

Nearly 5,700 Went To 'Merrie England'

THE Chelmsford Operatic and Dramatic Society's "Merrie England" which ended enthusiastically on Saturday, was a success financially and artistically.

Nearly 5,700 people saw the seven performances, 500 more than last year's "Virginia."

Although this is not as many as the immediate post-war productions, when numbers topped the 6,000 mark, it is still a very good figure. It would seem to point the way to further productions of this kind; "Merrie England" with its cast of 80 was the most ambitious project the company has so far tackled.

THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Besides any distinction members of the cast may have gained or deserved, one man who was not grease-painted or gowned deserves high credit. He is Mr. George H. Horrey, the musical director. In two short years he has advanced from accompanist, to combine the duties of chorus master and musical director.

Acting in liaison with him Miss Doris Rodd created, arranged and directed the talented dancing. Among the bouquets and gifts which were handed over the foot-lights after the last performance on Saturday was a crown of flowers on a metal frame, which was handed to Vera Warner, who played the part of Queen Elizabeth.

Dr. John Taylor, the President of the Society, Mr. Fred Kearsley, the chairman, and Mr. Robert Vernon, the producer, spoke from the stage. Dr. Taylor congratulating all concerned on a splendid show.

THE ESSEX CHRONICLE, FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1951

'Merrie England' makes profit

IN spite of heavy costs of such a production, last week's show, "Merrie England," by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society is expected to have made a profit of about £250.

More than 5,600 saw the show during the week, which approached the highest ever for the Society.

At the last performance on Saturday evening the audience

were addressed by Mr. F. R. Kearsley, the chairman of the Society; Dr. John Taylor, the president and Mr. Robert Vernon, the producer of "Merrie England."

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MR. ANDREW SIEVEWRIGHT, the Society's secretary, tells me the tickets have gone very well, and this year speakers have been warned to be brief.