

"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

FINAL PERFORMANCE BY CHELMSFORD SOCIETY.

A crowded and enthusiastic audience was present at the Regent Theatre on Saturday evening when the final performance of "Miss Hook of Holland" was given. The last presentation was under the patronage of the President, Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett, K.C., M.P., who was present with Lady Curtis-Bennett and party. The performance was carried through with as much success as on the preceding nights of the week, and encores were frequently demanded. At the close the performers, together with the producer, Miss Madge Macklin, and the musical director, Mr. Cole, who were called on to the stage, came in for a tremendous reception from the audience. Numerous gifts of boxes of chocolates, bouquets and novelties (a prominent one being a large packet of Kruschen Salts for "Van Eck") were handed up to the artistes from admirers. Members of the audience threw coloured streamers on to the stage, the performers replying with balloons and confetti. Miss Macklin was presented with a framed photograph of the company and a silver cigarette box, and Mr. Cole received a similar photograph and a leather attache case.

Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett, K.C., M.P., whose appearance on the stage was the signal for another outburst of applause, created much laughter by commencing his observations with the remark: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am not properly made up for this. If anybody wants to hand me up anything I would rather have a box of cigars than a box of chocolates." He added that he had been asked to come on the stage, amongst that wonderful company—(applause)—for the purpose of thanking the audience, but before he did that he desired on their behalf, if he might, to thank the company for the really wonderful performance they had given. (Applause). He ventured to think one could go far through the different cities of this country without finding as good a company as they had seen that night, let alone a better one. In those thanks on behalf of the house, if he might, he included the principals, chorus, and orchestra. (Applause.)

One of the happiest things that had happened to him during the past year was that he had been honoured by being asked to be president of the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. Those performances not only gave great pleasure to audiences, but also much pleasure and a great deal of work to the principals; and when they were over and the large expenses had been paid, the proceeds went to different local charities. They also had to thank those who, to enable as large a sum as possible to go to the charities, for what they had done in many ways to assist and to meet the expenses. He hoped that when they had had time to make up the accounts and after all expenses were paid a considerable sum would be handed over to local charities. (Applause).

After the curtain had fallen the President handed a few private gifts from members of the company to a few of the principals. He also presented the hon. secretary of the Society, Mr. W. H. Tutt, with a handsome mahogany clock, suitably inscribed, and the hon. accompanist, Mr. L. Hey, with a silver inkstand and calendar.

At present it is not possible to give the financial result of the production.