

BRITISH STUDIOS

Peeps Behind The Screen



Peggy Hathaway

Americans on Hampstead Heath.

Except for the bad colds caught by the producer (John S. Robertson) and several members of the cast, the screening during the night of the big circus scenes in Lasky's "Perpetua," was a notable success. The tent was crowded—horses and two of Lockhart's elephants, clowns, etc., and an audience of about 400 being there. The company was at work from late in the afternoon till 5 o'clock in the morning. There was no mercury vapour lighting, four Sunlight arcs and Klieg spot-lights being used. The scenes did not include any views of the Heath, the locale being supposed to be France. Some weeks have actually been spent in France taking exteriors for "Perpetua," which has been adapted for the screen from Dion Clayton Calthorp's novel by Josephine Lovett, wife of the producer. The cast includes Ann Forrest, David Powell, Dick Webb, Lillian Walker, Roy Byford and Florence Wood.

A City Scene.

Several of the exterior scenes of "Three Live Ghosts," now being produced by George Fitzmaurice for Lasky from a scenario by his wife, Ouida Bergere, have had wharf and riverside backgrounds in the East End of London. The other day, however, an extraordinary scene was taken in front of the Bank of England, where a top-hatted man crossed the road pushing a pram containing a gollywog, and leading a sheep by a rope as if it were a dog. The artiste who performed this feat was Cyril Chadwick. The cast includes Anna Q. Nilsson, Norman Kerry, Edmund Golding, John Milten and Claire Greet.

Three-Reel Comedies.

In an attempt to supply the demand for good three-reelers Temple Productions is busy on a short series of comedies of that length. They are being produced by Bannister Merwin at the Catford studios. The first of the series is "Horace," in which A. Bromley Davenport plays the name part. Other leading members of the cast are Phyllis Le Grand, Florence Nelson and A. G. Poulton, while Harold Bastick is the cameraman. It is interesting to note that three old London film men assist in this production—the producer, cameraman and Maurice Edmonds, the floor manager.

Increasing Activities.

The Kenneth Graeme Film Syndicate, Ltd., has removed from its offices in Regency House, Warwick Street, W.1. to much more central and more commodious premises at 1, 3 and 5, Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2. From this office it will direct operations for the film, "M'lord o' the White Road."

Playing the Heavy.

J. R. Tozer is now playing the part of Ralph Dacre in Martin Thornton's new Stoll production, "The Lamp in the Desert," a film adaptation of Ethel M. Dell's novel, and this makes his sixth picture in which he has worked for this firm. His first appearance in a Stoll picture occurred in "Bars of Iron," in which he played the part of Dr. Tudor. Since then he has played in "False Evidence," "The Dying Detective," "The Pointing Finger" and "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills." Mr. Tozer has had ten years' experience of stage and screen. This is the third heavy lead Mr. Tozer has played for Martin Thornton.

Consulting the Oracle.

When Sinclair Hill was about to commence the production of the Stoll production, "Half a Truth," he consulted the Meteorological Office as to the sort of

weather that could be reasonably expected for the next fortnight. The answer he received decided him to take the interior scenes first, and in point of fact, he has been busy with them ever since. The Meteorological Office, Mr. Hill points out, has proved absolutely right in its forecast, and now the interior work is practically complete the sky seems to be clearing.

Coleby's Stoll Production.

As exclusively announced in *The Motion Picture Studio*, A. E. Coleby has now signed on with Stolls, and is already hard at work at the Cricklewood studio, with the details of his first picture for the firm, which is to be an adaptation of "Froggy's Little Brother." This is the type of story that is full of humour and pathos, depicting as it does the struggles of a little urchin who is left an orphan to feed and bring up his baby brother. But although it contains plenty of sob stuff it also contains plenty of laughs. The casting of this picture is proving no easy matter, and Billy Saunders, Stoll's casting director, has been having quite an anxious time in providing the producer with a number of suitable youngsters. The difficulty he has yet to overcome is to find a really suitable small boy to play the part of Froggy, for it appears that Mr. Coleby's demand is for a "boy about six, who looks about four, and has about 25 years' experience!"

In Murray's Club.

At Screenplays Cranmer Court Studios, work has been proceeding apace on "How Kitchener was Betrayed," which Percy Nash is producing from the *John Bull* story, prepared by Norman Ramsay, M.A. Through the good offices of Bertram Burleigh the use of Murray's Club was obtained for the filming of night-club scenes. This is the first time that Murray's have been used for filming purposes. Fred Paul has been playing Lord Kitchener, with Bertram Burleigh as Lieut. Mack, while Peggy Hathaway is "The Girl." Miss Hathaway is rapidly making a name for herself in British studio work.



Bannister Merwin directing a Temple production