TAKING THE CINEMA **SERIOUSLY**

Film Societies Here and Overseas

HE interest in film societies which is developing in several parts of New Zealand is apparently by no means peculiar to this country. Recently the Wellington Film Institute wrote to the British Film Institute applying for affiliation and asking for background information about the British organisation. In his reply, the Deputy-Director of the B.F.I. gave some interesting facts, "The film society movement," he said, "appears to be spreading rapidly throughout the Empire. In the last two months, for example, we have had similar in-Malta, and Ceylon. . . In view of the greatly increasing interest which appears to be shown throughout the Commonwealth in film societies I am, quite frankly, wondering whether it would not be possible, now that air services are so much improved, for all the Commonwealth Film Societies to co-operate and

purchase a number of copies of films for their own use which could be forwarded from one to the other. In other words, the formation of an Imperial Federation of Film Societies on the lines of the present Federation of Film Societies existing in Great Britain."

THOUGH there may be special activities in each locality, the general purpose of a film society anywhere is roughly the same. It can perhaps be most easily indicated by quoting from the constitution of the group in Wellington: "The Wellington Film Institute is an association of people who are interested in quiries from South Africa, Australia, the motion picture as art, entertainment, and education." Translated into practical terms, this interest resolves itself into regular meetings of the full membership at which selected programmes of films (usually 16mm.) are shown, studied, and discussed. But the Institute aims to be something more than a collection of highbrows, dissatisfied with

For Baby's





