

"JACOB'S LADDER" Repertory Theatre's Success

Seldom has so well balanced and highly polished a play been introduced on the Queensland repertory stage as "Jacob's Ladder," produced by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society, and staged for the first time last night. It has highly dramatic situations which are never overdone, and its dialogue is a blend of the forceful, witty, and broadly humorous, with many a touch of delightful subtlety. Full justice was done by the players to the admirable work of the dramatist. It was the first effort of Mr. Norman MacOwan, which has been taken in hand by the Repertory Society, and it is hoped it will not be the last.

The two minutes' silence observed on Armistice Day proved the most potent factor in the future lives of two friends, and as one of them subsequently remarked that short silence was "a big advance on Jacob's Ladder."

The brunt of the dramatic burden was borne by Mr. C. B. Christesen as David Maxton and Mr. Tom MacMinn as Tommy Whistler. Mr. Christesen's interpretation of the leading role was most restrained, yet perfectly natural. He was seen at his best discussing with his wife the reasons for their estrangement—a dialogue interrupted by the sudden appearance of Blazeby. In the death scene, Mr. Christesen was admirable.

The role of Tommy Whistler could have been spoiled by loose acting, but Mr. MacMinn's rendering of the eccentric role afforded evidence of undoubted talent.

Miss Mary Gibson, in the third and final acts, which made the greatest

final acts, which made the greatest demands on her histrionic skill, rose admirably to the occasion. Mr. Ludovick Gordon filled the role of Mr. Dorrincourt, Mr. Robert Kelly that of Captain Peter Blazeby, and Miss Olga Moore that of Esther Maxton. Miss Barbara Sisley was the producer, and Mr. MacMinn, honorary stage manager. "Jacob's Ladder" will be repeated this evening.

Lieutenant Alan Wedel Ramsay McNicoll, of the Royal Australian Navy, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. Lieutenant-Commander McNicoll is a son of the Administrator of New Guinea (Sir Walter McNicoll).