

DECEMBER 1973

AGM



● The Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's new president Mr John Plumtree (left) presents his immediate predecessor, Mr Jack Linn, with a cigarette lighter as a token of the society's thanks for his sterling work over the past 16 years at Monday's annual meeting. Mr Linn's wife, Edna, was presented with a pendant and a bouquet and both were unanimously elected life members of the society.

Operatic society members urged: Be loyal

PART hunters i.e. people who go from audition to audition in the hope of picking up plum parts in local productions, came under fire at the annual meeting of the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society on Monday.

Mr Teddy Francis, who produced the society's most recent production *The Mikado*, at the Civic Theatre in September, said such people did little good for the societies with which they appeared, and took all the glory.

He asked members to consider the effect of their loyalty on the society and suggested that it should be a rule that members should not apply for parts in other operatic society's shows in Chelmsford without first informing the committee.

While members felt that to go so far would be an undemocratic infringement of members' personal liberties, condemnation of those who accepted a part and then turned it in because they had got a better part elsewhere, was universal.

Mrs Joy Wallace declared: "The most important thing is that shows of the very highest standard should be put on." But, she felt, an embargo, as

suggested by Mr Francis, would cause these standards to "drop like a ton of bricks."

The society's new president, Mr John Plumtree, reminded members that if they didn't get a part at auditions, there were plenty of other jobs connected with each production for them to do.

"If, so be it, they get parts, they are doing it for the good of the society and not for showing off their particular talents," he said.

WELCOME

Mr Stan Parsons, the society's secretary said the most important thing was that new members should be made to feel welcome when they joined.

Three members, Kay Trost, Peter Smith and Stan Parsons, who between them boasted 71 years of service to the society were each presented with a long service medal by the retiring president, Mr Jack Linn.