

THE KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.—The new King's Theatre, Edinburgh, has just been opened. The new theatre is built on the cantilever principle, and in all the three tiers there is not a single pillar. The building has a frontage of 84 ft. towards Leven-street. The chief feature is the principal entrance, which is flanked by shafts having enriched Ionic capitals, surmounted by a central arch, the key block of which carries a balcony supporting an oriel window, two floors in height, and capped with an ornamental stone roof. The windows on the second floor are supported by carved corbels, representing tragedy and comedy. The Tarvit-street elevation is finished in a plainer manner. Ornamental verandas are erected at all the entrances and exits. The main part of the building is entered from Leven-street, and after passing through the veranda two pairs of carved teakwood doors give admittance to the vestibule. The floor is laid with terazzo, and the walls are covered with polished alabaster, while the friezes and ceiling are made of decorated fibrous plaster work. The staircases and balustrades are of white polished marble. Access to the ladies' tea-room and cloakroom, and also to the refreshment bars and smoking-rooms is got from the lounge. The foyer is reached by three separate flights of marble steps, from which entrance to the dress circle is got by three carved mahogany doors, placed in a glass screen. At each end of the foyer is an ornamental kiosk for the sale of fruits, flowers, etc. The width between the side walls of the building is a clear span of 72 ft. On the ground floor are placed the orchestral stalls and pit stalls. At both sides of the stage there are three tiers of boxes—eighteen

in all. At each side of the proscenium are figures representing music and art, and the divisions between the boxes are supported by caryatides. The whole of this decorative plaster work is in the French Renaissance style. The roofs are all constructed of steel and concrete, and covered on the top with vulcanite sheeting, while over the top gallery there is placed a large sliding glass cupola. The stage is 65 ft. wide and 55 ft. deep, cut off from the auditorium by a fireproof curtain. The stage flies and roofing are also of steel and concrete. There is a fireproof scene dock. The dressing-rooms are reached from the stage, and they are also fireproof. The building is heated on the hot water, low-pressure system. Messrs. James Davidson, Coatbridge, and J. D. Swanson, Kirkcaldy, were joint architects of the theatre, and Mr. Thomas I. S. Watson, Edinburgh, was surveyor for the contracts. Messrs. W. S. Cruickshanks & Son were the contractors for the whole structure. The cost of the building, exclusive of the site, has been about 50,000*l.*