

## A caress that started before they met

Their romance started before ever they met ... two hours before ... when Poudre Tokalon had put that final, glamorous touch to her personality. She knew that Poudre Tokalon would keep her looking fresh and lovely through all that romantic night. Mousse of Cream is the secret of a complexion that remains smooth and flawless for hours. Poudre Tokalon is the heart-disturbing powder that brings the bloom of youth to your complexion and makes you look as young as your heart. Change to Poudre Tokalon to gain his unchanging admiration.

Six modern shades to choose from-Apricot. Natural, Peach, Rose Peach, Brimette,



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## TEN PICKING THE

growing more tolerant as a critic? Having asked the question I shall leave it to others to answer when they learn that during the past year there were 16 occasions on which the Little Man stood up to applaud, as compared with 14 occasions in the previous year and 12 in 1943. Or does this simply mean that I have been choosing my own pictures more carefully, staying away whenever possible from those which gave an indication in advance of being poor-quality productions? I suspect that this may be the explanation, rather than that the general level of quality has notably risen.

There were, as the list on this page shows, 38 films during 1945 to which a sit-down clap was awarded, and this also represented an advance on 1944. Of the other films seen, 30 were sufficiently interesting and entertaining to keep the Little Man upright in his seat, while ten found him recumbent when the lights went up. This time there were no absolute "stinkers," justifying the Award of the Walk-Out; a fact which should, however, not necessarily be regarded as a sign of virtue in the films. It may merely be a sign of increasing virtue in the critic, who is prepared to die at his post rather than retreat.

THIS brings me to the Old Christmas Custom of Picking the Ten Best of the Year. To achieve the required result it is necessary to drop six titles from the list of A-grade awards. So I delete Citizen Kane, King's Row, Madame Curie, Meet Me in St. Louis, Our Hearts Were Young and Gay, and Song of

RE films improving—or am I Bernadette, leaving the following as my done in the semi-documentary manner; final choice for the First Ten of 1945 (not in order of preference):

> Demi-Paradise
> The Fighting Lady
> Going My Way
> Henry V. Henry V.
> The Suspect
> A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
> This Happy Breed
> The Way Ahead
> Western Approaches

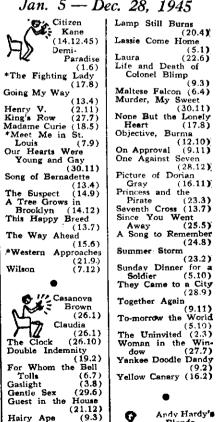
I dropped Citizen Kane, not because it failed to measure up, but because, strictly speaking, it had no claim to be in the list in the first place, being a regrading of an old film, and not a new release. But apart from this, I prefer, instead of explaining why I deleted those six, to mention briefly my reasons for retaining the other ten. Well, then, I have included Demi-Paradise because, although it had faults, it was an inwell-sustained. and goodhumoured satire on Anglo-Russian relationships. The Fighting Lady is included as an outstanding American example of the straight documentary; and Going My Way because of the performances of Barry Fitzgerald and Bing Crosby and because, in spite of excessive sentimentality in parts, it was a very human piece of entertainment. Henry V not merely gets into the list but, I think, heads it, being a milestone of the cinema. The Suspect is there because it had fine acting by Laughton and was a first-class melodrama about a likable murderer; A Tree Grows in Brooklyn is there because it was moving, honest, and embued with social consciousness; This Happy Breed because it revealed Noel Coward at his best, giving us a warm-hearted study of an ordinary English family; The Way Ahead because it was such a fine and sensible tribute to the British soldier,

Western Approaches because it even improved on San Demetrio, London, as a factual story of the war at sea; and Wilson because of its courage in tackling a difficult biographical subject and, above all, because of the performance of Alexander Knox.

OF all the pictures I have seen during 1945, I nominate Henry V as the most outstanding-so outstanding that I have really no hesitation about making the choice. If Western Approaches had come before San Demetrio (last year's winner) it might have put in a serious challenge; and This Happy Breed could not be entirely disregarded. But Henry V breaks so much new ground, is so successful from almost every viewpoint, that it comes in an easy winner. I am, of course, in an unusually strong position in making this selection. I saw this British production at a preview, but it has not yet been publicly released. Until it is, members of the public can scarcely contradict me!

The figures after the titles in the following list indicate the date (day and month) of the issues of The Listener during 1945 in which films in the A and B categories were reviewed.

## Index of Gradings Jan. 5 - Dec. 28, 1945



Hairy Ape (9.3) I'll Be Seeing You (19.10)

I'll Walk Beside You Jane Eyre (29.3) Keys of the Kingdom (28.9)

Lady in the Dark (9.2)

Andy Hardy's Bionde Trouble Bathing Beauty Bring on the Girls Canterville Ghost Christmas Holiday Dangerous Journey Dark Waters (continued on next page)

New Zealand Listener, January 4

