

THE BUILDING NEWS.

THE first theatre in London to adopt electrical power to assist in the construction of elaborate scenes in the manner advocated by Mr. Edwin O. Sachs is the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Mr. Sachs who holds the commission, has, to begin with, been intrusted with the arrangement for moving some large sections of the stage floor—each measuring 40ft. by 7ft.—to any level above or below the footlights, every movement to be easily controllable from an ordinary switchboard. This improvement will already be completed for the impending pantomime. The contractors are the Thames Ironworks Co., whose civil engineering and electrical department are excelling themselves in the rapidity of execution under the most difficult circumstances, as will be seen from the fact that the whole of the heavy constructional work had to be carried out whilst such an elaborate play as “The Great Ruby” was in rehearsal, the rehearsal being done on temporary stage flooring, and shifts of men working turn by turn day and night. As regards the system of construction adopted, those of the suspended electrical lift have been applied, but in such a manner that the appliance will be a great improvement on what has so far been done on the Continent. The material is steel throughout, except for the stage floor proper.