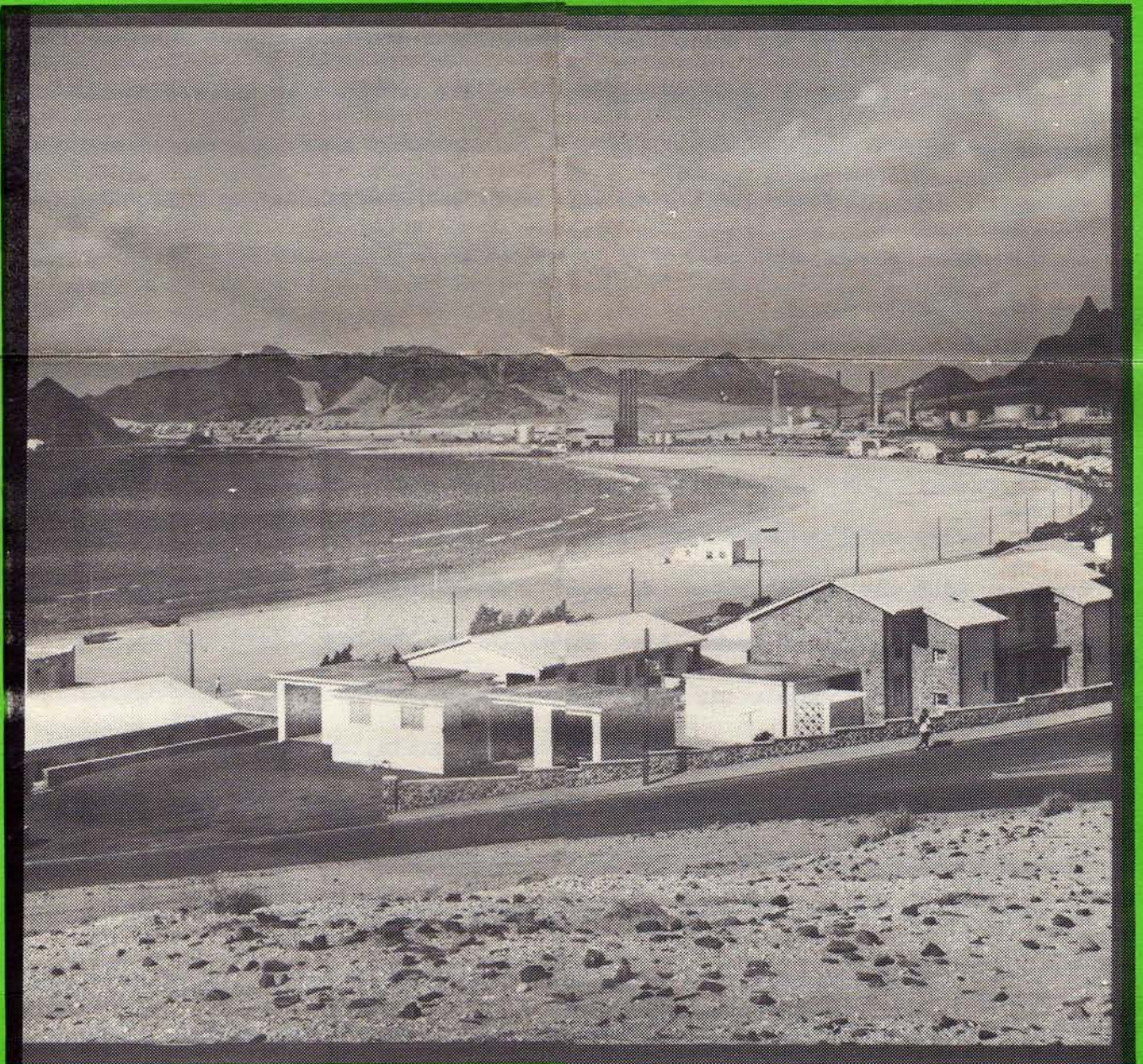


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JOTTINGS



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DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES

The Little Aden Dramatic Society opened the current season on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week with their production of Basil Thomas' "Book of the Month".

The story is a topical one which concerns a teenage authoress, rather in the Françoise Sagan mould, who managed to shock her highly respectable family whose main concern is with how their friends in Cheltenham will react when they recognise themselves as characters in a very frank modern novel. The unusual second scene in which the characters portray their counterparts in the book "Bare Besem'd Night" was well received and the complete contrast in the costume and character came across very well. After this riotously amusing scene it was unfortunate that the final act was so very short and lacking in any real climax. It says much for the cast that they were able to maintain the pace of the play towards the end.

Doreen Slade and Bill Hays as the worried and shocked parents showed their experience of stage craft in making the characters they portrayed believable and were also mainly responsible for maintaining a brisk pace throughout. Marcia Pelley as the authoress did a very fine job as the bewildered and unsure teenager with the slight veneer of sophistication required to enable her to write the controversial book. Alan Mainwaring as the boy friend who kept on starting but never completing books was excellent in the part. The "characters" in the play, Dorothy Scrivens as the Aunt, Ian Merrin, an ex-Army friend of the family, the Doctor and family friend Stephen Betts and Doris the maid as played by Barbara Webb, gave able support to the principals and took fullest advantage of their parts which gave them some of the most amusing lines of the play.

The producer on this occasion was Ray Attwood and he turned out a play which maintained its pace when it could so easily have become static. This is his first venture as a producer with the Society and we look forward to his future productions.