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Beauty Bath

Patricia Ellis—Star of Warner Bros. First National Pictures.

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ing. There are carpenters, plasterers, shoemakers, printers.

"Cloistered" reaches a high standard in the technique of what is known as the "documentary" film. It has been produced by experts, and obviously with the fullest co-operation of the authorities. There is some dialogue in French, but a great deal of it is in English, put into the mouths of the speakers. In addition, there is a full, well-written commentary in English that often enhances the dramatic effect of the photography.

"Cloistered," an official documentary film. Produced in France by Robert Alexandre for Pathe Cinema Productions. First release: Wellington, June 10.

WISE MOVE

Shorter Films

IN view of the complaint in last week's "Record" about the excessive length of some pictures these days, it is interesting to note, from a recent issue of the "British Film Weekly," that steps are to be taken to make pictures shorter.

"Nicholas M. Schenck of M-G-M lately visited Hollywood," states this paper. "The 'Hollywood Reporter' discloses that he spent the whole of one meeting with M-G-M's producers discussing the matter. He vehemently expounded the reasons why something must be done to keep films short. And he wisely pointed out that the place to do it is in the writing. Mr. Schenck's words tend to be law. So we may be most truly thankful to him. . . . As a general rule a subject which needs great length is not a suitable screen subject, while to give a normal subject great length means it is either bloated or incompetent. It was time that somebody stopped this competitive million-dollar meandering. It is fitting that M-G-M, who first launched length as a bold experiment should be the first to see that it must not become a habit."

Naughty De Mille!

CECIL B. DE MILLE'S "The Plainsman" has been banned in Germany. The reason given is that Mr. De Mille "consorted with the Soviets."

De Mille explains that the "consorting" consisted of sending a Christmas card, three years ago, to Boris Shumiatzky, former head of the Russian film industry!

Chan Junior

KEYE LUKE may step into his screen father's shoes. He's the Chinese actor who's been playing son to Charlie Chan in the last half-dozen or so Chan films. He also played Muni's elder son very nicely in "The Good Earth."

Since Warner Oland's walk-out from Fox, one of the substitute ideas is a "Son of Charlie Chan" series featuring Luke. It is said that his real genius is for painting, so perhaps they'll make Chan, Junior, an artist-detective.