

# Wimborne Drama Club gets the laughs

**A** COMEDY as riotously funny as J. B. Priestley's "When We Are Married" is always a safe bet for amateurs.

And the performances staged at the Women's Institute Hall last week by Wimborne Drama Club were obviously to the liking of the audiences.

Frankly, the production fell noticeably short of the high standard this company has achieved in recent shows. Even allowing for unfamiliar conventions and an unfamiliar idiom, characterisations were by no means strong. And at Thursday's performance, at least, appreciable slabs were cut from the dialogue (whether by accident or design I know not) and several of the players were frequently inaudible. Act "curtains" were painfully slow.

Despite these drawbacks, however, the team provided very enjoyable entertainment and drew laughs aplenty.

## THE PLAYERS

Paddy Brooman and Daphne Young as Joe and Maria Helliwell gave outstanding performances, and took most of the weight of the play on to their shoulders. Michael Warwick and Elaine King played well as Albert and Annie Parker, though the former needed more pomponity and truculence; and Ronald Small and Megan Leleu teamed nicely as Herbert and Clara Soppitt—the latter giving a fine, spirited interpretation of the part.

Pam Mottram's Ruby Birtle was praiseworthy; Edward Phelps' Henry Ormonroyd was good, but somewhat subdued—a comment which applies equally to Muriel Clark's Mrs. Northrop. Vida Jeffrey played Lottie Grady with sincerity; Donald Waterfield was sound as the Rev. Clement Mercer; Norman Rowe and Eirwen Rowe were a capable Gerald Forbes and Nancy Holmes; and Hugh Trenchard supported well as Fred Dyson.

Production was by the club's chairman, Leonard H. Mottram, assisted by Lilian Hopper.

J. Williams, D. Ellis and Hilary Boreham shared the duties of stage management; Betty Viader prompted; and Reginald L. Wilkinson was responsible for lighting. Charles O. Chaleel provided interval music and Mr. G. R. C. Hawkins was business manager.