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WIEGENLIED

("Sarah and Son")

(All German Dialog)

Paramount production and release. Directed by Dorothy Arzner. Based on the novel "Sarah and Son." Ruth Chatterton starred. Supporting cast: Frederic Marsh, Gilbert Emery, Philippe De Lacy. Camera-man, Charles Lang. At 53th Street, New York, week July 19. Running time, 76 minutes.

The German picture version of "Sarah and Son," called "Wiegenlied," with virtually the same English cast headed by the star, Ruth Chatterton, and nearly the same story treatment, shapes up as one of the best linguistic transitions yet made on the screen. In fact, the problem of translation is solved if "Wiegenlied" is a criterion.

Whether all members of this practically all-English cast have at their individual command the fluency of Teutonic speech which they evidence in this does not matter. The synchronisation is well-nigh perfect, dubbed or not. Better yet: If any vocal doubling was done the off-set voices jibed splendidly with the tonalities expected of the various characters.

Fans familiar with Miss Chatterton's English diction and expression will be certain that no linguist was required for her. The same is true for Gilbert Emery and Frederic Marsh. As for Philippe De Lacy, playing the son to Miss Chatterton's Sarah, it makes little difference whether the German rolled from the boy actor or not, since the voice reciting the lines is in every accord with the De Lacey personality.

A few revisions in the story included a reversing of locales. Instead of in America the German version gets under way abroad with the indolent husband selling the child to rich folk who subsequently bring the action over here. Again, Sarah makes her debut as an opera star at the Metropolitan rather than in a European hall.

There is a naturalness and a manifest ease in the recitation of the dialog which is admirable, and the recording is good. *Waly.*

July 23, '30