

REPERTORY THEATRE SOCIETY.

The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society presented last night at His Majesty's Theatre, "In Beauty it is Finished," the three-act play by George Landen Dann, which won the prize offered recently by the society.

The author at the final curtain made a modest little speech, which greatly disarmed criticism of his work. He aimed at tragedy, and achieved tragedy, but hardly in the Aristotelian sense of raising pity and horror. To a certain extent one felt pity for the main character, who was driven to do untellable things because of the deadliness of her surroundings at home; but of horror there was none. Not even a convenient suicide. Mr. Dann adopted a theme, probably prompted by his own observation, but nevertheless very closely allied to that used by Eugene O'Neill in one of his best-known plays. The central character in both plays has to make a confession that is unbelievable by those nearest to her. Mr. O'Neill leads up to this scene with high appreciation of its dramatic content; Mr. Dann, in spite of the excellent portrayal of the character by Dulcie Scott, could not grip his audience. In preliminary discussion the play was described as intense drama, but its intensity failed to materialise in performance; and it is possible that those responsible for selecting the play foresaw this, for the programme contained a defensive note, to the effect that the three judges of the play were "unanimous in their choice. . . . In their opinion it made the nearest approach to the standard aimed at by the Repertory Movement." One has no right to quarrel with that. Certain lines might

be deleted, however, and one or two scenes might be reconsidered by Mr. Dann with advantage. For instance, when David Edmonds orders his wife not to comfort her sinning daughter, she obeys. More still she weeps, her head down on the table, and when told not to weep replies that she is "crying for herself"! The breaking of the First Commandment might be avoided also without weakening the dialogue.

The acting was good. Mrs. P. J. Symes made an excellent self-sacrificing mother; Hilda Hastie, a natural daughter; Miss Scott, who carried the heaviest burden as the wayward child, was excellent, and Edith Rowett as the

well produced by Miss Barbara Sisley. The stage management was in the hands of Dr. J. V. Duhig, and the incidental music was furnished by the Wilton State School Orchestra under Mr. Walter Collings.

"In Beauty it is Finished" will be repeated to-night.