

Questors In

"THE MOON IN THE YELLOW RIVER"

For their first autumn production of this session the Questors chose Denis Johnston's much-debated play, "The Moon in the Yellow River," which enjoyed so successful a West End run.

Much has been written about this play, which is really two, so definitely does the symbolic and inward story of the rebirth of the true spirit of young Ireland underlie the outward and visible story enacted in an old fort, converted into a dwelling house near the mouth of a river at some period before the present war.

This is a play that needs seeing more than once to understand its message, and those who had already seen it in London, as well as those who had not, and some of whom attended more than one presentation last week-end, are indebted to the Questors for a well-balanced, thoughtful and thought-provoking production, with a last scene, depicting a father's dawning love for his motherless daughter, which left a beautiful picture in the mind and a tender memory of hope to carry away.

Produced by Mr. Eric Voce, with Miss Eleanor Bishop as assistant producer, the acting was intelligent and the pattern of the play a clean, clear mosaic, each part fitting well into its socket.

"SARCASTIC NEUROSIS"

Mr. Francis Smith played the role of Dobelle, the embittered father and philosopher suffering from "sarcastic neurosis," with an easy confidence contrasting well with the uneasy and hesitant, yet no less determined, scheme of life followed by Tausch, the German director of the power station, and the representative of bettering the world by material means. This part was acted with sensitive sincerity by Mr. Tom Franklyn.

Nothing became Mr. Richard Wood, who played the role of the idealistic revolutionary, so much as his death at the hands of Commandant Lanigan (Mr. Patrick Day). Miss Phyllis Short, as Dobelle's half-wild young daughter, Blanaid, longing for love and someone to care for, was in a class by herself. She made this young girl in her teens something very real and appealing. The remaining five members of the cast all contributed some quota to the light relief of the play. Mr. Michael Kelly was admirably comic as the slow-witted Willie, Mr. Bill Bayling, as George, the patient and erratic maker of guns and bombs, and Mr. Arthur Brunskill, as his friend of the whisky bottle, Captain Potts, acted as if they thoroughly enjoyed their parts. Agnes, the hot-tempered, loquacious Irish woman servant, was spiritedly personated by Miss Mary Hills, and Miss Barbara Sharp was accommodated with a part after her own heart as Aunt Columba, Dobelle's maiden sister, possessor of a restive bicycle and restless will of her own.

The settings were well designed by Mr. Eric Voce and Mr. Fred Robinson.

A discussion on the play, to which members of the audience were invited, was held on Wednesday.