

Darkness and Dawn.

A POWERFUL DRAMA OF EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST.

THE NAME of Nordisk has always been associated with the highest artistic aims in picture play production, for this prominent Film Company endeavour to lead in forming public taste for higher and better things, convinced that such an end is desirable for the welfare of the Industry. In the drama "Darkness and Dawn" which they are now showing in their private projection theatre in Cecil Court, they have a production perfect in every detail, and exhibitors who see it will agree that it is one of the most powerful and artistically complete stories utilised for film purposes. Incident follows incident rapidly, and they all grip the imagination and stir the pulse because of the naturalness of their presentation. Not only, however, does the story hold the sympathies with its strong sentiment, but such setting and acting has been given it that the subject is one which is undoubtedly far in advance of the majority of those which are now being placed on the market.

"Darkness and Dawn" typifies a period in the life of Count Joachim, happiness dawning after a time of dark domestic trouble brought about by a scheming cousin, Count Friedrich, who not only tries to wreck the former's happiness, but even attempts his life in order to secure his entailed estate. When they go out together with a hunting party, Friedrich, who is in financial difficulties, bribes Ralph, a gamekeeper on Joachim's estate, to "keep an eye" on his cousin and he would not lose by it. Ralph, anxious to get married and not possessing the wherewithal to do so, understands what is meant, and while the individual members of the party are separated, a shot from his gun brings Joachim down, the gamekeeper at the same time dexterously giving the affair a semblance of an accident. Joachim, severely injured, is removed to the nearest house, which happens to be the vicarage of Mr. Herbert, and here he is ministered to with tender care by the clergyman's only daughter, Ruth. Joachim's recovery is slow, but the self-sacrificing solicitude of his nurse makes such an impression upon him that even when he is well enough to be removed to his own home, he prefers to remain at the vicarage. The inevitable happens. They mutually fall in love. Joachim is unaware that his cousin has been responsible for his "accident," but he realises something of his contemptible character when, during a call at the vicarage one day, he attempts to force his attentions upon Ruth. Joachim soon forgets this episode, however, and nothing comes to mar his courtship nor his subsequent marriage. It is not until several months later that Friedrich, recognising that by the marriage his chances of inheriting his cousin's estates have been lessened, plots to separate man and wife. He again seeks the help of Ralph, outlining a scene to him to compromise Ruth. Ralph's sweetheart, Anne, who is Ruth's maid, agrees to assist. She first has a note conveyed to Joachim to the effect that a friend "thinks it is his duty to inform you that your wife is unfaithful to you." Joachim is shocked at the news and against his better reason grows suspicious. His attitude towards his wife puzzles her and he will give her no explanation. She proceeds to her room and drinking some wine which has been drugged by Anne, falls, half-conscious, on an ottoman. Anne informs Ralph of the success of this part of the scheme and he proceeds to Ruth's room, and after placing some incriminating letters in a conspicuous position bends affectionately over the dazed woman as he hears footsteps approaching. It is the count, who has been hurriedly informed by Anne that the "gamekeeper" is in her mistress's room. The gamekeeper rushes off as Joachim appears, and the apparently damning evidence the latter has of his wife's infidelity is added to by the discovery of the compromising letters left by Ralph. Joachim writes a note to his wife, telling her to return to her parents pending divorce proceedings. She fails to understand and goes to him for explanation, but he repulses her, and, with dignity outraged, the innocent wife leaves him. Six months pass, and Joachim, living in town, seeks distraction in fast living in company with Friedrich. He receives a letter from his wife saying a son has been born to him and he

contemplates visiting the vicarage, when Friedrich changes his decision by a cynical reference to "the gamekeeper's son"—not yours. The image of his wife haunts him continually and one night, when leaving a haunt of vapid life and frivolity, his injustice is brought home to him in a strange way. He meets a dishevelled woman. She is Anne, who has just rushed from her house after a brutal attack upon her by her drunken husband, Ralph. He returns to the house with her, and she reveals the plot in which she joined Ralph, at Friedrich's bidding, to separate Joachim and Ruth. Ralph is subjected to a well-deserved thrashing before Joachim leaves the house, and taking Anne with him, with all speed he journeys down to the vicarage where his wife and baby son are anxiously awaiting him. There is a pathetic re-union, and the end comes with the most perfect picture of human happiness—loving parents and a little child.

Released Dec. 29
Code Word, Dawn

Length 3200 ft. approx.
Price 4d. per foot plus toning.

A Trial Mobilisation.

A COMIC RICH WITH DIVERTING INCIDENT.

ONE OF the Employees of a big commercial house has such irritating and offensive ways that one day his employer and the staff teach him a lesson. The employer first gives him a rough handling and ejects him from his room with his face streaming with ink; the staff afterwards belabour him in various ways, and even the messenger bedecks his other features and clothes with a generous donation of paste. The revenge of the victim slumbers, but when a trial mobilisation of all able bodied men is summoned, he seeks to make the others pay. By reason of his previous military experience he is made a lieutenant, and the rest of his office staff happen to be allotted to his squad. Consequently he subjects them to all sorts of harsh treatment in drills and to personal indignities, the experiences they have to undergo being of a really diverting character. When the men reach the side of the river, however, their tempers are at boiling point, and soon, by a prearranged signal, the lieutenant, who is such a strict disciplinarian, is flung into the water. For this act of insubordination the office squad are condemned to the cells, their durance only being ended with the cessation of the military manoeuvres. The reckoning which the lieutenant had to pay when he returned again to his everyday employment is best left to the film itself to tell. It is all excruciatingly funny.

Released Dec. 29. Length 840 ft.
Price 4d. per foot plus toning.

Lonely Places.

A CHARMING COLOURED SCENIC.

LOVELY PLACES is the title of a scenic with many qualities of picturesqueness, made all the more alluring by the fact that it is coloured in a most artistic way, revealing the natural beauties of sea coasts and lakes, and undulating stretches of verdant country, in a way that no monochrome pictures could compare with. It is a delightful series of pictures of delightfully picturesque spots—lonely because they have been unspoiled by man and do not resound with the brawls of crowds as in the case of city life.

Released Dec. 29. Length 230 ft.
Price 4d. per foot plus toning.

