#### BAROMETER

FAIR TO FINE: "The Caine Mutiny." MAINLY FAIR: "About Mrs. Leslie."

and has been dropped, but reduction of the rest to manageable length has entailed a compression and acceleration of events that drives the action forward at an unnaturally hectic pace. One short sequence, in which Queeg uncharacteristically makes a bid for the support of his officers, has been interpolated -apart from that the condensation is generally efficient and effective. Taut is (I suppose) the word for Dmytryk's direction, and in general the photography is good, with the exception of a quantity of footage wasted on a tank-model and an artificial storm. And the acting is first-class. Humphrey Bogart's Queeg matches in quality his performance in The African Oueen-indeed, the more I see of him, the more I admire his capacity. Van Johnson and Fred Mac-Murray are also admirably cast, the former as the Executive Officer Maryk. the latter as Tom Keefer, the smoothtalking trouble-maker. And I would like to have seen more of José Ferrer. He made an excellent Greenwald. But Bogart holds the eye, even though he rarely meets it. He's good. As Queeg would have said, I kid you not!

## ABOUT MRS. LESLIE

(Hal Wallis-Paramount)

THIS sentimental little piece is barely more than an excuse to give us another glimpse of Shirley Booth in action. and I suppose there could be worse reasons for making a picture. Mrs. Leslie (she is Mrs. by courtesy only) is a white-haired little woman who keeps a rooming house in Beverly Hills. Cali-fornia. And like everyone else in Beverly Hills, she has a past. It is this that the film explores, tentatively, and at times with an odd pathos that goes beyond the prevailing sentimentality. But it adds up to very little. Shirley Booth gives her part polish and grace. By contrast, Robert Ryan (as the man in her life) seems fumbling and inadequate.

# Hard Task

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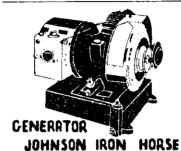
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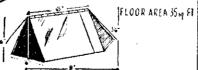
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