

ENTERTAINMENTS

"THE ROMANTIC YOUNG LADY."

"When a woman sees fit to faint there is nothing more to be said." is one of the dicta of Dona Barbarita, a very wise old lady in Gregorio Martinez Sierra's three-act comedy, "The Romantic Young Lady," presented last night at Cremorne Theatre by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society. The whole play is light but very entertaining, and without a dull moment unless here and there a passage was not put over to its full effect. The translation by the Granville-Barkers is perfectly satisfactory, the dialogue being as flowing as if it had been written originally in English. The story—that of a young woman falling in love with an author through reading his books—would have been banal but for the piquancy of its presentment. The hero—if he is a hero—is not above showing that he is in no way so exquisite a creature as the heroine imagines from his beautiful writing; and there is subtlety about the goldfish which the audience meets in the second act, quite unlike that of the goldfish that figured in an American comedy that was played in Brisbane a few years ago. The scene is laid in Madrid on two consecutive evenings in August, at the present time (more or less), and the characters are all Spanish, but not violently so. The only one of the cast who should have been a Carmen gave a very mild picture of the lady. Miss Barbara Sisley, who produced the play, achieved an excellent portrayal of the old lady of much wisdom and considerable tact. Miss Heryl Telford was sweetly petulant as the romantic young lady; and Miss Rhoda Feigate added another to her long list of comedy parts well played, as the family servant who either listened behind doors or had second sight. Miss Daphne Francis developed as her role proceeded. A little awkward at first, she became quite natural and self-forgetful later. Mr. Jim Pendleton and Mr. Edgar Smith both played up to their reputation, although Mr. Smith was a little incoherent at times. Perhaps it was the beard. The pleasant surprise of the evening was the natural gift of acting disclosed by Mr. Loftus Hyde. Others in the cast were Miss Edna Keane, Messrs. Tom Stephens, Jim Feigate, and Graham Macdonald. Gilbert's "Comedy and Tragedy" was staged as a curtain-raiser, with Miss Dulcie Scott as the actress. The test of the play is the "acting" of the actress—the comedy she plays while tragedy proceeds within earshot. Miss Scott acted magnificently.

The programme will be repeated to-night.