

NFB**NATIONAL FILM BOARD**

INFORMATION SHEET

NEW FACES COME BACK

35MM. BLACK AND WHITE. SOUND
RUNNING TIME: 28 MINUTES

PRODUCTION: *Produced 1946 by the RCAF Film Unit and the National Film Board.*

CONTENTS: The part that plastic surgery is playing in giving disfigured servicemen a chance to resume normal lives.

NEW FACES COME BACK tells its story not from the point of view of the plastic surgeon or the sympathetic bystander, but of the men most vitally concerned. The whole process of physical treatment and social readjustment is seen through the eyes of a Canadian flight engineer who has been injured in a plane crash. From the beginning the onlooker identifies himself with the young airman, aided by such scenes as that in which the camera records not the patient being wheeled into an operating room, but what he sees on the way - the faces of nurses, the ceilings of hospital corridors and finally the hands and instruments of the doctors about to operate.

At the East Grinstead Hospital in England, where this film was made, hundreds of men have undergone treatment to replace ears, noses, eyebrows, skin tissue - whatever was necessary to help them present a reasonably normal appearance. A few brief scenes of some of these men in the various stages of treatment give a sharp insight into the ordeal they have passed through.

Having established the problem as intensely personal rather than abstract, *NEW FACES COME BACK* turns to its social implications. The shattering loss of confidence that can result from unthinking slights is noted, but in the main the film's approach is along more positive lines. A few dramatized incidents point up how important it is to these men with new faces for the community to accept them sympathetically and naturally.

NEW FACES COME BACK will make many people conscious for the first time of the particular problems of plastic surgery cases. Showings of this film should do a great deal to encourage a responsible and constructive attitude in the community to ex-servicemen who have come home with "new faces".

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