

didn't exactly stop the show, but we slowed it down."

Having been somewhat tepid in my appreciation of "Broadway Melody," I suppose I am now expected to make the usual concession and point out that, with its galaxy of stars it will do pretty well at the box office. So it will. But this still doesn't alter the fact that it would do much better if it were a good picture.

["Broadway Melody of 1938," M.G.M. Directed by Roy Del Ruth, starring Robert Taylor, Eleanor Powell. Released this week.]

Prison Memories

MEMORIES of "The Big House" and all the other prison dramas I have seen came into the theaterette and took seats beside me for the preview screening of Columbia's "Penitentiary."

There was one particular Memory

ROUND THE WORLD

Popeye On Tour

POPEYE the Sailor has been appointed as an "Ambassador of International Goodwill" to travel right round the world as part of the international business drive currently in progress among the Paramount offices, under the title of "Paramount on Parade Around the World."

By this time, Popeye will be somewhere in Europe, in the form of a life-size model, constructed of sponge rubber and some special American wood by his artist-creator, Segar. He set out from Hollywood about mid-February, and the itinerary arranged will take him to France, Italy, India and thence either south-eastward to Australia and New Zealand, or north-eastward to China and Japan. He carries with him a large autograph album containing the signatures of Paramount stars and executives, to which he is adding those of important people in the countries he visits.

which kept on interrupting my appreciation of what was happening on the screen by whispering in my ear that it had all been done before, and that he had done it better. After being tantalised in this fashion for a long time, I suddenly identified him as the ghost of "The Criminal Code," which starred Walter Huston, Phillips Holmes and Constance Cummings back in 1931, and was the original version of "Penitentiary."

In spite of these distractions, "Penitentiary" is a picture I'm glad to have seen. It contains much more meat than poison—particularly if you like your meat to be red and raw. There is not much pulling of punches, the tension is strong, and the acting, for the most part, is sound.

Wrong Man For Job

THE main fault of "Penitentiary," I think, is in having Walter Connolly for the prison governor. He is not the ideal man for the job, though,

Fredric March

is on his way!

PIRATE
SOLDIER
LOVER
HERO

