

Mr. Baylis's Music Hall is planned and fitted up in every way as a first-class theatre. Its stage is 42ft. deep with a proscenium 33ft. wide, and that below the stage is a depth of 30ft. for descending scenery, &c. In part of this space beneath the proscenium is a mezzanine floor on which successive scenes can be "set" for the stage, and thereby much delay be avoided in the actual representation. Another means for facilitating movements in the scenery department is an hydraulic scene shifter. The spectatorium consists of an area and two galleries—the area being divided into boxes, stalls, and pit, and the lower gallery being the dress circle, and the upper, the region of the *Dii Minorum Gentium*—and eighteen boxes in the proscenium arch, three tiers, and three upon a side. The galleries and area boxes are upon the "horse-shoe" plan, widening towards the proscenium. All the miscellaneous et cetera of green-room, dressing-rooms, workshops, and library behind the curtain, and cloak-rooms, refreshment stalls, and retiring rooms before it are ample and judiciously arranged. As a safeguard against panic, there are four exits from the upper gallery, and five from the area and dress circle; and, against fire, "Extincteurs" in several convenient parts of the building, and hose attached to water mains with gravitation pressure. Besides, much of the house is fire-proof, the staircases being all of stone and the lintels of the windows of iron, while "red fire" has had an especial iron safe with a ventilating funnel built for it. The theatre itself is ventilated by cold-air shafts, three large funnels in the roof, and a guilloche grating forming a large part of the ornamentation of the ceiling. The ceiling is flat, except where coned down upon an "orderly" entablature, and (which is unusual) extends over the galleries. Another unusual feature is, that this theatre has windows on all sides, and disposed at regular intervals. In the principal staircase there will be a very large three-light stained glass window by Ballantyne, of Edinburgh, the subjects being Thalia, Melpomene, and Euterpe, and which, of course, will be so lit up as to show in the inside. Messrs. Clarke and Bell are the architects. It is calculated that the house will contain about 4,500 persons.