

SALES: MAY BEST GIRL WIN

They began queuing almost as soon as Father Christmas had gone back north. But as Santa left the Arctic climate behind him, one kind man kept a place for his wife. He knew something; Christmas dinner wiv no naggin'.

Ah yes, the sales: a clarion word that means the same in every language. They used to be called the January Sales; now they start as soon as Boxing Day's over. Taxis, fourpence a mile? You can't believe it. Opening time; in a few minutes, it's like a stampede in Texas.

It's the boarding house keepers' grand chance to get a year's crockery supply for next to nothing.

Oh very choice!

The tills were the first things to show signs of wear; and the day was only beginning. Call the maintenance engineer.

Nothing for you here, chum.

You know soon some of them don't have a thing to wear.

And it was freezing cold. Lady Godiva's husband had to get her home, in front of the fire, before she lost her licence.