PIRANDELLO'S NEW PLAYS.

A PROBLEM OF PATERNITY.

FIVE YEARS TO WRITE A NOVEL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ROME, November 6.

Pirandello's new play, "O di Uno o di Nessuno" ("To One or to No One"), was given for the first time last Monday evening at Turin and won an immediate success. It deals with one of those startling problems, half-physiological, half-psychological, in which Pirandello delights because, according to him, they represent life as it really is.

In this case we have two friends, Carlo Sanna and Tito Morena, who set up house with one woman—quiet, good-natured, economical, and apparently equally devoted to both. Suddenly she discovers that she is about to become a mother, and the situation changes. Whose is the child? According to law, a child must belong either to one or to no one, and Carlo and Tito decide, after much discussion, that it shall be handed over to an institution as the child of no one. The baby is born and the mother dies. The two men then fight for the possession of the child with a grim determination which threatens to destroy their friendship. Finally the question is settled by the offer of a neighbour, who has just lost her own baby, to adopt that of Meline.

Another problem play by Pirandello, "Come tu mi vuoi," will shortly be produced in Turin by the Company of Marta Abba, the clever young actress who, after being leading woman in Pirandello's own company for several years, has now entered into management on her own. The idea of "Come tu mi vuoi" ("As you wish me") is taken from the famous Bruneri-Cannella case of undecided identity which has been puzzling the legal world in Italy for the last three years and still continues to do so.

"Lazarus," which has already been performed in England, is about to be produced in the United States under the management of Charles Hopkins. Pirandello is now at work on "Gil Del della Montagna," his thirty-seventh play, and, he says, probably his last. He is also engaged in revising a new and complete edition of his works; and when that is done he intends to retire to some remote country-place in Italy to write his novel, "Adam and Eve," which, of vast proportions, will, he expects, take him at least five years to finish.