

Wartime Dr. brought to life by players

A famous radio character created during World War II came to the Allendale Centre last week-end in the person of private eye Doctor Morelle — presented in a comedy thriller of that name by Wimborne Drama Club.

Understandably, the play — written by Ernest Dudley and Arthur Watkyn — with its blatantly contrived situations, was dated; but the players were very much on their toes and gave a good account of themselves.

As the blackmailing adventurer Brian Cartwright, Arthur Brooks — one of the club's stalwarts — gave an understanding performance, and David Green was admirably cast as Dr. Morelle, being ably partnered by Hannah Bradley as his zany assistant, Miss Frayle.

Well contrasted in their respected roles were the four blackmail victims: Jane Sherwill portraying Cartwright's actress ex-mistress, June Lister; Raymonde Grenville appearing as his former secretary Evelyn Wells, Simon Jackson playing Evelyn's fiancé Philip Troon; and David Sherwill acting convincingly as the drunken driver Nigel Forbes, whose recklessness gave rise to the incident which provided Cartwright with the opportunity for blackmail.

Making his first appearance in a full-length play, Peter Brooks gave a sincere characterization as the butler, Miles, as did Spencer Hare in his role as the reporter, Guthrie.



Philip Troon (Simon Jackson), Evelyn Wells (Raymonde Grenville) and Brian Cartwright (Arthur Brooks) in a tense scene from Wimborne Drama Club's production of "Dr. Morelle" at the Allendale Community Centre last week.

The play was produced and directed by Thelma Dryden, who also designed the attractive study setting in conjunction with Caroline Hickmott.

John and Elizabeth Anthony and Roy Bruin stage-managed; Robert Cooper was responsible for lighting and sound; Kathy

Macaulay, Mavis Hazelden and Sarah Anthony were in charge of properties; and Murie Brooks prompted. Front of house duties were undertaken by Wendy Bruin and the Centre staff; and Jan Stevenson was publicity manager. — T.A.