

REPERTORY PLAY SUCCESSFUL

The Repertory Theatre last night staged Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." One of the characters remarks "style, not sincerity, is the vital thing," and both the acting and the production of such a play must be highly stylised and suitably mannered.

On the whole Alex Foster and his cast were very successful with the *artificially of this difficult piece*, and the audience obviously enjoyed the production.

The first act is the most entertaining, with its wildest improbabilities and cynicisms well voiced by Mervyn Eadie and Graham Webster. This masculine atmosphere is followed by the feminine flutterings of the second act, prettily played by Patricia Sampey, Elsie Brooks, and Gwen Wheeler; while the third act becomes almost domestic, with talk of christenings and weddings, and a Canon hovering hopefully in the background.

Sets and costumes were excellent, and the acting—with one surprising exception was really good. It might be suggested for subsequent performances that Mr. Webster and Mr. Cox learn from Miss Brooks and Mr. Eadie the difficult art of allowing for laughs; that Marjorie Mant tone down considerably her very exaggerated portrait of Lady Bracknell; and that David Castle and Mervyn Eadie (whose work is outstanding) should refrain from glancing into the stalls.

—D. L. WARAKER.

NEW STATE SCHOOL: Provision would be made in the Public Works long programme for 1947-48 for an amount towards the construction of a new State school at Southport, the Minister for Education (Mr. Bruce) told Mr. Plunkett (C.P.) in Parliament today.