

there is a point beyond which prudence should not go in public expenditure, and a risk that all Governments should be prepared to take for the things of the spirit. In this case the risk can hardly be very great. We all accept without question the burden of schools, colleges, and universities; without much questioning the provision of music and art; and when we do make a noise about any of these costs we still meet them. A free home for scientific workers in an especially rich field would be accepted as readily if there were evidence that it would be used.

But there are two preliminary questions to which I myself do not know the answers. The first is, has the existence and the purpose of Moturau Moana ever been widely advertised? If it has, I am one of the sympathetic public the advertisers have not reached. The second is, do the artists and the scientific workers to whom Moturau Moana is known make regular use of it? When I was young I spent a lot of time dragging horses to water which they had no desire to drink. Now I save my energy and my halts. Governments must take a longer view than individuals, and I hope it will be long enough in this case to keep Moturau Moana in being till the voice of its possible users has been heard. In the meantime, as ham experts say, the question is over to them.

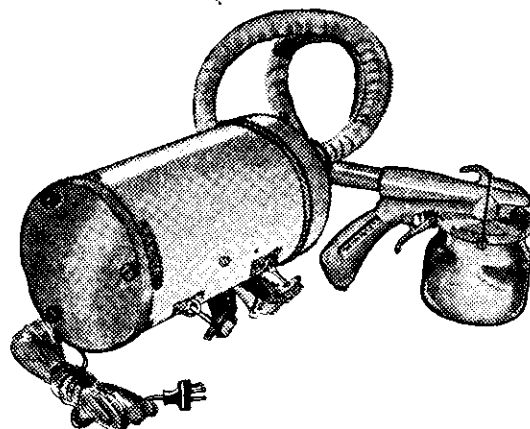
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WHEN I first heard the phrase "the expulsive power of a new affection," it affected me like my first sight of Mount Cook. I was just entering my twenties, and struggling desperately—as we so often do then, and so seldom do 20 years later—to adjust my desires to my terrifying sense of duty. But the words have not lost their magic 50 years later. I still have no better way of reconciling myself to an emotional loss than giving myself another emotion of the same kind. Fortunately, and I always think most strangely, it is easy. The problem on a farm is to avoid too many emotions; too many (and too abject) servitudes. A pup will enslave you; a lamb; a calf; a clutch of chickens. So will a fat old wether or an ageing cow. I had a letter this morning from the wife of a dairy farmer, the daughter of a dairy farmer, the owner and exhibitor of pedigree Ayrshires, who has been enslaved by a goat. She was foolish enough or brave enough—I can't decide which—to buy it as a kid, and now it has every member of the family on a short lead. This busy, intelligent, experienced woman, with a home to run and a family to provide for—how many hours of freedom does that leave in 24?—who tells me that she has always "had chooks, and cats, and pigs, and anything up to 25 calves every spring," now devotes "quite a lot of the vegetable garden to rows of tit-bits" for this tyrant, and blesses the day when the chains were fastened to her ankles.

Well, we all give hostages to fortune at some time and in some fashion, but those who give their hearts to animals to keep for them take great risks. They are marked for misery as certainly as a raddled ewe is marked for "the works," and only another gamble of the same kind will save them. The drunkard who demands a hair of the dog that bit him is not so brave or so foolish or so clever as the owner of a pet lamb who buries it one day and the next day brings home another.

(To be continued)

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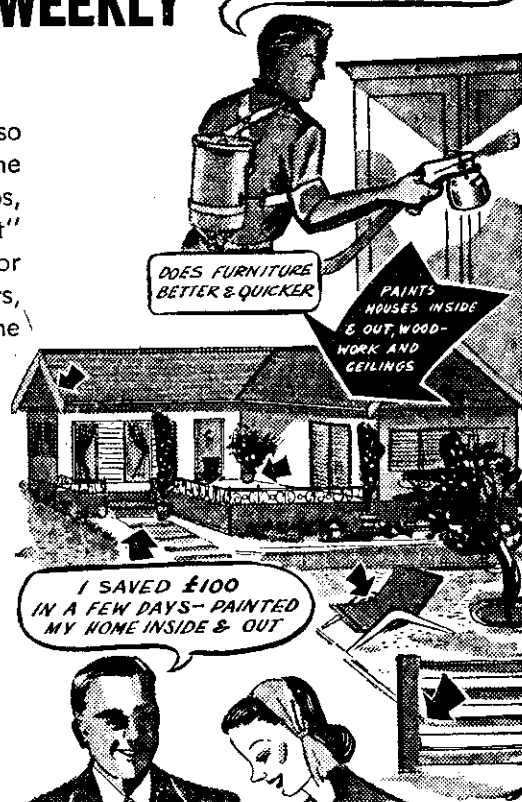


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