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word should be said for the naturalism with which the Belfast street-urchins have been handled.

In intention *Odd Man Out* can safely be classed as a great film; in achievement it comes very close to greatness. Certainly it is a film which will be remembered, and remembered with advantage.

DESERT FURY

(Paramount)

INTO the little Western township of Chuckawalla (a dozen stores, one soda-fountain, one factory, and a gambling-joint) comes a gangster, John Hodiak. Mr. Hodiak, who has just left the wilder and more western centre of Los Angeles, wants to be alone in the silence of the desert so that he can figure out a new racket. Simultaneously in comes Lizabeth Scott, who has deserted from her finishing school 'way down east because she wants To Live Her Own Life in the clean, healthy atmosphere of mother's sidewalk casino. Within a couple of reels she has succumbed to the sleek charms of Mr. Hodiak and wants to live his life instead. But Mother, who was herself taken down on her way up by the same gentleman, locks Lizabeth in her room. The latter eventually raises the siege and there is much racing and chasing around in high-powered cars before Mr. Hodiak considerably runs off the road and rubs himself out. This leaves Lizabeth free to walk off into the technicoloured twilight on the arm of the husky deputy-sheriff, who has been hanging around patiently for some 8000 feet. And, believe me, it takes some patience.

NOT SO FANTASTIC

DISCUSSING the review of *School for Secrets* (Listener, 26-12-46), Dr. A. L. Singer, of Gisborne, writes:

"There is one point in your comment which I should like to take up. You criticise, very naturally one would have thought, the selection of a pure zoologist as the leader in a research on Radar. This does seem absurd, but apparently is not as silly as it sounds. I enclose a copy of *Discovery* which explains a lot. *Discovery* is a popular scientific journal, but of good standing."

The marked passage, which answers very effectively the point mentioned by Dr. Singer, is the report of an address given to a recent conference of the British Association by Dr. Edward Hindle, scientific director of the Zoological Society of London. His subject was "Zoologists on Operational Research" and the relevant paragraph reads:

When the Air Council in 1942 decided on the development of a promising device called H2S one of these teams (of zoologists) investigated the apparatus, and when it was being produced in quantity in December, 1942, at once tested the sets and helped to make them operate. They also personally installed them in the first two squadrons of aircraft. The original gear refused to work but, by the middle of January, 1943, various modifications had been developed and several aircraft had been equipped and were ready for trial by the R.A.F. One of the great difficulties of radar is that, unlike wireless, when a set is switched on it does not always work automatically, but seems to be extremely temperamental and often gives unexpected results. Zoologists proved to be particularly well fitted to cope with these difficulties, since by their training they become accustomed to handling large numbers of uncontrolled variables. The part they played

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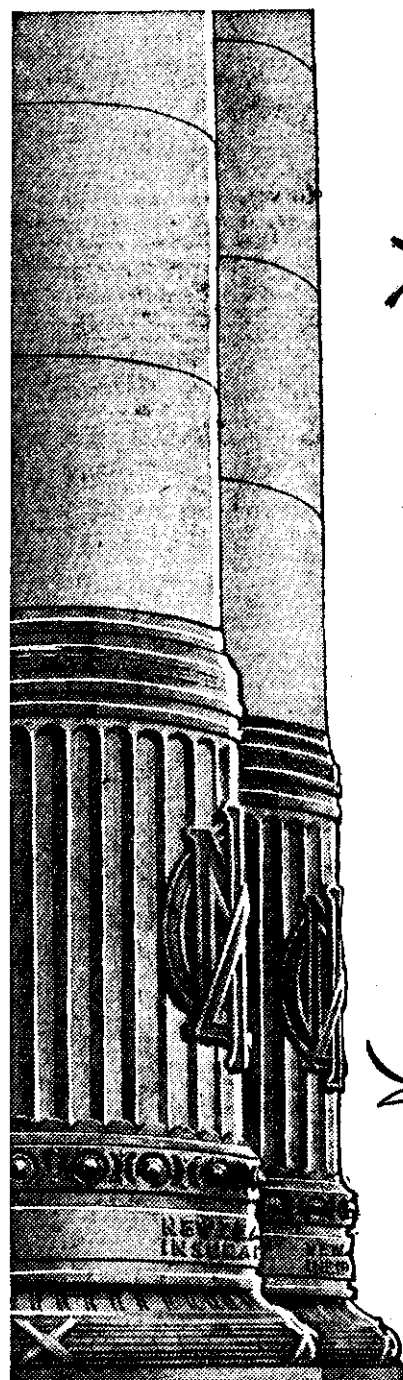
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