

AMUSEMENTS.

THE NEW OPERA, "CARMEN."

The contention of the rival impresarii for the possession of "Carmen" should prove something of a fillip to public curiosity when the opera comes to be performed to-night at the Academy. The composer, George Bizet, who died at the early age of 37, was well thought of as a musician, and the librettists are Messrs. Meilhac and Halévy, (the latter is the father-in-law of the composer.) Without following the argument too closely, it may be generally stated that the scene is laid in Seville, and that *Carmen*, the heroine, has enthralled the affections of a certain Brigadier named *Don Jose*, while she herself gives her untutored love to *Escamillo*, a handsome and dashing bull-fighter, whom she first meets in a gypsy encampment. Here, of course, is sufficient ground for jealousies and heart-burnings, which are duly developed, until a climax is reached, in which *Don Jose*, mad with rage and jealousy, stabs *Carmen* just at the triumphant moment, when the applause of the populace proclaims the victory of her lover, *Escamillo*, in the arena. This is but a faint outline of the main plot, but it may be added that the collateral structure adjusts itself nicely to the story of love and jealousy, and that, in fact, the situations, taken altogether, are cleverly contrived. In the three leading rôles, which are assigned to Miss Minnie Hauk and Signori Campanini and Del Puente, the distribution of parts is the same as when Mr. Mapleson brought out the opera, last Summer, in London. The following is the complete cast:

Don Jose.....	Signor Campanini
Escamillo (Toreador).....	Signor Del Puente
Il Remendado.....	M. Thierry
Zuniga.....	Signor Franceschi
Michaela.....	Mme. Sinico
Mercedes.....	Mme. Lablache
Carmen (a Gypsy).....	Mlle. Minnie Hauk