



Spain at the time of the Peninsular War is the setting of M-G-M's new musical, "The Firefly." The three stars, Jeanette Macdonald, Allen Jones and Warren William, appear in this scene.

tyrannical megalomaniac, but a passionate idealist, who started with the dream of union for all Europe and ended by the destroying of his own self. Boyer's hunched, angry little figure crashes across the screen just as Napoleon's armies crashed through Europe. But the tragedy is there from the first.

Soon the realisation comes that war and guns can kill only men, never hatred—and yet he knows no other weapon to achieve his ends.

Gradually the dream of union fades before the lust for power that grows in the Emperor's haunted eyes. He goes on through blood and bitterness.

STOP PRESS

"Zola" Wins Academy Award

JUST as the "Record" goes to press, a cable has been received from Hollywood stating that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has chosen "The Life of Emile Zola," starring Paul Muni, as the most outstanding picture of 1937. This result is as predicted by the "Record" some months ago.

The award to "Zola" is, of course, quite distinct from the awards to Luise Rainer and Spencer Tracy for the best acting performances of 1937 in "The Good Earth" and "Captains Courageous" respectively.

through the wreckage of his own soul, through woman's love and man's loyalty. At the last, when he could yet have had the one thing to bring him peace, he goes to his exile alone.

Poor, beaten, untamed Emperor! You will see a hundred or a thousand films before you shake the memory of that pent, frustrated figure from your mind.

Walewska's Love

AND beside him, around him, is always the quiet presence of Marie Walewska—the Polish girl who wor-

shipped him from afar, who met him and was disillusioned; and then as a woman, came to love him for the troubled soul she saw beneath his turbulent ways. Even when his soul had changed, when he cast her off brutally to make a policy marriage with a Hapsburg he had never seen, when he rewarded her for going to him at Elba by forcing her into his one last intrigue for power—even then Marie Walewska remained unquestionably true to him. In its actual tale of separation and unavailing love, her story too, was tragedy; but in reality it found its whole meaning in sorrow.

At his brusque parting before St. Helena, she thanked him gravely: "You touched me and gave me life. You lifted me up, so that I shall never know this little world again."

You Will Remember . . .

YOU may remember Napoleon for his shaking rages, or his puzzled brooding. Or you may remember him better for a woman's tears when she watches her little man proudly review his soldiers, for the lift and fear in her eyes when he comes to her at Vienna, for that despairing, clear-sighted summary of his life, "If you really loved me, your love would save you now."

I don't know. Only time will tell whether Garbo's or Boyer's performance will live the longer. But I have the feeling that both are indelible.

And this I do know, that this was the most moving film I have seen in years. You may discount as much as you like of a personal enthusiasm, and you may quibble at departures from historical truth which seem to me in this case supremely unimportant. But all the same you should see this picture for its lyric script, for the brilliant unity of Clarence Brown's direction, and, above all, for the screen's most magnificent example of unselfish dual starring.

"Marie Walewska." M.G.M. Directed by Clarence Brown. Starring Greta Garbo, Charles Boyer. First release: April 16, Wellington and Auckland.

Makes Fun Of It.

IN spite of the fact that it contains American football, American college life, and a hard-faced woman who croons in a bass voice, Columbia's "Start Cheering" is, on the whole, a very amusing picture. The reason being that it makes fun of the things that are so wearisome when taken seriously—American football, and American college life, I mean. I'm afraid we were meant to take the crooning seriously, but I'm equally certain I didn't. While it lasted I closed my eyes and wished for death—or cotton-wool.

In "Start Cheering," Hollywood also pulls its own leg a trifle, by providing as hero an idolised film star (Charles Starrett) seeking escape from fame. He longs for the clean, fresh air of the college campus, where men are men and the better ones are football players. His manager does all he can to bring him back in front of hungry cameras, while the professors and coaches and co-eds are equally determined to keep him at college because of the publicity and heart-throbs he can produce. From between this



Barry K. Barnes is the new Sir Percy Blakeney. He appears in Alexander Korda's "The Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel" (to be released this week) and is said to give a performance equal to that of Leslie Howard, the previous Pimpernel.

clash of rival interests, Columbia have squeezed out a trifle of young love, some song 'n dance, and a large amount of ribald, burlesque comedy.

That Schnozzle!

HARDEST worker in the cause of laughter is Jimmy Durante, who pokes his schnozzle into everything as