

# ▶▶ The Movies ◀◀

By A. M. SHERWOOD, JR.

## ▶▶ "Coquette"

THERE'S one very cogent reason for going to see "Coquette." It's an all-talking picture and Mary Pickford is its star. Mary Pickford has been in the movies a long, long time. They used to call her "The Biograph Blonde" way back in the old, shame-faced days when movie actors and trained seals were comparable save in one respect—the trained seals ate more regularly.

Still in her early thirties, this young actress has risen to the top of a profession that pulled itself up from obscurity to general acclaim only to find that a new invention was to render it obsolete. But, thanks to much native wit and a year with David Belasco, Mary Pickford has stepped daintily over this obstacle and entrenched herself even more securely than before.

Her performance in "Coquette" must be seen to be believed. We were enthralled by it. The recording, unfortunately, is very bad; so bad, in fact, that Miss Pickford and the rest of the cast roar one minute, whisper the next and speak in asthmatic growls between times. So good, however, is the star's work and so surprisingly good is John Mack Brown, who plays opposite, that we think you will gladly make the necessary excuses to your aural equipment, and enjoy the picture.

Not only are the leading rôles conspicuously filled, but Sam Taylor's direction and adaptation are highly to be commended. He has improved, we think, on the stage play. In fine, it seems a pity that some one didn't see to it that the mechanical end of "Coquette" was better handled. If they had done so, it would be the best of current talkies. As it is, we can't help feeling that the knockers will have their way with it, and trot out their croaking chorus about "canned noise."

## ▶▶ "Strong Boy"

EVERY ONE has seen Victor McLaglen by now, and his attainments need no further exploitation. In "Strong Boy" he continues to do a Victor McLaglen, but the tools he is given to work with are rather more serviceable than usual. John Ford directed the picture and John Ford is a smart man, who likes to ring the changes on stock situations and put pep into them. For instance—in "Strong Boy" he has had

nothing more to work with than a set of Horatio Alger sequences. He has circumvented this difficulty by placing his action in a novel setting and employing the non-Algeric Mr. McLaglen to interpret it.

"Strong Boy" makes no particular bid for immortality. It's just another Fox programme picture. It so happens, however, that saying that is coming to be the equivalent of saying "Just another flight by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh." There hasn't been a poor one for quite some time.

## ▶▶ "Spite Marriage"

WE LAUGH at Buster Keaton so immoderately under any and all conditions that it's hard for us to get the viewpoint of people who don't like him. We thought "Spite Marriage" was one of the best comedies of the year and we can believe that Mr. Keaton will go on being equally funny for the rest of his career. In these days of wholesale murder on stage and screen—of introverts and extraverts, dancing daughters and captive women, the Eddie Cantors and Buster Keatons are national benefactors. Away, cry we, with the weak-kneed smart crack and *à bas* the not-so-double entendre. Let us give thanks for the belly-laugh and honor the men who make it. There is more virtue in an abysmal picture like "Spite Marriage" than in a \$500 visit to a psychoanalyst, and it's our suggestion that you try the former and then—if you don't feel better—look up the latter.

### We Recommend

*The Trial of Mary Dugan:* Takes its place as this department's favorite talkie, owing to a number of different considerations.

*The Broadway Melody:* For all-around entertainment, this is a hard picture to beat.

*The Iron Mask:* MARY PICKFORD's smart husband in just about the best thing he has done.

*The Letter:* With the most distinguished cast ever assembled on one screen, JEANNE EAGELS, O. P. HEGGIE, HERBERT MARSHALL AND REGINALD OWEN.

*Sonny Boy:* You will probably be bored by all the rest of the picture, but DAVEY LEE is something you shouldn't miss.

*The Divine Lady:* A consistently pleasing drama, beautifully directed by FRANK LLOYD and photographed by JOHN SETZ.



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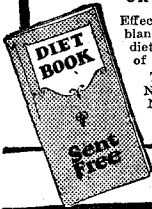
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## CAMPS INFORMATION

# Ivory, Apes and Peacocks

By W. R. BROOKS

COLOR has invaded now the last citadel—the Bible is being displayed in shop windows in bindings of red, blue, purple, rose, white and several other shades. And after all, why not? The Bible will certainly not lose dignity through being bound in bright colors, and although some people have objected to it, it has seemed to us that their objections are ill founded. As a child, the Bible looked uninteresting to us, and that, we are sure, was because the unrelieved black of its cover seemed mournful and gloomy. Once open, it was as interesting as any other book, but that black cover handicapped it at the start.

THE SIMONS DECORATIVE STUDIOS make very carefully worked out scale models of residences, apartment houses, office buildings—exterior or interior—also garden plans, showing detail and texture of materials. They make them in quantities to be used by real-estate companies in showing plans of new developments, and they make them for architects, in accordance with specifications.

THERE'S AN electric neckwear presser which uses heat, moisture and pressure without friction and is quite inexpensive. And if you are a lady and have a wrist watch with a ribbon that goes round your wrist, and if you want to wear it with one of those new cord bracelets, we know a firm that will change the old ribbon fasteners on the sides of the watch for fasteners to which you can attach the cord. These two items haven't anything in common but if we make two paragraphs of them the editor thinks it makes our page look too chopped up.

A NEW ELECTRIC BROILER called the autogrill has a thing on it that looks like a radio dial. You put in your chop, steak, toast or whatever, set the dial for medium, well done or rare, and when the broiling's over a bell rings and the heat automatically shuts off. Underneath is a receptacle which collects the drippings. Very neat, we say.

IF YOU'RE a slave to a medicine bottle, and also a traveler, you can get, all packed in a tiny leather case, a handleless tablespoon, which you can easily carry in a vest pocket or handbag. The spoon is also graduated so you can measure out teaspoonsfull.

A NEW MODIFICATION of the electric torch has a lamp fastened on a head-band like a miner's lamp. The battery goes in the pocket. If you've ever tried to hold a flashlight between your arm and your side while replacing a burnt-out fuse in the cellar, or exploring an automobile engine at night, or doing anything of the kind that requires both hands, you should appreciate this device.

THERE'S A housecleaning pail which has a partition through the middle so that you can have clean water on one side and soapy water on the other. On the outside are holders for soap and brush, and below is a sort of basin to catch what slops over.

THE PEOPLE who make the Kitchen Maid units make a number of lesser-known things which seem pretty good to us. One is a chair or seat which is splendid for use in bathrooms since it folds up into the wall and is yet very firm and solid.

Another is a telephone niche which is set into the wall and contains space for the phone, bell box and book. Below is a seat which pulls out, like the one described above.

A third item is the Dinofold—a combination of table and two benches which, when you are not dining, breakfasting or supping, folds up flat against the wall. It is also made to fold against a door, so that you can open the kitchen door, pull down the table, dine, and then, when the table is cleared, fold it up against the door, which, when shut, conceals it completely. The Dinofold is very sturdily and carefully made so that it won't rattle or get wobbly, and should solve the problem of serving meals in a small apartment.

Lastly there is a combination closet and chiffonier, 66 inches high, 24 inches deep, and in three widths—48, 60 and 72 inches. There are sliding doors, and two thirds of the space is for hanging suits and dresses, the other third containing five large and two small drawers and a space above for hats. There is also a wardrobe the same size which contains no drawers.

THERE'S a new, non-liquid fuel for pocket lighters which comes in a tube, like toothpaste, and won't leak, evaporate or explode. It's a little easier to handle than the liquid fuel, otherwise we don't know what particular advantage it has.