

NEW ERA

The famous SECRETS OF NATURE pictures, produced by British Instructional Films, Limited, are a series which are worth featuring on any programme. As products of British enterprise and craftsmanship, they should find an honoured position on the programme during British Film Weeks. Despite the fact that they constitute in many instances noteworthy

scientific achievements, the pictures are invariably well calculated to make the broadest popular appeal. As astonishing revelations of phases of life which the ordinary man seldom has an opportunity of studying, they should possess an interest even for uneducated minds, which cannot easily be stimulated by the most elaborate products of the dramatic studio."

QUALITY

"Quite a novel note is struck by these clever little pictures, which have been adapted and directed by George A. Cooper from stories by various authors. In character they are dramatic episodes rather than full-fledged plays but, thanks to the witty ingenuity with which they have been handled, they make real 'feature' entertainment. Technically, they rank with the work of far older companies. The settings are particularly well built and discreetly furnished."

Of Quality Plays now offered the following are handled by Walturdaw:—"FALLEN LEAVES," showing how a down and out tramp gives a poor old woman a momentary happiness by pretending to be her long lost son, is a story of pretty sentiment excellently interpreted by Chris Walker, May Price, Jeff Barlow and Jack East. "THE

FILM PLAYS,

THIEF" is a bright little comedy in which an ambitious young policeman believes that he has stumbled on the track of a robbery and murder, and quite unconsciously assists the supposed thief in escaping with his booty—a pretty girl who has agreed to elope with him. "A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE," another clever comedy in two reels, concerns the endeavours of a young married couple to assert their principles, while keenly anxious at the same time to do everything for the happiness of each other. "THE WHITE RAT" is the grim little murder drama. Others of the Walturdaw series are "GERALDINE'S FIRST YEAR," starring Joan Maclean and Sydney Folker; "THE BIG STRONG MAN," starring George Turner; "POETIC LICENCE," starring Winifred

Those of the series already Trade Shown include:—"THE MAY-FLY," "BATTLES WITH SALMON," "THE STICKLEBACK," "THE STORY OF WESTMINSTER HALL," "ROBIN," "GIANT SNAILS," "CABBAGES AND THINGS," "A FLY FISHER'S FESTIVAL," "CRABS AND CAMOUFLAGE," "THE GANNET," "THE HUNTING SPIDER" and "FEAR."

McCarthy; "THE CUNNING HAMS ECONOMISE," starring Joan Maclean; "KEEPING MAN INTERESTED," starring Joan Maclean and Sydney Folker; "DANCING PARTNER," starring Joan Maclean and Sydney Folker; "THE LETTERS," starring Hugh Miller and Madge Stuart; "FOR PEARL," starring A. B. Imeson; and "HIS WIFE'S HUSBAND," starring Olaf Hytten and Madge Stuart.

Quality Plays offered by Gaumont and already Trade Shown are:—"DARKNESS," starring Hugh Miller and M. A. Wetherill; "FINISHED," starring Jerrald Robertshaw; and "CONSTANT HOT WATER," starring Gladys McLaughlin, John Stuart and Jennings.

STOLL

FILM COMPANY,

LIMITED

The restless enterprise which has characterised the policy of this firm throughout its history is reflected in its imposing list of varied and weighty contributions to the Film Weeks. Stolls do nothing on a small scale, and the extensive nature of their productions, and especially of their recent work, is a monument to the importance and dignity of the British industry. Some of the larger Stoll spectacles would do credit to any studio in the world; as evidence of modern British studio resources, they testify better than any words to the strength of the movement which the Film Weeks are designed to celebrate.

Bigness in conception and in execution, a feature of nearly all Stoll pictures, characterises that unique achievement, "THE PRODIGAL SON," which as a complete production of 18,000 feet, is undoubtedly one of the world's longest photoplays. Embracing exteriors in Iceland and France, the picture is a

worthy version of Sir Hall Caine's novel, which it interprets in the fullest possible detail without relaxing its grip upon the spectator's emotions.

Another ambitious Stoll production is "THE WANDERING JEW," a version of E. Temple Thurston's stage play, which strikes quite a new note in film entertainments. "The action embraces four distinct epochs—Jerusalem at the time of Christ, Antioch at the time of the Crusaders, mediæval Italy, and Seville in the days of the Inquisition—all of which are pictured in characteristic scenes on an extensive scale."

Although its special topical appeal will not coincide with the Film Weeks, "GUY FAWKES" has a strong historical flavour, combined with excellent entertainment qualities which renders it a characteristic British production. "In the rôle of the courageous Fawkes, Matheson Lang gives one of the best perform-

ances of his screen career. Although it involves no big-scale spectacles, the film has been mounted with excellent taste, and a genuine feeling for the spirit of the period. "DICK TURPIN'S RIDE TO YORK" is another picture which is thoroughly British in subject matter as in origin. Matheson Lang's again the hero, and both acting and beautiful exteriors combine to make a success of a rather melodramatic story.

Other interesting Stoll attractions are "THE SIGN OF FOUR," with Eille Norwood and Isobel Elsom in a full-length Sherlock Holmes feature; "RUNNING WATER," featuring Madge Stuart in an A. E. W. Mason story, introducing worthy exteriors in the High Alps; "THE INDIAN LOVE LYRICS," a rather highly-coloured melodrama based on the well-known song cycle; and "THE STARBURST GARDEN," a George Clark production, featuring Ivy Duke and Guy Newall.