

"Poison Pen" Finale . .

*Acting President
and Living Theatre*

AT the conclusion of the week's run of "Poison Pen," most admirably presented by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, Dr. John Taylor, acting president, said that the Society had inevitably approached the week with a feeling of sadness in the tragic loss of their President.

It was an old tradition of the theatre that nothing stopped production—"the play goes on"—and Jack Blooman would be the first to remember this tradition.

REPERTORY THEATRE

He thanked the audience for their enthusiastic reception of the show and felt that this proved that Chelmsford had a use for the living theatre as well as the pictures. The Society would continue to present good plays, but they needed some building of their own, if only a hut, for rehearsals, meetings and discussions. As the Mayor had said on Monday, they looked forward to the day when Chelmsford would have a repertory theatre which the Society could share. These things could not happen without public support. The house was filled to overflowing on Saturday. In fact many who wished to could not get in, but there seemed to be a prejudice against coming early in the week. There need be no fear of an imperfect performance on any night. The hard work put in by the caste and producer ensured against such happening.

GIFTS TO CAST

After the final curtain several original humorous gifts were among the many received by the cast.

Mr. Donald Leech, whose car was recently stolen, was presented with a second-hand motor tyre and horn; Mr. Cecil Bocking, who played the part of the inspector, was given a policeman's helmet, a pair of handcuffs and a truncheon; and Mr. Frank Morgan, who was the Welsh graphologist, received a bouquet of leeks, each leek being decorated with a painted face.

A gift of a powder compact was made to the producer, Miss Joyce Waddy, by the chairman of the Society, Mr. A. R. Barneveld.

In response to many calls Miss Waddy appeared on the stage and was given a bouquet.

Miss Waddy, who was producing in Chelmsford for the first time, said up to six weeks ago she had no friends in Chelmsford, but she felt now she had made many. She thanked the cast for the loyalty and support they had shown her.

Mr. Barneveld appealed to the audience to support the Society's next production "Bitter Sweet," which in his opinion was the biggest thing they had so far tackled.