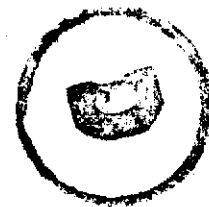


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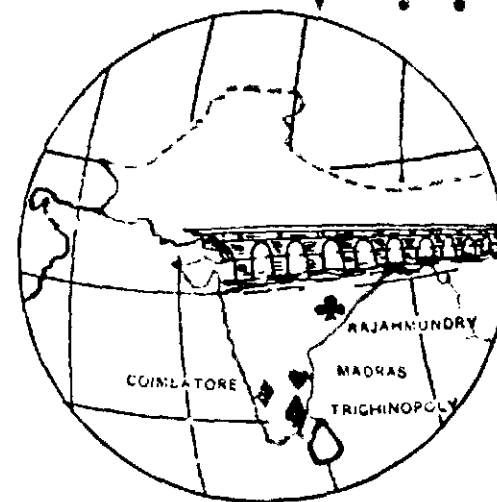
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Vol. 2
Part III

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(Formerly known as the Deccan Bridge Magazine)

(Being the Official Organ of the South Indian Bridge Association)

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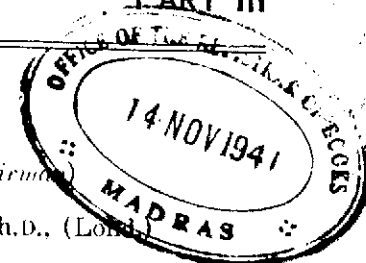
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The Editorial Committee do not necessarily agree with the views and remarks expressed by the contributors.—*Ed.*

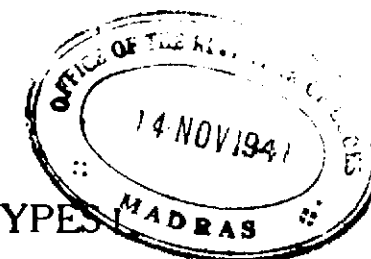
SUCH VARIED TYPES

By Tony Single

AFTER all, cards are only the tools with which players play. So much is being said and written about them; their tendency to group together in various proportions; their potency individually or in conjunction with others, and even their freaks. But no attention whatever is paid to the person who manages them. In fact, he is entirely ignored by the pandits who always delight in grouping the cards as they like and expansively ruminating aloud on certain excellences in such groups and how the cards so placed would either be unbeatable or be beaten. I am not a pandit in Bridge. I cannot juggle with cards or lose myself in the contemplation of the mathematics or the psychology of these paste-boards. I am just one who likes bridge and indulges in it sometimes. What has fascinated me always is the human element in bridge-play; the men and women who participate in it and who are actually the agency which makes or mars

the fortunes of all concerned, including the cards themselves. They are of all types—the all-knowing, the infallible, the megalomaniac, the sanguine, the optimist, the pessimist, the nervous, the quarrelsome, the nasty, the gentle, the fatalist, the kink, the lop-sided and so on. I have often observed these types in play and would like, if the editorial board permits, to portray them on paper. There is no malice, no intention to wound or ridicule any particular person: if any reader thinks the cap was exactly made for him, he may wear it; the fault is not mine nor his or hers but the cap's.

In my earliest days of Bridge, I came across the late Mr. L. It may be unkindness, but no exaggeration, to say that his death was a gain to the bridge world. He always counted a 'singleton' as five playing tricks! Nothing would cure him of this obsession. He would not allow anybody else to secure the contract while armed with a singleton; woe to the



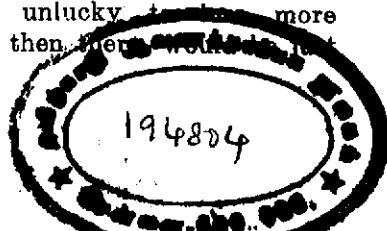
a pang of regret that, in regard to the interests of his wife and children, he was not perhaps doing just the proper thing. The regret will last the night only; the next evening he would be in the club impatiently waiting for 'victims.' But he was goodness itself and we only put it down to bad luck, if we cut with him.

Mr. R is a great bridge personality, thoroughly excellent, loveable man, but very much feared and affectionately disliked at the bridge table. He is an able player but may be described as a bridge neurotic. Bridge is a passion with him and, probably because the generality of players is below par, Mr. R. has become obsessed with the idea that any bid or lead by his partner must be wrong until the contrary is proved. He does not spare even his opponents; he simply cannot stand bad play. He has a curious method of punishing indifferent players. Reproaches and sneers will not do fair justice, which must be indicated only by the largest penalty that could be inflicted on his unfortunate inefficient partner. The price that Mr. R. himself pays is certainly worth the education he imparts to his opposite fellow!

Then there is the go-lucky optimist Mr. M., who knows some bridge and could easily recognise the values of aces and kings, but does not care two hoots about revaluation, asking bids, or the four P's. Every hand of his is game-making, no doubts will bother him, bid game, collect your sure tricks and devil take the rest. If the devil's share is big, well, the devil has been luckier, as he usually is!

A familiar figure in tournaments is Mr. K, than whom there has been, within my experience, no greater talker about previous deals. The poor fellow always lives in the past, the present does not interest him until it is past. He has to be reminded that he is playing a deal, that he has to lead or to follow a lead etc. A good player, but he is unfortunately obsessed with a 'psychic' mentality. He is unhappy if he does not get an opportunity of displaying his psychic talents.

Talking of Psychics, I am sure every club has a Mr. N, sometimes brilliant, rarely successful, and often erratic. His psychic displays of doubles and redoubles, impress one by their very loudness, if not in



M 7-22-1-1
N 7-22-2

their results; like the chronic race-goer, he likes to remember only his wins. Alas, his very brilliance has wrought such havoc into his purse, that he is now—temporarily we hope—in the sulks.

Every club has also doubtless its pessimists and doubting Thomases. I have come across one who neither believes in himself, in his cards, in his partner, in his opponents nor in his luck. Meek Mr. R has little imagination and less confidence. He has his jokes, however, but all coloured with his own incurable pessimism. One is pathetically impressed when he is asking dummy to 'try' the king when he himself holds the ace.

Have you ever seen our worthy chairman at play? Do you arrange your hands? I do, as a matter of habit. I also believe I cannot do a thing correctly if I do not club all clubs together or allow a heart to throb with another. But Mr. D plays the most excellent bridge out of a con-

glomeration of cards. He likes cards in dis-array, throws dust in the eyes of his opponents and Kibitzers and never in his own!

I have a recollection that Mr. and Mrs. Ely Culbertson are no longer partners in life. They perhaps believe that bridge is life and have, therefore, cut other ties. Mr. and Mrs. A, however, have to tighten the matrimonial knot before they sit to bridge. Their penchant for differing makes every bid and every lead a bone of severe contention; when the tempo is a bit high, I have even noticed that they often agree to follow different systems of bidding in the same rubber! The results are, no doubt, entirely satisfactory to the other pair.

Mr. and Mrs. P are Elys of a different pattern. They are keen and steady players, the wife a shade better than the hubby. They, of course, differ sometimes, but Mrs. P, in true wifely fashion, concedes to her lord, the privilege of always being in the right!

* * *
Bridge Tyro: You are looking quite happy, Sir, in spite of your partner's absence?

Bridge Expert: But that's the very reason for my happiness, my boy. I thought it was bad when my first wife refused to learn bridge. But it is definitely worse that my second wife should now insist not merely on playing but on partnering me.
T. V. S.

AN OPENING SUIT BID OF TWO.

By A. M. R. David

THE Culbertson system, with its approach-forcing principles, is a beautiful one. Its virtues are many. Its strength is great. But it is not perfect. Its armour of strength is not wholly free from weakness. Inadequacy to deal with hands which are strong in quick-tricks and even stronger in playing tricks is its greatest weakness. That is the Achilles' heel of the Culbertson system.

So far as opening suit bids are concerned, there is really only one strong bid in the Culbertson system. That is the opening bid of two in a suit. But the minimum requirements for these bids are demonstrably high. According to Culbertson, the hand should contain more than 5 quick tricks in three suits and can be reduced to even $4\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks only under exceptional circumstances. Even the formula that there should be more quick-tricks than losing cards is subject to the aforesaid rule. The minimum of playing tricks of one short of a certain game, or about 8 to 10,

has to be harnessed to this exceptionally great quick-trick strength. But seldom is one fortunate to hold these rock-crushers. At the most, a player comes across them in 1 out of 50 to 60 hands. Even Mr. Culbertson, in reviewing the game in the January, 1941 issue of the Bridge World, confesses that the experts make these bids as rarely as "perhaps once in 50 rubbers."

On the other hand, the minimum requirement for an opening bid of one, even according to Culbertson, is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks. But as I have already pointed out in the last issue, even these $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks can be shaded by 1 2 quick-trick to 2 quick-tricks when we have additional playing-trick strength. This modification has been acclaimed as sound by a number of experts in Southern India. We have, therefore, a very large gap between the present minimum requirements of 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks for an opening suit bid of one and of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 quick-tricks for an opening suit bid of two.

No amount of playing strength can bridge this gap. The playing trick strength, which, after all, is the natural strength of the hand, may well equal or even exceed the minimum requirements of a Culbertson two bid. But yet this strength cannot be portrayed to the partner at the outset, if the quick-trick strength falls short of $4\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks by even about $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ plus trick.

It is not, therefore, surprising that there are as many as four types of powerful hands, powerful in quick-tricks and even more powerful in playing tricks, which are yet not powerful enough for an opening bid of two in a suit, according to Culbertson. We have, to start with, a powerful double-suiter hand of the following type:—

A K Q x x x
K Q J x x x
—
x

We have again this type of a top heavy hand containing a long suit.

A Q x
K J 10 x x x x x
x
A

We have also got this type of a powerful and compact hand containing a long suit:—

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

x
A x
A K Q x x x x
K Q x

We have yet again this type of a powerful hand containing one long suit and another biddable suit:—

K Q 10 x x x x
A x
A Q x x

All these hands contain the minimum 8 playing tricks required for an opening bid of 2 in a suit, even according to Culbertson. They further contain much more than the minimum quick-tricks required for an opening bid of one in a suit. In fact, they all contain a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks, which is the most convenient and most proper half-way house between 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tricks on the one hand and $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 quick-tricks on the other.

Some of these hands do not require any strength at all in partner's hands, except probably a preference, to secure a game. The others require some 1 or 2 playing tricks in the partner's hand assessed at even less than 1 quick-trick to ensure game. But, since a pre-emptive bid on these hands would be patently unsatisfactory and shut out all constructive action on the

AUGUST 1941

part of the partner, we have still to start all these hands with a suit bid of one, according to the Culbertson system.

The result is that one makes the bid and is then trembling in his shoes and shaking with anxiety as to whether his partner would not make a courtesy call at least. I vividly remember a bid of this kind of one spade made by me in the pairs progressive tournament at Coimbatore in the 1940 summer. My nephew and then partner, Lieut. A. D. J. Victor is not merely a brilliant player but a great optimist. But even he had passed my bid, with two queens in his hand and nothing else. I was left in, to ultimately make five spades. I could only assuage my sorrow by offering to teach him how to suck eggs. My sorrows were deepened when I heard the next pair at the next table bid and make five spades, doubled and redoubled, thanks to the 4th hand having kept the bidding open.

The difficulties are not even always eliminated by some bid by the responding hand. The opener naturally jumps in the second round with a strong hand. But the responder has still to decide as to

whether the second round jump is due to the absolute strength of the hand or to any relative strength consequent on the responder's bid.

The anxiety of an opener to get at least a courtesy call has its natural reactions on the responding hand. The possibilities of great power and strength in an opening hand very often leads the responding hand to make a courtesy call on a mere queen and a hope. Here again, Mr. Culbertson himself refers to a courtesy bid of 1 no-trump by an expert in New York on nothing higher than 10. Sometimes, of course, this courtesy response passes muster and even serves an useful purpose. But more often than not, it has tragic consequences and results in disastrous debacles.

The inadequacy of the Culbertson system in dealing with opening bids for strong hands would be easily evident from even a comparison of the opening suit bids available to a declarer with the overcalls of a defender. Leaving out all pre-emptive bids and overcalls, there are 3 groups or categories of overcalls, viz., (i) a simple overcall with about $1\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks and

4 to 5 playing tricks, (2) a double with about $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks or a jump overcall with about $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks and 7 to 8 playing tricks and (3) an immediate overcall in the opponents' suit at the earliest opportunity with about $4\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks, which is forcing to game. But while even a defender has three such categories of overcalls, the opener is, surprisingly enough, restricted to really two, viz., an opening suit bid of one corresponding to category (1) of the defenders' overcall and an opening bid of two in a suit corresponding to category (3) of the defenders' immediate overcall of an opponents' suit, which are both forcing the game. There is no category of bids available to the opener for strong hands, which are yet not strong enough for 2 bids, corresponding to the bids of an overcaller in category (2). This is, of course, meaningless since the machinery in the hands of an opener should be definitely as varied as, at least, that in the hands of an overcalling defender.

This obvious deficiency is evidently the reason for the introduction of the two-way 3 bid. But the bid has proved so unsatisfactory that it has

had to be tinkered with and altered and modified over and over again since it was introduced six years ago. But even so, it does not fulfil the intended purpose of filling up the gap between the opening suit bid of one and an opening suit bid of two. It cannot possibly fill the gap since the two-way three bid can really meet only one of the four kinds of strong hands dealt with above, viz., hand No. 3 which can be played in no-trumps. I need point out only a few factors to indicate how this bid is utterly inadequate to meet the other kinds of hands:- (1) The three bid automatically "sets" the suit bid as the trump suit; (2) without some quick-trick strength assessed at about 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks the responding hand passes. That apart, the bid is made at too high a level to allow of the necessary exchange of information. This part of the Culbertson system providing for opening 2 bids for extremely powerful hands and opening 3 bids for less powerful hands is not merely paradoxical but unworkable.

Again, an opening 2 bid of a suit is, according to Culbertson, forcing till a game is reached. But there is no

opening bid at all that is forcing for merely one round.* It stands to reason that there would be a much larger number of hands wherein a player can ask for his bid being kept open for one round than hands where a player can ask that his bids be kept open for two or three or sometimes four rounds. A strong hand holding a minimum of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks and 8 playing tricks is dealt at least about 3 times that a rock-crusher justifying an opening bid of two, according to Culbertson, is dealt. It is really not worth while sacrificing a patently proper opening bid of two with hands containing this minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks and 8 playing tricks and inhibiting a bid of two on such hands merely for the purpose of reserving such bids for the more powerful but much rarer hands justifying Culbertson's bid of two*.

It is true that we have to find an artificial bid for the two bids of Culbertson, since an opening bid of three is clearly unsatisfactory. But this can be easily found in an artificial bid of two clubs perpetuating in a greater

degree the very common artificial bid of one club made at present to denote a hand that has the minimum quick-trick requirements for an opening suit bid of one without holding a biddable suit and does not have the quick trick requirements for an opening bid of one no-trump. The original response to this bid of two clubs, on a bust hand, that does not contain either $1\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks or 1 quick-trick and a good five-card suit, is 2 diamonds. The declarer would then bid his suit or, if he so prefers, 2 no-trumps. This would incidentally give the strong hand the advantage of playing the deal in no-trumps, if necessary. If the responding hand holds $1\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks or 1 quick trick and a good 5-card suit, he would make the appropriate response, other than 2 diamonds. In any case, once the bidding has been opened with 2 clubs, it would be forcing till a game is ultimately reached.

This would allow a natural opening suit bid of two (2 diamonds or 2 hearts or 2 spades) in any powerful hand containing a minimum of

* This particular defect has been provided for in the new libra system. T. V. S.

PSYCHIC BIDS

By Dr. Musafar Karamchand

THESE are bluff calls made from a weak hand with the strategic object of stopping a game call by the opponents and they work effectively only if your partner happens to be shrewd and the adversaries inexperienced and raw. These calls serve as a boomerang if, instead of a head, your partner carries a coconut on his shoulders. You can enjoy the dubious luxury of a psychic bid only if you are sure that, having already passed, your partner would not take you seriously and start making second or third round calls. This is an effective device of the veteran player to stop a certain game bid by the opponents but its use should be strictly limited.

Psychic bids are easily detected and should be immediately penalised in order to shatter the morale of the offender. In most cases, the bidder has some avenue of escape and this should be carefully barred by leaving his call undoubted. If once or twice he learns to his cost the stuff you are made of, he will beware of you.

Some players are so inordinately fond of making a

rubber that you can confidently lay psychic traps for them. That that was one of the most vulnerable points of my beloved Bridge preceptor, A. M. R. David, I discovered at an early stage of my novitiate and exploited it to the full. On March 17, 1935, at Kumbakonam, David was partnering that charming grandee, Rao Sahib Lakshmi-varaha Iyengar, and I was the lucky partner of the shrewd Civilian, S. Y. Krishnaswami. Both sides were vulnerable and David and partner were 40 below the line. David dealt the cards and, after his customary preliminary, long scrutiny of the hand, bid 1 no-trump. I had just the cards to confound him and quietly bid 2 clubs. There was no intervening call and David, in spite of his partner's silence, bid 2 no-trumps. I doubled him. He went down 800 and satisfied his outraged feelings by hurling anathemas at his hopeful pupil and his less hopeful partner. That day I turned the first sod of my grave as a "rotten bidder," which found an affectionate advertisement in my preceptor's dedication of his lovely

little book on Contract Bridge. "Contract Bidding Made Easy", to "My friend Dr. M. Karamchand Wade. . . . a rotten bidder."* Since in Contract Bridge, play is of comparative unimportance and bidding forms 80 per cent. if not more, of the game, I fully realise the seriousness of my mentor's condemnation of me. I also know that teachers never bear any ill-will to their students and their only object in castigating them is to improve them. I have fully benefited by the criticism and my bidding is now generally respected.

Take the hand referred to above:—

		C. K Q J 9		
		D. x x x x		
		H. A Q J		
		S. A K		
	David.		C. A	
C. x x x			D. A K Q	
D. x x			J 10 x x	
	S. Y. K.	M. K.	H. x x x	
H. x x x			S. x x	
S. Q J x x x	L. Iyengar			
	C. 10 x x x x			
	D. —			
	H. K x x x			
	S. x x x x			

* These 3 words had been added merely by way of an affectionate joke, though it is probably a stupid one. Ch. Ed. Com.

** The debacle appears to have been really due to the passivity displayed by South. With a strong one no trump bid by his partner, he could have, on his beautiful distribution, doubled 2 clubs. If he had done so and East had sought shelter in 2 diamonds, he could have gone 2 hearts. Even otherwise, after the double of 2 no-trumps, it should have been easy for him to imagine North's and East's cards and so bid 3 clubs. With some enterprising bidding on his part, North-South could have bid and made 6 clubs to score about 1400 points and not merely 700 points on a puerile pass of 2 clubs. Caught between the glorious action of East and the inglorious inaction of South, what could poor North do, however grasping he may have been in those half-forgotten days to clutch at the rubber?—Ed.

After David's call of 1 no trump, I could have passed and been sure of putting him down one or, in order to earn a premium of 150, I might have bid 3 diamonds. I preferred to make a trap bid of two clubs feeling absolutely confident that since David was dead set on the rubber, he was likely to bid 2 no trumps and get into trouble. My judgment was correct and he fell into the trap. If he had only taken the trouble of doing a little thinking, he would have realised from his hand that my honour values lay entirely in diamonds and that, therefore, he should teach me a lesson by passing my two clubs. If he had done so, I would have made only one trick, the ace of clubs, and would have gone down 700. I would have learned the lesson of my life and been spared the obloquy of a public reprimand.**

Sometimes we learn very useful things from our pupils.

That Shakespearian reference to chimney-sweepers in Sc. 2 Act IV of Cymbeline gave me no end of trouble in my college days. In vain did I seek the help of a number of English professors. Even the explanation of the best amongst them did not carry any conviction to me. In England I had the benefit of very ingenious elucidations of the lines by such great masters of the subject as Sir Israel Gollanoz, Dr. Boas, Professor Chambers and Professor Allardyce Nicoll but was not satisfied. Years later I set them for explanation at one of the terminal examinations of the Victoria College, Palghat, and was thrilled to read a Malayalee lad's annotation. Light came my way, after years of floundering, from a boy genius. I sent his explanation to Sir Israel, who agreed with me that the lad's explanation was the very best he had so far come across. My master, David, is a player fit to stand by Ely Culbertson and give direction, his "name is great in mouths of wisest censure" and indeed dull would I be of soul and unfit to sit on the tongues of goodly men if I sought to contaminate the "fountain from the which my current runs" but in part I discharge my debt to him by

respectfully suggesting that his Achilles heel is an overpowering desire to make a rubber.

Psychic, of course, pays occasionally but there must be various favourable circumstances, positional, personal and psychological before it can be successfully indulged in. My advice to my readers is to avoid psychic calls. A player's primary need is to build up a reputation for solid bidding. Once he takes to fireworks and kite flying, his credit suffers disastrously and steady players give him a wide berth. Here is a recent experience of mine which makes me feel sore even to-day and has so shocked my sense of propriety as to make it difficult for me to take a hand at Bridge. About the middle of this month (July 1941) at the Cosmopolitan Club, Rajahmundry, I was kindly invited to cut in at a table. I became North with X as my partner. N. Venkata Rao sat to my right and S. L. Prakasa Rao to my left. The cards were definitely running in our favour and we soon made a game and 40 below the line. Then the opponents called 3 spades and scored 90. Later in the game, West dealt the cards and bid 1 spade. I passed, so did East. My partner called

(Contd. on Page 33)

SOME CONVENTIONAL PLAYS

(According to Culbertson)

By V. T. Subbiah Mudaliar

CONVENTIONAL plays! Should there be a convention even in plays? There is convention in bidding, in manners, in life and, in fact, wherever one person comes in contact with another in this world. Why should people drape themselves, even in uncomfortable clothes sometimes, if not to respect the sentiments of others and not offend against good taste? It is only the conventions and their observance that keep the world going, without being disrupted. If all else is conventional, why not the play also? There may be certain players who shout from house tops that they are not convention-ridden. But they are full of their own conventions, though they don't concede it.

When a low card is played, the axiom is that the lowest card is played whether in leading, following or discarding. This is convention number one. That is, you do not waste a higher card, when there is no particular object.

When you play the hearts 3, you deny the possession of the 2 and your partner takes it that it is with the opponents. Play the small card whenever you can. Do not say that your partner does not observe the order in which the cards fall. The fall of every card tells its own little tale and your partner may sometimes listen.

'High-low' is the term used for playing the cards in the reverse order, the higher card first and the smaller one subsequently. It is a very common and hackneyed 'Come-on' signal. In a trump game, it often shows a doubleton and a ruff in the third round. Occasionally it indicates the possession of a winning card in the suit. But whatever it is, it definitely asks for a continuance of the suit, and discourages shifts to other suits; it might even be for shortening opponent's trumps, but anyway it is done with an object. In no trump game, the high-low

indicates length in the suit normally, sometimes strength also, but again it is a 'come-on' signal—the positive aspect.

The partner may hold tenaces in other suits and a shift to any one of them might involve the loss of a trick. In such cases also, the partner high-lows and wants the play of the other suits to be left to the ingenuity of the opponents—a negative use really. The proper use of the high-low helps the partnering hands immensely, sometimes in otherwise embarrassing situations.

The partner may not have high cards to indicate even in the first lead, the commencement of the high-low. He may have the 3 and 2 only in the suit led and would play the 3 first. It is for the leader to note whether there is any card lower than those played to that trick and not held by the dummy and himself. If there is a smaller missing card, it may well be the commencement of the high-low, unless the bidder is falsecarding. It is a golden rule to note the small cards.

There is only one situation where the high-low could not be used as, when you hold the queen and a small rag, on partner leading from an

ace-king holding. The play of the queen in such situations is taken to imply always the possession of the jack or nothing behind, demanding partner to lead next a small card in the suit. Do not, on this account, imitate my partner at the cosmopolitan club. Bellary, who went through this manuscript and who high-lowed promptly, with the king and a small rag in the suit, when I led the Ace. He referred me to the statement contained in the opening sentence in this paragraph. He held that a king is not a queen. How true indeed! The Jack can, however, commence the high-low. The play of the jack does not imply the possession of the ten.

A play of an *unnecessarily high-card*, whether in following suit or discarding, is a definite and urgent invitation to lead the high-card suit. This is a corollary to the high-low convention. High-low requires two rounds to extend the invitation, while the play of an unnecessarily high-card is a signal in one round—the play of the small card subsequently as in high-low being implied. The high-low may express a simple satisfaction at the continuance of the suit, but the play of

the high-card is an imperative demand to lead the high-card suit. The high-card should be so chosen that there is no ambiguity about its meaning.

From the foregoing, it may rightly be inferred that the play of a high card is an encouragement. But while the play of a small card is not an encouragement, it need not necessarily be discouraging. The opening lead in a game is a leap in the dark and many players look for guidance from the card played to the first trick by partner. He has, therefore, a big responsibility and should ponder well before he plays to the first trick, as on what it connotes may well depend the future of the game.

Suit Preference Signal.

When a player takes a trick, while defending against slam and other high contracts, he is at a loss to know the proper suit to lead next. A signal is said to have been designed for such contingencies by Hy. Lavinthal. A high card played by partner to such a trick is taken to indicate preference for the higher of the two suits—other than the suit played and the trump—and a low card to show preference for the lower suit. This is of limited appli-

cation, but is extremely valuable on such occasions,—see illustration below. The high card play here is not to be confused with the commencement of the high-low. In high-low, the partner takes 2 tricks, when he observes the signal and is able to lead a third round of the suit. Here from the nature of the high contract, it has to be presumed that opportunities will not be available for making the high-low signal. There is the pressure of time.

S. Q, 9, 8, 2

H. 2

D. A, J, 9, 8, 5

C. Q, 10, 9

S. 10, 3

H. A, 9, 7, 5

D. 10, 7, 6, 4

C. 8, 7, 6

N S. 6, 4

H. K, 10, 8, 6, 3

D. —

C. K, J, 5, 4, 3, 2

S. A, K, J, 7, 5

H. Q, J, 4

D. K, Q, 3, 2

C. A

Against a contract of 6 spades by South, West opens the Ace of hearts. No lead appears safe and what to lead next is naturally perplexing. But the play of the hearts 8 by East solves the problem for him. Hearts 8 is a high card and indicates the lead of diamond—the higher of the two suits—diamond and club barring spade, the trump suit and hearts, the suit led. West plays a low diamond, it is ruffed by East and the

contract is set. Without this convention, the diamond could not be led and the contract would be made. If East wanted a club lead, he should have played hearts 3 instead of the 8. If he had played the hearts 10, an unnecessarily high card, West would have promptly continued the hearts.

'Fourth best lead' is a term often used in bridge circles. Its use does not appear to be well understood. Count the cards from the top and lead the fourth card when opening from a long suit of four or more cards. This would also apply to the lead back from partner, when his chance comes and when the lead is in a new suit. The fourth best lead has given rise to the rule of eleven. Deduct the face number of the card led from 11 and the difference is the number of cards held by the other 3 players over the card led. If hearts 7 is led, 11 minus 7 gives the number 4, which represents the number of cards above 7 held by the other three players. The partner has a look at his hand and the dummy's and knows immediately the number of hearts over 7 held by the declarer. This helps to judge the card he should play.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

When 5 or more cards are held, play the fourth best and follow on in the subsequent rounds, one after the other with the cards below serially. This helps to give the partner an idea of the number of cards held in the hand in the suit led and to place the other suits in your hand as well as that of the opponents. Thus with hearts Q, 8, 6, 5, 3, 2, lead the 5 and follow on with the 3 and then the 2.

The fourth best lead in no trump game also implies that you have reasonable hopes of playing the long cards after they are established, with entries of some sort in your hand. The player with a worthless hand leading the fourth best misleads his partner. The partner leads the opened suit whenever he gets his chance, to establish one or two long cards, which could not be cashed for want of entries in the opening hand. The partner is given wrong premises and his valuable entries are wasted in establishing a suit for an entry-less hand, in preference to suits in his own hand. The proper lead in such cases is the top of a 3 or 2 card suit,—3 card suit to be preferred—with the object of tapping the partner's long suit, when the course of

bidding indicates that he may have something of value, as by a double at some stage or other. The partner can generally find out, almost immediately, whether the lead is the fourth best, or top of nothing. The following illustrate some leads.

(1) K, 9, 4
N
Q, 10, 7 W E A, J, 3, 2
S
8, 6, 5

South leads the 8. According to the rule of eleven, (11 minus 8) 3 cards over 8 should be in the other 3 hands, if the lead were the fourth best. North could see four cards over 8 in dummy and his hand together. The lead is obviously not the fourth best, but top of nothing. He is not going to continue the suit blindly with intent to establish it for South.

(2) A, 10, 2
N
Q, 6, 5 W E 9, 4
S
K, J, 8, 7, 3

The 7 is led. Dummy plays low. North notes that out of 4 cards over 7, according to the rule of eleven, he and the dummy hold three. East has, therefore, only one card higher than 7. If it is the King, the play of the Ace would concede 2 tricks. Whether it is the King or the Jack, one trick would have to be conceded.

If it is the 9 or 8, a play of the 10 would secure all the tricks for the defence and none need be lost. He plays the 10, as being proper and follows on with the Ace and the 2. The play has been simplified for him by the fourth best lead and the rule of eleven.

(3) A, 10, 2
N
Q, 6, 5 W E 7, 4
S
K, J, 9, 8, 3

The 8 is played and the dummy plays low. North can see that he and the dummy hold 3 cards over 8 and that the declarer could not hold a card higher than 8. All the same he has to play the 10 and follow with the Ace and 2. If not, South will hold the trick and place only the 10 with North. He could not place the Ace so definitely, for after all the declarer may be withholding it. If South continues the suit and should the declarer hold the Ace, he would walk off with 2 tricks for the Ace and the Queen. South would, therefore, naturally hesitate to continue the suit, if left in.

(4) 10, 4, 2
N
Q, 6, 5 W E ? x x
S
2, 2, 2, 8

The 8 is led and is followed by 5 from the dummy. West

and North have each a card higher than 8, out of 3 cards over 8, according to the rule of eleven. East has, therefore, only one higher card. What should North play now? (1) East may have the Ace or King; he could then manage two tricks, whatever North plays. (2) East may hold the Jack; he would then have one trick. (3) East may after all hold the 9; the play of the 10 by North would then be very vital and would save a trick. He does not lose anything by playing the 10, whatever East may hold; while he would lose a trick by not playing the 10 as in case (2). He plays the 10 and the decision has not been difficult for him.

(5) ? x x
 N
Q, 6, 5 W E 10, 3, 2
 S
 ??? 8

* * * * *

Bridge Addict (at the table breaking up at an early hour at the club):

But, I can't possibly leave now. It will upset my people at home, if they see me return so early. They would naturally conclude that I am taken ill or that some other catastrophe has happened. T. V. S.

The opening lead is 8 and the declarer East begins to take stock. Of the 3 cards over 8, he and dummy have two and North is placed with the other one. Is it the Ace, King, Jack or 9? If it is the 9, it is immaterial what the dummy plays, he can have his trick. If the jack is placed with North, only the play of the dummy's Queen would give a trick. If the Ace or King is placed with North, a small card should be played from dummy. The chances of South holding both the Ace and King are very little. Based on these probabilities, he should play a small card from dummy. This reasoning would not hold good, if South had bid the suit during the auction. He may be expected to hold the Ace and King and the dummy's Queen should then be played.

"PLAN YOUR PLAY"

By S. Rajam Iyer

No. III SERIES—Hand No. 9

NORTH reached a contract of six spades, doubled by west. East leads diamond 3. Here are the hands of north and south.

S. A, 10, 8, 7, 5
H. 5
D. K, Q, 9
C. Q, 9, 7, 6
North

South
S. Q, 9, 6, 4
H. A, Q
D. A, 10, 5, 4
C. A, 8, 5

You play the 4. West covers with the Jack. Diamond king wins the trick. Do you see any chance of keeping the contract? West has necessarily king and jack of spades and at least either of the other two kings, if not both. You should necessarily lose one trick in spade and one in club, whoever may hold the king. Still the contract could be fulfilled if west holds only king and jack in spade and club king but does not hold heart king. For any other distribution of the missing honours the contract must necessarily fail. You shall presently see how, if the key cards be as you desire.

After winning the first trick, lead heart 5 and finesse

the king with east by playing the queen. You find that the queen holds. Play the ace and discard a club. Follow with spade queen. West covers with the king. Ace wins the trick. Lead of diamond 3 shows that west has not more than two cards in that suit. He may have had a lone jack. You play diamond queen and continue the same suit till it is ruffed. If he ruffs at any stage, he will have to lead either club or heart. If he plays club, you play the queen. It holds. If west ruffed the second or third round of diamonds, you play back club, after taking with the queen and win with the ace. On the fourth diamond another club is discarded. If west ruffs only the fourth round, you discard a club over the ruff. The same play over again. If west refuses to ruff diamond, after running all the four diamonds, you play a spade. West wins with the jack, and he has to lead either club or heart. If heart is led, you discard a club from your hand and ruff in

the dummy. Now you get rid of three clubs from your hand, one on the club ace, another on the fourth diamond and the third on the third heart. Thus you have only one loser in spade. You should not play the second spade without running the diamonds, as west, if he had doubleton diamond would after winning with the spade jack throw you back with the second diamond. You will then have to concede a trick in club.

Hand No. 10

North reached a contract of six hearts, the bidding having proceeded as under:—

North	East	South	West
2 H	3 D	Double	Pass
6 H	Double	Pass	Pass
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Here are the hands of north and south.

S. A 7
H. A K Q J 9 5
D. 8
C. A 10 7 5

North

South
S. J 10 9 5
H. 7
D. J 10 9 7
C. K Q 8 6

East plays diamond king and follows with a trump. There is another loser in spade. Can you get rid of that loser and win all the remaining tricks? Yes, you can, provided east holds diamond ace and queen and spade king, queen and 8 and if the club also breaks 2 and 3 with the opponents? You run all the hearts and clubs having the lead with the dummy. At this stage, you

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

retain spade ace and 7 and dummy holds spade jack and diamond jack. What two cards could East hold? He can retain either king and queen of spade or one spade and one diamond i.e. the queen. In the former case, dummy's diamond jack becomes good and in the latter, spade ace and 7 become winners. The only point about the play is that you should fix for what distribution, if at all, you can keep the contract and that you should be careful in the course of the play to have the lead with the dummy at the eleventh trick.

Hand No. 11

As against a contract of three no-trumps by north, east leads heart 2. Here are the hands of North and South. How would you plan your play and wherein lies the danger for the contract?

S. 10 7 6
H. A K 5
D. K 7
C. A J 6 5 3

North

South
S. A 5
H. J 10 7 3
D. A 10 8 6
C. 9 8 6

There are three tricks in hearts, two in diamonds, one in spade and one sure trick in club. You want two more tricks and they can be gathered only from club. But by the time you develop three tricks in club you may have to give two tricks to the opponent, unless both king and queen be with west.

Seeing ace and a rag with the dummy in spade, the opponents and more specially west will lead spade. If the ace be knocked out, at their next lead they gather three tricks and with two other tricks in club, the contract will be set one trick. It is more likely that spade is evenly distributed between the opponents. East's lead of heart 2 fixes him with four cards headed possibly by 9. He has chosen to lead a four card suit not headed by an honour, most probably for the reason that the spade suit is not in a leadable position. So it is possible that he may not touch spade even if he gets the next lead. West is sure to lead spade when he is put

on the lead. So you should avoid giving the lead to west as far as possible.

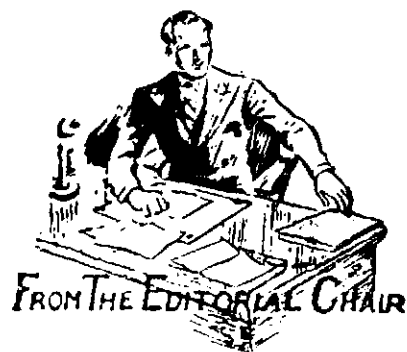
So you play the jack from the dummy. West covers with the queen. You take with the ace. You enter dummy through diamond and lead a club. So long as west does not play either king or queen, you play the jack. If east holds king or queen, he wins the trick. Most probably he may lead another heart in the hope that his partner holds the king. What ever else he may lead, except spade, your contract is safe. If diamond be led, you take with the king and lead a club. The opponents may gather two more tricks in diamond. The rest are yours.

AN OPENING SUIT BID OF TWO—(Continued from page 11)

3½ quick tricks and 8 playing tricks. In the very nature of things, these hands do not require time to develop and the level of 2 is low enough to allow for the necessary exchange of information. Such bids would be forcing for one round with a courtesy call of two no trumps to indicate a bust hand containing less than 1½ quick-tricks. The opener can rebid his original suit either at the three level or jump to the four level. Neither of these bids would, however, be forcing since a good picture of the minimum power and strength of the hand has been already portrayed and the responding hand can take the appropriate action, according

to his holding. It is only when a new suit is bid at the level of three, that it would, according to the general rule, be again forcing for one round. There would not be any force any longer, even if a minor suit is rebid at the level of four.

If, however, the responding hand has 1½ quick-tricks he would make the appropriate bid, other than two no-trumps according to the nature of his hand. Once such a positive bid is made, the bids should be kept open till a game is ultimately reached. The system works beautifully and avoids the one serious weakness of the Culbertson system.



THE NEW CULBERTSON SYSTEM

THE year 1941 is a red letter year in the history of the world. This year has seen the unfurling of the V flag in the march to Victory following the throes of travail that the world has passed through during the last 2 years, after the nerve-breaking tension of the preceding 3 years, ever since Hitler marched his steel-helmeted hordes into the demilitarised zones of the Rhineland in the beginning of 1936. In vivid contrast to the dynamic upheavals in the world, these last 5 years, however, have represented a period of peaceful and quiescent maintenance of the status quo in the Culbertson system. And now, in the year 1941, the first basic changes have been made in the Culbertson system since 1935. In the Bridge world also, therefore, this year is an important one.

We shall in this issue merely indicate the various changes and modifications that have been effected in the Culbertson system without discussing them in great detail. We shall thus give an opportunity to our readers to express their views on the suggested changes and modifications before we ourselves deal with these, one by one.

The most important of the changes refer to the revision of the honour trick table. Excepting for certain innovations, the valuation has been rendered even more stringent than previously. K x and Q x in different suits do not together value as 1 trick. K x is valued separately as $\frac{1}{2}$ trick and Q x as a plus value. The previous valuation in this respect was a clear degeneration into the valuation of the numerical counters and this has been properly rectified.

It would not, however, be so easy to understand the marking down in valuation of K Q J of the same suit from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 plus honour tricks. In a line with this, the J in A K J and A Q J no longer counts as a plus value.

The reduction or the elimination of the honour trick value of J as such is explained as due to the innovation in counting a plus value for a large number of honour cards. A plus value is added to the honour

trick total, if there are six honour cards in the hand (including 10s). This new plus value, however, is to be counted only when bidding no-trumps or four-card suits.

The greatest innovation made by Mr. Culbertson is yet to be mentioned. This consists in adding a plus value for any singleton or void. *Prima facie*, a singleton or a void will not by itself create a trick winning possibility. Even Mr. Culbertson admits that a singleton or a void would not secure any trick but is merely a symptom of some additional strength somewhere else. But this additional strength found in the length of some other suit is always counted in playing trick values. For years, Bridge authorities have thundered against the beginners' practice of counting a singleton or void as a trick winning value. Has the greatest Bridge authority in the world also succumbed to a false glitter of singletons and voids or would he prove himself to be in the right?

So far as the regular biddable suits are concerned, there is no great change. The minimum regular biddable suits are as follows:

A.	B.
A, J, 3, 2	A, 5, 4, 3, 2
K, J, 3, 2	K, 5, 4, 3, 2
Q, J, 3, 2	Q, 5, 4, 3, 2

But a new category of conditional biddable suits has been introduced. Conditional biddable suits may only be bid if any of the following conditions are complied with:—

(1) A conditional biddable suit may be bid when the hand contains also another biddable suit, conditional or otherwise.

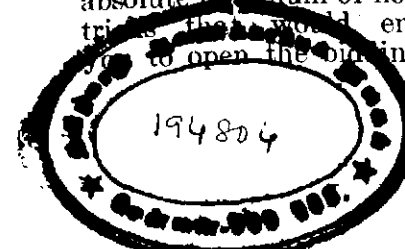
(2) A conditional suit is biddable in hands containing well above the minimum honour trick requirements for opening bids, whether or not there is another biddable suit in the hand.

(3) A conditional suit is always biddable in responding to a partner's opening bid.

The minimum conditional biddable suits are as follows:

A.	B.
A, 4, 3, 2	J, 8, 7, 6, 2
K, 4, 3, 2	10, 9, 6, 5, 4
Q, 4, 3, 2	8, 5, 4, 3, 2

So far as honour trick requirements are concerned, you require 3 honour tricks if you have a biddable suit, even a minimum regular biddable suit or any two conditional biddable suits. You require $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks when your hand contains any rebiddable suit. You require 2 plus honour tricks if you have a six card major suit. This is the absolute minimum of honour tricks that would enable you to open the bidding.



AN OVERSEAS ASSORTMENT

By T. Essex

A rare safety play

I have pointed out time and again that the expert player incessantly counts the hands and thus brings home the bacon even when things look apparently hopeless. Here is an instance (from the Manchester Guardian) of such a count.

S. J, x x x			S. A, Q, x x
H. Q, x x x			H. J, 10, 8 x
D. A, 10, x	W	E	D. K, J
C. A, K			C. J, x x

West opened a no-trump (rather lightish), East raised to 2 and West rounded off with 3 of that ilk.

The 4 of diamonds was led by North. Declarer took the trick and tried to establish hearts. North South made A and K of hearts and declarer made 3 diamond tricks. The two long diamonds were with South. Now declarer has made 3 diamonds and has two hearts established. He has also three tricks in the A and K of clubs and the Ace of spades. Most players would try to get the ninth trick by trying the spade finesse. This is risky because if South happens to hold the king of spades, this

and the two long diamonds will set the contract. West argued that if South held the king of spades in addition to his long diamonds, he could have only two clubs at the most among his last six cards, seven tricks having been played already. The Queen might be one of these, in which case dummy's Jack of clubs will give the vital ninth trick without the risk of the spade finesse. Hence West led out his A and K of clubs and the Queen dropped, thus fulfilling his contract. Of course, if the Queen did not fall, there is always the chance of the spade finesse.

That extra trick for match point

Trying to make the best use of the cards is obviously the surest way of improving one's play. In ordinary rubber bridge, most players are content with making the contract and rarely bother about gathering in extra tricks. In match-point play, on the other hand, these over-tricks are vital in many cases and make all the difference

between top score and a moderate rank.

I give below a hand taken from "one hundred and one celebrated hands" by Work and Peterson. The contract of five diamonds was reached at all tables but was made at some and defeated by one trick at others.

The Bridge Editor of the "Overseas Daily Mail", London, points out that an over-trick could be made on this hand. I shall now give the bidding, the actual play at the tables which made the contract, and the suggested play for an over-trick. East-west were vulnerable.

S. 10, 7, 3			S. Q, 9, 2
H. A, 9			H. Q, J, 6, 5, 3, 2
D. 4			D. K, 7, 6
C. K, Q, J, 9, 8, 7, 5			C. 10

The Bidding.

N	E	S	W
1 C	1 H	2 D	—
3 D	—	3 NT	—
4 D	—	5 D	—

West led the king of clubs.

The actual play was this:—The first trick was taken by North's A of clubs. South discarding a spade. Dummy's singleton heart was led, East played the J and South the

King. Declarer argued that since East made a vulnerable overcall of one heart, and has obviously neither high spades or clubs, he has probably the hearts A and would play it on the singleton. But West took the trick with the A and led a trump to minimise the effects of the cross-ruff. Declarer took the trick with the 8 over East's 6. He next cashed A and K of spades and cross-ruffed 4 clubs and 3 hearts and thus made his eleven tricks.

The play suggested for 12 tricks is as follows: On the club A at the first trick, declarer should discard a heart not a spade, as there is a possibility of discarding dummy's losing spade on the heart king and establishing the J in declarer's hand. When, at the second trick, East did not play the Ace on the singleton lead from dummy declarer should duck it. He should remember that he has bid no trumps over East's hearts and West has not led his partner's suit, probably showing a high honour there, which may be the Ace. At the third trick, East naturally leads a trump which is taken by South's 8. South leads 10 of hearts, ruffs out West's Ace and establishes

his king. The A and K of spades are next cashed and a small diamond led and the 9 is finessed. The king of hearts is led and Dummy's spade 4 discarded. The eight of spades is led and ruffed by Dummy's Queen of diamonds. A club is ruffed with 10 of diamonds, the A and J of diamonds and the J of spades make the last three tricks.

Hobson's Choice

My esteemed friend Dr. Sastri, one of our best players, has time and again impressed on his partners the necessity of playing the hand in such a way that, if the contract is to be made at all, the key cards against the declarer should be assumed to be in the places where he wants them, and that the distribution of the suits also should be just so. Where there is only one chance, the bull must be taken by both horns.

Here is a case in point (Courtesy, the Overseas Daily Mail).

S. A, Q, J						
H. J, 10, x, x						
D. A, x, x						
C. A, x, x						
S. x, x, x, x	N	E	S. x, x, x			
H. x, x, x	W	S	H. Q, x, x			
D. J, x, x			D. Q, x, x			
C. K, x, x			C. J, x, x, x			
S. K, x, x						
H. A, K, x						
D. K, x, x, x						
C. Q, 10, x						

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I do not know how the contract of six no-trumps was arrived at. By the Libra System, this contract is easily arrived at as follows:—

S	N
1 D	3 D
3 N. T.	4 N. T.
6 N. T.	

West led the 2 of spades. Now, the hand was played by an expert. South has only 9 sure tricks, namely, 3 spades, 3 hearts, 2 diamonds and a club. To fulfil his contract, he has to get an extra trick in each of hearts, diamonds and clubs. Obviously, he must lose only one diamond and no more tricks. Hence, the heart Queen must be assumed to be with East only twice guarded. Likewise East must have Q x x of diamonds and not more than 3 spades. Further when he is thrown in on the diamond Queen, West must have the club K and East the Jack. The declarer proceeds on these assumptions and plays as follows. The first trick is taken with the J of spades and the hearts J finessed. The A and K of hearts are cashed dropping the Queen. Two rounds of spades follow and the hearts 10 is cashed. The A and K of diamonds are played and a small diamond led to East's Queen. East has to lead back

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only clubs. The ten is played and West's king is killed by North's Ace. The Queen of clubs and the fourth diamond land the contract.

It is interesting to note that the contract could be defeated if East throws his diamond Queen on the second round of diamonds. In this case, West would make the J of diamonds and the long spade and declarer will be one shy of his contract.

This second case is equally instructive (courtesy, the Manchester Guardian):—

S. K, 6	
H. 7, 5, 4, 2	
D. 6, 4, 3	
C. A, Q, 10, 3	
N	S
	S. 5
	H. A, Q, 10
	D. K, J, 7, 2
	C. K, J, 8, 6, 2

The Bidding

S	W	N	E
1 C	—	3 C	3 S
5 C	—	—	double

I do not quite like North's jump to three clubs, but there it is. West led J of spades, and East took the trick with A over North's K and led back the Queen.

Now South has no loser in clubs and only one loser in

spades. He has a certain loser in diamonds A. Hence he must not lose any heart trick. He must take the double finesse in this suit. He must also assume A Q of diamonds with East and take two finessses. He requires four entries in dummy and all these can be only in trumps. Hence he is careful to ruff the second spade with the 6 not the 2, as dummy's 3 of clubs is the vital fourth entry.

At the third trick, dummy is entered with clubs 10 over South's eight and a diamond led and the J finessed. Dummy's club Q over the J is the second entry. East shows out. A second diamond is led and East goes up with the Ace. East returns the Queen of diamonds and South takes the trick with the king. The adverse diamond distribution also must be assumed to be 3—3. Declarer enters dummy again with A of clubs over his K, leads a heart and finessses the 10. He enters dummy for the fourth time with 3 of clubs over his 2 and finessses hearts Q. The A of hearts and the 7 of diamonds get him to Dover.

Extract from the letter of a prisoner of war in Germany: "The worst hardship enforced in this internment camp is that we are not provided with facilities for playing Bridge."

T. V. S.

IS THIS ACOL?

By Framroj Dhanjisha Dhanboora, Baag-e-Shreen,
Tithal Road, Bulsar, B. B. & C. I. Ry.

THE 'Acol' system first attracted attention in 1937. A great many experts had adopted the system in England and scored a succession of victories in various contests. The Acol system, therefore, has won considerable reputation.

A large number of players think that they play the Acol system. Many friends of mine say that they play the Acol system of 1 club or 1 diamond! But they have not read any book on the system and are not aware of its principles. Very obviously, they have confused the Acol system with the various Club systems deriving their name from the club suit. But excepting for an artificial two-club opening bid, which is forcing to game, the Acol system has nothing else in common with the various club systems. All other bids are made naturally on the suits that are actually held. There is no such thing as an artificial 1 club bid in this system.

The requirements of one or the other of the club systems have, however, been foisted on the unfortunate Acol system. Under the guise of the Acol system, it is generally stated that one should begin 1 club (according to some, 1 diamond also) with $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks. Poor, ignorant folks! They do not even know that the principal Acol valuation is the numerical count (4 points for Ace, 3 for King, 2 for Queen and 1 for Jack) and not the honour trick count. When such a bid is made, the partner cannot drop the bidding but should keep it alive. When the partner keeps it alive, however, the opener jumps into a game call. "... angels fear to tread".

But even the supposed requirements of the Acol system are not followed by these so-called adherents of the system. Only yesterday evening (19-7-1941), I was playing as the partner of a devotee of this system. He has always issued an ukase that his 1 club bid should not be dropped. After a few deals,

(Contd. on page 39)

READERS' FORUM.

REVOKES. Mr. Framroj Dhanjisha Dhanboora, "Baag-e-Shireen," Tithal Road, Bulsar writes as follows:—"Will you kindly make the following revoke points clear? When is a revoke established and how far can it be corrected? 'A revoke becomes established when a player of the offending side leads or plays to the next trick,' and also 'a revoke made in leading becomes established when the offender's partner plays made in leading becomes established when these points and particularly about revokes made in leading. Please explain these points with examples."

The rule relating to revokes runs as follows: "A revoke, other than one made in leading, becomes established when the offending side leads or plays to the next trick except that such a revoke made in the twelfth trick never becomes established. A revoke made in leading becomes established when the offender's partner plays to the revoked trick." There are, *prima facie*, two situations governed by this rule. The first one, and the one that happens generally, refers to a revoke other than one made in leading. Suppose, for example, North leads spades and East who is holding a spade, takes a ruff with a diamond. The revoke is not established when the next player, South follows. It is not established even when the trick is quitted. It is established only when he leads a card for the next trick. Again suppose that to the same lead of spades by North, East, who has a spade, discards a card in another suit. South wins the trick and leads another card. The revokes would now become established only when West plays to this following trick. It is unfortunately quite common for revokes being claimed to be established when the next player follows and even more common for the claim being made when the trick is quitted.

But it is the second part of the rule that is even less understood. A player is generally puzzled as to how a revoke can be made in leading. He would be no longer puzzled if it is made clear that "a revoke made in leading" be no longer puzzled if it is made clear that "a revoke made in leading" refers to a revoke made when a player is forced to make a lead. As Ely refers to a revoke made when a player is forced to make a lead, the second Culbertson remarks in the March 1941 issue of the Bridge World, the second part of the rule can be more happily framed to read that "a revoke made when a player is forced to make a lead, becomes established when the partner of the offender follows to the trick."

This definition would clearly indicate the situations governed by the latter part of the rule. Suppose that while South is declarer, East wrongly makes the opening lead and South calls for a particular lead, say diamonds, from West. But West, who holds diamonds, leads a club. This is a revoke made in leading and it is established when East follows to the trick. It is not established when a card is played from the dummy since East can still keep the revoke in its unestablished form by asking his partner as to whether he does not hold any diamonds. If West realises his mistake before his partner follows to the trick, he can still correct his error.

Another example of the "revoke made in leading" and the more frequent one, is where the declarer leads from the wrong hand. Let us assume that South is the declarer and the lead is in his own hand. He might, however, lead a diamond from the dummy and be called by the opponent therefor. He should, according to the rules, play a diamond from his own hand. If, however, he leads another suit, it is a revoke made in leading. Here again the revoke does not become established until he plays a card from the dummy. His partner can here also question the declarer and get the revoke corrected before it is established.

PEELED-DECK DEALS. An advocate from Devakottai writes as follows:

"A new deck of cards, when opened, is found arranged suit by suit from Ace down to the King. It has to be intimately shuffled before dealing and no two players shuffle in the same manner. Each has developed his own way of shuffling. Peeling is one method of shuffling. The *modus operandi* of peeling is to hold the new deck in one hand and extract two cards at a time, one from the top and the other from the bottom, with the thumb and the forefinger of the other hand and stack the cards two by two, one on top of the other. When the 26 pairs of cards are thus stacked, cut and dealt, the deal produces amazing results. The distribution is somewhat like this: Seven spades and six diamonds in one hand and the other six spades and seven diamonds with his partner. The other two suits are distributed in a similar manner between the two opponents. On such a distribution, there is a grand slam in all the suits and the pair who happen to hold the spade suit between them clinch the contract. Further the dealer who peels can easily reach the desired grand slam and the opponents, if they do not happen to know the trick, will fail to do so. In duplicate games, especially playing against rather raw opponents, the dealer will be able to make a grand slam in his table and his partners another grand slam at the other table, thus causing a swing of 4000 and odd points. It would be well, therefore, if tournament

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directors, before issuing new decks to the players should extract the jokers, shuffle the pack once intimately and then issue them. Peeling is possible only if the cards are arranged suit by suit and not otherwise. The other wholesome convention that the left hand opponent should make a deck and the right hand opponent should cut before dealing is, on the whole, worth-while adhering to. I wish to bring this to the notice of all Tournament Directors since a deal which was, however, ultimately scrapped, in the preliminary rounds at Madura in the last championship tournaments appeared to be an instance of a peeled-deck deal."

This interesting letter would further emphasise the necessity for the presence of efficient tournament directors being in charge of the different tournaments. To see that even new packs are shuffled to some extent before they are issued would probably be merely a small part of the otherwise onerous duties that a tournament director will be called upon to discharge. But whether he discharges a merely small duty of this kind or whether he holds up a pair for collusively bloating the match points of another pair in a progressive tournament, the presence of a tournament director would necessarily add to the healthy nature of the various tournaments.

PSYCHIC BIDS—(Continued from page 14)

1 no-trump. West bid 2 spades. I held C. Q xxx. D. Q xxxxx. H. 10 x x. Suit Considering my partner's 1 no-trump, my being void of spades, and our score of 40 below the line. I considered 3 diamonds an excellent call and made it. My brilliant friend, S.L. Prakasa Rao, doubled me. I was 5 down and paid 1,400 points as penalty for my partner's criminal call. This is the hand on which he had bid 1 no trump. C. J xxx. D. 10 x. H. J xxx. S. Q xx.

Is it much to be wondered at that Bridge is dying out in the mofussil, giving way to Poker? How is Bridge possible when there are players who would make an original over call of 1 no trump on less than half a trick? In our country, where everybody is a law unto himself and advice is resented as impertinence, the future of Bridge, as of anything else entailing discipline, is dark. Even

in that lovely Bangalore Club, the Century, full of rich burghers with Pickwickian rotundity, it is difficult to make up a four that would submit to any recognised conventional bidding. They will bid 2 clubs on top of the partner's 1 no-trump to signify their poverty. A no trump call after the partner's bid of one of a suit may mean 2 or 2½ tricks. If you suggest some of the good points of Culbertson, you are told that at the Century Club Culbertson has not been heard of and that visitors like me were expected to adopt the conventions of the Club and not to talk of unknown non-Mysoreans like Culbertson! When Bridge conventions vary with clubs and its rules and proprieties are the plaything of any Jack in office strutting on his particular dunghill, Bridge ceases to be the divine game that it really is.

NEWS AND NOTES

Our Constitution:—

It is very true that the spirit underlying any set of rules is far more important than the rules themselves. It is even more true that the most carefully drafted rules will lose their savour if the will to work them is wanting. Nevertheless, any collection of individuals and certainly associations with a definite purpose, such as ours, have always felt the necessity for a set of rules to guide their conduct and control their procedure.

The Rules Committee of the Association had, after a protracted study of the constitutions of many sports associations and mature deliberation, drawn up a draft constitution for our Association. This draft, as modified by the Executive Council in a number of meetings, has now been printed on the 1st of June and circulated by the Honorary General Secretary.

Endowing an association with a full-fledged constitution can never be the work of a chosen few. It is, therefore, hoped that all the members will direct their minds towards this important work and make their contribution in giving the constitution its final shape.

The question of 'Representation', by no means an easy one, is complicated in our Association by the existence of a new factor. In sports associations, in general, the club, as a unit, is a member, and sends one representative to the General Body. The various individuals who comprise the club have no direct representation. But in our Association, not only are clubs members but individuals are also members in their own right. On the one hand, the interests of clubs, which are comprised of large numbers of individuals, should not be sacrificed to the interests of individual members, particularly since one or other of these individual members may have to represent their clubs. On the other hand, there should not be an impression of the minds of anybody that the clubs are securing over-representation. The Rules Committee, we feel, have wisely suggested equal representation for clubs and individuals as a starting point for discussion.

The relationship between the council and its committees is well-established. A committee is a creation of the council. A committee is a

compact body of experts appointed by the council to go into special questions and report to the council. It is true that the powers of the council are temporarily delegated to a committee for a specific purpose. Very rarely does a council over-ride the opinion of its experts. At the same time, however, no body of experts can claim any independent rights or powers, independent of the council. Such a state of things will constitute an imperium within an imperio, and lead to undesirable decentralization and conflict of authority. The final powers of the council are, therefore, sought to be well defined.

Our Association has grown and is growing. Hence a provision is made in the rules for an Assistant Secretary. Again, in consonance with accepted practice, a reasonable time is allowed between the closing of accounts for the official year and the meeting of the general body to consider the Annual Report and transact its business at the Annual meeting. And since the final rounds of the championship tournaments played during the Christmas holidays will be the best time for the annual meetings of the general body, the official year is fixed for the period from 1st October to 30th September next.

A League Tournament in Bridge:

It is a far cry from the Auction played in the drawing rooms a few years ago to the competitive contract match play of to-day. The unit has now become a team-of-four and duplicate play has undoubtedly eliminated the part played by Dame Luck in the holding of good or bad hands. But a tournament on the knock-out basis gives each team only one chance in playing a tie, and if they are unfortunate in a tie, they are out of the tournament. A tournament run on the league basis, however, gives each team a chance of playing against every other competing team. The result in a league depends on the performances of teams throughout the tournament, which is spread through a few months. It is no longer sufficient for a team to be in brilliant form for one match. No team can be sure of winning till they have played against every other competing team. The interest in the tournament is more sustained and abiding not only for the players and spectators but also for the public. It is also possible to play a larger number of deals in a league contest and they eliminate luck to an even greater extent than now. Not only is the standard of the game raised in each locality, but opportunities are also provided for developing and maintaining social and cultural contacts between the players in the different clubs and the different centres, particularly in the mofussil, where conventions are bound to spring in time of home teams entertaining the visiting teams.

The Executive Council, realising the many advantages of the league idea and the requirements of the Association alike, had passed the following resolution as early as 20-10-1940 :—

"That this opportunity be availed of to institute and conduct a championship tournament for member-clubs; that the preliminary tournaments in this contest be played on a league basis, (every team playing every other team) in the different districts; that the various clubs in the districts that are likely to enter for this tournament be approached with a view to ascertaining their willingness to conduct the preliminary tournaments in their respective districts; that the tournaments be started in 1941, the preliminary (league events) being spread out during the first part of the year, and the final contest between the winners in the various districts being played during the latter part of the year; that the cup referred to by Sri M. R. Doraisamy be utilised for presentation to the winners of the (preliminary) league tournaments in the Madras District; that the Association do immediately take the necessary steps to secure a handsome rolling cup for the champion team, and also if possible, smaller rolling cups to the winning clubs in the districts, other than Madras; and that the Tournament Committee be requested to take the necessary steps, as early as possible, to give effect to this proposal."

Though the principles underlying the conduct of a league tournament have been approved, the working out of the details and the making of the necessary arrangements are matters which are bound to take time. That is probably why we have not heard anything more about the scheme for the last nine months. But we feel confident that the officials in charge of this tournament are busy perfecting their arrangements. And we trust that the year 1942 will be lucky and see the ushering in of this tournament.

The Trichinopoly Y. M. C. A. Tournament :

A very interesting District progressive pair tournament was held by the Trichinopoly Y. M. C. A. in May 1941. Being only a district tournament, we had a few tyros to enliven the game. To mention only one incident, an Asking bid in a singleton suit was left in and declarer, who had almost 5 quick-tricks, slowly gathered 3 tricks, all told! The tournament was a remarkable one, as the very first played in Southern India according to the Howell movement, which provides for only one winning pair. Mr. V. P. Kanakaraj playing far the 1st time with Mr. N. D. Jesudasan of Palamcottah came out first with Dr. M. K. Sahadevan

and Mr. E. N. Mylappan very close to their heels as the runners-up. The tournament was also remarkable in that Messrs. M. S. Cherian and S. J. Albert, who acted as the Tournament Directors, announced the results even much within half an hour after the last deal was played. That made it possible for the cups being distributed to the winners and runners-up immediately afterwards by Mr. Y. Doraiswami Ayyar, B.A., B.L. who had himself done very well in the tournament as the captain of the 3rd pair.

Progressive Tournaments :—

The employment of the Mitchell system of progression has provided most of us with many enjoyable afternoons, playing duplicate progressive competitions. The Howell system of progression mentioned in Thorne's 'Blue Book,' providing opportunities for all competing pairs to meet each other and carrying out the competition to a higher stage where there will be only one winning pair, deserves the support of tournament and club Secretaries.

The Genesis of the Deccan Bridge League :—

(which had been amalgamated with the old South Indian Bridge Association to form the present Association).

Here is an interesting letter written by Mr. K. R. Sundararajan B.A., B.L., of Gopichettipalayam to the chairman of the Editorial Committee on 7-1-1939 which had resulted in the formation of the Deccan Bridge League :—

"You may feel surprised to see a letter now from me; but I feel sure that when once you read it through, you will seriously begin to think about the suggested scheme in all its aspects. This is agitating my mind for the past week or two, and though I tried my best to give it up, thinking that it may sound to others as fantastic or Utopian, I could not. My own idea is that once we secure the hearty co-operation and sympathetic understanding of at least a few genuine and enthusiastic well-wishers of this game, the rest will be easy of accomplishment.

Now to the idea. More than others, I am positive, your desire is to spread and popularise this most thrilling indoor game; but what is actually happening? Matches are being regularly held here, at Trichy, Coimbatore and at some other places. But the same set of players go round and round, some out of interest, some out of necessity arising out of reciprocity, and some others, probably a very few, out of curiosity. Other players there are, as we are aware of, scattered throughout South India, well-equipped, brilliant and supremely clever, but most unfortunately

owing to various inconveniences they could not be got at all by us. But if a single central forum, conducted by an all-embracing—authoritative association is started, then I think and hope that every player of merit and skill can be brought into this general fold.

To start with, we can rely upon Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Madura, Ramnad and some other districts too to form the component parts of this South Indian Association. Each district may choose representatives for the central committee and as and when other districts join, this committee may be enlarged by the addition of members from such districts too. Sub-committees in the various districts may be started under the authority of the central one, authorising them to organise, arrange and conduct tournaments among the competitors wishing to compete in that centre and choose the winners. Such winners from the various district centres may be directed to meet at any place and time to be fixed by the central organisation for the purpose of choosing the ultimate winner. This will obviate the strain, expenditure and inconvenience felt by the players and organisers of the various independent and separate tournaments held at present.

This South Indian Championship, if conducted properly and continuously cannot but, in course of time, rise up into an All-India one. Almost all the sports have their own All-India Federation, League or Association, the latest being Ping-Pong, and it is a great pity that this interesting and popular game should have no sponsors to bring this much-desired goal into existence. My conviction is that it will come and it must come, though I cannot predict when and how. Let us try and make a beginning.

I have addressed Dr. Sastriar too about this. Will you kindly consider about this seriously from all possible angles and write about your final conclusion? If you and Dr. Sastriar fall in with this view of mine, then I think we can conjointly make an effort to usher such an Association into existence even this year itself. This scheme, once placed on a sound basis, cannot but touch the sympathetic chords of all the players scattered throughout this Presidency."

* * * * *

The Inquisitive Next-door Neighbour: Why are you looking so sad? So soon after marriage, you ought to be looking joyous and happy.

Newly Married Wife: I married my husband since I was told that he was a Bridge expert, but now I find that he is only a Road Engineer. T. V. S.

HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY?

(For Answers see Page 43.)

(A) The bidding has proceeded:—
North: 1 C, You, South, hold: 7 6, J 7 3, K J, A J 10 9 7 6. What do you bid?

(B) N-S vulnerable and 60 on score and E-W not vulnerable: The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, East: 2 H, You, South, hold: 8 6 5 4, K J 8 6 5, Q 7, Q 6. What do you bid?

(C) The bidding has proceeded: North: 2 S, East: Pass, South: 3 H, West: Double, North: 4 D, East: Pass. You, South, hold: 7 6, K Q 9 8 7, 8 7 5, Q 10 8. What do you bid?

(D) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 H, You, South, hold: Q 7 6 2, Q 10 8 5 4, Q 9, K 9. What do you bid?

(E) N-S 60 on score, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, East: Pass,

South: 1 N. T., West: Pass, North: 3 S, East: Pass, South: Pass, West: 4 C, North: 4 H, East: Pass, You, South, hold: K 6, 9 8 7 5 4 3, Q 5, J 7 6. What do you bid?

(F) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, South: 2 D, North: 2 H, You, South, hold: 10 4, 3, A Q 9 8 7, K 6 5 4 3. What do you bid?

(G) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 H, You, South, hold: K J 5, 9 7 6 5, K J 8, K 10 3. What do you bid?

(H) In duplicate match, N-S vulnerable, E-W not vulnerable the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 H, East: Pass, South: 2 H, You, West, hold: J 9 6, 7, A 10 8 7 6 5, J 7 6. What do you bid?

IS THIS ACOL!—(Continued from page 30)

he had opened the bidding with 1 club. I made a jump take-out bid of 2 spades holding the following hand:—

S. A Q J x x
H. x x
D. A x x x
C. K x

My two spades bid was doubled. With the $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks shown by my partner, I could almost count 7 honour tricks in our combined hands. But yet I refrained from a redouble. The Acol devotee then placed his cards on the table:—

S. 4 3 2
H. 10 9 8
D. J 10
C. Q 10 9 8 6

"Had I trusted my God half as much as I trusted my partner, he would not have let me down in my grey hairs" (I am now 44 years old, having been born on 18-8-1896). We bit the dust to the funeral tune of 1100 points. To issue a command not to drop a "1 club" bid and then to open "1 club" with not even $\frac{1}{2}$ an honour trick! What will you do if you were in my place? Will any friend write to me what his feelings would have been, if he were placed in my position?

BOOK REVIEW

THE LIBRA SYSTEM: By T. Essex

(Sri T. S. Krishnamurthi, M.A., College House, Race-course, Coimbatore)

The 'Libra' system, the term 'libra' meaning a balance in latin, is published in book form. The book is the out-come of a suggestion made by the chairman of the Editorial Committee for a purely Indian System in the Deccan Bridge League Magazine and a hint thrown by another friend that the value of distribution is not made use of fully even in the Culberston system, which is practically the most elaborate and most widely accepted system now in vogue. 'T. Essex' who, by the way, is a full-blooded Indian, is to be congratulated on having brought out a thoroughly new and purely Indian system, which lays the greatest amount of stress on distribution. 'T. Essex', who within a very short period has, by his powers of intelligent observation, reasoned deduction, good memory and keenness, developed into a first class Bridge player from a very indifferent one, has taken considerable pains to bring out the book.

The book consists of two parts, the first being a very detailed description of the system and the second consisting of a series of a hundred deals illustrating the merits and value of the system.

The system will, at first sight, appear to be too complicated. 'T. Essex' himself says that a reader may say "that without a system of memory training such as Mr. Pelman's, it would be a Herculean task to memorise" the opening bids and the original responses. It is indeed so. Practically it is like learning by heart a very elaborate code.

It will be easy for one to learn a few new facts. All the alphabets could be easily picked up in a short time. But then if it is a matter of giving a new pronunciation and meaning to alphabets and words which you have learnt and used for over a generation, while the form of the letters and the script of the words are retained as before, it requires certainly a good deal of strain. With the very few letters of the English alphabet itself, one could confuse one's self thoroughly. 'A' is written as 'A' but is pronounced as 'L' and means 'I'. But 'B' is not pronounced as 'M' and does not mean 'J' and so on. A code to confuse may easily be developed.

It almost looks as if 'T. Essex', who has been a teacher for years, teasing students by giving them difficult tasks—though he has no such reputation, I hasten to affirm—has now thought of converting the pleasant game of Bridge into a task and tease the placid adult Bridge players who, in general, want merely to spend a couple of pleasant hours in a club.

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Looking at a hand of 13 cards, marked spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs, the Libra player should first remember that, for the 1st round, these definite and commonly accepted markings do not really mean what they seem to mean, but indicate absolutely different things, 'Maya'!

Bridge is played mostly as a game. It is not meant to be a money making device and we do not want to convert it into a kind of Roulette Robot, which will be infallible, if certain calculations and formulae are strictly adhered to.

But it cannot be made infallible through the Libra System. If you are early on the football grounds, you could very often see an early player skilfully kicking a football, dribbling the ball against imaginary opponents, almost feeling that every time he gets the ball it is sure to be netted in the Goal. Sometimes you could even see two such players showing well-conceived well-concerted action and achieving brilliant coups—when there are no opponents on the horizon—like some of the recent desert advances in the African campaign. The Libra System and Libra partnership may remind one of the above, the attempt being at a Bridge table. In the face of the unfortunate but essential interference of the opponents, who may play the Libra or other systems, the bidding as per Libra will often be disconcerted or be put a stop to or lead to misunderstanding betwixt the partners.

There are some more defects also in this system. No provision proper is made for business doubles and many a profitable double with vulnerable opponents will be lost. eg. In a deal where N. S. play Libra and E. W. play some other systems, S. bids 1 spades showing $3\frac{1}{2}$ Honour tricks and an unbalanced distributor. W. bid 2 Hearts and N. doubles. E. W. being vulnerable, a good penalty could be extracted, if the double were left in. But in the Libra System, *no penalty double is allowed in the first round*, S., has to bid again, though the hands were like this:—

S. Spades A Q x x x.	Hearts x x x x	Diamonds nil.
Clubs A K x x.		
W. Spades x.	Hearts A J 10 8 x.	Diamonds K J x x.
Clubs Q J x.		
N. Spades x x.	Hearts K Q 9 7 5.	Diamonds Q 10 x x.
Clubs x x.		

Again it is *not always possible to convey* to the partner information of value according to Libra System *early enough* and sometimes at any time.

For instance, when recently we played the Libra with the opponents playing the Culbertson System, it happened this way in one deal:—

E. with spades A x x x, hearts, J x x x x, diamonds. A x, Clubs J—bid one heart.

S. spades Q x, hearts. A K Q x, diamonds. K 10, 9 x x x, and Clubs 10, doubled one heart showing $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks and unbalanced distribution.

W. with spades K x, hearts x x diamonds x x, clubs A Q x x x x, bid three clubs.

N. passed. E bid three hearts again and W went three no-trumps. N had K of clubs, (gaured) Q J x of diamonds, 5 spades headed by J and 10 and singleton heart, and led spades Jack. If it were not Libra, S would have bid two diamonds over one heart. With the lead of the diamonds, three no-trumps contract could have easily been defeated and the opponents may not even have dared to bid three no-Trumps.

The need for having a definite minimum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ even for over calls is another. Many a game, a lot of part scores, and even a few slams could be made with hands which do not contain the two and a half honour cards' strength for an opening bid, (This has been brought out well by the article on "an opening suit bid of one" in the last issue of the magazine). A strict adherence to the honour card yard-stick deprives us of many a thrill when games, and even slams could be made on account of favourable distributions, good playing tactics making full and correct use of cross ruffs, squeezes throws in etc., and opponents' bad play. The extra-ordinary importance attached to the nature of hands had necessitated the invention of the ingenious 'Essex convention' also, but the safety-inspired and overstressed adherence to the Honour card strength has lessened the importance of the distribution itself. In the matter of reaching Grand slam bids also, the inferences obtained from these honour card valuations often take one over the precipice.

Unfortunately no team has begun to play this system well. The system to be impartially judged and the Balance system to be weighed in the balance should be played several times against teams playing the same and other systems; but no such opportunity has occurred till now. The extra-ordinary ingenuity of the system and the study and pains taken to elaborate it will, we hope, induce some good Bridge fans to study it well, give it a fair trial, and then estimate its merits carefully and not merely indulge in off-hand criticisms.

T. V. S. SHASTRI.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

(A) *One Heart*.—Played in clubs or in no-trumps, there are six sure tricks in your hand. The probability of your partner's holding in clubs being short and your honour holding do not, however, warrant a jump bid in club. Your holding in both majors would not also warrant a jump no-trumps bid. But a bid of one no-trump or two clubs may discourage partner from making any further bid. The club holding in your hand shows that your partner has opened on a short suit, and that the pattern of his hand is of the no-trump variety. Your partner is, therefore, very likely to respond in no-trump. That is what you want and you straightaway bid three no-trumps. If partner should bid one spade over your one heart, you bid two no-trumps. You have shut out a heart lead from west by your bid. For any other lead, nine tricks should be on ice. This is an exceptional case in which you bid a non-biddable suit. This is what is known as the "Stalling Bid." A similar hand occurred in the Progressive Tournament held at Trichy in 1939. In only one table was the "Stalling Bid" pressed into service and the three no-trump contract reached.

(B) *Two Spades*.—There can be no doubt that the two hearts contract will be defeated by two tricks, but the penalty you may extract cannot be more profitable than a vulnerable game. Further one can bet that your partner has a singleton in heart, if not a void, and it is, therefore, certain that he would take out your double. He may not know that you have five cards in hearts with king and jack. He would locate about $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks with you on the strength of the double and, relying on such strength with you, may bid another suit at the three level, though with an average hand. He would locate only a double-

ton in spades with you. You will then be forced to take out in three spades. You may make two spades but not three. There is one more advantage. Over your two spades your partner will certainly pass as game has been reached already. East in his anxiety to prevent game for your side may bid three hearts. Then it will be time for you to double for a handsome penalty, more profitable than a vulnerable game, and your partner cannot be misled.

(C) *Five Diamonds*.—The only question is whether you should bid four spades or five diamonds. There are two considerations why you should bid five diamonds, at the higher level. Played at four spades, you cannot contribute even one trick. West has certainly hearts ace to justify his double, especially after an opening two bid. Even if your partner has the ace, it is no doubt a singleton. You have no entry to get a trick in hearts. Neither can you contribute a trick in any other suit. With diamonds as trumps, you have one trick by way of ruffing and most probably another in hearts. Thus by raising the contract one trick higher, you are prepared to contribute two tricks as against no trick with spades as trump.

(D) *One Spade*.—The hand is too strong for one no-trump or two hearts and too weak for three hearts. With a somewhat better hand with your partner than what is necessary for the opening bid, a game is in sight. So the only bid you can make at the one level keeping the bidding open to elicit further information from your partner is the spade bid. If partner bids one no-trump, showing rather a weak opening, you bid two hearts, leaving it to your partner whether to reach a game or not. If he bids either of the unbid suits, you give a jump bid of three hearts. Should he

bid two spades, then also you bid three hearts.

(E) *Five Hearts*:-Partner aims at a slam even after your weak response of one no-trump by making a jump bid, not necessary to reach the game. He has shown six spades and four hearts. The remaining three cards are in diamond alone or two in diamond and one in club. As your partner cannot have any more than a singleton in club, a slam is in sight, if your partner has the diamond ace. If he is void in club, the diamond king with him will also bring home a small slam to your side. Your partner would not make a jump bid with only four honours, two in hearts and two in spades, with a singleton in club and without either ace or king in diamond. Either, he is void in club and has only the four honours or if he has singleton club, he has either diamond king or ace also. So there are good chances for a small slam. So bid five hearts and let your partner decide whether to bid slam or not. To pass four hearts would show nervelessness.

(F) *Two Spades*:-One would be tempted to show the club suit. Normally your partner's bidding discloses five spades and five hearts. But it may also be that he has four spades and five hearts and makes the four-card suit bid because he has not the requisite strength to reverse at the two level. If he has five cards both in spades and hearts, he can have very little support for both the minors. He may have an average hand and expects preference by you for one of his suits. He may be prepared to play at the two level in either of his two suits. If you bid three clubs, he cannot possibly drop the bidding and he will be forced to bid one of his suits at the three level, which bid his strength may not warrant. He

will be in a quagmire. And the contract at the three level may be defeated. The strength of your hand has already been shown by your two diamonds bid and you have no additional values. You have shown two honours and now show simple preference for spades. If your partner is really strong, he may take the necessary action with the information you have already given. Otherwise the hand will be better played at two spades contract. If the club ace and diamond king be on the wrong side, you can contribute only one trick. Neither can you play the hand safely either in club or in diamond, with little or no support from your partner.

(G) *Two no-trumps*:-True you have four trumps. But they are practically of no use as there is no short suit to ruff. Further the other three suits have tenace cards. You should, therefore, play the hand as declarer. You cannot bid any other suit. One no-trump is evidently a very weak bid. The hand is no good for three hearts. One no-trump or two hearts may drop the bidding. True you have not the requisites two and a half honour tricks. But a sure stopper in the other 3 suits with a possible second stopper in 1 or 2 of these suits at least and six honour cards amply compensate for deficiency in honour strength.

(H) *Pass*:-South shows a weak hand. Either your partner, with a strong hand, is lying low or North has a very powerful hand. You may be tempted to bid three diamonds. But your distribution should tell you that your partner may be short in diamonds. If you bid three diamonds and North doubles, your contract may be woefully set. There is a possibility of the two hearts contract being defeated or your partner making a better bid of 2 spades, if he has a good hand.

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TODDLERS' CORNER

Oh, these confusing terms!

Mandu Manikkam—So many of the terms used in Contract are so confusing. I wonder whether it is necessary to find out and remember what these different terms exactly mean.

Somberi Suppan—Do not bother. I never care to find out what these different terms mean. "A rose by any other name called would smell just as sweet." I leave these terms to the professors and the so-called great players.

Kettikara Krishnan—But how do you possibly understand what is being said or make the others understand what you mean, unless you know the exact meaning of the different terms? There is so much of difficulty and confusion merely because people do not understand the exact meaning of even the terms that are commonly used at the table. After all, it does not require any great trouble to know the exact meaning of these comparatively few terms.

Mandu Manikkam—You are quite right, Kettikaran. We would leave Somberi Suppan alone. It is due to people like him that so much of ignorance continues to persist. Now for instance, what exactly does one-over-one mean? The other day, my partner bid a spade and I bid 2 spades and explained that I had only bid one over his one. But he merely laughed.

Kettikara Krishnan—What you did was to raise his bid of spades. "One-over-one" means a call of a higher suit at the level of one over your partner's call of one in a suit. A call of 1 diamond by you over a call of 1 club by your partner is a one-over-one call. In the same way, a further call of 1 heart by your partner over your 1 diamond would be a one-over-one bid. We hear so much of one-over-one bids, since it is good economy to show different suits even at the low level of one.

Mandu Manikkam—Ah, now I understand. But what is an over-call and what is a take out? I always confuse these terms and can never be sure what is what.

Kettikara Krishnan—That is easy to remember. An over-call is to make a bid higher than a last bid by an opponent. But a take-out is to make a bid higher than a last bid made by the partner. For example, if you bid 1 heart over an opponent's 1 diamond, your 1 Heart bid is an over-call. On the other hand, if you bid 1 heart over your partner's 1 diamond, it is a take-out. In the same way, if you bid 1 No Trump over your partner's 1 diamond, it is a take-out.

Mandu Manikkam—I see. Any bid made over an opponent's last bid would be an over-call and any bid made after partner's last bid would be a take-out.

Kettikara Krishnan—No, the latter definition is not quite correct. When you make a bid over your partner's bid, it may be either a take-out or a raise. When you put him up higher in another suit altogether or in no trumps when he bids a suit and vice versa, it is a take-out. But when you put him up higher in his own suit, it is a raise.

Mandu Manikkam—That seems to be very clear. But what exactly does a simple raise or a forcing raise or a pre-emptive raise mean?

Kettikara Krishnan—A simple raise is an increase of the partner's bid at the same denomination by 1 trick. A forcing raise is an increase of the partner's bid at the same denomination by just 2 tricks or one more than is necessary. A pre-emptive raise is an increase of partner's bid at the same denomination by 3 or 4 tricks. For instance, a raise of 1 diamond to 2 is a simple raise. A raise to 3, however, would be a forcing raise. But a raise to 4 or 5 would be a pre-emptive raise. The chief thing to remember is that a forcing raise is a raise by just 1 more trick than is necessary. The same definition would hold good in the case of take-out.

Mandu Manikkam—The definition is all right. But what I can't understand is why a pre-emptive raise should be deemed to be weaker than a forcing raise. Does it not stand to reason that a raise by 3 or 4 should be stronger than a raise by merely 2?

Kettikara Krishnan—That is a fundamental misconception. A pre-emptive raise like a pre-emptive take-out is a shut-out bid. It is an unnecessarily high bid made with weak cards, as much designed to make it difficult for the other side to enter the auction as with the intention of making the contract. For instance, suppose your partner has bid 1 heart

and you have six hearts, a singleton, a doubleton and no high cards. You jump to 4 hearts or make a pre-emptive bid of 4 hearts as much with the idea of shutting out the other side as with the idea of making the 4 hearts contract. If the opponents have most of the top cards in the other three suits, your contract may be defeated. But in over 90 per cent of these cases, you would have shut out the opponents from successfully bidding and making a game or even a slam in one of the other three suits. But when you have strong honour cards in addition to the honours strength shown by your partner, you make a forcing bid at a lower level since there is no question of the opponents being able to over-bid you, unless at an unnecessarily high sacrifice. In these cases, you can afford to go slowly, exploring all possibilities and ascertaining the weakness or strength in the different suits, before you reach the highest possible safe level.

Mandu Manikkam—But how is it that sometimes a player jumps and calls it a weak pre-emptive bid and sometimes again he jumps and calls it a strong bid? The other day, for instance, I bid one heart over my partner's 1 diamond and he immediately jumped to 4 hearts. I naturally thought that it was a closing bid. But it turned out to be a lay-down slam and my partner started abusing me for not going higher.

Kettikara Krishnan—This kind of confusion is, I am afraid, quite widespread. This confusion would be avoided if every one is clear that any question of a pre-emptive bid or a pre-emptive raise arises only in the first round. A second round call is never pre-emptive, since opportunity has already been given to both the opponents to enter the auction. A second round jump is always strength-showing. The higher the jump, the more strength does it show. This is simple reasoning since a single jump in the second round is not forcing even for 1 round. For instance, in the case quoted by you, your partner's 2 hearts bid over your 1 heart, after he had opened the bidding with 1 diamond, would be a simple raise. Suppose he has got cards that justifies a stronger call. He then bids 3 hearts over your 1 heart. But even 3 hearts is not a forcing bid, forcing you to go higher. If he has got still more powerful cards, which guarantee a game in hearts, he naturally jumps to 4 hearts. That bid is obviously stronger than if he had bid 2 hearts. It is as obviously stronger than if he had bid 3 hearts. There is no such thing as a game bid or closing bid in these cases. If you have got further strength, you naturally have to go up higher.

Mandu Manikkam—Thank you very much, Kettikaran. You have solved some difficulties that I have very often experienced.

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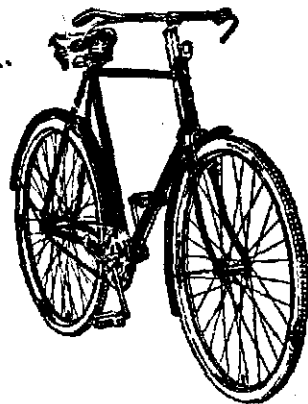
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