

the last dozen years—not since I watched Elisha Cook Jun. drum himself almost into delirium in a creepy little thriller of the early '40s.

GENEVIEVE

(Rank-G.F.D.)

GENEVIEVE, a comedy at the expense of the single-minded souls who take part in the annual London-to-Brighton veteran car rally, and the sweethearts or wives who tag along, was produced and directed by Henry Cornelius, who gave us (with the notable assistance of T. E. B. Clarke) *Passport to Pimlico*. It is proper to add, however, that *Genevieve* is not quite so funny as *Passport*. The latter was soundly based on a thoroughly original comic idea, which developed almost of its own volition as the film progressed. *Genevieve's* fun is of a more obvious kind—vintage cars are laughable to look at, and they break down with monotonous regularity. It is, in short, the old familiar comedy of frustration, and the director has squeezed the last possible laugh from his material. That is not to suggest that laughter is in short supply—there is a fair ration of it, and some engaging harmonica theme music by Larry Adler. But the players—John Gregson, Dinah Sheridan, Kenneth More, Kay Kendall—are not really comic in themselves. It is left to Joyce Grenfell, who makes one brief and telling appearance, to show how funny *Genevieve* might have been.

Answer to Correspondent

F. (NELSON): The quotation was correctly attributed. It occurs in "The Betrothed," a piece of light verse which Kipling introduced with a quotation—"You must choose between me and your cigar." (Breach of Promise Case, circa 1885). The particular stanza runs.

Open the old cigar-box—let me consider anew—
Old friends, and who is Maggie that I should abandon you?
A million surplus Maggies are willing to bear the yoke;
And a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke.

Calverley may have held the same views on women and tobacco, but he seems to have been more circumspect in airing them.—Ino.

It's All in the Book

"**L**IFE, like fruit, is there in a book, stoned, pulped, jellied, crystallised, jammed, if this is not too homely a comparison. Perhaps it is, and yet in preserving, in distilling and concocting there is surely something marvellous; and the degree of transformation in cooking is not unlike what happens in a process of art."—Kathleen Lea, in the BBC's Home Service.

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N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 14, 1954.

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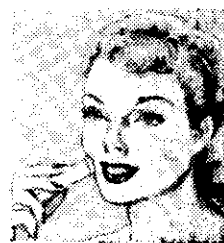


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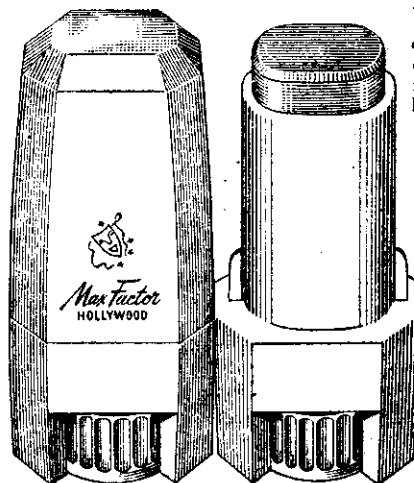
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