

ENTERTAINMENTS

REPERTORY SOCIETY.

"CHERRY ACRES."

"Cherry Acres," a dainty and delightful romance, was staged at the Cremorne Theatre last night by the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society. It met with a well-deserved and enthusiastic welcome from a large audience. It is a vivacious and elfish love story, strongly leavened with quiet humour, in which an extremely likeable and youngish trustee treats his somewhat irresponsible ward, a fascinating young damsel, as he thinks she ought to be treated, allowing her full scope for her generous nature and lovable disposition, sure in the knowledge that her own sweetness will shield her from harm, but always ready, like St. George, to destroy any interfering dragons. In love with her himself, he does not obtrude, and permits a "family arrangement" for her engagement to a smug, snobbish young man to pursue its way to an ultimate breaking off of family arrangements. A singularly austere and disagreeable aunt, fearful of "what the neighbours will say," and only too anxious to uphold the dignity of the family, interposes with a stern sense of duty to change the care-free girl into a "pattern" fit for the Tudors, and provides the motive for sundry interesting happenings. There is no villain, and all ends in a delightful, Christmassy atmosphere, with joy bells ringing, and everybody, including the crusty aunt, perfectly happy. The play is by Mrs. Dorothea Tobin, of Sydney, and with it she won the prize competition conducted by the society.

As Margaret Ann, the ward, Miss Kathleen M'Gregor was a piquant personality, with varying moods, her sense of punctuality being constantly subordinated to dreamy reveries. She was gay and demure by turns, and finally, in a burst of vocal extravagance, summoned up enough courage to effectively "damn" her unwelcome aunt. A more ideal guardian than Mr. Cecil Carson could scarcely be imagined. He was a genial character, charmingly solicitous for the happiness of his ward, and full of delightfully impudent wiles to circumnavigate the intentions of the aunt. Miss Edith Rowett as the aunt was well placed. Impressed by the family's importance, she was starchy acidulated, laying down the law with a ruthless hand, and making herself thoroughly objectionable. It was a good piece

a ruthless hand, and making herself thoroughly objectionable. It was a good piece of character acting. There is another ward in the story, a lad whom the guardian wangled into becoming a Christmas guest at "Cherry Acres" with his dog. This part was taken by Master Alan Carson, who at once won the hearts of the audience with his typical boyishness, carelessness of grammar use of slang, and general disregard of the pompous niceties of polite society. Miss Italia Guyatt, as Mrs. Brown, the housekeeper, was a cheery, motherly soul, radiating happiness except when the aunt was too much in evidence. Mr. Jack Reading was well placed as Eustace Treeves, the "family arranged" fiancée of Margaret Ann, smug and self-satisfied, and supremely confident that he was so absolutely right. Miss Mary Luya, as Molly Murray, who eventually replaced Margaret in Eustace's affections, was quite refreshing. Mrs. R. Parkinson, as Margaret's "little mother," who had incurred the aunt's wrath by remarrying, was dainty and effective. Two little girls, Joan Salkeld and Gwen. Sullivan, as participants in the Christmas festivities, were sparkling and natural. Mr. W. A. Blake, first as the manager of the estate, and later as Santa Claus, was likeable in every respect. The play was admirably staged, and a capable orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Walter Collings, provided acceptable incidental music, which added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. The play was produced by Mr. George B. Eaton. It will be repeated to-night.