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away from what might appear on the surface to be an all-Negro story. But what intrigues me is the fact that the nursery-rhyme round which the plot revolves is always referred to in the film as "Ten Little Indian Boys." I have never come across this version before, either in the nursery or out of it. This isn't to say that it doesn't exist; it is quite likely the wording favoured in America for the reason given above: but the point is that the setting of the screenplay is not American, but a lonely little island off the English coast on which the ten victims have been assembled for a macabre and murderous week-end. Apparently the British are now to have their nursery-rhymes amended for the sake of Anglo-American relationships, in much the same way as it is no longer considered polite for the BBC to refer to Dvorak's "Nigger" Quartet.

I should perhaps add that these are speculations in retrospect. While the film was running my attention was sufficiently engaged (when I wasn't looking for non-existent evidence of the great M. Clair's individuality of technique) in conjecturing whether Mischa Auer would be the

first to die by choking his little self; whether it would be Roland Young or Sir C. Aubrey Smith who would chop himself in half (as it happened it was neither); and whether Walter Huston would predecease Barry Fitzgerald, or vice versa. I won't tell you who survives this elimination contest arranged by the unpleasant "Mr. U. N. Owen" (Unknown, get it?), but since Louis Hayward and June Duprez are the only young and romantic members of the party, you may safely draw your own conclusions.

NATIONAL FILM UNIT

THE arrival of Sir Bernard and Lady Freyberg at Wellington, their welcome as they drove through the streets to Parliament Buildings where the new Governor took the oath of allegiance, was filmed by the National Film Unit and is included in Weekly Review No. 252, released on June 28. Also in this reel are "Traffic Cops Go to School" (showing the training of some of the men of the Transport Department), and "Looking After the Figures" (showing how the modern girl adapts herself to using the newest counting machines."



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