

on Saturday mornings, but who, therefore, had Monday mornings free; the Children's Theatre was therefore no longer a voluntary organisation—it was part of the programme undertaken by the Speech and Drama Department. The Education Committee of the Town Council were responsible for the supply of equipment and necessary incidental expenditure, and although the members of the audience paid only a nominal sum, namely 6d., this money went to the City Chamberlain's Department.

In 1954, the Town Council purchased an old church hall, small and somewhat awkwardly shaped, but it was equipped and, after considerable thought, it was converted into a little theatre as convenient as possible for audience and actor. There are comfortable dressing rooms under the stage level with hot and cold water, mirrors for make-up and, on the first floor, a large room which serves as a cloakroom, (for every child in the audience must leave his coat and hat with the person in charge), and a refreshment room at the interval. This little theatre has disadvantages in being so small, but there are so many advantages in having the exclusive right of entry and usage, that those of us who rehearse with the children, or work in the workshop, or assist with costumes, or supply refreshments, are grateful for the freedom and the many opportunities to develop the work that could not possibly occur if we were still in a temporary building not our own. In this, the Central Children's Theatre, there is a group of children in the 10–15 age group who are enrolled as members after auditions are held and who must accept a very strict form of discipline in relation to attendance at rehearsals; behaviour at the refreshment break and in general must be sociably acceptable. Approximately thirty children are accepted for membership. There



*An enchanted audience at the Mobile Children's Theatre performance of the "Storyteller", by Brian Way. (Photo by courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)*