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NURSING STAFF

The next class of Nursing Trainees at the Grey Hospital, Greymouth, will commence early in June.

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Film Reviews, by Jno.

CLASSIC PROFILE

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

(Stanley Kramer-United Artists)

FOR the second time within a fortnight I find myself respectfully applauding the collective judgment of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Jose Ferrer's Cyrano de Bergerac is worth an Oscar in anybody's bullion—and I have no doubt that the studio will discover it is worth a good deal in real money, too.

As the fiery and sensitive Gascon with the outrageous nose, who would sooner fight than eat, who loves but dare not declare his love for fear of ridicule, and who in anguish of heart eventually helps another to win his own beloved Roxane, Ferrer is superbly in character. With stage experience of the same role behind him, his lines come over crisp and clean; he contrives to suggest in their just proportions the swordsman's braggadocio and the quivering sensitivity it is intended to conceal, and when he is in the camera's eye it is not difficult to see the France of Louis XIV there, too, with all its legendary romance, poetry and panache.

It is unfortunate that no one else in the cast manages to convey anything remotely like the same quality of place and period—but it is not disastrous. Cyrano is almost always there, and when he is within range of the camera you are not likely to be distracted by the solecisms of minor players. But a double

standard in the dialogue is often noticeable. At first I wondered if, in breaking down the text, the scriptwriter (Carl Foreman) had used all his ingenuity in preserving the wit and poetry of the major part and given scant attention to the rest. But I came to the conclusion that in general the faults lay with the players. "Why do you do it, Cyrano?" looks fair enough in print; if it comes out as "Why'd'ja do it?" you can't blame the scriptwriter.

While the photography (directed by Frank Planer) does occasionally underline the conventions of the stage and the artificialities of the plot, it is often—as in the opening sequence and in the episode of Cyrano's midnight battle with a whole company of swordsmen—dramatic, exciting and admirably geared to the action. And it provides the film with a splendid beginning and a good end.

How true this all is to the original I can't say, since I haven't read the play by Rostand (black mark!). But the duelling is good—the best on the screen since Hamlet and Laertes crossed swords—and the story has in large measure the poetry, romance and emotion attributed



JOSE FERRER
Beaten by a nose

to the play. It should have, too, the same appeal for the ordinary spectator. By a curious coincidence, I was reading about Rostand himself the other evening, and learned that his work is being reassessed and valued today "as a lucid and moving dramatisation of his own sense of unfulfilment." On the strength of the Screen's *Cyrano* (produced by Stanley Kramer and directed by Michael Gordon)—and perhaps of radio's *L'Aiglon*—I would hazard the guess that Rostand's work will be enjoyed as long as his sense of unful-

(continued on next page)

Holiday Broadcasts for Boys and Girls

"LESSONS? No, of course, that isn't the idea at all." Arnold Roseveare, of NZBS Broadcasts to Schools, adopted the air of a school teacher packing his bags for the summer holidays when *The Listener* asked him about the special children's programmes for this month's term holidays. Mr. Roseveare, who has selected and arranged the holiday programmes since they were first used experimentally from 2YA in 1950, made it quite clear that the broadcasts are meant to entertain, not to instruct. They will be heard from the four YA stations, with selected programmes from the YZ stations, at about 9.4 a.m. daily from Monday to Friday in the fortnight starting Monday, May 12.

All the same, there's more than entertainment in the big item for boys—an interview in which an All Black, Ron Jarden, gives Pat Earnshaw, of 2YA, his views on Rugby. Ron Jarden is soon to become a teacher, and Mr. Roseveare assured us that he speaks a language all schoolboys will understand, though what he has to say should help school football coaches also. Gear, training, rules, positional play, tackling and team work are among the aspects of the game Ron Jarden will discuss. This interview will be heard from 1YA and 3YA on Wednesday, May 14, and from 2YA and 4YA on Wednesday, May 21.

Lesley Coleman's programme *Fun With Music*, to be heard on Friday—from 2YA and 4YA the first week, and 1YA and 3YA the second week—will this time include some musical quizzes. Passages from modern popular music

will be played and listeners will be asked to guess the classical works on which they are based.

Nursery Rhymes for children aged five to eight years, conducted by Loma Jones, of *Kindergarten of the Air*, will be a new feature. This will be heard from 1YA and 3YA on the first Tuesday of the holidays, and from the other YA stations on the second Tuesday. Another programme which should be popular, especially with boys, will be Bryan O'Brien's *Strange Journey*, based on Mr.

O'Brien's experiences in the Antarctic with the 1934 Byrd Expedition. This will be heard from 1YA and 3YA the first Friday, and 2YA and 4YA the second Friday.

The holiday programmes will include a number of features that School Broadcasts found were popular with children last year. All stations will discuss their programme for the week each Monday morning, and the same day will broadcast *Hints for the Holidays*—tips on how to spend spare time, new ideas about indoor hobbies and the like. Each station will also broadcast a story every day.

Other programmes to be heard in the first week include a book review on Wednesday and a quiz on Thursday from 1YA and 3YA, a community sing (led by the studio class) on Tuesday, and a quiz on Wednesday from 2YA and 4YA, and two Crosbie Morrison nature talks on Thursday—"Animals in Winter" from 2YA, and "The Story of the Moon" from 4YA. In the second week 2YA and 4YA will have a book review on Wednesday and a quiz on Thursday, 1YA and 3YA will have a community sing on Tuesday and a quiz on Wednesday, and the nature talks on Thursday will be "Animals in Winter" from 1YA and "The Story of the Moon" from 3YA.

Though the programmes have been arranged, and will be provided by Schools Broadcasts, stations will not necessarily present them in the same way. This will be left to an officer at each station, who will be in charge of the broadcasts throughout the fortnight.



RON JARDEN
A big item for boys