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Nougat  
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**MOVIE CITY FOR HONOLULU THING OF GREAT VALUE**

This Opinion of Mrs. Doremus Scudder if Cooperation With Y. W. C. A. is Assured

If, at the outset, the local Y. W. C. A. can cooperate with the filmmakers, there is no reason why most of the unfortunate conditions cannot be obviated and the business be made of real value.  
Thus comments Dr. Doremus Scudder, former pastor of Central Union church, who, in the August number of the Friend, sums up Mrs. Scudder's investigation of conditions of "movie cities" on the mainland, her work along this line having been brought about by a movement to establish the Aloha Film Company in Honolulu. Mrs. Scudder, after visiting some of the "cities" in California, prepared her report, which is outlined in Dr. Scudder's article.

In part, the article is as follows:  
"Several months ago, when it was announced that the Promotion Committee was welcoming to the islands with open hand and indiscriminating cordiality a concern for making moving pictures to be known as the Aloha Film Company, a number of Honolulu women conversant with some of the unfortunate social conditions characterizing the business of producing films in Los Angeles, took alarm. These women went at once to headquarters, where they were put in immediate touch with Mrs. Rose Janowitz, one of the moving spirits in the Aloha concern. Mrs. Janowitz more than met them half way, acknowledged the danger besetting girls and women in connection with the new industry and proposed that the local Y. W. C. A. should work so closely in sympathy and cooperation with the film company as to minimize if not entirely counteract these dangers. In this connection Mrs. Doremus Scudder was requested while in Los Angeles to look into the experience of that city with movie concerns and bring back to Honolulu the results which had crystallized in the minds of the Christian women who are dealing with the problem there.

"The profession demands not only youth, but also men and women of advanced years. A lady thrown upon her own resources by death in the family and entirely at sea as to means of support, applied for work, was chosen, developed rare power and is now one of the magnates of the business. These tales duplicated many fold have filtered throughout the country and have stirred new ambitions in thousands of hearts. Girls from all over the nation have flocked to southern California and besieged the employment offices of the movie men. When large numbers of people are required for a scene it is common practice for entire families in Los Angeles to flock to the place of engagement. One of the most important and well paid functionaries in the film-making business is the person who chooses the actors or actresses for the various parts in the film plays. When extras are needed this dispenser of fate wanders through the throng of waiting applicants, and pointing to one and another with an "I want you," calls the lucky ones to possible fame and fortune, though often to a mere temporary task as supernumerary at \$1 per day a head. "Yet the business is a legitimate one and Los Angeles has been forced to meet its challenge. A minister of large influence and ability brought into contact with the tragic side of the problem pictured it to his congregation with unusual power. He found that his arraignment of the film companies produced no effect whatever on his businessmen, because Los Angeles was deriving such large financial gain from this industry. The amounts spent in producing certain film plays are almost beyond belief. For many months one of the concerns had been staging a play entitled "The Mother and the Law," dealing with ancient history. Its cost is reported to have totaled \$300,000. Other plays have far exceeded this. A year or more may be required for the com-

plete staging of a single piece. One of the large wholesalers stated that his firm would have failed in the business slump occasioned by the war if it had not been for the film companies. Hence Los Angeles has been driven not to oppose the business, but to cope with the social dangers which have been found to be not necessary to its existence but merely incidental thereto.

"The agency most active in combating these dangers is the Y. W. C. A. The work was forced upon it and was not of its seeking. The girls needed social support, training in dramatics, gymnastic work, for many film plays demand strenuous physical exertion, advice, mothering, and not infrequently loans to save them from exploitation. It is a singular commentary on religion in America that one great branch of the Christian church should denounce dancing and the theater, while an organization so loyal to Christ as the Y. W. C. A. and so intensely practical in meeting temptations for girls is busy organizing classes for movie actresses in various styles of dancing and in dramatic expression. These women have to have this instruction. How much better to give the training under Christian influences. "I lost my place because I could not look sad," complained one young woman to the Y. W. C. A. secretary. Facial expression is a sine qua non in this business, and for the preparation to teach it means saving girls from exposure to temptation.

Honolulu's course then is clearly indicated. Here also an ideal climate will lure film producers in steadily growing number. Our mountains, our matchless foliage, our unrivaled seashore, gives a background far ahead of anything that Southern California can boast. Our Oriental population lends a charm not to be duplicated elsewhere on earth. A new means of livelihood will beckon the Hawaiian girl irresistibly. But this industry is full of the pitfalls into which these children of nature will be very prone to fall. If at the outset our Y. W. C. A. can cooperate with the film makers there is no reason why most of the unfortunate conditions cannot be obviated and the business be made of real value to the city."

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