

Film Record—by Gordon Mirams

BY THESE SIGNS . . .

Introducing The Mirams System For Following Film Form

THIS doesn't look like the usual "Record" movie page. It isn't. It's a revolution.

When you've finished wondering who's who in the A. S. Paterson cavalcade on this page, turn over and examine the diminutive cartoons on page 26. When next you read a film review in the "Record," by those signs shall ye know just what the "Record" thinks of the show discussed.

Ah, you have it? It's a grading system.

Yes. It has all the virtues and all the vices of all such grading systems. But it aims to show form at a glance—to introduce into this film section a fixed and recognisable standard of judgment.

We chose racehorses to symbolise film performances for four reasons, because:—

- (1) No one else has.
- (2) Both racegoers and filmgoers are optimists.
- (3) At both sports you bet blind, except for what information you can get from the stable.
- (4) We know nothing about racehorses.

And now for a more serious discussion of the idea.



Virtues and Vices

ALL systems of grading films are to a certain extent, fallible. They mainly reflect the opinion of the critic. But as I said before, they have the advantage of presenting a fixed and recognisable standard of judgment. Readers very soon come to know to what extent the critic's assessment of a certain type of film coincides with their own—and they can make allowances accordingly.

Paradise

The drawings of the different brands of horse-flesh together with the captions underneath are, I think, largely self-explanatory; but a little elaboration may



not come amiss at this stage. Highest grading of all is the "Put-Your-Shirt-on-This." It will mark the certain winners—the films which, in my opinion, are outstanding entertainment of any type. It is the award for the "Zolas," the "Good Earths" or the "Awful Truths" of the screen—the kind of films, in fact, which are included among the Academy's "Ten Best" of each year. They may be brilliant dramas, or they may be brilliant comedy or musical films: but such an award obviously must be made very warily. I can't afford to have readers going about shirtless on (Contd. over page.)