

## "GRIEF GOES OVER"

### Repertory Society's Success

Poor straws! On the dark flood we  
catch awhile.  
Cling, and are borne into the night  
The laugh dies with the lips, love with  
the lover.  
And Grief goes over.

Rupert Brooke's lines provide the thematic basis for Merton Hodge's three-act play, "Grief Goes Over," which the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society presented to a large and appreciative audience at the Princess Theatre, South Brisbane, on Saturday night. The society was formed in 1925 to stimulate public interest in the drama and encourage the study of dramatic literature and art, and the success of its endeavours can be gauged by the admirable performance of the cast in its latest production.

"Grief Goes Over" is not a pretentious play; it makes no powerful appeal to the intellect and the imagination, but therein lies its chief charm. The author has given a cross-section of everyday life, without any dramatic overtones in this story of an English family, which is the story of any family whom Death has robbed of its nearest and dearest. Skillful, without being subtle, rich in sentiment without being mawkish, the play is woven with human sympathies, and lightened with clever flashes of humour.

In an excellent cast the performance of Mrs. Parkinson as "Blanche Oldham" was outstanding. As the gentle-natured devoted mother who has lost a son and daughter-in-law within two years she is the central figure of the play, and she acted a difficult role with admirable restraint and naturalness. But grief is mercifully evanescent, and the curtain falls on an effective ending, with "Blanche" leaning back tiredly in her chair awaiting the return of her youngest son, "Kim," from a party. Time has assuaged his grief at the death of his girl-wife, "Mary Lou," and the affection between he and Joan, devoted friend of Mary Lou, is already ripening into love. Mr. Jack Walsh was admirably cast as "Kim Oldham," interpreting with fine dramatic insight the role of the eager, carefree youth, in love with love and life, whose happiness vanishes so completely until the dawning promise of its regaining when "grief goes over." Miss Edna Keane was charming as "Mary Lou," and the difficult love passages and frank dialogue in the typical modern manner between her and "Kim" were carried through with a natural spontaneity and a complete absence of gaucherie. Mr. Tom MacMinn, as the unhappy "Tony Oldham," was excellently cast. Miss Clare

ham," was excellently cast. Miss Clare Clarke as "Linda Maddox," the acidulous, interfering spinster, was equally successful, while the task of

essaying the vivacious sunny personality of "Joan" was capably fulfilled by Miss Vivienne Taylor. The producer was Miss Dulcie Scott, and the musical numbers were played by the society's orchestra, conducted by Mr. Erich John.

The cast was as follows:—Hester, Nancy Fowles; Tony Oldham, Tom MacMinn; Linda Maddox, Claire Clarke; Blanche Oldham, Gladys Parkinson; Kim Oldham, Jack Walsh; Mary Lou, Edna Keane; Judith Oldham, Darley Cooper; David Oldham, Roy Black; Police Sergeant, Pat Roberts; Nanny, Marion Askew; Joan, Vivienne Taylor.

The play will be repeated on April 24 and May 2.