

Capers," played by the Art Van Damme Quintette (Capitol LC 6622) instead of an excess of liquid stimulant. Discreet and sophisticated, "an intimate cocktail combination that any hostess would give her sable stole to present to her guests" (that's the record cover, not me), this music should go well with the chatter and even limber it up a bit. If you haven't a sable stole, maybe you'd better stick to the "Goodman Touch" (Capitol LC 6620), which swings—I am indebted again to the record cover—"lightly and politely."

If the party needs livening up, you could put on "Ragtime Jamboree" by the Lawson-Haggart Jazz Band (Brunswick LA 8635), although I am not prepared to take any responsibility for the possible results. For something exotic, try Ben and his Tropical Rhythm Kings (Nixa LPY 123), whose mambos, rumbas, sambas, boleros and guarachas are calculated to warm up the party a bit; but if it's something more respectable you're wanting, "Music in the Night," by the Cincinnati Summer Opera Orchestra (Brunswick AXTL 1035) might fill the bill. When I mention that it contains "Claire de Lune," "Liebestraum," "Flight of the Bumble Bee" and a bunch of operatic waltzes, you'll know what I mean. Incidentally, almost all the record covers could be used as wall decorations for the party.

August Choice

GREGORIAN CHANT: Sung by the Choir of the Monks of the Abbey of St. Pierre de Solesmes. Not for its history, nor its antiquity, but for its timeless purity. Any or all of these discs will provide an unusual and inspiring musical experience.—DECCA LXT 2704-08.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: A Sea Symphony. Performed by the London Philharmonic Choir, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and soloists Isobel Baillie and John Cameron. Conductor, Sir Adrian Boult. A noble theme, nobly set to music, matched by the performance.—DECCA LXT 2907-08.

NEGRO SPIRITUALS: Sung by Inez Matthews (mezzo-soprano), with Jonathan Brice at the piano. Singing of character. If you like Negro spirituals, you'll probably like these.—NIXA PLP 580.

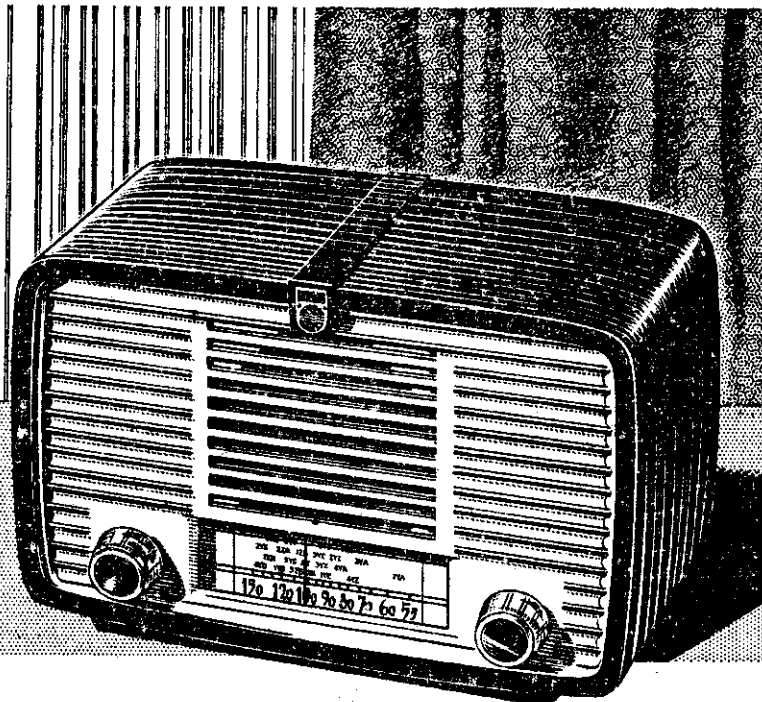
New Deal, Old Deck

IN card games the Joker, aptly named, frequently has the final say. He has it, too, in a new radio series named for him which starts next week from the ZB stations. There are 52 cards in the pack apart from the Joker, and there are 52 stories in this series of self-contained, half-hour programmes. The Joker in this pack is the narrator, who laces each story with his own peculiar irony. The first story in *The Joker* is based on the Ten of Spades, which is described as "a card from the House of Death. It stands for disillusionment, loss of liberty—or even of life." The story concerns a small-time crook named Pete Anakin, who perpetrates murder and blackmail, and who, ironically, is arrested for a crime he didn't commit. The part is taken by Harp McGuire, with Alan White as Dr. Heading, David Eadie as Larry Price, Lyndall Barbour as Mrs. Harding, Grant Taylor as the police officer, and, of course, the Joker, played by Charles Tinwell. *The Joker* plays from all ZB stations at 9.0 p.m. on Tuesdays, starting August 10.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 6, 1954.

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