

## Ibsen Well Played By Repertory Society

The most striking feature of the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society's production Ibsen's "John Gabriel Borkman" last night was the naturalness and spontaneity of the players. All the characters had been exceptionally well cast, and Miss Barbara Sisley, as producer, secured a smooth performance.

For the most part gloomy, the play does not express any violent or unusual ideas. A banker has failed through over-reaching, and has paid the penalty by a term in gaol. But he has not lost faith in his power to rehabilitate himself. His wife, however, is unforgiving, and looks to her son to wipe out the stain on the family honour. It is her will that is to control the son, while her sister, who has had charge of the boy during his tender years, wants to keep him from motives of pure womanly love. Neither of them realises that he wants to live his own life.

Each member of the cast played with sincerity; Miss Kathleen Hirst, as the disillusioned and unforgiving wife; Miss Noel Chandler, as the sister; and Mr. John Doiby, as Erhart Borkman, the son.

There was no over-acting, which would have been an easy temptation to the player of the young divorcee (Miss Audrey Court). Mr. W. A. Blake, as the elder Borkman, was sufficiently dignified as that Micawberesque character without the Micawber easy-going humour. Mr. Ralph Taylor made much of the part of a subordinate clerk in the Government service, and the smaller roles of his daughter and Mrs. Borkman's maid were filled by Misses Beryl Holloway and Margo Ives.

The society's orchestra, under Mr. Erich John, played between the acts.