



"ON THE SURFACE, this is the cartoon jungle with which we are familiar, but something new has been added"—a scene from "The Lion," first of the Rank Organisation's "Animaland" cartoons

APARTMENT FOR PEGGY

(20th Century-Fox)

PEGGY (Jeanne Crane) is the bright little wife of a rather dull ex-serviceman (William Holden) who is studying at one of the glossier U.S. universities. Life is hard. Bill's rehab. bursary is barely enough to buy vitamin-pills for his wife (she is palpably expectant), far less provide a home for her, and when the film opens they are literally camping on the campus. In no time, however, Peggy has made up to Edmund Gwenn, a disillusioned old curmudgeon of a philosophy professor who is saving up sleeping-tablets so that he can commit suicide comfortably in bed. If the professor had gone straight home at this point and swallowed his entire stock of sleeping-tablets one might have got out in time to catch an early tram, and no harm done, but of course he had to fail for the blandishments of the young woman. She installs herself (and husband) first in the old man's house, then in his heart and a routine sequence of complications follows. She loses her baby at birth (vitamin-pill deficiency is hinted at), but saves the old man from suicide, becomes temporarily estranged from her husband and finally reconciled with him. Even this well-worn theme might have been bearable had there been any adventitious excellence of acting, photography, or direction, but the whole is steadfastly mediocre, and almost as soporific in its effects as one of the professor's sleeping-tablets.

THE WEAKER SEX

(Rank-Two Cities)

THE *Weaker Sex*, a pretty literal screen version of the stage play *No Medals*, by Esther McCracken, is a most worthy attempt to pay tribute to the women of Britain for the courage and endurance which they have shown during and since the war. Good intentions alone, however, do not make good

plays or good films and the Dacre family (headed by Ursula Jeans) is rather too conventional in its attitudes—and in its experiences—to be altogether convincing. There are too many stiff upper lips and the script suffers from such well rubbed lines as "I mustn't break down . . . I mustn't. Let's talk about the weather—anything." Filmgoers whose memories are long enough may find points of resemblance between *The Weaker Sex* and *Cavalcade*. The smooth competence of Mr. Coward's technique is, of course, lacking in the present show, but so too are his more grandiloquent vulgarities.

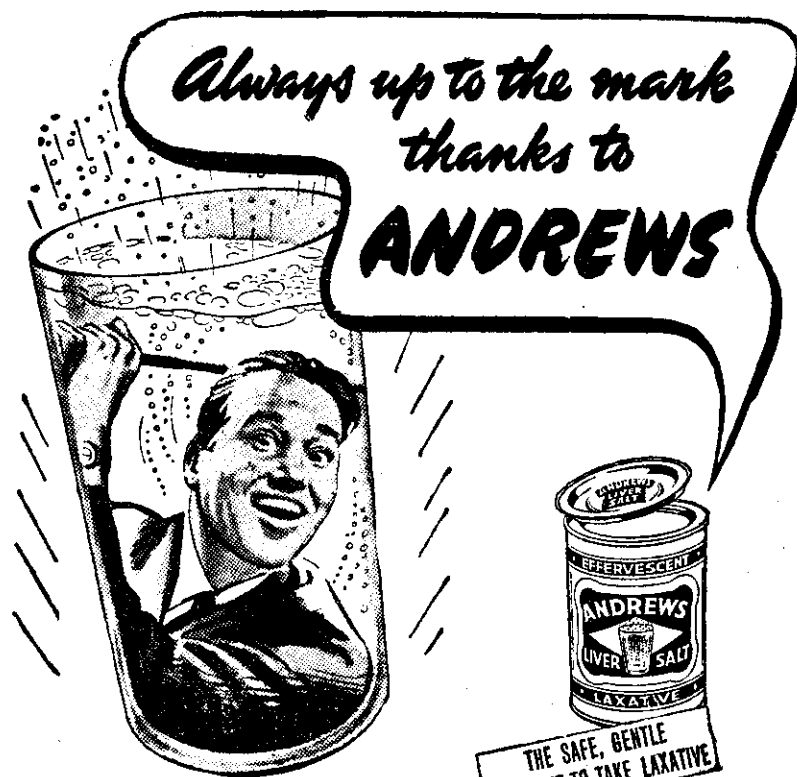
THE LION

(Rank-David Hand)

QUITE the brightest spot in a rather drab week of film-going was a preview of the first colour cartoon produced by David Hand for the Rank Organisation. Inevitably it owes a good deal to Disney in animation and general style. Inevitably, too, it will be compared with the best of Disney's work and may suffer in the minds of some filmgoers by the comparison. On the surface this is the cartoon jungle with which we are familiar, but unless I am much mistaken something new has been added. There is a good helping of the accustomed slapstick; but there is also a thin seam of genuine satire which will, I hope, be mined more assiduously in future productions.

NATIONAL FILM UNIT

"WASPS," an item in Weekly Review No. 397, which will be released on April 15, by the National Film Unit, gives a very interesting picture of the nesting habits of these insects, the damage they are capable of, and the different methods of eradication. Other items in the reel include "Surf Carnival" at Lyall Bay, "Spraying with Fertilizer" (showing a new and easy method of spraying farm lands), "Wellington and Hutt Kennel Club Dog Show," and a novelty news clip from Otaki, "Dog Herds Chickens."



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