

TALKING OF TALKIES

'Shun!—Radio Stars On Parade

"Radio Parade of 1935," Made by B.I.P., Proves that Old England Can Film Musical Comedy — Will Hay, Clifford Mollison and Helen Chandler Head the Cast—Sly "Digs" at the B.B.C.

IF you're one of those people who write to the papers about the "unmitigated tripe" that is put on the air you'll revel in "Radio Parade of 1935"; if you belong to the band of short-wave enthusiasts who make a practice of listening in to the British programmes you'll regard "Radio Parade" as a meeting place for old friends; if you're one of those people who just go along to the talkies to be entertained you'll get good measure and full from "Radio Parade."

This latest film from the studios of British International Pictures is an excellent example of what England can do when it comes to filming spectacular musical shows. And the star content, too, is high. Will Hay, the priceless star of "Those Were the Days," Clifford Mollison and Helen Chandler head a cast which includes the Western Brothers (remember them in "Mister Cinders?"), Nellie Wallace, Ronald Frankau, the Carlyle Cousins, Clapham and Dwyer, Jack Doyle and Nina Mae McKinney.

The film revolves round the in-

accessible Director-General of a large broadcasting company, his charming daughter and the head of the Complaints Department. The last-mentioned, who is Clifford Mollison, runs across a fellow employee in the washroom of the broadcasting building and unburdens his soul to him. Everything is wrong—the letters complaining about the terrible programmes are mounting by the thousand, the Director-General is an old stick-in-the-mud who won't see anybody or have any new ideas introduced into the programmes; in short, the service is becoming the laughing stock of the country. The washroom acquaintance is none other than the Director-General himself (Will Hay), and he returns to his sanctum to ponder on what the young man has told him. The result is that the head of the Complaints Department is promoted to the position of Director of Programmes and he gets to work to reorganise the whole schedule. Things are going swimmingly for the opening night, with half the

big stars of London booked to appear, when the director of a big theatrical circuit steps in and forbids his stars to broadcast under penalty of losing their jobs. The result is that the big broadcast falls through, with Mollison making the promise, however, of something really big for the following night. And he DOES give the listening public a big show. He not only recruits performers from the staff in the building (and were the charwomen a riot—or were they?), but he sends vans all over London equipped with television apparatus and screens and "televises" the whole programme!

The building in which practically the whole action of "Radio Parade" takes place is a palatial affair which, one is tempted to believe, is a musical replica of Broadcasting House, London. But, unlike the famous headquarters of the B.B.C., singing in the rooms and

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The stars who sing, dance and fool their way through "Radio Parade of 1935"—Clifford Mollison and Helen Chandler (left) settle their differences in a satisfactory way. On the right is one of the 40 stars, while below Will Hay and Clifford Mollison hold a washroom conference.

