

# Musical from the 'twenties still fresh

"No, No, Nanette" — a musical comedy, Chelmsford Operatic Society, Civic Theatre.

IN the course of time, this engaging musical comedy from the 'twenties has added to its intrinsic entertainment value by becoming a "period piece". Two of its musical hits, "I want to be happy" and "Tea for Two", are still in the popular repertoire and as we will remember, entwined around these — and a few more — is the story of Jimmy Smith, a very rich man who in his search for La dolce Vita is handicapped by a wife who just will not spend any money.

Bill decides to lead a double life, or rather a quadruple one—he showers his bounty on three charming ladies fortunately well spaced out over Bath, Harrogate and Nice.

He even extends his fatherly protective spirit to Nanette, a protegee of his wife, who keeps her pretty ward very much on the straight and narrow until she can marry a good man. Nanette would not mind a man, but wants to have her fling first and meets Jimmy more than half-way. All these ladies converge on Jimmys seaside cottage and there you are!

The show made a very good start last night with a fine dancing sequence by the assembled company — it is, in fact, their dancing and singing, ably arranged by producer-choreographer Phyl Payne that continually add colour and gaiety to the scene. They are all of the right age and know their steps well.

### SWINGS ALONG

John Cave, as the hero-villain-lover is a commanding figure, who speaks and acts in excellent style and also has a pleasant singing voice. Angela Jenner as his thrifty wife, Sue, provides good contrast with her flamboyant husband.

Lucille, the elegant wife of Jimmy's very frugal lawyer, in manner, and speech, is the exact opposite to Sue and her role is very well taken by Pat Viles, who can also hold her own in singing when this comes her way. The lawyer himself (Don Walford) makes the most of his somewhat equivocal role.

Sarah Hill carries the ingenue part of Nanette as to acting and speaking in the right manner — vocally she has some way to go yet. Her lover Ron Pilbeam in the role of Tom Trainor, rather overplayed his part.

The three members of the "Light Brigade", Betty, Winnie and Flora, fully justify the money and care lavished on them — there roles are well taken by Betty Hughes, Audrey Hinton and Pat Wilson

So, with general successful ensemble numbers and the gay music produced by the Embassy Orchestra conducted by Dr. A. E. Stephens, the show swings its way along and marks another success for the Chelmsford amateurs. Performances will be repeated every evening this week.

DIAPASON.