

Jerry's B's For B's Contest

A HUNDRED pound Bomber Bond was the Easter gift received by Mrs. M. Grice of 97 Karori Road, Wellington. She won the first prize in Jerry's "Bonds for Bombers" contest, which was for the cleverest sentence made up from words beginning with the letter "B" and including the words "Bonds for Bombers" or "Bomber Bonds." There was no entry fee. In addition to the first prize of £100, there were three consolation prizes of ten pounds and 25 of one pound, all in bonds. The three ten-pound prizes were won by C. V. Sharp, of Mount Albert, Auckland; Miss Edna Herrick, of Auckland; and E. Rankin, of Dunedin. Mrs. Grice's winning sentence was "Buy Bomber Bonds and bequeath the bairns better birthright."

(Continued from previous page)

pect us to look upon von Graum as farcical (he is plainly nothing else) and the Englishman as typical.

MIND you, I don't deny that *Pimpernel Smith* in some respects is typically English, in the sense that no other country could have produced it, and none but a British audience would appreciate it fully. This is particularly true of the humour. There is one delightful sequence in which von Graum, trying to analyse the British sense of humour—which he has been told is our "secret weapon"—is completely baffled by *Punch*, P. G. Wodehouse, Edward Lear, and Lewis Carroll. (Though, for that matter, there are plenty of Britons who can't raise a laugh—nowadays a sneer might be more popular—at P. G. Wodehouse, and who are as unimpressed by Carroll's "Jabberwocky" as von Graum is). And again, I suppose it is typically English to have university students so immature that their professor treats them almost like naughty children. And it may be typically English also to deplore violence as the Professor does, and to use it apologetically.

Yet to say that in some ways a film is typically English, is a very different matter from calling it "an anthology of the British (English?) character." No, I prefer Leslie Howard's own tag: "Just an amusing piece of hokum." That is at least honest and strictly accurate—though I will admit that, by giving so modest a label to a film which is such jolly good fun and such well-made entertainment, Mr. Howard has himself revealed the British characteristic of under-statement!

DANGEROUS MOONLIGHT (RKO British)



THE original music which runs through this British picture was to me its most enjoyable feature, though I expect that others will prefer the Spitfires which chase Nazi bombers out of the English skies in one of the concluding sequences. The musical score is by Richard Addinsell, and I hope that

his *Warsaw Symphony* has been recorded separately and may be heard some time on the air.

As for the plot, it is largely a collection of clichés made fairly acceptable by the sensitive and intelligent direction of Brian Desmond Hurst, and the photography of Georges Perinal. The elusive theme of the *Warsaw Symphony* opens and closes the picture as the hero, a great Polish pianist and aviator named Radetzky (Anton Walbrook), who is in an English hospital suffering from shock and loss of memory caused by an air smash, gropes for and finally succeeds

in recovering the melody of this symphony which he has composed—and with it recovers his health, his memory, and his wife (Sally Grey). In between those hospital sequences we get the story of how Radetzky began to compose the music during the bombing of Warsaw, how he then met the American girl who later became his wife, how he escaped from Poland to America, made a triumphant recital tour of the States, was continually torn by the conflict between his art and his patriotism, finally decided that his first duty was to fight and not to play, was estranged from his

wife as a result, went to England, joined the Polish Air Squadron, flew a Spitfire against the Messerschmitts, crashed—and there, some 80 minutes later, we are back almost whence we started.

Most of the time I was just sitting up attentively, but I think I'll give the film a handclap because the music deserves it; so does the performance of Derek de Marney as a charming, blarneying Irishman who is the hero's best friend. And, as I've already mentioned, so do the director and cameraman, operating under difficult wartime conditions.

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