

THE SILENT DRAMA. CHARACTER ON THE SCREEN. CAN FILMS EXPRESS PSYCHOLOGY?

By E. A. BAUGHAN.

The booming of the "super" film is not to the advantage of film art. As far as I can discover, a film of "super" either because it has cost a lot of money or because it is of such a length that it is of no use to the ordinary exhibitor.

Length has become an obsession with the makers of films. Here and there a long film has been very successful as a money-maker when given a special run at a theatre. "Way Down East," "The Glorious Adventure" and "Footlights" are examples.

They were not successful because of their length but because of their artistry. In each case the subject treated demanded the length of treatment.

What is wanted in the making of films is more experiment. There is a large field for experiment in the visual expression of psychology. Moving pictures cannot analyse characters and their motives. That is obvious.

It is not enough to state of mind which the novelist analyses, and by skilful pictorial continuity make them the living drama of the screen.

This was done by Graham Cutts in "The Wonderful Story," an infinitely greater work of screen art than any other of the same kind.

"Quality Plays" shows the other day by the Victoria Company. It is not more daring experiment has been made by George A. Cooper.

COMEDY OF A DINNER PARTY. In "The Letters" a young French novelist seeks to avenge himself on a married woman who has broken away from him. She compels the return of her letters which he prizes as a little while she has to kiss him to dinner to allay the suspicions of her husband.

CHARACTER DRAWING. "Silent Evidence," a British screen production shown by the Gaiety Company, is also an attempt to carry on a film consistently through character. The story, based on a novel by Alicia Ramsey, has not given the producer, C. C. Calvert, much scope.

BYWATERS IN THE BOX.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.) Bywaters, in his evidence at the Hford murder trial yesterday, said he knew the occupants of the Graydon box (Mrs. Thompson's brothers) at school, and was on good terms with the family ever since. He was away last year from Feb. 25 to June 4, and on his return he went for a holiday to the late of night with Mrs. Thompson and Miss Avis Thompson.

On June 15 he went to stay with the Thompsons at their home in Kensington, at the invitation of Mrs. Thompson, and he stayed there until August 3. "I was a quarter between Mrs. Thompson and her brother," said Bywaters, "a pin was the cause of the trouble. Mr. Thompson started to knock me out and I returned a blow. He was outside and I heard the noise. I was outside and I heard the noise. I was outside and I heard the noise."

What was the state of your feelings? Did your husband know you were taking her out? I did not know he was going. I had you fall in love with her? I was fond of her and I loved her. I was fond of her and I loved her. I was fond of her and I loved her.

APPEAL FOR SEPARATION. Did you ever have any conversation with Mrs. Thompson in October about this separation? Yes, she said, "I am going to ask you to separate from me."

What was the result of this conversation? I did not know what to do. I was very much distressed. I was very much distressed. I was very much distressed.

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TRADE OF THE WORLD.

MORE SHIPBUILDING ORDERS. FREIGHTS DROP. JAPAN PROSPECTING FOR OIL SUPPLY.

The Government Press is eagerly gathering up any news every indication of reviving trade, and there is some comfort to be extracted from the latest shipbuilding returns, which show that during the first seven months of the current year, 91 vessels of over 200 tons were ordered in Britain, against 83 in the corresponding month of 1921.

Entrances and clearances from British ports also show improvement in 1922. The Board of Trade figures estimate that of the 36 million tons of increased nearly five million tons over the corresponding month of 1921. The 49 million tons cleared (an increase of 21 million tons over 1921) 62 per cent was British.

On the other hand, freights have lapsed again. Outward coal rates from the United Kingdom to South America have dropped to a degree that is the work of a leading trade journal, which makes it difficult for shippers to "bring about a round voyage on a profit more than sufficient to pay for the ship's washing."

Japan's eyes, like those of all the nations are upon oil. It is more or more making the place of coal in driving ocean transport. The output of the United States for the first six months of the current year is estimated at 11 million tons, representing oil-fired or oil-driven vessels.

One of the industries that show this means is textiles. The Japanese textile industry has been estimated since July 1920 new capital works totalling at least 10,000 million yen. At the same time the purchase power of the mark at home is one 1.37th of what it was before the war.

SEARCH FOR OIL. The Japan Petroleum Company has dispatched Mr. Kanji Uchida, an oil expert to the East Indies to prospect for oilfields, for the purpose of starting an enterprise there if possible. It is thought that the Japanese Government is anxious to obtain a concession in the United States Geological Survey estimates that the world production of oil in the 50 years from 1927 to 1976 is estimated at 9,511,000,000 barrels, or 95,110,000,000 gallons.

CHINA'S NEW TARIFF. China's new tariff schedule, which was drafted by an International Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai for six months, and is designed to be effective 1st January 1923, is estimated to increase China's revenue by between ten and twelve million dollars a year.

HIGH COURT JURY NOTICES. The High Court has issued notices to the jury in the case of the Hford murder trial, which is to sit on 10th and 11th inst.



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