

# BRITISH STUDIOS

## Peeps Behind The Screen

### Harma in Wales.

For the last two weeks Bernard Dudley has been in North Wales taking exteriors for the new Harma film, which at present has not been titled. But it is a strong Welsh domestic story dealing with an absorbing event in one of the most picturesque, yet comparatively speaking unknown, districts in the Principality. Some splendid shots have been secured depicting hillsides, farms, waterfalls, country markets and an agricultural auction, and the pictorial part of the film will also include views on battleships and steam trawlers. Mr. Dudley, who has made Machynlleth his headquarters, has an admirable cast, which includes James Knight, Marjorie Villis and Ray Raymond; the other important parts are impersonated by Constance Worth, Seth Hughes, Heaton Grey, Florence Nelson and Ernest Spalding.

### Still Carrying On.

Although Sinclair Hill has joined Stoll's, the Sinclair Hill Productions will still carry on. Mr. Hill's first production for the company was "Only One Week to Live," a two-reel comedy. The company will continue work on two-reelers, but a new producer will be engaged.

### With U.C.I.

Billy (W. A.) Bowman has been working with the U.C.I. Company, which is filming exteriors in England at the present moment for "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Mr. Bowman is having a hand in the production of the film.

### "Rob Roy" to be Filmed.

G. H. McLeiland, the well-known scenario writer, has been busy for the last few months on the scenario of "Rob Roy." He has now completed it, and it is all ready for screening. A company has already accepted the scenario and intends to make the picture a big British super. The production will be in the hands of a very well-known British director.

### A Mystery Film.

A very interesting announcement will soon be made with regard to a new film-producing concern which will shortly commence operations on extensive lines.

The names of two of our best-known directors are mentioned as the company's producers. One of them has been connected with a well-established producing firm for many years past. He has personally directed most of the really big British film successes of later years, and it will no doubt come as a surprise to the Trade when his new plans are announced. The other director, who is equally well known, has had a great deal of experience "on the other side." One of the biggest comedy successes of recent years was entirely directed by him, and since the advent of the film in question many attempts have been made to copy his precedent, but all of them have failed. As a scenarist he is equally well known.

The company possesses large and spacious offices in Wardour Street, where plans are being completed for the production of the first two subjects. The managing director has been working quietly for the last few months, and hopes shortly to be able to make some important announcements.

### Plans.

Both producers will work independently. One will produce a five-reel comedy—not slapstick, and the other will also produce a five-reeler, but not a comedy. The firm already has its own titling, developing and printing works. Indeed, it possesses one of the finest laboratories in the United Kingdom, and that in the vicinity of Wardour Street.

### Starting Shortly.

In the course of a very few weeks the company will be at work, and, as its films are completed, the titling, developing, printing and selling will all be done by itself. So far as we can gather, there is no intention of the company renting its own films.

### A Welsh Novelist.

The authoress of "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills"—which is now being produced for Stolls as a photoplay by Martin Thornton—is Edith Nepean, who comes of a very old Welsh family. Mrs. Nepean is a musician as well as a novelist and an artist, and an amateur actress to boot. She studied art under Robert Fowler, and has exhibited in the art galleries; and she studied music under Dr. Rowland Rogers, of Bangor.

In addition to "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills" she has written "Welsh Love," and her latest novel, "Jewels in the Dust," is to be published very shortly. Right Honourable David Lloyd George, who, having read some of her work, strongly advised her to go in for fiction; and "the distinguished countryman," to whom she dedicated "Welsh Love," is really the Prime Minister. "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills" was openly dedicated to the Welsh Wizard by permission.

Mrs. Nepean has been interested from her childhood in Welsh life, customs and folklore, and was a prize-winner at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales. She received a command from the King to attend the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Carnarvon in 1911.

All the exterior scenes in "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills" are to be filmed in the actual spots indicated in the novel.

### A Change of Identity.

After playing with triumphant success the difficult role of Sherlock Holmes in the Stoll screen series of that famous detective's adventures for six months on end, and subsequently in the five-reel picture of "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Eille Norwood is at the moment enjoying a little well-earned rest. But almost immediately he will take up an entirely different kind of role in the Stoll photoplay adapted from Mrs. Edith Nepean's novel, "Gwyneth of the Welsh Hills."

In this picture he is to become Lord Pryse of Plas Tag, a very dignified figure with a worthless nephew and a beautiful daughter who comes back, as it were, from the dead.

### With Gordon.

Colette Brettel appears in the Haigh serial, which is being produced at the Master Film Studios at Teddington. Malcolm Todd has also been engaged for a leading part in the production, and John Stuart has another leading rôle in the film. The production is in the hands of Edward R. Gordon, who is producing the film for the Frederick White Company. The camera work is being done by Theodore Thumwood and Jack Parker.

### About Kenneth Graeme.

The Kenneth Graeme Film Syndicate, though quite a new company, has already completed three comedies dealing with the adventures of Mr. Pusher Long, a Press agent. Dawn Meredith is the company's leading lady. The production is in the hands of Kenneth Graeme, and the technical side of the business is being attended to by P. C. W. King. The first big production which the company will attempt will be called "M'Lord of the Great White Road," a story of highwaymen, by Seducer Fraser. Dawn Meredith will appear in this production as



Henri De Vries

Lady Gloria. The company is working at the studios in Kew.

### A Hardy Cast.

The first Hardy film contains an exceptionally strong cast. As announced in this section last week, the film will be called "Bluff," and is by Rafael Sabatini. Geoffrey Malins will be responsible for the direction of the film. Lewis Willoughby, who has just returned from America, where he has been playing with most of the leading companies, has been engaged to play lead, and his leading lady will be Marjorie Hume. Miss Hume has lately returned from Holland, where she has completed a contract with Granger-Binger. Prior to this she was on the Lasky stock company, and, of course, her successes with the old London will be well remembered. James Lake, Lawrence Anderson, Geoffrey Channings, Harding Steerman, Madame D'Estere, Mrs. Channings, Lord Landassyl, Ewart Scott and Leonard Robson also have important rôles to portray. Sydney Paxton, who has been playing with Ideal, will also appear in "Bluff." Albert Brouett, from the London Pavilion, is well known in France as a revue artiste. His appearance in this film is something in the way of a new departure to him.

### The Night Hawk.

Last Sunday, John Gliddon, director of the International Artists' productions, left for Brixham, in Devonshire, to arrange the exterior scenes in connection with his production of "The Night Hawk," a screen version of Eden Philpotts' sea-story "The Haven." The rest of the company followed on Wednesday, and they expect to be away for three weeks. The famous trawling fleet at Brixham has been requisitioned to take part in the picture, and a storm at sea will be a feature of the production. Elizabeth Brandt, who is cast for the second production—the title of which will be announced later—is now in Sweden, where she is negotiating for the handling of the International Artists' output in Scandinavia. Henri de Vries is playing the part of John Major, the old skipper.

### Alliance Busy Again.

Harley Knoles, now managing director as well as chief producer of Alliance, has scheduled "The Bohemian Girl" for immediate production. His "The Menace" is practically finished, and Trade show arrangements will be announced shortly.