

TEN BEST OF THE YEAR

THE TEN Best Pictures of the Year (or should it be the Best Ten)? But why ten; why not twenty, or six, or thirty-nine?

Because ten is for some reason the traditional mystic number for this purpose; and anyway, there just haven't been Twenty Best Pictures this year.

As it happens, my choice this time is comparatively easy, for on looking back through *The Listener* of the past 12 months I find that on only 12 occasions has our little man (whose opinion I value as highly as my own), risen from his theatre seat to applaud. Obviously then, all that remains for me to do is to delete two titles, which leaves us with the following (not necessarily in order of merit):

"Mrs. Miniver" (January 8).
 "The Talk of the Town" (February 19).
 "Moontide" (March 5).
 "Tortilla Flat" (July 9).
 "The Moon and Sixpence" (July 16).
 "Stand By For Action" (August 27).
 "Tennessee Johnson" (November 5).
 "Love on the Dole" (December 24).
 "Keeper of the Flame" (December 24).
 "I Married a Witch" (December 24).

The dates refer to the issues of *The Listener* in which these films were reviewed, and although I was partly responsible for the traffic jam at the end through having taken time off from reviewing, it will be noticed that four out of the 10 films came in the last two months of the year, while another one, *Mrs. Miniver*, just squeezed in at the beginning.

The two films which I had to delete from the little man's total of 12 "stand-up claps" were Chaplin's *Gold Rush*, and the war drama *Wake Island*. Anyway, *The Gold Rush* did not properly belong in a 1943 collection: it was a resurrection from the great silent past. And though *Wake Island* had considerable merit—it was almost documentary in its realism, and resisted the temptation to put a blonde in the bomb-rack—I can let it go with less reluctance than I would feel about any of the others.

* * *

I SHALL not attempt here to justify in detail the choice of The Ten. If any reader has had the diligence to save 52 back issues of *The Listener*, he may also have the energy to turn up the dates mentioned and see exactly why the little man bounded from his seat with enthusiasm on those occasions. But briefly, here are the chief reasons why those pictures were specially applauded:

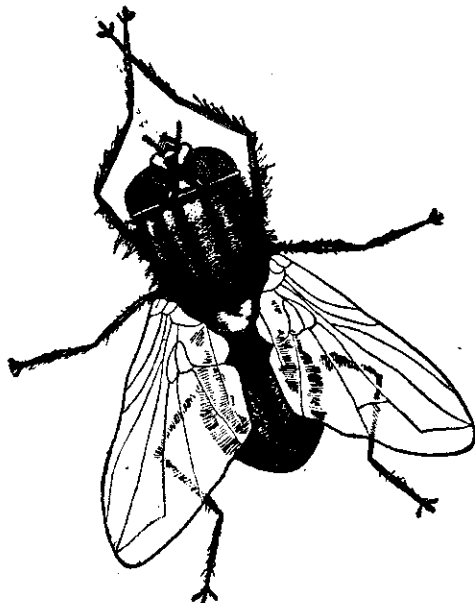
Mrs. Miniver, for being a real and not a phoney story about the war, and for the acting of Greer Garson (she was subsequently announced as an Academy Award winner—and incidentally, we have not yet seen *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, which won James Cagney the corresponding award); *The Talk of the Town*, for being humorous as well as exciting and, in spite of becoming tongue-tied at the finale, for having something to say; *Moontide*, for Jean Gabin, Thomas Mitchell and Ida Lupino, and for fine atmosphere; *Tortilla Flat*, for Spencer Tracy, Frank Morgan, good atmosphere and a cheerful philosophy; *The Moon and Sixpence*, for the performance by George Sanders and for being intelligent adult entertainment; *Stand By For Action*,

(Continued on next page)

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DEPT. OF HEALTH



FLIES—One cause of SUMMER SICKNESS!

Summer sickness is due to infection. Anyone can get it, but babies are particularly prone. The symptoms are diarrhoea and vomiting, and in babies high temperature. Get the doctor at once, and give in the meantime water that has been boiled.

Artificially-fed babies get summer sickness from infected food such as unclean milk, or from unclean utensils and careless handling of food, from dirty hands and dirty 'dummies' (which are always unhygienic), and from FLIES which infect everything they touch.

In breast-fed babies, infection is usually due to neglect in care of the breasts. Nevertheless, for young babies breast feeding (with proper care taken) is the best preventive of summer sickness.

WAGE WAR ON FLIES

Here is the song of the fly:

Straight from the rubbish heap I come
 I never wash my feet
 And every single chance I get
 I walk on what you eat.

Keep flies off all food. Stop them breeding. Keep rubbish in closed containers. Use household sprays liberally. Protect milk from flies, dust and dirty hands. Use pasteurised milk. Otherwise home pasteurise or scald it. Then keep it COOL. Keep all food utensils scrupulously clean and where flies cannot get at them.

Mother! Always wash your hands and scrub fingernails after attending to baby, and BEFORE preparing baby's food.

ONLY THIS KIND OF CARE WILL PREVENT INFECTION

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