

There's new life in Wimborne's Drama Club

THERE appears to be new life in the old Wimborne Drama Club. The two evenings of three one-act plays staged in the Church House, Wimborne, included some lively performances.

The comedy "The Dear Departed"; the who-dun-it "Tea for Three"; and the suspense thriller "Sorry, Wrong Number" all went down well with the good audiences.

"The Dear Departed" was seriously threatened when Sam Fawcett, who was to take the place of the grandfather Abel Merryweather, went down with flu.

STEPPED IN

But club stalwart Mr. L. H. Mottram stepped in and gave a first-class performance.

This funny and popular play was well produced by husband and wife combination of John and Elizabeth Anthony, who also took two of the leading parts.

Muriel Brooks did well in her stage comeback after a number of years and Arthur Brooks gave another good performance. Victoria Slater made a success of her first stage part. Prompt for this play was Mr. Mickelburgh.

Mr. Fawcett also had a part in "Tea for Three." So Donald Waterfield stepped up to take over as the absent-minded professor, whose wife, played by Daphne Young, was a clever murderess.

SHOWS PROMISE

Victim was Tim Ealing, who played a policeman. He was poisoned. It was Mr. Ealing's first show and, with his fine beard as a good asset, he should be a useful member with more experience.

Mrs. Young gave a cool, calm performance and Mr. Waterfield had obviously worked hard to do well as stand-in. Margaret Williams also did well in this play. It was produced by Thelma Dryden. Prompt was Brenda Parsons.

The outstanding play of the evening was "Sorry, Wrong Number" with its cast of ten. This suspense show really gripped the audience, which is unusual in local drama group productions.

A WINNER

The story of the neurotic bed-ridden woman left alone in her New York apartment, who overhears a telephone conversation by two men planning a murder—her own—was a winner.

New producer to the club Vincent Waters, who has had plenty of experience in production in Canada, made this a potent presentation with some good effects and scenery.

Rita Stuckey, as the woman, lived the part until she was murdered as the train roared by on the subway outside her window to the accompaniment of realistic screams.

I liked the idea of showing the other characters through gauze on one side of the stage

while Rita sat throughout the play on the other half.

When she picked up the telephone the face of the operator would appear lit up by a torch and the same would happen with the other actors.

Rest of the cast: telephone operators, Patricia Wood, Margaret Williams and Thelma Dryden; two men, Arthur Brooks and Tim Ealing; information, Muriel Brooks; hospital/receptionist, Stella Tory; Western Union and lunch room counter attendant, Russ Guillaume and Sergeant Duffy, James Ward.

During the interlude the organ was played by Mr. John Chalmers.

Stage manager was Mr. Clifford Cowling; effects by Peter Brooks; house manager, Mr. Ernest Henbest; and business manager, Mrs. Muriel Brooks.

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