

Le Sinfonietta at New Hall, University College, Cardiff

Ensemble of high quality

LE SINFONIETTA is the regional orchestra of Picardy and, as their performance on Wednesday night showed, it is an emblem of high quality.

It was unfortunate that their varied programme was curtailed owing to the small size of the audience.

However, they performed enough to enable those who were present to appreciate that their conductor, Alexandre Myrat, is an interesting musician who is well worth hearing under more felicitous circumstances.

But at a time when performances of Mozart symphonies are becoming lighter in tone and fleetier of tempo, I could not find myself in sympathy with

By IFAN
PAYNE

the proto-Beethoven approach to the first two movements of the *Symphony No 9*.

But as Miss Myrat had showed during the performance of Haydn's *Symphony No 97* with which the concert opened, he has a sure and rhythmic touch with minuets and this, combined with a particularly spirited tempo for the finale made for a convincing second pair of movements to the Mozart.

That interpretation of the Haydn symphony had also been notable for being a performance that was fresh, unfussy and full

of judicious tempi and colourful effects.

Routh's *Oboe Concerto*, with Bernard Phillippee, as soloist, was in a chattering *moto-notae*, if not *moto perpetuo*, style and if it was not immediately particularly attractive or memorable, it was nevertheless a substantial work with a certain rugged quality.

That a well-programmed concert held in the concert hall of the music department of our university cannot raise a dozen or two music students and staff is surely interesting.

That the exit doors to the hall were locked during the performance is surely illegal.