

FEBRUARY 17. 1928.

"THE REBEL MAID"

CHELMSFORD AMATEURS' FINE PRODUCTION

Derek Lanscombe	Leonard Hayward
Lord Milverton	Cecil Bocking
Sir Stephen Crespigny	Victor Spurgeon
Capt. Percy Gerome	Fred. Gozzett
Septimus Bunkle	John Willes
Solomon Hooker	Maurice Phillips
Sam	Fred. Bearman
Roger	Arthur W. Ward
William, Prince of Orange	Sidney Perrott
Sergeant	Ralph Catt
Lady Elizabeth Weston	Lilian Hobart
Abigail	Marjorie Spalding
Jorothy	Doris Phillips
ady Mary Trefusis	Muriel Turner
	Rose Rowbotham

The chorus worked hard, and seemed to enjoy themselves even as much as the audience did. We should like to extend a word of congratulation to the chorus-master, Mr. Lawrence Hey, for his work in this direction. The chorus was as follows:—

Ladies: N. K. Archer, H. A. Alden, D. I. Bevan, D. Bocking, V. Cannon, O. Catt, A. E. Chisnell, D. Davis, L. Davies, E. Everett, R. Gannon, P. Green, P. Hay, E. M. Hey, M. Norrington, E. M. Phillips, D. G. Reed.
Men: G. Barlow, J. C. Blooman, A. J. Hobart, J. W. Hawkes, F. Hiner, J. S. Marshall, J. Myall, G. Newcombe, J. Nokes, J. L. Phillips, B. Pullen, H. Tomalin.

Revivals of popular light operas of former days are oftentimes a weariness of the flesh, but lest we spoil the relish of the talented artistes who have acted so well at the Regent Theatre, Chelmsford, this week, for their morning rasher, we hasten to add that "The Rebel Maid" does not belong to this category. This delightful representation of the era of patches and bows has enjoyed something approaching a boom among amateur societies, and for obvious reasons. It had a distinguished parentage, the book being written by Alexander Thompson, a well-known

We are glad that the Society thought the delightful music was worthy of an orchestra of calibre, and they played very well indeed under the persuasive baton of Mr. Ronald Biggs. The orchestra comprised: Mr. R. B. Morley (leader), the Misses Irene Spurgeon, Judeth Arnold - Wallinger, and Doreen Jenkins, Mrs. Ward Price, Messrs. W. H. Bateman, C. B. Oliver, G. Ryder, A. Nifosi, H. M. Mann, C. Payne, G. Monk, W. H. Taylor, W. Kealey, E. Hall, V. Waller, J. Mason, E. Joyce, E. Cumbers, W. H. Wareham, V. Waldeau.



Miss Rose Rowbotham as Lady Mary Trefusis, and Mr. Leonard Hayward as Derek Lanscombe. Spalding photo.

Spalding photo.
Miss Rose Rowbotham as Lady Mary Trefusis, and Mr. Leonard Hayward
as Derek Lanscombe.

journalist, and the music by Montague F. Phillips, Professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Its music is full of that infectious gaiety which, much to your neighbour's annoyance, often finds expression in the rhythmic beat of feet beneath your chair. The plot, of course, concerns the landing of the Prince of Orange in 1688.

The production of the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society may be considered both musically and choregraphically a success. Pretty girls, attractive costumes, artistic sets and good vocalists are all necessary for an adequate rendering of the Rebel Maid, and the Society has them all. The second act, which bristles with intrigue and action, is slickly produced by Miss Madge Macklin. We were very much impressed by the general décor of the whole production, which we think few amateur societies could better. Miss Rose Rowbotham, as the leading lady, Lady Mary Trefusis, moved through her part with grace—

Fancy her, radiant in ribbon and knot,
(How charming that old-fashioned puce is)
All blooming in laces, fal-lals, and what-not,
At the Pump Room—Lady Mary Trefusis.

Her song, "Sunshine and Laughter," in the first act, was very well received. Mr. Leonard Hayward, as her lover, Derek Lanscombe, was a dashing cavalier. It is not always easy to get the pitch of a large hall at once, and we are afraid several delicate amorous trifles must have been lost on the occupants of the back rows, where no doubt their value would have been most appreciated. Mr. Victor Spurgeon was the villain, and a very good one he made, with brows as black as thunder. Miss Marjorie Spalding brought to the rôle of Abigail, the maid, all the vivacity and effervescence it required, and her dancing with those irrepressibles, Septimus Bunkle and Solomon Hooker, had a gusto which must be seen to be believed. "The knife-grinder's song," sung by Mr. Maurice Phillips, was very effective, and we liked Mr. Hayward's rendering of the famous fisherman's song.

Mr. P. Butchard was the chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. A. Blythe hon. secretary, Mr. J. C. Blooman hon. treas., Mr. F. W. M. Powley hon. promoter, Mr. B. E. Howes hon. call boy, Mr. E. G. Brown hon. property master.

"THE REBEL MAID." — The Chelmsford Amateur and Operatic Society has this year been put to a good deal of expense for their production of "The Rebel Maid," and this, coupled with the lack of public support, will probably result in an adverse balance. Hundreds of the cheaper seats were unfilled, although good support was received for the more expensive tickets. There was, however, a good house on Saturday for the final performance. After the fall of the curtain in the last act the whole chorus took their bow, followed by the principals in turn, concluding with the hero and heroine, Mr. L. Hayward and Miss Rose Rowbotham. Finally there were calls for the capable producer (Miss Madge Macklin) and musical director (Mr. Ronald Biggs), and the principals received presents of flowers and chocolates. Later, behind the scenes, Mr. P. Butchard, chairman of the Executive Committee, congratulated the company. He said he wanted once again to show his proud appreciation and to thank the cast for their effort and enthusiasm throughout the whole season, which had culminated in a highly successful week. The majority of their supporters candidly admitted that this had been the best production they had ever staged. Owing, however, to the big reduction in prices of seats, and the lack of public support in the cheaper seats, he was afraid they would not meet expenses. Mr. Butchard then presented Miss Macklin with a pochette and Mr. Biggs with a fitted writing-case from the members of the cast. Mr. Laurence Hey, the chorus master, received a silver oxidised clock; Mr. A. Blythe, hon. sec., an etching; Mr. J. Blooman, hon. treasurer, cigarettes; and Mr. C. Coe (for his consistent hard work for the Society year in and year out) an etching.—On Tuesday a successful dance was held at the County Hotel in connection with the Society. Mr. J. H. Johnson was M.C., and excellent music was provided by the County Quartet.