

admirer. What would Anne Nightingale have made of that?

Theatres

Civic Theatre, Leeds: Leeds Arts Centre in "The Hollow Crown," (devised by John Barton)

THIS explanatory compilation about English kingship sprang from a desire by John Barton to show how it affected the bulk of Shakespearean thought. The crown is the dominant symbol throughout the hangs golden and central in Gordon Carlin's production at the Civic this week.

Under it, in evening dress, sit the four articulate speakers, three men and one woman, as in the original of 1961. All of

them, Jacky Ball, Roger Cook, David Scott and Don Wilson, have a nice easy poise and voices that make one listen to the words.

The three musicians who accompany them charmingly are Gillian Thresh, Trevor Money and Robin Polley.

We have therefore a happy union of amateurs in song, music and the spoken word regaling us with the rulers of our country, from the Anglo-Saxons to Queen Victoria and everything between.

Successful though Mr. Barton's compilation has been internationally, it is not a favourite work of mine.

Unless it has the voices, personalities and names of a Gielgud or an Ashcroft, however dedicated the speaker may be, it comes over as a rather passionless set of readings from scripts. **DESMOND PRATT**