

the three attractive sisters who shared one aerial bicycle would be hard to beat until I saw an Honoured Artist from Turkestan doing handsprings on a high slack wire, then he in turn seemed eclipsed by the extension ladder experts. It was all amazingly impressive.

But it lacked something. On the technical side it lacked adequate lighting. The colour photography was rich and warm enough, but a little smoky and sometimes hard on the eyes. And the concentration on one class of act at a time induced a certain monotony. But what I missed was more disturbing than any technical blemish. I missed laughter. There was only one indifferent clown, there were scarcely any children visible in the audience, and the grown-ups applauded dutifully and decorously as if aware that Big Brother himself was watching them. There was no candy-floss, no popcorn, no ice-cream. Do I sound vulgar? Perhaps I am. But circuses, too, are traditionally vulgar—as vulgar as bread, as vulgar as happiness.

MY COUSIN RACHEL

(20th Century-Fox)

IF you like the kind of *femme fatale*

Daphne du Maurier writes about, and the kind of melodramatic-romantic story she embalms them in, then this (I'm sure) is the kind of picture you will like. So far as I personally am concerned you can have it and welcome. Here is a story of passionate infatuation and dark suspicion, of love turning to hate and back again, of questions that have no answers. It opens cheerily beneath a gibbet (occupied) at the crossroads on a lonely stretch of Cornish coast and the initial mood, with all its intimations of impending calamity, is well maintained. Cousin Rachel (Olivia de Havilland) is beautiful and a widow. Did she poison her husband? Her cousin (Richard Burton), former ward and heir of the dead man, believes she did and swears revenge. Then they meet and he falls abjectly and irrevocably in love. She comes to stay and he falls ill. Is she now poisoning him? Hatred boils up again. And so it goes on. Miss de H., I must admit, is as lovely as ever she was, and Richard Burton has possibilities as a romantic actor, but I hate being hazed and I have little time for a story which deliberately bewilders, for bewilderment's sake. "Rachel, my torment!" groans her unfortunate lover, in an agony of doubt and indecision. And, since this is apparently my week for vulgarity, "My oath!" says I.

WOMEN AND THE VOTE

HAVE women made the best use of the vote? Whatever differences of opinion there may be on this question, there are probably few nowadays who would deny women's rights in the matter, though there was a time when the New Zealand Parliament heard spirited argument against the extension of the franchise—the lighter weight of women's brains and even Divine revelation on the subordination of the woman to the man were among the points raised. But all that was more than 60 years ago, and to mark the 60th anniversary of women's franchise in this country a panel will be heard on Monday, September 14, discussing the use women have made of this vote. This discussion will be in *Question Mark*, the national discussion programme heard from YA stations (except 3YA in the meantime) every Monday at 8.30 p.m., and members of the panel, broadcasting on this occasion from the studios of 2YA, will be Mrs. Beatrice Beeby (who will be in the chair), Miss Catherine Forde, of the Correspondence School, Miss M. Petricevich, of the Maori Affairs Department, and Mr. R. Hardie Boys.

N.Z. LISTENER, SEPTEMBER 11, 1953.



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