap to go back for more, and while she was away two little ragamuffins took a few pairs, and bolted off with them. 'Glory be to God,' she exclaimed, as she looked, on her return, at her diminished haul, 'I never thought there could be such thieves in Ireland.'

After the trials of the rebellion in Ireland

the company came in for such a series of Zeppelin raids in England that when at last a bomb fell near the theatre in which they were playing a member of the company, for the moment overcome by the shock, exclaimed, 'Harry, I believe the Kaiser has got our tour.'

THE *Morning Post* has given a most interesting account of the changes Sir Nevill Macready is bringing about in the Metropolitan Police. It is being rapidly formed into a *corps d'élite*. Nearly all the recruits have been in the army and navy, and, instead of coming from the country, they are chiefly Londoners who have developed a fine physique in service. In other ways, also, the force is changing its character. It now contains many men who have held commissions or have been at the public schools and universities. The truth is, the new police is a service in which any man of intelligence and character may hope for a considerable career, and that fact is likely to render the old type of constable extinct before long.

THE following letter by Anatole France has appeared in the French press:

'The sovereign hand of our demi-gods draws from oblivion's gulf twenty dead nations. Poland and Armenia bind their wounds at last. On the luminous banks of the Egeus, Greece is reborn. But the justice of men still limps upon its way. Its imperfections and the folly of our leaders have made of Egypt the war's victim.

'The antique land of Ptah is not lacking in rights upon the gratitude of men. She is the spiritual mother of Greece. First among men her priests raised the veil behind which the mystery of the world lies hidden. Her child-like artists kindled to a flame the spark from which beauty was born. Yesterday her flag shared with the flags of the other allies, the triumph of right.

'But is it necessary to present these claims, when according to the new covenant all peoples have right to existence? Alas, even as the doctrine of Galilee was interpreted by the Pharisees, so is Wilson's message put to the service of those egoistic appetites, those sordid calcula-

tions, which, under a mask of justice, lead governments.

'May the voice of Egypt wake profound echoes in the universal conscience, and rouse against injustice the anger of the peoples!

'*Anatole France.*'

ROMAN newspapers have published a long summary of the report that Signor Luzzatti, president of the Chamber Committee on the German Peace Treaty, will shortly present. Regarding the proposed trial of the ex-Kaiser, the report gives the reasons for the objections of the Commission to such a step, and claims that:

1. Every crime should be previously specifically defined.
2. The accusers may not choose their own judges.
3. Extradition for political crimes is not provided for in any existing treaty.

In recommending the adoption of the Treaty the report asks the government to maintain the interpretation as to the application of the Treaty most favorable to Italian interests, and at the same time

recommends the Chamber not to separate Italy from the Allied and Associated Powers, with whom she had won the war and with whom she hoped to overcome the difficulties of peace.

WALKING along the sands at Weymouth this autumn [writes a friend] I saw a corked bottle which had been washed up by the tide. There was a piece of paper inside, so I drew the cork and tried to extract it; but at last getting impatient at the way it eluded me, I broke the bottle and the message was revealed: 'Whoever finds this bottle will find all the beer gone.'

By order of the Pope, a large painting has been made and placed in the Vatican to commemorate the publication of the New Code of Canon Law. The canvas measures eighteen feet by twelve feet, and the frame is decorated with the coat-of-arms of Popes Pius X and Benedict XV. Over fifty persons, who worked on the Code, are depicted, including Popes Innocent III, Gregory IX, Alexander II, and Benedict XIV.

THE EDITOR'S NOTE-BOOK

Frank Swinnerton, novelist and essayist, is familiar to many readers as the author of the delicately written study *Nocturne*.

Rene Bazin is one of the leading French novelists. Many of his novels have been translated into English.