

"AT MRS. BEAM'S."

The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society staged last night at Cremorne "At Mrs. Beam's," C. K. Munro's farcical comedy, as its second production of the 1930 season. The play, which is of boarding-house life in London, has been a great success, both in that city and New York. That it should be in London one can understand, for it portrays established types; that it should have been an equal success in America makes one search for other reasons. They have, of course, their own boarding-house types, but not quite so typically English as those found at Mrs. Beam's establishment. The chief other reason—its ingredient of success—can be found in its humour. Sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious, and sometimes uproarious, last night it searched its way through the audience, and kept them merry the whole night long. The chief difficulty in staging such a play is that it must be well acted; and this it was by the Repertory players, ably directed, too, by Mr. Jum Pendleton. The weight of the play has to be carried by two or three characters: First comes "Miss Shoe," a boarding-house cat, but, withal a good-natured cat, with a nose that scents out mysteries, and not a little scandal. "Accuracy in these matters is most essential," she emphasises. And as a corrective of others' faults "there is nothing achieved by swearing." Miss Irene Silvester made a splendid "Miss Shoe," although there is no splendour about the lady's character. Then there is a lady of mysterious origin, of passionate love, of temper—and herself a tempter. No one could have better played the part of "Laura Pasquale" than Miss Dulcie Scott. The third is a man of calmness and good humour, exactly suited to Mr. George Eaton in his best style. The remaining characters were played with success by Dr. F. W. Whitehouse, Misses Hilda Hastie, Rhoda Felgate, Beryl Telford, Ercil Kelly, Ruth Simpson, Messrs. Jack Reading and Cecil Carson.

"At Mrs. Beam's" will be repeated to-night.