

"THE CINGALEE" AT CHELMSFORD.

PERFORMANCES BY AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY.

The Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society are presenting the well-known musical comedy, "The Cingalee," at the Corn Exchange, Chelmsford, this week, commencing on Tuesday with the first of five evening performances, and a matinee will also be given to-morrow (Saturday). Formed in the autumn of 1920, the Society has staged nine different pro-

Boobhamba, a powerful noble of Kandy. To avoid this she disappears, and goes to work as a tea girl on her own estate, which is leased to Harry Vereker, who falls in love with her. The complications which ensue, and the many vicissitudes which befall Nanoya before she is happily united to her English lover make up an entertaining story, with a clash of Eastern and Western ideas, and an abundance of humorous situations that are exploited to the full. The

cast as Boobhamba, a noble of Kandy. He displays a dignified bearing, and while he can be ruthless, is not insusceptible to the charm of a pretty face. Mr. Jimmy Nokes plays the part of Sir Peter Loftus, the fussy High Commissioner and Judge, in admirable fashion, and adds to his reputation as a clever actor. One of the greatest successes is scored by Mr. Maurice Phillips as Chambuddy Ram, a Baboo lawyer. From the moment he appears on the stage he has the audience in fits of laughter. His amusing antics and clever handling of seemingly impossible situations combine to make him a firm favourite. He takes part in two humorous duets with Peggy, and sings songs, entitled "Something devilish wrong" and "The wonderful English pot," in a most droll fashion. Mr. Jack Blooman, as Bobby Warren, a pupil on Vereker's tea plantation, acts very well indeed. His love-making with Lady Patricia is sometimes interrupted by the tea girls, but all comes right in the second act, in which his duet with Lady Patricia, "You and I, I and you," charms the audience.

There are numerous concerted numbers



BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.—A scene in the first act, in which Chambuddy Ram, the lawyer (seen in the basket), has been arrested at the instance of Boobhamba (Mr. Sidney Perrott), who is on the right of the picture. He is brought before Peter Loftus (Mr. Jimmy Nokes), seated at the table, on a charge of stealing a pearl and of helping Nanoya to escape.



CYMBAL DANCE.—A pretty scene at the end of the cymbal dance, which is an attractive feature of the play.

ductions of light opera and musical comedy since that time. Hitherto either the County Theatre, Springfield-rd., or the Regent Theatre, Moulsham-st., has been engaged; and the decision to go to the Corn Exchange this year was dictated solely by financial reasons. It is due to the Society and to the management of the Corn Exchange to say that everything possible was done to equip that building in a manner satisfactorily to stage the play and to accommodate the public in comfort.

THE CAST.

Hon. Harry Vereker, a tea planter, John Collingwood; Boobhamba, a noble of Kandy, Sidney Perrott; Sir Peter Loftus, High Commissioner and Judge, Ceylon, Jimmy Nokes; Myangah, an Indian servant, Guy Newcombe. Bobby Warren, Jack Blooman; Dick

play is attractively "dressed," and the scenery and lighting effects are excellently carried out.

It was seen at the opening performance that in their production this year the Society were fortunate in being able to rely on the services of several members who have previously taken principal parts, while at the same time excellent new talent is available for other leading characters. Miss Rose Rowbotham, as Lady Patricia Vereker, on Tuesday met with a great reception when she appeared on a visit to her brother Harry, her object being to prevent his marriage with the native girl. She is a dainty and vivacious actress, with good stage presence and a charming voice. Her song, "My heart's at your feet," is very skilfully sung, and her duet in the second

in which the chorus do excellent. Their singing is tuneful, and indicates determination to "get there" all the time. Other attractive features are the butt dance after the opening chorus by Misses P. Holberton, R. Gannon, and I. Burgess; the tambourin dance by Miss Holberton; and the devil dance by Mr. Newcombe.

The play is produced by Mr. Sam Woodin; the dances are arranged by M. Mollie Denton; and Mr. Walter Rose is the musical director. The orchestra, though not large, is quite efficient, and consists of the following:—

First violins, Messrs. W. H. Bateman (leader), G. Hodges, G. Ryder, and G. Wood; second violins, Mr. S. Clark and Mr. Waldeau; viola, Mrs. Price-Smith and M.



SOME OF THE PRINCIPALS.—Left to right: Peggy Sabine (Mrs. Doe) and Chambuddy Ram (Mr. Maurice Phillips), Patricia Vereker (Miss Rose Rowbotham) and Bobby Warren (Mr. Jack Brooman) as they appear in the second act in the Harry Vereker (Mr. John Collingwood) and Nanoya (Mrs. Catt) in a love scene.

Exquisite, Jack Marshall; Freddie Lowther, Jack Myall; Jack Clinton, Fred. Gozzett; Willie Wilson, Cecil Bocking, pupils on Vereker's tea plantation. Captain of the Guard, Alexander Ogston; 1st Coolie, Herbert Pullen; Chambuddy Ram, a Baboo lawyer, Maurice Phillips.

Nanoya, a Cingalese girl, Olive Catt; Peggy Sabine, Marie Doe. Naitooma, Beatrice Moss; Sattambi, Muriel Turner; Mychellah, Mabel Norrington, Soomo, Doris Phillips, four tea girls on Vereker's plantation, Angy Loftus, Sir Peter Loftus's daughter, Ivy Fisher.

Miss Pinkerton, Vera Cannon; Fraulein Weiner, Evelyn Chisnell; Mademoiselle Chic, Margaret Cripps; Signorino Tasso, Phyllis Holberton, Angy's governesses, Lady Patricia Vereker, Rose Rowbotham.

Chorus of coolies, tea girls, rickshaw men, etc.—Ladies: N. K. Archer, H. A. Alden, I. G. Burgess, D. Bocking, E. Brazier, R. Gannon, J. H. Hutton, E. M. Hey, K. Johnson, M. Mann, E. M. Phillips, P. Robinson. Gentlemen: F. Bearman, R. Catt, J. A. Crosby, C. E. O. Jones, R. Jacquet, A. C. Sticklen, A. W. Ward.

"The Cingalee," which is a tale of Ceylon, will be remembered as one of Sir George Dance's successful plays of some years ago. The book is by James T. Tanner, the music by Lionel Monckton, and the lyrics by Adrian Ross, Percy Greenbank and Paul A. Rubens. The story chiefly centres round Nanoya, a Cingalee girl, who at the age of four was affianced to

act with Bobby Warren (Mr. Jack Brooman) proves to be a feature of the performance. Mrs. Catt plays the part of Nanoya very cleverly, and her imitation of broken English is very amusing. She sings "My Cinnamon Tree," one of the most telling musical numbers, with excellent expression, and is also good in the song with the tea girls, "The dance I'll lead him," which is accompanied by some clever dancing. The part of Peggy Sabine, a capable and self-possessed young lady, who comes to Ceylon as English governess to Nanoya, and incidentally continues a flirtation begun in London with a native lawyer, is capably portrayed by Mrs. Marie Doe, who has a good deal to do and does it very well. There are four chief tea girls, but on the opening night one of them, Miss Beatrice Moss, was unavoidably prevented from appearing. Her part was taken, at a few hours' notice, by Mrs. Doris Phillips, who did remarkably well.

Mr. John Collingwood, as the Hon. Harry Vereker, makes a typical English tea planter. His vocal numbers, "Pearl of Sweet Ceylon" and "My dear little Cingalee," are two of the most attractive items on the musical side. Mr. Sidney Perrott, who is no stranger to Chelmsford playgoers, is happily

Judeth Arnold-Wallinger, violoncello, Miss E. Roffey, double bass, Mr. W. L. Barclay, piano, Mr. L. Hey, hon. chorus master.

The general arrangements are in the hands of the Executive Committee, of which Mr. P. Butchard is chairman and treasurer, and Mr. A. Blythe hon. secretary. Valuable assistance is rendered by Major F. W. M. Powley as hon. prompter and Mr. B. E. Howes as hon. call boy.

STAFFORD