



Donald Searle
A New Comedian.

Donald Searle, who is perhaps best known for his work as "Biggin" in "Four Men in a Van," is seen in the accompanying photograph as he appears in the new Fox production, "If Winter Comes." Although in this production he appears in a dramatic rôle, his strong point is comedy. In the Peggy Hyland comedy, "With Father's Help," he appeared as chief comedian and was one of the outstanding successes of the picture. As announced on this page a few weeks ago, Searle has now been approached by a certain company to star in a series of new comedies. Meanwhile he is under contract to appear for Edward D. Roberts in "Hims—Ancient and Modern," which is now in course of production. In "The Crimson Circle," the Kinema Club production, he plays a small part.

West's Latest.

Florence Turner is being starred in the new Walter West production, "The Pruning Knife." This film is being made at Kew Bridge studios, and included in the cast are Arthur Walcott, Johnnie Reid, and Leonard Upton. Actual production was

BRITISH STUDIOS

Peeps Behind the Screen

commenced this week, under Walter West's direction. The story is by Andrew Soutar and Maud Williamson, and deals with Society life. Florence Turner appears as a mother aged forty-five, and the part is said to be bristling with dramatic possibilities. "The White Hope," which features Violet Hopson and Stewart Rome, has now been completed and is ready for Trade showing.

Awa' to the Highlands.

The British film producer has at last realised the beauties of Scotland for film purposes, and yet another company is shortly to make an expedition to the Highlands in search of local colour. Victor McLaglen, who has just made another big impression by his performance in the title-rôle of "A Sailor Tramp," is to play the leading part in the film which will be made by the Welsh-Pearson Company.

Twenty More.

So successful were the first six of the Quality Film subjects that it has been decided to do at least another twenty one-reelers; the first of these has already been completed. The studio being used by the company is the Bertram Phillips plant at Clapham Park. The producing staff remains the same. Sydney Folker is still studio manager, George A. Cooper the director, and Randal Terreanean, the cameraman. It says much for Cooper that although these first six were his first attempt in a directorial capacity, they should be so well received by the Press. In the first of the new series Ray Raymond, Winifred McCarthy, Wilfred Fletcher, and Shayle Gardner appear,

A New New Old Bailey.

One of the most elaborate sets ever yet staged in a British studio has occupied the floor of the Lasky studio at Islington, where Graham Cutts is producing "The Flower of Passion," for Graham-Wilcox (Astra). This was an exact replica of the No. 1 Court at Old Bailey, and had taken over a month to prepare. The whole carpentry staff had worked night and day on reconstructing the interior of the famous



Too Much Flood in "My Lady April"

building, which had been reproduced with faithful exactitude. The panelling, orante ceiling, public benches, dock, jury box, solicitors' table, and even the judges' chairs had been built in the studio, and their accuracy was guaranteed by reason of the fact that their manufacture had been supervised by a high official of the Old Bailey. Even the old custom of sprinkling the judicial dais with frankincense and myrrh and presenting the judges with bouquets was followed. The set is highly convincing and is a great credit to Gregory Arnold, the art-director at Islington, who so faithfully designed it, and the staff who executed it. In this particular scene Henry Vibart, as judge, Alban Attwood (Lord Mayor), Harry Worth (Under Sheriff), C. Aubrey Smith and A. G. Poulton (Counsel), Tony Fraser (agitator), and Hilda Bayley are seen. Thrills!

Felix Orman sends us particulars of the accident that occurred during the filming of "My Lady April," and about which much has already been written in the lay Press. Orman assures us that this was no publicity stunt, but a real genuine accident in which some of the artistes were very nearly seriously injured. Flora Le Breton and Mary Clare were appearing in a scene representing a torrential flood. Unfortunately the water got out of control, with the result that the coach in which Miss Le Breton was seated was nearly washed away. Georges Carpentier, who was standing near, was successful in rescuing Miss Le Breton, while Mary Clare has to thank Rex McDougall and A. B. Imeson for having escaped serious injury. J. Stuart Blackton was much perturbed about the affair, as he had taken every possible care to see that the scene was made as safe as possible for the artistes.

More Dell Pictures.

We are to have a few more Dell novels in screen form from the Stoll studios. On completion of "Dick Turpin's Ride to York," Maurice Elvey will commence work on "A Debt of Honour," by Ethel M. Dell. One of the big scenes in this production is where the python strangles the villain. Elvey is now on the look out for a snake of suitable size to play this very important rôle. The snake should not be difficult to find, but the real difficulty will come when he tries to cast an artiste for the rôle of the villain. Isobel Elsom is to play lead in the production. Sinclair Hill is putting the finishing touches to his new Stoll production, "The Nonentity," another Dell novel. Another story by the same authoress which is to be filmed by Stoll is "The Top of the World."



A vigorous scene in "Rob Roy" (Gaumont)