

## Hollywood In Focus

By W. H. Moore

Once again the calendar tempts the critic to select his ten best films of the year. Why not? Why not? Why not?

"Henry V," produced in England, impressed me as artistically, technically and culturally ahead of the rest, although Shakespeare's vivid dream of Catholic England may not be strictly what the American public regards as popular green entertainment.

Frances Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life," starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, presents deep philosophical undertones and is rich in humor and pathos. This central character expresses trials and temptations common to us all so that when we see how he brought into closer unity with God, we are able to share the spiritual refreshment he experiences.

For similar reasons I greatly enjoyed "The Green Years," through which A. J. Cronin reminded us that life is made rich by hardships, and the fight more inviting when it is waged in defense of things not wholly of this world.

"The Yearling" moved me emotionally and mentally without forcing upon me any of the social arguments apparent in so many recent films of significance. It is not concerned with money, power or sin; and Gregory Peck's delineation of the hard-working farmer whose son Jody makes a pet fawn with devastating results on vital family crops, is tremendously sincere.

My preference, however, is for "The Yearling," starring James Stewart and "The Yearling," both from MGM's "Somerset Maugham's "The Razor's Edge," first novel in which the author added a spiritual theme, held my interest. I sensed throughout the play the fine message summed up at the finish: "After all the greatest power on earth is good and he had it." The character referred to was a young man who travelled the world in search of a faith.

"Singing in Mexico" gets my vote as the year's best musical. Its sweet, clean story buoyed up the spirits, and the love of the young girl (Jane Powell) for her father (Walter Pidgeon) presented a variation on the stale old romantic motif.

"The Spiral Staircase" I pick as the best psychological drama of the year. Robert Aldrich's direction and Dorothy McGuire's great performance as the deaf mute are unforgettable. "Anna and the King of Siam" in which Irene Dunne played the British governess who introduced Christianity to the then pagan Siamese Court, Anna-Rex Harrison portrayed King Mongkut, won me by its originality and the exemplary manner in which a so-called "adult theme" was developed as good family entertainment.

"Miss Susie Slagle" was based on fact and concerned the sacrifices made cheerfully by a woman of high ideals, fired with a zest for service to humanity. Dudley Nichols, the writer-producer, and Rosalind Russell, the star, made the most I thought of Slater Kenney's heartwarming story.

Although Paramount did not produce "Miss Susie Slagle" on expensive lines, I considered it one of the best examples of good, clean vibrant entertainment of program caliber. Its star, Lillian Gish, was a luminary twenty-five years ago, and is no longer a big Hollywood name; but her characterization of the ladylike Miss Slagle, and the dignity of Miss Susie's home, presented a rare movie example of American living at its best.

May 1947 bring more like it.

### Total Abstinence Crusade Advances

Philadelphia — (NC) — Steady progress has been made in the crusade for Total Abstinence which was inaugurated five years ago in the schools and institutions of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the direction of His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia and spiritual director of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America.

In reporting the growth of the movement, the Rev. John W. Keohane, president of the Union, pays tribute to the cooperation of school authorities, parishes and directors of Catholic institutions where the crusade for total abstinence with a pledge for life has been launched.

**Relief Worker Decorated**

Venice — (RNS) — Thomas J. Fox, director of the Austrian mission of the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, was decorated here with the Magistrate's Cross of the Knights of Malta by Grand Prior Prince Carl Lutz.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him

for his services in the relief work

of the displaced persons.

Decorations were given to him