

2,500 VEREENIGING MEN AND WOMEN WERE MOVED BY "THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR"

NO fewer than 2,500 Vereeniging men and women attended three performances of "The Forgotten Factor" at the Odeon Theatre on Monday and Tuesday, and it is safe to say that no other play presented in a local theatre had such a profound effect on its audiences.

Unquestionably "The Forgotten Factor" was all that it was said to be. The play is excellent theatre, and apart from its striking message, has all the ingredients of good drama. The production was faultless, the players lacked nothing in histrionic ability, and the lighting though simple, was effective.

At Monday night's performance, the Mayor, Mr. T. O. Warwick, introduced Mr. B. Hofmeyer, the producer, and praised the fine work which the moral re-armament movement was doing throughout the world. Mr. W. J. Lamont, M.P.C., who introduced the producer said that he had been called on to speak on many occasions but seldom had it given him greater pleasure than the task of introducing this young South African who had given up all thought of a career to spread the message of the play, with no hope of financial gain or social or political success.

PLAY'S MESSAGE

"The message behind the play is a simple one but it applies to every-day life."

The theme of the play is the fact that God and his teachings of kindness and humility towards others is being forgotten in the home-life of every family in the hurry and rush of modern times.

Dick Wilson, the son of an in-

dustrial magnate, first tries to practise in a simple way the theory that if one starts with oneself and tries to say "I'm sorry" and starts all over again, tangles and problems will straighten out themselves.

When Polly Rankin, the daughter of a discontented but ardent labour organiser, cries out "Why don't you do something," Dick goes to visit her father, Jim Rankin, and without saying much, softens his heart. Jim, after realising for himself how selfish and unfair he has been to his family, accepts an invitation to visit Dick's father next day.

ANGRY MOB

Mr. Wilson, however, proves a hard man and accuses Jim of having a bad influence over his son. An angry mob of factory workers break in and Jim promises to do something for them if they leave.

He confesses to Mr. Wilson that it has been really only personal animosity which has prompted him to keep the feud alive.

Mr. Wilson, after a hard struggle with his pride, admits he has also been at fault and Dick points out that the factor which they have all forgotten is God.

This is a very bare outline of the theme of the play and it is the touches of everyday life in the home and the struggles of the young to make a better world which move the heart and leave such a deep impression of truth and sincerity on the audience.