

"PATIENCE" HAS COLOUR, HUMOUR AND PUNCH !

For their Gilbert and Sullivan production this year the Burton and District Operatic Society have chosen "Patience" and have cajoled a number of faces from the ranks of the chorus and put them fairly and squarely into leading roles. It is a bold and welcome step.

I will not dwell on the plot, if only because W. S. Gilbert clearly did not dwell on it either. It is described as an "Aesthetic opera" and uses a flimsy story about the love of a sham poet for an innocent young dairymaid to poke fun at a romantic, self-indulgent affectation ("Patience" first appeared in 1881).

Then, of course, there are the tunes. Not Sullivan's best-remembered, perhaps, but good singable and catchy tunes none-the-less and, on the whole, given

sensitive but sinewy treatment by this excellent cast.

This society's chorus goes from strength to strength. From the opening bars, featuring the pining lament of "twenty lovesick maidens, we" (though to look at them, I cannot imagine why) to the closing ensemble, it is the chorus which holds the whole thing together — encouraged, no doubt, by the no-nonsense musical direction of Coral Gould.

Of the principals, Elizabeth Booth — one of the few familiar faces in leading roles — makes an ideal Patience, the girl who has known no love except that for her aunt and a fellow-toddler called Archibald. But Miss Booth was also one of the very few not to have a costume change at the end, which seemed a bit hard!

WELL CAST



THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN OPERETTA "Patience" presented by Burton and District Operatic Society opens at the Wulfrie Lower School, Horninglow, tomorrow night and pictured at the dress rehearsal are, from the left: Richard Dean, Sheila Webber, Ken Lowe, Betty Booth, Ivor Betteridge, Christine George, Pam Clark, Alban Little, Glenna Acres and Mark Fellows.

MEN of the chorus get on parade in Burton Operatic Society's production of "Patience," which is this week drawing music lovers in Burton and district to the Wulfric Lower School, Horningrew.

