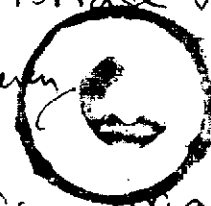


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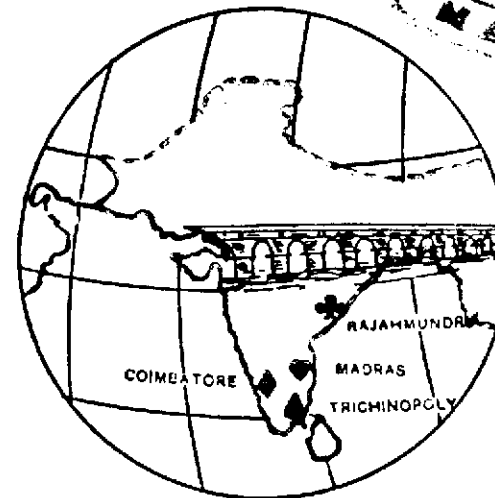
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II Quarter

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PART II

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

POETRY IN BRIDGE

(With all apologies to the Goddess of Muse.)

By S. M. K. Sastri

I am a matter-of-fact mathematician. I am a cold and calculating engineer. I am sober in every sense of the term. If I, even I, burst into unorthodox poetry, which has no proper rhyme or metre, it must be due to the intoxicating excitement and the ecstatic exhilaration that I experience in the game.

Take, for instance, the following deal, which I played as South with C as my partner at the M. U. C. on 29-11-1940.

North dealer.	A, 10, x		
Neither side	A, K, Q, x x		
vulnerable.	K, Q, x x		
Q, 9, x x x		N	A, x x
K, J, x		W	9, 8, x x
10, x x		S	x
J, x			A, 10, x x x
	K, J, 10, x		
	Q, x		
	J, x x x		
	9, x x		

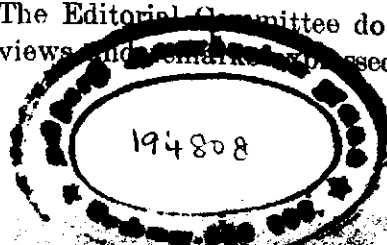
The bidding went as follows:—

N	E	S	W
1 d	d/c	2 d	2 s.
3 d	3 s	3 N. T.	d/c
—	—	4 d	—
5 d	—	—	d/c

We had, therefore, ultimately landed ourselves in a

contract of 5 diamonds to go 1 down. "One down is no down" runs the proverb. But why go down at all in a hand like this?

With neither side vulnerable, my free raise to two diamonds guarantees about 1½ quick tricks, apart from a trump fit. North's 3 diamonds over West's two spades was, in the circumstances, a very moderate minimum bid. With the strong cards that North held in the other 3 suits, my overcall of 3 N.T. over West's spade bid, which has been supported by East, should have immediately enabled him to visualise my holding most of my honour cards in spades. After his minimum bids, I could not possibly have called 3 N.T. without at least two stoppers in spades. A redouble of West's double of 3 N.T. would have ensured the game being played, and won, at that contract. When he had failed to do so, I could hardly imagine his great strength in the other suits and had, therefore, been forced to



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call 4 diamonds. It should now at least have been clear to North that my strong cards in spades would be of little use to him in a diamond contract and that his losing cards in hearts and clubs would not possibly enable us to fulfill any higher contract. For him to bid 5 d at this stage was only to express bankruptcy of thoughts relating to the quick tricks in the opponents' hands and the losing cards in his own. To present a score to the opponents, when holding over 5 honour tricks in the partnership hands, is nothing but a sacramental sacrilege of a thoughtless game maniac.

Was it any wonder, therefore, that my mind worked out the following Verse in poetry:—

"Oh, for sheer common-sense,
or for just some dog-sense;
You do not want any card-sense,
Much less any super-sense."

Again, take the following deal, that I played on 6-12-1940 at the M. U. C. as East with R as my partner.

K, J, x		A, x x
K, x		A, Q, J, 9, 8, x x
A, x x x x	W E	x
K, x x		x x

We (East-West) were vulnerable with a part score of 90. West was the dealer. The bidding went as follows:—

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W.	E.
1 $\diamond$	2 $\heartsuit$
2 N. T.	3 $\heartsuit$
4 $\clubsuit$	4 $\heartsuit$

The bidding fortunately died at 4 hearts, since only 4 hearts were made, after an opening lead of clubs by South. My response of 2 hearts was vociferously criticised on the ground that I was not in possession of $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks. It was contended that even one heart bid, when there was a part score of 90, would indicate strength, and the length could have been afterwards shown, if necessary, with a jump bid. I argued, and I urged, that I had 7 winners, if hearts were played as trumps, and that it was practically equal to 4 quick tricks. I said that it was, therefore, necessary to kindle the idea of slam possibilities even at the very start and that if Asking bids were intelligently made, we would not have gone beyond our depths.

But I recognised even then that my logic was lopsided. If West had seriously started Asking bids, we should have gone at least to the level of 5, to lose the game and the rubber and give some points to the opponents. I realised that you cannot "Punch to finish" on one leg, however ready

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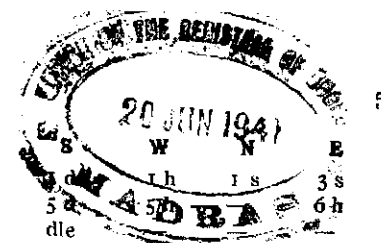
your fists may be. You would be floored with your own swing, when it reacts on the player sitting opposite to you. It is too much to expect him to judge fully as to when you have the strength and when you have length alone. The rule that $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks are necessary for a jump suit take-out is a golden one that cannot be easily broken with impunity. Was it surprising, therefore, that my state of mind then resulted in the following verse:—

"Length and breadth will
give you space,
But barring depth, it lacks
in grace.
Phantom beauties dance on
screen,
But judge them fair in light
serene."

Here is a happier deal, which I played as West with my favourite partner, K. R. Sundaram Iyer in a duplicate game at the M. U. C. on 3—2—1941.

Dealer South.	J, 8, 5, 4, 3, 2	
Neither side	10, 7, 2	
vulnerable	x x x	
	x	
K, 10, 9		Q, 7, 6
A, J, 9, 8, 6, 4	N	K, Q, 5, 3
K, 10	W E	A, K, 10,
J, x	S	9, x x
	A	
	A, Q, J, 9, x x x x	
	Q, 8, x x	

The bidding went as follows:—



A club was opened and taken with the Ace in dummy. I played three rounds of trumps and then overtook club jack with the King. North showing out, it was easy to locate the club queen, which was ruffed and dummy re-entered with a ruff of the diamond King with the last trump. The remaining 3 clubs were run, enabling me to discard all the spades. In the result, therefore, the opponents got only one diamond trick and the contract was fulfilled.

The slam signal was raised by East Asking in spades, suppressing his club suit, when hearts eminently suited him, particularly with the void in diamonds. If East had started showing his club suit, it would have been extremely difficult to reach a slam. In fact, the hand was played only at 5 hearts at the other table. After the Asking bid, I had joyfully called 5 hearts, even over 5 diamonds, since I had the second round control in spades, apart from heart Ace. I had done all I could to cement the slam Bridge for my partner, who had ultimately called 6 hearts. My ecstasy and

exhilaration resulted in the following verse:—

"Asking bids are patent,
When slam contents are
latent,
But do not spoil dam
contents,
On scouring soil with
undervents."

Here is another interesting deal played by me as North on 18-11-1940 with S as my partner.

A, Q, J, 9, 8
North dealer. x x
Both sides 8, 6, 5, 4, 3
vulnerable x
7, x, x, x, x
A, 10, 8, x
Q, 10, x
J
W^N E¹⁰
S^{9, x}
A, Q, 10, 9,
x, x, x, x x
K, 7
K, Q, J, x, x
A, K, 7, 2
K, x

The bidding went as follows:—

N	E	S	W
—	2 c.	—	2 N. T
—	3 c.	3 H	dle
3 S	—	4 H	dle
—	—	—	—

The initial call of two in a suit, according to Culbertson, is a regular rock-crusher, with a conventional game force, even when the partner holds a Yarborough. It is an insured 'bridge' designed by the declaring architect and financed exclusively by him, even

without any contribution from his partner.

But a "Bogus two" also pays provided you have an alert partner and unimaginative opponents. Both sides being vulnerable, I had as North naturally passed. East, a scheming veteran, came out with a 2 club bid. The bid was too much for my partner, who had merely passed. But when West had called 2 N. T. and East had called 3 clubs, my partner had belatedly called 3 hearts to be doubled by West. I "smelt a rat" and made bold to bid 3 spades. But I did not have the courage to go to 4 spades after my partner's 4 hearts was again doubled, though a 4 spade bid would have given us a lay-down game. I had naturally imagined that East was holding most of the Honour cards and my partner was only bidding on great length and not on strength. East had effectively fooled us out of a 4d or 4s bid. I was naturally dispirited and depressed. But I had even then formulated the following verse:—

"Holding 'two' and bidding
three
Is sometimes good, they say;
Holding 'three' and bidding
two
Is sometimes paying too!"

FORCING BIDS

By V. T. Subbiah Mudaliar

CONTRACT bridge is being played now at most of the clubs. The game has been introduced almost at every out-of-the-way moffusil station by enthusiasts who have seen brilliant contract played elsewhere. The enthusiast starts reading Culbertson's Gold book, remembers a little here and a little there and these gleanings form the foundation stock for the other players. It implies obviously that the other players do not read the book and get a precise knowledge of the game. They look up to their guru when difficulties crop up, that luminary gives his ruling and the game goes on happily. Everybody proudly feels that he is playing Contract and follows the Culbertson system. But it is doubtful whether Culbertson himself would recognise his system in these places. The position of the game at the district headquarters is slightly different. There are generally a few enthusiasts at every place, each of whom goes through the book, the rulings given by one are questioned by

the others, the Gold book is referred to and precise and definite knowledge is built up gradually and by degrees, and the game is thus prevented from being sadly mutilated.

In Contract bridge, the odd tricks bid and made are alone counted towards game. The premium values for slams, rubber etc., are also pitched high and are glamorous. The objective of every player is to bid up to the maximum that the partnering hands are capable of yielding and gather the rich premiums. Side by side, the penalties for undertricks are also high and deterrent, restraining the unwary at every stage from soaring high and beyond the limits. It is, therefore, obvious that the bidding in Contract has to be precise and accurate and that partnership communications have got to be built up on sound lines, before the best final bid is arrived at. One of the major props used in the bidding is the use of the forcing bids. The forcing bids are of extreme value and their innovation is an out-

standing advance over the old methods employed in Auction bidding.

There are no two opinions about the need for the use of forcing bids. Suppose there is a very strong hand with A, K, to six in both spades and hearts and a singleton club. Anybody can see game in this hand with either spade or heart as the trump suit. Which is to be the trump suit is the question? There are so many ways of bidding and arriving at a game contract. One spade may be bid to start with; the partner is probably weak and drops you cold at one spade. The best thing would appear to be to bid up 4 hearts or spades straightaway. Possibly you make game, possibly also you go down one or two depending upon the partner's cards. The partner may have 3 spades, one heart and nothing else of value. If you chance to call spade, you win and if you step on hearts, you lose. The best thing and the only way of managing it would appear to be to tell the partner that you have a very strong hand capable of making game, that you have two suits—hearts and spades—and to ask him to choose between the two. A quantity of information has got to be given within one or

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two bids and this could possibly be done only by resorting to some convention or other.

An opening bid of two in a suit is the conventional bid to depict a hand strong enough to make game, almost independantly, with little or no assistance from partner. This dynamite announcement binds both the partners and they are not at liberty to drop the bidding till a final game bid is made. This is a simple convention and admits of no variations or exceptions. But what is happening everyday is something different. Each player uses it as it suits his fancy at the time or as his mentor taught him originally with his doubtful knowledge.

Here is an instance. A player opened the bidding with two spades, got a response of two notrumps and made a rebid of three hearts. The partner passed. The opening bidder started haranguing. His partner asked him to shut up. He added that he had, as in courtesy bound, announced a weak hand and an yarborough by his two notrump bid, that he preferred hearts to spades as he had three rags in hearts and only one of spades and that his partner ought not to expect anything more. He finished by saying 'Partner,

you may commit suicide, but I shall never help you to it' and he did not. Now is this suicide or murder? The game was played out and a little slam was actually made. And now note the final touch—"Partner, with such a hand you should bid a little slam straightway and not lose such golden opportunities. You have made a little slam without any help from my hand. In the vain hope of trying to find out whether I had any cards to help you to a grand slam, you lost your little slam as well. If you had bid little slam by yourself and if I had something in my hand,—a picture here, and another there—would I not bid a grand slam? Please credit your partner also with some sense!"

It is clear that even the best system will fail, if it is not properly understood and properly used. The Culbertson's Gold book details a number of forcing situations. They are probably puzzling to the beginner and such fastidious distinctions are made between one situation and another that one may despair of learning them. But there are really a few forcing bids only and they are easily learnt. A few minutes spent in familiarising oneself with the forc-

ing bids will result in harmony at the table, pleasure in the game for all concerned and in better bridge eventually. It may be stated as a preamble that a single jump bid is the germ of most of the forcing bids. Certain bids are forcing for one round only and some are forcing till a final game bid is made. Certain others are said to be semi-forcing. There is, however, no such thing as a semiforcing bid.

(a) Game forcing bids

1. An opening bid of two in a suit is unconditionally forcing to game and neither partner is at liberty to drop the bidding till a final game bid is made. If after a two heart opening and an eventual three notrumps by the responder, the opening hand makes a further call of four clubs, the responder is not released from the game force. He is still bound to keep the bidding alive, as 4 clubs is not a game bid.

2. An immediate (non-jump) overcall in an opponent's suit at the earliest opportunity is also forcing to game. This is the bid available for the defending side for giving the game force and is of the same significance as the opening bid of two in a suit.

North	East	South	West
1 C	2 C		
game forcing			
1 C	—	—	1 S
—	2 C		

The two club bid here is not game forcing. It was not made at the earliest opportunity.

3. After partner has opened the bidding, a single jump raise in the partner's suit or a single jump take-out in a new suit or in notrump is forcing till game is made. It should, however, be noted that only a single jump raise or take-out is forcing to game. A double jump portrays something different. It is of a pre-emptive nature made with length and strength only in the suit called and not much besides. The only exception to this rule is a double jump in a higher suit into the level of 3 which, according to the latest modifications, is also forcing to game.

North	East	South	West
1. 1 C	Pass	2 D	
single jump take-out—forcing to game.			
2. 1 S	Pass	3 C	
single jump take-out—forcing to game.			
3. 1 S	Pass	3 S	
single jump raise—forcing to game.			
4. 1 S	Pass	2 N. T.	
single jump take-out—forcing to game. This bid as also No. 3 is, however, not forcing if the responder had originally passed.			

5. 1 C Pass 3 S
Double jump take-out in a higher suit into the level of 3—forcing to game.

A slight confusion arises generally when the opening bidder makes a single jump take-out in a new suit over partner's response of one over one, as follows:—

North	South
1 C	1 D
2 S	

The single jump take-out of 2 spades over one diamond response is not forcing to game. This jump take-out can only be taken to be highly invitational.

The basic principle underlying the game-forcing calls is this. The hand holding strong cards is almost sure of a game in some bid or other, and wants to find out by stages the best bid suitable for the two combined partnering hands. Unless this information about the strength is announced, it is likely that the weak partnering hand will drop the bidding before a final game bid is reached. The game force is intended to avert such a disaster.

(b) Forcing for one round

1. Any non-jump suit take-out following an opening bid is forcing for one round. To illustrate.—

North	East	South	West
1. 1 C	—	1 H	Forcing for one round
2a. 1 S	—	2 H	do
2b. 1 S	—	2 C	do

The above instances are identical in that they are non-jump simple take-outs in a new suit, but very different in their make up. No. 1 is a simple one-over-one overcall, maintaining the bid at the same level. It may, therefore, be made with a bare five card suit headed by Q and J or by a four card suit headed by K and Q with nothing else of value besides. Nos. (2a) and (2b) raise the bidding level from one odd to two odd. This is made with 1½ honour tricks and a five card major suit or 2 tricks with a five card minor suit or 2½ honour tricks with a four card suit. These responses are, however, not forcing if the responder had originally passed.

2. A new suit bid at the level of one or three after an opening bid and a response.

To illustrate:—

	North	South
1. 1 C		1 D
	1 H	
2. 1 C		1 D
	1 H	1 S
3. 1 S		1 N T
	3 C	
4. 1 H		1 S
	1 N T	2 H
	3 D	

5. 1 S 2 C
3 C 3 D

The italicised bids in all these cases are forcing for one round.

The one round force is often observed in the breach, leading to a breaking-up of a partnership understanding. It is well to remember that the partner of the opening hand may make a simple take-out bid with anything up to 3½ quick-tricks. The one round force effectively guards against the opening hand passing and wasting the higher values that the responding hand may have.

3. Take-out Doubles:—The idea of the take-out double is slightly confusing to the beginners. It may be laid down for their benefit that a double of a bid of one notrump or of a bid of one or two in a suit, is a take-out double, provided that the partner has not made a bid of any sort voluntarily and also that the double is made at the earliest opportunity. All other doubles are 'Penalty Doubles' made for gathering penalties and are to be left-in by partner.

The take-out double is made with 3 or more honour tricks in the hand distributed in 2 or 3 suits with suitable fillers and weakness generally in the suit doubled. The hand should

ordinarily be such that any suit that partner might name should agree with the hand. Otherwise the hand should have a ready-made rescue suit to be bid when necessary. The take-out double requires that the partner should name his longest suit at the cheapest level. A pass is barred.

Should the opponent on the right intervene and redouble, the necessity for showing the best suit becomes greater and the doubler's partner should respond as though the redouble had not been made. The weaker the hand, the greater is the need to respond and show the long suit. Should the opponent intervene with any other bid, the doubler's partner is relieved of the necessity to respond. Any response made by him at this stage would be taken to be made with about $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and a genuine biddable suit.

The opponent at the right may intervene and release the partner of the doubler of the forced response at the first instance and the doubler may again double the bid that may come on to him, and his partner would still be bound to respond in the usual manner. There is only one

case where the take-out double may be passed as when the doubler's partner has 4 definite tricks in the suit doubled or 3 definite tricks therein and 1 outside honour trick. The pass would then be a penalty pass. The 4 tricks with him together with the 3 honour tricks of the doubler would normally set the contract by a trick or two.

A no-trump is often attempted to be given as a response to show about $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and control in the suit doubled. This is not helpful and constructive and is to be avoided. A single jump call even in a shaded biddable suit is to be preferred. Similarly a hand that could give a free response even without a double should indicate the hand by making a single jump call to differentiate it from the conventional response after a double.

4. Asking Bids and the 4-5 No-trump convention.

There are what are called the asking bids and the 4-5 no-trump convention bids which are forcing for one round. Their general utility seems to be doubted even by their authors now and their significance and uses need not, therefore, be gone into.

PLAN YOUR PLAY

No. II SERIES

By S. Rajam Iyer

You would not, of course, deny that it is necessary to pause, ponder and plan your play as soon as the dummy is laid down. But do you always do so? Is your thinking clear and your reasoning precise? Read these series of articles so as to get the habit and the instinct to pause, ponder and plan your play.

Hand No. 4

A, 3	
A, Q, 8	
A, 10, 7, 2	
K, 9, 7, 3	
North	South
	K, Q, J, 10, 7
	J, 4, 3
	J, 5, 3
	A, J

Against a six spades contract by South, West leads spade four. Do you see any chance of making the contract? You have one loser in heart and two in diamonds. How can you get rid of two of the losers? If the club queen is held by East, you can discard one of the losers on the king of clubs. Again if diamonds break 3-3-3-4, the fourth diamond with dummy will take care of another loser. You can afford to give only one trick either in heart or diamond. But if you concede a trick in heart, you cannot

help losing a trick in diamond. So the success of the contract depends upon your not losing a trick in heart. Then you should, for one thing, hope that heart king is with West. So you hope, and pray that the disposition of the relevant cards are as you desire them to be. You have, up to now, been at pains to cogitate and decide definitely that, if at all the contract could be made, it can only for the distribution detailed above.

Now comes the second stage of the mental process. Assuming that the cards are distributed quite to your liking, how would you proceed to play? You should not lose two tricks in diamonds before you develop the fourth diamond in dummy. You should, therefore devise and plan a line of play by which you lose only one

trick in diamond. Direct finesse either way cannot help you. So you should first discard one diamond on the club king, concede a trick in diamond, ruff the third diamond and establish the fourth. The technique of this play may be called "Indirect elimination of losers by co-operative transfer from suit to suit."

Now comes the third stage of the play. To carry out the plan in play you should preserve sufficient entries in dummy. You, therefore, take the first trick with the ace in dummy and immediately finesse club queen between ace and jack. Jack holds. Play out the ace. Lest the third round of club should be ruffed, you draw out the trumps. You find trumps break 5-3-3-2. Now comes the crucial stage in the play. Do you see the danger if you finesse heart at this stage? You lose an entry which should be preserved till the last. If you finesse the heart queen and play club king on which you discard a diamond, then you have necessarily to play diamond ace and follow with diamond two. East will take the trick and return a heart. Your jack is covered with the king and dummy's

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ace should perforce take the trick. That means dummy is left without any further entry. The fourth diamond could not be reached to throw away your second loser. Therefore, you play a diamond from your hand, after drawing out the trumps. Take it with the ace and return another diamond after discarding one on club king. Whoever may take the trick, you are not worried. If East takes the trick and plays club, you ruff it out and finesse heart. Take the trick with the queen, play a diamond and ruff it with the last trump. Enter dummy through heart ace and discard the third heart in your hand. If the opponent who takes the second diamond trick, plays heart, well and good, it is even easier.

Hand No. 5

A, 7, 6
A, J, 6, 5
A, J, 3
Q, 7, 6

North

South

8, 5, 4
7, 4
Q, 10, 9
K, 8, 5, 4, 3

As against a three no trump contract by South, after an opening bid of 1 diamond by West, West leads diamond 4. How would you plan and play? You readily see three tricks in diamonds and only one trick each in spade and

heart. Having a doubleton in heart with you, developing another heart is out of the question, unless either of the opponents holds king and queen unguarded. Even then you have to manufacture three more tricks to keep the contract. You are left with club alone to fall back on. How can you develop four tricks in clubs? Do you find an even percentage of chance? Your partner holds three aces and, therefore, West must have the club ace for his opening bid of one diamond. Then the question is whether West holds ace to three or doubleton in club. If he holds three cards, the contract must inevitably fail. For his opening bid of one diamond with four honor cards outside, west must have five cards; you hold a doubleton in heart; so you reasonably expect three hearts, if not four, with him. It is not likely that East has five card suits both in spades and hearts. Affinity of patterns, as seen from your hand pattern, also probablises that the distribution with West is of the 5-3-3-2 variety. The rule of frequency also shows that the doubleton with West can be only in your longest suit, club. So the chances seem to be in your favour.

Anyway, you hope that West holds only two cards in club.

Then to play. Take the trick with diamond nine and play a small club. If West ducks, take the trick with queen, and then play another club. Follow from your hand with a rag. Close your eyes and pray that the ace falls. Then the game is easy.

Hand No. 6.

As against a six spades contract by North, East leads hearts 4. Here are the North-South hands. How do you plan your play, providing for all possible contingencies?

A, K, J, 9, 5
K, 10
A, 10, 3
A, 7, 6

North

South

8, 7, 4, 3
A, 3, 2
K, J, 2
K, Q, 3

The lead of hearts 4 shows that the suit is divided 4-4 with East-West. If West is void in spade, the contract must fail. So we hope that the suit breaks 5-4-3-1. May be, it breaks two and two with east and west. If Queen to three be with East, one trick in trump must be lost and another trick may be lost if the correct finesse be not taken in diamonds. The finesse in

diamonds is purely a matter of chance and gamble. So we should try to find out a line of play which would eliminate pure guess. We shall try to find out how the trump breaks, so take the trick with the heart king and play spade king. You are glad to see that both the opponents follow. Then enter dummy through hearts ace and lead another spade. If the queen falls, it is easy work. You willingly concede one trick in diamond and make the contract. If West does not shed the queen on the second round of trumps, we should not try to finesse the queen. If the finesse goes wrong and the diamond finesse also fails, the contract is lost. So play the ace on the second round of trumps in any event. If East drops the queen, well and good. Even if not, you are not worried. Enter dummy through club king and ruff the third heart. play two more rounds of clubs and exit with a trump. Whoever may hold the trump queen, has to lead diamond, finessing the suit for us, or play for ruff and discard.

Hand No. 7.

As against a three no-trump contract by South, West leads spades 4. Here are the hands of North and South:

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

8, 7, 3	
A, J, 4	
A, 10, 9	
A, Q, 6, 2	
North	South
	K, J, 5
	K, Q, 2
	K, J, 7, 4
	J, 10, 9

How do you settle your line of play? The lead of spade 4 shows that east has only two cards in spades, if the duce be with west himself. So you proceed on the assumption that west started with a five card suit. If so, what should you do? You have three tricks in hearts, one in spade anyway, two in diamonds and three in clubs even if the king be offside, making in all nine tricks. But you should see that the opponents do not run away with five tricks before you gather your nine tricks. You should avoid two pitfalls in your path. East covers the opening lead with queen. Now you should withstand the temptation of taking the trick with the king. Duck the first round. East repeats spade. You cover with one of the honors. What ever west may do, you are not worried. Spade 8 from east tells you that west holds ace to five spades. When you get the lead, play club jack and finesse for the king. The trick is lost to east's king. Whatever he leads, nine tricks are ice

cold. In actual play, North overtook the queen and attacked diamond by finessing through east, so as not to put him on lead. West won the trick and returned a club. East's king won the trick. East returned a spade. West ran his four spades. Thus the contract was set two tricks. Play on this hand seems not very complicated. But unthinking play and inability to count and to provide for all possible contingencies ruins easy chances of success.

Hand No. 8.

As against a four hearts contract by South, West leads club queen. Here are the declarer's and dummy's hands. How do you proceed to play logically?

Q, 4, 2	
K, 7, 4, 3	
K, 7, 4	
A, K, 2	
North	South
	J, 6, 5
	A, Q, 10, 8, 2
	A, J
	8, 4, 3

You naturally take the trick with the ace and to see how the trumps break, play the ace. You find that both the opponents follow. You play the king also. West shows out. Should you play the third round of trumps or not? You should, because you do not need more than one trump,

which you preserve, even if you play the third round. After exhausting adverse trumps, what should you do? It is true that the contract can be made if diamond finesse through ace-jack stands. But do you foresee the danger if the diamond jack falls to West's queen. If he returns a diamond or club you will have to lose one trick in club, if spade is discarded on the diamond king and two tricks in spades, or three tricks in spades, if you discard a club on the diamond king because you have to lead spades. Thus the contract will be defeated. So the case of diamond finesse has to be ruled out. What is the next best plan? You have no loser in diamond, one in club and apparently three in spades. So you should try to confine your losers in spades to two. How to achieve it? A little logical thinking would put you in the way. You can get one trick in spade if the opponents are forced to lead the suit. The only way to so force them is to strip all the side suits and throw them in. At that stage they will have to play either for ruff and discard or lead spade. It is immaterial what they do. You lose only two tricks in spade. Therefore after exhausting trumps, play ace and king of diamonds and ruff the third diamond, play the second round of club and exit with the third.

AN OPENING SUIT BID OF ONE

By A. M. R. David

THE politician declaims against the complexities of the twentieth-century life. The moralist thunders against the artificialities of present-day life. The economist pleads against the extravagances of modern life. "Back to nature", they all cry in unison. Within certain limits, they are very right.

The quick-trick valuation emphasised so greatly in Contract bridge is merely an artificial valuation of the hand. It is true that in Contract bidding each player has to disclose to his partner the quick-trick strength held by him so as to co-ordinate the bidding into the safest maximum level. Even so, the emphasis placed on quick-trick values can be easily over-done.

The natural strength of a hand is its playing strength or the number of tricks that can be secured by a player at a bid made by him. According to most systems, and particularly according to the Culbertson system, one must have 4 to 5 playing-tricks to justify an opening bid of one

in a suit. This minimum of 4 playing-tricks when not vulnerable and 5 playing-tricks when vulnerable is, of course, quite essential. These natural requirements are merely born of common sense.

But there is no particular charm in the minimum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks generally required for an opening suit bid of one by the Culbertson system and most of the other systems now in vogue. This requirement is, of course, laid down on the basis of an opening hand containing more quick-trick strength than an average hand. An average hand holding about 2 quick-tricks or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks in all the 4 hands. This requirement, however, pays no regard whatever to the playing-trick strength of the hand. I agree that an opening hand should be stronger than an average hand. But this average hand should take into account both quick-trick strength and playing-trick strength. It would follow that a hand containing 2 quick-tricks but extra playing-trick

strength is generally good enough for an opening suit bid of one.

Take, for instance, the following hands, which would not justify an opening bid of one according to the Culbertson system and most other systems:

1	2	3
A, K, x, x, x, x x, x	A, Q, xx K, 10, x, x, x, x	K, Q, x, x, x A, 10, x, x, x
Q, x, x, x x	J x, x	x, x x
4	5	6
x Q, J, x K, x, x A, J, x, x, x, x	K, x, x J, x J, x K, Q, J, x, x, x	Q, x, x, x, x, x A, K, x xx x, x

But all these hands would, and should, justify an opening bid of one in a suit. The bids would be quite sound. If the hands contain about $\frac{1}{2}$ quick-trick less than what is required by Culbertson, they contain definitely more playing-tricks than what is required by him. They are further safe. They contain suits which can be rebid by way of sign-off bids and thus avoid the danger of climbing high.

It is, of course, generally acknowledged that an aggressive policy for opening bids is a great advantage, especially in the part-score range. An opening bid ordinarily constitutes the best defence. It complicates the bidding of the opponents, which may otherwise proceed with machine-like precision. That

is the greatest advantage in the opening bids advocated by me. But that apart, it ensures good and profitable contracts being secured in hands that would be otherwise thrown away.

It should not be assumed that a hand with about $\frac{1}{2}$ quick-trick less than what is required under the Culbertson system is always good for an opening bid of one. It is not. I would place great emphasis on the necessity for a sufficient number of playing tricks for an opening bid. Even the possession of 3 quick tricks may not at times justify an opening bid of one. A safe formula for these opening bids is a minimum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks and 4 to 5 playing tricks. But the quick tricks can be reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ trick provided there is definitely one more playing trick as also a rebiddable suit which can be rebid by way of sign-off. Again the playing tricks may be reduced by $\frac{1}{2}$ trick provided there is one more quick-trick.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The Acol system requires only a 10 point count or approximately 2 quick-tricks for an opening bid. The success of the system in England in the years 1938-39, immediately before

the war broke out, was phenomenal. It swept everything before it and its followers won tournament after tournament.

Coming nearer home, take this slightly modified deal,

♠ Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6
♥ Q, 10
♦ Q, 10, 9, 8, 3
♣ K, Q, 5, 2

♠ A, 5, 4, 2 N ♠ 3
♥ A, 9 W ♥ J, 10, 7, 6, 2
♦ J, 10, 3 S ♦ A, K, 9, 7, 6, 4, 2
♣ 10, 9, 8, 3 ♣ —

♠ K
♥ K, 8, 5, 4, 3
♦ 8, 5
♣ A, J, 7, 6, 4

which was played as deal No. 4 in the pairs progressive tournament at the Sudder Gardens in Easter, 1940. There is a cold slam in diamonds to the East-West pair. But the hand had been thrown in at one or two tables and the East-West pair had only been enabled to join the bidding at many of the other tables because it was opened by the North-South pairs, who themselves could not do so, according to most of the present systems. My point is that when neither East nor West could have opened the bidding on this deal, under the Culbertson and most other systems, there is a slam in their hands, even without the distribution being extraordinarily freakish. Again take this following hand,

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

♠ A, J, 9, 5, 2
♥ J, 8, 3
♦ A
♣ 10, 9, 6, 4

♠ Q, 8, 7 N ♠ A, K, 7, 5, 4
♥ 9, 6, 2 W ♥ K, J, 8, 4
♦ Q, 10, 9, 7, 2 S ♦ K, 8, 7
♣ Q, 3 ♣ —

♠ K, 10, 6, 3
♥ Q, 10
♦ 6, 5, 3
♣ A, J, 5, 2

which was played as deal No. 25 in the Sudder Gardens and wherein there is a game for North-South in Spades. But neither North nor South could have opened the bidding according to most of the present systems.

Let us now see how the requirements for an opening bid laid down by Culbertson have reacted on the founder himself. In the following hand played as Hand No. 4 in the match between the Austrians and the Americans for the World Championship in 1937,

♠ K, J, 10, 3
♥ 3
♦ A, 10, 9, 7, 5, 3
♣ 9, 3

♠ Q, 8, 7, 2 N ♠ A, 5, 4
♥ J, 9, 8, 6 W ♥ A, 5, 4, 2
♦ K, 8 S ♦ J, 6, 4
♣ Q, 10, 6 ♣ K, 7, 2

♠ 9, 7
♥ K, Q, 10, 7
♦ Q, 2
♣ A, J, 8, 5, 4

the Austrians sitting North-South at Table No. 1 had bid and made 3 diamonds. But Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson playing North-South in Table No. 2 had thrown in the hand,

since neither North nor South could, according to their system, have opened the bidding. Similarly in Deal No. 20 in the same match,

♠ Q, 6, 4
♥ K, Q, 10
♦ 10, 8, 2
♣ K, J, 10, 4

♠ A, K, 8, 7, 2 N ♠ 9, 3
♥ J, 5, 4 W ♥ A, 9, 7, 3, 2
♦ Q, 9, 5, 4 S ♦ A, 7
♣ 6 ♣ Q, 9, 7, 3

♠ J, 10, 5
♥ 8, 6
♦ K, J, 6, 3
♣ A, 8, 5, 2

the Americans playing East-West in Table No. 1 had thrown in the hands, but the Austrians playing East-West in the second table had bid and made a good part-score in hearts. These were the only two hands that were thrown in during the whole match of 96 deals. And in both these hands the Americans were the losers, since the quick-

trick requirements of the Culbertson system for an opening bid could not be satisfied.

The modified requirement of 2 quick-tricks, provided there is an additional playing trick-value of at least one, can be easily grafted into the Culbertson system. One need only pay a greater regard for sign-off bids. One should also handle business doubles, and particularly light doubles, with greater care, when playing this modified system. But that apart, the reduction of the quick-trick requirements of $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 would not affect the use of the Culbertson system in other respects, particularly since this reduction in quick-trick values in the opening hand is always compensated for by greater playing-trick values.

The Way to Slam

The Clubmen say that Professor Mooty Is the slickest player this side of Ooty. For instance since the matches began, He has organised a simple plan, Whereby his partner rubs his nose, In the naivest kind of pose. And while the enemy swears a d-n, Mooty and partner have made their slam.

N. R. S.

THIS IS WAR

(Adopted from Ely Culbertson)

By Dr. M. K. Sahadevan

BRIDGE is a war of paste-board armies. The players are the Commanders-in-chief. The bidding is strategy, a series of manoeuvres to secure the best position (contract). The play is the actual battle or tactical execution of the planned campaign. A trap bid or cute play is a strategem in the nature of an ambush in the manoeuvres of masses.

A great Bridge player is a great General. A great player is one who can defeat an adversary's superior hand, just as a great General is one who can defeat a superior army. Any one can score victories with good allies and strong power-houses. But it requires a strategist to stand his ground with poor allies and weak forces. A great General mobilises his armies efficiently and gets the best out of them. He gets the best out of every ally as well. Through good strategy, he manoeuvres into the best position. Through good tactics, he best executes the planned campaign. He takes advantage of all possible am-

bushes and does not overlook any traps planted by the enemy.

At the Bridge table, only a true strategist multiplied by 10 diplomats can manage the motley assortment of humanity facing him. The proper handling of all human freaks is as indispensable as the proper handling of all paste-board freaks. The bridge strategist has always to face two fronts simultaneously. He must co-ordinate his bidding with his ally's and select the best possible position available from the resources in each deal. At the same time, he must face the strenuous opposition of the adversaries, guard himself and partner against their strategems and try to out-manoeuvre them in the struggle for the best bid.

While there are many ways of winning a battle, there are but 2 sources of supply—honours and lengths. Unless the quality and quantity are properly assessed, you cannot properly co-ordinate with your ally. The proper valuation,

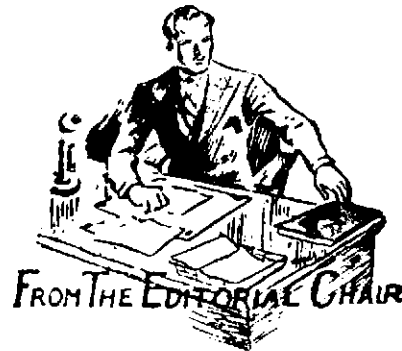
precise information and good psychology are essential to manoeuvre into the best position. Every bid, like every manoeuvre, should be treated as part of a strategic whole and not merely as isolated events by themselves. The manoeuvres are complete when through good strategy the best possible position (bid) has been selected and its acceptance forced on the adversaries.

The actual battle starts with the opening lead. The winning of a trick is the capture of a position, which is good or bad according to the extent of sacrifice. The various plays involved in preparing the ground for the winning of honour, length and ruffing tricks are mobilization. The finesse is a manoeuvre for a favourable position, a kind of enveloping movement. The four suits are the roads of communication between the allied hands. There are attempts to cut off and to build communications, wherein you should always have an engineering corps at work. The partnership language in leads

and play has the function of the signal corps. The squeeze plays and the different coups are simultaneous attacks on divergent fronts, which the enemy is unable to break at the same time. The entries and stoppers are the bridges and fortresses. The whole scheme is a struggle of suits and fragments of suits to break through the opposing fortresses.

As in war, behind every manoeuvre stands the relentless shadow of time. Time is the essence of the play. While the passage of the enemy is temporarily barred by the fortress of a stopper, resources are mobilised and suits are established. The conflicts are frequently decided on the basis of which side retains just one more lead or stopper. The invisible factor of time dominates the battle of paste-board armies just as it dominates the battles of uniformed men. And the anguish of Wellington's cry at Waterloo, "Night or Blucher" is echoed at almost every play of a Bridge hand.

MOST of us have probably read, and enjoyed, Charles Lamb's essay on Mrs. Sarah Battle's opinions on whist. "A clean hearth, a cheerful fire, and the rigour of the game". "Playing the game" according to the laws is, of course, essential. But it is very much more essential to "play the game" according to the *spirit* of the laws.



The greatest vice now prevalent in the game is to call with special emphasis, inflection or intonation. The modulation and the tone generally cover the different octaves and the various notes in the different octaves. We have a confident resounding shout of a bid at one end and a hesitant whispered call of a bid at the other. There is, in some bids, a clear note of finality. There is, in some others, an equally clear note of temporariness. There is again, in the Asking bids of some players, a definite note of interrogation. It is all reprehensible. We should assiduously cultivate, and always employ, a uniform tone in all bidding situations.

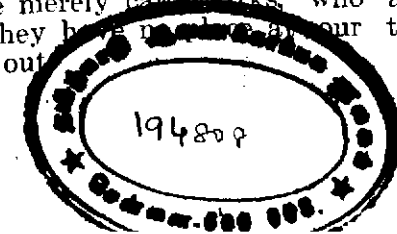
Another prevalent vice is found in the indication of the nature of one's own hand or in the expression of approval or disapproval of the bidding or play of the partner in various ways, by word, manner, gesture or remark. We suddenly come across a ferocious glare or some other facial contortion. Questions are sometimes asked, which are pregnant with meaning. Attention drawn to the score at some particular stage of the bidding is also occasionally packed with suggestion. It is all unfair. We should all cultivate, and maintain, a "Poker face" during the bidding and play.

Another group of vicious practices is more subtle. One takes the form of a particularly long hesitation over some bid or other. It suggests, and is sometimes intended to suggest, a hand on the verge of biddability or, if the opponents have bid high enough, a hand that is very nearly strong, by itself, to defeat the contract. Another form is to take a card out before the trick is quitted or banging a card on the table to suggest that the one that does so will,

and should, win the trick. A card is sometimes taken out to be led, immediately after a double or a redouble and before the others have bid, to indicate that the contract need not be changed. It is all dishonest. We should eliminate all such suggestive conduct in our bid and play.

The last group of vicious practices is mostly concerned with using terms and systems not understood by the opponents. We should only use the officially approved terms and not any other local or individual variants, particularly when these latter are suggestive or carry any meaning of their own. "No bid" is the official term that is to be used when you do not make a bid. To say "content" after a double or a re-double is neither official nor proper. You cannot play a system that is known to your partner but is not the conventional system in vogue in the club or the locality, unless you have the same fully explained to the opponents. You can, of course, indulge in psychic bidding and play to your heart's content. But your partner should not, to the slightest extent, be at a greater advantage than your opponents in understanding your calls and play. Any apparently psychic bid or play, which is, however, based on a defined or undefined understanding with the partner, is an indefensible sharp practice. It is all despicable. We should ruthlessly remove all traces of such practices from our game.

The violation of the laws can be wiped out by the payment of the prescribed penalty. But the violation of the spirit of the laws cannot be so easily wiped out. The necessity to stringently and scrupulously adhere to the ethics of the game is, therefore, absolute and unqualified. It may, of course, happen that some of these rules of ethics are unconsciously violated in some particularly intriguing situation or in the heat of the bidding or play. We should, however, try our level best to eliminate even any such occasional lapses through assiduous care. It may also happen, of course, that some beginners in the game are more often guilty of such lapses just as unconsciously. These should be corrected then and there and they would, and should, be open to correction. But the hardened sinners, who deliberately and regularly practise these violations for their own benefit, are merely card sharks, who are a disgrace to the game. They have no place at our tables. They should be hounded out.



SOME INTERESTING DEALS FROM THE ANDHRA MAHA-SABHA TOURNAMENT.

By J. Subbuswamy.

QUITE often the suits in a deck of cards have a knack of so grouping themselves as to tantalise the players. A major suit with one pair and a minor with the opponents is common. In this deal, played as deal No. 10 in the Andhra Maha-Sabha Progressive Tournament,

Vulnerability—Both sides.
Dealer—East.

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

while E-W have a fit in both major suits, N-S are not far behind holding nine cards each of both minors between them. The distribution in this deal is such that while E-W have a game making hand in hearts or spades, N-S have a good sacrifice bid in diamonds or clubs at their disposal.

At table 2, after three passes, North opened '1 diamond' and

over South's '2 clubs' West came out with '2 spades'; and even after East's raise over North's '3 diamonds', South's '4 diamonds' secured the contract. This was probably due to West not having opened with a six suiter in spades and two plus honour tricks.

At table 10, N-S started impressively with '1 club', '2 diamonds' and '2 hearts', but wound up in an anti-climax of '3 clubs'. And E-W 2, Ramamirtham and Narayanasami, sat tongue-tied throughout the proceedings with a placidity which can best be described as bovine.

At tables 7 and 9, the N-S first shoved in their oars with diamonds, and duly called '5 diamonds' after '4 spades' had been doubled and redoubled. The similarity in the bidding at these two tables is reproduced in the result of the play, both contracts being set by one trick.

The defence in a Progressive tournament is never a constant quantity. But the extremes

between which defensive play can fluctuate is amply brought out at tables 4 and 6. In the former, S. R. Subramaniam, probably planned his play badly and went two down. In the latter table, '5 clubs, doubled' gave a result which is exhilarating. Rengiah and Ethirajalu were responsible for giving their opponents one over contract and the second best score in match points.

The E-W pairs, even when they secured the contract, by no means had it their own way. While three E-W pairs kept '4 spades', Pinto and Singaravelu managed to make their opponents one down. Doraisamy and Sivaramakrishnan should be congratulated on doubling their opponents' game contract and securing a valuable 500 points.

North's '5 clubs' not only provoked West into '5 hearts' at table 1, but when South had the temerity to double this contract, West was furious and redoubled. The result of one down probably quenched his wrath.

The bidding and result at table 12 deserve mention if only for the way in which 'tops' are not infrequently thrust upon pairs in Progressive competition. West opened '1 spade' and East's '2

hearts' being supported by West, East bid '4 hearts'. South without a single ace, and probably relying on his four hearts to the queen, doubled. West with his honour trick holding and distribution re-doubled. North, though he held the ace and queen of diamonds never dreamt of the wind-fall which was coming his way. Warned by the confident double of South and probably also by the Tournament Director's warning shout of 'one minute more,' East progressed from mistake to mistake and went four down, throwing 2200 points down the drain, and gave an unnecessary 'top' to Govindarajulu and Vijayaragavan.

Deal—20

Vulnerability—Both sides.

Dealer—West

♠ J		♠ Q, 10, 7, 6, 5, 2	
♥ A, 9, 8, 7, 6		♥ 4, 3	
♦ A, Q, 8, 6, 4		♦ 7, 5, 2	
♣ A, 7		♣ J, 2	
N		S	
♠ A, 4, 3		♠ K, 9, 8	
♥ J		♥ K, Q, 10, 5, 2	
♦ K, J, 9, 3		♦ 10	
♣ Q, 9, 8, 5, 4		♣ K, 10, 6, 3	
W		E	

A slam, bid and made, brings joy to a Bridge player. It is perhaps akin to the satisfaction that a batsman derives from executing a well-timed boundary hit, or a forward at soccer

dummy on the heart queen, not without some anxiety as to what North would do on this trick. But when North joined hearts, East heaved a sigh of relief and proceeded to keep '7 spades.'

N	E	S	W
—	1 S	—	2 C
—	3 H	—	4 S
—	5 D	—	5 N. T.
—	6 D	—	6 S

Though East started with '1 spade', he gave a force in the second round with '3 hearts' and Asked in diamonds and again asked for clarification. Probably if west had not given a preference raise in the second round, the repeat Asking bid would have come at the level of five and west could have safely shown the Ace of clubs by independent bidding. In table I, a positive response of '3 clubs' and '5 No Trumps' to the later Asking bid contributed to the grand slam.

♠ 9, 6, 3, 2
 ♥ J, 10, 7
 ♦ Q, J, 8, 3
 ♣ K, 2

♠ J, 10, 8, 4
 ♥ 9, 2
 ♦ A, 5
 ♣ A, Q, 9, 6, 5

♠ A, K, Q, 7, 5
 ♥ A, K, Q, 5, 3
 ♦ 10, 7
 ♣ 4

—
 ♠ 8, 6, 4
 ♥ K, 9, 6, 4, 2
 ♦ J, 10, 8, 7, 3

The unbalanced, or 'Swing hands' as they are sometimes

Deal: 20; Vulnerability:
Both sides: Dealer: West.

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

This deal also played in the final is another slam hand, which is interesting because the Thiagarayanagar pair at table II tried to steal the Vani pair's thunder and did not prosper in the process. At table I, after an initial pass by west, the dealer, the bidding being confined to East and West proceeded thus:—

E	W
1 D	1 H
2 S	3 H
4 N. T.	5 C
6 H	

Devarajan at table I planned his play nicely. Spades 6 opened by North was taken

Bridge Enthusiast: Hullo, Secretary, how is it that you have not arranged for the 'olympic' being played at Trichy this year?

Secretary: It's not my fault. The American olympic committee had by mistake sent out war materials to us instead of the olympic deals.

Bridge Enthusiast: Mistake be d — d. The Americans are cute, you know, and have obviously sent out what is really necessary for our card tables, where there is fighting going on every day!

S.V.N.

in the dummy with the king, and club knave was taken with the Ace and clubs ruffed in the dummy. Then spade Ace was played, and the next spade ruffed in the hand. A club was led from the hand and ruffed in the dummy. Then two rounds of diamonds were played after one round of trump, and the lead thrown into North's hand with the third round of diamonds. This made certain of the little slam.

Though 6 hearts were made at table II, the bidding had stopped with '5 hearts' curiously enough, East at this table employed the forcing two bid and obtaining a positive '3 hearts' response, Asked in clubs and got the reply of '5 clubs', and then finished tamely with '5 hearts'. A good start, a lead even in the bend and into the straight, but faltering near the winning post is hard luck indeed!

READERS' FORUM

ASKING BIDS:—Mr. W. C. Hart, D.F.O., Nellore writes as follows:—

“On page 28 of Mr. David's book ‘Contract bidding made easy’, he deals with ‘Responses to first Asking bids.’ Nine possible combinations of cards are given, with which the responder has to deal. The fourth and fifth combinations read as follows:—

4th:—“With the ace of the specified suit and an outside ace, bid the minimum no trumps.”

5th:—"With the ace of the specified suit and two other aces, give a jump bid in no trumps."

Suppose, instead of the 'ace of the specified suit' referred to in these two conditions, we substitute 'a void in the specified suit,' what should the response be? Will it be the same for void as for an ace? If not, eleven and not nine combinations of hands for the responder should be dealt with, and Mr. David's paragraph will have to be revised.

I suggest that the Indian Bridge World publish a comprehensive book on Contract Bridge, embodying both the Austrian and Culbertson systems."

While leaving it open to our readers to give us their views on the suggestion regarding the publication of a comprehensive book on, presumably, contract bidding, we shall now merely deal with the enquiry relating to Asking bids.

A void is not quite the same as the possession of the ace in the suit. The ace would, for instance, fully solidify a holding of a K Q J x in the hand of the player who asks. A void, however, would not help him to anything like the same extent. It is, however, possible for a player who Asks to make allowance for either contingency when the responder either raises the suit or bids the suit to show a first-round control therein. But it would not be possible for him to determine in which suit there may be an ace and in which suit there may be a void when two or three of such first-round controls are shown in bidding a minimum or a jump notrumps. While, therefore, a first-round control, including either an ace or a void, is referred to in the book in the case of some other responses, an ace, as such, is specifically referred to in respect of a holding which justifies the bid of a minimum or jump notrumps. There is, of course, a lacuna in the book as regards the holding of a void along with 1 or more aces but, even as the title implies, the bidding has been simplified as far as possible and the book does not provide, and does not profess to provide, for all contingencies or for all combinations of cards.

Ely Culbertson makes it clear that a void in the Asked suit is counted equivalent to the ace only when raising and a void in a side suit is shown only by bidding the side suit. According to him, with second-round control in the Asked suit, an ace in an outside suit and a void in another outside suit, only the ace should be shown, suppressing the void until a later round. Accord-

be avoided and the Magnetic North followed in future to avoid optical deflection. I suggest this in the interest of our readers and not because I happen to be a Gazetted Tamil-Brahmin.

Rating on Xmas progression:—It is assiduous work to create interest out of defunct deals played in the pairs progressive finals. This is splendidly borne by Mr. M. S. Krishnaswamy and we thank him much for the analysis and the tips. It is a pity we have no friends to record a few deals in the team-of four duplicate events. But probably no one could be expected to forego their individual pleasure in witnessing the match outright.

Editorial Chair:—These pages are the pivotal roller-bearings of our Contract steel Bridge. This emanates from our esteemed Chairman, whose unique qualities and abilities as a Director and Player need no special mention. His drive, imagination and organisation is superb and we can safely predict an advancement of the game in a couple of years throughout South India. His call for valuable trophies to create a background of tradition appealed to me much and I have offered voluntarily to institute one such trophy on my behalf. I am sure very many of our readers would cheerfully follow.

News & Notes—Madras Finals by Mr. J. Subbuswamy:—The "Blue Book" of Thorne's referred to is the personal copy of Mr. C. K. Seshadhri of Coimbatore and he should be thanked for having spared the same so long. I wonder whether Mr. Subbuswamy is transforming himself unknowingly from a sedate lawyer to a self-anointed missionary to invoke "Providence" for the success of this "individual" movement. Are we stringing and bowing

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

towards mass hymns of concordant notes from discordant group of notes on a violin bridge at the "Culbertson" altar? Then we shall combine in chorus and sing "Poise the individual within

As you see him scarce and mostly thin."

His question towards the evaluation of hands with honor-values in duplicate matches awaits early editorial verdict.

An example—not a precept:—India is agreeably poor and contract Bridge eminently intellectual. If the element of stakes is not officially guarded against, it will wean away very many future entrants in this forum. The 'haves' may indulge in stakes in private bridge parties to any extent but the "Have-nots" have to be safeguarded in clubs by a ruling gradient to suit the local conditions. If we accelerate the game on stakes, this is liable to be mistaken and ultimately tabooed too on profits and loss basis. Personally I am not afraid of stakes, but I definitely avoid the same in the ultimate interest of the development of this game. It will be a pleasant surprise to mofussil players to know that in the precincts of M. U. C., we have, at my instance, been regularly playing correct bridge in two to four tables, without stakes, paying only Club money at two annas each. But Doctor Sastri from Trichy itself has subscribed to the stake school of thought. He may be sure that the many Bridge votaries, who contributed towards his life-membership, will, on perusal, be doubly joyous of having indirectly contributed towards the Association, so near and dear to their thoughts. If he is keen to try the game with spectacular stakes, the M. U. C. will not be wanting. We have among our midst Mr. Vasan, whom we

call as our "Royal Patron", to use the term of "Fine Arts Society". He and his trusted squadmates are always available by previous engagement. But let me just recall to Dr. Sastri his 7 N. T. contract at Sudder Gardens, doubled and promptly redoubled by him, based on cue-bids on a logarithmical scale accurate to five decimal places. This gave a punching finish for him in the duplicate championship. He need not be afraid of this but let him enter M. U. C. and try his luck. It is not wrong to play with stakes, after all, if you can reasonably stand it. We can even launch a building programme, supplemented by a percentage of stake profits from liberal-minded stakeholders. Great South Indian Temples have been renovated by Nagarthars on some such basis. Why not we too, if that could give an impetus for our central habitation?"

We feel quite flattered by the encomiums showered on us all by Mr. Sastri. We are so pleased that we have not, through any false sense of modesty, suppressed this letter. After all, it is the appreciation of our readers that gives us the necessary incentive to go on with our onerous task.

Another Christmas Carnival Deal

Mr. J. G. Gnanadurai, B. Sc., writes as follows:—

"In the interesting deals from the Christmas Carnival dealt with by the Deals Editor in the last issue, it has been stated that the

following deal is a "Contract on Ice" for North—South in 4 spades:—

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

The contract, however, can be defeated if the defenders play an intelligent game. West would naturally lead the 9 of clubs. East, who takes the trick with club ace, should lead club 4, which is ruffed by West. Seeing that South has bid both clubs and spades and he himself has a long string of 7 diamonds, West should now play a small diamond hoping that East has got the king. He can also find justification for this lead in 4 of clubs led by East, which was a suit-directing card. If that is done, East takes this trick as well with the diamond king and plays back another club for a second ruff by West. That would defeat the contract."

We quite agree that, played in the way suggested by Mr. Gnanadurai, the contract would be defeated. But would any player do so? In any case, no defending player had defeated a 4 spades contract at the Carnival.

NEWS AND NOTES

Bridge and War

The present European conflict has had its repercussions on all spheres of activity and there does not seem to be any department in life which has not been affected at least to some extent. The 1940 World Bridge Olympic feature had to be scrapped in England, Germany, Russia, Finland and France. Only 19 countries participated as against 42 in the previous year; and in India, Coimbatore was the only centre. It would appear that even fewer countries had participated in the contest this year. Mr. Ely Culbertson has had to postpone his visit to India and how anxious he was to visit our country is seen from the extract of a letter written by him to Mr. C. S. Narayanasamy of Tiruppur in the middle of 1939. "I am planning to visit India somewhere in July on my way around the World. Before starting for Europe, I shall communicate to you and in the meantime please let all my Indian friends know that there is no country in the world I am more anxious to visit than your wonderful country and that I certainly will devote at least a month to it". The promise remains still to be fulfilled and we can hardly blame him either. We shall pray, however, for greater orderliness in the Universe so as to enable us to meet Mr. Ely Culbertson in our land.

The Andhra Mahasabha Tournaments.

The Chennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha of Madras conducted Team-of-four duplicate, pairs progressive duplicate and open pairs (Rubber) tournaments during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of February 1941. There were sixteen Teams-of-four, 26 pairs for the progressive and 46 pairs for the Rubber event. The team-of-four event was won by The Vani Athletic team consisting of Messers M. K. Srinivasan, Devarajan, Hanumantha Rao and A. Sriramulu Chetty and the Thyagarayanagar Social Club. Messers Sapharishi and partners were the runners-up. In the progressive event, Messers M. K. Srinivasan and Devarajan of the Vani Athletic were the North-South winners and Messers Ramachandra Rao and Sriramulu Naidu the East-West winners. The respective runners-up were Messers M. R. Duraiswami and Partner and Mani and Partner. The open pairs event attracted 46 entries and we wonder why all these 46 pairs did not think it worth-while to compete for the progressive event also. Obviously many of them have not appeared in the team-of-four event. Could the reason possibly be that they did not care to bother their heads with accuracy in bidding or extreme caution in play,

which are both essential in match-point duplicate play? If that were the reason, let us assure them that there is as much pleasure in having accurately and scientifically extracted the maximum out of a hand as there is in bidding up to the skies or trying to prevent the opponents making a rubber. The winners in this event again were Messers M. K. Srinivasan and Devarajan of the Vani Athletic and the runners-up were Messers Sivaramakrishnan and Sundaresier of the M. U. C. The latter pair were particularly unlucky to lose the cup by the narrowest of margins. Congratulations, Vani Athletic for the hat-trick!

A Rajahmundry Event

The Bridge tournament organised by the Cosmopolitan Club, Rajahmundry concluded on the 1st of April 1941. More than 20 players took part. Messers T. S. Ramachandran, I.C.S. and R. Gopalakrishna Rao beat Messers R. Venkat Rao and Ch. Seetharamiah in the finals. The tournament created considerable local interest.

The Coimbatore Annual

The annual open Bridge tournaments conducted by the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club started on the 19th of April and concluded on the 27th. Auction dies hard and the Coimbatore Club is still loyal to this antiquated game. Two teams from Gobichettipalayam, The Arcot House team, Dr. Shastri's team from Trichy, S. Rajam Iyer's team from Tiruppur, the holders from Devakotta and the usual Coimbatore teams were among the 14 teams that took part in the team-of-four event. The one team from Madras could not come at the last moment and had to be scratched. So Madras went unrepresented this year at Coimbatore. But the Coimbatoreans did begin rather early and at very short notice too!

Devakotta by beating Tiruppur by a margin of 3000 and odd points and Gobi by beating the Arcot House by the narrow margin of 300 and odd points qualified for the finals. The final was played on the 22nd and it was an exciting affair. 32 deals were played and a close study of the score-sheets at the two tables reveals the vicissitudes of the game. One may generally conclude that there was not much to choose between the contestants, except that excellent team spirit won the match for the Devakotta holders. In the first 8 deals, Devakotta was leading at both tables, with 2,210 points at one table and 700 & odd at the other, the match-points being 7 to 1 in favour of Devakotta. At the end of 16 deals, their lead was still about 2000 and match-points were $10\frac{1}{2}$ against $5\frac{1}{2}$ for Gobi. Devakotta fell off during the course of the remaining 16 deals but won the match, however, by 690 points in the aggregate. Obviously

they got demoralised at some stage of the game, though the score-sheets do not show that there had been any 'kite-flying' by them or that the Gobi players had lured them into unmakeable contracts to secure any severe penalties. It is all in the game anyway. Thus Messers M. S. Krishnaswami, Chari, C. Srinivasan and A. Sundararajan of Devakotta annexed the Duplicate team-of-four cup for the second year in succession. Gobi, the runners-up, was represented by Messers K. R. Sundararajan, Nanjundiah, G. N. Jayaraman and A. R. Somasundaram.

The progressive event was held on the night of the 21st after an enjoyable dinner provided by the club. There were in all 13 tables and 26 pairs. Quite a good number of freak hands occurred in the 26 deals played and the treatment of freaks is always an interesting study. Most of the players extracted the best out of the hands and the bidding and play were generally of a high order. Messers J. G. Gnanadurai and Mylappan of the Arcot House team were the North-South winners and Messers M. S. Krishnaswami and Chari of Devakotta were the East-West winners. The redoubtable doctor (Shastri) from Trichy with his partner Y. Duraiswami, came out second best among the E-W pairs and Messers V. Srinivasier and C. K. Ramachandra Rao of the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club were the runners-up among the N-S pairs.

In the open Pairs (Rubber) event, Messers Shanmukasundaram Pillai and Balasundaram of Coimbatore beat the holders, Messers C. S. Krishnaswami and partner of the Agricultural College. The winners played a sound game throughout and were never inclined to under-rate any of their opponents. That, we believe, was the secret of their ultimate success.

In the Auction event, Messers K. R. Sundararajan and Jayaraman of Gobi won the cup. Well done, Gobi. Here is some consolation for the team-of-four cup narrowly missed by you!

Mr. A. T. Krishnaswami Mudaliar presided over the concluding meeting and gave away the Rolling Cups to the winners in the Auction and Rubber events and individual cups to the winners and runners-up in all the events.

The World Bridge Olympic 1941

What a pity, neither Madras nor Trichy was a centre for the game this year. Coimbatore was one. We do not yet know whether it was played in any other centre at all in India or again how many foreign countries participated. The event came off on the 17th April and most of the usual players from Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Gobi played at Coimbatore. We are awaiting the results.

The Union Club, Trichinopoly.

The Union Club, Trichinopoly conducted a pairs progressive Tournament in April last for the members of the club, including the members of the ladies' Annexe. 12 teams took part and the event, which was sponsored by Mrs. Coelho and ably conducted by Rao Sahib T. K. Thillavelu Mudaliar, was greatly enjoyed. Mrs. H. C. Hodgson and Mr. M. Lazenby who got 61½ match points were the North-South winners and Messers S. Sivaramakrishna Iyer and M. Ramachandra Iyer who secured 54½ match points were the East-West winners. The prizes were distributed on Thursday, the 24th April by Mr. M. A. T. Coelho, who gave a fine and humorous speech on Bridge, even though he doesn't know the game!

The Master Solver's Tournament

The response to this competition has, so far, been very disappointing. There were only 30 entries for the month of January and most of these were from the Coimbatore district. We have already stressed on the educative value of this competition and we hope that more members will compete. In order to enable them to do so, the rules have been amended to read that the credits for only 10 of the 12 months will be taken into account. Since even the answers for the 3rd month of March have not been received from America till now, those who enter the competition immediately can send in answers for the minimum of 10 months. Further particulars can be had from our problems Editor, Mr. S. Rajam Iyer, Advocate, Tiruppur, Coimbatore district.

Coming Events—The Indian Bridge World Tournaments

The Indian Bridge World is arranging to conduct a team-of-four tournament and a pairs progressive tournament at Trichinopoly shortly. The tournaments will be open to all readers of our magazine i.e. all members of the South Indian Bridge Association. We intend striking out a new line in the conduct of these tournaments. From a preliminary round in the team-of-four tournament played on the Mitchell system, the best four teams will be chosen to play the semi-finals and finals. Again from a preliminary round in the pairs progressive tournament played on the same system, the best 6 North-South and the best 6 East-West pairs will be chosen to play the final rounds on the Howell system, according to which there will only be 1 winning pair. Further particulars can be had from Mr. K. Rajagopalachari, B.A., B.L., Secretary, the Indian Bridge World Tournaments Committee, Union Club, Cantonment, Trichinopoly.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Here are the accounts of the Editorial Committee for the 12 months from 1st May 1940 to 30th April 1941:—

RECEIPT		EXPENDITURE	
	Rs. A. P.	V. No.	Rs. A. P.
1940 June	Opening Balance on May : 1 : 1940 ... 47 3 9	1940 May	
	Advertisement "Bidding made Easy" ... 6 0 0	1. Payment to Deccan Bridge League ... 15 0 0	
July	Advertisement "Royal Cycle Co., Madras" ... 31 14 0	2. Contingent-Iapal box Postage etc. ... 3 7 9	
	Receipt from Devakotta Office ... 0 4 0	3. Sketch Adv: Charge for "Bidding made easy" refunded ... 1 8 0	5 15 9
	Central Office contribution (for Feb. & May, 1940 issues), ... 56 3 3	4. Type charges ... 2 0 0	
August	Advertisement—"Desai & Co., Trichy" final instalment for May Issue ... 5 0 0	July	
	Central office contribution (balance for Feb. & May 1940 issues) ... 46 14 9	August	
Sept.	Nil	5. Contingent - Postage etc. Karaikudi Press ... 6 13 0	
October	Central office contribution (Rs. 70 for August 1940 issue and Rs. 25 as the refund of the amounts paid into the General Funds of the Deccan Bridge league) ... 95 0 0	September	
Nov.	Nil	6. Contingent St. Joseph's Press ... 1 7 6	
December	Nil	7. Printing 20 kinds of forms ... 38 1 7	
		8. Printing 350 copies of Magazine May: 40 ... 58 9 0	
		9. Packing, forwarding ... 8 12 0	
		10. Printing L. B. W. Letter heads ... 78 13 1	
			9 2 0
1941			
January	Central office contribution (for November '40 issue) ... 70 0 0	11. Stamps, Stationery account of the chairman for 4 and odd months ending with 11-10-'40 ... 9 6 0	
February	Advertisement (Guru medicines—half-year) ... 16 0 0	Nov: Contingent ... 1 11 6	
March	Central Office contribution (for Feb. '41 issue) ... 70 0 0	December 1941 ... 1 10 0	
April	Advertisement (Gani & Sons, Madras), ... 16 0 0	13. St. Joseph's Press Printing 500 Copies of Magazine (Aug: 40 Issue) ... 71 3 3	
	Sale of "Bidding made Easy" ... 7 0 0	Packing & forwarding ... 8 12 9	
	Advertisement Sharmam & Co., for Half-page—one year ... 20 0 0	14. Contingent typing etc ... 80 0 0	
	Advance payment by the Business Editor ... 10 10 2	February	
		March	
		15. Packing & forwarding ... 71 15 0	
		16. Printing 500 copies of Magazine (Feb: '41 Issue) ... 8 1 0	
		17. Packing & forwarding ... 10 4 9	
		18. Summary of "Gold Book" ... 164 0 0	
		19. Contingent - typing statements of accounts etc., ... 3 6 0	
			4 12 0
	Rs. ... 498 1 11		Rs. ... 498 1 11

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the *Indian Bridge World* for the year 1st May, 1940 to 30th April, 1941 and that the receipts and expenditure shown in the above statement are correctly stated and supported by proper vouchers. The Account shows a deficit of Rs. 10-10-2, the Business Editor having advanced the amount from his private funds in order to meet certain bills.

W. R. O. R. E.
TRICHINOPOLY,
3rd May, 1941.

A. S. Nallayya, F. C. I. (Btr.)

Auditor.

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Dr. A. MATHURAM, Trichinopoly.

HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY?

(For Answers see below)

I. The bidding has proceeded: North: 2 ♡. You, South, hold: 7, K 10 7 6, 9 8 7 3, J 9 8 5: What do you bid?

II. With North—South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 ♡, South: 1 ♠. North: 1 N. T. You South hold, A J 7 3 2, 3, K Q 7 5, K 10 4: What do you bid?

III. The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 ♠. South: 2 ♡. You North, hold: A J 4 3 2, 4, K Q 8 7. K 10 3: What do you bid?

IV. The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 ♡, South: 1, N. T. North: 2 ♠. South: 2 ♡, North: 3 ♡. You, South, hold J 8 7 5 3, K 8 7, 7 6, K 5 3: What do you bid?

V. The bidding has proceeded:—North: 1 ♡. You, South, hold: K 10 9, Q J 9 8 7, K 7 6, 7 6. What do you bid?

VI. The bidding has proceeded: North: 3 ♠, East: 4 ♠. South: Pass. You, West, hold: 10 7 6 5, J 5 6, 10 4 3, 9 6 5: What do you bid?

VII. The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 ♠, East: Pass, South: 1 N. T., West: Pass. You, North, hold: 8 7 5, A K 10, A K Q 3, 9 7. What do you bid?

VIII. With North—South vulnerable and sixty on score, East—West not vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 ♠, East: 1 ♠, South: Pass, and you, West, hold: A 7, 10 9 7 6, A K 7 5, 9 7 6: What do you bid?

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

I. Two no-trumps. True you have got 3 to 4 playing tricks; still you emphasize that you have got short of one honor trick at the first instance. At your next turn, give a jump bid in hearts. If you bid three hearts to begin with, your partner would credit you with over one honor trick and may not stop short of a slam, even in spite of your discouragement.

A jump bid at the second round gives an exact picture of your hand and its strength. Your partner could then safely decide whether to attempt a slam or not.

II. Three no-trumps. A singleton in heart and a five card suit in spades ought not to encourage you to rebid spades. If you rebid spades, it should be a jump bid at the three level.

Your partner will raise to four even with a doubleton, because you have discouraged contract in no-trump by your rebidding spades even after a one no-trump response by your partner. If the honour cards in spades are badly located, you may have to lose two tricks in trump itself and two more in the other suits. Thus the contract may be defeated. But a three no-trump contract is cold for any distribution.

III. Two spades. The suit is not rebiddable and the low cards are of the minimum variety. But after the bid of two hearts by your partner, any new bid by you is indicative of added values. So if you bid two no-trumps, your partner would jump to three no-trumps with the slightest excuse. The only way of emphasizing the minimum value of your hand is to rebid the suit originally bid by you. This is one instance in which a non-rebiddable suit should be rebid.

IV. Four hearts. That your bid of one no-trump is an absolute minimum is emphasized by your simple preference for the first bid suit. Your partner should expect a 3-3-3-4 distribution and about one honour trick. Even for that, he is prepared to play the hand at the three level. You have certainly a much better hand.

Your partner discloses seven playing tricks, expecting only two tricks from you. You have one ruffing value and that in the other bid suit. That would help to establish that suit probably without the loss of a trick, if your partner holds Ace and king. As, therefore, you have values additional to what your partner has placed with you, a raise to four is in order. Your partner has no business to bid three hearts after you have shown a minimum hand, unless it be that he wants you to bid game with the slightest excuse.

V. One Spade. You can certainly bid one no-trump or two hearts. But they are evidently under-bids, and your partner will drop the bidding even with a little above the minimum. So your response should be such as to evoke a response from your partner, disclosing his strength. Your hand is too weak for a three hearts bid or any other bid at the two-level. The only other bid at the cheapest level to compel your partner to keep the bidding open is one spade. Your subsequent bid will depend upon your partner's response.

VI. Four no-trumps. Your partner is prepared to play at five odd in any of the other

suits, irrespective of your holding. He invites you to disclose your longest suit. The three suits are of equal length and you cannot, therefore, show preference. Bidding four no-trumps, you tell your partner that the other three suits are only of three cards, leaving it to him to select the suit in which he would like to play the hand exclusively on the basis of the strength and distribution of his hand. You are also not raising the level. If you bid any other suit, passing the hand being out of the question, you mislead your partner into thinking that you have four cards in that suit.

VII. Pass. Pass with such a hand would seem at first sight to be very near mid-summer madness. But proper analysis of your hand and your partner's response would tell you that that is the only possible course. There is no other biddable suit. Two suits are wide open and your partner's forced response of one no-trump shows about one honour trick. He may at the most contribute two playing tricks. You may take six tricks if diamond breaks, if not only five. There is also the possibility of the opponents

running straight in one of the two unguarded suits. A game is not in sight, unless your partner has two honor tricks with both the unstopped suits of yours well guarded. You may possibly make two no-trumps, but when the game seems well-nigh impossible, it is better to stop at a safe margin. This is one of those hands in which with five to six playing tricks, you have to drop one no-trump.

VIII. Pass. North would try to bid one no-trump with the slightest excuse, if you pass, so as to snatch a vulnerable game at a cheap contract. Your side has no game possibility, though you have three honor tricks, because of the barren distribution. If after your pass, North bids one no-trump, you promptly double for a certain one trick set up to a possibility of three tricks set. If you bid one no-trump, even which is not safe, you may possibly make the contract, but North would not at all bid after your positive response of one no-trump. Thus you may lose the opportunity of doubling a one no-trump contract of the opponents.

IT'S SHARMAN

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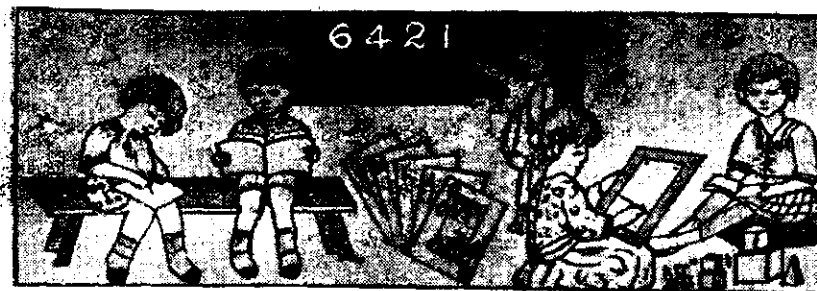
For the convenience of Bridge Enthusiasts and particularly the members of our Association, the following items will be stocked by the Central Office and available for sale at the prices mentioned against each item.

1. Plywood Boards for Duplicate Play, nicely finished with printing; complete set of 16 boards. ... Rs. 14-0-0 per set.
2. "Contract Bidding Made Easy" by Mr. A. M. R. David. ... " 1-0-0 each.
3. Printed Score Sheets for "Team-of-four" (32 Deals) ... " 0-15-0 per 100
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6. Scoring Cards for Progressive Pairs matches one for each Deal, per table. ... " 0-4-0 " "

N.B.—A Special Discount of 12½% will be allowed for Members of the South Indian Bridge Association.

Packing, Postage and other charges extra.

Write to:— **HON. GENERAL SECRETARY,**
South Indian Bridge Association, M. U. C., Park Town, MADRAS.



'TODDLERS' CORNER

The basis of bidding

A quick trick or an honour-trick or a defensive winner is a card or combination of cards which may be expected to win a trick under all circumstances, whether the contract has been purchased by the partnership or by the opponents. With A K x x x, you would, of course, expect to win about 4 tricks in a contract in this suit. These 4 tricks are called playing tricks. Even if, however, the contract has been purchased by the opponents in another suit altogether, the A K in your hand would be ordinarily expected to secure two tricks. These are called quick tricks. These quick tricks are the one relatively stable element in the flux of constantly changing values of long and short suits. A sound knowledge of quick trick values is, therefore, indispensable to every Contract bridge player.

The following table shows the quick trick values:—

A K Q	2½
A K J	2¼

A K } A Q J }	2
K Q J } A Q } A J 10 }	1½
A } K Q } K J 10 }	1
K x } Q J x }	½
K } Q x } J 10 x } J 9 x }	¼

These quick trick values are merely the initial valuations, when no information as regards the holding of the other hands at the table is available. These values would have to be revised, and revised considerably at times, in the light of the information subsequently disclosed as the bidding progresses. For example, an A Q valued at 1½ quick tricks and K. X valued at ½ quick trick would increase in value if the suit is called by the partner or the opponent on the right and decrease in value if it is called by

the opponent on the left. Again the quick trick cards should be valued liberally when your partner shows great quick trick strength and they should be valued stringently when the opponents, and particularly the opponent on your left, do so.

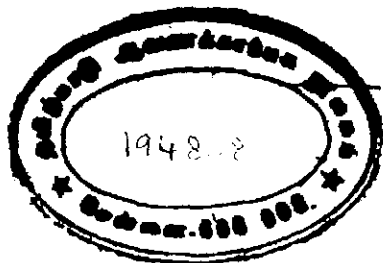
When supporting partners' suit, ruffing values in respect of short suits can be counted as equivalent to quick tricks. To avoid the danger of duplication, count a doubleton as $\frac{1}{2}$, a singleton as 1 and a void as $1\frac{1}{2}$ only. With four or more trumps, these values can be increased by 50 per cent. When the hand contains two short suits, only the shorter of the two can be counted.

There are about $8\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks altogether in the four hands in every deal, apart from ruffing values. The remaining $4\frac{1}{2}$ tricks are secured in every deal by low cards under cover of the quick trick cards. If a partnership holds all the $8\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks, it may ordinarily expect to win all the 13 tricks. The partnership is then in the grand slam zone. If the partnership holds 7 quick tricks in the two combined hands, it is in the small slam zone. If it holds 6 quick tricks, it is in the

game zone. If it holds 5 quick tricks, it is in the two odd zone. If it holds 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks in the combined hands, it is in the one odd zone. With average distribution, therefore, one quick trick can be ordinarily expected to yield about $1\frac{1}{2}$ playing tricks.

The aforesaid calculation is, of course, subject to distributional advantages or disadvantages. A long string of cards in one suit may yield a large number of playing tricks with very little quick trick strength. In the same way, a large number of Aces and Kings may give a proportionately small number of playing tricks when the distribution is a sterile one. But these distributional advantages or disadvantages or these distributional storms are the exception and not the rule.

Every player should, therefore, assess the number of quick tricks available with the partnership and with the opponents respectively at every stage of the bidding. This would enable a declaring side to choose the safest maximum bidding level and the defending side to challenge the contract through doubling whenever the bidding goes beyond this level.



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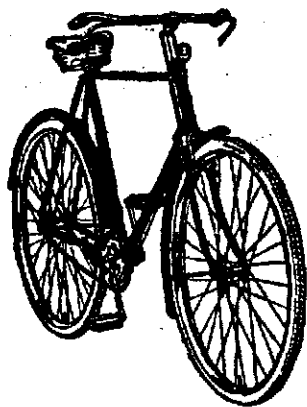
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