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ACADEMY CINEMA.

This year the Academy is presenting a Special Christmas Programme designed to appeal alike to parents and children.

“ Us Kids ” (Nous Les Gosses) is a French picture made during the Occupation. It was directed by Louis Daquin, and its cast is mainly children. It is a simple story of how the school-children of a small provincial town band together to collect money to help one of their class-mates who is in trouble — trouble brought about by a quarrel among themselves — how the money is stolen and the children track down the thieves. The children do not act; they live their parts with a natural gaiety and vivacity that should delight everyone, children and grown-ups alike.

“ To-day and To-morrow ” is a documentary about the Middle East and traces the development of the Middle East Supply Centre and how these countries were made more and more self-sufficient. Although it is the story of a war-time enterprise, it is not a war film. Its message is concerned with the maintenance of the balance of economic life — the urgent problem of To-day everywhere; and its improvement in these and all lands the burning question of To-morrow; the cause which belongs to the youth of the world. Just as the children of Cyprus planted and cared for young saplings to help reforest their treeless hills and bring fertility back to their earth, so it is only through the efforts of everyone — man, woman and child — that the world can be rebuilt and restored to prosperity.

“ To-day and To-morrow ” is directed by Robin Carruthers and produced by Ralph Bond for the Ministry of Information.

The programme for “ Us Kids ” and “ To-day and To-morrow ” will be completed with a Walt Disney Silly Symphony, “ Pluto and the Armadillo,” and commences on Saturday, December 22nd.

RUETLI LADIES' CLUB.

On Saturday, 8th December, 1945, the Rütli Ladies' Club held their Christmas Bazaar at Swiss House, Fitzroy Square, which was kindly put at their disposal by the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Madame Ruegger, the Honorary President of the Club, graciously consented to open the Bazaar and on arrival, was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums and roses by the youngest member, Miss Yolander Poglia. We may say that our Honorary President was very satisfied with the work displayed on the stalls. The members have worked industriously during the past few months under the guidance of Madame Bolla and the work exhibited was a credit to the Club. We also included in the Bazaar, a refreshment room, presided over by Mrs. Angelina Gambling, where Swiss specialities were for sale, specialities which were also made by the members.

When our Swiss guests and friends saw the result of many hours work, there is no doubt that their hearts thrilled with pride to see such Swiss craftsmanship so many miles from home.

May we take this opportunity of thanking all those who came along to make our Bazaar such a success.

M.V.B.

THREE SONNETS.

(A Swiss trilogy by J.J.F.S.)

Switzerland.

In Europe's mosaic a precious stone
Is set:— A land of beauty, small in size,
By nature fashioned like a paradise
Where mighty mountains rear their silv'ry throne.
Within its borders slaves were never known,
Its people, blessed with leaders strong and wise,
Hold liberty a nation's richest prize
And have, indeed, secured it as their own.
Behold how mankind's destiny and fate
Are mirrored in this free community
Which lacks the bond of common tongue or creed,
Yet thrives, contented, as one happy breed,
Industrious, peaceful and in unity,
A microcosm of the perfect State.

William Tell.

With crossbow armed, he haunts the mountain side,
A dim and shadowy figure of the past.
His memory lives, though centuries have passed,
Wherever freedom-loving men abide.
His virile people tyranny defied,
The stormy times in which their lot was cast
Found them unwav'ring, ever holding fast
Those ancient rights for which their fathers died.
A yeoman-archer, born of humble folk,
He strove to overthrow the alien yoke.
Beloved by young and old, his stirring tale,
Is yet a symbol, on a minor scale,
Of man's eternal quest for liberty.

The International Red Cross.

To you, proud captains, for your vict'ries famed,
Bright meteors on History's firmament,
Posterity erects a monument
Whereon your deeds of glory are proclaimed.
But what of those who, captive, sick and maimed,
Of your renown have been the instrument?
Who cares for them or heeded their lament?
The world passed by, unfeeling, unashamed.
Their cries were heard in Solferino's camp
By one who, like the Lady of the lamp,
Prized mercy higher than the martial art.
His noble mind and his compassionate heart
Conceived the plan which gave humanity
That priceless gift:— The cross of charity.

Dec. 1945.

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PERSONAL.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. E. P. Dick for having been appointed Attorney of the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

