

(Continued from page 25.)

Breck's adventures, wins back an inheritance from a miserly, murderous uncle who has had him kidnapped and packed off to sea, and finally helps to save Breck's neck by pleading with the Duke of Argyll. What a pity it is that brilliant juveniles like Freddie have to grow up! Nevertheless, he gives the impression of thoroughly enjoying doing the kind of things that most small boys dream about. You'll notice that the film is to be appropriately released in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to coincide with the school holidays.

Arleen Whelan makes an attractive Hollywood heroine, but scarcely a Scottish one. Unsensational at the moment, this newcomer should develop with experience into a worthwhile ingenuette actress.

Actually, by far the best character-acting in "Kidnapped" is to be found in a supporting cast packed with familiar, talented faces. The casting is so lavish that players like E. E. Clive, John Carradine, Nigel Bruce and Montagu Love are used for roles that last only about five minutes each. Better supplied with material are O. Aubrey Smith as the Duke of Argyll, Miles Mander as the semi-senile miser who is David Balfour's uncle, and Reginald Owen as the villainous sea captain.

A Special Bias

THE practice of juggling with sepia tints and black-and-white is less disconcerting in "Kidnapped" than usual, because the sepia is mainly confined to indoor scenes or those in sunlight, and the black-and-white to night photography. Best scene: Breck and

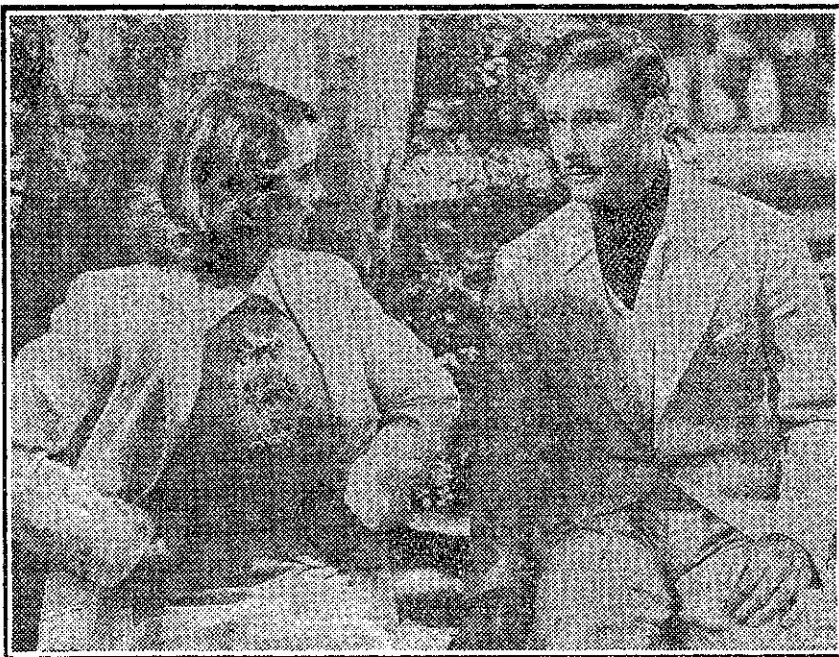
Warner Oland Dead

CHARLIE CHAN has solved his last case. Just as the "Record" goes to press, the death is announced from Stockholm of Warner Oland, the Swedish actor who created the role of the genial Chinese detective in screen adventures throughout the world based on the books by Earl Derr Biggers.

Oland became so famous in this part that many people thought he really was Chinese, and that Charlie Chan was a genuine person. Recently Oland's appearances have been rather less frequent. His health was not good, and there was a sensation some time back when he was reported missing from Hollywood. It was also reported that Keye Luke, who played Chan's son in many films, was likely to take his place in a series of "Charlie Chan Junior" stories.

Balfour escaping on horseback through the heather, pursued by the Red-coats, after the murder of the King's tax-collector.

On the whole, I enjoyed "Kidnapped" well enough—perhaps because I have a general bias toward adventurous "costume" yarns, and, at the moment, a special bias toward Scottish history brought about by reading, in rapid succession, "Commander of the Mists," "The Proud Servant," "And No Quarter," "Witch Wood" and sundry other stories of bloodshed on the Border. And now to re-read "Kidnapped"!



Errol Flynn tries his hand at comedy—and, from all accounts, very successfully—in Warner's "The Perfect Specimen." Here he is with Joan Blondell.

"Varsity Show" Proves An Exception

["Varsity Show," Warner Bros. directed by William Reighley, starring Dick Powell. First release: Wellington, August 12.]



A PART from whatever private opinion one may have of Dick Powell as a star, the biggest handicap faced by "Varsity Show" is its title. There, in two words, you have the promise—or, if you like, the threat—of another of those rah-rah college films which experience has shown are not quite so popular in this country as they seem to be in America. (They must be popular in America, or Hollywood wouldn't go on making them.)

Having had some pretty caustic things to say last issue about the spate of West Point and Annapolis films, I suppose I should, to be consistent, show no mercy toward this latest example of the collegiate "cycle." But "Varsity Show" strikes me as being an exception—an exception to prove the rule that where you least expect it you may sometimes find good entertainment. Anyway, I have seen "Varsity Show" twice, and for what the opinion is worth, enjoyed it both times.

Hot Rhythm

ADMITTEDLY, there is a good deal in this film that has to be accepted in a spirit of generosity. The fanatical fervour with which the husky American youths and fair co-eds practically bow down and worship their "dear old Alma Mater," extolling the college

spirit with cheers, sentimental songs and an organised stage show, always seems a trifle quaint to British audiences whose taste inclines more toward making jokes about the old school tie.

At this college, also, education seems sadly lacking. They do not teach the three "R's," but the three F's instead—flirting, football, and foolery. But we are used to that.

The rhythm is as hot as Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians can make it. And that's plenty hot! A few of the musical numbers are just "swing"; more of them are tuneful. And in this case they have the virtue of being pretty well-known by now—and excellently put over—"Have You Got Any Castles, Baby," "Working My Way

(Continued on page 29.)

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE

Ladies' English Wool-
len Coats, lined.
From 37/6 to £3/10/-
(With free Silk Dress)

EVENING FROCKS

Tartan
Taffetas Plain
Clique
Satin
Figured Satin
Suede Figured Satin
Moss Crepe.

From 19/11 to 27/6

Ladies' English Her-
ringbone Tailored
COSTUMES in BLACK,
NAVY AND BROWN.
All Sizes 59/6 each
Link or 3-button
Styles.

Ladies' Pure Silk
Shirt Blouses. All
colours. 5/3 each

Postage Extra.

DIRECT SILK AND FROCK CO.

BRUNSWICK BUILDINGS (1st Floor).
(Above Sanitarium Health Food Shop).
QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND, C.I.

