

From Day To Day By Natalie

# The Winter Season Starts With A Swing

DURBAN took its initial plunge yesterday into the gay swirl of social activities that accompanies each year's Winter Season. Many people were present yesterday afternoon at the City Art Gallery to meet the cast of the "Forgotten Factor" when a Civic At Home was given in their honour. Presiding was the Mayor, Councillor Ken Clarke.

At sundowner time there was a lovely party on board the s.s. Clan Sinclair to mark the occasion of her maiden voyage to South Africa.

Later, theatre enthusiasts enjoyed the first night of Dennis Henshaw's clever production of "I Remember Mama" at the Y Club, while another crowd thronged the City Hall to hear the Citizens' Invitation Concert with the distinguished South African pianist Lionel Bowman.

## "The Forgotten Factor"

I HAD been looking forward to meeting the cast of "The Forgotten Factor," which has already been played in 13 countries in eight different languages. It was an unforgettable pleasure to speak to so many interesting people, all of whom are convinced of the message which this play brings.

I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Miss Faith Telford, of Dublin, who was at the home of the author, Mr. Alan Thornhill, in America, at the time he wrote the play.

While I was talking to her, our conversation was interrupted by various speeches, including one by the Mayor, who welcomed the cast. In response, the cast gave a delightfully unexpected and novel salute to the Mayor by singing a song specially written for the occa-



sion.

After tea, I met Mrs. June Lee, of California, who joined the cast in America in 1943 and has been with them ever since. With her was Miss W. A. Claxton, of London—a comparatively new but equally enthusiastic member. They told me of the amazing way in which they had collected together their costumes and stage props. Their electrical equipment, which was given by friends, was brought from England, but apart from



CAPTAIN J. H. CRELLIN (above), Master of the Clan Sinclair, with Mrs. Ross Armstrong and Mrs. A. W. Clark, two of the guests at a party held on board in Durban yesterday evening. Mrs. Don Nicol (left) was another guest at the party. ["Mercury" photographs.]

this, almost everything has been given or bought with gifts of money since their arrival in South Africa.

## Ship's Party

MR. DOUGLAS TILLEY, general manager for the Clan Line in Southern Africa, and Mrs. Tilley, made a charming host and hostess at the party on board the Clan Sinclair. The ship is on her maiden voyage.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Damant were among the crowd of guests thronging the brightly-decorated deck. Mrs. Damant's little

black straw hat had a shiny cluster of black feathers at one side. Mrs. Victor Leary, who was there with her husband, Dr. Leary, was wearing a beige velour felt hat crested with swooping brown feathers to match her suit.

Mr. John McIntyre, the Town Clerk, was also there, and I spotted Mr. and Mrs. George Carter, Col. and Mrs. James Butler Porter, Mr. Harry Westclair and Mr. Ronald Butcher.

Mrs. Tilley, by the way, was wearing a navy straw hat from Paris with cascades of violets down one side with her trim navy suit.



THE Mayor and Mayoress of Springs, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. W. Tainton (extreme left and right), photographed talking to two of the cast of "The Forgotten Factor"—Miss W. A. Claxton (left) and Mrs. June Lee—at the "At Home" held in the City Hall yesterday.

["Mercury" photograph.]