

BAROMETER

MAINLY FAIR: "Quo Vadis."
FAIR: "The Ringer."

the triumphal march-past of the legions or the exodus of the terrified mobs from the burning city, the camerawork and handling of vast crowds are highly competent. The most spectacular scenes however, such as those where the Christians are thrown to the lions or burnt alive on fiery crosses in the arena of the Coliseum, are the most tasteless. The best sequence, and one of the few where any genuine emotion is aroused, is the second to last, in which the giant Ursus (Buddy Baer) wrestles with a bull in the arena and breaks its neck, thus saving the life of Lygia, who had been tied to a stake near by. The Roman soldiers, led by Marcus Vinicius, choose this moment to stage a political revolt, and Nero commits suicide.

The Christian saints are not forgotten, and Finlay Currie is impressive

with white beard and shepherd's crook as the Apostle Peter. We are reminded, by brief flashbacks of Christ carrying His Cross to Calvary and of the Last Supper, that the date of the events is only A.D. 64. But all this can't obscure the fact that the film's ostensible object, to show the triumph of Christian purity and spiritual power over Roman militarism, has been obscured through the greater dramatic interest of the latter. As an historical mock-up of the days when Christianity was just beginning, *Quo Vadis* is immense but often dull. Its saving graces are more or less accidental. The actors try hard to get some real feeling into their lines, but the artificiality of the script generally defeats them.

THE RINGER

(London Films)

THIS adaptation of Edgar Wallace's well-known yarn is a neat mixture of comedy and suspense, in the best British whodunit manner. It concerns a crooked lawyer (Herbert Lom) whom

the Ringer is determined to kill in revenge for a murder which can never be proved in court against him. The Ringer is so named because he rings the changes on his disguises so well that the police can never discover his identity, and the audience have the task of spotting him from among a number of likely suspects. Donald Wolfitt, Greta Gynt, William Hartnell, Mai Zetterling and Norman Wooland are the main characters who are brought together in the lawyer's house on the night the Ringer is expected to act. After much murky behaviour and unexpected happenings, the film ends with the Ringer getting his man, being unmasked by the police, and then escaping for South America.

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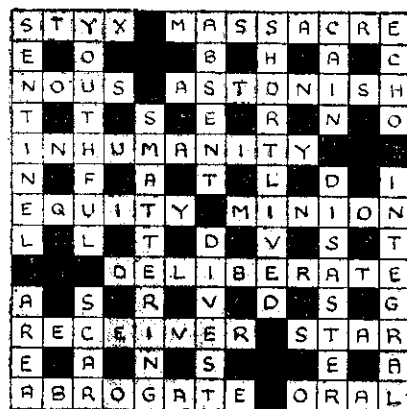
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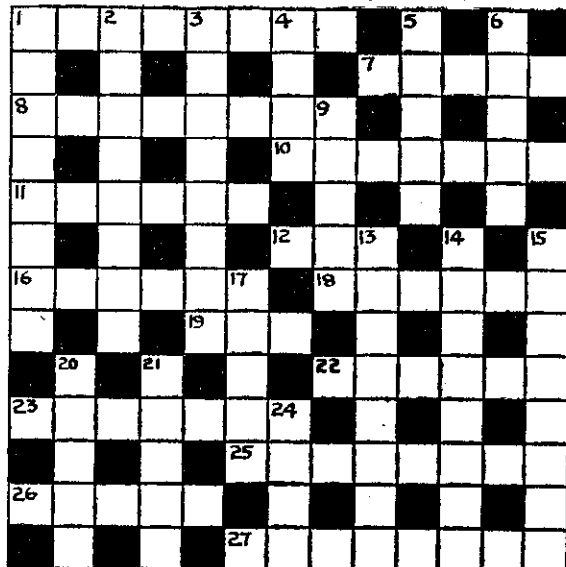
Clues Across

1. Composer of the song cycle "A Woman's Life and Love."
7. Political intrigue.
8. Executioner by the same hand.
10. A world-famous bee-keeper.
11. "When lovely woman stoops to folly, And finds too late, that men ——— What charm can soothe her melancholy? What art can wash her guilt away?" (Goldsmith).
12. Title of a book by Rider Haggard.
16. Give way to compassion.
18. Receptacle for soup.
19. Bore.
22. Roofing of straw or rushes.
23. Finish after the wine: Is this likely to be an omen?
25. A Hungarian composer who wrote the opera "The Tower of Voivod," and "Variations on a Nursery Song," for piano and orchestra.
26. Converse of Liability.
27. Goes on to give the takings.

Clues Down

1. Composer of the song cycle "The Maid of the Mill."
2. Enthusiastically.
3. Composer of the opera "Cavalleria Rusticana."
4. His charges went in two by two.
5. Composer of "The Three-Cornered Hat" and "Nights in the Gardens of Spain."
6. Composer of the song "Jerusalem" and a setting for Milton's "Blest Pair of Sirens."
9. "Tis a naughty ——— to swim in" ("King Lear," Act 3, Scene 4).
13. Pleasant sounding.
14. Declaration of punishment to be inflicted.
15. Binds in chains.
17. Tendency.
20. Composer of "St. Paul's Suite."
21. "Never did sun more beautifully — In his first splendour valley, rock, or hill" (Wordsworth).
24. "Myself when young did eagerly frequent Doctor and Saint, and heard great Argument About it and about; but evermore Came out by the same ——— as in I went" ("Rubáiyat of Omar Khayyám").

No. 652 (Constructed by R.W.H.)



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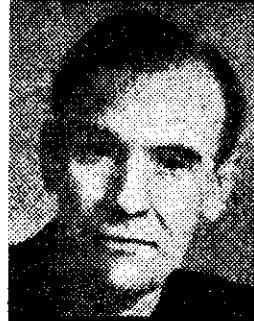
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The Cruel Sea Festival at Farbridge
The Little Madeleine Children of the Archbishop
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