

CHRONICLE. FRIDAY, FEBRUAR

"THE CINGALEE"

CHELMSFORD AMATEURS' PRODUCTION

Hon. Harry Vereker ... John Collingwood
Boobhamba Sidney Perrott
Sir Percy Loftus Jimmy Nokes
Bobby Warren Jack Blooman
Chambuddy Ram Maurice Phillips
Peggy Sabine Marie Doe
Lady Patricia Vereker ... Rose Rowbotham
Nanoya Olive Catt

"Back to Victoria" is to be the slogan of 1929, we are told by those who are able, or profess to be able, to read the signs and portends. This jazz-crazed world is weary of gaudy blare. It no longer cares whether there is a cocktail bar in Omaha, and its only anxiety about the man who wants to return to old Kentucky is that he should do so at the earliest opportunity. The average citizen, so they would have us believe, wants to hear once again the unsophisticated melodies of his grandfathers. As he leans back in his solid horsehair armchair, contemplating with quiet satisfaction the aspidistra, the stuffed humming birds and the wax fruits, the saxophone calls in vain.

It is a pity that Miss Rowbotham has not more opportunities of using her really good voice. She demonstrates very charmingly that it is possible to be identified with the twentieth century without being an "animated exclamation mark." She sings "My heart's at your feet" very well, and the duet and dance with Mr. Blooman, "You and I," are very popular. Mrs. Catt's Nanoya shows animation and resource, and her rendering of the famous "Cinnamon Tree" song is admirably restrained to suit the limitations of her voice.

Mr. Phillips and Miss Doe bring to their comedy duo great enthusiasm and vim. Mr. Collingwood has a proper amount of amorous fire and a jolly grin to carry him through his part with credit. Mr. Perrott must be congratulated on his Boobhamba, and Mr. Nokes' bland geniality is well received. Miss Phyllis Holberton's tambourine dance and Mr. G. Newcombe's devil dance earn well-merited applause.

Others taking part are: Myamgah, Guy Newcombe; Dick Bosanquet, Jack Marshall; Freddie Lowther, Jack Myall; Jack Clinton, Fred. Gozzett; Willie Wilson, Cecil Bocking; Captain of the Guard, Alexander Ogston; Coolie, Herbert Pullen; Naitooma, Beatrice Moss; Sattambi, Muriel Turner; Mychellah, Mabel Norrington; Soomo, Doris Phillips; Angy Loftus, Ivy Fisher; Miss Pinkerton, Vera



Miss Rose Rowbotham as Lady Pat Vereker and
Mr. J. C. Blooman as Bobby Warren.

The theatre is well adapted to hold the mirror up to nature, and this week the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society are performing "The Cingalee" at the Corn Exchange. This piece has a pronounced Victorian flavour, and as a test of the theory of the reincarnation of the Victorian dramatic deities, it is interesting to see how the audiences react to it. They like it very much. They find Lionel Monckton's lilting melodies refreshing. His works belong to the best English period before the great American invasion. He has written music which has charmed hundreds of thousands. The rhythm of "The Geisha," "The Cingalee," "The Show Girl," etc., will live in the memory. Far be it from us to make any comment on the avoirdupois of any lady. Neither do we know whether Mr. L. Hey fed his chorus on mutton cutlets and orange juice, or a diet more in keeping with the meaty days of yore. We only know that he trained them very well, and the curves displayed may well have satisfied even the missionary ardour of the infatigable. They will have noted with satisfaction that the dresses flowed to the ankles. But the more modern-minded, who scorn not the delights of the genuous high kicks—he, too, has his place in the

Cannon; Fraulein Weiner, Evelyn Chisnell; Mademoiselle Chic, Margaret Cripps; Signorino Tasso, Phyllis Holberton.

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.—Men: F. Bearman, R. Catt, J. A. Crosby, C. E. O. Jones, R. Jaquet, A. C. Sticklen, A. W. Ward.

The show is well produced by Mr. Samuel Woodin. The dances are arranged by Miss Mollie Denton. Mr. Walter Ross is musical director; Mr. F. W. M. Powley prompter, and Mr. B. E. Howes call-boy. Mr. L. Hey is the accompanist and chorus master. Mr. P. Butchard discharges a big responsibility well as chairman of the committee, and Mr. A. Blythe is the hon. sec.

The orchestra comprise:—1st violins: Mr. W. H. Bateman (leader), Mr. G. Hodges, Mr. G. Ryder, Mr. G. Woods; 2nd violins, Mr. S. Clark, Mr. V. Waldeau; viola, Mrs. Price-Smith, Miss Judith Arnold-Wallinger; violoncello, Miss E. Roffey; double bass, Mr. W. L. Barclay; piano, Mr. L. Hey.

Miss Beatrice Moss was injured during the dress rehearsal, and Miss Doris Phillips took her part at a few hours' notice. It is hoped that Miss Moss will be able to play to-day (Friday).