

REPERTORY, MUSIC AND DRAMA.

Dunedin to Have a Little Theatre

Premises Now Being Considered — Wellington Thespians Rehearsing "Hobson's Choice" — Sir Benjamin Fuller Discusses Russian Opera Company — "San Toy" in Invercargill This Week.

DUNEDIN is a city where amateur theatricals have flourished, and according to advance reports, yet another movement is shortly to be launched. The Little Theatre has never become a reality in Dunedin, although the idea has been discussed many times, but now a body has been organised to establish one. There are more than 60 Little Theatres in Australia, while each of the other three main centres in New Zealand have their movement. An option over a building which will lend itself to adaption as a Little Theatre, has been secured, while a well-known architect has offered his services for the designing of the theatre. Members, including carpenters, electricians and artisans, will construct and equip the theatre, the only cost being for the material. It is proposed to produce three-act plays monthly, and to stage one-act plays every fortnight. It is also proposed to establish a wardrobe fund.

AFTER the outstanding success of the production of "Thespians," the revue which the Thespians of Wellington presented recently to crowded houses, members of the society are now working hard on the next major production, "Hobson's Choice," which is to be presented in the Town Hall Concert Chamber on August 15, 16 and 17. "Hobson's Choice" is the most famous comedy of that famous English playwright, Harold Brighouse; although it was first produced during the Great War, it has never lost its interest for playgoers. Set in Salford, a little Lancashire town, in the year 1880, it tells with sympathy and comedy of Hobson, the owner of Hobson's Boot Shop, and the possessor of three daughters, and of how, in spite of his determination to overcome the "uppishness" of those daughters, the eldest of them rules him in the end. One of the features of the Thespians' production of this world-famous play is to be the period dressing. The following will be taking part in the production: Dorothy Tansley, Elsie Lloyd, Aspasia Edwards, Louise Christian, Maie Webster, Edward R. Render, Norman Hannah, Harry Painter, Victor S. Lloyd, Selwyn Toogood, Jack Simpson and A. S. Farquhar. The play will be produced by Victor S. Lloyd.

IN a recent interview in Dunedin Sir Benjamin Fuller said that he was making arrangements for a full Russian opera company—singers, dancers and orchestra—to tour New Zealand and Australia. Mr. W. J. Douglas, while in Europe was also booking various shows, but the main object of the trip was to negotiate with the Russian Government for a subsidy for a Russian opera company to visit this part of the world. If the negotiations were successful he was confident that it would create a furore. "I say that you can not keep an age-old institution like the stage down. Owing to the depression and the advent of the talkies the stage has had a setback, but it will come up smiling again. Actions speak louder than words, and I have sufficient faith in the future of the stage to spend a few thousand pounds in remodelling His Majesty's Theatre in Dunedin in preparation for the revival."

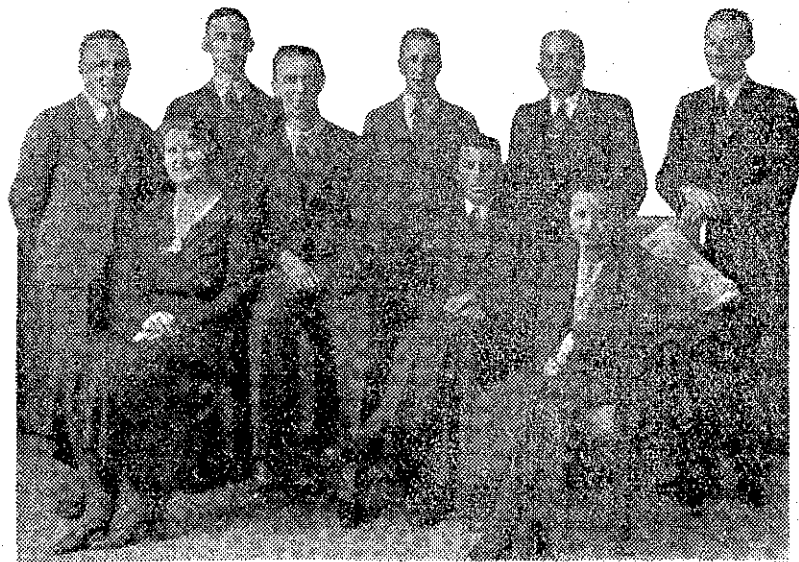
JUDGING by a recent dress rehearsal of "San Toy," the coming production of the Invercargill Operatic and Dramatic Society, it would appear that play will prove to be one of the best and most successful musical comedies yet presented by the society. When "San Toy" was first staged in London in 1899 it had a phenomenal run, beating even the record of "The Geisha." The play is to have a five-night season in Invercargill, opening on July 15. For the cast of this play, the first of the society's two musical shows this year, a large and varied cast has been chosen. The role of San Toy is in the hands of Mrs. N. R. Henderson, while

an excellent performance may be expected from Mr. B. Murgatroyd in the male role. Two songs specially written are to be incorporated, the words being by Mr. J. J. W. Pollard and the music by Mr. Howard Moody, the producer and musical director respectively.

FOR the second concert of the 1935 season, to be held on July 18, the Royal Christchurch Musical Society will make a change from its usual procedure and present a programme of smaller part-songs and solos, most of the compositions being by well-known British composers. Well-known performers such as Mr. Alan Wellbrock and Master Warwick Humphreys, Miss Hilda Hutt (soprano), Mr. Ernest Rogers (tenor), Miss Nancy Estall (cellist) and Miss Winifred Smith (elocutionist) will take part.

MORE than 100 members of the Canterbury Repertory Theatre Society attended the fortnightly play-reading meeting, held last week, when Aimee and Philip Stuart's play "Sixteen" was read with great success. Mr. Walter B. Harris was the director and Mrs. Harris read the stage directions.

MRS. SPENCE-CLARK, Clifton, Sumner, representing the British Drama League, was the judge at the Peninsula Institute's Drama Festival. In congratulating all the performers on their acting, Mrs. Spence-Clark said that the standard had shown much improvement, drama festivals producing much hidden talent. The results of the judging were: Akaroa 1, Little River 2, and Duvauchelles Bay 3.



BASED ON A FAMOUS DIVORCE CASE.—Members of the Ashburton Repertory Society gave splendid performances recently in the first major production of the 1935 season, "The Pelican," based on the famous Russell divorce case. Above is the cast: (Standing) Noel Hosking, Carl Moller, Charles E. Johnston, E. R. Easterbrook, Geoffrey Nicoll, (seated) Renee Chamberlain, Sidney Gower, Bruce Knox and Ivy Jaine.

MISSING WORDS COMPETITION

THE winner of the above competition was MR. A. IRVINE, 103 COUTTS ST., WELLINGTON, E.3, to whom the prize-money of £20 has been posted.

The missing words were as follows:—Men, Shells, Wherry, Works, Lyddite, Wherry, Shop, Wrecked, Wide, Damaged.