

Sophistry; Sex In Good Play

This is the day and age of sophistication and sex in theatrical offerings. "The Astonished Ostrich," by Archie N. Menzies, can be placed among "A" class exhibits.

Consider the piquant basis of the piece: An author with a past in love with an actress in the present; a sort of Admirable Crichton of a butler who has married the woman with whom the author had an affair in the long ago; mother and son turn up 18 years later.

Players of Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society gave the play an intelligent presentation in the Albert Hall last night. Beryl Peake, as the actress, has never shown us a better role. She simply walked away with the latter end of the second act, dominating action, dialogue, and situation alike.

The butler of Alex Foster was a good, restrained study, although at times Mr. Foster might have been mistaken for an old-time floor walker. In a long part W. Neilson was not always sure of his lines, and marred at least one good scene. By and large, however, it was a creditable performance.

Lesser parts were played capably by Dick Englart, and Lorna Watt. "The Astonished Ostrich" will be repeated in the Albert Hall to-night, and to-morrow night.—
TE PANA.