

## THE NEW POLICY.

The "Empire" was opened in 1892 as a music hall. It ran throughout the 35 years of its existence as a music hall. When it was closed last November it was put into the hands of the builders and decorators, who have converted the old building into a modern structure, in connection with which there is to be a "new policy." This "new policy," for a time at all events, is the production of a succession of musical plays, all first class, all attractive. Therefore, the occasion was no unimportant one in Edinburgh's theatrical history, and last evening's proceedings were such as will not readily be forgotten by those participating in them in any capacity. With the institution, as an adjunct to the "new policy," of booking for all parts of the house, the confusion incidental to a new departure was minimised, and one could with the greater pleasure witness one of the most brilliant theatrical scenes enacted in Edinburgh for many years.

## SPACIOUSNESS AND COMFORT.

One was impressed in the first instance with the spaciousness of the building. Without going into too much detail, it may be mentioned that the promenades on the north and south sides of the old auditorium have been taken away, the width of the building being increased from 57 to 88 feet. To this, as a matter of course, is due the appearance of spaciousness. The building is in three floors, stalls, circle, and balcony, and, for all its spaciousness, it had, when filled, a look of compactness and comfort. The building, while warm enough to be comfortable, was airy enough to be pleasant. There is an entire absence of garishness in the decorative work, the colour scheme carried out being in delicate grey shades, with blue and silver relief, and with the upholstery in Rose du Barry. It follows the line of modern simplicity in decoration and is in excellent taste, almost to unobtrusiveness.

It was the audience last night that supplied the element of brilliance. It suggested itself to some one that a photograph of the house should be taken, and this was done at the close of the performance by flash-light, Mr R. H. Gillespie, the managing director of Moss' Empires, filling in a short interval of waiting with a few observations of a felicitous character, with particular reference to the architects and contractors, and to the staff.