

ENTERTAINMENTS

"UNCLE VANYA."

The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society staged last night at Cremorne, Anton Tchekoff's "Uncle Vanya." In another of the same author's works he makes a character say "God knows what most of the people of Russia were born for," and this feeling, wonder may be, permeates the lives of those who come upon the scene in "Uncle Vanya." It all seems so futile—the lives of these Russians. But futility is not a national monopoly, and there are many points of resemblance between the characters of Tchekoff's play and ourselves. We have Serebyakoffs, whose learning is only a rehash of the erudition of others; Helenas, whose only virtue is their looks; Sonyas, who live a life of devotion without reward, and Voinitskys, who resent the absence of reward; and doctors, such as Astroff, who go on doing their duty because it is their duty, with a blind hope that perhaps some day, a 1000 years hence, the world will be a better place for their having lived and worked in it. The British race governs by a rigid self-control the expression of those deep and personal thoughts that the Russian temperament favours. This makes Russian drama difficult to act by Western Europeans. Some of Tchekoff's characters are vague in their thoughts, almost childlike, demanding a kind of nebulous naturalistic technique. They speak their thoughts aloud, not in soliloquy, and not to the audience, and last night this effect was very well achieved by the majority of the players. The cast consisted of Misses Patricia Trace, Beryl Telford, Gwen Campbell, Rhoda Felgate, Messrs. Bob Risson, Leo Guyatt, Tom Stevens, Jim Pendleton, Doug Henderson. It would be invidious to differentiate the members of this company, who acted as a company with unselfishness and a considerable sense of proportion. They made their characters ordinary human beings, as the author intended, leading their "blind and stupid lives" as was often reiterated, not theatrical characters. The play offers little opportunity for the lighter touch, but the evening did not pass without laughter. Mr. G. B. Eaton was the producer, and music was provided by the Wilston State School orchestra (Mr. Walter Collings, conductor).

"Uncle Vanya" will be repeated to-

"Uncle Vanya" will be repeated to-night.