

LEEDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

PACKED HOUSES AT
THE Y.M.C.A.

Play by St. Saviour's Headmaster

Seven years ago, Mrs A. T. Barber, who has now left Leeds, founded a Children's Theatre, but in spite of the hard work which she devoted to the movement, the Theatre never made any real headway.

In the last two years however, it has caught on and become exceedingly popular. This year's show, "Little Boy Blue," is being performed twelve times at Leeds Y.M.C.A. and nearly 3,000 children will have enjoyed it by the last performance as every seat was booked beforehand. It is a colourful show, all the fine costumes having been made by the members of the cast. The majority of the cast of 22 are Leeds school teachers, but several business men and children play their part as well.

"Little Boy Blue" is a nursery tale fantasy, very much on the lines of pantomime. It contains singing and dancing and an abundance of humour, being written by Mr Arthur Ridley, headmaster of St. Saviour's School, Leeds.

Mrs Elsie B. Brown, who takes the part of Boy Blue is the Secretary, and told a reporter that the show was presented with the idea of providing the children with good entertainment more than education. The price of admission is threepence for children and sixpence for adults. This allows even the poorest child to attend the show. A special performance for adults will be given on March 1st.

It is estimated that by the end of the run the production will have been seen by nearly 3,000 children. If any profits are made they may go back into the enterprise, but it is hoped that in the future it will be possible to share the profits among various charities.

Those taking part are:—Elsie B. Brown, Marjorie H. Cole, Dorothy S. Hurlley, Mary E. Hobson, Diana Laidler, Margaret Gale, Irene Bassom, Arthur Ridley, Arthur Cox, William Mann, Leslie Oliver, John L. Seymour, C. E. Blakeborough, Jack Clapham, James Hobson, William Crisp, Betsy Aitchison, Norma Pain, Doreen Beanland, Joan Smart, Joyce Giles, Eleanor Patterson.

The producer is Mr Arthur Cox, while others who are responsible for the success of the production are.—A. E. B. Brown (Stage Manager), Fred Robinson (Electrician), Beatrice M. Upstone (Costumes Designer), W. Lithgow (House Manager), B. G. Fleicher (Musical Director), W. A. Addelee, and Nellie Child (Dances).

The officers of the Leeds Children's Theatre are as follows:—Chairman: Mr T. E. Tyler, 1, Littleway, Falkland Mount, Leeds 7. Secretary: Mrs E. B. Brown, Tabarin, Park Drive, Horsforth. Treasurer: Mr F. H. Brooke, 37, Upper Wortley Road, Leeds 12. Patrons: Miss Hodge, Miss Ellis, and Mr A. W. Poll.