

MOTION PICTURES ARE BEING REFORMED FAST

Various Censor Boards and Mothers' Congresses All Over Country Taking Hand in Revising Films of Country to Be Suitable For Young and Old.



Pearl White, Young Film Actress Who Will Visit Portland on Her Tour of the Country.

Alvin Jack Hutchins, Portland's Boy Movie Actor

BY FRANK CURTIS

BETWEEN the various censor agencies and the diverse mothers' meetings all over the country, motion pictures are fast being reformed. It is expected that in a short time a new class of pictures, based absolutely on the ethical, will be the sole films on the market. In advocating the film reform the Texas Council of Mothers, who met recently, have considered their mission in the film world and sent a series of opinions in the form of questions and answers to the National Board of Censors.

The argument seems to be "what sort of pictures shall be shown to a strictly children's audience" (with the understanding that the child be under 15 years of age). Children's matinees are becoming so popular that it seems unnecessary that time should be spent in discussion as to whether pictures should be shown that exert an evil influence on the minds of the young and impressionable. The pictures manufactured for children's matinees should be such that no questions could be asked about them.

Shall crime and sex scenes, which arouse unwholesome curiosity, be shown? they ask, and say "No!" when the question already answers itself. How in the world could a picture made especially for children be so incongruous as to contain such stuff? Further they ask: "Shall pictures belittling the sanctity of marriage and triangular and intricate problems of marriage be shown?" The absolute absurdity of that sort of material being contained in a film that a manufacturer would create for the entertainment of children is too obvious for even the average fool to ask about.

They also insist that fear should not be used as a motive to check evil, and yet they decided that fear of punishment was their main element used to discipline their own children. A very good and strictly new idea that they are instilling in that every film should not only point out but also prolong a moral.

So emphatic are their views on thievery that "Charlie Chaplin's curiosity, be even steal gum on the end of his cane. They laud cowboy scenes, but exclude gambling, cheating, guns or hanging, which are the essence of a cowboy film.

Suggestive dancing, leering, winking, mushy love making or, in fact, any love making before marriage is barred. What producer would put these things in his "kid film"? is a question that some of the more psychological members of the council are still asking. Scenes of cruelty and torture are also omitted because they said that some children were abnormally cruel. Then, for the entertainment of the National Board of Censors, followed by long discussions on "How to Care Children of Cruelty."

Glad tidings to the worried mother's councils are filled with news that scenario writers are working on an almost inexhaustible number of good old-fashioned fairy tales, Mother Goose rhymes and other nursery classics, so that a class of thoroughly moral and

enjoyable films will be made for the countless number of children's matinees, which will soon be an established factor in American entertainment. This seems to solve the question without their 15 long questions and answers.

Just a real boy, one who loves dogs and horses and is full of life and sparkle, as Alvin Jack Hutchins. Jack is one of our own Portland boys, but at the same time he is a little "movie actor," or was until last year, when he came back to Portland to attend the Ladd School.

Jack played about the Balboa studio for a while last year and one day was noticed by an actor, who asked him to come and see the manager. Full of life and excitement, the boy went, and was more than delighted with his work. In "The House Divided" he played little Harold, the crippled boy. To this play he had to fall from the roof into a blanket, then to the ground.

"I wasn't a bit scared," said Jack. "It was fun." And he is fun and life through his whole makeup. Happy and he takes life seriously and enjoys every minute of it. "When I am 21 I want to be a movie star; maybe I can be," he said, when asked about his ambitions. "I want to go back to the motion pictures soon," added the aspirant.

Although he talks freely of all the stars, knows the latest releases and who is playing in each one, he has also views and opinions on the actors. "Charles Chaplin is my favorite actor," said the boy, and then added under his breath, "Gee, he's funny." Whether he is universal in his sentiments or not, he has another idol, for Mary Pickford is his ideal actress.

Jack is the son of Mrs. Anna Hutchins, 411 Tenth street, and he says for the time being, he is happy to be with his mother. He has been in every section of the United States and in parts of Canada and Mexico. His eyes sparkle and dance as he talks. All in all he is an interesting little chap in real or real life.

Like all the rest of the motion-picture stars, Lillian Lorraine, who makes her debut in the film in the forthcoming "Neal of the Navy" serial, began her dramatic career as "Little Eva," but unlike most of them, she has had an "uninterrupted dramatic life" since she was a little child. She was born in San Francisco in 1902 and after her first stage appearance in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," at the age of 4, she appeared in many child parts while attending the public schools there. At the age of 14 Miss Lorraine left San Francisco for New York, where she was given a small part in a musical comedy under Richard Golden. Next she appeared with Eddy Foy in "The Orchid." She then took part with Blanche Ring and Jeff de Angeles in "The Great White Way." Her first big chance came, however, when she was engaged by Florence Ziegfeld to play with Anna Held in "Miss Innocence." The following year saw the young actress featured in the "1909 Follies." She remained in the "Follies" for three years, being starred in the "1912 Follies."

Since then she has been a vaudeville favorite, and her time has been spent largely on Broadway. In 1914 she was featured in "The Whirl of the World." She was just filling a big vaudeville engagement when the Balboa manager caught her out and lured her with his

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tempting offers to become a screen actress.

Her magnetic personality, dash and beauty have been great factors in her past success, and they, doubtless, will be responsible for the success that she is sure to have in the silent drama. Her work in "Neal of the Navy" is said to be ideal.

Pearl White, the dashing, daring, little film actress who has for some time been entertaining the movie-going public with her perils and exploits, is to be a Portland visitor this Fall. So successful have been her "Perils of Pauline" and "Exploits of Elaine" that there has been a great public demand to see the winning star in person.

In answer to this demand, Miss White has consented to appear at all the theaters that ran the two serials. One may, therefore, expect to see her in Portland before Winter.

Pretty Pearl has had an interesting career. She boasts of no great and grand ancestors, or pampered childhood. She was simply a very pretty child in the backwoods of Missouri when the manager of a local "Uncle Tom's Cabin" traveling stock company lost his "Little Eva," and discovered possibilities in the enthusiastic, big-eyed little girl. She, therefore, made her first appearance in slave drama.

Since then she has appeared in numerous productions, has scored successes in musical comedy, and, when the Selig manager secured her, was an actress of enviable repute. Her last two serials have been of wide popularity, and her personality has played a great part in winning for her the admiration of vast numbers who have followed her adventures. Doubtless there will be even a greater interest when these people are able to see and hear her and find out what she really is like in life.

Split Reels

HEADED by all the leading California producers and stars, a mob of movie people flocked to Brighton Beach yesterday for their gala carnival and field day given by the Picture Exhibitors' League of Greater New York.

Lillian Walker, Mary Pickford, Mary Fuller, Edith Storey, Joe Humphreys, Willard Mack and scores of other stars were there in all their glory.

Sport events, contests, swimming and in fact everything that goes with a picnic made a grand day. A great parade, which represented the best and most artistic efforts of the different film corporations, was a sensation and admired by all. Cowboy stunts were also a source of amusement, as were the actresses' automobile events.

An interesting ceremony recorded by the camera man last week was the suffrage demonstration held in the Hudson River. Two tugs were chartered and decorated, one to represent the New York delegation, the other New Jersey. In mid-stream they met and there Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, of

New York, presented Mrs. C. M. Van Winkle, of New Jersey, with a torch, the exact replica of the one that graces the beautiful Statue of Liberty. Thousands crowded to the shores of the river to see the impressive presentation of the "Torch of Liberty." Needless to say, the river was dotted with countless craft. More than that, the camera man caught the ceremony from beginning to end in every step. Realizing the wide publicity this would give their cause, the fair workers sent thanks to the film men.

"Scandal" has made such an impression on an Atlanta woman that she has organized an Anti-Scandal Club, with a most commendable motto: "I and my household solemnly pledge to speak only good we hear about people. If we can speak no good we will speak no evil." The Anti-Scandal Club may thrive, but it is such an innovation in women's clubs that all the Atlanta citizens have not invested an abundance of confidence in it yet.

Cyril Maude, the noted English actor, has been engaged by the Oliver Morosco Photoplay Company to play film

leads. Mr. Maude was born in England, but his first appearance was in Denver, Colo., in "East Lynne." After this production he returned to England, where he played at the Criterion Theater. After playing in the leading London theaters, he returned to America, where he toured the country as Squire Shively in "David Gerrick." He starred in many other popular productions, but is now perfectly content and at ease with the movies. His first appearance will be "Peer Gynt."

At Coronado, Cal., carpenters are busy erecting a new studio and general plant, which will be operated by the Lubin Company. Coronado is an ideal place for such an affair, as it lies just opposite San Diego and commands a marvelous bay and ocean view. J. E. Duell, technical director, asserts that all will be complete by the end of this month.

After rubbing elbows with English royalty for some time it is not surprising that Anna Nilsson should receive attentions from a daring British composer, who asks her to favor him by accepting an autographed copy of

his most recent song hit, "Our Country, Flag and King" is the song, and he urges her to accept it, saying that it has been accepted by Queen Alexander, King George, Sir John French and the late Lord Roberts. Although it was a concession, Miss Nilsson accepted the gift.

One of the admired and recent movie stars who appears in "The Rinked Rhinoceros," is Raymond Hitchcock, who plays a part that, though it is at times uproariously funny, is always clean and modest.

A recent visitor at the Griffith studio was Jacob William Binder, director of finance and publicity on the National Board of Censorship. Mr. Binder has been in California since the exhibitors' convention at San Francisco.

Among those who are interested in Elaine Sterne's "Lincoln's Dream" are Oswald Villard and Rabbi Stephen H. Wise, the latter formerly of Portland. This production is backed by the National Association of Colored People and is said to present their side of the Reconstruction period.

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