

Melodrama Played By Repertory

"A Second Moses," a play of the melodramatic kind so popular a generation ago, written by George Dann, of Brisbane, was produced successfully last night at the Princess Theatre by Miss Barbara Sisley, for the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society.

The play was written around the life of Mrs. Caroline Chisholm—"A Second Moses in Bonnet and Shawl"—who did much helpful work for unfortunate female immigrants in New South Wales almost 100 years ago. There were stock types—the major, the captain, the governor, the clergy, the Scot, and the Irishman. But they rang true to type, and were well played.

The standard of acting was exceptionally even throughout, and reached heights of excellence in parts. On last night's experience the producer doubtless will make a substantial cut in the first scene to-night and in a wearisome discussion in act 2.

Daphne Roemermaun, as Mrs. Caroline Chisholm, carried well the weight of the performance. Hers was an exacting part, unrelieved by any light flashes. Peter Buchanan spoke the lines and looked the part of Captain Chisholm, and Clare Clarke and Kellert Cameron acquitted themselves well.

Four of those playing minor parts will be remembered pleasantly for having made the most of every line, for having created neat little pictures of intensely human men and women. These were Betty Ross (as Flora Anderson), Maibry Wiagge (as Mrs. Faulkner), Ley Outridge (the man who sought help and feared work), and Ludovick Gordon (in a priceless scene as the ancient Scot).

The Repertory Society has produced other and better plays by Mr. Dann—"No Incense Rising" and "In Beauty It Is Finished"—and it is doing an excellent service in making known these plays by Australians, having Australian history as a background. The society's

history as a background. The society's orchestra, conducted by Erich Joann, played well in several selections.