

## QUEEN ANNE IN - BRISBANE

### Repertory Plays "Viceroy Sarah"

Speeches, manners, and costumes of Queen Anne's court were reproduced in Brisbane last evening, when "Viceroy Sarah," a drama based on the Duke of Marlborough's downfall, was presented by the Repertory Society at the Princess Theatre.

Perhaps the endless bowing and curtsying, and the flowery speeches, made the play seem longer than it was. But if the play itself was a little wearisome in this respect, a general unevenness of production accentuated the fault. Intervals between lines which should have been in immediate sequence held up the development of each scene. The producer, Barbara Sisley, was occupied in the main role of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and this may have accounted for the fault.

If the play and the acting were not consistently impressive, there were some gripping moments. Sarah's last bid for the dominance of the foolish Anne gave a more comprehensive picture of Sarah's character than all the other scenes together. Barbara Sisley's performance as the "Viceroy" increased in power as the play proceeded, but it was just withheld from the heights by her tendency to burden her lines—and individual words—with meanings that they did not possess, a fault that was reflected in most of the cast.

Marion Askew gave a thoroughly convincing portrayal of the characterless, pathetic Anne, who was defenceless against the intrigues of her court. Her technique was more direct and she avoided over-acting.