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AT the last meeting of the Bristol branch of the C.E.A. a member remarked that he thought the meetings were too parochial, and he urged his colleagues to think nationally instead of locally. Now, the charge of parochialism is one which may be made not against Bristol alone, but against practically every branch of the association, for, after all, one of the reasons for the existence of branches of trade organisations is to enable local affairs to be dealt with.

IN every district there are certain matters which only affect the members of that district, and the settlement of these little difficulties—trifling enough, no doubt, to all except those whom they intimately concern—may be parochialism, but in carrying out this work the branches are performing one of the most useful and necessary of their functions. Parochialism is not so heinous a crime as some people would make us believe; in fact, to be parochial is very often only taking care to put our own little community in order before we try to straighten out the affairs of the world.

AT the same meeting there was also some criticism of the pre-dominance of Bristol affairs on the agenda of the monthly meetings. It is true that a good deal of time is taken up by Bristol matters, but it is only natural that this should be the case, as Bristol is the only big centre in the whole of the area. In a branch covering so large a district as the Bristol and West of England branch covers, it is perhaps inevitable that the smaller towns should feel themselves somewhat overshadowed by the one big city, and think that their affairs are deemed to be of less importance; but this is really an unfair conclusion, for any

grievance of an outside member which has been brought before a meeting has always received the same amount of attention as any Bristol matter.

IT has been suggested that meetings of the branch should be held in various parts of the district from time to time; such a course has, however, few, if any, advantages to recommend it, but what could be done now that the annual election of officers is at hand would be to nominate some members in towns outside Bristol for official positions in the branch. This would not only create interest in the work of the Association, but would also tend to disprove the charge that the branch is run by, and for, Bristol members alone.

BOTH renters and exhibitors in the Welsh territory are still complaining of the bad times. It is evident that people can find the money to go to the pictures when they feel so disposed. Proof of this has been forthcoming during a recent week, when "house full" was the order each day at the Capitol Cardiff, where the "Orphans of the Storm" was the attraction—and this in spite of the fact that this was not the first run of the picture in the city. Not only did Cardiff people support the Capitol, but large crowds also came from the outlying districts and the scenes in Queen Street—queues more than a hundred yards long at each performance—were probably unprecedented in the territory. All this seems to show that patrons of the film are ready to keep up their patronage provided the pictures are sufficiently attractive.

A PUBLIC protest has been made in the local Press in regard to the prices recently charged for viewing this film at the Cardiff Empire. It was pointed out that when the prices were increased, the announcement was made that the film would not be shown at any other hall in the city. The critic asked why, if the proprietors of the Capitol could show the film at the usual prices, the Empire could not do the same. This has brought a reply from C. T. Hutchison, manager of the Cardiff Empire, in which he states that when the film was booked for his hall it was understood that it would be exclusive for Cardiff, but since then the proprietorship of the rental rights had changed hands. As to the prices, he pointed out that these were determined by the high first-run charges for the film.

AMONG MIDLAND RENTERS

CARDIFF

Back to the Film Trade.—After being out of the cinema business for some time, I. Seenan, formerly manager of Ideal in South Wales, has now returned to the Trade as South Wales manager for Phillips Films, succeeding H. Kaplan, who has been appointed supervisor of the Phillips Company. "A Bill of Divorcement."—A. M. Bass announces that "A Bill of Divorcement" will shortly be released in the territory, and will have first run at the Park Hall, Cardiff. Some unusually smart stunt advertising is being prepared.

General Films.—T. Ashworth, the local manager of General, who has now fully recovered from the operation which he underwent some little time back, held a successful Trade show of "Heritage," for which the Cardiff Capitol has secured first run. "Kitty McKay."—The Trade show of "Kitty McKay" (Vitagraph) was well received by local exhibitors, and good business is anticipated.

BIRMINGHAM

Some Lasky Specials.—An unexpectedly good demand for Famous-Lasky immediate release productions is reported by J. Corper. Following its premiere at the Futurist last week, "Saturday Night" was extensively booked, and there are already many inquiries. The three forthcoming "supers" Trade shows are suspended for the time

being. The next big subject is "The Good Provider," featuring Vera Gordon and Dora Davidson, of "Humoresque" fame. This will be publicly presented at the Futurist on January 29. It will be followed on February 26 by "The Young Diana," an adaptation of Marie Corelli's novel, and on March 26 by "Bought and Paid For," a picturisation of the stage play. Exhibitors are also displaying an interest in "Blood and Sand."

Walturdaw and Wireless.—The sales-room at Walturdaw's office in John Bright Street is being cleared and converted into a drawing room for "listening-in." A number of orders for Marconiphones have been received and passed on to the proper authority for execution. Charlie Hutchin has made other consequential rearrangements and will shortly be Trade showing a number of Quality pictures and sporting dramas. Three of the former will be presented at the Scala on December 7, the titles being "The Cunninghames Economise," and "Keeping Men Interested" (both featuring Joan Maclean and Sydney Folker) and "The Letters" (starring Madge Stuart and Hugh Miller). At the same time will be shown the two Masters single-reel sporting dramas, "A Football Favourite" and "Rowing to Win." On December 14 a four-reel "Quality" drama entitled "His Wife's Husband" will be presented.

Hub Busy.—Harry Goodman, of the Hub

Film Company, is negotiating for new acquisitions to his already attractive list of bookings. He had a wonderful time with "The Game of Life" and "The Bohemian Girl." To-morrow (Friday) he will Trade show "Antony and Cleopatra."

BRISTOL

Fine Pathe Offering.—The Pathé picture, "The Silent Call," screened to the Trade on Friday at the Queen's, is a story of the Wild West, with some fine settings and strong scenes. On the same occasion "The Glass of Fashion" was shown. This short subject will appeal to the ladies as it gives a display in colours of the latest creations by the most famous firms of dressmakers and milliners.

"The Seventh Day."—In this picture, shown by Associated First National last week, Richard Barthelmess has the leading part. There is a good supporting cast, including Teddie Gerard and Louise Huff.

Butcher's Next.—On Sunday, December 3, Butcher's will show "Was She Justified?" at the Queen's. Adapted from Soutar's play, "The Pruning Knife," this Walker West production stars Florence Turner and Ivy Close.

Forthcoming Gaumont Shows.—E. J. Jennings has made arrangements to hold two Sunday shows in Bristol during December. The first will be of "Silent Evidence" and the second of "Blind Hearts."

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