BEFORE THE CURTAIN GOES UP

Five Openings Here Next Week—"Czarina" at Broad—"Demi-Virgin" at Adelphi—"Rain" at Garrick—"Sally" Is Real Ace—Other News

THE liveliest and most varied theatrical week of the new season will commence Monday, with four openings on that night and one to follow Tuesday.

This turnover in attractions will bring what has up to now been a real rarity—drama (in fact, two of them) to the city, as well as more farce and musical comedy.

The Broad will have "The Czarina," with Doris Keane; the Garrick, "Rain," taken from a W. Somerset Maugham story; the Lyric, "The Rose of Stamboul," a Viennese operetta, and the Adelphi, "The Demi-Virgin," an Avery Hopwood farce. On Tuesday the Shubert will present a new revue, "Hitchy-Koo of 1922," with Raymond Hitchcock.

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THIS influx of new plays leaves just two hold-overs—"Sally," in its second week at the Forrest, and "Up the Ladder," the Owen Davis comedy-drama, in its third and final week at the Walnut. The situation, of necessity, demands autocritatory comment rather than retrospect.

However, concerning the present week's sole opening, the long-awaited "Sally," it may be said that here was a revue which entirely retained all the good things that had been said about it. Its weakest link—if it may be said to have one—is its music, wherein it is by no means the equal of "Irene," but Mr. Ziegfeld and his associates have had the happy faculty of so tricking out and dressing up and adding to the few numbers which have real merit that it would be a cold and blase audience indeed which could leave the theatre without whistling at least one of the strains.

It's a case where longevity has added and not detracted from a show's merit. Memory of "Sally" during the first few weeks of its New York run brings to mind only "Look for the Silver Lining" but, previous to its present state we had "Whispering" and "Little Church Around the Corner" and "Sally" almost as intriguing. Mr. Kern's music hasn't changed at all. It's just a case of the staging of those numbers, a thing that Ziegfeld knows how to do, and do well.

Marilyn Miller seems to have undergone a miraculous metamorphosis, and that is even more to the point. Even in the summer, when "Sally" was grinding out the eleventh week of a run in Boston, Miss Miller appeared a bit "stale" and went through her work more or less mechanically. Yet Monday night at the Forrest she threw herself heart and soul into the part of Ace number, and the most unusual and most unusual produced upon the steps for rather hoofing, and Jean Errol, and made of Belle Sally of the Alley a much more magnetic and exciting figure. Wonder if we have Jack Pickford to thank for that?

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OF THE two dramas which open Monday (October 9) one of them is new and one is an accepted success.

"Rain," the Garrick's attraction, sounds interesting. We understand, it was once included, under its present name in a volume of Somerset Maugham's short stories, and has also appeared in a magazine, under the title of "Miss Thompson." Surely, the present title is by far the best, as the action transpires during five days of the rainy season on the lonely little island of Pago Pago in the South Seas.

The characters, strangely grouped together in a glaring looking house, listening to the patter of tropical rain on the tin roof and filled with unrest and ennui, include among them the "Miss Thompson," a girl from the "States" who has been driven from Honolulu and has fled to the island for temporary shelter. The story of "Rain" revolves about the strange happenings and a young American who, in the acts about to unfold, becomes a victim to her charms.

With an atmosphere that speaks much of the initial setting of Stevenson's grim "Ebb Tide," and Maugham's knowledge of his locale and its people, "Rain" should prove an interesting drama. In its present cloth Jeanne Eagels, Fred Colton, Beryl Mercer, Herbert Ranson, "Drifting" and Clarence Derwent, who is designated as a "comedy-magician," but as yet it is not clear what that element has been changed, except in the appearance of Fred Eric. Mr. Holmes calls for a change of type for Willing Collier.

The cast, which is a large one, is headed by Jeanne Eagels, who will be remembered from "Daddies," with George Arliss, and from "Her Husband," "Daddies," and "Scandal," with Holmes, and Mercer, who made such a hit as Fritz Williams' mother in "Tea for Three." Robert Ellis, Kenneth Douglas and Robert Elliott complete the cast.

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THE established success is "The Czarina," which, if not, should prove nearly to the voice singing as a vehicle for Miss Doris Keane. Again, the exotic enters in, although the setting this time is Russia, of a past century, and not the Hawaiian locale.

Edward Sheldon, who wrote "Romance" is the author of "The Czarina," which is to be produced by Hugo and Mischa Leopold and Ladis Biro. The very fact that Sheldon's name is attached to another play is of real interest to the distinguished author of "Salvation Nell," "The Boss," "The Nigger" and "The Gentle Grafter" and "Lulu Belle,"