

to have him around. He does help a little to take one's mind off all the soul-searing suffering that occurs when the eminent Dr. Touzac brings back to his country estate an embittered cafe entertainer whom he has rescued from suicide in Chicago, and announces that she is his bride. Much of the suffering is done by the small daughter, a morbidly sentimental 12-year-old who doesn't want to acquire a stepmother one little bit because this will clash with a kind of Shinto-worship which the sweet child practises daily at a shrine in the garden. Though it is casually dismissed as "just something she fixed up with the help of the old gardener," this shrine is really a most elaborate affair, a miniature temple resembling an undertaker's parlour, complete with wrought-ironwork and a stained glass window dedicated "To the memory of My Dear Mother."

Poor dear child, little she knows (though of course the audience does) that the hated newcomer in the household is none other than the mother whose sainted memory she cherishes every day with tears and floral tributes. For her father the doctor, you see, has a dread secret; ten years before in Paris, believing his wife to be a wanton, he

straightway cast her out—not into the snow, but that is the only thing missing from this touching episode. Not till long after does he learn that she was doing no more than give piano lessons three times weekly to a blind man in order to help with the household expenses. One should, I suppose, feel sorry for Dr. Touzac, who is now duly repentant; but any husband who would so summarily dismiss a wife, and any medical man who would encourage a small child in the morbid fancies affected by Suzette, seems to me deserving of small sympathy. Perhaps I might have warmed a little more towards Dr. Touzac if he had worn a beard—a reference which those who see the picture will doubtless understand.

#### NATIONAL FILM UNIT

**WEEKLY REVIEW** No. 254 from the National Film Unit, released throughout New Zealand on July 12, contains the following items: "Parliament Opens" (showing Sir Bernard Freyberg opening the new Parliamentary session); "Frisco Clipper" (the big Clipper takes some passengers on a goodwill flight round Auckland); "Addington Saleyards" (giving a pictorial story of the interesting procedure at one of the big cattle and sheep sales); and "New Australian High Commissioner" (an interview with the new Australian High Commissioner, A. R. Cutler, V.C.).

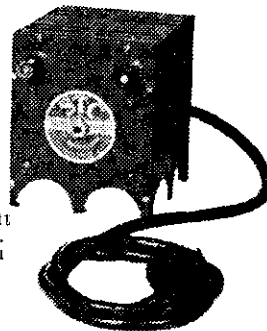


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