

SISLEY MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE

"Caroline Chisholm," by George Landen Dann, was the Repertory Society's choice for its opening production of the season. The play was originally dedicated to Barbara Sisley, and produced by her in 1939. Several of the cast chosen by Miss Sisley are appearing in the present production by Clare Clarke.

Caroline Chisholm's biography is an interesting piece of Australian social history, carefully written in theatrical form. But to those who were seeing it for the second time, as well as to many of those to whom it is new, it is far too long. Mr Dann's historical accuracy is laudable; but further cutting need not endanger truth and would improve the work as a piece of theatre.

In the principal part, Daphne Roermann repeated her original success. She obviously has a prodigious memory as well as an excellent carrying voice, these two assets being the role's main needs. Peter Buchanan is far more poised than before as the husband who must have been one of the most patient and kindly men in history. He too was in very good voice.

The costumes were charming, the grouping good and in a long cast there were few weak links. A crowded house warmly applauded players, producer, and author at curtain fall; and it was fitting that this piece, which has had great success in Repertory theatres throughout Australia, should have been produced as a memorial to Miss Sisley, one of the founders of Brisbane's Repertory Theatre.

-D. L. Waraker.