

is at times a little rueful and shame-faced. Perhaps (consoling thought) it has already been released in Australia.

## THE ROSE OF BAGHDAD

(Ima-Grand National)

THIS production has been advertised in Wellington as the first British full-length colour cartoon, though that is, I believe, a slight over-simplification of the situation. It might be more accurate to describe it as the first feature-length cartoon made in England, but with Italian direction, English dialogue and narration, and American Technicolor it is practically an international enterprise. And not a bad one, either. The figure-drawing is strongly influenced by Disney, which is a little disappointing, and the colour—uneven in quality—has not the pastel delicacy that Disney, and some British cartoon colourists, have achieved. But the story hangs together well and to the Arabian Nights' theme has been added a touch of pantomime (and even, here and there, something almost Gilbert and Sullivan) that could reasonably be interpreted as English in origin. Inevitably there are sequences that may scare small children, but eight-year-olds and upwards should enjoy themselves thoroughly. Anton Gino Domenghini directed, music is by Pick-Mangiagalli, and narration by Howard Marion Crawford (whose voice should be familiar to NZBS listeners).

## THE OLD LADY OBJECTS

WILL the sedate officials of the Reserve Bank, I wonder, be kicking themselves because they did not think of it first? Certainly the world premiere of *The Million Pound Note*, which the Queen graced at Auckland, should have given them the opportunity to do the Right Thing.

Now, it's been left to the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street to set the youngsters a lesson in decorum and keeping up the old traditions.

For nearly a fortnight the posters in the Underground stations showed a £1,000,000 note advertising the film based on Mark Twain's short story. Then one morning the pictures of the Note—surely it deserves the capital usually reserved for diplomatic communications—were covered with black labels.

A Bank of England spokesman explained that, as a matter of principle, the bank did not like to see currency reproduced in that way. Anything which might be thought to bring currency into disrepute was also disliked—apparently even a bank note has tender feelings and a reputation and must not be libelled. As an afterthought, the young gentleman from Threadneedle Street mentioned that, of course, there had never been a £1,000,000 note.

—J. W. GOODWIN (London)

## America Now

“IT is a great mistake to regard Americans as lacking in self-criticism. No visitor could be as critical of the limitations of their systems of government and education as many Americans are themselves; and to this attitude they add great resources of energy and a strong faith in their ability to advance as a people as far in moral and spiritual fields as they have in technology.” J. C. Reid, senior lecturer in English at Auckland University College, told *The Listener* this in commenting on a series of six talks he is to give from 1YC under the general heading of *Observations About America and the Americans*. The first of these, “The Mid-Western Temper,” will be broadcast at 9.30 p.m. this Saturday, February 6.



J. C. REID

Mr. Reid returned recently from the United States, where he spent a year as a Fulbright Research Scholar. His impressions are, he says, “inevitably rather superficial,” but he adds that he did go to some trouble to poke about in out of the way places and talk to all kinds of people so that he could compare their views with those of academic folk. In his first talk he will discuss the attitude of Mid-Westerners to Britain and the world, describing “their conservatism, faith in free enterprise, distrust of government controls, and their spontaneous generosity.”

In his second talk Mr. Reid will draw upon his experiences at the University of Wisconsin, where he spent a good deal of his time, to talk about various types of student, the relationship of the university to the community, and the chief aims of Mid-Western education. Some aspects of recent American painting and the treasures of the great galleries in New York, Boston, Washington and Chicago provide material for two more talks, and in his final session Mr. Reid will speak about some of the

American and foreign writers he met.

A study of television in several cities and in the special laboratories established for the purpose at the University of Wisconsin formed an important part of Mr. Reid's research work, he told *The Listener*. “Television in America has become so much a part of daily life that a home without a set is regarded in much the same way as people here regard a home without a radio—as something eccentric or out of date. Unfortunately, the general level of TV entertainment is poor. Too much is raucous, noisy, crude, oversimplified and designed for an easily satisfied or amused public. It is shot through with commercials, in poor taste, incessant, and aggressive. However, no one who has watched TV can doubt that it is one of the most wonderful means of education and amusement ever invented. Like most such media it is in itself morally and culturally indifferent, but it can be put to good or bad uses. So far in the United States it has been more mediocre than anything else.”



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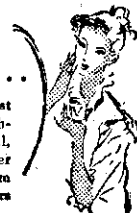
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