

# Doctor Looks at Beauty

## A Surgeon Draws with a Camera

Other photographs by Dr. Thorek appear on page 7 of this section.

By GUY MURCHIE JR.

WHEN YOU look at the picture illustrating this article, and at others on page seven of this section, can you say whether they are photographs or drawings?

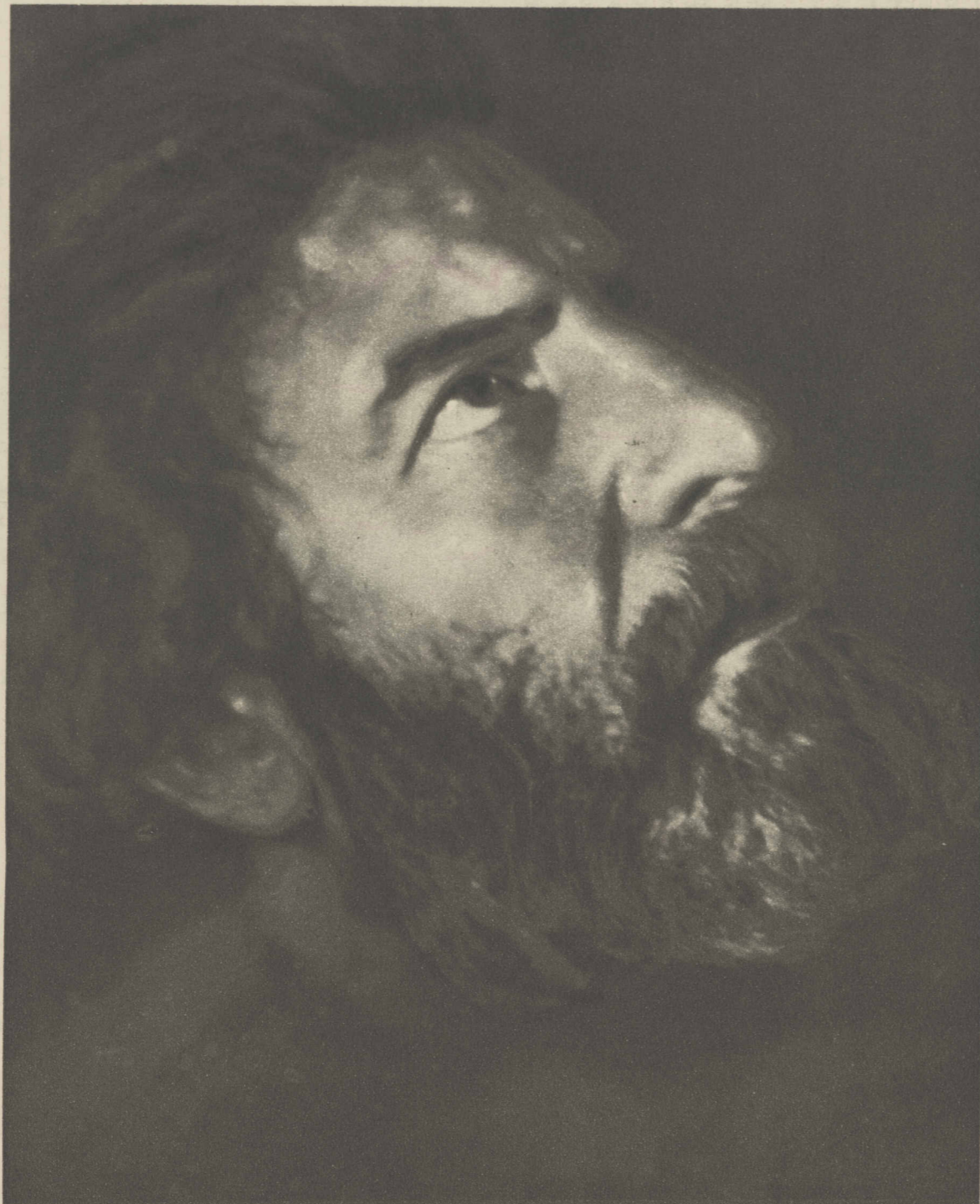
The truth is they are neither one nor the other. They are a combination of both, created by an artistic genius who knows none of the orthodox limitations that keep other artists from mixing drawing with photography or other photographers from overflowing into the realm of graphic art.

Dr. Max Thorek is his name. He is a surgeon, and, true to his character, he finds his relaxation in the creation of beauty. Born in Hungary about 1880 from a lineage of medical men, he was educated in the arts and studied, among other things, drawing and the violin.

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At the age of 19 he migrated with his family to America, where he took courses in medicine at the University of Chicago, earning his tuition by playing in the university band. After being graduated from Rush Medical college in 1904 he started his career in general surgery. Today he is surgeon in chief of the American hospital in Chicago as well as attending surgeon of the Cook County hospital, professor of clinical surgery at Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, and consulting surgeon at the Municipal Tuberculosis sanitarium.

Next to his chosen profession the work closest to Dr. Thorek's heart is his creative camera art, although, besides his music, he has an additional serious hobby in collecting historical photographs. He always gets a great kick out of being called a camera artist—even though he has been just that for a long time and everybody knows it. In fact, he founded the Photographic Society of America, and he is such a prolific craftsman that he habitually contributes more acceptable prints to photographic salons than any other cameraman in the world. During the last five years he has had a total of 1,555 of his prints



"De Profundis," a typical portrait by Dr. Max Thorek.

actually picked by juries in 341 different photographic salons all over the world, all in keen competition with the best camera experts of every country from Mexico to Japan. No other photographer on earth has even come close to that record, which means a steady creative output of nearly one vote-winning picture every single day, week after week, year in, year out.

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How does he do it? He has a genius for making the most of simple tools and equipment at hand, and he has developed a beautiful but individual style of his own which is unorthodox enough to have escaped the emulation of most of his artistic rivals. He uses the paper negative

method of adding his own background and effects. Basically this method is pretty simple. In Dr. Thorek's own words in his 156-page illustrated book on "Creative Camera Art": "From the original negative as made in the camera, make a contact positive print transparency. . . . This positive transparency is now placed in the enlarger and a paper negative made of any desired size (on thin paper). The paper negative is then worked upon as requirements dictate. The finished positive prints are made as usual by contact printing (letting the light shine through the translucent paper negative upon the print paper). . . . A certain degree of definition is lost in the steps that lead to the final print. Much of this may be minimized, however, by attention to certain technical details. Best definition is secured by printing on single weight paper, emulsion surface up. By the paper negative method failures in straight photography may be turned into objects of success."

Dr. Thorek likes to spend his

time between his professional duties in a little room beside his office study, touching up his paper negatives with pencil and brush. His vitality is so great that it is actually a refreshing relaxation to him to crouch over his paper, his keen, dark face with its ample nose peering intently upon the delicate whorls and cloudy shadows he loves to add to his pictures. For models he will stop anybody he sees—perhaps an old man on the street with just the right spark in his eye or gimp in his beard, perhaps a beautiful girl that he first encountered on the operating table. In his basement studio he sets up his subject or model and arranges his lights with tender care. Often his subject is such a simple thing as a bowl with a few tiny artificial birds perched on its rim. The smallest thing is a challenge to the Thorek art, and the indefatigable doctor will spend days and nights if necessary creating skies and shadows and highlights until he has produced exactly what his imagination ordained.

ED SULLIVAN, on his first vacation, will again be LOOKING AT HOLLYWOOD in an early issue.

## Two Stars in Color

Color photographs of these movie stars appear on page one of today's Picture Section.

MERLE OBERON'S father was connected with the English army, and it was while he and his wife were in Tasmania, an island off Australia, that Merle was born. The date was Feb. 19, 1911, and she was christened Estelle Merle O'Brien Thompson. When she was 7 years old her family moved to Calcutta where she went to school. When she was 16 she joined the Cats, a Calcutta amateur theatrical society, and danced in the chorus of several productions. Later her uncle took her to England for a vacation, from which she decided not to return. She hoped to get a break in the movies. Before that break came, however, she accepted a job as hostess in a London café. She was discovered by Alexander Korda and given a screen test. Her first important rôle was the part of Anne Boleyn in "The Private Life of Henry VIII," starring Charles Laughton. Miss Oberon is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 108 pounds.

RAY MILLAND was at one time a member of the late King George V's Royal Horse guards. He left the service chiefly because he had a yen for the stage. Before going to Hollywood he was a great favorite on the British stage and screen. His real name is Jack Millane. He was born in Drogheda, Ireland, Jan. 3, 1905. He's 6 feet 1 inch tall. Educated King's college. Films in which he has appeared are "Wings Over Honolulu," "Easy Living," "Ebb Tide," "Wise Girl," and opposite Dorothy Lamour in "Jungle Princess" and "Her Jungle Love." Mr. Milland will play

an important rôle in the forthcoming production of "Beau Geste," in which Gary Cooper, Robert Preston, and Brian Donlevy are also featured. He's married to Muriel Webber.

## Voice of the Movie Fan

Letters published in this department should be written on one side of the paper. If you wish a personal reply please inclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Dear Miss Tinée: Orchids to Richard Greene for his great performance in "Kentucky." The Loretta Young-Richard Greene team is the best we've seen for many a day. Let's see more of them.



LORETTA YOUNG  
Teaming with Richard Greene wins praise.

Orchids to Jane Wyman and Ronald Reagan for their performance in "Brother Rat." They really stole the show.

And now some cabbages for those responsible for the casting of Tyrone Power. Why should America's heart throb play rôles suited for an older actor? Why hide his handsome face behind a mustache or a bandanna? Why does he have to play in old-fashioned pictures? Wasn't he good enough in "Second Honeymoon" and "Love Is News"? Why not co-star Tyrone with Loretta in a modern love story?

Yours for better Power pictures,  
DODIE and MIDGE.  
Editor's note: Dodie and Midge have spoken!

Dear Miss Tinée: Would you please tell me something about Tim Holt? Thank you, and best wishes for success in your column. Truly yours,  
ANN.

Editor's note: Tim Holt is the son of Jack Holt, film actor. Educated Carl Currier Grammar school and Culver Military academy. He's 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighs 165 pounds, and has brown hair and eyes. His hobby is raising cocker spaniels. Thank you!

Dear Miss Tinée: For some unaccountable reason I am particularly partial to villains in any shape, size, or form. It is because of this I am writing to you.

The two actors who portray villains on the screen in whom I am most interested are Boris Karloff and Basil Rathbone. I do not know much about either one, so would you please print something about both men? I have a picture of Basil Rathbone, but do not know where I can send for one of Boris Karloff.

Thank you very much. Yours truly,  
HOPE CAREW.

Editor's note: Villains go over pretty well with me, too. Boris Karloff's real name is Charles Edward Pratt. He was born in London, Nov. 23, 1887. He's 6 feet tall, weighs 175 pounds, and has brown hair and eyes. Educated Uppingham Kings college. Appeared on the stage for years before entering motion pictures. Write Universal studio, Universal City, Cal., in-

closing 25 cents for mailing, for a photo of Mr. Karloff. Basil Rathbone was born in South Africa, June 13, 1892. Educated in England. He's 6 feet 1½ inches tall and has black hair and hazel eyes. He's married to Ouida Bergere, scenarist and playwright, and they have one son. His theatrical career started in 1912 in Shakespearean rôles.

Dear Miss Tinée: Please print a picture of Tyrone Power, a bit about him, and me the full cast of "Brother Rat."

I am only 12 years old but have as many likes and dislikes as any grownup. Here's health, happiness, and success to you.

Sincerely,  
JUNE.

Editor's note: Glad to print your letter, June—and you're certainly as much entitled to your likes and dislikes as anybody else. We haven't room in this column to print long casts, but I'll give you the names of



TYRONE POWER  
One of the "likes" of a 12-year-old.

the principal characters in "Brother Rat." Here they are:

Joyce Winfree.....Priscilla Lane  
Billy Randolph.....Wayne Morris  
A. Furman Townsend Jr. Johnnie Davis  
Kate Rice.....Jane Bryan  
Bing Edwards.....Eddie Albert  
Dan Crawford.....Ronald Reagan  
Claire Adams.....Jane Wyman

Tyrone Power was born in Cincinnati, O., May 5, 1914. He's 6 feet tall, weighs 155 pounds, and has dark brown hair and brown eyes. His hobby is amateur photography. Thanks for the boost—and the same to you, my dear.

Dear Mae Tinée: Please tell me who the band leader was in the picture "Garden of the Moon." Very truly yours,  
MRS. E. LAYER JR.

Editor's note: John Payne. Like him?

Dear Miss Tinée: Could you please tell me the addresses of the following stars? Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, Errol Flynn, Olivia De Havilland, and Preston Foster. Thank you.  
D. E. W.

Editor's note: The addresses you want are: Tyrone Power and Alice Faye, care of Twentieth Century-Fox studio, Beverly Hills, Cal.; Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland, care of Warners-First National studio, Burbank, Cal.; and Preston Foster, care of RKO-Radio Pictures, 780 Gower street, Hollywood, Cal. You're welcome.

## AFRICA—WHERE MIGHT STILL MAKES RIGHT

(Continued from page one.)

of territory called Liberia, all of Africa is owned outright or controlled in one manner or another by European powers. The table on page one shows these powers to be six in number. They are headed by Great Britain and France, each dominating more than four million square miles of the continent. Egypt is considered in the figures for area and population as under British control because, although it is in name an independent kingdom, it is under British military domination. Great Britain is privileged under a treaty concluded Aug. 26, 1936, to maintain 10,000 troops and 400 airplanes in Egypt for the defense of the Suez canal; to use Port Said, at the northern entrance to the canal, and Alexandria as naval bases; and to move troops over Egyptian territory in the event of war or the threat of war.

Of all the countries of Africa the Union of South Africa is most acceptable for colonization most nearly like the United States. Its position in the British empire is similar to that of the Dominion of Canada. Its climate is warm and dry, like that of the southwestern part of the United States, and for the most part it is an agricultural and stock raising land. It is one of the world's great wool producing lands. The white population of the Union of South Africa is close to two million.

The richest gold mines in the world are found in South Africa. In 1937, the most recent year for which statistics are available, \$410,710,000 worth of gold was mined there. The entire continent of Africa produced \$459,790,000 worth of gold that year out of a total world production of \$1,045,428,000. The production for the United States was \$168,159,000.

Africa is the world's chief source of diamonds. In 1936 world production was 8,296,905 carats, and all but about 150,000 carats came from Africa, principally from South Africa and the Belgian Congo.

Great Britain has made considerable advancement in establishing her hold in Africa. Now that Cairo is only two days away from the British Isles by regular airplane service, the British no longer think of Africa as a remote land.

One can travel today all the way from Port Said or Cairo to Cape Town without once leaving British-controlled territory. This route traverses the most valuable part of the continent. Great Britain's lands in Africa, including colonies, mandated territories, and the military controlled kingdom of Egypt, are more than a third greater in extent than continental United States, and a half million square miles greater in extent than the United States with all its territories and dependencies.

The British were fortunately situated as to territory in Africa even before the World war.



(Associated Press photos.)  
Looking north along the Suez canal, control of which means so much to the British "life line" to India.

After the war they took over from Germany the greater part of German East Africa, which now is the mandated territory of Tanganyika; Southwest Africa, which today is mandated to the Union of South Africa; and portions of what now is called British West Africa, including parts of German Kamerun (Cameroons) and Togoland.

Great Britain, by virtue of its influence and privileges in Egypt, controls the shortest route from Europe to the orient—the Suez canal and the Red sea. Although ownership of the canal actually is vested in a French corporation, it is the British who assume the task of defending it. Of the 652,932 outstanding shares in the canal corporation Great Britain as a nation owns 295,026.

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The British life line to the orient crosses the Mediterranean from Gibraltar to Port Said. Naturally this British life line has to pass close to the Italian naval bases, and it is at this point that the line apparently is most vulnerable. In the event of a war between Italy and Great Britain the line might possibly be cut by Mussolini's naval and air forces. Then it would be up to the British to reestablish their prestige in the Mediterranean or else reroute their shipping around the Cape of Good Hope.

France's life line to Africa could be gravely menaced by a hostile power in possession of the Balearic Islands. That is why France is concerned with the disposition of these islands at the conclusion of the civil war in Spain. As Spanish islands they would not imperil French shipping. But with Italian or even German defenses and bases on them they would present a

serious menace to shipping between France and north Africa.

Justice appears to play an insignificant part in the parceling out of the lands of Africa. Right by might, rather, has been the basis upon which acquisitions on the continent generally have been made.

While France controls almost as much territory in Africa as does Great Britain, it is the last-named nation that possesses by far the choicest regions. Much of France's land lies in the wastes of the Sahara desert.

Italy's colonies in Africa, while vast in extent, do not compare in area with those of Great Britain and France. Italy, coming into the colonization scramble late, has acquired much land that is virtually valueless at present and will require years and fortunes to develop. Libya is for the most part desert. Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Italian Somaliland are cursed with a climate in which Europeans do not thrive.

The possessions in Africa of Belgium, Portugal, and Spain are rich in certain natural resources, especially the Belgian Congo, where diamonds are found in great numbers and where tropical products grow in profusion, but in the main these three countries have taken the leaveings.

Our map on page one shows only one country in Africa as an independent state. Liberia still maintains that status in a continent divided among the British, French, Italians, Belgians, Portuguese, and Spaniards. She keeps her independence largely, it may be surmised, from the fact that she has a powerful and influential godfather across the Atlantic—none other than Uncle Sam himself.

In 1912 an international loan of \$1,700,000 was raised to keep Liberia from collapsing. Forty-year bonds were issued, and customs duties and certain taxes were pledged as security for the loan. The United States had been interested for years in the welfare of Liberia, the government of the little country having been set up and maintained in large part by Negroes from America. So the United States undertook to act as Liberia's guardian. The control of the customs of the country since 1912 has been in the hands of a receiver general and financial adviser designated by America.

No longer ago than Jan. 30 of this year Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler of Germany, in a radio address broadcast in America, demanded return of the colonies lost by Germany after the war.

"The German colonial possessions which the Reich once acquired . . . have been stolen from us," he said, "against the solemn assurances of President Wilson which were the basis of our laying down arms. The pretext that these colonies were of no value anyhow should justify their return without any trouble."

Hitler obviously had the former German colonies of Africa in mind, for they constituted the greater part of his nation's overseas possessions.