

"SHEPPEY"

Fine Repertory Play

Somerset Maugham, in "Sheppey," which was played by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society last night, has ~~more~~ more than in any of his earlier plays. "Sheppey" is a barber who is a great believer in his own good luck. This, however, does not detract from his tact when dealing with his customers, nor from his skill as a salesman in selling to his clients in the chair concoctions in which he has no faith and which they do not want. A great change comes over him when he wins a prize in the Irish sweep. He is not surprised, "he expected it," and his mind is made up about what he will do. He has had his eye on a little house in the Isle of Sheppey, his native place, where he will settle with his wife and live in peace for the rest of his days. This is the first act, somewhat slow in action, but culminating in a sudden realisation by Sheppey that there is sorrow and want in the world. In the second act he is seen with his mind made up afresh. The money he has won is not for him, he argues, it is not for his family—it is to help humanity. Wonderfully well worked out is the theme, through opposition from his family—all except his wife, dear soul—and disappointment in the conduct of those to whom his heart is turned.

It is a fine play, with much wit and bright humour, in Mr. Maugham's best manner, and it was finely acted by the majority of the players.

Mr. Jum. Pendleton sustained the name part with his usual sureness of touch. Miss Marian Askew, as Mrs. Miller, Sheppey's wife, displayed all the understanding of this humble woman, who never regretted a moment of her 23 years of married life. Miss Babette Fergusson, however, gave the outstanding performance in her impersonation of Bessie Legros. Mr. Ludovick Gordon was excellent as Dr. Jervis, and Miss Jessie Miller, as Florrie, Sheppey's daughter, and Mr. W. A. Blake, as a sneak thief, were both deserving of praise.

"Sheppey" will be repeated to-night at the Princess Theatre, Annerley Road.

TRAFFIC MESSAGE

Cut out cutting in—it isn't safe.
Issued by R.A.C.Q.