

## REVIEW:- SECTION.

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

### FILM REVIEW.

A Russian film which has found its way into England was produced way back in 1935 and is entitled 'The New Gulliver'; directed by A Ptushko and Scenario by G Rushall. Technically it is superb; the Lilliputians being puppets. The story is of a Soviet Schoolboy who dreams he is in Lilliput, where he sides with the downtrodden workers against the imperial Court. The puppets are not worked by strings in the usual way - but are rearranged into a new position between each 'shot', somewhat after the style of Walt Disney. As it takes over twenty shots to portray the puppet lifting an arm, the whole process must have been very slow and labourious - especially as 3,000 puppets were used in the making of the film. The puppets are grotesque caricatures of human beings, and the principal actors have over 200 heads with varying expressions to add realism. As I have said, it is technically perfect but the propaganda is very obvious and crude. Well worth seeing.

### BOOK REVIEW.

F Brown.

"The Next Chapter" or 'The War Against the Moon' by Andre Maurois. (Wiggin, Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co Ltd. London.) A puzzling story, just at the moment it begins to get interesting it comes to an end.

From 1962 onwards war was regarded as a horror of the past, and international co-operation and goodwill became a reality. The world was "one big happy family, with peace reigning supreme". But, as might have been expected, it couldn't last. The world's did not anticipate the possibility of universal boredom setting in. For years the newspapers had fed the public on a diet of warfare and sudden death. Now the only excitement was an occasional murder or divorce. To offset this world wide ennui newspaper magnates from the principal countries of the globe met in conference, and decided to feed the public with an IDEA. So, in their newspapers the next day began a series of reports. Villages were being wiped out, it was said, by some mysterious force, origin unknown. It was true that these villages were in out of the way parts of the globe, but, who knew, it might happen at any moment to larger towns. Thus it was started! As the newspapers had a monopoly of news, any reports filtering through that denied these stories were pooh poohed. Gradually the suggestion was made that the attacks came from a mysterious source outside the earth, then finally it was asserted, they emanated from the Moon. Interest in everyday events began to revive. Deliberately the newspapers fanned the flames, daily increasing the reports of destruction. Human apathy vanished as the stories came off the press. A war fever was started, reprisals were demanded. Enormous guns were built, and huge missiles launched against the moon. Great explosions were seen on the luminar's surface. All seemed to be going well. The universal listlessness had vanished. Newspaper sales were soaring. And all this at the small cost of a quantity of shells and a few square miles of lifeless barren Moon. Then all of a sudden, civilisation received a terrible shock. The seemingly dead world awoke to life and turned on it's assailants. In a night, whole cities vanished in a welter of destruction. Millions of lives were wiped out. Great projectiles hurtled from the Moon to the earth. The war of the worlds had started.

At this point, the story ends. The reader is left unsatisfied, wondering, no doubt, how it all finished. I know I did!

LATEST REPORTS from USA tells us that the film 'FRANKENSTEIN meets the WOLF MAN' is going the rounds over there, we can expect it shortly, the cast includes Bella Lugosi. News of other films will be coming up in the next issue.

"The orla is line" by Lewis Edgett. Gr lagher - the "Calloway" of "Time Locker" (Jan) - scientist who "plays by ear", invents a time machine while drunk. Produces (a) little, furry harmless Martians, incredible romanticists, no insist (haveing read old-time s-f) that the world is theirs; and (b) several corpses, all of them his own at different ages, all murdered. This, plus best-ray plus mental-hackup machine plus villain equals one rattling good yarn.

"Calling the Empress" by George O. Smith. Further adventures with the spatial radio station known as Venus Equilateral. Not very good. "Palagic Spark" by Anthony Boucher. One man (Sprague de Camp) to prove a point, cooked up a phony pro hacy. And other men, believing it implicitly, used it come true. Excellent story, well written and developed. "Competition" by H. H. Hull. One of Arthur Plord. (April) Good. "Whom the Gods Lov" by Lester del Rey. Really a fantasy; well-written, but too much of this war. Plot: man killed by Japs - supposedly; actually given super-powerfull senses; makes it hot for Japs. Soon comes back to normal. Fair. "Sanctuary" by H. H. Holmes. Commandman plus time-machine plus ghost equals one poor story. Again, too much war. "Gather, Darkness" (Serial) by Fritz Leiber, Jr. Even better than part I. Excellent. Cover; Good. Int. pics. Rotten. Generally good.

FILM REVIEW. Like to see Carroll Lombis and Victor Mature sittin' in a tree, looking terrified while someone back projects an enlargement of an armed-tilt. Then see "Son and his Pate", direct by Hal Rosch. The story is of how the tough cowboy was teased by the subtle cowboy woman - and he never dragged her by the hair once. Still, when the armadillo's extra horns beat against a tree, we got some fun out of it. Technically the film was poor, the dialogue (what little there was) was feeble, and the acting called for was nil; even Carroll's figure fitted so well into the scenes that one did not notice it. It gives some good scenes of what might have been, the scene of a volcanic eruption was particularly good, and the sight of Victor wrestling with a Trycotope about the size of a large dog is well worth seeing. On the whole a thing to make a point of seeing, but not to take too intensely.

BOOK REVIEW. by J Gibson.

"The Reign of King George the Fifth" by an Anonymous. Written during the reign of George the third this small book received it's second edition in 1899. King George the Fifth was a real for- onerch. Peace-loving, he fought the wars forced upon him with dash and success. A patron of the arts and sciences he founded a great University, replanned and reconstructed cities, added France to the flag and reconstructed it. When wars came, Europe rose against him, he sailed across the channel and led his forces across Europe at almost unopposed. He led his men in person, and had horses after horse shot from under him, and came out without a scratch. As a precaution to a sure place in the future, he annexed France and exposed to the people the duplicity of their leaders in forcing the war upon them, and shewed them the falseness of Popery. Thus they were converted to protestantism, and as their double liberator, from religious and civil opression, he became as popular a ruler of France as he was of England. The book does not describe a topic, it was written as a parable of what the author considered the solution of world problems in the reign of George the third.

The forward to the second edition says that the strategy and tactics of these wars are sound, only the speed of the campaigns is incredible. The anonymous author told of a national debt and his estimates of the amount of that debt and of the national income were consistently one eighth that of these times in 1899. (I wonder what they could think of the present one?).