

SCHOOL PLAY AT WELLINGBOROUGH

A mistaken identity, a female spiritualist, a tailor with aspirations to be a gentleman a well-meaning landlady, and a rich uncle, form the basis of "The Private Secretary," a play performed by members of Wellingborough Grammar School Dramatic Society, at the School last night.

The actors made the most of the rather slight plot and obviously enjoyed themselves, as did the audience.

Mr. J. W. Davis had given the whole a vigorous production, and it was obvious from the beginning that actors and backstage helpers understood what was meant by team spirit.

As Douglas Cattermole, the gentleman with debts and no money, G. C. Neville was more than adequate and showed a fine sense of comedy as did S. W. Brown who played his penniless friend.

The tailor, 'a believer in high art,' was convincingly portrayed by R. Leslie and the difficult part of Miss Ashford, the amateur spiritualist, was well 'filled' by R. J. Coleman.

The role of Mr. Cattermole, the rich uncle, was admirably played by A. Crawley and his friend, Mr. Marsland, realistically acted by B. Cross.

A special word of praise must go to C. J. Maycock, who brought life to the play with his accurate portrait of the Rev. Robert Spalding, the real private secretary who found it necessary to have his umbrella and golosnes with him always, because if he left them behind "it would be sure to rain, and I suffer so terribly from colds."

The rest of the cast included: J. Ovens, I. Smith, M. A. Goodband and R. E. Neville and J. B. Cooper.

The stage manager was C. Stone, the assistant stage managers were J. P. Manning, F. V. Faulkner R. Clarke, C. D. Digby, K. W. Summers; the electricians were S. A. Scott, S. T. Wells and H. G. Fitch; make-up was by Mr. and Mrs. Don Bugby; and the wardrobe mistress was Miss N. Bavin.

Gay Dog Read the 'Pink 'Un'

"SO you do drink something stronger than tea, and you do read the 'Pink 'Un' and bet on the football pools," said the man home from India when he found that his nephew had grown into a "gay dog."

The man—Mr. Cattermole, was Anthony Crawley, and his nephew, Douglas, was played by Gerald Neville in last night's performance of "The Private Secretary" by Wellingborough Grammar School Dramatic Society.

Most of the laughter during the performance of the three-act farce, based on a confusion of personalities, was drawn from the young audience by their schoolmate, Clifford Maycock. Bird-like he lived the part of Mr. Spalding, the meticulous secretary, who is mistaken by Cattermole as his long lost nephew Clifford did not overlook a single chance of raising a laugh by his ditherings, his foolery with a bowler hat, umbrella and valise, which are knocked flying by fearsome Mr. Cattermole, and a voice which rivalled "Wether-by Wet" of "Waterlogged Spa."

MIX-UP

The misunderstanding compels Douglas, who also wishes to conceal from his uncle that he owes a tailor (Robert Leslie) money, to take Spalding's part as secretary of the squire, Mr Marsland, played by Brian Cross.

Sidney Brown seems a little unsure of himself in the role of Marsland's nephew, Harry, who helps Douglas to hide his true identity.

The comic Miss Ashford is played by John Coleman.

Others in the cast were:—Edith Marsland (Michael Goodband), Eva Webster (Richard Neville), Mrs. Stead (John Cooper), John (Jimmy Ovens) and Knox (Ian Smith).

The play, which was produced by Mr. J. W. Davies, will be showing again to-night and to-morrow night.

Other members of the society responsible for the production are: J. Jager, C. Stone; assistants, J. P. Manning, F. V. Faulkner, R. Clarke, C. D. Digby and K. W. Summers; electricians, S. A. Scott, S. T. Wells and H. G. Fitch; make-up, Mr. and Mrs. D. Bugby; wardrobe, Miss N. Bavin