



"Think you  
measure up, Mum?"



**BABY:** Now I've trimmed you down to my size, Mum—still think you measure up as a mother?

**MUM:** Honey, I feel about so-o-o big! I'd completely forgotten what it's like to be a baby, wriggling and twisting all day. If your skin gets this uncomfortable, no wonder you howl!

**BABY:** Ha, Mum! I thought this would show you that a baby's skin needs extra care. I wouldn't have to howl if you treated me right with Johnson's Baby Cream and Johnson's Baby Powder.

**MUM:** If that's the answer, lamb—have both if you need 'em!

**BABY:** I definitely do, Mummy. After my tub, a nice, gentle smoothover with Johnson's Baby Cream, to help keep me a real Satin-Skin. Don't forget it at diaper changes, too—to help prevent what my doctor calls "urine irritation".

And between times, you can bring on the Johnson's Baby Powder—cool, snowflakey-soft sprinkles of it, so chafes and prickles never have a chance.



**MUM:** Half-pint, you're smarter than your Mum! Let's go get some Johnson's and make this a big day!

Safe for Baby—Safe for You

**Johnson's Baby Powder**  
**Johnson's Baby Cream**  
**Johnson's Baby Soap**

Johnson & Johnson  
(NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED

N.Z. Distributors: Potter & Birks (N.Z.) Ltd., 14 Lower Federal St., Auckland.



\* Sterilized for your protection in accordance with the regulations.

## "A Painting is Something to be Solved"

"I HAVEN'T studied formally anywhere. I've just been looking at pictures and meeting people," says Douglas MacDiarmid, the young New Zealand artist who returned home a few months ago after several years of solitary wandering in Europe, and who has since exhibited in Wellington some of the paintings he did overseas. Because of his lack of formal artistic training MacDiarmid would be described technically as a primitive, but that doesn't mean he is lacking in culture. He was born in Taihape and studied at Canterbury University College, where he took a B.A. degree in English. He spent some time in the army, and then in 1946 decided to go to Europe. When he walked into *The Listener* office last week to talk about it he didn't seem to think he had done anything very remarkable.



Douglas MacDiarmid

"I made up my mind I wanted to go, and I went," he said. "And I got jobs teaching English—to adults—in London, where there were a number of Polish refugees who wanted to learn the language, and in Paris, where I taught for some time at the *Lycée Henri IV*. I spent as much time as I could spare from teaching and painting in wandering around, seeing pictures and meeting people—literary people, painters, sculptors, musicians, and so on—mainly from contacts I made through my teaching acquaintances. I also spent some time doing the same sort of thing in Spain and Italy, visiting all the big galleries, where one can catch up on those traditional things one ought to know about.

"What are my impressions of Europe? They were very strong impressions, strong enough for me to enjoy being there in the first place, but also strong enough for me to discover that I wasn't a European. It was a tremendously stimulating experience, but I think there's enough here in New Zealand to keep any artist busy. Besides, there's plenty to eat here. In Paris there wasn't always, although it wasn't so bad in Spain—and to a lesser extent in Italy. That was my own personal experience, anyway. I left France in 1948 and went back to England, and then came on home about four months ago."

### Believes in Himself

Douglas MacDiarmid is tall, well over six feet, but with the raw-boned appearance of someone who hasn't filled out yet. The impression he makes on you is one of freshness, youth, and self-confidence. When he talks he is charming and formal on ordinary subjects, but reserved, almost taciturn about his work. Yet he gives the feeling that he believes in it intensely, and he did talk about it after a while.

He couldn't give any particular reason why he started painting. There

wasn't any individual impulse that he could think of that had started him off. "I just tried different things, and found painting was what I wanted to do, so I stuck to it," he said. "When I was in Europe I made the habit of moving around always with notebooks and painting away from the scene. That means you can see a lot of things and digest them before you start to paint them. Though I must admit I occasionally went to life classes in London and Paris to work from the model. But you see, those notes that I took in Europe I'll still be able to work on for a while now that I'm back home."

"And then?"

"There's always New Zealand, isn't there? There are lots of things here to paint. I want to see people in this landscape and see people against that background. Well . . ." He opened his arms expressively.

"How will you live?"

"I'm going to be a civil servant in all probability. Teaching is very tiring and it takes a lot out of you if you are going to do it properly, so that you don't have so much time and energy if you want to do something else, as I do.

"Technique? I don't work to any particular set plan. Oil is a different medium from watercolour, and so on. A thing may come off the way you're doing it, and it may not. You do each painting as something that has to be solved individually, and often enough I don't know quite what I'm going to do when I start. I know what I've done before and I know what I want to do this time. But I may have to do something quite different to achieve what I want—I don't know that at the beginning."

"Isn't it a help to have a plan?"

"It doesn't seem to worry me."

"Well, then, are you going to study at an art school now you're back in New Zealand and have the prospect of regular employment?"

"No. Definitely not."

"Why not?"

"I have always worked on my own, and I see no reason to stop that now," he replied.

### The Voice of Experience

SUCCESS with a garden is often put down by the superstitious to the possession of "green fingers"; professional gardeners, on the other hand, attribute it to knowledge and experience of soil and climatic conditions and, of course, of plants themselves. Listeners to the 42B Women's Hour may share in the fruits of that knowledge and experience on alternate Thursdays, when Gretchen Williams talks on gardening. Miss Williams trained originally with D. Tannock, of Dunedin, became chief gardener on a private estate near Hastings, and was employed for a period at the Massey College. Her next talk will be heard on Thursday, July 21.

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