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ABYSSINIA.

(A Swiss film in London).

I had the opportunity of attending a press première of a film on Abyssinia shot by the Praesens Film Company of Switzerland who were flown to Abyssinia by our famous fellow-countryman Walter Mittelholzer.

The film gives an extremely interesting description of that country and its people and civilization which is now very much in the news. It will be seen at the *Rialto* Cinema beginning on Monday.

Walter Mittelholzer, together with some representatives of the Praesens-Company, set out with complete equipment of camera, sound-recording instruments and aeroplane. Their way led over Athens, but as an after-thought, they made a break back to Palestine to look at the immense work of Jewish colonisation under British administration going on in that country. They then returned up the Nile to the absolute outer edge of British rule under the mountains near Kassala.

From there they set off on the last big hop to Addis Ababa. When they arrived they were received as the guests of the Emperor himself, and by his authority they were able to obtain a pictorial record of things and customs which no-one has ever photographed before and which very few Europeans have ever seen; among other things, the tremendous work of modernising the Abyssinian Army which is now going on, under European instructors.

The country is bigger than Great Britain and France put together, and the Abyssinians proper are the ruling people — incidentally, they are Christians.

The people of Abyssinia live even now in exactly the same state as they did a thousand years ago, and when the expedition set out into the wild and more distant parts of that enormous country, not even the Emperor's authority could protect them, and for days on end they wandered, surrounded by wild and murderous tribes, buying their safety with little presents and the interest they aroused. They refused all escort for they feared that if the tribes saw them coming with soldiers, they would either flee or attack. In any case, they would never have the opportunity of photographing the reality of native life in the distant and primitive villages.

So they came to the Italian-Abyssinian frontier, where the line is not exactly determined and where the tribes don't pay much attention to law and order anyway. They made a pictorial record of the strange wedding dances among the Itu tribe, where after a wedding, lasting days, each woman, in addition to her husband, receives in turn the five lovers allowed her by law. They learned of the rites among the Arussi, which are practised to cure a sick man. A black kid is slaughtered so that the blood spurts out over the ailing man's body and covers him in gore, while the entrails of the beast are thrown in the river as a sacrifice to the devil which has possessed the man.

After three months hard trekking, they emerged again from these utterly primitive and barren lands, where life is so cheap and where the fearful poverty of the country forces a man to kill his neighbour sometimes only for the sake of existence.

The film completed, it was flown back to Switzerland, developed and edited and from there rushed to London. It is undoubtedly the most authentic and most topical picture of Abyssinia in existence to-day.

G. KELLER.

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Dimanche 7 Juillet — Service spécial de Clotûre
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BAPTEME.

Eric Max Roethlisberger de Langnau (Berne) né
le 27 Juillet 1934, fils de Otto et d'Hélène
Lucie née Lüssener — le 20 Juin 1935.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

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Sonntag, den 30. Juni 1935.

11 Uhr morgens Gottesdienst und Sonntag-

schule.

7 Uhr abend Gottesdienst.

Die Abend Gottesdienste fallen während der

Monate Juli und August aus.

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