

on Saturday, and there is also a matinee to-morrow.

This is the Society's fifth series of performances. Commencing in 1920-21 they produced "H.M.S. Pinafore," and the following season they twice took the boards with the "Gondoliers" and "Iolanthe," respectively. In 1922-23 "The Yeoman of the Guard" was played. Last winter the Society did not perform, chiefly on account of the difficulty of securing a suitable building in which to stage a theatrical production. On this occasion, however, they were able to make arrangements to obtain the well-appointed Regent Theatre for the purpose of producing a play; and, departing from the Gilbert and Sullivan tradition which has hitherto been adhered to, they decided to

lain also appear, ready to use the recipe as a means to win Sally as his wife. But he finds that Mr. Hook in accordance with a pet theory is determined to regard the restorer of the recipe as a thief, and to have him arrested on the spot. He eventually induces the disguised Van Vuyt to restore the recipe, but thanks to her aptitude for business, Sally induces her father to fer his theory, and as the captain has already found consolation in Freda, all ends happily.

THE CAST.

Those taking part in the production include the following:—

Mr. Hook (a widower), a wealthy Liqueur Distiller Mr. E. T. Parfitt
Capt. Adrian Paap, Lieut. de Coop, Band-



THE HAPPY ENDING.

Mr. Hook (Mr. E. T. Parfitt, centre), giving his blessing to his daughter Sally (Miss Rowbotham) and Bandmaster Van Vuyt (Mr. Reg. Jackson).

break new ground by putting on the popular "Dutch Musical Incident" known as "Miss Hook of Holland." Incidentally it may be mentioned that since its formation the Society has handed £275 to local charities, and any profit from this week's performances will be devoted to similar objects.

"Miss Hook of Holland" is practically the only musical comedy that treats of the scenic and costume effects which Holland has to offer. It was first produced by Mr. Frank Curzon at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London, and rapidly became popular. The book is by Paul A. Rubens and Austen Hurgon, while the lyrics and music are among the best work of Rubens, so well known by theatre goers as the composer of many alluring melodies.

ABOUT THE PLAY.

Briefly stated, the story of the play works out in this way. Sally, otherwise "Miss Hook," is a young damsel with a pretty face and an excellent voice, and also a marked aptitude for business. Owing to her discovery of a wonderful liqueur, "Cream of the Sky," Mr. Hook (her father), when the story opens, finds himself the head of a prosperous distillery in Amsterdam. One day, while on a holiday at his country residence at Arndyk, he drops the recipe of the precious liquid in the cheese market, which is the setting of the first act. It is picked up by Slinks, a loafer, who sells it to Captain Adrian Paap, a dashing officer in the Mounted Artillery, quartered at Arndyk.

This officer, who has matrimonial designs on Sally, thinks the possession of the recipe will aid his wooing. Unfortunately for him, however, Sally has given her heart to the Bandmaster of the Regiment, Van Vuyt, and as, in addition, old Mr. Hook has a

master Van Vuyt, of the Mounted Artillery, quartered at Arndyk ... Mr. Jack Myall, Mr. J. W. Hawkes, Mr. Reg. Jackson.

Ludwig Schnappa (Foreman of Distillery, in love with Mina) Mr. V. C. Spurgeon
An Old Policeman Mr. Hedley Fitch
Van Eck (a very ordinary Dutchman),

Mr. H. E. White
Simon Slinks (a Loafer by the Canal at Arndyk) Mr. Gerald Debraam
Freda Voos Mrs. W. R. Catt
Clara Voos Miss D. L. Mann
Gretchen (Manageress at the Distillery),

Miss C. G. Marks
An Old Market Woman ... Miss Peggy Green
Mina (Maid to the Hooks), Mrs. C. L. Bocking
and

Sally (Miss Hook of Holland),
Miss Rose Rowbotham

Chorus of Market Folk, Soldiers, Cheese Merchants, Villagers, Assistants in the Liqueur Distillery, etc.:

Mesdames A. J. Hobart, H. J. Hinde, M. Smith, Misses B. Baker, D. W. Brown, U. M. Cannon, R. C. Cannon, A. E. Chisnell, M. Courtman, L. Davies, I. H. Fisher, E. I. Guest, A. Hawkins, I. M. Miller, E. S. Myall, D. G. Reed, K. G. Ridgwell, M. F. Spalding, D. K. Wright, Messrs. W. L. Barclay, G. A. Barlow, C. L. Bocking, Ralph Catt, E. K. Gamble, C. F. J. Godfrey, P. J. Gowers, H. J. Hinde, F. H. Hiner, A. J. Hobart, E. A. Joyce, R. G. Leech, A. McCormack, J. Nokes, H. K. Pettit, J. W. Percy, J. L. Phillips, A. Pitts, O. M. Rowbotham, W. H. Sitch, W. H. Tatt, A. M. Waller, A. W. Ward, D. E. Whitaker, H. Willard.

ACT I. The Cheese Market at Arndyk, on the borders of the Zuyder Zee.

ACT II. The Interior of the Liqueur Distillery, Amsterdam.

HOW THE PLAY WENT.

The opening performance on Monday attracted quite a good audience, who indicated in no uncertain fashion their warm appreciation of the way in which the play was presented. It went with a delightful

reflection on Mr. Myall to say that he should more as a soldier than as a lover. Mr. Reg. Jackson scored a success in the role of the Bandmaster, and was equally at home as the pseudo-workman at the distillery, and the ardent wooer of the fair Sally. His fine tenor voice was heard to advantage in the songs allotted to him, particularly "Tra La La" of the haunting melody, by which perhaps the play is known as well as by its title. Of the other male parts, Mr. Hedley Fitch was good as the policeman, and Mr. Harold White as Van Eck, had not much to do of his own volition—he is chiefly dragged about by Slinks—but kept up the pose very well.

THE LADY PRINCIPALS.

With regard to the lady principals Mrs. C. L. Bocking added to her reputation as a comedy actress by the clever way she played Mina, the maid. Her attractive song in the second act, "A Pretty pink petty from Peter," which treats of a somewhat intimate garment that is—or at any rate used to be—favoured by the fair sex, produced roars of laughter. Mrs. W. R. Catt, who, like Mrs. Bocking, has also appeared in principal parts before, made a graceful Freda. The light comedy song, "The Cigar he bought her," which she sang in the second act, was very well received. Miss Mann as Clara, Freda's sister, and Miss Marks as Gretchen both justified their inclusion in the cast. The latter was the smart business woman to perfection, but not averse to a little mild flirtation. Miss Peggy Green's part was really not sufficiently "in the picture" to allow her to show her capabilities. What she had to do was well done, but, remembering her previous successes one could have wished that she had had more opportunities.

The chorus work was excellent, and the players generally unquestionably caught the spirit of this sparkling musical comedy. The cheese chorus, and "Bottles," the latter being an unaccompanied madrigal for male voices, were certainly two of the best numbers, while "Little Miss Wooden Shoes" was daintily rendered by the chorus of girls, led by Sally. Very pleasing, too, was the knitting quintet in the first act, and when towards the close of the play on the opening night the spirit of carnival held sway, and balloons and novelties were introduced, the chorus let themselves go with a will.

A series of dances, cleverly designed and daintily executed, certainly added to the attractiveness of the play. Another feature, too, was the performance of the band, who made quite an imposing display and looked very smart in their full-dress uniforms.

ORCHESTRA AND HELPERS.

The play was produced under the personal direction of Miss Madge Macklin, who is to be congratulated on the success of her work. Both the dressing and scenery were very effective, while the excellent work of the orchestra, under the baton of the Society's talented hon. musical conductor, Mr. Frederick Cole, contributed in no small measure to the success achieved.

The orchestra consists of the following:

1st Violins: Mr. Maitland de Lacey (leader), Miss G. Metcalfe, Mr. E. Carwardine, Mr. F. Macconnell. 2nd Violins: Mr. J. Ricketts, Mrs. W. J. Samms, Mrs. F. Cole, Mr. C. B. Oliver. Violas: Mrs. C. Price Smith, Mr. W. B. Wilkinson. Violoncellos: Mr. S. Laubach, Mr. H. M. Mann. Double Bass: Mr. A. Sheppard. Flute: Mr. G. Ackroyd. Oboe: Mr. J. Pantling. Clarinet: Mr. E. Clarke. Bassoon: Mr. J. Alexandra. Horns: Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. G. W. Smith. Trumpet: Mr. H. Hodgson. Trombone: Mr. J. Fenton. Drums: Mr. W. Wareham.

Mr. F. W. M. Powley acted as "prompt," and Mr. B. E. Howes as "call boy." Mr. J. Black (manager) and the staff and orchestra of the theatre did all in their power to assist the Society in their production. Mr. P. Butchard organised a number of ladies and gentlemen who acted as programme and chocolate sellers, seating stewards, etc. Mr. C. West was hon. electrician and Mr. T. Sorrell hon. stage carpenter. The hon. sec. of the Society is Mr. W. H. Tutt, the hon. treasurer Mr. H. E. White, and the hon. accompanist Mr. Lawrence Hey.