

mayr (flute) and Karl Mayrhofer (oboe) (Decca LXT 2782).

If you want the tops in joyous music, acquire for yourself the first and second New Year's Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Clemens Krauss (Decca LXT 2645 and 2755). On these two discs Johann and Joseph Strauss with their waltzes and polkas present music whose rhythmic verve is the very essence of the Viennese spirit. This music will get you by the short hairs.

Coda

A bunch of little LPs has just come to hand. They run about eight minutes a side and are put out by Ducretet-Thomson. *Chansons de Bilitis* and *Ariettes Cubilées*, by Debussy, sung by Hoshiko Furusawa (LPP 8718), Russian and Yiddish folksongs sung by Sarah Gorbey (LAP 1002), and *Chansons d'Amour et de Misère*, sung by Denise and Jean-Christophe Benoit (LPP 8719) are all very ingratiating and pleasant indeed. Two Schubert pieces played on the piano by Edouard Darsky (LAP 1004) suffer from extraordinarily bad recording.

Finally, look out for Symphony No. 1, by Carl Nielsen, the Danish composer, whose stocks have been rising sharply lately. As played by the Danish State Radio Symphony Orchestra (Decca LXT 2748) it makes most interesting listening. At its first performance in 1894 it must have startled the natives. It may even astonish you now. If you like Nielsen, you may be a Sibelius fan, in which case you will want to hear his *En Saga* and *Tapiola* performed by the Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Eduard van Beinum (Decca LXT 2776). It's superb.

October Choice

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: *A Pastoral Symphony*—The London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Boult. Fine playing of enduring music: Decca LXT 2787.

VIVALDI: *Gloria*—Pierrette Alarie (soprano), Maria-Therese Cahn (contralto), with the Ensemble Vocal de Paris. As exciting as the 18th Century can be: Ducretet-Thomson LPP 8556.

THE STRAUSS BROTHERS: *New Year's Concerts*, by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Joyous music: Decca LXT 2645 and 2755.

"OBSCURITY has become so marked a characteristic of the modern novel that even novelists themselves often lose track of their main themes altogether. Consequently, even the most competent of reviewers may sometimes find it virtually impossible to discover just what a book's main theme is—and, as a result, be driven to ignore it, not from choice but from sheer necessity. And, as every author should know, necessity is the mother of invention."—Nancy Page, in an NZBS Book Shop talk.

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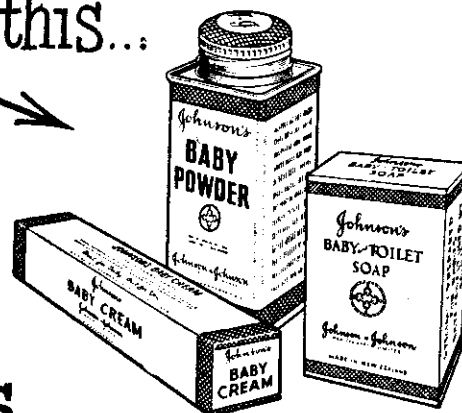
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