foully murdered, and the hero has chopped down half the Japanese police force with his bare hands. This leaves him considerably battered but with still enough breath left to get the last word—which he does with an unusual exposition of the Christian doctrine of torgiveness.

Blood on the Sun is a good film-or more strictly a good melodrama—in spite of several gaps in the continuity which in one place amount to a yawning chasm. The Japanese have discovered that their beautiful agent (Miss Sidney) is double-crossing them; she is shut up in her hotel apartment, her telephone is cut off, and she is promised a particularly lingering death as punishment. When the hero visits her apartment some days after, the place is empty. But a couple of scenes or so later there she is safe and sound, complete with her secret document, hiding out in another part of the city-but with absolutely no explanation offered for her getaway. Even this clever young woman couldn't talk herself out of such a nasty situation as easily as that; and I find it hard to believe that the director simply went to sleep at this point, especially as the fate of another character, a treacherous American, is similarly left hanging in mid-air. The explanation must be that somewhere between Hollywood and here a clumsy cut was for some reason made in the film.

## A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS

(Columbia)



SCHEHEREZADE was clearly the originator of the radio serial; her sponsor allowed her story-telling marathon to keep

going for 1001 nights and then renewed his contract. But if she had tried to tell this story he would have put her off the air, and out of existence, at once.

Modern audiences may be a little less discriminating. Certainly there is an idea or two behind this film: notably the character of Abdullah the Touched One (Sid Silvers), who "claims he was born two thousand years too soon" and uses New York slang in old Baghdad; and the decision to turn the Genie of Aladdin's Lamp into an amorous redhead (Evelyn Keyes), who is also extremely modern in her language though not necessarily in her outlook on life. These are quite bright devices to employ in what is at best a burlesque extravaganza utilising half the fancy costumes in Hollywood and most of the resources of the technicolour plant. What is really lacking is the ability to carry the ideas out. Even a burlesque demands some sort of consistency; there should be sense behind the nonsense, a method in the madness. The Marx Brothers could have done it ideally. As it is, the magic gets in the way of the straight romance (between Cornel Wilde, the street singer, and Adele Jergens, the Sultan's daughter) and the romance gets in the way of the comedy. All that you really have left is the spectacle, and the nights seem never-ending.

#### NATIONAL FILM UNIT

WEEKLY REVIEW No. 247 from the National Film Unit and released throughout New Zealand on May 24, contains the following items: "Anzac Day in London," showing among those present at the service General Freyberg and Sir Ian Hamilton, who is now 94 years old; "Aluminium Ware," made in Auckland; "Parade in Japan," with General Northcott inspecting New Zealand, Australian, and Indian troops in Chofu, Japan; and "Duck Shooting" in Southland, where the opening of the shooting season is keenly awaited by sportsmen

### THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 296)



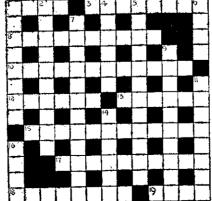
#### Clues Across

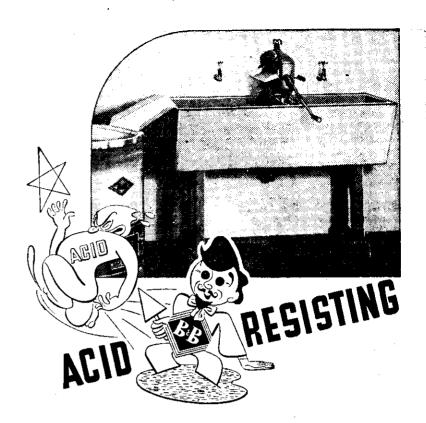
- 1. An implement in reverse provides booty.
- 3. Cat's coat (anag.).
- 8. Rash.
- Able to follow on sea and sun—this is out of place at this time of the year.
- 12. Introduced from abroad.
- You must be fed up if you're at the end of yours.
- What the housewife needs to carry when doing the shopping on Friday (9, 3).
- Doubly lit before the confused date. The result is stimulated.
- 18. Can't indeed!
- 19. Performs with the first half of 3 across.

#### Clues Down

- Rude lies serve to describe a class which has disappeared during the war.
- 2. Apparently this table is not always there.
- He separates the tinker and the soldier in the counting-out jingle.
- The Captains mentioned in the title of Kipling's book would certainly behave in this manner.
- 6. Paints from the soil.
- 7. Visionary philanthropist.
- 9. Having to do with the ABC.
- 11. Bird's age (anag.).
- 14. Separate.
- 16. Irritate with a dog.

No. 297 (Constructed by R.W.C.)





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