

FESTIVAL OF FOLK-DANCE

LONDON, FRIDAY

At the annual festival of the English Folk Dance Society in the Albert Hall pride of place as a rule is given to teams of dancers from abroad. To-night's festival unfortunately lacked the Portuguese dancers who were to have been the principal guests; difficulties of transport had at the last moment prevented their coming. Foreign folk-dance was represented by a charming Swedish weaving dance—given, however, not by Swedes but by a group from the Society for International Folk Dancing—and by a candle dance and a parasol dance from Sumatra, given by Indonesians who are students in London.

In the candle dance, which is one of the more spectacular items of Indonesian folk-dance, the performer holds a candle in each hand and in the course of her acrobatic contortions she must not allow these candles to be extinguished; such is the purpose of the dance. The Swedish weaving dance is a thing of grace and of a certain sophistication, too; to-night it was a succession of circles, lines, and arches formed by men in yellow breeches and bright waistcoats (they looked a little like the footmen from some musical comedy) and by pretty girls in coloured skirts and fashionably demure little hats.

Foreign folk-dance, however, contributed rather less to this festival than to its predecessors. Indeed, this festival was remarkably English, it was noticeable that it did not even contain a dance or dancer from Scotland or Ireland. It was a more homely—and less ambitious—display than usual,

depending mainly on the cheerful and easy conviviality of the English. Country dances and on the enduringly attractive intricacies of the steps of the Morris men. Apart from the expert performances given by the London members of the society the principal morris dances to-night came from the men of Abingdon.

Boys from Ampleforth College in Yorkshire contributed a sword dance—traditional to the village of Ampleforth and recently revived there by the college—and Jack Toaduff, of Durham, gave a jolly clog dance which, in default of any rival from Scotland or Ireland, was certainly the greatest show of virtuosity in the festival. Square dancing was much in evidence; not what the society would describe as the "jigged up" variety, which has recently been talked about, but the simpler, unadorned, and greatly preferable sort which many Americans and a few British people have been dancing for years and years.

J. H. M.

PRINCESS MARGARET AT BERWICK

Sleet was falling steadily last night when Princess Margaret left the Fying Scotsman at Berwick-on-Tweed to spend the week-end at Marchmont House, Greenlaw, near Duns. She attended the Berwickshire Hunt Ball last night.

If there is a thaw, there will be a meet of the Berwickshire hounds this morning and Princess Margaret is expected to attend. On Tuesday she will go to Bowhill, Selkirkshire, as the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch.