

NOVEL PUPPET SHOW

AT DIBDEN PURLIEU

By Well-Known Artist and
His Wife

A most original entertainment in the form of a puppet show was given on Monday at the Dibden Purlieu Study Circle. Mr. Richard Eurich, the artist, and Mrs. Eurich, not only prepared and gave the performance, but also made and dressed the puppets and built the Punch and Judy-like proscenium and stage.

The puppet heads, carved in wood by Mr. Eurich, were the work of a master craftsman, and were full of character.

Mr. Eurich opened with a few words explaining the difference between puppets and marionettes. Marionettes, he said, are put into motion by strings from above, producing gliding, dance-like movements since the feet of the figures swing free, while puppets are worked from below, like Punch and Judy.

Haydn and Mozart both wrote opera for marionettes, and Anatole France declared he would prefer to write drama for puppets than real people.

FROM MIRACLE PLAYS

It is thought that the puppets originated in the popularity of the miracle play: showmen of the period economised by producing a one-man performance, in the form of a puppet show, mostly given to buffoonery.

Mr. Eurich showed a few interesting pictures of Javanese puppets, the arms of which were worked from below with rods. These were also used, he said, for shadow plays.

THE PROGRAMME

Mr. and Mrs. Eurich then gave a most amusing and spirited performance with their puppets. They opened with the folk-song "O Madam, I Will Give You the Keys of Canterbury," and included in their programme the dramatisation of two ballads in Yorkshire dialect, one of Hilaire Belloc's Cautionary Tales, a sketch in which two performing monkeys and a spider predominated, and finally auctioned several articles—a band-box, guitar, pipe, puppy, clavichord and nerve tonic—to the delighted audience.

The chairman, Mr. I. Blackhall, gave a lively speech at the close, using one of the puppets as his medium, and the audience gave appreciative applause for a remarkable entertainment.

Next week a business meeting will close the session.

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