

"HAMLET"

Repertory Society's Success

The production of "Hamlet" by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society, in the Princess Theatre on Saturday evening, was a sincere and painstaking attempt by Shakespeare lovers to give a worthy representation of this masterpiece. "Hamlet" is the first Shakespearian play which has been attempted by the society. The producer (Miss Barbara Sisley) and her stage assistants certainly succeeded in achieving their intention of following the Elizabethan manner of presentation as closely as possible, thus securing the right atmosphere and background.

That the players individually were imbued with the same spirit was abundantly evident. The portrayal of the title role by Mr. Leo Guyatt was outstanding. That, of course, was in accord with the dramatist's intention; and, to so describe Mr. Guyatt's performance is only another way of saying that he rose fully to the occasion and made the most of the abundant opportunities afforded by his part. His acting throughout was marked by praiseworthy restraint. Possessing all the natural charms with which the great playwright invested the beautiful Ophelia, Miss Moya Connolly displayed a measure of talent which enabled her to give an interpretation intellectually and dramatically satisfying.

MINISTER'S SUCCESS

The appearance in amateur theatricals of a Cabinet Minister is something a little out of the ordinary, and the knowledge that the Minister for Public Instruction (Mr. Cooper) would be in the cast gave a little added interest to the production. In his rendering of the part of King Claudius Mr. Cooper made an earnest endeavour to faithfully interpret Shakespeare's conception of the part. It was a part by no means easy to carry off, and the success with which it was achieved was therefore all the greater a tribute to the actor's ability. Miss Vera Tighe, as Queen Gertrude, made the most of the part. Mr. Ludovic Gordon as Polonius, Mr.

Ludovic Gordon as Polonius, Mr. John McCallum as Horatio, and Mr. Jim Mant as Laertes, filled their roles with credit.

In accordance with the custom in Shakespeare's day there was only one interval, and during this an Elizabethan dance was presented by students of the Danaher—O'Brien School of Dancing. The Repertory Society's orchestra, under Mr. Erich John, played incidental music from the works of the early English composers.