

this film are those of *Anna Karenina* and *Madame Bovary*. The detailed observation, the precision and understanding with which the characters are related to the society in which they live, give to the simple love story a specific as well as a universal significance."

America's Contribution "Disappointing"

According to another French writer, the American films on the whole were disappointing. Disney's *Make Mine Music* was pretentious and in bad taste for a good part of its length ("Walt Disney reveals here once again his passion for colour spotches. . . . Awarding a prize to this film was a mistake by the judges.") America's entry of *Rhapsody in Blue* was a similar error in taste, this life of Gershwin not being a good choice for international presentation. *Notorious* was an impressive film, however, an advance even on *Shadow of a Doubt* (also by Hitchcock); and *The Lost Weekend* was also an impressive piece of work, despite certain arid sequences. But *Gaslight*, another Hollywood production, "carried with it the odour of blood, for the British film made from the same novel was murdered so as not to steal the American production's thunder."

Films Need the Right Atmosphere

Out of the nine international awards, France won four. This was a considerable triumph, showing that expensive equipment and huge capital funds are not the only requirements for a good and successful film. The success enjoyed by René Clement, Michèle Morgan, and Georges Auric was not due only to exceptional talent, for (as one commentator put it) "film work is essentially dependent on team-work and all-over effects achieved by co-operation. Particular talents are wasted if the ensemble is poor. There have been many examples of artists thrown away on worthless roles, on fatuous scenarios and dull sets. This Festival has shown that again. Except for the case of Mexico, all the awards were won by countries — the United States, the U.S.S.R., and France — in which there is a film atmosphere. A film, unlike a poem, cannot spring up in solitude."

However, the French choice of entries for the Festival was subject to much criticism. *Farrebique*, considered by many to be the most original French film of the last five years, was eliminated. Instead *Le Revenant* was chosen ("a vaudeville rehash, whose decadent and dated dialogue belongs to the eighteen 'nineties"). This decision had been largely compensated for by the inclusion of *La Patrie* and also *La Symphonie Pastorale*, where the talent of Michèle Morgan was seen to its best advantage in a script originally conceived by André Gide.

Mexico Produced a Triumph

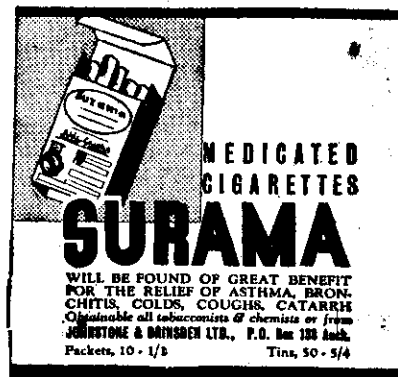
One surprise of the Festival was the Mexican film *Maria Cantellaria*. It was screened immediately after another Mexican film, *The Three Musketeers*, which featured Cantinflas, a comedian reputed to be a second Chaplin. This latter film was very disappointing and the projection room was almost empty when the screening of *Maria Cantellaria* began. The first scenes in it were undistinguished, with mediocre studio sets. Then suddenly the audience was transported to the high plateaux among the vegetable-growing marshes, the poplars, the boats loaded with fruit and flowers, the canals, the malaria. This was a new Mexico, interpreted by actors as simple, as natural, and as impressive as those of the silent Russian films.

The Russian contribution to the Festival was very large. The dramatization of Jack London's *White Fang* was very well received by all, but the film on Zola did not meet with the success that its honesty and directness deserved. The beauty of the photography, and the perfect sets and the competent actors were not enough to make *Glinka* appreciated by most of the audience. It was the fourth life story of a musician to be shown on the screen at Cannes and they were palling a little by that time. The greatest success for the Russians in the second part of the Festival was *Youth of Our Country*, a technicolour documentary of the Sports Festival at Moscow, directed by Youkevitch.

The Earth will be Red, a film of the Danish Resistance, was impressive with

its quiet sincerity even if the tones were rather flat. It was better than the Czech *Men Without Wings*, but was far below the standard of the Italian *Roma città aperta* ("Rome, Open City"). This great Italian film has met with much success in the United States. It is the first example of a new kind of realism from across the Alps, and shows what the best modern European production can be like.

From the results of this international contest it would seem that the films most generally appreciated are those which reveal most simply and directly the life of the country which produces them. It has also been proved again that stars and large financial resources are not the only essentials for good film-making.



MEDICATED CIGARETTES
SURAMA
WILL BE FOUND OF GREAT BENEFIT FOR THE RELIEF OF ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, COLDS, COUGHS, CATARRH. Obtainable all tobacconists & chemists or from JOHNSTONE & DAINSDEN LTD., P.O. Box 125 Auckland. Tins, 50 - 5/4. Packets, 10 - 1/6.

Mary? Alice? Ngairé? Ruth?

*You can get your
Family Allowance
as soon as you decide
the baby's name!*



Quite a large number of parents are losing some of the allowance due to them for their new baby, because they do not apply within three months of the baby's birth.

If application is made *within* the first three months the allowance is made as from the beginning of the month in which the birth takes place. If you do not apply until after this period, the allowance is dated only from the first of the month in which you apply.

Don't delay

So, as soon as you have decided on the baby's name, you will register the birth and the Registrar will hand you the Application Form for the Family Allowance. Fill it up and send it in to "Social Security".

Remember — this is no charity, but an insurance payment willingly made by New Zealand to those who are

contributing most vitally to the future of our country.

Joy of a large family

New Zealand needs children, and the Family Allowance is the most practical way of helping young couples meet that need. But men and women also need children to complete their happiness. A large family is one of life's best gifts, and it is only right that it should carry no serious economic disadvantages.

Play your Part

The world admires our system of Social Security which has taken away the fear of poverty. But we must face the fact that these splendid provisions can only be paid for by a high level of production from all of us. Management and Labour, workers in every sort of job — it's up to you!

work steadily and KEEP N.Z. PROSPEROUS

ISSUED BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT