

Amusements The PHOTOPLAY

UNDER the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, whose endorsement appears upon nearly all the photoplays of consequence which are shown in Washington, there has been formed what is known as the national committee for better films. Neither organization is official in a governmental sense, but both appear to be approved, if not promoted, by photoplay producers. The committee is now making a general appeal for new members, offering them, in return for the dues exacted for membership, certain literature and information concerning pictures, including reviews of the finer productions. Each member is supplied monthly with a photoplay guide of selected pictures for the family group and special young people's entertainments; a copy of the committee's magazine or official organ and a list of exceptional photoplays, together with critical reviews of the finer productions. This committee contends that it has tested and proved by experience in Atlanta, Ga.; Cleveland, Ohio, and other cities that a marked influence can be exerted on the character of local motion picture entertainments by community co-operation in support of the good pictures; that when the good pictures are well supported the exhibitors will only be too happy to furnish more of them, and thus the objectionable pictures will gradually be eliminated from public view.

THE very best way in the world to kill off bad photoplays is to freeze them out of existence. The next-best way is to give such liberal patronage to the good that purveyors of the bad will find them more profitable than the bad and naturally will change their stock in trade. It is pretty well established that evil cannot be legislated out of the world. The most potent influence in any reform is that of the individual himself, and it is in recognition of this fact that the national committee for better films is now endeavoring to operate. There will probably always be more or less degeneracy in the world, but a most excellent way to lessen it and to make things as they should be is for the general public to first get its own heart in order and then back the right with all its might and at all times. If this be done official censors will not be needed.

"MOTHER" photoplays have reaped a rich harvest for their producers, and, in consequence, few, if any, of the makers of pictures have neglected to utilize the mother theme in one form or another. Whether the public is tiring of it, or "father's" friends are pushing his claims to recognition to the front more strenuously, almost every mail brings the news of a new picture in which "father" has the spotlight. During the week our local fire department capitulated to a picture dedicated to Washington's own fire chief, George S. Watson, in which the father hero is a firefighter. The picture, "The Third Alarm," was shown in advance of its release Thursday to an audience composed almost exclusively of members of our fire department, from Chief Watson down to the privates in the ranks who could be spared for the exhibition. If the firemen's judgment is correct, "The Third Alarm" promises to be a very popular "father" picture.

ALONG with the other "great authors," Washington Irving was honored by the screen during the week in the presentation of an interesting and pretty film production of his famous classic, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," in which the also famous Will Rogers makes an amusing and most acceptable Ichabod Crane. Screen-fashion, however, the picture is titled "The Headless Horseman." It may serve to redirect attention of modern readers to other classics by this first and probably the greatest of American authors.

Photoplays This Week

- AT THE PHOTOPLAY HOUSES THIS WEEK.**
- COLUMBIA**—Mary Pickford, "Tess of the Storm Country." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - METROPOLITAN**—"The Dangerous Age." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - RIALTO**—Bebé Daniels, "Singed Wings." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - PALACE**—"The Pride of Palomar." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - CENTRAL**—Lon Chaney, "A Blind Bargain." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - CRANDALL'S**—Wallace Reid, "The Ghost Breaker." Shown this afternoon and evening.
 - LINCOLN** (Colored)—"A Fool There Was." Shown this afternoon and evening.

COLUMBIA—Mary Pickford, "Tess of the Storm Country." Low's Columbia Theater announces its feature for New Year's week, beginning this afternoon, Mary Pickford, "America's sweetheart," in her picture of "Tess of the Storm Country." Miss Pickford's new production of "Tess of the Storm Country," directed by John S. Robertson, who has utilized as the basis for his conception the original story by Grace Miller Landon, was the dramatization made of it by Rupert Hughes, the American novelist and playwright. It is said to be a masterpiece of poignant drama. The cast includes Lloyd Hughes, Gloria Hope, and Craven, and Robert Robinson, Jean Hersholt, Danny Hoy, Robert Russell, Gus Saville and Mme. de Bodman. The photographs include a variety of artistic settings of splendid artistic values. The production, as a whole, is said to be a triumph up to the Pickford standard.

METROPOLITAN—"The Dangerous Age." Lewis S. Stone, Cleo Madison, Edith Roberts, Ruth Clifford, Myrtle Stedman, James Morrison, Helen Lynch, Lincoln Stedman, Edward Burns, leading man with Constance Talmadge in "East Is West," Richard Tucker and Stancho Wheatcroft are the principal members of the cast in John M. Stahl's screen version of "The Dangerous Age," at Crandall's Metropolitan Theater this week, beginning this afternoon.

PALACE—"The Pride of Palomar." The photoplay at Low's Palace Theater this week, beginning this afternoon, will be the Cosmopolitan screen version of Peter B. Kyne's magazine story, "The Pride of Palomar," a dramatic story of love and litigation in California, which has risks all for the man she adores, thereby arousing the jealousy of a half-witted clown who worked with her in a San Francisco water-front cafe, and makes himself her self-appointed guardian. From this point the story is said to bristle with dramatic moments and romantic situations. An added feature will be the appearance of Prospero Miraglia, harp soloist of the Rialto Orchestra, three times daily in a program including Godefrido's "Danse de Sylphes," and Paganini's "Carneval de Venise." Minor film attractions will include Topics of the Day, and the latest Fox News.

RIALTO—Bebé Daniels, "Singed Wings." Moore's Rialto Theater for the current week, beginning this afternoon, will present for the first time in Washington, Bebe Daniels and Conrad Nagel, in "Singed Wings," a Penrhyn Stanlaws masterpiece, produced for Paramount. It is described as a powerful and unique photoplay. The story was written by Katherine Newlin Burt, author of "The Branding Iron," tells of a Spanish dancer of the under world, who becomes society's favorite, is tempted by a false love and



MARY PICKFORD
Columbia

BEBE DANIELS
Rialto

JACQUELINE LOGAN
Central

SHIRLEY MASON
Strand

FOREST STANLEY
Palace

RUTH CLIFFORD
Metropolitan

ROBERT CAIN
Lincoln

HOBART BOSWORTH
Crandall's

been brought to the screen under the direction of Frank Borzage, the man who achieved fame for his picturization of "Humoresque." The story was scenarized by Grant Carpenter and John Lynch. Forrest Stanley, who played the role opposite Marlon Davies, in "When Knighthood Was in Flower," has the chief role. The story concerns Don Mike Farrell, a soldier who returns from Siberia to find his father, one of the last of the California Donas, in his grave, and his estate in the hands of strangers. John Parker, the new owner, has with him his beautiful daughter, and a love affair develops between Don Mike and the daughter. Dared to make good without the influence of his father's millions, Barnes sets out to make a name for himself and encounters all manner of amusing adventures. Exclusively fraternal features will round out the bill. Performances today will begin at 2

o'clock and daily throughout the week at 11 a. m., doors opening at 10:30 a. m.

CRANDALL'S—Wallace Reid, "The Ghost Breaker." Wallace Reid will be pictured at Crandall's Theater the first three days of this week, beginning this afternoon, in "The Ghost Breaker," supported by Lewis Stone, etc.

CENTRAL—Lon Chaney, "A Blind Bargain." Goldwyn's production of "A Blind Bargain," starring Lon Chaney, will be presented at Crandall's Central Theater this week, beginning this afternoon. Three times daily in a program including Godefrido's "Danse de Sylphes," and Paganini's "Carneval de Venise." Minor film attractions will include Topics of the Day, and the latest Fox News.

The Capital's Amusement Bargain House

CRANDALL'S

CENTRAL THEATER

NINTH BET. D AND E

Today, Beginning at 2 P. M.—Daily, 11 A. M. to 11 P. M.

TODAY—MON.—TUES.—WED.

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE SCREEN OFFERED A MORE THRILLING OR A MORE BAFFLING MYSTERY PICTURE—CLEVER, DIABOLIC, STARTLING, IT WILL MAKE YOU GASP AND MARVEL AT THE AMAZING DUAL IMPERSONATION BY ITS STRANGELY GIFTED STAR.

Lon Chaney as the servant, half man, half ape

GOLDWYN PRESENTS

Lon Chaney as the mad Dr. Lomb

A BLIND BARGAIN

—WITH—

LON CHANEY

JACQUELINE LOGAN—RAYMOND McKEE

THE STORY OF A LIFE PLEDGED TO A HALF-MAD SURGEON

SPECIAL ORCHESTRAL OVERTURE AND ACCOMPANIMENT

THURS.—FRI.—SAT.

First National's

JOHNNY HINES

With Great Cast

Laughter Special

BURN 'EM UP BARNES

In A Sure-Fire Hit

ANNOUNCEMENT

This Week Will See the Installation at Crandall's Central of a Robert Morton Triple-Manual, Orchestra-Unit Pipe Organ Which, When Completely Adjusted and Dedicated, Will Be Recognized Not Only as the Finest Instrument in the National Capital But as One of the Finest in Any Theater in America.

FILMOGRAMS

Angela C. Kaufman, who is widely known both in this country and abroad, particularly in the orbit, as a welfare worker, has invited The Star's attention to a motion picture drama entitled "The Greatest Message," which, she declares, is both timely and dramatic and which deals with the drug evil. The purpose of the picture, she writes, is purely propaganda against the drug traffic and therefore it fully deserves its endorsement.

Today and tomorrow the Metropolitan Orchestra will play Mr. Mirsky's own special New Year number, which he has entitled "1923." Beginning Tuesday and continuing throughout the week will be played a potpourri of selections from the "Follies of 1923."

The work of demolishing the old Sacred Heart Church, parish house and rectory, at 14th street and Park road northwest, preparatory to erecting Crandall's new Tivoli Theater, is progressing rapidly. The entire roof structure of the church and parish house has been removed and the masonry facing has been razed to the second floor level. Upon the completion of this work it is expected that the examination of plans will be completed by the District officials and the actual construction work immediately begun.

Probably no photodramatic production of recent years has been awaited with keener interest than First National's production of "Oliver Twist," with Jackie Coogan in the name part. Not only does Jackie carry his name high on the list of dramatic stars in this vehicle, it is said, but he is surrounded by a cast of exceptional distinction.

Rapid progress is being made looking to the early construction of Crandall's new Ambassador Theater at 18th and Columbia road northwest. The plans are now being gone over in detail in the District building inspector's office and steel is being detailed and fabricated for the construction of the handsome new structure will begin immediately upon the conclusion of the official check of plans.

This week will witness the completion of installation of the Robert Morton triple-manual, orchestra-unit pipe organ at Crandall's new central Theater, situated between D and E. This master instrument, when completely adjusted, it is claimed, will be one of the finest organs in any theater in the District, but one of the finest to be found in any theater in the United States. One of the most distinguished concert artists in the east will preside at the instrument when completed.

Edward (Hoot) Gibson has finished another Universal attraction, "Heads Up," which is the leading woman.

Having finished the lumberjack story on which he was working, Roy Stewart has started a series of "Tales of the Old West" under the direction of Charles Dickens. The series is being supplied both from magazines and newspapers and personal experiences. Gertrude Olmstead is the leading woman of the company.

The cast selected for William Slayback's Collier's story, "His Good Name," has been chosen. Harry A. Pollard, director of "The Leather Stocking," will hold the megaphone for Rockliffe Fellowes, Fritz Ridgeway, Hayden Stevenson, Buddy Messenger and Frederick Stanton.

Patsy Ruth Miller, after a search which has taken in almost all of the actresses on the list, has been chosen for the part of Emerald in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," for which the sets are now being built at Universal City.

To the two French directors already at work at Universal City another has been added in the person of Herbert Blache, whose experience and dates almost any director now working. Emile Chautard is making

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL

RIALTO

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS

TODAY 2:30

DAILY 11 to 11

HERE AS A GORGEOUS SPANISH DANCER WHO PLAYS WITH THE HEARTS OF MEN. A FLAMING LOVE-DRAMA IN LAVISHLY BEAUTIFUL SETS.

PENRHYN STANLAWS PRODUCTION

Singed Wings

WITH

BEBE DANIELS
and **CONRAD NAGEL**

AND A SUPERB CAST OF RECOGNIZED SCREEN ARTISTS

CONCERT FEATURE
PROSPERO MIRAGLIA, HARP SOLOIST, RIALTO ORCHESTRA
"DANSE DE SYLPHES," GODEFRID.

SELECTED COMEDY **EXCLUSIVE NEWS**

SPLENDID ADDED OFFERINGS