

"CRYING NEED" FOR LIVE THEATRE

SPEAKING from the Regent stage on Saturday after the final performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace," the President of the Chelmsford Operatic and Dramatic Society, Dr. John Taylor, declared there was a "crying need for a living theatre" in Chelmsford.

He advised the audience to tell all their friends that they wanted a theatre in the town—councillors to be told twice.

He gave special credit to Roger Massey who was on the stage for the first time since his schooldays and had played most of the week with four stitches in his head.

Bouquets were presented after

curtain calls, but, unlike previous shows, only one was handed across the footlights to each actor or actress.

At a back-stage party later, Secretary Mr. V. J. Cooper told the cast they had broken the records of the Society in that 4,800 had seen the "straight" play during the week.