

REVIEW - SECTION.

Conducted by Ron. Holmes. From 32, Rockfield Rd, Liverpool, 4.

FILM REVIEW.

A recent film from the 20th Century stable has disappointed U.S. fans somewhat; "The Loves of Edgar Allen Poe", supposedly made under the direction of one of his descendants. The story is a skeleton of his life story with gaps which are filled in by the voice of the narrator. The Loves portrayed are two, Elmira Royster and Virginia Clemm. The players are John Shepperd, Linda Darnell, Virginia Gilmore and Jane Darwell.

RKO have on the stocks 'The Leopard Man', 'The Seventh Victim' and 'I walked with a Zombie', Anna Lee may play in the latter. I mentioned MGM's 'Cabin in the Sky' a while back; now they have signed Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington onto the cast, so if you like swing with your fantasy you will like it. Thorp McCluskey has sold the film rights of his story 'While Zombies Walked' to Montogram Pictures. The screen rights of a recently published book (see later) by Dorothy Macardie, entitled "The Uninvited" has been bought by Paramount. Look out for 'Flesh and Fantasy', Universal.

THE UNINVITED.

is a book by Dorothy Macardie, published by Doubleday Doran, NY. This ghost story is basically about a brother and sister who buy a house and find it is haunted. The ghosts are not terrifying but are very disquieting things to have about a house. The whole thing works up to a good climax, but the writing is not too good. The film will appear something symilar to 'Rebecca' I should imagin.

BOOK REVIEW.

F.C.Brown.

"Sever the Earth" by Jacques Spitz. Bodley Head.

A series of tremendous earthquakes cause a huge split in the surface of the earth. A final terrible cataclysm splits the earth in two parts, with America on one half and the rest of the earths surface on the other. The stunned remnants of civilisation find the two halves gradually drawing away from each other. At first, radio and aeroplane communication is possible, but after a time the gap becomes too great to bridge. The two worlds, the old and the new, are forced to face a future of seperate destinies. Then suddenly out of the blue comes a threat of disaster. The widening orbits of the twin worlds are bringing them closer and closer to the moon.

As the moon grows larger, terror reigns. Soon it is only a question of which world will strike the moon first. At the last moment the old world is saved, the moon passes by with only a few miles to spare. Universal relief turns to horror as humanity watches the last pages of the grim drama unfold. The new world and the Moon cannot avoid each other - electrical storms of great intensity can be seen circling the two globes - then with a terrible explosion the luminaries strike. The new world splits into pieces, the moon, a huge globe of burning matter, hurls jets of fire in all directions and ploughs on it's way. It is over! America, with 600,000,000 lives, had passed into a state of volatilization. The old world is once again the whole earth, the third planet revolving round the sun. Five days later, the earth passed through the region of the disaster. Only the rain of falling stars which continues all night marks the position of the lost world.

Unlike many translations, the style is easy, and the words flow smoothly throughout the story. Some clever drawings, very reminiscent of Heath Robinson, give a dash of humour to the scene.

IT HAPPENED TOMORROW by R Block. Very good, story of machines revolt in a new way. THE HALFLING by Leigh Brackett. Good, about an Interplanetary Circus. EARTHFAREWELL by James McCreigh. Story of interplanetary intrigue, good. SOLDIE 3 OF SPACE by Kuttner. Fair, hack, about tough men in a hellhole. COME TO MARS by Walter Kubilius. About an adventure which wasn't, fair. Cover, Milton Luros, fair. Int. Paul, les Tina and Lawrence. Issue average.

SUPER SCIENCE.

Feb. '43.

THE PERSECUTORS by Cleve Cartmill. phoeey psychology, good writing makes the best of a poor plot. SUNWARD FLIGHT by A L Zagat. Good, well written space travel. FOR SALE - ONE WORLD by rocklynne. Infitisimal plot, but very funny indeed. Garments of doom by William Morrison. Insipid, about babies napkins. CIRCLE OF YOUTH by F B Long. Well written, of a moon upon which time has gone mad. FEAR PLANET by Block. Very good, about men turning into plants. WAR GODS GAMBLE by Harry Walton. Earthling and Martian gamble for their planets victory, fair. Cover, Finlay - usual standard. Int. Doglov, Knight, Lawrence, Morey and Paul. Issue average.

BOOK REVIEW.

by Syd Bounds.

"All Souls Night" by Hugh Walpole, (Macmillan. 4/6). This book of short stories contains sixteen stories dealing with the unusual and bizzare. It is described "as containing few actual ghost stories, yet there is an implication from the first story to the last that life has to deal with more than material facts, and that there are in man's experience more worlds than one". Walpole deals literally with the Unknown in a way that creates unpleasant disturbances in the readers mind. His characters are substancial, their lives prosaic, yet behind them lurks the something - sometimes terrifying, sometimes mystifying, sometimes beatufull - a certain quality, the unknown. The settings of his stories vary from Cumberland to Cornwall, from the streets of London to a Cathedarel in Spain, yet the superb quality of the writing maintains a reality that convinces, and behind the reality -- something else. One story in particular, "The Silver Mask", creates such an extraordinary atmosphere; provokes the feeling 'such things don't happen' that it left me in a most distressing state. Every story is good, although not all appeal to the same extent, that I can heartily reccomend "All Souls Night" to all lovers of fantasy.

ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW.

L J Moffatt.

"The Fair Woman" by Hilder Vaughan. (Duell, Sloan and Pearce. N.Y.) 1942. The scene of the tale is laid in Wales. The tale itself is a semi-fantasy dealing at times with the harsh realities of common, everyday life; and at times with beautifull unreal things such as Welsh bards dream and sing about. The central character is a Welshman who was a bard in his youth and a hardworking farmer in his old age. When a young man he falls in love with one of the fair tribe, a legendary folk who are supposed to reside in certain lakes in Wales. He finally persuades the fair woman to marry him and from this point on you have a tale that will hold the interest of any fantasy fan who enjoys a beautiful and simple story, 'till the last page of the book.

MIDVENTION MEMOIRS.

The average distance traveled by the fans to Leicester was about 150 miles, which was very good; it did, at least, indicate those fans who where fanatics. A further indication was an FFM auctioned by yours truly for the modest sum of 10/6; that auction was fun, but running wild in a school with a stack of musical instruments at our disposal was fun - even a regulation organ. Moveing Hotel furniture at midnight is another amusing occupation which I can reccomend, at least - if there was little life in Leicester before we came, it knew when we were there.