

BRISBANE SHOWS "THE DOVER ROAD"

Repertory Players' Fine Performance

The players of the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society staged an admirable performance of A. A. Milne's three-act comedy, "The Dover Road," before a large and appreciative audience at the Princess Theatre, South Brisbane, on Saturday evening. Milne's mellow wit and his whimsical fancy have an effective setting in this skilful satire on Gretna Green romances, and the disillusionment that follows runaway marriages and daily propinquity over the breakfast toast and marmalade. Mr. Latimer, a wealthy eccentric, with a cynically humorous turn of mind, considers it his special mission in life to act as host to runaway couples, whom he politely but firmly detains for a few days as his unwilling guests. At the end of the probationary period they are free to go, but usually each sees the other as he or she really is, and Mr. Latimer, whose little plot has nipped the romance in the bud, earns their undying gratitude.

The play opens with the arrival at Mr. Latimer's home, off the Dover Road, of "Leonard" and "Anne," a runaway husband and a girl, who imagines he is her beau ideal. Unknown to Leonard, however, his wife, Eustacia, has also run away with a young admirer, and a humorous climax is reached when the two couples meet face to face. By this time all the gilt has worn off the gingerbread of romance. Leonard, grubby and unshaven, afflicted with a cold in the head, and an enormous appetite for kidneys and bacon, is, in Anne's eyes, an unlovely object in the pitiless light of the morning. But Eustacia finds anew her love for her erring husband in coddling him with mustard plasters and hot water bottles, much to the relief of Nicholas, her erstwhile admirer, who has had a lucky escape from a lifetime of boredom. The action flows smoothly on to an amusing ending with

smoothly on to an amusing ending with the arrival of a bishop and his female companion.

The role of the quixotic Mr. Latimer was well sustained by Mr. Vince Fogarty, whose performance was one of placid urbanity, tinged with a suave, satiric humour; the talkative Eustacia was ably played by Miss Patricia Trace; Mr. Norton Stable was happily cast as Nicholas; and Miss Vera Tighe gave a polished portrayal of the romantic, unsophisticated Anne. Mr. Redmond O'Hara was excellently cast as the selfish and ineffectual Leonard, and Mr. W. A. Blake was a pompous and dignified figure as Dominic, the butler. The remaining parts were capably filled by Misses Gwen Campbell, Patricia Steedman, Olga Moore, and Messrs. Tom Mac-Minn, Ernest Busch, and David Anning. "The Dover Road" will be repeated on May 16 and 23.