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understand America. If Berlin could laugh at the jokes perpetrated in London and if London could laugh at German humour we would be so much further toward world unity. And insofar as radio gets us to laugh all together I am all for it.

AS for Gert and Dais I, like "Jocasto," also enjoy them—even if I still laugh at them rather than with them. One of my regrets is that Gert and Dais and Sam Small, whom I also like, turn up unexpectedly in programmes such as Music, Mirth, and Melody, or Humorous Interlude or Famous Comedians, and we don't know that they are coming and we don't get enough of them. But I doubt whether they have such a wide appeal or even whether they are popular at all in America. A good deal of American humour is straight clowning. It is this element of buffoonery that makes me think that I would tire of Fibber McGee if I had too much of him. Take a recent show. A doctor friend complains that his house is full of ants. Fibber and Molly go to clean them out for him and in the course of cleaning smash (if I remember rightly) a window, a refrigerator, and a piano, ruin a carpet, drop a silver frame out of the window, pull the blind down, and so on. Then they find out it was ants, not ants, that the friend was complaining of. Children like seeing the glorious wreckage of things going smash. Adults find humour in subtler things. Surely it is not a lack of a sense of humour?

LASTLY, "Jocasto" says: "I can understand a sense of superiority causing pity or causing disgust but not amusement except in a satirist whose amusement, I imagine, is more akin to weeping than to laughter." I would say that Gert and Dais are satirical sketches, but this does not detract from their humour. The greatest examples of comedy are in essence intensely tragic. Take the scene in The Gold Rush when Chaplin waits for his guests, or more terrible still when the girl he loves comes to dance with him and his braces give way.

IF New Zealand is a half-way house between English and American humour so much the better—though the best would be if we could bubble up over the air with more native humour from our own native situations. This will come, and I hope I shall then be able to laugh as heartily as "Jocasto"—and without worrying about the correct psychological reactions.

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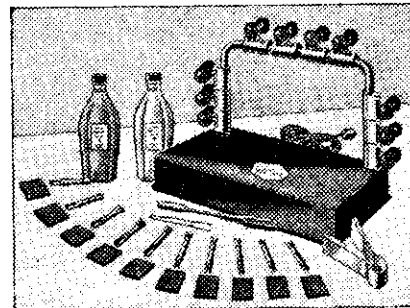
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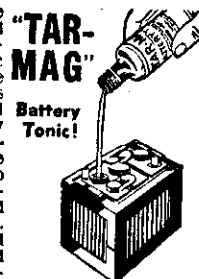


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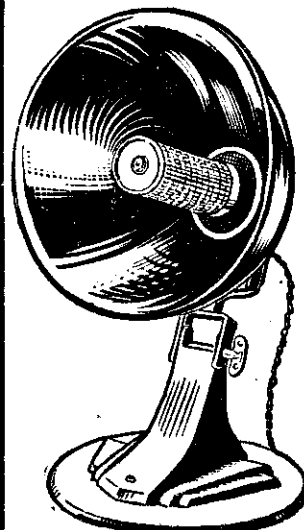
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