Training Wild Animals for Moving Pictures

By Robert H. Moulton

STRONG, ambitious wild animals, that until now have hoped for fame only in the circus or on the vaudeville stage, have found a new field for exercising their talent. A private dramatic school has been established near Fort Lee, New Jersey, which devotes its time exclusively to training beasts for the moving picture stage. Paul Bourgeois, a young French animal tamer, first thought of teaching the jungle inhabitants to appear before the camera, and he immediately founded the school of which he is still director.

This entire institution seems unusual to a regular patron of the "movies." A short distance out of Fort Lee one comes upon a low, one-story building, standing in the center of a small wood. A knock at the door brings M. Bourgeois himself, for he is gratified to show visitors through his unique educational establishment. The door leads almost directly into the studio. This apartment, where the pictures are made, is equipped with a stage, scenery, and skylight, all essential to the operation of any moving picture plant. The animals are kept caged in a large menagerie adjoining the studio, and are taken out only for the daily rehearsals. With a few slight exceptions, the principles of animal posing and human acting are the same. When a film requiring beasts is to be made, the animals are first trained regularly in their simple movements until the performance becomes a habit, since they can respond only to instinct, not to intelligence. Originality must be used by the trainers to make their charges do the right thing at exactly the proper time for the camera man. For this purpose common devices are coating tree branches with honey to keep Bruin aloft the entire length of a scene, or exposing a chicken off the stage when the fox should jump out of a window. The animals feel at home only in the studio of the school, and consequently, the company of human actors must go to Fort Lee when a film is made.

A marvelous circumstance of the profession, for which M. Bourgeois himself can hardly account, is that these so-called dangerous beasts rarely attempt to harm their fellow actors. In fact, no person has been injured by any animal in the New Jersey school. Women, maintains the director, seem even more fearless than men. To prove this assertion, M. Bourgeois describes the production of "Beasts of the Jungle," a popular film at present. In one scene a small, young actress with complete security nestled up close to Princess, a huge tigress, while several stage hands and moving picture employees, with less confidence, nervously held revolvers leveled at the animal.

An Unattended Lighthouse

By H. J. Shepstone

ALTHOUGH every civilized nation possessing a coast line has now a number of automatic light buoys and even beacons, the only unattended lighthouse built on a wave-washed rock boasting of a powerful fog signal and all the apparatus associated with a fully equipped light station is the recently completed Platte Fougère tower, marking the entrance to Russell Channel, which leads to St. Peter's Port, the capital of the island of Guernsey, in the English Channel. The tower guards dangerous reefs which have for years been a menace to shipping, more particularly in foggy weather than at night. The tidal currents and the great rise and fall of the tide, with its swing of 30 feet at this spot, also makes navigation extremely difficult.

The possibility of erecting a stone tower to accommodate keepers was soon found to be out of the question, not only owing to the great cost that would be involved in constructing a rock lighthouse that men could live in, but also on account of the small area of the rocks. The difficulty was overcome by equipping one of the rocks with an 80-foot tower large

An interrupted shave. A humorous scene from a wild animal moving picture film.

enough to hold motors, compressors, fog horn and light, which are all controlled by a submarine cable from the shore. This lighthouse, with its wonderful array of electrical devices for warning and guiding the

sound of the later.

Another device is the telephone which has been installed in the tower for the use of pilots and others.

It is the only ocean telephone call office in existence. It is principally used by pilots to announce to the authorities the approach of mail boats during foggy weather. They simply climb the ladder of the tower and ring up the exchange.

The shore station is situated at a point known as Doyle Fort. Here a dwelling has been erected for the keepers, adjoining which is the engine house. The machinery includes two oil-engines which drive three-phase alternators, and an air-compressor for working the land syren should that be required. In the tower itself there is a simple switch operated by an electro-magnet, whereby motor-driven air-compressors are thrown in and out of action. Thus, at night the light can be automatically turned on, and at sunrise automatically extinguished. In the same way the fog signal can be set in motion or be discontinued at will.

The cost of the tower and its complete installation was \$55,000, which may be considered a small figure when the exceptionally difficult nature of the situation is considered, as well as the powerful nature of the fog signal which has been erected, and the fact that an ordinary rock lighthouse establishment would have cost about \$300,000. There is also the saving in maintenance, as only two keepers are required in place of four. Indeed, the Platte Fougère unattended lighthouse has solved a vexed problem how to warn mariners of the presence of dangerous rocks at a minimum of expense.

The Boiler Plant of the "Britannic"

THE twenty-nine huge boilers of the 50,000-ton White Star liner "Britannic," now under construction at Belfast, were recently placed in position. Twenty-four of these are double-ended and five are single-ended, all being designed for a working pressure of 215 pounds, which has been found entirely practicable under natural draught conditions. Owing to the "Britannic's" great breadth it has been found possible to arrange five boilers abreast, except in No. 6 boiler room, where, because of the increased fineness of the hull, only four could be placed. All the double-ended boilers are 15 feet 9 inches in diameter, weigh 105 tons each, and are constructed of steel 1 11/16 inches thick. Each boiler has 159 furnaces of the Monson type.

The "Britannic's" boiler installation and the coal bunkers occupy six watertight compartments, extending for a total length of 320 feet; the engine room takes up 123 feet additional of the 900 feet of length of the ship.

The "Britannic's" engines, like those of "Olympic," will consist of a combination

One of the "Britannic's" twenty-nine, 105-ton boilers.

mariner through the dangerous channel, rises from a rock known as Platte Fougère, always submerged except at low water.

On the entrance level is a compartment containing

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The unattended lighthouse at Platte Fougère in the English Channel. Motors, compressors, fog horn, and light are all controlled by a submarine cable leading to a shore station 1 1/4 miles distant.