

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

(Renown-George Minter)

CHARLES DICKENS was at his best in his more expansive mood, and that goes for Alastair Sim as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. I suppose it isn't an easy part to play because such an overnight conversation is rather improbable anyway. In the early part of the film Mr. Sim is seldom very convincing, and his scenes are sometimes funny when they should be frightening. But the best of the incidents which the spirits of Christmas call up for Scrooge are well done (the disposal of his effects after his death makes the flesh creep), and once he wakes from his troubled sleep Mr. Sim is completely and delightfully at home with him in a way that brings sentimental tears to the eyes. The film would be worth seeing if there were no more than this to it. A number of the other parts also are very well played.

Film Gradings

GRADINGS of films reviewed in *The Listener* so far this year are:

Fine: *The Moon is Blue* (12.3.54), *Julius Caesar* (19.3.54), *Devil in the Flesh* (26.3.54), *Death of a Salesman* (7.5.54).

Fair to Fine: *The Tithfield Thunderbolt* (15.1.54), *The Million Pound Note* (29.1.54), *Little Boy Lost* (12.2.54), *The Happy Time* (19.2.54), *Never Take No for An Answer* (26.2.54), *Malta Story* (5.3.54), *Chance of a Lifetime* (12.3.54), *From Here to Eternity* (26.3.54), *High Treason* (2.4.54), *The Little World of Don Camillo* (7.5.54), *The Band Wagon*, *Face to Face* (21.5.54), *The Man Between*, *The Juggler* (4.6.54), *The Sea Around Us* (18.6.54), *The Intruder*, *The Star* (2.7.54), *The Captain's Paradise* (16.7.54).

Fair: *Top Secret* (15.1.54), *Peter Pan* (29.1.54), *Roman Holiday*, *The Rose of Baghdad* (5.2.54), *Moulin Rouge* (12.2.54), *How to Marry a Millionaire* (26.2.54), *The Ninth Commandment* (12.3.54), *South of Algiers*, *Take the High Ground* (9.4.54), *Ride, Vaquero!* (23.4.54), *Folly To Be Wise*, *Mogambo* (30.4.54), *The Glenn Miller Story*, *Genevieve* (14.5.54), *Kiss Me Kate* (11.6.54), *Night People* (18.6.54), *The Franchise Affair*, *Welcome the Queen* (25.6.54), *The Man Who Watched Trains Go By* (2.7.54), *A Christmas Carol* (16.7.54).

Mainly Fair: *Pick-up on South Street*, *To-night We Sing* (8.1.54), *The Story of Three Loves* (22.1.54), *The Master of Ballantrae* (19.2.54), *Innocents in Paris* (5.3.54), *Dangerous Crossing* (26.3.54), *Ukrainian Concert Hall* (2.4.54), *Rob Roy*, *The Highland Rogue*, *The War of the Worlds* (9.7.54).

Overcast: *Sailor of the King* (22.1.54), *Appointment in London* (5.3.54), *Beneath the 12-Mile Reef* (19.3.54), *King of the Khyber Rifles*, *Father's Doing Fine* (15.4.54), *This Woman in Dangerous* (23.4.54), *Prince Valiant*, *The Red Beret* (28.5.54), *House of Lost Women* (11.6.54), *The Seekers* (9.7.54), *I, the Jury* (16.7.54).

Dull: *All the Brothers Were Valiant* (25.6.54).

Bizet in Ceylon

ALWAYS fond of exotic settings for his operas, Bizet went farthest from home with *The Pearl Fishers*, set on the shores of ancient Ceylon. Here the lovely priestess Leila, under oath of purity in-word and deed, prays night and day for the good of the tribe. But Leila is beloved by the chief Zurga and by his friend Nadir, one of the pearl fishers. Before long her vow is broken, and the high priest Nourabad incites the people to take their vengeance. . .

This opera will be broadcast next week by all YC stations. Recorded on LP discs, the performance is by the Paris Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra under the baton of Rene Liebowitz. Leila is sung by Mattiwilda Dobbs (soprano), Nadir by Enzo Seri (tenor), Zurga by Jean Borthayre (baritone), and Nourabad by Lucien Mans (bass).

The Pearl Fishers: All YC stations, 7.0 p.m., Sunday, July 25.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 16, 1954.

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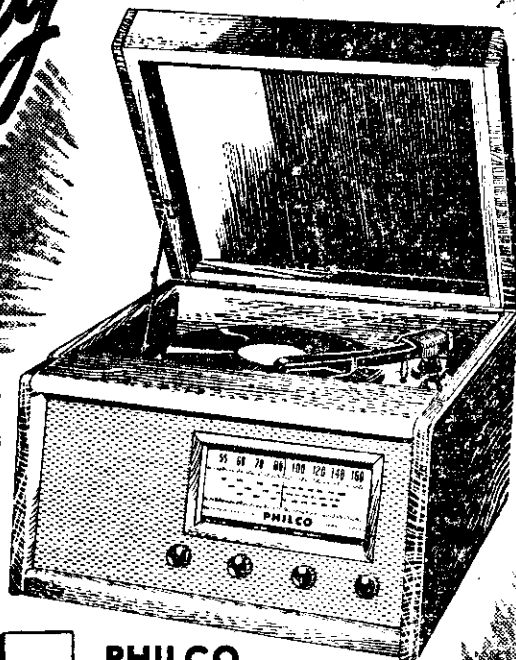
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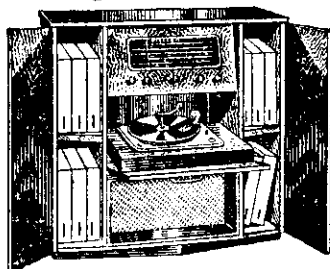
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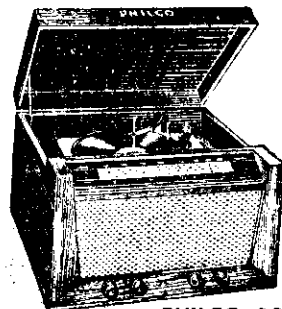
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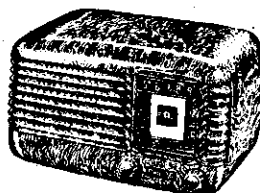
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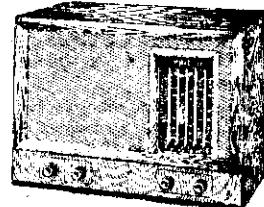
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