

Twenty Years After



The movies were making inroads on the legitimate stage and vaudeville. The bright stars of the screen were Mary Pickford and John Bunny, over-sized comedian. Ethel Barrymore, May Irwin and Gabys Deslys had taken the plunge into pictures. The top-run movies were "Cabiria," an Italian spectacle picture with a hero built on the lines of Primo Carnera; the thriller serial, "The Perils of Pauline," featuring Pearl White, and Annette Kellerman in "Neptune's Daughter." A new wrinkle that gave promise of livening the movies was provided in the film "Curse You, Jack Dalton," in which a monologist named Jack Gardner was creating something of a sensation. With the pictures projected from the back of the stage the monologist stood before the screen. "If he sees the fair haired heroine betraying signs of an intention to faint," ran one review of the picture, "he courteously suggests that she had better have a glass of water, which she proceeds to get forthwith. And when the villain becomes too intolerably villainous Mr. Gardner shoots him and the photograph wretch drops to the photograph floor, photograph dead."