



EDMON SLINKS (Mr. Gerald Debraun) in
a characteristic attitude.

MINA (Mrs. C. L. Bunting) as she appears
in the chorus of her song, "A Pretty Pink
Patty from Peter."



THE KNITTING QUINTET.

Left to right: Mrs. A. J. Hobart, Mrs. C. Cannon, Mrs. D. L. Mann, Mrs. A. E. ChisneU, and Mrs. W. B. Oast.



THE HAPPY ENDING.

Mr. Hook (Mr. E. T. Parfitt, centre), giving his blessing to his daughter Sally (Miss Lowbotham) and Bandmaster Van Vuyt (Mr. Reg. Jackson).

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE BY LOCAL AMATEURS.

The "Amateur" players Operatic and Dramatic societies are preparing the musical comedy "Miss Hook of Holland" at the Regent Theatre. In fact, this week commencing on Monday the play has been running night and has met with an enthusiastic reception from large audiences. It was repeated tonight Friday, and

great sympathy to soldiers, the gallant Captain is left out in the cold, and vents his spleen on his more fortunate rival by forbidding him to go to the carnival at Amsterdam, to which they have all been invited.

The scene of the second act is in Mr. Hook's distillery at Amsterdam. The bandmaster arrives, in defiance of his captain's orders, disguised as a workman. The cap-

swing from start to finish, and throughout there was a determination to interpret the scenic effects in a manner true to life, and to make the most of the humorous incidents with which the play abounds. Miss Rowbotham, who took the title role, is an actress of grace and charm. To an effective stage presence she adds the incalculable advantage of a tuneful voice of great compass, and it was evident that high notes were no trouble to this accomplished young singer. Miss Rowbotham was equally at home in business discussions with her father and her love passages with the handsome Bandmaster. Her song, "Fly away, Kite," in the first act evoked thunderous applause, while later in her duet with the Bandmaster "The Story Canal"—in which the chorus repeats the refrain in subdued tones behind the scenes—she and her partner were deservedly eulogized. This duet, by the way, is one of the prettiest musical numbers in the play, and Miss Rowbotham and Mr. Reg. Jackson did it full justice.

The part of Mr. Hook, the wealthy liqueur distiller, was capably undertaken by Mr. E. I. Parfitt, who has been cast for leading parts in several of the Society's previous productions. He had a lot to do, and did it well. He certainly explicated to the full the drooliness with which the part abounds, and was particularly good in the second act, when, after a somewhat prolonged visit to his cellar he reappeared on the stage through a trap-door in a hilarious condition. As a contrast in hard business and delightful foolery, stern proverbs and simple sentimentality, the part would be difficult to beat, and Mr. Parfitt stamped himself as an amateur actor of merit.

A CLEVER "LOAFER."

But the palm for the male members of the cast must be given to Mr. Gerald Debnam, as Simon Shaka. It was difficult to realize that this young man is not a Dutchman born and bred, so easily and naturally did he fit into the part. He is what might be termed the villain of the piece, and he revealed in it. Commencing as the leader of a set of disreputable looking loafers, by the exercise of his wits he rises to a position of comparative affluence and sets out to enjoy himself—and, so do the audience. The amusing attitudes he assumed, not less than his droll sayings kept the house on the opening night and subsequently in a ripple of laughter; while when entered for his song "Lazy Loafers" he added a topical verse that made a distinct hit.

Mr. V. C. Spurgeon, as Schnapps, the Distillery Foreman, is a lively young man who incidentally makes the pace with the ladies. There is a delightfully humorous scene in the second act when both Nina and Gretchen prefer their claims to him at the same time. Mr. Spurgeon did very well, especially when it is remembered that through illness he was absent from some of the final rehearsals. Mr. Jack Myall and Mr. J. W.



THE LADY PRINCIPALS.

With regard to the lady principals Mrs. L. Becking added to her reputation as comedy actress by the clever way she played Mina, the maid. Her attractive song in the second act, "A Pretty pink puffy rosin Peter," which treats of a somewhat intimate garment that is—or at any rate used to be—favoured by the fair sex, produced roars of laughter. Mrs. W. R. Carr, who, like Mrs. Becking, has also appeared in principal parts before, made a graceful Freda. The light comedy song, "The Cigar he bought her," which she sang in the second act, was very well received. Miss Mann as Clara, Freda's sister, and Miss Marks as Gretchen both justified their inclusion in the cast. The latter was the smart business woman to perfection, but not averse to a little mild flirtation. Mrs. Peggy Green's part was really not sufficiently "in the picture" to allow her to show her capabilities. What she had to do was well done, but, remembering her previous successes one could have wished that she had had more opportunities.

The chorus work was excellent, and the players generally unquestionably caught the spirit of this sparkling musical comedy. The cheese chorus, and "Bottles," the latter being an unaccompanied madrigal for male voices, were certainly two of the best numbers, while "Little Miss Wooden Shoes" was daintily rendered by the chorus of girls, led by Sally. Very pleasing, too, was the knitting quintet in the first act, and when towards the close of the play on the opening night the spirit of carnival held sway, and balloons and novelties were introduced, the chorus let themselves go with a will.

A series of dances, cleverly designed and daintily executed, certainly added to the attractiveness of the play. Another feature, too, was the performance of the band, who made quite an imposing display and looked very smart in their full-dress uniforms.

ORCHESTRA AND HELPERS.

The play was produced under the personal direction of Miss Midge Macklin, who is to be congratulated on the success of her work. Both the dressing and scenery were very effective, while the excellent work of the orchestra, under the baton of the Society's talented hon. musical conductor, Mr. Frederick Cole, contributed in no small measure to the success achieved.

The orchestra consists of the following:

1st Violins: Mr. Maithus de Leary (leader), Miss G. Metcalf, Mr. E. Carwardine, Mr. F. Macconnell. 2nd Violins: Mr. J. Eicketta, Mrs. W. J. Samms, Mrs. F. Cole, Mr. C. B. Oliver. Violas: Mrs. C. Price Smith, Mr. W. B. Wilkinson. Violoncelles: Mr. S. Lambach, Mr. H. M. Mason. Double Bass: Mr. A. Sheppard. Flute: Mr. G. Ackroyd. Oboe: Mr. J. Pantling. Clarinet: Mr. K. Clarke. Bassoon: Mr. J. Alexandra. Horns: Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. G. W. Smith. Trumpet: Mr. H. Hodgson. Trombone: Mr. J. Fenton. Drums: Mr. W. Warrham.

Mr. F. W. M. Purley acted as "prompt," and Mr. B. E. Howes as "call boy." Mr. J. Black (manager) and the staff and orchestra of the theatre did all in their power to assist the Society in their production. Mr. P. Butchard organized a number of ladies and gentlemen who acted as programme and chocolate sellers, seating stewards, etc. Mr. C. West was hon. electrician and Mr. T. Surrell hon. stage carpenter. The hon. sec. of the Society is Mr. W. H. Tutt, the hon. treasurer Mr. H. E. White, and the hon. accompanist Mr. Lawrence Hey.