

On Buying A Coat



"SIXTEEN guineas, madam."
 "I beg your pardon?"
 "Sixteen guineas."
 "Oh" I said (it takes
 Courage), "I can't possibly pay that for
 a coat."

"Of course it's genuine camel hair,"
 she said very coldly (and it was a very
 cold day), apparently not even noticing
 the Courage. But it felt very Genuine. I
 have to admit that.

"Well actually, the check is rather
 large for me. But I love the material."
 "At the end of the week we shall
 have a smaller check."

Well, I thought I would come back to
 see it . . . I thought maybe I had picked
 on the wrong shop, so small, with one
 of those very exclusive names like
 Jaqueline written in very small print.
 You cough before you ask the price and
 again when you're told it.

But it's so cold I must have a coat.
 I suppose the trouble is that I'm not a
 window-gazer, so had no idea that things
 like 16 guineas were in the air.

I WAS a bit more cautious at the next
 shop—oh, a nice coat, but not nearly
 as warm as the 16-guineas. I had to remove
 from my unwilling back before I made
 a far from convincing escape. So I asked
 the price, and when she said "Twelve
 and a-half guineas, you see, it's camel
 hair," I simply said coldly, "Genuine?"
 Well, I had her there.

"Oh no! You can't get genuine camel
 hair these days," she said, and I realised
 I had indeed not Kept Abreast. "This
 is the mixture—75 per cent camel hair
 and the rest wool. It's very warm and
 very durable."

"M'm," I said, in that considering
 way invented by A. A. Milne for one of
 his animal friends. And I retired with
 what might or might not have been the
 honours, saying I was rather keen on
 finding a genuine camel hair if I could
 . . . After that, at various shops I
 retired with the help of my mother and
 a friend (either of whom I would bring
 back to see it "to-morrow"), the lack
 of coupons till June 1 (that was quite
 brilliant), and a general list of dissatis-
 factions—not quite the thing, a pity the
 colour is wrong because otherwise. . . .

YOU know, I am not frightfully emo-
 tional, but sometimes I could have
 wept at the thought of that poor sheep

grazing so innocently on my father's
 farm carrying what it foolishly thinks
 is about five bob's worth of wool, while
 my father stoops his ageing back to pull
 a frosted turnip to keep that five bob's
 worth of wool walking about in the
 bitter wind. . . . And I wondered if he
 ever wonders why he is a farmer and
 not a shopkeeper, and why his father
 was a farmer and not a shopkeeper.
 But then, of course, he has the enduring
 friendship of the Dumb Beasts. Yes, I
 could have wept.

Besides, I didn't get a coat. I thought
 "The first coat that's not as much as 10
 guineas, I'll buy." But when I saw it and
 felt it, I didn't. I just bought a yard
 of material in the most violent check I
 could find and I made two HUGE
 pockets (all the 16 guin coats had HUGE
 pockets), and a small collar and HUGE
 revers, and tacked them on to my old
 black, and some people would already
 think I had a new coat . . . and some
 wouldn't.

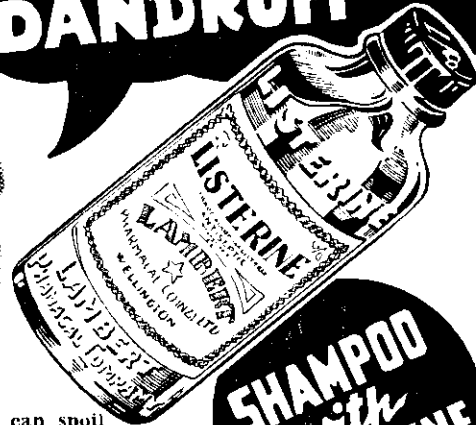
And yesterday I had a letter from
 my mother in Tierra del Fuego, and she
 said: "The winds here are bitterly cold,
 and I have a wonderful coat made of
 llama skin and lined with rabbit. Oh, it's
 so cosy! I wish I could send you one."

I wish, too. But I suppose the duty
 would be about 21½ guineas.

—J.

[NOTE: I ought to say that I made up that
 bit about my mother living in Tierra del Fuego
 because it looks nice in typewriting. Actually
 she lives in North Otago.]

IT'S WONDERFUL HOW Quickly
LISTERINE BANISHED MY
DANDRUFF



SHAMPOO
with
LISTERINE

DANDRUFF is repulsive and can spoil
 the whole effect of your toilet.
 Dandruff is easily and pleasantly banished
 with LISTERINE ANTISEPTIC used full
 strength as a Shampoo.

LISTERINE
The Safe **ANTISEPTIC**
KILLS THE GERM THAT causes DANDRUFF

THE LAMBERT PHARMACAL CO. (N.Z.) LTD. 64 Ghuznee street, Wellington.



Smartness in Suede, Kid,
 or Calf...to lighten
 your step

The difference between enduring
 a winter and enjoying it is
 largely one of foot-happiness.
 MATCHLESS Winter Models,
 protective yet attractive, will
 again dominate winter pave-
 ments in 1943. Just remind your
 favourite shoe store — "It's
 Matchless again please!"



MS.105.15

Matchless **SHOES**

FASHIONED IN NEW ZEALAND BY DUCKWORTH TURNER & CO. LTD.