

# DIAGHILEFF BALLET INTRODUCES "PETROUCHKA"

"The Most Artistic and Original Presentation So Far Made by Our Visitors from Russia"—Stravinsky's Music Exceedingly Complicated, Wholly Original and Effective—Schumann and Chopin Music Adapted to the Purpose of the Dance

ON Monday night an almost capacity house welcomed the first novelty of the week produced by the Diaghileff Russian Ballet, in the shape of "Pétrouchka," described as "Scènes Burlesques en 4 tableaux," by Igor Stravinsky and Alexandre Benois; music by Igor Stravinsky, scenes and dances by Michel Fokine.

In this, the leading rôles, that of *Ballerine* was taken by Mlle. Lydia Lopokova; that of *Pétrouchka* by Leonide Massine; that of the *Moor* by Adolf Bolm; while the *Old Charlatan* was presented by Enrico Cecchetti; the *Nurse* by Mme. Tchernicheva, in addition to which there were nurses, coachmen, various dancers, soldiers and others.

This ballet may be described as a burlesque on a mixed theme, illustrated in "Contes d'Hoffmann" and in "Pagliacci." It is also a satire on life itself, indicating that we are all of us but puppets in a play in which the strings are pulled by others, and that closely allied to the tragedy of life is its comedy.

The general opinion appeared to be that this was the most artistic and original presentation so far made by the company. That it made a profound impression upon the more cultured and intelli-



Left to Right—Mme. L. Klementowitch, Lubor Tchernichowa and Sophie Pflanz of the Diaghileff Ballet Russe as They Appeared in "Carnaval"



Adolph Bolm in "Scheherazade"



Xenia Maclezwowa as she appears in "L'Oiseau de Feu"

Photos by White

gent part of the audience is unquestioned.

At the close the continued applause brought Mr. Ansermet, the conductor of the exceedingly original, brilliant and interesting music, before the curtain to receive a wreath.

The opening shows a public square in St. Petersburg. The people, interspersed with coachmen, nurses, ladies of fashion, dancers, soldiers, are having a fête, and are entertained by the various shows

customary on such an occasion.

Presently, at the back of the stage the curtains part, and the great *Charlatan* appears. With much mystery he shows his three puppets: *Pétrouchka*, the *Moor*, and the *Ballerine*.

They are all hanging, these sawdust dolls, attached to their supports. As the great *Charlatan* points to them, and the

[Continued on page 4]