



FILM REVIEWS, BY F.A.J.

One from the Goony Bin

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THE LADYKILLERS

(Rank-Ealing)

TALKING about The Goon Show recently with a BBC producer, I found myself agreeing that one could not imagine its lunacy in visual terms, The Ladykillers goes a little way along the road. It's true the film follows a logical, cause-and-effect pattern which anyone can understand, and I'm sure the people about me who found it so amusing were not all Goonatics. But there's a rich, heartless, Goonlike absurdity about its situations and about several of its leading characters (one of them played, as it happens, by a leading Goon, Peter Sellers), and personally I think it can only really be enjoyed if approached on some such terms. Unfortunately, perhaps, the

The Ladykillers is the sort of film that can't be adequately discussed without revealing the plot, so those who want to feel its full force had better not read on. Set in London, it's the story of a dear, eccentric old lady (Katie Johnson) whose imaginary adventures amuse the local police. Mrs. Wilberforce takes as

cinema tends to bring it down to earth.

BAROMETER

FAIR TO FINE: "The Ladykillers." FAIR: "World in My Corner."
FAIR: "The Littlest Outlaw."

a boarder the sinister Professor Marcus (Alec Guinness), the fellow members of whose string quintet-Cecil Parker, Danny Green (a Goon if ever there was one), Peter Sellers and Herbert Lom, all in top form-are really fellow conspirators in a daring robbery. When Mrs. W., who has unwittingly helped them, discovers what they've been up to, they plan to kill her but, unable to bring themselves to it, end up in selfliquidation (not so much of a paradox if you look at their characters), leaving Mrs. W. to tell another story which the police receive with good-humoured dis-

This story, by William ("Genevieve") Rose, has been no less than brilliantly directed by Alexander Mackendrick. Setting, characters and situation are established with telling economy, there's (continued on next page)

LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 814)

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Clues Across

- 1. It is an excellent example to treat a bird as one would a dog (7).
- Confused lease for an artist (5).
- 7. Cut off this Scout's head and it's all up with him (5).
- Sure! What's 9. Die? left? (7).
- 10. He's cruel, but confused. By his labours, perhaps? (8)
- This bird sounds as if it's not so strong (4)
- 13. Fish the boss out of the stream (6).
- 14. Clothed (6).
- 17. This friend is much changed (4).
- Widespread disease due to pied mice (8).
- 22. This is sometimes in the shape of an eagle, but it is eagle, but mostly a sea-bird (7).
- 23. This town makes sense to Germans
- 24. She would be nice without a heart (5). 25. Altered altered (7).

- 1. Fish 51/2 yards long? It would certainly knock you off yours! (5).
- 2. Inns (7).
- 3. Their charges are sometimes quite small (6).
- 4. The answer needs to be in Latin here (4).
- 5. Slide sideways? (5).
- 6. Drew ale (anag.).
- 8. Our set will provide ways, if not means (6).
- 12. What you should do to your own 20 down (6).
- 13. Linch me for making lace? (7)15. One would naturally be this, to find a goddess in bed (7).
- 16. This instrument is largely made of pine (6).
- 18. With an addition, this relative becomes dirty (5).
- 20. See 12 down (5).
- 21. Neither more nor less than a lake

No. 815 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

