

IN SPAIN . . .

By
EMILE

IN one film, Mr. Cross needed soldiers to take part in the capture of smugglers in the south of Spain, famous for its smuggling of tobacco and merchandise.

"There was a young friend of mine," said Mr. Cross, "very fond of my Spanish actress, Maria Victoria Alvarez. I said to him, 'Pepe, I must have soldiers.'"

"He said: 'How many do you want?' I said: 'Oh, half a dozen.' 'Half a dozen are no good,' he said, 'you want 20 soldiers and a sergeant.'"

"He said: 'Don't give them any money. Just give them plenty of sausages and wine.'"

Quite Happy

"SO we gave them plenty of sausages and wine. They were quite happy. The only trouble was that when they went to capture the "smugglers" they went into it with such great glee, all anxious to shine as stars in the film, that we had to come to the rescue and cool them down a little. Besides dreaming of being film stars they wanted to shine before their girls, who washed their clothes spotless for the occasion."

WHENEVER rain fell in the hills, said Mr. Cross, and there was a freshet in the streams, the women all went to the creeks to wash their clothes and belongings.

"When you see gaudy petticoats all spread about the hills to dry," he said, "and the women laughing and telling stories as they wash their clothes in the creeks, with the children playing nearby, that is Spain when she is happy."

ONE of his aims in making his films was to bring out the values of "vocation" sound. The art of using "vocational" sound is to portray through the film the things that strike the mind first. This, says Mr. Cross, is what the best producers to-day constantly aim at.

If you see an American gangster film in which the hero is talking to the heroine in a car, at the same time driving furiously away from a police car, too often the dialogue of the pair takes first place in the sound and the scream of the police siren is merely secondary.

But if "vocational" sound is true in the film, the shriek of the siren and the scream of the tyres should dominate the mind of the audience, giving them the impression that they must be on guard to dodge the shot that will at any moment ring out from the ear of the pursuers. It is this that makes for realism in the films.

WHILE the company was in the middle of a full feature film of 6000 odd feet, war broke out in Spain. Most of the able-bodied men in the village joined the Royalist army and the five men in the company joined up with Franco as well.

Mr. Cross was not anxious to talk about the war itself, but on several points he was most emphatic.

"Franco is not Fascist," he said. "He was born a Royalist and he will always be a Royalist. When the war is over, he



MARIA VICTORIA ALVAREZ

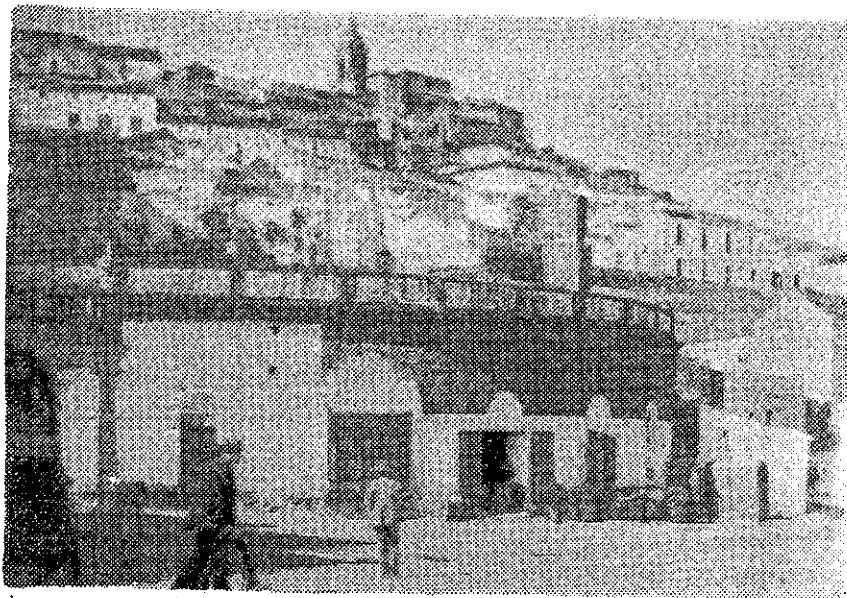
"... A young friend of mine was very fond of her."

will not give any territorial concessions to Italy and Germany; I do not think he will give them any commercial concessions.

"Italy and Germany have been paid for their help already. They have been amply paid for their men and munitions by supplies of raw material shipped to their countries from South America, and paid for by the cash of Franco's supporters."

To pay their debts, Franco's supporters, many of them the old aristocracy of Spain who got their money out of the country before the trouble began, have been supplying Italy and Germany with wool, hides, skins and tallow.

When the fighting is over, Franco will not give away one inch of Spain. His supporters would cut his throat if he did. He will probably restore the Bourbon ruling house in Spain, he himself Premier and have his own Spanish Cabinet.



THE SPANISH TOWN OF ALCALA DE LOS GAZULES

"... One saw beautiful old Moorish houses going up into the sky."