

(continued from previous page)

his child with an enthusiasm for the rich potentialities of New Zealand timber, and the two topics wove themselves in a double counterpoint in his conversation. Thus in the middle of a panegyric on the qualities of our native timber, durability of kowhai and kamai, strength of black mapau, he'd break off and say "I never talk about the kid, you know, but I must say, he's fascinated by pieces of wood. Do you know, he can already pick out a piece of pinus insignis from red birch and kauri. I tried him with some samples."

There is every indication that my husband and I, bookseller and librarian respectively, are following in that forester's footsteps. For quite recently in the middle of a discussion of *Crime and Punishment* my husband interpolated a description of his daughter's earliest contact with the higher learning.

"We'd put her on the floor to kick," he said to four not vitally interested guests, "and she began to roll over towards the long bookcase, hand outstretched. Then, grunting, she propelled herself forward with a tadpole-like motion. We thought she was about to grab one of her mother's Russian novels but Doestoevsky is heavy going for seven months. But she rolled over again, passed by the Beatrix Potters we bought her optimistically when she was three

## Beecham Again

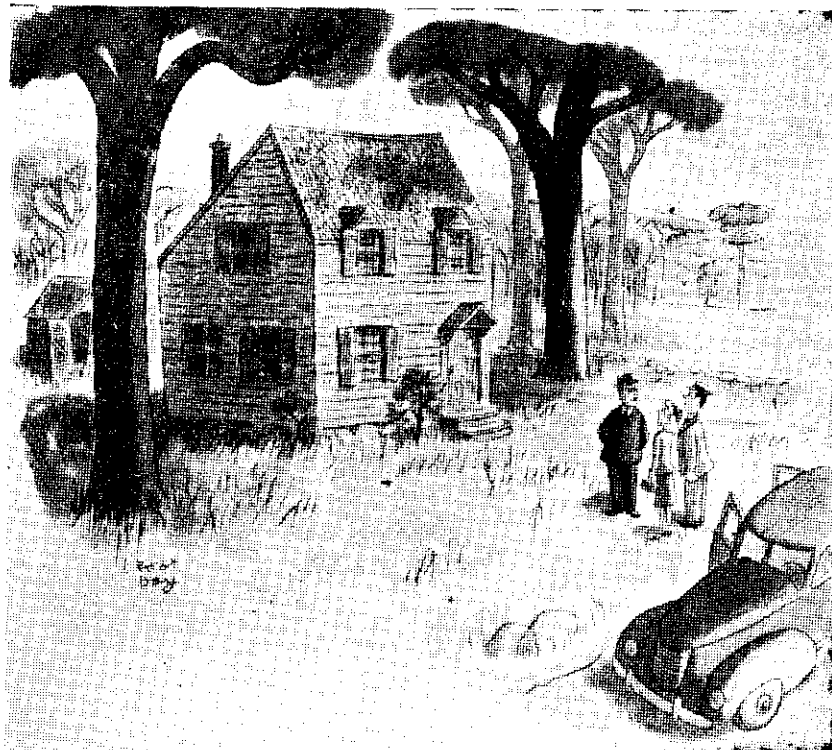
WHEN Sir Thomas Beecham announced his new Royal Philharmonic Orchestra recently, he explained that there were no women in it, because, "if the lady is not well-favoured, the male instrumentalists do not wish to play near her; if she is well-favoured, they can't." He added: "Not that I don't think women are good musicians." After a season of eight months of fortnightly concerts, the new orchestra will probably tour England and the Continent, eventually visiting the United States. Sir Thomas Beecham is reported to have said that 60 or 70 United States cities had asked him to let them hear an English orchestra.

weeks old, by-passed the cookery books and rolled on towards the mystery and detective stories. Once more the small hand went out and clutched at *The Woman in White*." He paused.

"Honesty compels me to admit," I remarked with feminine objectivity where children are concerned, "that she rolled over again, and began to suck with gusto and dribbling at the calf binding."

"Leather is good for the teeth," said our dentist guest. "I remember when Rosemary's incisors were coming. . . ."

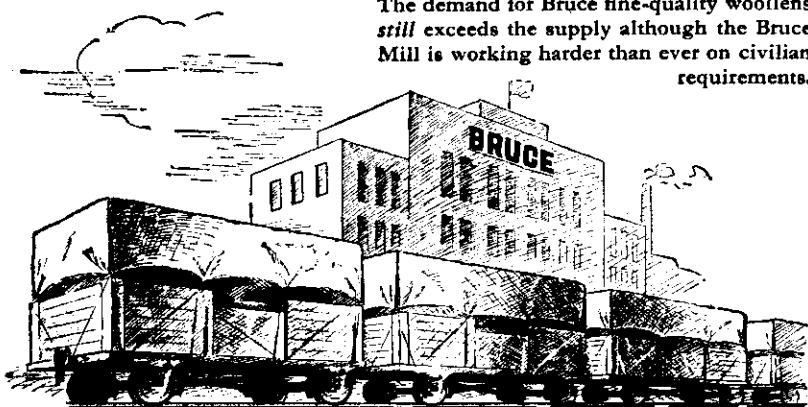
He was off.



"The roof doesn't leak, and there is a bathroom. You're entitled to one more question"

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