

"NO! NO! NANETTE."

CHELMSFORD AMATEURS' CLEVER PERFORMANCES.

The Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society on Monday gave the first of seven performances of the popular musical comedy, "No! No! Nanette," in the Regent Theatre, Chelmsford.

Since its formation in 1920 the Society has presented a number of light operas and musical comedies with varying degrees of success, and as the result £670 has been distributed among local charities and a reserve fund built up. Unfortunately during the past year or two the productions have not received sufficient support to make them real financial suc-



"NO! NO! NANETTE."—Six of the principals in the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of the popular musical comedy. Names, left to right: Nanette (Lilian Hamilton), Jimmy Smith (Robert E. Ellison), Sue Smith (Vida Burch), Tom Trainor (Gilbert Torry), Lucille (Olive Catt), and Billy Early (Fred. Munnion).

cesses, and "No! No! Nanette" is an effort to place the Society again on a firm footing.

THE CAST.

Pauline, cook at the Smith's, Doris Rowland
Sue Smith, Jimmy's wife Vida Burch
Billy Early, a lawyer Fred. Munnion
Lucille, Billy's wife Olive Catt
Nanette, a protégée of Sue...Lilian Hamilton
Tom Trainor, Lucille's nephew, Gilbert Torry
Jimmy Smith Robert Ellison
Betty, from Bath Emily Everett
Winnie, from Harrogate Jose Parnell
Flora, from Nice Peggy Green

Flappers: Mary Barneveld, Mollie Blyth, Ida Clarke, Joan Edwards, Peggy Edwards, Marjorie Ellis, Margaret Martin, Betty Pearce, Betty Stanley.

Married ladies: Dorothy Bocking, Hilda Fewell, Ivy Harris, Enid Hey, Joan Howard, Jessie Hutton, Mary Marriott, Mary Phillips.

Bachelors: Cyril Bradbury, Cecil Bocking, Douglas Catt, Richard Green, Guy Newcombe, Alex. Ogston, J. Lindsay Scott, Arthur Stanley, Alec Torry.

Speciality dancers: Mollie Blyth and Richard Green

Although "No! No! Nanette" is rather a costly production for an amateur society to stage really well, it is a delightful musical comedy, containing an amusing story, many tuneful songs and choruses, and several pretty dances. Performed as it was on the opening night before a large audience, it deserves all possible support and success.

This year there are quite a number of new faces among the Society's players, although not new to local audiences. While the re-appearance of some of the old favourites is very pleasing, it may



JIMMY SMITH AND SOME OF THE LADIES OF THE CHORUS.

admitted that the newcomers are infusing a very welcome liveliness and enthusiasm into the production and contribute in large measure to the enjoyment of the show.

Chief honours go to Robert Ellison, Fred. Munnion, and Lilian Hamilton. The first-named, in the role of Jimmy Smith, a wealthy young man, whose main object in life seems to be to persuade his wife to spend money, and Fred. Munnion, as the lawyer, whose chief occupation is to get Jimmy out of difficulties with the fair sex, have parts for which they are well suited. Both versatile actors, they miss none of the many opportunities afforded them to create a good laugh. Of the old favourites, Lilian Hamilton scores a great success as Nanette with one of the best performances she has ever given. Some good acting is seen from Vida Burch as Sue Smith and Olive Catt as Lucille, but it is rather a pity their voices are not more powerful. Doris Rowland is a very amusing cook, Gilbert Torry does well as Tom Trainor, and Emily Everett, Jose Parnell, and Peggy Green give able portrayals as ladies whom Jimmy has "adopted."

Support to the principals is given by an admirable chorus of flappers, bachelors and married ladies, whose singing and dancing are features of the show. Most of the musical numbers are well known, particularly "I want to be happy," "Tea for two," and "Take a little one step," which go with a lively swing. Some clever tap dancing is given by Mollie Blyth, Richard Green, and A. Ogston.

The musical comedy is admirably staged under the direction of Miss Madge Macklin; there is excellent scenery; and the costumes, particularly those of the chorus, are very colourful. The music is provided by an excellent orchestra of twelve players, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Davies, whose playing throughout is a real delight. The players are as follows:—

1st piano and leader, A. E. Barneveld; violins, W. H. Bateman, C. Oliver; violoncello, H. M. Mann; bass, L. Parish; clarinet, G. W. Anderson; 2nd piano, A. Heather; alto sax., H. Kutner; tenor sax., M. Goodman; 1st trumpet, W. Pierce; 2nd trumpet, W. Dellow; trombone, W. L. Barclay; percussion, J. Lee.

Among others assisting in the production are Mr. F. W. M. Powley, hon. prompter; Mr. S. Hunt, hon. call boy; and Mr. W. H. Hirst, hon. property master.

The show will be repeated this (Friday) evening and to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon and evening.