

TWO BRIGHT PLAYS REPERTORY SEASON OPENS

The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society opened their season last night at the Theatre Royal with two plays translated from the Spanish by Helen and Harley Granville-Barker. The first of these—"Wife to a Famous Man"—is from the pen of G. M. Sierra, whose "The Romantic Young Lady" the society staged at Cremorne in 1932; and the other—"Dona Clarines"—is the work of the brothers S. and J. Alvarez Quintero. Both provided delightful entertainment.

The wife to a famous man is a person of humble lineage, but the lady who gives her name to the other play represents the aristocracy, not, however, without an obtrusion of decadence. The two members of the society who sustained these strongly contrasted roles, each with a fine insight into the character, were Miss Dulcie Scott and Miss Barbara Sisley.

Marianna, who runs a laundry out of which she has managed to support her husband for 10 years, does not get her head turned when he suddenly becomes famous as an airman. Jose Maria on the contrary is more pleased with himself than ever, and more or less rides the high-horse. Mr. Leo Guyatt filled the part well. He realised the self-conceit, the arrogance, the inclination to self-indulgence of the purposeless man who has achieved one success. Noticeably good performances were also given by Mr. Robert Kelly and Miss Pearl Pollard.

The action of the second play all revolves round the apparent eccentricities of "Dona Clarines," who had been disappointed in love. The play contains some excellent lines for the old lady, which Miss Sisley delivered with point, and for two cronies—a doctor and the old lady's brother, who is the obtrusion of decadence. These two, played by Mr. Walter Blake and Mr. "Jum" Pendleton, achieved some very effective moments in their scenes together. The young love interest was represented by Miss Beryl Telford and Mr. Jim Felgate, who gave perfectly natural performances. An old housekeeper, Tata, was played by Miss Edith Rowett; the part of quite an unusual maid servant, with a droll brother, who never actually arrives on the scene, was played by Miss Gwen Campbell, and music between the acts was furnished by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society's orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Eric John.

The two plays will be repeated at the Theatre Royal to-night.