

STRIKING PLAY BY REPERTORY

"Kind Lady," a drama written by Edward Chodorov from one of Hugh Walpole's stories, must be one of the most distressing plays of modern times, and it is safe to say that many of those who attended its production by Daphne Roermann for the Repertory Theatre Society last night will be haunted for days by the tortured face of the leading character, played almost flawlessly by Gladys Parkinson.

Some may doubt the credibility of the long nightmare experience which befell a lonely gentlewoman because of the neglect of her heedless relative. Actually, the plot is more probable today than in the period of Walpole's *Herries* cycle, modern living conditions making it not only possible but topical. That the audience realised this, and was moved by the play's horror (admirably theatrical in authorship) was proved by gasps of appreciation.

Performance got away to a very late start and the many intervals were too long. Several players spoke too softly and the cast really came to life at the beginning of the vivid second act while the wordless opening of the third was excellently done. Gladys Parkinson's characterisation was delicate watercolour, Colin Luckman a modern design full of subtle intelligence, Frank Badger presented a good portrait in oils, and Gloria Birdwell Smith a candid camera snapshot. As the casting showed skill and understanding.—D. L. WARAKER.