

THE MAN OF THE WEEK

The statue of Eros in London's Piccadilly Circus was ever a challenge to daring spirits. And Bill Painter, the Plumstead plumber, was ever the intrepid pioneer. That's why crowds, milling through the world's most famous thoroughfare, pause one busy afternoon to watch the feat of the adventurer in the trilby hat affectionately clinging to the Goddess of Love, 50 feet up. But the law does not look with favour on such high spirits, even if a New Year has just been born. And so the aid of a fire escape is invoked to remove the man of achievement from his pinnacle of fame.

But this is Bill's brief hour of fleeting glory - not to be put aside without a struggle. In the end a heartless realism wins and after holding up London on the wings of love for half an hour, Bill Painter makes an ignominious exit.

Uniformed men of the law hurry Mr. Painter from the scene of his triumph as two thousand onlookers wonder what Bill Painter will say to the local magistrate. But the vision of the piece remains serene and aloof in Piccadilly Circus.