

## LEEDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

About 250 Leeds school children clapped, shouted and sang themselves hoarse last night at "Little Boy Blue," their own pantomime, presented by the Leeds Children's Theatre, at the Y.W.C.A. Hall.

This movement has been in existence seven years, during which time it has put on a children's show annually, the idea being to stimulate in children a love of the theatre.

Arthur Ridley, this year's author, is a Leeds head master, and he deserved the lusty cheers which his pantomime evoked last night. It is whimsical and clever, and has about it the spirit of simple things, but with more than a dash of sophistication.

The cast, mostly adults, with a sprinkling of children, has been recruited among the 25 teachers and friends of the teaching profession in Leeds who comprise this Children's Theatre organisation. Their work is downright in its appeal. To stand (as one was compelled to do) watching the tense expressions of the young audience, to see the quick smiles of appreciation, followed by ear-splitting applause, was to realise the complete success of this year's production, which concludes its run on Friday.

The schoolboy orchestra deserves special mention. Led by B. G. Fletcher, at the piano, the boys played with a delightful sense of time and melody. At least one of Mr. Fletcher's original tunes should be a "winner."

One could not help admiring such work, even if it were difficult to praise it fully. It is possible, in this instance, to do both with equal confidence.

R. E. W.