



REX HARRISON

Harbour, the declaration of war, his meetings with Churchill and Stalin, are some of the highlights. Little is seen of his family or private life, and even the infantile paralysis attack is dealt with only from a distance. The picture generally is frankly sentimental and propagandist, and the commentary, written by Lawrence M. Klee, is spoken by voices representing ordinary United States citizens—the little men for whom Roosevelt did so much in his long years as President. It is often crude, harsh, and unsubtle. But perhaps it gains in strength from that.

THE CENTRE

(Paul Rotha-Films of Fact)

THE name of Paul Rotha is familiar to all serious students of the cinema, and this half-hour feature by him describes the work of the Pioneer Health Centre at Peckham, an outstanding ex-

periment amongst community centres that has already been extensively written about. It is a kind of suburban club where the whole family can go during their leisure hours to meet their friends and indulge in their favourite recreations under the watchful eyes of two social biologists, Drs. Scott Williamson and Innes H. Pearse. The film traces what happens to a typical family who join the Centre, and in the accuracy and restraint with which it handles its subject is an unusually good example of the documentary method.

THE SIGN OF THE RAM

(Columbia)

THIS is a morbid psychological thriller about a family living on the coast of Cornwall under the domination of their foster mother, a sinister but attractive young cripple in a wheel chair, played by Susan Peters. She commits various unnatural acts to keep her husband's children under her control, and succeeds only in ruining everybody's happiness, including her own. Apparently her motives had some obscure connection with the fact that she was born under Aries. Heaven preserve us from any more pictures with astrology in them, if this is what it leads to.

NATIONAL FILM UNIT.

WEEKLY Review No. 400, which will be released by the New Zealand National Film Unit on May 6, contains the following items: "Teachers' Tourney," side-lights on the Training College tournament held in Wellington; "All Blacks 1949"—at practice and on their departure for overseas; "Autumn Manoeuvres" by the New Zealand Navy, and "Children's Paintings." The last shows some of the paintings, done by children aged from five to 15 years, which were recently exhibited by the Arts and Crafts division of the Education Department.

"GHOSTS OF MUSIC"

A SERIES of self-contained programmes dealing with the lives of famous composers under the title *Ghosts of Music*, is now being heard from the ZB stations at 6.0 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Each episode of *Ghosts of Music* contains some of the best-known music of a selected composer, played by the New Budapest Trio, a recently-formed Australian

chamber-music group. Three of the players are members of the Musica Viva Society which visited New Zealand last year, and the high standard of their playing is well-known to local listeners. The Trio consists of Robert Pikler (violin), Maureen Jones (piano), and Theo Salzman alternating with Lois Simpson as 'cellist.

The idea behind these programmes is to associate the story of each composer and his music with the city where he was born. Thus the story of Johann Strauss becomes also the story of Vienna, and brief highlights from the composer's life are linked together with several of his more popular compositions played by the Trio. There are 52 programmes in the series, each dealing with a different composer, and all the great names of music are there, as well as many of the "popular" ones.

Robert Pikler is an old pupil of Szymon Goldberg and first visited New Zealand with Lili Kraus in 1947. Theo Salzman is a former soloist with the Vienna and Palestine Symphony Orchestras, and Maureen Jones is a young Australian pianist who came into prominence as winner of an ABC Concerto Competition a few years ago. She has since played concertos with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under Eugene Goossens in addition to her chamber music work.



Sparrow Pictures

MAUREEN JONES

The world's most wanted pen

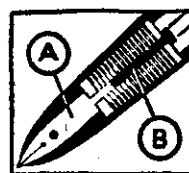
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Parker "51"

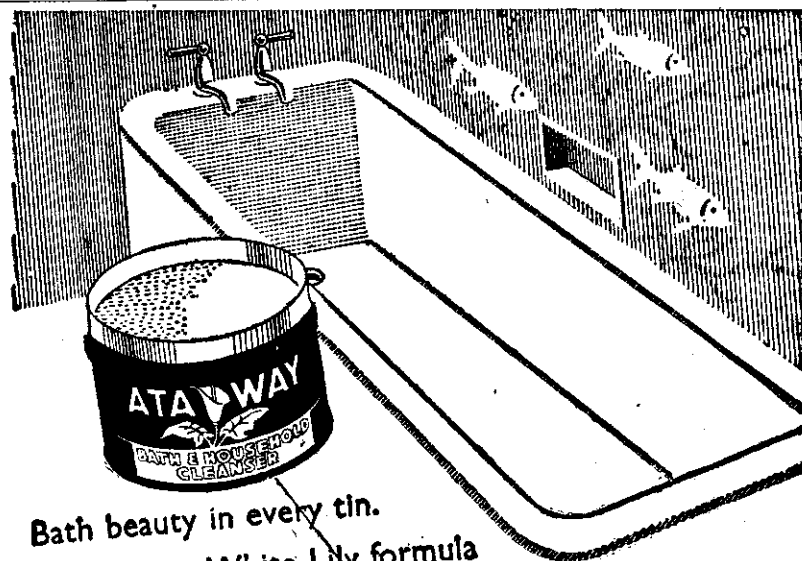
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