## OTHE BALLET GIRLAN

(Continued.)

The Royal Dancing Academy of La Scala, in Milan, has the reputation of producing the most finished dancers of any in Europe. This school is supported by the government. Any one is for the profession after a fair trial, she is dismissed. If, however, she is quick and apt, she is installed as a pupil, and her training commences. No charge is GREASE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION made for tuition, only a daily attendance for study and practice is 'exacted,' and at night she is required to aid in tableaux and marches, but not in dancing. The pupil is allowed to leave at any time, and many are dismissed by the teachers when there is no longer hopes of making a premier that will re-

flect credit upon the school. Entirely distinct from these are the figurante and the corps de ballet, who are not educated for the profession, but simply adopt it as a relief from work or a stepping-stone to something else. In Paris the figurante is almost always one of the demi-monde, and a beautiful woman. Her duties on the stage are to assist in tableaux and marches. All that is required to secure an engagement is a pleasing face, pretty figure, good hair and skill in making-up. Her pay is from 50 to 75 francs per month. The fines imposed upon her by the manager for non-attendance, mis-behavior on the stage, &c., frequently exceed this sum; the difference is the price freely paid for the opportunity thus offered for the public display of her charms, in which consists her capital. These creatures respect neither their obligations to the manager nor the laws of morality, and where fifty are required for the performance, one hundred are engaged, and there is seldom an excess of those actually necessary for the performance in attendance. The figurante who desires it, can easily, by care and practice, gain for her-self admission to the corps de ballet. These cases, however, are not frequent, and generally are the result of a desire on the part of the figurante to leave all others and cleave alone unto one protector. Her pay is then slightly, and her duties very materially, increased. In Paris, the members of the corps de ballet receive from 80 to 100 francs per month. A very strict attention to their obligations is required of them; their duties are arduous, and they are the recipients of attentions from the employees of the theatre, who, by their positions, are dressed in a little brief authority. The entire wardrobe used by the corps de ballet and the figurante is the property of the theatre, and responsible persons are employed by the manager to care for and watch the delicate and costly dresses. It is a sad fact that these lovely creatures are not vested with a great respect for the laws of meum et furne, and most of them being persistent "gatherers up of unconsidered trifles," unceasing watchfulness is required to prevent a material decrease in the "properties" of the wardrobe. Several of them are assigned to one dressing room, where, in closets marked with the names of each girl, the dresses are deposited, after being carefully folded by the person in charge, at the conclusion of each performance. During the day these dresses are carefully examined, spangles sewed on, rents repaired, shoes re-heeled and repaired in many ways, tights washed and colored, and everything kept in readiness for the evening's performance. The rouge, powder, &c., required for the make-up are furnished by the girls-and much less is used than is reperalic supposed, and little skill is repuired in applying it. A liberal application of cold cream, to make the powder take, is the first step. PRICES GREATLY REDUCED and an old stocking and some prepared chalk furnishes the whiting. A Considerable ronging finishes . This process is absolutely necessary + no. complexion, however beautiful, could stand the glare of the gaslight. Their slight dresses preclude the possibility of padding to any extent. No ballet girl can dance with her limbs padded, and the most available article furnishes roundness of form. Stockings and hand-kerchiefs are frequently used, the for-mer article with but partial success.



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