

DESPITE overcoming various last-minute difficulties Chelmsford Operatic Society's production of "Pickwick" this week is not turning out to be the box office success they had hoped.

With plenty of seats left for tonight and tomorrow's two performances at the Regent Theatre, the society are worried that the show will be a financial flop.

"The show has had difficulties, but these have now been ironed out and although the support has been disappointing those who come appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed it all, commented the society's secretary, Doug Hann, yesterday.

After problems in casting and rehearsals the planned run-through on Sunday in full dress rehearsal was also held up for various reasons.

Then on Monday's first night there was a slight mishap when Pat Day, one of the chorus girls, was unfortunate to fall heavily during a scene with subdued lighting.

BROKEN WRIST

Pat was taken to the Chelmsford and Essex Hospital where it was discovered she had broken her wrist. A stand-in was provided, although the incident naturally upset other members of the cast.

One happy note, however came on Wednesday when Brendan Barry, well known for his two-year stint in the show's West End production as Sgt. Buz Fuz saw the Regent show and was full of praise for the cast.

"He felt it was an excellent production for an amateur group and the leading performers were of a high standard," said Mr. Hann.

"Most people have been put off because they feel it is purely a musical—it is really a comedy and the audiences so far have found it quite amusing."