

OPERATIC SOCIETY AT CHELMSFORD

CHARITY BENEFITS.

It was reported at the annual meeting of the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society on Friday evening that owing to the successful presentation of "The Pirates of Penzance" charity would benefit by £85, viz., Chelmsford Hospital, £50; Tuberculosis Care Association, £20; St. Giles's Home, £10; Nursing Association, £5.

The Mayor, as president, referred with regret to the death of Mr. F. Cole, formerly musical director of the Society, and the meeting, by standing in silence, paid tribute to his memory.

Mr. H. N. Pullen, the hon. sec., reported that the Society had had a very successful season, but the active membership had dropped nearly fifty per cent. In the previous season the acting members numbered 46, they were now 37, and the active members, formerly 142, were now 69.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. A. J. Hobart, was very pleased to be able to report such a satisfactory state of affairs financially. They started the year with £17/13/1 in hand. The profit on "The Pirates of Penzance" was £112/12/5. They greatly appreciated the way in which the public rallied to their support. The receipts from the hon. membership scheme were £220/12/0, and in that way the Society knew before raising the first curtain that they could carry on through the week without anxiety. The box office receipts were £262/7/2. In all 3,291 people saw the show. The committee thanked Mr. R. Gerald Balls for his help, and also the Hoffmann Manufacturing Co. A great deal of the success was due to the team spirit that existed. (Hear, hear).

The President, moving the reports, congratulated the society, not only upon its success, but on its members—not just the principals, but those who took minor parts, and those also who helped in various other ways and were not seen. Surely the drop in membership could be corrected. With such splendid results the membership must grow. He thanked the Society for their bounty. They had now become an important asset to the town. Considering the times, to make such a profit as they had done in one week was a proud achievement.

Mr. Hart, in thanking the Committee, said that as the Society had lost £200 in the two previous years, the public would realise that the gifts to charity were generous.

The hon. sec. and treasurer were re-elected, and the retiring members of the committee, Mrs. A. J. Hobart, Mr. C. Bocking, Mr. J. Blooman, and Mr. L. Hey, were re-elected amid applause. Mr. G. N. Wilson was elected to the committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. B. Howes.