

BAROMETER

FAIR: "Macbeth."
MAINLY FAIR: "Showboat."

concession Welles made to the new medium was to dub the dialogue of each soliloquy on to the soundtrack then keep his mouth shut. In this, of course, he was in company with Olivier, who did much the same in *Hamlet*, but I still think both are wrong. A soliloquy is thought made audible—necessary on the stage, and in the case of Shakespeare, justifiable on the screen—but the film can and should identify the audience subjectively with the speaker not treat us to a display of ventriloquism. All things considered, though, *Macbeth* is worth seeing. You don't need to know your Shakespeare to enjoy it—but it helps!

SHOWBOAT

(M.G.M.)

IF you have lived for the best part of a generation with the tunes and lyrics of *Showboat*—in Hit Parades, Request Sessions and Music While You Work—you may find this new Technicolor edition lacks the sparkle of the first. And there's no Paul Robeson. But if you enjoy Request Sessions you will probably still find it good fun—though I thought the singing of Howard Keel, Kathryn Grayson and Ava Gardner a little too relaxed.

The Laugh's on Humanity

IF Honoré de Balzac, it is said, had had the powers of Shakespeare and the life of Methuselah, he would never have completed his "Human Comedy." This vast work—which was conceived as a complete series of novels and short stories only after some of the author's earlier books had been successful—was to run to some one hundred volumes. As it was, Balzac died before he had written sixty volumes. However, there is enough in those fifty-odd to keep anybody busy for quite a long time, so the unwritten remainder is not of any great importance. There is enough, for that matter, in the one serialised story which will be broadcast from 3ZB (beginning on February 12 at 10 p.m.) to last most listeners for half a year. This story, which will be broadcast under the title of *The Human Comedy*, is set in France and England, and moves lightly among its characters, which include the weak Sir Richard, the villainous Captain Hardley, the Baron and his son, and the beautiful Suzanne Patrice.

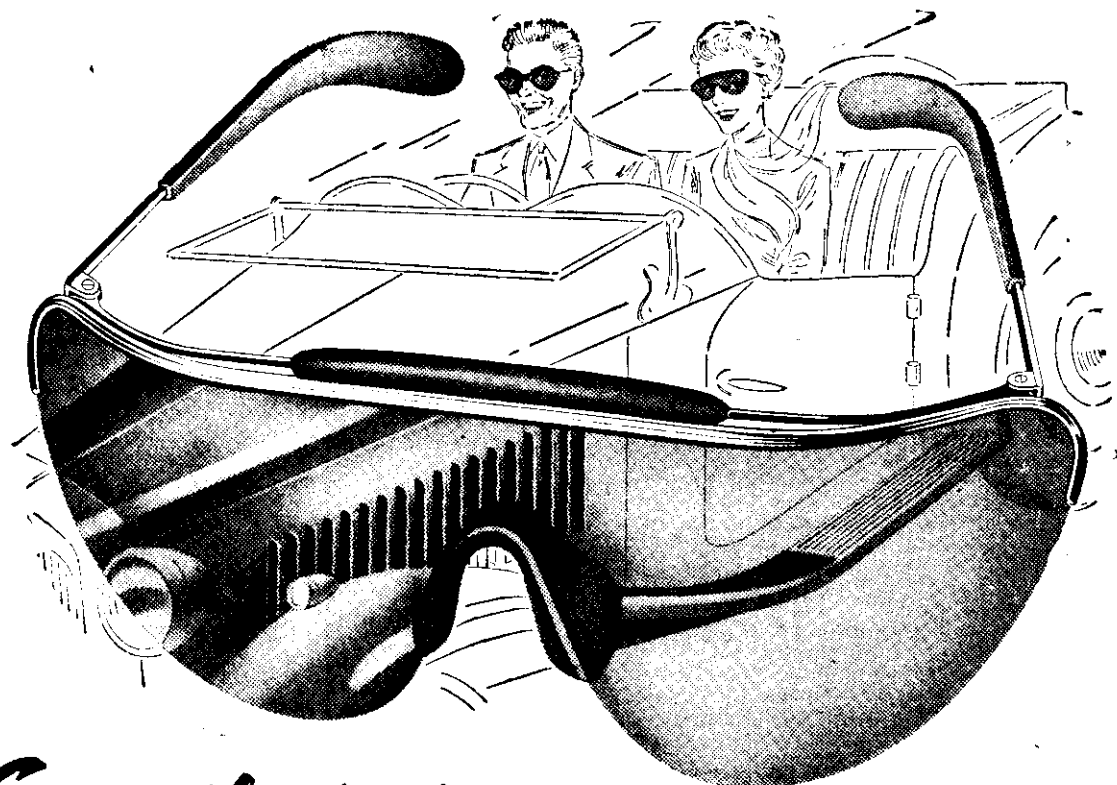
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By O. T. J. ALPERS

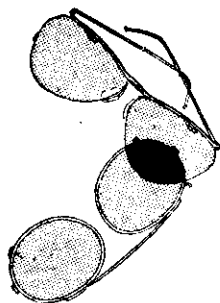
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