

DIVERSIFIED PLAYS BY AMATEURS

"The Woman and the Walnut Tree," which Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society staged in Princess Theatre last night, is something of a "conversation piece." It scarcely could be otherwise with an all-woman cast. Placidly it pursues its course from suffragette times in London in 1912 until 1937. The principal characters move from scene to scene, changing attire to suit fashion demands, and when they have "pointed" lines they say them with a wealth of meaning.

Credit for smooth continuity seems to go equally to Daphne Roemermann for her careful production and to the excellent cast. Both these factors in amateur stage work were above average.

Audrey Court has done nothing better than her study of the woman who suffers and suffers and suffers in zealous pursuit of an ideal. Beryl Rickard brings a fine sense of comedy and timing to her role of a knowing maidservant, and Clare Clarke is restrained and dignified as the mother of two daughters very opposite in character. Others who gave good performances are Betty Brown, Joan Goadby, Dorothy Clarke, Ruth Snars, Betty Ross, Marie Dickinson, Betty Durston, Betty Weatherlake, and Marjorie Pillinger.

"The Woman and the Walnut Tree" will be repeated to-night.

MYSTERY COMEDY

Fast pace is necessary to the successful presentation of mystery plays, and the Queensland Catholic Lawn Tennis Association Amateur Dramatic Club, in presenting "The Ghost Bird," in All Saints' Hall last night, watched this essential well. Humour and suspense, when necessary, also were well exploited, with the result that the piece left a good impression. The company has improved greatly since its first appearance early this year. "Prop" effects were well controlled by the producer (Dave Doyle).

While the full import of some situations were not fully grasped by one or two players, the cast as a whole did well. Dave Doyle, Kevin Howes, Arthur Stanford, Mary Moynihan, and Carmel

Stanford, Mary Moynihan, and Carmel Heenan being outstanding. Others who took part were Brian Moynihan, Audrey Green, William Warren, Howard Farrelly, Eunice Bevan, Heather Gain, and Kathleen Johnston. Another performance of "The Ghost Bird" will be given to-night.—TE PANA.