

EDINBURGH THEATRE

Changes at the Empire

REMARKABLE effects have been produced by the artistic and ingenious use of colour in the transformation of the Empire Theatre in Edinburgh for its reopening next week after the summer vacation. More than an ordinary re-decoration scheme has been carried out with the object of removing the impression of coldness which has prejudiced the house since its reconstruction.

Experts in colour were engaged, and by their treatment of the building's interior they have created an extraordinary optical illusion, and the theatre looks cosier and smaller. The stage looks nearer and the house appears to have contracted out of its former too spacious coldness. It is the magic of the famous mixture—paint and brains. Rose and amber are the dominant colours in the scheme, and they have been used to give not only an effect fresh and pleasing to the eye, but definitely to convey an atmosphere of warmth in which the theatre formerly was lacking. The amber lights increase the effect.

Steps have been taken also to improve the acoustics of the building about which from time to time there have been complaints. An equipment made by the British Acoustic Films (Ltd.) has been installed. Five microphones have been fitted on the stage, where the lighting has also been greatly increased and improved. There are now eight 1000 watt lamps and one 3000 watt lamp for the centre. The limelights have also been increased in volume.

These changes synchronise with a new programme and price policy. The aim is to supply variety, revue, and musical shows at talkie prices. From now on the entertainment at the Empire will be twice nightly; that will be the uniform rule.

Staff changes synchronise with the new policy. The manager is Mr E. L. S. Godwin, formerly of the Glasgow Empire and more recently of the Empire Newport (Mon.), and the under-manager is Mr C. Stout. The musical director is Mr Harry Joseph from the Empire, Cardiff.