

CURTAIN ON HARRY TATE

EARLY in 1915, Colonel Seelcy home from the Front for the week-end, sought a little diversion from military problems, and called in at the Hippodrome. What seemed to tickle him most was a sketch in a revue called "Business As Usual," wherein Harry Tate set about "Fortifying the Home," as he called it. So struck was the Colonel that he sent a messenger with a personal note to Harry Tate asking him if it were possible to obtain records of the scene to take back to France. Harry Tate luckily had just recorded only a few days previously, and thanks to a special "speed up" at the factory, our soldiers in France were able to hear the new record, "Fortifying the Home," before its

release to the public. Twenty-five years after, almost to the day, Harry Tate died, an air-raid victim of the present war.

In November last he went into the street in Dundee to watch a raid, and was struck in the eye by a fragment of shell, the injury finally proving fatal. His death was the more tragic because a few weeks after the accident he was due to appear in a West End show, re-entering, at the age of 64, the front ranks of the top-line players.

Origin of a Name

Although he was born in Scotland, Harry Tate, whose real name was Ronald Macdonald Hutchison, went to a school in Clapham. His schooling finished,

he got work at the sugar factory. By a coincidence, opposite this factory was the sign of the man who made a large fortune through patenting a device for cutting sugar loaves into small cubes—Henry Tate, who left to the nation a large number of modern pictures that grew into the present Tate Collection.

But Ronald Macdonald Hutchison found the sugar business a bit on the dull side. It was much more amusing, when he was a born mimic, to run small concerts, play in them himself, and take people off. Through the influence of a music-hall manager, he led a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde life, borrowing the name Tate he saw on the sign during the day for his evening variety turns. He got four pounds a week at the Oxford Music Hall, but his people did not want him to go on the stage. They thought acting no good. For weeks and months he came back from the works, changed his clothes, stole out and made for the Oxford, creeping back at night when his parents were in bed. But they found out, and were thoroughly disgusted—until they heard he was making good.

Encounter with a Car

Harry happened to go to an exhibition in 1902 where they were showing the first motor that ever came non-stop from Edinburgh to London, and he thought it would be a good advertisement to buy it. He did, and took it for a run. It back-fired, it boiled, it smoked, it stopped. He got underneath to see what was wrong and came out with a blackened face. He was damp with perspiration, but he smiled. Motoring! He had found a new sketch. He put it on the stage and it ran for twelve years. He went on from strength to strength.

During the last war, in one of his revue sketches, there was an echo of his Mincing Lane days in the sugar business. One of his scenes in it was an office skit where the self-important business man owned a lump of sugar



HARRY TATE

bound with string that was dipped in his tea and returned to the safe. Tate couldn't keep sugar entirely out of his calculations!

A Born Broadcaster

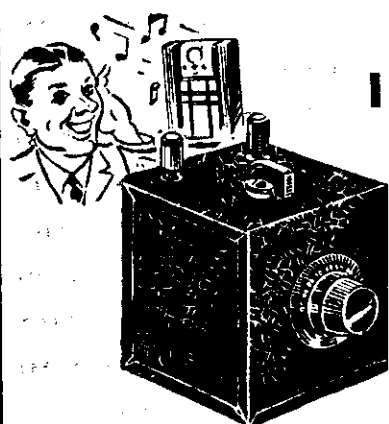
Harry Tate was a born broadcaster, and no veteran of the halls has ever stolen radio show after radio show with quite the same ease and aplomb. But Harry had no success at the start, and it was only when he adopted the suggestion of someone and wore the celebrated moustache that he became a leading figure in broadcast vaudeville.

Harry Tate's films include, "Soft Lights and Sweet Music," "Keep Your Seats Please," "Variety Parade," "Take a Chance," "Wings of the Morning," "Sam Small Leaves Town," and "Her First Affaire." His records have endeared him to thousands of radio listeners in New Zealand.

He Meets Marie Lloyd

It was a lucky night for Harry Tate when Marie Lloyd dropped in one night at a Bohemian gathering and saw and heard the young mimic. Marie was quick to spot talent, and with her proverbial kindness, took him along and introduced him to the manager of the Oxford Music Hall. He was given a trial, and made his first appearance on April 13, 1895. He made a hit, and was given a year's engagement.

For the next forty years he was the public's "most amusing servant."



**"That's What
I Call Reception!"**

Get An
"AERITROL"
and make YOUR
Set 100% Efficient

It will separate interfering stations; reduce noise and interference; increase volume of weak stations; eliminate the need for an aerial; control volume from powerful local stations.

INSTALLED IN A FEW MINUTES — WITHOUT TOOLS

Safe! Uses no electricity! Works on all types of receivers, old or new, battery or electric. Increases volume equivalent to adding an extra valve. Full directions with each.

TRY IT AT OUR RISK!

On receipt of cash we will send you an "AERITROL." Try it out in your own home for seven days. If, at the end of that time, you are not absolutely satisfied that it improves the performance of your radio, return it and we will refund your money without question.

Only **27/6** Cat. No. ZA1.
Post Free

THE ELECTRIC
LAMPHOUSE
LIMITED

11 MANNERS STREET, — WELLINGTON