

Good-bye, Glamour

"IT" Is Out-Dated

(Continued from page 12).

"IT" technique, came probably when filmgoers saw Marie Dressler and Wallace Beery in "Min and Bill." Those two old, ungainly, ugly stars smote at glamour with every twist of their rubber faces. And maybe Charlie Chaplin had done a little private ass-saulting before them.

"Sort of Boring"

Marie Dressler was voted the most popular star of 1932 and 1933. After her death, first place was taken among American stars by lovable, slit-mouthed Will Rogers. And since his death, easily first in favour has been Shirley Temple, in 1935 and 1936. I have an idea that in 1937 the child star has been displaced by Gary Cooper—Cooper who once said that glamour is something that "sort of bores the public."

ACCORDING to the Oxford Dictionary, glamour may be on the one hand, "beauty or enchantment" or, on the other hand, "delusive or alluring beauty."

Now, let me make a list of the dozen best stars on the screen to-day—not a list with which you will agree, perhaps, but one which is fairly representative for all that. Among the men are Paul Muni, Spencer Tracy, Leslie Howard, Gary Cooper, Charles Laughton and either Walter Huston, James Cagney or Edward G. Robinson.

The women have at the top Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Bette Davis, Luise Rainer, and perhaps Myrna Loy and Katherine Hepburn.

Glamour Loses Tricks

There is not one of those players relying upon glamour alone—in either of its senses. Moreover, you will find that the more they, and others like them, rely upon "glamour," the less fervent grows their fan-mail. Ronald Colman is losing popularity simply because his tricks of glamour, such as the quizzical raised eyebrow, are becoming a little too obvious.

AMONG men who are nearest to the old matinee idol type are Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, Tyrone Power, Nelson Eddy and the new young man of "Hurricane"—Jon Hall.

Clark Gable exploits his "glamour" about one-quarter as much as he used to do. Robert Taylor is polite about his face but frightened of it. Recent films show clear signs of an attempt to throw down a less fortuitous anchor to popularity. Tyrone Power is also improving in acting, and Nelson Eddy has a voice.

Jon Hall is Samuel Goldwyn's Olympic Champion of Hollywood. Goldwyn even stopped him buying a dress suit when he heard that Hall was being described as "Goldwyn's Gift to Women."

IT is the same tale again with the women. Myrna Loy was once listed in the Hollywood casting office for "temptress roles," but no one took any notice of her until she turned wise-cracking wife in "The Thin Man." Claudette Colbert nearly tumbled right down among the featured players when

she tried to act glamorous Queen Cleopatra.

PERHAPS it really is true that the film business is emerging from its notorious infancy. It is realising that glamour itself is a very small part of any fine player. It is realising that acting comes from the head and the heart, not from the make-up box, and that the voice is its best medium. May not glamour be merely a hang-over from the night before the film found its voice?

Whatever the reason, we must say good-bye to glamour.

N.Z. Baritone

NEWTON GOODSON, the New Zealand singer who has been appearing in a special programme from 2U

Sydney on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 9.50 is rising fast in the broadcasting sphere in Australia, having previously appeared in the popular 2GB feature, "Radio Pic." One Australian writer compares his voice with that of Nelson Eddy. "Although Mr. Goodson's voice is a pitch higher and a little lighter in execution, he has qualities that definitely tend to liken him to Nelson Eddy. His tone and vocal mannerisms remind one of the American singer. Moreover, Mr. Goodson, being in the class of a lighter baritone, adds to his otherwise confined range." not here, Glamour. So please close the door quietly upon this disillusioned realism that is ours.

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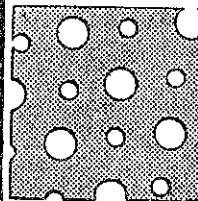
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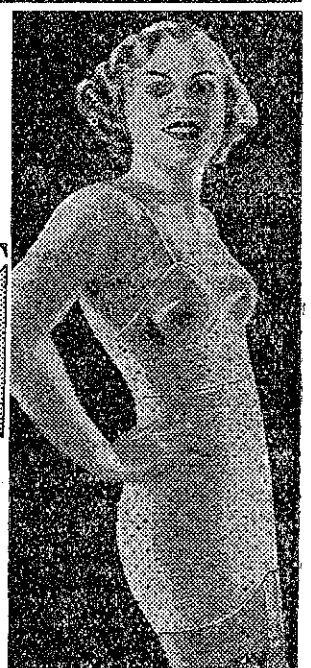
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