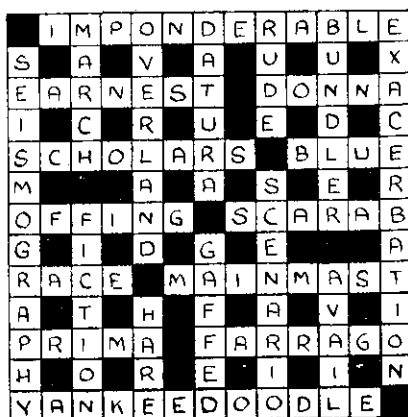


supposed to be (she's the author of an uncomprisingly highbrow novel called *Bury My Soul*, which, though lacking popular success, nevertheless manages to keep her in furs and a stylish wardrobe throughout the story) would remain the faithful and even intimate friend of anybody as scatty and selfish and soul-devouring as Miriam Hopkins (who writes popular pot-boilers out of sheer jealousy, and seems to be modelling herself on Billie Burke). So loyal and forgiving is Miss Davis that, after two hours of suffering and renunciation, the curtain goes down upon these two diametrically dissimilar types sharing a sofa and a drink and chatting over old times with sentimental affection.

Candidly, I am of the opinion that this play by John Van Druten is as phoney as they make them, and it says a whole lot for Bette Davis' quality as an actress that she can keep the story from curling up and dying through sheer weariness; indeed, can even imbue it with enough of her own vitality to make it moderately entertaining. But this film will not do her reputation much good; so, for Miss Davis' own sake, and at the risk of repeating what somebody else is almost sure to have said already, I will suggest, now we have seen it, that *Old Acquaintance* be forgot and never brought to mind.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 290)



Clues Across

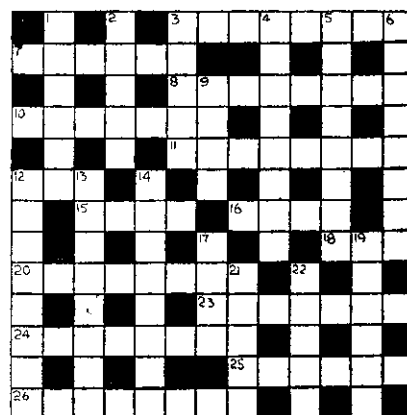
3. Trouble for baby from the golfer's little gadget?
7. Confused bather—perhaps because he's out of this.
8. Soon time to sort out our feelings.
10. In the middle of the song as well as after it I offer red Italian wine.
11. Ada accompanies the large, hornless, ruminant, long-necked, cushion-footed quadruped to the scene of slaughter.

12. Skill in 7 across.
15. Apparently a very prolific poet?
16. The best fairy stories begin with this word.
18. Title of a play by Karel Capek.
20. A busy little insect out of order in a kind of window gives an Eastern effect.
23. Part of the sovereign's floral teaset?
24. I'm on, Aunt! (anag.)
25. Wears out.
26. Presumably he would have difficulty in finding his sea legs.

Clues Down

1. The Green one is serially famous.
2. Unit of fineness for gold.
3. Its place is between eta and iota.
4. Gossiping.
5. Devout admirer of toil, dear.
6. Some rags may be delicate gauze.
9. "The fishermen, that walk upon the beach, Appear like ——" (King Lear, Act. IV, Scene 6).
12. This form of alarm nob is out of the ordinary.
13. Ruin with tact, speaking little.
14. Implies what the speaker should do before making his speech?
17. Pen-name of H. H. Munro.
19. This moneylender is more certain in the end.
21. Nine out of order under fifty for a product of flax.
22. The Eskimo's answer to the housing problem.

No. 291 (Constructed by R.W.C.)



NATIONAL FILM UNIT

THE arrival of Lord Louis Mountbatten and Lady Mountbatten at Ohakea, the civic reception in Wellington and the Dunedin tour, is shown in the National Film Unit's *Weekly Review* No. 241, released throughout the Dominion on April 12. Another feature is the Australian-New Zealand Cricket Test Match in which wickets fell to the Australians with such bewildering rapidity. News Clips include a demonstration of surf skis at Piha; the arrival of the New Zealand advance party in Japan; and a glimpse of the first of the two vehicular ferry-boats that crossed the Tasman from Australia to Auckland for the North Shore Ferry Service.

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