

MY MAGAZINE
OF INDIA

15th Sep - 1953



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MY MAGAZINE

15th September '53 OF INDIA Price 4 Annas

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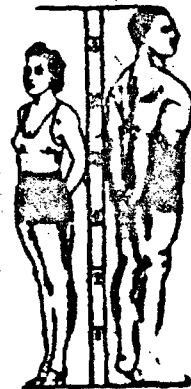


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My Magazine of India's MYWORDS No. 28

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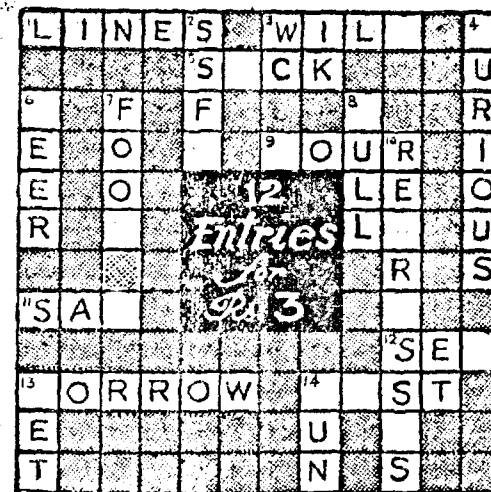
- Tackle the Clues on the right — to ensure a First Prize win.
- Man who has successfully tackled wife's — is apt to boast about it to close friends.
- Fear of getting — affects one more than the actuality of the thing.
- Man who is this usually makes a good father.
- Even the toughest man is likely to be made this by a woman.
- The faint-hearted will feel extremely nervous when in rough this.
- It is a pity that some people let their tendency to — become chronic.
- How odd that even the educated do not realise the value of this!

CLOSING DATE IN MADRAS:

7th NOV. 1953 (Subject to Rules and Conditions.)

KEY SOLUTION will be published in the 15-11-53 and Prize List in the 1-12-53 Issue of "MY MAGAZINE OF INDIA"

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DOWN

- Jumbled spelling of the word FUSS.
- The older people become, the greater seems to be their tendency to be this.
- It is unfortunate that gossip lovers fail to realise how disgusting is their tendency to — at others.
- It is quite a job pretending to relish a nauseating this.
- Person who has had quite a — day is better left in peace.
- Sets right.
- Bad this should sober up the really intelligent.
- After hard study, student would find really good this quite exhilarating.

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Dr. R.M. Singh, solid sturdy built, about 6½ ft. tall.

married life. Dr. Singh's books and treatment have been highly praised by leading journals, medical authorities and his readers and patients. For example:—

The Indian Librarian, the magazine which is a high authority on books and libraries, says, "Most of the books on sex life written in India are mere trash. But this book is

an exception. It is scientifically written and the knowledge imparted by it would go a long way to enrich the mind of the reader. The reviewer enjoyed the book.... Young Indians will benefit by reading it."

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My Magazine of India says, "The author has made a really creditable effort to present exhaustive and vital information... written in a very lucid and non-technical manner. It is a book that is worth reading."

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"I am going from bad to worse every day. I am always sad and gloomy, tired and exhausted. I have consulted all in my power, but none is capable of curing me. Please take this case only if you have enough courage, confidence and experience, otherwise leave me in the hell, leave me as I am. I am tired of treatments. By abundant loss of energy all my bodily organs such as stomach, liver, nervous system etc., have been utterly mutilated. I am very lean and thin, a bundle of bones. My mind is always occupied by various fears and apprehensions. I see my future dark and dreadful. Whenever I think of my future I hid my face and weep for hours."

Now Cured, Healthy, Happy. He wrote so many other things like these, but to cut it short, he was finally cured by this new treatment and was also married soon. He wrote several letters describing the progress of his case. In one he wrote: "My marriage took place on the 24th. It is only your encouragement, sane advice and sympathetic treatment that has pushed me so far. Indeed you have done for me which no one else would have ever been able to do." Then he tells how he was successful in his married life, and continues, "I am now quite all right.... Had I not chanced to write to you I do not know what would have been my fate. It is no exaggeration to say that you have saved me from suicide. I cannot even dream of rewarding you for what you have done for me but still

I dare to ask you for anything I can do for you. This is simply out of gratitude...."

Then after six months he wrote asking for advice about a disorder of his wife, and in that letter he also



Dr. R.M. Singh.

wrote:— "You would like to know my condition and how I am now. Your treatment is nothing but a magic, it put me on the road to life again. Now that more than 6 months of my married life are over, I tell you that my married life is successful and happy, as I could never imagine then. Really you have saved my life. Now I have no trouble of any sort. My general health also is now all right. I am grateful to you for all this."

— (Sd.) M.N.L., Amritsar.

His case, which runs into 8 pages if given fully in the above free book, and also many more such cases of ruined health in full details. This book has given a new life to hundreds of such hopeless youths. Write a card to-day for this book now sent free.

It is also meant for those who have no weakness or disease, but want to improve their health and to gain new energy for a greater satisfaction from their married life. It is sent under plain cover and all correspondence is kept private. Write to:

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— Competition Editor.

MYWORDS No. 28
Closing Date: 7-11-'53

FIXED WORDS

Across:— 1. LINES.

Down:— 2. SSEFU.

10. REDRESSES.

ALTERNATIVES

Across:— 3. WILE, WILL.

5. SACK, SICK, SOCK.

9. DOUR, SOUR.

11. SAD, SAP.

12. SEA, SET.

Down:— 4. CURIOUS, FURIOUS.

6. JEER, LEER, PEER.

7. FOOD, FOOL.

8. DULL, FULL.

INTERLOCKERS

Across:— 13. BORROW, SORROW.

Down:— 13. BET, SET.

Across:— 14. FAST, REST.

Down:— 14. FUN, RUN.

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(Fortnightly, published on every 1st & 15th)
32, BROADWAY, MADRAS-1

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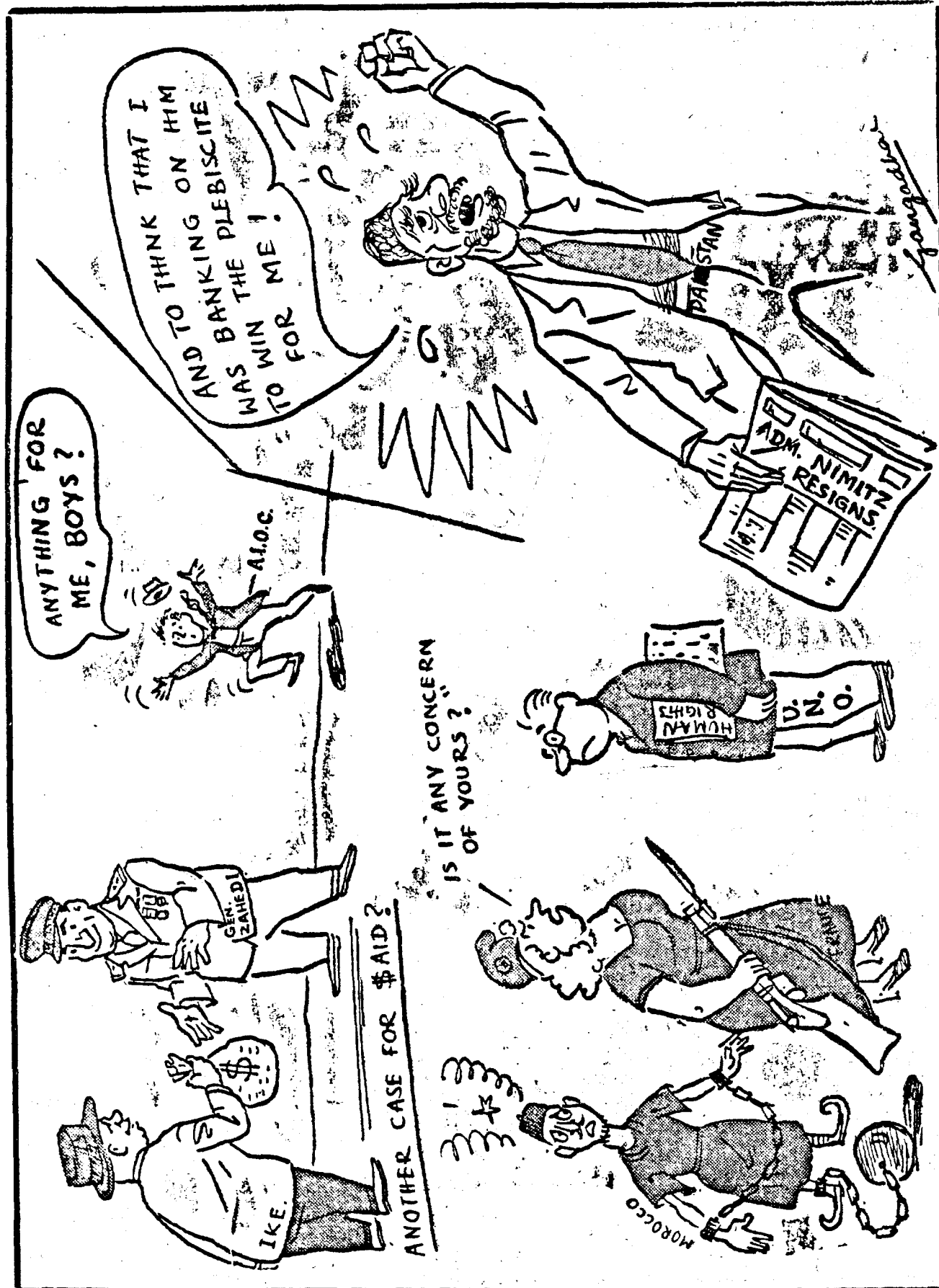
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MY MAGAZINE

OF INDIA

24th Year of Publication

Vol. 24 ::

MADRAS, 15th SEPTEMBER 1953

:: No. 18

PAKISTAN ADOPTS NEW STAND

EXTREMIST elements in Pakistan are engaged in their new pastime of slinging mud at the Delhi Agreement. So great was the pressure put on their Prime Minister that the Cabinet met repeatedly and a memorandum was sent to Pandit Nehru for clarification of certain points.

But Mr. Mohammed Ali's recent broadcast caused painful surprise and serious misgivings. He referred to the "repression and persecution by Bakshi, another Indian nominee put into power by the might of India's occupation forces." While in India, the Pakistani Prime Minister stated that he was convinced that India had no part in the internal developments of Kashmir. His broadcast suggested an attempt to re-open questions already settled and even go back on parts of the Agreement while pinning the India Government to the commitment about a Plebiscite Administrator being inducted into office by April, 1954.

Pandit Nehru had repeatedly stated that direct negotiations between India and Pakistan would produce quick results and he wanted no third party to interfere and create a deadlock. It was understood by everyone that the Delhi Agreement was the result of talks held outside the pale of the United Nations whom Pandit Nehru had described as the third party. There was also the implication that a Plebiscite Administrator would be a citizen of some South East Asian country or of some smaller European nation not belonging to any Power Bloc. Also the Government of Jammu and Kashmir must have formally to appoint him to office.

This understanding apparently came to nought when Mr. Mohammed Ali's Cabinet colleagues would not agree. In his broadcast speech, Mr. Ali hastened to assure his fellowmen that no attempt was made to bypass the United Nations. He denied that he had ever agreed to the dropping of Admiral Nimitz's appointment as Plebiscite Administrator. It is reported that the U.S. Admiral has been requested not to press the resignation that he had decided on and submitted long ago.

Indeed, Pakistan's faith in the American sense of justice seems pathetic. The Security Council had named Admiral Nimitz as the Plebiscite Administrator for Kashmir early in 1949 but later on confessed to failure in its efforts to bring the two parties together. The fundamental differences remained unresolved and the appointment of the Admiral had neither any value nor significance. If report is true, the Admiral himself forwarded his letter of resignation to the U.N. Secretary-General two years ago. And now, last-minute efforts are being made to have it withdrawn.

The Pakistani Prime Minister also repudiated the suggestion that he had recognized the present Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Significant was his announcement that all retrenchment in the Army had been stopped. "We have decided not to take the slightest risk in the matter," he said.

The truth would seem to be that extremists in Pakistan are afraid of the new strong man heading the Kashmir regime. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed knows that accession to India will assure the integrity and progress of his State and that Kashmiris have full faith in his leadership.

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NEWS AND NOTES

The Tamil Festival

Inaugurating the sixth Tamil Festival in New Delhi, President Rajendra Prasad paid a tribute to the greatness of South Indian languages which enshrined a rich literature. He expressed the hope that South Indians would learn the national medium out of their own free will. At the same time, he gave them an assurance that no attempt would be made to impose Hindi on the South.

Dr. Radhakrishnan, who presided on the occasion, said that Tamil literature and art reflected the progress of resurgent India. If ancient Tamil literature spoke of a golden age and a glorious past, no less significant was the contribution of modern Tamils to politics and administration, to science and art. He called on the Tamil Academy to bring out biographies of eminent Tamils and commended its work in giving great encouragement to artistes, scholars and others interested in the revival of our culture.

Speaking next, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, High Commissioner for Ceylon in India, praised the sponsors for celebrating the Festival this year in the metropolis and bringing home to the people of Northern India the richness and beauty of our language. He said that, according to some, Tamil was the oldest language in the world, and the sweetest also. "The fact that it has stood the onslaughts of time and survived, retaining its purity, shows that it has a vitality of its own which cannot be subdued."

Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, President of the Tamil Academy, said that among the spoken languages of the world Tamil was perhaps the most ancient. He

claimed that researches had shown that the Tamil group of languages had once spread all over India. "The language of the mountaineers in Rajmahal abounds in terms identified with Tamil. What is still more surprising is that names by which ivory, apes, peacocks, etc., are known in the Hebrew Bible are the same as still used in Tamil..."

Sri Chettiar was, however, cautious enough to add that the mere wealth of ancient literature was not enough to secure a great place for a language in modern times. It should be enriched with modern knowledge. "It must have within itself the scope, ability and capacity for self-expression of the people in various ways; it should also provide aspects of knowledge including the highest sciences." He announced that the Academy was busy preparing an encyclopaedia in Tamil and that the first of the ten volumes would be published shortly.

During the three days of the Festival noted *vidvans* and writers delivered lectures on ancient and modern Tamil literature. Dance recitals, *nagaswaram* performances and a screen show of *Avvaiyar* marked the concluding stages. An attractive souvenir was also issued to mark the occasion.

Adenauer's Return

In the general elections held in West Germany, Dr. Konrad Adenauer's Christian Democrats have won an absolute majority. In a House (Bundestag) of 487, they will be occupying 244 seats. Dr. Adenauer's success will give his Western allies good cause for satisfaction. Western Germany's rapid economic recovery and the recent food riots in Eastern

Germany helped the Christian Democrats to return to power. Though somewhat dictatorial, the old Chancellor rescued at least one part of the country from the chaos that threatened after the war and the Powers that came as conquerors stayed on as allies who gave liberal aid in money and material. It is indeed a victory for the Almighty Dollar!

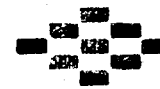
Western Germany actually went to the polls to decide the question whether she should join the Western Allies or keep aloof from the cold war. Dr. Adenauer will most certainly give his support to the European Defence Community and the Atlantic Alliance. His conviction is that pressure exerted through the Western Allies will ultimately compel Russia to quit Eastern Germany while his opponents claim that re-unification can be brought about only through peaceful negotiations with Moscow.

France, however, is nursing a secret fear that Germany may shortly oust her from the leadership of Europe. But immediate results are anybody's guess. The cold war is bound to continue with greater ferocity, and Moscow will tighten up the cordon round Eastern Germany. The Communists and the neo-Nazis have found no place in the Bundestag but their agitation outside Parliament may gather force.

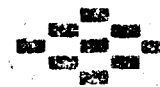
Katju Counsels Patience

Replying to the general debate on the Andhra State Bill in the Council of State, Dr. K.N. Katju, the Home Minister, hoped that the new Andhra State would turn out to be a model one and thus give a fillip to the movement for the re-organization of the country on a

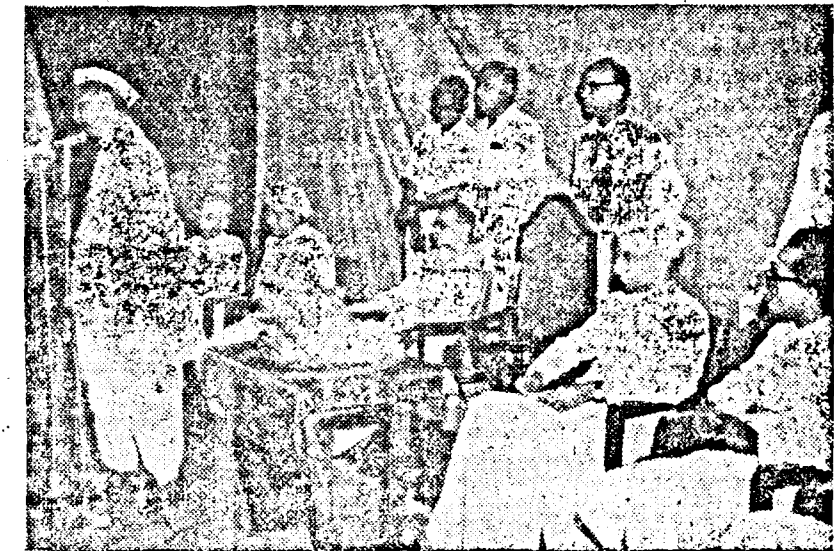
IN THE NEWS



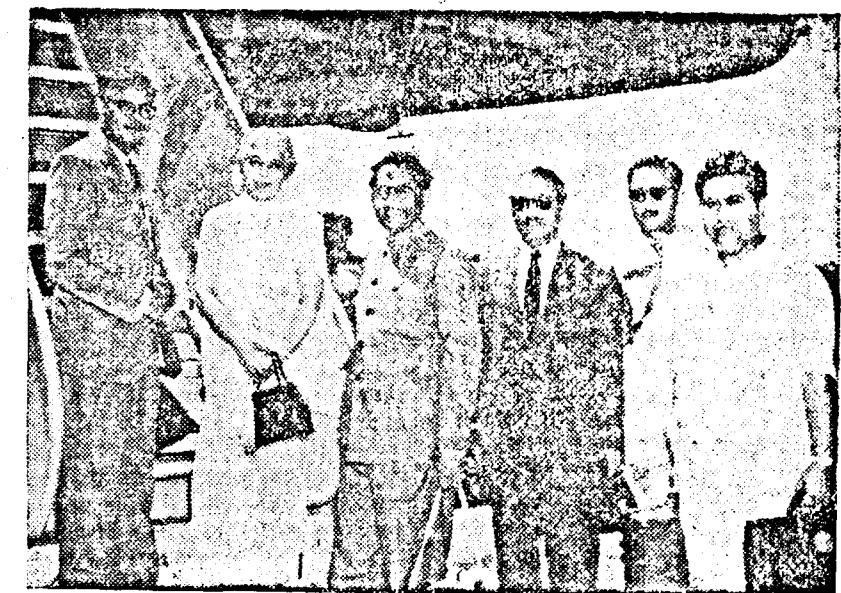
Sri Jayaprakash Narain, who toured the Madras State recently in connection with the Bloodan movement.



Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, United Nations Plebiscite Administrator for Kashmir.



The Sixth Tamil Festival, organised by the Delhi Tamil Sangham under the auspices of the Tamil Academy of Madras, was held recently at New Delhi. The three-day programme included exhibition of Tamil manuscripts, periodicals, specimens of Tamilian art and culture, music recitals and Bharatha Natya performances. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who inaugurated the Festival, is seen addressing the audience. Among those seated on the dais are Dr. S. Radhakrishnan who presided over the inaugural session and Dr. K. S. Krishnan, Chairman of the Reception Committee.



Srimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit, leader of the Indian Delegation to the U.N., accompanied by Sri Anil K. Chanda (third from left), Deputy Minister for External Affairs, and Sri R. Venkataraman, M.P. (left extreme), left Delhi for U.S.A. last week. They were seen off at the Palam Airport by Sri I. S. Chopra (third from right), Chief of Protocol, Government of India.

linguistic basis. He, however, cautioned his listeners that if the establishment of new linguistic States would mean a heavy drain on the Centre's resources, the issue would be put in cold storage.

Dr. Katju denied that he was opposed to the creation of linguistic States. The establishment of a new State involved many considerations of which language was just one. "Past associations, economic and financial factors were some of the other considerations that had also to be taken into account."

Dr. Katju added that there was also the question of priorities. The economic factor was of vital importance. The protagonists of a new State must give attention to the question of raising production and the standard of living. "No one wanted to stand in the way of re-organizing the States. After all, they were functioning as a democracy and if all the people wanted something, they could not stop it."

The Home Minister emphasised again that there was no attempt on the part of the Centre to dodge the issue. He assured the protagonists again that a high-power Boundary Commission would soon be set up to go into all aspects of the question. Its members would go round, hear all points of view and representations and submit a report. "Please do not be over-hasty or indulge in declamations," was his solemn advice.

Secondary Education

The report of the Secondary Education Commission suggests sweeping reforms calculated to equip the student for a professional career. Now most of the pupils who pass out of High Schools have a half-baked education and are neither fit to carry on higher studies nor talented enough to face life. By prescribing seven years of schooling, the Commission tries to minimise the number of students flocking to colleges.

It has suggested a three-year degree course which would mean the abolition of second-grade

colleges or their expansion to meet the new requirements. Subjects are to be taught in the regional language—in most cases, the mother tongue. The national language and one foreign language are to be studied at middle school stage.

The working days of the school should not be less than 200 a year and in public examinations the school records of a pupil are to be taken into account. Increased facilities for technical education are to be provided and there will be diversified courses at high school stage. And home science will figure prominently in girls' education. "The Commission has certain suggestions with regard to the curricula of studies and the manner in which diversified courses can be introduced at the high school and higher secondary stage. It is recommended that there should be a certain core of subjects common to all and that generally diversification should begin from the second year of study in the high school or higher secondary school. Among the core subjects so defined are the languages, social studies, general science and a craft."

In regard to the selection of text-books and books for general study, the Commission points out that the present method has serious defects. Unsuitable books are being prescribed and there are extraneous considerations behind the manner and method of foisting them. The Commission, therefore, recommends the constitution of a high-power committee for the selection of text-books. It will comprise among others a judge of the High Court, two distinguished educationists and the State's Director of Education.

On the whole, the Mudaliar Committee has rendered a great service in imparting new life and vitality to the present wooden and soulless system of secondary education. If State Governments are to accept its recommendations, certain new schools and courses have to be opened, more trained teachers have to be recruited and college education may have to be overhauled. All this would mean a heavier burden on the exchequer. We earnestly hope that

the report will not be pigeon-holed or forgotten for want of finance.

No Change

Dame Rumour has been silenced once again and the unseemly political controversy that rocked the State is now at an end. Sri C. Rajagopalachari is not to convene a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party to determine its leadership after the separation of Andhra Desa. This happy reassurance has been welcomed by all citizens of Madras.

There was a persistent rumour that some leading members of the T.N.C.C. held the view that after October, when Andhra would separate, there would be no need for the stewardship of Rajaji and that it would be better if he chose to retire, leaving his place to be filled in by some one younger. That was really an astonishing proposal to emanate from any quarter, and how wicked it was would be apparent to anyone who remembered the state of muddle in Madras politics after the general elections. The Communists had swept the polls, and the Congress was reduced to a minority. And it looked as if there would be no Congress Government at all. It was with difficulty that C.R. was persuaded to take up the unenviable task of clearing up the political mess. And in a few weeks the veteran leader so exercised his magic spell that the Congress Legislature Party had a new accession of strength and the "minority" became the majority and found itself in the saddle of power. The phenomenal success of the loans floated by the State Government was one more solid proof of the confidence that the masses had reposed in their matchless leader.

With partition of the State being accomplished almost, the residuary Madras State—rather, the Tamil State—is certain to be confronted with more complicated problems. It is needless to say that C.R. alone is best fitted to tackle them and lead us onward

India's Withdrawal

With restraint and dignity, Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon announced at the U.N. General Assembly meeting that India would withdraw her name from consideration as a member of the Korean Political Peace Conference. In doing so, he said, India was trying not to add to the heat of the battle.

Mr. Krishna Menon added that the one dominating consideration behind this decision to abstain from participation was how to bring about an atmosphere of peace. It looked as if the split between the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom over the issue of India's membership would become very serious and the differences would never be bridged. China and Russia, on the other side also, were insisting on India being admitted. This country did not desire to embarrass the Peace Conference in any way, and Mr. Menon's announcement came with dramatic suddenness and surprise. Britain and the Commonwealth countries showed their anxiety to include India in the Conference. While even South Africa kept neutral during the voting at the Political Committee, it was strange that Pakistan was found in the American camp, signifying her dissent.

Whether peace can be brought about in Korea through the Political Conference is another question. America is determined to walk out if nothing tangible materialises within three months. Apparently, she will present a sort of ultimatum to China and Russia, and the latter are sure to reject it.

Though many people, even in this country, have not correctly understood Pandit Nehru's foreign policy, U Nu, the Burmese Premier, gave a splendid elucidation. At a Rangoon press conference, he said that Pandit Nehru's attitude towards international problems was based on three main principles. The first was that war as an instrument of policy must be avoided.

The second principle which found its practical application in Korea was that "in the event of war breaking out it should by all possible means be prevented from spreading to Asia since the Asian

countries just freed from colonial exploitation are still licking their wounds."

The third principle reflected Pandit Nehru's anxiety that Asians should not fight Asians if war spread to Asia.

Handsome was the Burmese Premier's compliment to his Indian counterpart. "I consider Pandit Nehru to be the most remarkable man of our time," he remarked. "A section of world opinion which desires to see war breaking out in Asia does not grasp fully Pandit Nehru's real motives. Posterity may forget all his other achievements but the three basic principles of his foreign policy will always be remembered with gratitude."

Matthai's Analysis

Addressing a meeting of the Commerce Graduates' Association in Bombay, Dr. John Matthai made a deep probe into the causes of unemployment and suggested some short-term remedies that the State Governments and the Centre would do well to adopt. The ex-Finance Minister of the Government of India pointed to some glaring anomalies and contradictions in the present economic situation. The level of purchasing power was far lower today; so also was the demand for goods. Although industrial and agricultural production had expanded, the prices of commodities registered an upward trend. "Rising prices and increased production would presume better employment, but, instead, unemployment is increasing. In spite of the fact that the volume of money has dwindled, there has been a good response to Government loans, particularly of the State Governments."

In the ultimate analysis it would be found, went on Dr. Matthai, economic activity had failed to keep pace with the increase of population. Every year additional jobs had to be provided for more than a million adults. So the problem grew more and more unmanageable with the passage of time. And, now, with the gradual cessation of the war boom trade had shrunk both in volume and turnover. Specific industries, like tea, jute, mica and shellac had

been much affected because of a fall in foreign demand. Dr. Matthai also blamed the spate of welfare legislation for the present muddle to a large extent. While it sent up labour costs there was no corresponding increase in output. "It constitutes a strong factor operating against additional employment and in favour of retrenchment."

Among the remedial measures suggested by the speaker the most important was that Government should divert a part of the monetary and other resources from the public sector to the private. Credit restrictions should be lifted and "means must be devised for channelling credit into industries which can provide employment." And if the retrenchment axe was wielded in any industry or firm, a reasonable system of compensation should be instituted for those thrown out of work.

Since the situation may vary according to regional fertility or scarcity, industrial development or otherwise, State Governments must bestir themselves at once and tackle the problem in co-operation with the Centre. It is reported that the Planning Commission is subjecting the Five-Year Plan to re-examination for the purpose of providing more jobs for the unemployed. Roads may be built to link up remote villages with towns so that villagers can market the products of cottage industries and even perishable goods, like vegetables, fruits, etc., during all seasons of the year. Also a housing programme can be launched with advantage both in the urban and rural areas. For its successful implementation, however, authorities must ensure that there is plenty of building material, available at low cost.

"Laksharchana"

The Fourteenth Year Sri Lalitha Laksharchana celebrations are scheduled to begin on 9th October and conclude on the 17th at No. 148, Brodies Road, Mylapore, Madras-4. Those wishing to participate in the *pūja* may communicate with the sponsor, Jyothisha Rathna Pandit M. R. K. Murthy, at the above address.

Slips And Slaps!

[Baba Doodle passes in review the amiable and delightful Slips of the Great and the Mighty with his gentle and polite digs like the Laputan Flappers who respectfully roused the dreaming philosophers as it is authentically recorded in "Gulliver's Travels."]

SRI SRI PRAKASA, after all, feels happy! All these days, even the top leaders, not to mention the whole State, omitted 'Sri' before the Governor's name letting part of his name do duty for the prefix: but Sri Sri Prakasa is too good-natured to be vindictive.

The birth of the Andhra State is to be observed with austerity as Nehru advises; that is, the day is to be a fasting day, is it?

"700 tents in Kurnool," we read. Evidently, the legislators and officials who gather for their duties are to be trained for camp life, before they march North to accomplish the goal of Vishala Andhra.

The latest epidemic — Linguifurcation — has broken out in a virulent form in New Delhi. Major languages have been affected; nor are the dialects and sub-dialects, vernaculars and patois exempt, symptom being pronounced truculent intransigence. Experts are unable to say where the malady will stop.

Mr. S. S. Vasan's latest is *Avvaiyar*, hailed as the "Gemini Gem," but nobody grudges this universal wave of gratification except Mr. Vasan himself because his next picture cannot vie with *Avvaiyar*, and Vasan of the next picture will be his rival!

Pandit Nehru swears that he is determined to put down the "Go Slow" movement in factories, but then the learned Pandit forgets "Slow and steady wins the pay," "Haste makes waste," and "Festina lente" or "Hasten slowly."

"Eight crores of duty from cigarettes," is the proud claim of our Dy. Finance Minister. Who dare condemn cigarette smoking? What better testimony of patriotism among young and old?

Now that lovers of Tamil feel a new enthusiasm for Tamil they ask, "If Tiruvalluvar, who gave us the immortal *Tirukkural*, came down now, would he not be the most remarkable man?"

"Yes, he would be at best 2,000 years old, apart from other claims," was the answer given.

Who dare question whether King Dasaratha lived 60,000 years? Dr. Henry S. Simms of Columbia University has computed that man can have a life expectancy of 800 years and, in some cases, even of 22,000 years, if only, he can retain power to resist disease and can repair breakdowns as he does when he is about 10 years.

A centenarian henceforth is nothing to think of!

Sri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, was pleased that the work of the Discharged Prisoners Society was growing less and less.

At this rate, what is to become of the Discharged Prisoners Society?

Cinema Star pictures and undesirable picture designs on bush coats are to be banned — that is what a non-official bill in U.P. Legislative Assembly aims at. What about the boardings exhibiting Cinema Stars?

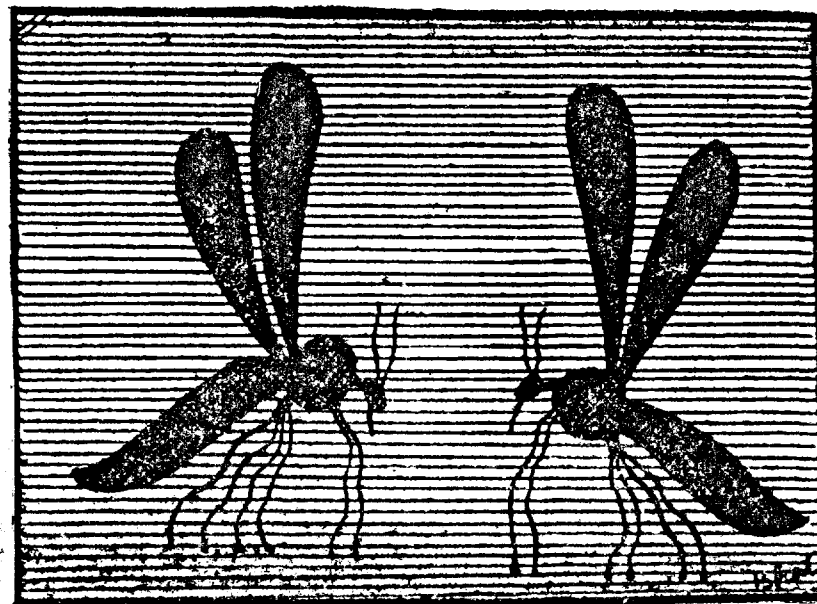
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, is 65, but those who know Dr. Radhakrishnan the Philosopher, Dr. Radhakrishnan the Educationist, Dr. Radhakrishnan the Litterateur, and Dr. Radhakrishnan the Diplomat, believe that he must be four times 65 to have accomplished what he has.

No wonder that complaints are growing that home or hotel gives you extra salt when the Production Minister announces that we have an exportable surplus of 2,00,00,000 maunds of salt which must be used up.

Quite a pleasing instance of a father's love came to my notice the other day.

"Ramayya, my boy, plays on the violin just like Dwaram Venkataswami," said the father. "What do you mean?"

"Why, sir, you have only to see Ramayya. He holds the violin under the chin exactly as if he were Dwaram!" — Baba Doodle,



Mrs. Mosquito (to husband): "Darling! Why should we starve like this? Why don't you ask for a loan from the Blood Bank in the Hospital?"

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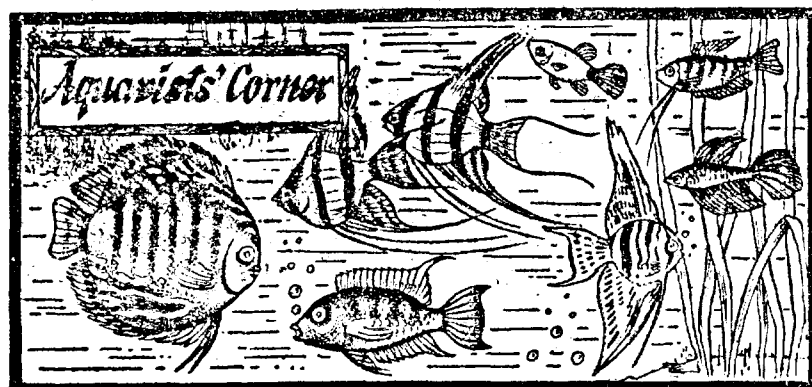
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OUR INDIGENOUS FISH—3

THE CHROMIDES

By "BIVIOR"

"CHROMIDE" — this name sounds rather odd, doesn't it? These are not minerals but fishes abundantly found in small tanks and rivers in the vicinity of Madras. The *Chromide* are despised and not much appreciated by the local aquarists as they are very common. But it is very important to note that the *Chromide* are the only *Cichlids* (one of the four important families of tropical fishes) found in our country. Just think of the other *Cichlids* like the Angels, Jack Dempseys, and Firemouths of America, and the Jewel fish and the Mouth-breeders of Africa. Well, the Indian aquarists too can feel proud of having the *Chromide* in the list of *Cichlids* to our country's credit.

The scientific generic name of these fishes is *Etioplus*, and only three species are available in our country. They are: 1. *Etioplus maculatus*, 2. *Etioplus suratensis*, and 3. *Etioplus canarensis*.

The above two species are found from south Canara southwards along the Malabar coast, in Ceylon, and along the Coramandel coast as high as the southern portion of Orissa. Francis Day, the great ichthyologist, has enumerated the habitat of these fishes seventy years ago. *Etioplus canarensis* appears to be locally confined to Canara, whilst the *Etioplus maculatus* extends throughout the region inhabited by *Etioplus canarensis* and *Etioplus suratensis* except that it is not found in

Orissa, whilst in Madras its range covers many miles inland.

Etioplus maculatus is popularly called the *Orange Chromide*, and is known in Tamil as 'Burrakas' or 'Pithalkas'. This fish scarcely attains more than three inches and a half, and these are caught in large numbers and consumed for food — the one fish that can jump from the aquarium into the frying pan at the command of the housewife!

The *Orange Chromide* is common along the coasts in every paddy field or tank or any piece of fresh water and is also found in brackish water. The river Cooum in Madras is always teeming with thousands of this fish. I have observed that the *Orange Chromide* obtained in the estuarine area are always brightly coloured and that their colour fades when they are transferred to fresh-water.

THE *Orange Chromide* is laterally compressed and the general colour is yellowish with a greenish back, and about seventeen horizontal lines of deep golden spots adorn the sides. Along the lateral line there are three black fingermark-like spots, the central one being the largest and darkest.

Though this fish is not much of a beauty, it is very very hardy and its breeding habits and the parental care are worth watching.

Unlike other *Cichlids* which are usually pugnacious and cannibalistic, the *Orange Chromide* is very friendly towards other fishes in a community tank.

An aquarium well dressed up with *Cryptocorine*, *Vallisneria* and other broad-leaved plants is an ideal home for this fish. Small-leaved and tender plants like *Cabomba*, *Awbulia*, *Hydrilla*, etc., should be avoided as the *Chromide* are very fond of plant food and algae.

There is not much charm in keeping a few pairs of the *Orange Chromide* in an aquarium, but a pair of this fish with a brood of over hundred young is a spectacular picture. When once this fish is acclimatized and conditioned to live in a tank of 36" x 12" x 12", breeding is not a difficult problem at all. The usual problem confronted by the aquarist is to determine the sexes. The sexes of the *Orange Chromide* are almost identical without much variation. Innes, in his book "Exotic Aquarium Fishes", has described that out of breeding season the male is just a little stronger in colour and has more red in the eye. He has also stated that some of their best aquarists have given this fish up in despair. Anyway, the *Chromide* is an exotic fish to the American, but let us not worry. A little observation every day will simplify matters.

THE male *Chromide* are usually brightly coloured during breeding period as is the usual case with other fish. Here is an easy way to pair your *Orange Chromide*. Keep half a dozen full-grown *Orange Chromide* in an aquarium, and feed them with all kinds of live food. In course of time the stronger of the males assumes brighter colours and begins to drive one particular female *Chromide* corner to corner with lightning speed. At this time all the other fish seek refuge in a corner or under the cover of plants. Sometimes the female fish which is being chased will mix up with the quiet crowd but suddenly the male will dart out into the group and chase her out, and at this time there will be a great skirmish of flashing "sovereigns," and though we may not be able to spot out the fleeing female, the male does

it very uncannily. Soon the whole aquarium becomes quiet except for the chasing activities of the first male and the female. Remove these two fish to another well-settled aquarium and watch.

THE male fish begins to make a crater in the sand by removing a mouthful of sand and blowing it out. This is the beginning of the nest building. The female fish understands what he means, and instead of fleeing from him comes to help her mate at his work. Courting begins in the depression. The male performs several twists while swimming round and many times swims on his sides round the female. Both the fish begin to work together over a stone or a broken piece of flower pot in order to get it smooth and clean. In a few days the female will become gravid. A small tube-like projection will be seen developing from the anal region of the female. This is the ovipositor or the egg-duct which will be about one tenth of an inch long. The female swims very close to the hard bed pressing her ventral region and the eggs are extruded in fine patterns. The eggs are adhesive and they stick on to the bed by means of fine filamentous membrane. She slowly moves away from there and allows the male to follow her course and fertilize the eggs. This act is repeated several times and the full spawn will consist of 200 to 250 eggs. The female will become perceptibly thinner and the ovipositor will slowly disappear. This is an indication that the spawning is over. Then both the parents, by turns, begin fanning the spawn with their pectoral fins. It is very interesting to watch this very particular habit; the labour is equally divided amongst themselves and when one gets tired it goes to the other, poking at it gently, reminding it of its turn to go to work. Both fish display the colours, and their rhythmic movements of spawning and hatching is a sight that cannot be forgotten.

On the second day after spawning, the parent fish engage themselves in making pits in the sand bottom by turns. While one fish is working on the pits, the other is watching and fanning the eggs. On the fourth day the eggs will appear to have suddenly

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disappeared, and many aquarists who do not know the breeding habits of these *Cichlids* come to the wrong conclusion that the parent fish had made a meal of the eggs. What actually happens is that the eggs hatch out and are removed to one of the pits by the parent fish and, on a minute observation, it will be seen in one of the pits a cluster of glossy globular things making convulsive movements. The parent fish take their young in their mouth in this stage from pit to pit. On the sixth or seventh day the young are able to swim about, and that is the time for any fish-fan to stop all his other work and watch the activities in the *Chromide* aquarium. The little school of young *Chromide*, 150 to 200 strong, surround the mother *Chromide* and they go out in search of food. The father *Chromide* keeps watch while swimming around the entire school, and if any youngster lags behind, he will catch him in his mouth and join him in the school. The young fish, for more than six or seven days, are looked after very diligently and if the aquarist is further interested in the combative nature of the fish, he can introduce a new *Chromide* and observe. The approach of any other fish is most courageously combated.

Etioplus suratensis is a bigger cousin of the *Orange Chromide*. This fish is popularly known as the "Pearl Spot" on account of the pearly white spots on its iridescent greenish-blue body. In Tamil and Telugu they are known as "Chetthu kendai" and "Buradamattalu" respectively, as they always bury themselves in mud to escape from their enemies.

This is a very heavy fish attaining about one foot in length and weighing three pounds, and so may not be suitable for small aquaria, and that may be the reason why it has never become popular. In outline, a compressed fish of this type, when viewed in its full colour in the right light, is really a show-piece. A brood of *Etioplus suratensis*, when they are scarcely an inch and a half long, will present a charming picture in an aquarium. Individually, a single large specimen or a pair in a large aquarium is more fascinating as they are noted for their elegance of movement and tameable habits.

THE "Pearl Spot" are commonly found in all back waters and brackish water ponds. However, these fish are easily conditioned to fresh water. The *Etioplus suratensis* lives mostly on aquatic vegetation and therefore this fish is introduced into lakes and fresh water tanks to keep down the growth of algae. Aquarists may be cautioned not to keep these in a neatly arranged aquarium containing delicate plants. A separate tank may be set apart for this fish. Plants like *Vallisneria* and *Aponogeton* are not much disturbed and so may be used to best advantage.

Although the *Chromide* are quite common and occur freely in the mouths of the Cooum and Adyar in Madras, very few aquarists seem to have enjoyed keeping these fish. The *Etioplus suratensis* has a modest disposition and is quite suited for the community tank. Give them the necessary tank-space and soon they will be your favourites.

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OF all the faculties with which *homo sapiens* is endowed, the most wonderful is his faculty of self-deception. He is proud of his faculty of discrimination, his keen subtle intellect, and his ability to choose the better way at all times and under all circumstances. But if, after pricking the bubble of his vainglorious self-praise, we evaluate his history in a detached manner, the fact is obviously otherwise.

Very often his intellect is misused by him to justify wrong attitudes and indefensible habits and customs and his brain is more often his foe than his friend.

Some years ago, I built a house for my residence and wanted to construct a modern flush-out in the place of a latrine of the old type. But some of my friends tried to dissuade me, urging all sorts of objections. The scavenger-woman said to me in all seriousness: "Swami! Do not construct the Bombay pattern (flush-out lavatory). It will be dirty and it will not work."

I felt that this view was wrong but felt paralysed and puzzled by such objections. I went to Dr. Nesan who is my guide, philosopher and friend in all secular matters. He was at the coffee-table imbibing the delicious coffee prepared by Mrs. Nesan. They plied me with many cups of the hot liquid and I felt full of a new courage and confidence. I then explained my dilemma to Dr. Nesan and asked for his opinion.

He laughed and said: "It is no wonder that you feel puzzled. I was myself puzzled but later on argued with myself and have

constructed a flush-out of the modern type. It is not only not dirty but is absolutely clean and is working perfectly all right. You are full of old-world ideas, Ramu, and so your resistance to new ideas is natural. Your advisers have evidently over-persuaded and deceived themselves. Man's power of self-deception is phenomenal. Don't you know the case of the flue-boys in England?"

I said: "I have not heard about them. I know only Shakespeare's lines:

'Golden lads and girls all must
Like chimney-sweepers come to dust.'

Dr. Nesan grinned and replied: "Ramu! You are, as usual, of imagination all compact. Of course, you are not a lover or a lunatic or even a poet. But how is it that you are so fond of poetry?"

I DID not quite relish the joke and said: "Never mind my love of poetry. Come to the point and the flue-boys."

Dr. Nesan said: "The last of the chimney-boys, Joseph Lawrence, died in 1949. By his time chimney-cleaning by boys had come to an end."

I asked: "What is chimney-cleaning by boys?"

He replied: "Very good, honest, tender-hearted persons used to send up their soot-filled chimneys young boys to clean them lest their homes should be burnt down. I may mention that in 1867 *Punch* quoted the following business card left by a chimney-sweeper with house-owners:

"William Burges, chimney-sweeper, No. 36, Bolton Street, Chorley, flatters himself in having boys of the best size for such branches of business suitable for a Tunnel or Chimney, and that it is now in his power to render his assistance in a more extensive manner than he usually has done. He also carries his boys from room to room occasionally to prevent them staining or marking any room floor with their feet."

"Thus very decent persons were able to protect their houses and their floors and carpets though at risk and even death to little boys."

I ASKED: "The technique of the flue-boys is not clear to me. Please be more explicit."

Dr. Nesan said: "Originally the houses had wide and winding flues. The vents were swept by servants standing in the fireplace with a long-handled brush. But later on chimneys became narrower and flue-boys came to supplant brushes. The urchins had to be undersized.

"Employers used to buy them like dogs or even kidnap them and hire them out. Urchins who were four or five or six years of age were sent up soot-caked chimneys which were often only nine inches square and which went up as high as sixty feet. They had to work their way aloft by pressing their knees against the walls of the chimneys and haling their bodies up, their arms extended above them. With the aid of rough scrapers they loosened the encrustations of soot.

"The horizontal flues were far worse than the vertical ones, because the soot collected there was very thick. The job would take from one to six hours. Meantime, the noble and tender-hearted

gentlemen and ladies who owned the houses used to be happily asleep."

I felt horrified and remarked: "That means that their conscience was asleep or dead."

Dr. Nesan asserted: "Not at all. That is the way of the world. Such is man's power of self-deception. Some master sweeps used to apply an extra incentive by lighting straw or paper under a boy whom they suspected of idling in the flue. In *Oliver Twist*, a sweep says that it is not good to light damp straw under a boy because 'smoke only sends him to sleep and that's wot he likes. Boys is very obstinate, and there's nothing like a good blaze to make 'em come down with a run.'"

I WAS too shocked to hear this and my breath stopped for a minute.

Dr. Nesan continued: "Ramul Go easy. The boys felt it better to do the job than to go back to their parents. Scylla is better than Charybdis. Becoming crippled in a flue is better than to be starved or beaten at home. No doubt the price for sending a boy up a hot chimney was only five shillings or half a crown. But half a loaf is better than no bread."

"I shall tell you about one unusual case. A large party was invited to dinner. But half an hour before dinner there was an alarm that the kitchen chimney was on fire. The cook was frantic. So a little boy was sent up the chimney. A roasted boy was nothing compared to the upset of a grand dinner-party!"

I felt almost frantic: "Dr. Nesan! I feel ill. I shall go home."

Dr. Nesan said: "Take courage. What I narrate is only past history. Boys do not go up chimneys now. Keep your compassion for other unfortunates."

I asked: "Why was there no agitation in the Press or Parliament?"

He replied: "Oh, yes, there was! But the press magnates and the legislators were tarred with the

same brush. The opposition to reform came from them — nay, from the sweeps themselves."

I asked: "Even from the sweeps?"

He replied: "Oh, yes! You see, it was a civilised profession. The sweep became, in course of time, a master-sweep, i.e., an employer of sweeps. The circle of cruelty thus became full and complete."

I asked: "What about the poets?"

Dr. Nesan said: "You are getting back to poetry, I see. The poets sympathised with the boys but felt that the scandal could not be stopped by a sonnet."

I asked: "What about the philanthropists?"

DR. NESAN said: "They were kind-hearted but felt doubtful if the flue-boys could be dispensed with. Jonas Hanway wrote: 'If we cease to employ children in this work we must be at an additional expense in breaking tiles and taking off and putting on the earthen chimney-tops; and whether our humanity will reach so far as that is the question.'"

I asked: "What happened finally?"

Dr. Nesan said: "In 1788 the first of the chimney-sweep bills was introduced into Parliament. William Toske, the philanthropist, formed a 'Society for superseding the necessity of climbing boys.' This Society tried to popularise the use of a chimney sweeping device invented by George Smart (known as the 'Scandiscope') which was not unlike the sweep's jointed brush of to-day."

"The master sweeps carried on an agitation against the innovation. Some of the sweeps said that it robbed them of their legitimate perquisites; others even said that a brush was hard to operate; and yet others opined that the brush was undesirable because it was too easy and would open their trade to the unskilled!"

"But all the same, in 1817 to 1819, Henry Grey Bennet, the Radical member for Shrewsbury,

supported by the great William Wilberforce — the liberator of slaves all over the world — brought up a series of petitions and bills in Parliament. Despite the vagaries and contradictions in the evidence before Committees, the truth became clearer and clearer."

"Strangely enough, F. M. O'maney, M. P., opposed the reform. One gentleman said that it was better that boys should sweep chimneys than idle in the work-house. One Parliamentarian was humorous and said that 'it was a matter of very doubtful curiosity whether a smoking chimney or a scolding wife were the greatest evil.'"

"The peers threw out the Bill. Nay, the Religious Tract Society urged the sweeps to go to Sunday schools and become good Christians and save their souls! Thus those pious people thought that the climbing boys had been created by the Almighty to sweep chimneys!"

I asked: "How did the dismal tale end?"

Dr. Nesan said: "It ended well. All's well that ends well. The matter came up again in Parliament — this time with full success. Charles Kingsley's great work (*The Water Babies*) whipped up public opinion. In the eighteen-seventies, a climbing boy was suffocated. This again intensified public feeling. In 1875, the Royal assent was given and the misfortunes of flue-boys had an end in Britain. The reform was soon effectuated in other Western countries also. Thus it took centuries for man to open his eyes and find that a chimney could be swept humanely and effectively better by pushing up a brush than by pushing up a boy."

I asked Dr. Nesan: "What is the moral of it all?"

DR. NESAN said: "Man's self-deception is phenomenal. His conscience often goes to sleep. Do you not know how in Madras many persons who went down to clean wells died of suffocation some years ago? Things have mended now. Ramul! Go home and construct a modern flush-out and thus follow the dictates of commonsense. Here science and philanthropy are at one."

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MURTHY was still in his bed in that self-satisfied state that lingers between sleeping and waking. Such a state, not infrequently, preceded his full awakening to the grim struggles of the day which formed part of Murthy's routine for some time past. Vimala, his eleven-year-old daughter, noiselessly, crept up the creaky, rickety staircase and quietly sat by the side of his pillow, patiently waiting for the father's waking up.

Her gentle eyes unmistakably reflected some deep anxiety within. To her, the waiting seemed long and unbearable though it covered hardly a few minutes altogether. Murthy just opened his eyes several times but only to close them again immediately to enjoy the comforts of the gentle slumber of the early hours—perhaps the only time of undisturbed peacefulness allotted to him by an unwritten ordinance of Fate for the past few years. Vimala was losing her patience and gently began calling, "Daddy—daddy!"

Murthy became dimly conscious of somebody calling. On gaining surface consciousness he heard his sweet, little Vimala saying in a voice, hardly above a whisper, "Daddy, pray, get up, it will soon be time for me to leave

for school. Do try to pay my school fees at least to-day, please. It is only a small sum.

"These three days I have not been going to school, you know, daddy, as I have not paid the fees even after the extended time to pay with fine. Let me go to school at least to-day. But if I go without the fees, they will send me out, father. We have got the stitching class to-day. That is held only one day in the week. I am so fond of learning stitching and I am the first in stitching lessons, as you are aware. You have got so many friends who always come to you. Some of them will surely give you if only you ask them and you can earn and pay them back soon."

HAVING spoken these words almost in one breath Vimala paused for a moment, partly to gain her breath and partly to watch the outcome of her appeal.

Murthy rubbed his drowsy eyes with the palm of his hands, resolutely shook off his laziness and sat up in his bed. He was painfully conscious of a vague, uneasy, feeling permeating his whole being and gripping his

A Stitch In Time....!

by P. S. Parameswaran

thoughts. With a weary yawn and eyes filled with a fond but plaintive expression he just glanced at Vimala, and then turned his eyes in the easterly direction as though he had no definite hope to give her.

From where he sat in his bed, Murthy could clearly see, through a window, the splendid glory and the gay liveliness of the early morning pervading the whole atmosphere. Yes! Gay and lively the morning certainly was. Yet Murthy wished that the morning had not arrived and that the night had continued, leaving him to his only peaceful moments between the dead of night and dawn.

FOR, to him, the break of dawn only meant the starting of distractions, of attempts at adjustments, of appeasement of clamorous creditors, of finding ways and means for sundry routine items and needs of the day and of raking his brain to solve numberless difficulties and matters ranging from the finding out of the washerman to the tackling of the vegetable vendor. It was, therefore, small wonder that the liveliness of the morning was not only lost upon Murthy but he felt the break of day to be a positive infliction on him. Perhaps it was this underlying reason that had made him a habitual late-riser.

Yet, with slow deliberate steps, Murthy got down, the creaking, rickety stairs silently followed by Vimala. After the preliminary wash and without waiting for the usual bath he sat down, without a word, awaiting his morning cup of coffee, more out of habit than out of craving. His wife presently came in and deferentially placed before him the steaming cup of coffee with a face full of silent concern. Vimala standing close by. Murthy cheerlessly drank the liquid at one gulp without appearing to

15th September 1953

enjoy it in any manner. All the while no one uttered a single word or spoke to one another. Each was fully preoccupied with his or her own thoughts and feelings.

Presently, Murthy got up, put on his coat and stepped out of the house into the street with heavy thoughts and a cheerless expression on his face. He had no clear idea as to where to go or what exactly to do. Only, he was vaguely aware of some pressing necessity to act. Vimala's plaintive face and appeal had scorched his mind. Goaded by these, he walked on automatically as in a dream.....

THAT was one of the mornings on which Murthy had an occasion to pay a round of visits to many of his friends including some whom he had not met for several days. About two hours were spent in this way. Each case of visit, almost invariably, consisted in initial cordial greetings and welcome, followed by a short friendly talk on some subjects and ended in parting after a whispered conversation for a brief second. Indeed, it was an empty round.

A good deal of time was thus spent and Murthy, in the midst of these disappointing experiences, recollected that the time was up for him to return home and attend to other matters. He also felt convinced that no useful purpose would be served by further efforts in this manner. With a deep forlorn sigh he retraced his steps homeward.

The vague, uneasy feeling now took shape and appeared in one of its forms as a reluctance to return home. Yet, with a weary spirit, he dragged himself back. His legs appeared to have suddenly developed a sprain. The heaviness of his thoughts and the gloom of his mind only added to make the way back home more tiring and tedious.

Various kinds of thoughts now began to surge up in and agitate his mind but there was, at the moment, no place for any reflection of a philosophical nature which would, perhaps, have eased his mind a little. Nor did he give room in his mind for any feeling

MY MAGAZINE

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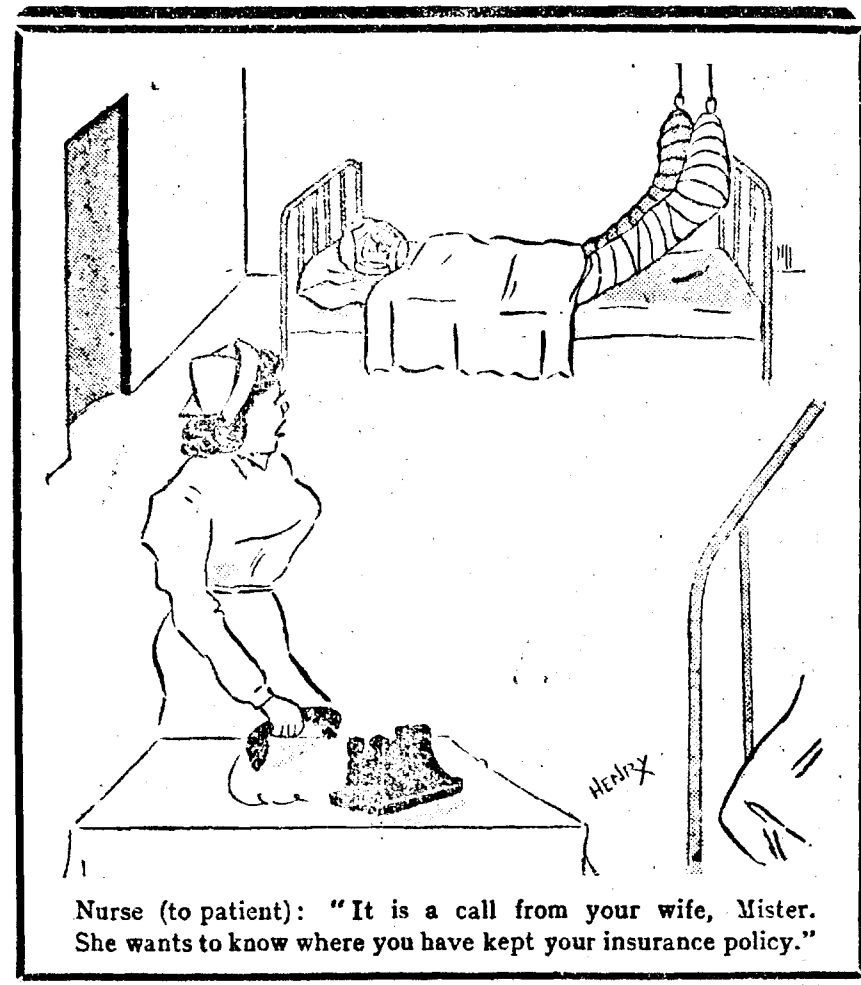
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of bitterness or complaint against any of the friends he had visited. In one strain he was feeling that, perhaps, the earnestness he brought to bear on his efforts was not sufficient in strength, that if he had done this or that more or that if he had spoken in a different manner, or that if he had persisted more, sinking all sense of personal pride or prestige, he might have succeeded in his attempt.

IN another strain he felt that he had gone to the extreme limit consistent with decency and what he considered to be his position and status in life. In yet another strain he felt that he ought not to have made such an attempt at all, but at the same time he thought that he would have failed in his duty if he had not made any attempt. But whatever that might be, the effect was just as good as his having made no efforts at all. For, the world rarely

judged by the sincerity or the purity of the motives or the earnestness of the efforts.

BURDENED with such thoughts, Murthy was walking his way back home. It was nearing 10 a.m. The arrestingly buoyant and sprightly atmosphere mingled with peals of gay laughter made him abruptly aware that he was almost in front of Vimala's school. A pang shot through his breast as his eyes met groups of well-dressed, cheerful, happy boys and girls, prancing about, playing and busying themselves with school work. Two or three companions of Vimala, clumsily carrying their formidable bundle of notebooks and books, together with some stitching materials, promptly went up to him and asked in a most intimate tone, "Why has Vimala not been coming to school? What is the matter with her? To-day we have got stitching class. Will she not be coming to-day?"



Nurse (to patient): "It is a call from your wife, Mister. She wants to know where you have kept your insurance policy."

Murthy, with a supreme effort of will, controlled his feelings and concealed his agitation as he said, "Vimala has not been doing quite well, my dears," and quickly walked out of sight of the school and its atmosphere.

It was not yet 10 a.m. and Vimala was waiting with feverish anxiety at the threshold of the house beyond the gate and covered by it so that she could see the children going to school without herself being seen. As Murthy entered the gate about a dozen yards from where she stood she ran up to him and breathlessly asked, "Daddy, can I go to school?"

Murthy did not say anything in reply—he ventured not to reply—but passed on without even looking her in the face. Vimala understood. She knew that she was not to go to school that day, that the stitching class was missed. Her face fell, her bright eyes grew dim; a few drops of tears rolled down her soft cheeks. She spoke not a word but noiselessly crept up the creaky, rickety staircase and sat at the window overlooking the easterly direction; from there she saw and noted a number of her companions hurrying gaily on to school. Who could divine what thoughts were passing in her mind and agitating her soul as she watched her gay happy companions going to school?

AT dawn on a gay and lively morning, eleven years later, Murthy was hurrying towards the Railway station. He entered it just in time for the express train steaming up to the platform, panting and hissing. Through the thick crowd and the piles of luggage Murthy was squeezing and pushing himself forward, excitedly looking into the emptying railway compartments. Presently from a compartment, about ten yards off, came a pleasant voice, "Daddy, we are here! Please come up here!"

It was the sweet voice of his daughter, Vimala, and Murthy recognised it, at once, with relief. She lightly stepped out of the compartment looking tired and fatigued, yet smiling and happy.

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She was closely followed out from
the railway compartment by a
young man of about twenty-five
years. He was of fair complexion
and cheerful looks, his whole
bearing suggestive, at once, of
nobility of thought and reliability
of character. He looked active
and energetic, though the marks
of the long travel were discernible
on his face and dress. Soon the
three, with a pile of luggage,
were driving in Murthy's car and
duly arrived at his tidy bungalow
where the whole household greeted
Vimala and her happy partner with
warm and tumultuous pleasure.

AFTER a quick wash, they sat up
for the much-wanted morning
coffee, talking and laughing in
confused, loud tones. Presently
Vimala took a bag from out of the
pile of luggage and served them
with various kinds of sweets.
While serving them Vimala asked,
with becoming modesty, "Daddy,
how do you like these sweets?"

They are not of the kind usually
available in these parts. They
are of a rare variety that you get
only in those parts."

"**THEY** are very good, Vimala,"
replied Murthy, glowing all
over with happiness. "And I like
them immensely. But let me tell
you that I like the bag, containing
them, even better. It looks so very
pretty and skilfully made. Where
did you purchase it from, Vimala?"
he enquired, softly handling and
examining the bag.

"Oh! that?" replied Vimala.
"Why, father, I made it. It took
about one month for me to stitch
it and put up the embroidery."

"You stitched it, Vimala? Eh!
really? But when did you
learn ...?"

But before he could finish the
question, something seemed ab-
ruptly to choke his throat, some



Cartoonist: "Wow! That cartoon I showed him sure had
some kick in it!"

hidden chord in his heart appeared
to have been painfully pulled up;
a whole train of pent-up thoughts
and recollections rushed through
his mind. The glow of happiness
deserted his face. A momentary air
of gloomy silence seemed to have
fallen over the erstwhile happy,
boisterous scene.

VIMALA appeared to recall, as in
a flash, some old memories to
mind and understood the cause of
this sudden development. She was
the first to break the gloomy silence
and said in a most soothing way,
"Why remind yourself of past
bitterness, dad? Feel happy
over the present as you have every
reason to be. Whatever was your
fault? It is not a fault to have
to face difficulties in life; one ought
to be proud of it. Want and
poverty are not crimes in them-
selves. Your motives have always
been self-denying and lofty and
it is not your fault if the results
have not been as each one would
have wished. We do realise now
how bravely you contended
against a variety of adverse
circumstances. And was it not all
for our sake? If only we had the
sense to understand you with sym-
pathy and cordiality, it would have
better preserved your physical
health and mental energy. But
let us feel that all is well that ends
well. And fortune is a fickle dame.
You gave up your clerical job and
started what seemed a small busi-
ness in coffee seeds and powder,
but it brought you lots of money.
Let us offer our thanks to the
Lord for it all."

Vimala's mother was standing by,
intimately interesting herself in the
whole scene with eloquent silence.
At these words streams of tears
rolled down her gentle, patient
cheeks, releasing in the process a
flood of unaccustomed happiness
and reflected pride and with her
eyes shining with pleasure she said,
"Very well, please get ready for
your bath and for the meals so
that you can take some rest as you
must be awfully tired after the two
days' journey."

And as they all got up Murthy's
face was wreathed in smiles again.
He said, "Yes, Vimala, I am now
happy and may the Lord be praised.
Only do not forget we owe every-
thing to Him and Him alone."

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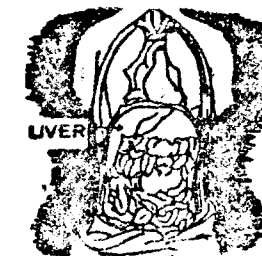
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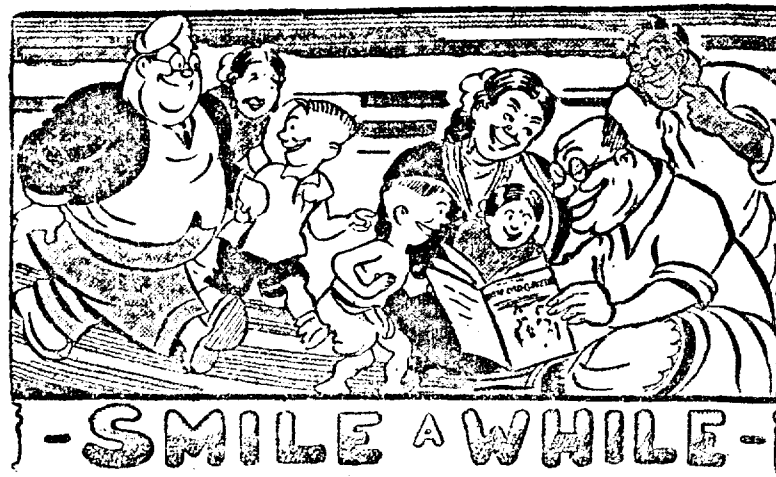
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IN a cafe in Rome, one customer said to another: "If I'm not mistaken, we met here last year."

"Really? Do you recognize me?"

"Well, not you, perhaps, but your umbrella."

"Oh, but I don't think I had it then."

"No, you didn't—but I did."

Beside the Question

"Really, Miss Jones, you don't seem to know what punctuation means."

"Gosh! I like that; I'm here every morning from five to nine!"

Stepped on Fingers!

"Did you get home all right from the party last night?" a man was asked.

"No trouble at all," he replied, "except that just as I was turning into my street, some fool stepped on my fingers."

Temper (a) mental!

"Don't take it to heart," said the stage manager to the sceneshifter who had just had a clash with the star. "It's just that he's a bit temperamental."

"I know," said the sceneshifter. "Half temper and half mental."

How Awful!

"I have lost my wallet. I have looked in every pocket except this left one in my trousers."

"Why not look there?"

"I dare not—think how awful it would be if it were not there!"

THEY were discussing a certain undefeatable and irrepressible politician.

"Well," summed up the smoke-room philosopher, "I'll tell you this about him. He might have typhoid and recover; he might have pneumonia and recover; he might have cerebral meningitis and recover; he might have yellow fever and recover; but if he ever had lockjaw, he'd burst."

What a Question!

Ambulance man: "What is your name? We want to tell your wife what has happened."

Injured man: "She knows my name."

Verdict!

A cinema company was shooting an outdoor scene for a film when an elderly woman walked into the "danger area." One of the technicians yelled: "Don't go that way! They're shooting a movie."

The woman replied: "If it's anything like the one I saw last night it deserves to be shot."

Puzzling

Critic: "By George, old chap, when I look at one of your paintings I stand and wonder..."

Artist: "How I do it?"

Critic: "No; why you do it."

Head or Tails

"The horse I was riding wanted to go one way, and I wanted to go another."

"Who won?"

"He tossed me for it."

IT had taken the entire morning for old Zeke and his mule to tow the tourist's car down to the village garage. When he returned home his wife asked, "How much did you charge that city fellow, Zeke?"

"Fifty cents," Zeke answered. "Guess it was all right. He didn't kick up no fuss about it."

"Fifty cents! I swear, Pa, sometimes I wish you'd do the pullin' and let the mule handle the executive end of the deals."

So Ancient!

Moss Hart drove up in his new automobile. Alexander Woolcott took a look and sniffed. "What outlandish mode of vehicle might that be?"

Hart said loftily: "That is my new town car."

Woolcott lifted an eyebrow. "And the town, I presume, is Pompeii?"

Benefit Performance

A young man walked breezily into the doctor's surgery.

"Ah, good morning, sir!" he said. "I've just dropped in to tell you how greatly I benefited from your treatment."

The doctor eyed him up and down. "But I don't remember you," he said. "You're not one of my patients."

"I know," replied the other, "but my uncle was, and I'm his heir."

No Need to Worry!

All through the game, an excited fan had been yelling his home team to victory. Suddenly he became silent, turned to his companion and whispered, "I've lost my voice."

"Don't worry," was the reply, "you'll find it in my left ear."

Retort Courteous!

The story goes that a Royal Navy ship in the Mediterranean met up with a regular flotilla of American ships. The Yanks hailed her, "Good morning. How's the second biggest Navy?"

"Just fine," came the unhesitating R.N. reply. "How's the second best?"

SAMUEL BOGGINS having all the symptoms of dyspepsia, visited his doctor and complained that none of his food agreed with him, pains and discomfort resulted from every meal.

Following a cursory examination of his patient the doctor said, "It's your stomach, here's a prescription to be made up at the chemist's, take the medicine three times a day. It's for your stomach, but you must also diet."

Boggins, a simple man, stared at the doctor wondering, then went home.

A month later he was again seeing the doctor. "Well," said the medical man, "how's the stomach—did you diet as I told you to?"

The patient hastily unbuttoned, lifted up his shirt and exposed a stomach dyed a vivid blue!

Whose Boots?

Sambo borrowed a pair of rubber boots from Mose. Time passed and the boots were not returned.

They met.

Said Mose: "Sambo, when is your gwine gimme back them boots, of mine?"

"Ah ain't got your boots," answered Sambo. "Ah traded 'em for a pair of my own."

Acknowledgment!

A governess was trying to explain to her small charges what good manners meant, so she held out one large and one small piece of chocolate, saying:

"Now, I want to see which of you has the better manners."

"Oh, Tommy has!" said the smaller child, snatching the larger piece.

Tough Luck

Poulterer: "Er... Mrs. Wiggins, may I remind you that you have not yet paid for that last chicken you got?"

Customer: "No. As a matter of fact, my husband sprained his wrist so badly carving it that he hasn't been able to write out a cheque."

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Precepts FOR Practice

BY

His Holiness Maha
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SARASWATI

It is impossible that the consciousness can ever come to an end. Hence, there must be re-birth. Otherwise, what happens to the *jiva* after it shakes off the physical body? It must exist in a different form of consciousness suited to its further growth into greater fullness. That consciousness perishes at the time of the death of the physical body is a childish idea. Consciousness is eternal and it persists even if one thinks he is dead. It is only logical reflection and meditation that can determine the possible condition of the essential nature of the human being. The person who is revelling in one consciousness cannot have the experience of its superior state. Only the death of one state can reveal another state, because all individuals are locked up within their personal experiences. The individual nescience is not a proof to deny the existence of different states of life.

It is very ludicrous to believe that there is no soul at all beyond the body. It is true that extinction is the final stage of all 'organizations,' but 'consciousness' is not an organization. It is an external verity untouched by change and decay. Man may change his form of individuality, but he cannot change the eternal awareness which is his very existence. Behind all thoughts, there is a consciousness of thought, and one cannot get behind this

consciousness. To rest satisfied that the world is everything, may be the pleasure of the deluded mortal. But sage wisdom shall dispel this ignorance and give way to a more integrated experience, which is birthless, deathless, immortal.

Even though religions are many, they do not differ in the treatment of the Highest Truth. They differ only in superficial, mundane, matters. The kernel of all religions is the realization of the Infinite Divine Life, where Peace, Wisdom and Bliss reign supreme.

It is sheer unwisdom that makes one believe that he can suddenly jump into the reality behind life's mysteries. One cannot realise God at others' cost. Worldly men think that a saint will do all good for them and never try to do anything for themselves. Self-realization is an experience to be had by each for himself. No saint can inject immortality into any man. Sages will help humanity in its struggle

for perfection. But the actual fight is to be fought each by himself. Then the Divine Light shall descend.

Kindly follow in detail the various hints given in my book *Practice of Brahmacharya* very carefully. Watch your mind. Do not give room for leniency. Do not have close contact with the other sex. Keep yourself always busy. Do not allow the mind any spare time to think of sensual objects. Lead a regulated life. Take *sattvic* food, eschewing onions, chillies, meat, etc. Take light diet at night. Get up at 4 a.m. Never sleep after 4 a.m. Never attend cinemas. Study a few verses from the *Vairagya Sataka* daily. Develop Mother *bhav* in ladies. Gradually you will be established in *brahmacharya*. Much change has to be effected, subjectively. Mere change of place will not help one.

It is always better to have only one *Ishta mantra*. You can select *Om Namo Narayana* (the sacred *Ashtakshara*) as your *Ishta mantra* for constant repetition and for *likhit japa* too.

Kindly take all the members of your family with you during *kirtan*. The most important thing in family life is that the whole family should march as one towards God. There should be no discord.

Having selected the *mantra*, have a good, attractive *murti* of Lord Narayana, with four hands, etc. When you sit for meditation and *japa*, gaze at this *murti* for a little while. Then close your eyes and mentally visualise this picture. Listen to the mental repetition of the *mantra*. With each repetition, offer one good fresh flower at the Lord's feet. By this practice, the mind will easily get concentrated.

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Train your wife also in the path of *yoga*. Let her also maintain the diary, write *mantra*, sing *kirtan*, study *Gita*, do *japa* and *dhyana*. Then all children will become divinised.

Constant *vichar*—introspection—analysis—is necessary for getting out of this cycle of births and deaths. What is this world? Who is God? Who am I? Whence have I come? Wither do I go? These questions should always revolve in your mind. Think of the millions of stars, each million times bigger than the earth. Who created them and sustains them? GOD. Hence, resort to Him with all your heart.

One should sleep on his left side at night; this will enable the *Prana* to flow through the *Surya Nadi*, right side, which will greatly assist proper digestion of food, and the generation of heat and energy essential for the replenishment of the energy spent during day time. One should not sleep with the head towards the north, as this will make the *prana* flow up instead of pervading through the entire body. It is very good to sleep with the head towards the east. Neither sleeping on the belly nor sleeping on the back is advisable.

Paschimottasan, *padahasthasan*, *suryanamaskar*, *sarvangasan*, *bhujangasan* are all specially good for reducing fat. Avoid too much of ghee, curds, rice and other fatty substances and consume more of fruits and vegetables. Have regular walks. Lead the active life. Fat or lean, strive to realise God. Then you are blessed, indeed!

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MEMORABLE EVENING!

MR. POGSON felt even more low-spirited than usual as he gazed through the dirty window at the panorama of uninspiring back gardens. Soon the train would be pulling to a stop and he would be passing through the too familiar station gateway. Then on to the office, there to begin another week of drudgery.

He groaned inwardly and passed a limp hand across his aching forehead. The week-end party had been no wish of his. No, not even to celebrate the occasion of his and Mary's silver wedding. As far as he was concerned there had been precious little to celebrate anyway. Almost upon the return from the honeymoon, Mary had started to decide and settle his habits for him. For the ensuing twenty-five years almost his every action had been dictated by the whim or command of his wife.

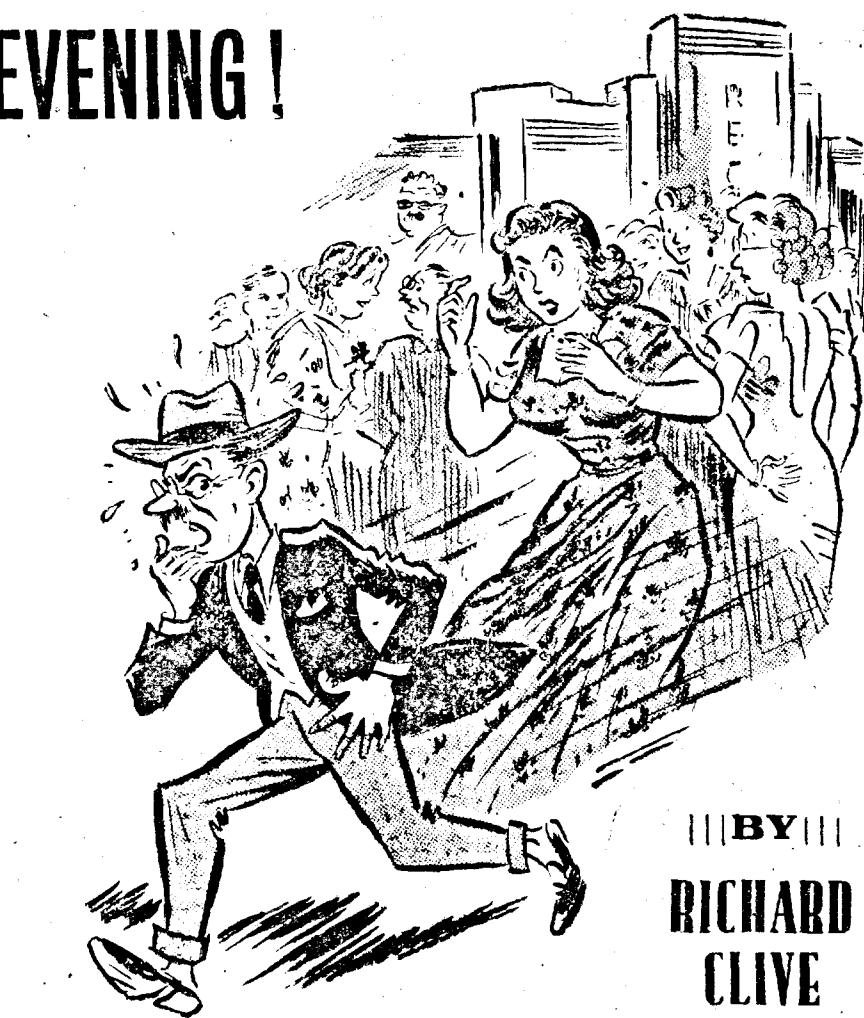
Slowly and with much hissing of steam the train pulled alongside the platform. As Henry gathered up the umbrella Mary always insisted upon him carrying, he promised himself darkly that he would one day do something to break the drab monotony of the years.

As on many former such occasions, he had not decided what the desperate something was to be by the time he reached his office. As usual, he put the subject from his mind and settled himself into the rut of the office routine.

Half-an-hour or so later, Miss Meadworthy became aware that the chief clerk was staring very fixedly in her direction. She smothered a smile, blushed a little and concentrated on her work rather more than was necessary.

A little later she became aware that Mr. Pogson was standing beside her. He sniffed and cleared his throat audibly.

"Would you do me the favour of staying behind just a minute or so at lunchtime, Miss Meadworthy?"



BY
RICHARD CLIVE

I have something I wish to ask you."

"Certainly, Mr. Pogson, sir."

SHE watched him walk slowly away up the office and thought how well his drooping shoulders fitted into the general impression given by his similar moustache and mournful features. Herself a comparative newcomer to the firm, she correctly surmised that he had not reached his position by go-getting methods but by the simple expedient of stepping into the shoes of those who died, retired or sought pastures new.

But at lunchtime, she had cause to wonder if she had not been mistaken. Of all the outlandish things to happen, Mr. Pogson asked her if she would accompany him to the cinema that same evening. Almost stunned by the amazing request, she had stammer-

ed out her thanks and accepted the invitation.

As for Henry, almost immediately he regretted his boldness. He cursed himself for all kinds of a fool. He, a middle-aged man, demeaning himself to ask a chit of a girl for a date. Then he remembered his real purpose: to at least enjoy one more evening away from the domineering presence of his wife before he kept his date with the undertaker.

WITH a courage born of desperation, he picked up his receiver and dialled his home number.

"Is that you, dear?" he asked fatuously, as he heard Mary's unmistakably aspid voice recite their telephone number.

"Of course, it is, Henry!" he heard his wife confirm at the other end. "Don't ask such foolish questions. Well, what is it?"

"Well, er, I'm most frightfully sorry, my dear, but you see, the truth is ..."

"Out with it!" Mary's thin voice commanded him. "Don't take all day!"

"Well, dear, as a matter of fact Mr. Chalmers has asked me to stay on with him tonight and go through the year's accounts."

"Funny time of the year to pick, isn't it?" he heard Mary demand.

"You see, dear, he thinks there are some irregularities."

"H'm — that new cashier you told me about, I expect," said Mary, to whom few things were mysterious.

"Oh, I don't think it's anything like that," Henry permitted himself the luxury of a snigger as he replied. "But it may take a few hours. Don't wait up for me, dear."

"All right. I suppose Mr. Chalmers knows what he's doing," his wife said crisply. "Get home as soon as you can, though. And Henry ..."

"Yes, dear?"

"If he offers to take you out for a drink afterwards, you should refuse! Understand?"

"Yes, of course, dear," he assured her. He gasped a sigh of relief as he heard the receiver replaced at his wife's end. The battle had been surprisingly short and victory had been his.

WHEN they had met at their arranged place, Miss Meadworthy had looked positively radiant — a fact that Henry considered flattered him. His feelings would have been considerably deflated had he known that Miss Meadworthy had taken great pains over her appearance even although she thought him almost decrepit. She was planning for the future, when the meeting could be turned to account as a lever with which to extract a rise in salary.

But however radiant Henry thought her, he soon discovered

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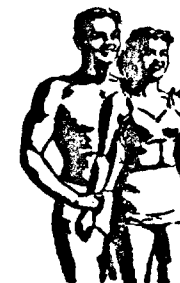
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inside the cinema that she could be most irritating. She kept up a whispered flow of chatter throughout the main film which was a crime epic. Worse, she seemed to be on the side of the villains of the piece. And worse even than that, she combined favour for the gangsters with a nauseating hero-worship of the death-defying escapades of the brash young detective trailing a whole gang single-handed.

At first, he had reminded her several times that "the police always get their man." But as her admiration for the actor playing the part of the detective became more apparent, he found himself several times obliged to point out that stars take few risks.

"Take it from me," he told her in what he imagined was a man-of-the-world tone, "whenever there's any risk involved the star stands on one side and a double takes over. Yes, it's the double that takes the hard knocks every time."

Still, however, Miss Meadworthy's calf-worship of the film players continued. Mr. Pogson was not at all disappointed when the programme came to an end and they rose to go. His evening as a devil-may-care had been a distinct flop. Almost incredulous as it seemed, he found himself wishing himself back home with Mary.

It was then that the blow fell. As they walked across the foyer, right across their path not a half-dozen paces away stepped Mary! He felt himself go all colours of the rainbow. Desperately, he wished that the floor would open up and swallow him. But, although she must have seen him, Mary gave no sign of recognition. This meant one thing only. All hell would break loose when he eventually arrived home!

To Miss Meadworthy's consternation, he bared off up the street. Hailing a taxi, he gave the driver his office address.

Fretting and fuming as he did at the taxi's slow progress, he nevertheless congratulated himself upon the masterly stratagem he

had thought up. Really, he had never known himself so resourceful.

Arrived back in the office, he lost no time in phoning his wife.

"I'm still stuck here, dear," he told her. "Mr. Chalmers has just popped out of the office for a moment, so I thought I'd ring. If I am not home in half-an-hour, I want you to ring up here. It doesn't matter what you say. It will give me an excuse to persuade Mr. Chalmers to let me go. I don't want to be here till early morning. Understand, dear?"

He beamed as he hung up the receiver. All he had to do was to wait for half-an-hour or so. Then Mary would phone and home he would go. If she mentioned the cinema incident, as she surely would, he could plead ignorance and put the blame upon someone who must, by Mary's description, be his exact double. And if necessary he would remind her that she had herself had to phone the office, thereby confirming his presence there until a late hour.

FORTUNATELY, he did not know that his wife had been in bed and asleep for two hours before his phone call.

Nor had he heard the remark made by the lady who so closely resembled Mary. Rejoining her husband in the cinema foyer, she had said: "I must have looked like a ghost to that gentleman with the drooping moustache. He took one look at me and bolted!"

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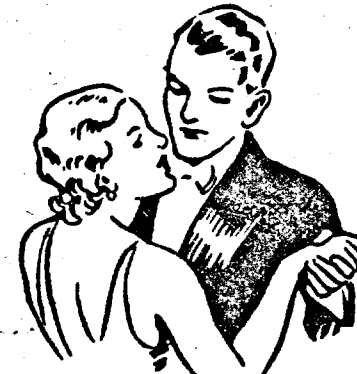
The salesman put a hand to his brow. "At that rate, it would take a hundred years."

"O.K.!" said the young fellow, "I don't care, it's worth it."

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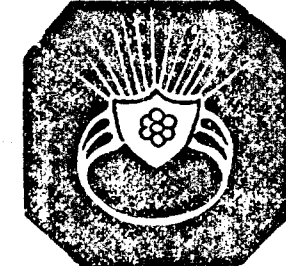
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You Asked For It!

By K.R.S.

P.V.S. Vasan, Madras-2

Q.—Is woman really the weaker sex?

A.—No! There are many snags in this proposition. If she is conceded to be "weaker", it will mean the man is "weak". This piece of fine fiction was made to assume the appearance of real truth by poets and writers. They were probably influenced by the fact of the apparently gentle appearance and soft-spokenness of women in general. Modern sports, apart from other facts, clearly show that women are as tough as men, if not more.

B. Ram, Ranchi

Q.—What is the difference between an auditor and an editor?

A.—The one has to audit the accounts while the other has to account for the varied tastes of the readers.

N.R.V. Swami, Nagercoil

Q.—What are film songs?

A.—Tainting tin-pot thrill, according to the Keskariites.

Jag Narayan Rau, Asansol

Q.—What is concession?

A.—The psychological subterfuge often resorted to for fooling the inborn cupidity of most of us.

Satya Priya Sikdar, Lucknow

Q.—The girl whom I love is mad after the films. What should I do as I want her to care more for my thoughts?

A.—Second thoughts show her to be shallow. She seeks the silver screen for the thrill you fail to give her. So, give her up.

Guno Barna, Dibrugarh

Q.—How far is it true that lovers who are unable to satisfy their desires can do so as they are bound to be together in the other world?

A.—As true as the fortune lines on the weight cards punched out by the platform machines!

Trinidad Landis, Bombay-10

Q.—What is love's philosophy?

A.—That physical contentment depends on balanced mental understanding.

Kamal Basu, Darbhanga

Q.—Marguerite Blessington wrote: "Love in France is a comedy; in England a tragedy; in Italy an opera; and in Germany a melodrama." What is it in India that is Bharat, please?

A.—Execrable exhibitionism.

Prakash Chandra Sahu, Poona-3

Q.—What is the loss to the Nation by the sudden demise of Shyama Prasad Mookherjee?

A.—Considerable, considering that a person of such a vast experience should have died during the nation building period. The consolation is that death is inevitable, if not now at least later.

P.R. Ganapathy, Poona-1

Q.—On what does this world depend upon?

A.—God's grace, unquestionably. It is when humanity forgets this that it faces disgrace.

Narayana Iyer, New Delhi

Q.—How old are you?

A.—Thirty-three years "old!"

Uzzal Chandra Saikia, Dibrugarh

Q.—What is the democratic conception of a modern state?

A.—The sovereignty of the people to be zealously guarded and utilised for their welfare by their own representatives.

P.K. Lakshmanan, Madras-1

Q.—What is your opinion about the present film industry of our country?

A.—Considering the great limitations under which it is working, I should say it has made a magnificent march.

S.S. Puranik, Uppunda, S. Kanara

Q.—How can a man become happy for ever?

A.—By not belonging to this world — a really tough job for the poor guy!

T. Ramanathan, Trichy

Q.—What is U.S.A.'s real aim in Korea?

A.—The unification of South and North Korea on a Rheegorganised basis, obviously enough!

YOU ASKED FOR IT! SHOULD BE MENTIONED ON TOP OF THE LETTERS INTENDED FOR THIS COLUMN. THE VIEWS OF COLUMNIST K.R.S. DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITOR. THE QUERIES DECIDE THE ANSWERS — SERIOUS, FRIVOLOUS OR INFORMATIVE. AND IF THE ANSWER IRRITATES YOU, REMEMBER YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Gleanings

Society Of Learned Lunatics!

IN the early 1760's, a number of earnest-minded people who lived in the Midlands round Birmingham, started meeting together to exchange notes on their scientific experiments and pool the latest gossip about the discoveries that were afoot in the world, writes Patrick Pointon in *Everybody's Weekly*.

They called themselves the Lunar Society, because they always met at the time of the full moon so that they could have the benefit of its light in groping their way back home across the darkened country-side.

Every month they would take it in turns to act as host, and from something like two in the afternoon until past eight at night the company would sit round the table, eating and discoursing.

The Learned Lunatics were interested in every sphere of discovery. Science, the love of experiments and an insatiable curiosity in the unknown ruled their lives.

Snake Presented!

Their scientific detachment showed itself in many amusing ways. One cold winter night the members of the Society had gathered at the home of Mr. Samuel Galton, a prominent Birmingham Quaker, when a large yellow and black snake slithered from under the table and began wriggling round the room.

After being assured that the reptile was not venomous, Mrs. Galton decided that here was an ideal opportunity to test the practical value of a Quaker's upbringing on her ten-year-old daughter.

"Mary Ann, go and catch that snake," she commanded.

The little girl showed herself to be a true offspring of such a spartan parent. With only a flicker of hesitation, she grabbed the snake and handed it back to its owner, the notoriously absent-minded Dr. Stoke.

"I was riding along the road," he admitted, "when I observed the animal, as I thought frozen to death on the side of a bank. I intended to dissect it when I got home, but the warmth of this room has thawed it." Turning to the little girl he added, "As a reward for your prowess, you shall keep it."

As he recounted the story to the servants later, Mr. Galton's butler summed up his disapproval with the words, "What can you expect of them Lunatics?" The members got to hear of the nickname and gleefully appropriated it.

Peet and Doctor

The Patriarch of the group was undoubtedly Dr. Erasmus Darwin, a huge fat man who cheerfully rebuffed George III's

entreaties to join the Court as the King's Physician, because he preferred to remain in practice at Lichfield rather than move to London.

Darwin, who was also the grandfather of Charles Darwin, was acknowledged to be one of the finest surgeons in the country, but he was versatile in all branches of the arts and sciences. He foretold the advent of the aeroplane and the submarine, besides planning a new type of canal lock and a double furrow plough.

The credulous natives of Staffordshire regarded him as something of a wizard.

Unknown to them, the doctor had a speaking tube at his house, and one old countryman was almost startled out of his wits when a sepulchral voice suddenly intoned from the wall of the kitchen near his ears, "I want some more coals."

The doctor would arrive for meetings of the Lunar Society wedged inside a little carriage hardly big enough to contain his huge bulk, but round its sides were receptacles for writing and eating and a pile of books lay heaped up from the floor to the window. The doctor scribbled most of his poems and scientific studies on scraps of paper while he was jolted about the countryside, and as he did so he munched his way through vast quantities of fruit and sweet-meats.

Searched for Ideal Mate

The infectious laughter that occasionally rocked the meeting room came from the

high-spirited Richard Lovell Edgeworth, a dashing Irishman with a flair for inventions of the most fantastic kind. The fruits of his lively brain included a mechanical horse, a large umbrella for covering haystacks and a carriage fitted with an enormous sail to propel it along the roads.

Sitting apart from the rest of the company, a melancholy frown on his face, Thomas Day brooded on the failings of womankind. The author of "Sandford and Merton" was almost pathetically eager to marry, but none of the eligible young ladies whom he encountered approached his ideal by combining "the purity of female virtue with the fortitude and hardness of constitution of a Spartan."

Day had tried to create such a paragon fit for his hand out of an orphan from the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital. To teach her the stoicism that he so much admired, Day dropped hot sealing-wax down her neck and fired pistols at her petticoats to teach her not to flinch from pain. He was mildly surprised when she responded with tears and protests, and eventually he gave up the experiment in disgust.

In the end Day forfeited his life to his theories. Holding firmly to the idea that any animal could be controlled by kindness, he insisted on riding a horse that had not been broken in, and was killed when the beast threw him off.

Open Hostility

It was only to be expected that the Learned Lunatics should be in the van of advanced thought, and their views on politics and society were radical in the extreme: so radical that they aroused not only suspicion, but open hostility among their fellows, and the spark that touched off the power keg took the form of an advertisement in the local "Gazette" in July, 1791, inviting sympathisers to a dinner to celebrate the French Revolution which was hailed by the Learned Lunatics as the dawn of a new and more enlightened age.

Antagonism to the affair was skillfully whipped up, and a crowd collected round the hotel long before the dinner started and caused each arriving diner to run a gauntlet of hisses and booing. The meal, the toasts

Queer Facts

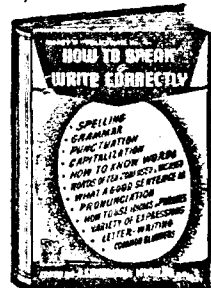
Mrs. Mary S. Morrow, a wealthy widow from Clearwater, Florida, died recently. In her will she left 50,000 dollars (ruled tax free by the courts) to her Boston terrier, Dusty, with the proviso that Dusty remain "a bachelor."

American newspapers recently ran pictures of a virile-looking Louisville fireman grinning triumphantly from a sewer hole as he held aloft a recently-rescued, grimy puppy. Four weeks later the fireman, 26-year-old Robert Grayson, added up the results of his fame. Among scores of letters and gifts, the most interesting was a thinly-veiled marriage proposal from a "very beautiful red-head," with a 50,000 dollar bank account and a 25-room house that was equipped with all the luxuries, including tennis courts. As for the puppy, Cesspool, she became the station mascot.

Mrs. Beatrice Kam, 56, and her son Herbert, 33, were brought into a New York police station in a round-up of heroin addicts. Brushing away a tear, Mrs. Kam said Herbert was a model boy. "He never forgot me on Mother's Day, Christmas, or on my birthday," she told police. "Herbert never brought me anything but the very purest stuff. Herbert's a good boy, a good son."

Early last year, Viscount Alexander, Governor-General of Canada, opened an exhibition of toys at a fire station in Ottawa. When he spotted the fire company's brass pole on the second floor, used by firemen who want to reach the main floor in a hurry. "I have always wanted to go down one of those things," Viscount Alexander said. A minute later, to the astonishment of spectators on the main floor, the Governor-General arrived among them — via the brass pole!

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and the speeches passed off peacefully, and it was not until the company had dispersed to their homes that the trouble flared up.

The rioters marched through the streets of Birmingham to the meeting house which many of the Learned Lunatics, being Quakers, attended. Everything movable was filched, and, after the place had been thoroughly sacked it was set alight.

Then amid shouts of "No Philosophers" and "Church and King for ever," the mob set out to hunt down their academic adversaries.

Dr. Priestley, as the town's leading dissenter, was unhappily the focus of the mob's anger.

The rioting continued for three days, until, finally, troops were called in.

But it needed more than a riot to frighten the Lunar Society out of existence, even though Watt took the precaution of carrying a pistol in his pocket when the members next met. Only death was powerful enough to dissolve the company, and as more and more chairs became vacant at the monthly meetings, the Society gradually petered out, leaving behind a record of combined achievements which undoubtedly changed the face of civilisation.

Woman's Fight With Tiger

Have you ever heard of a woman fighting for her life up a tree with a tiger? It happened to Mrs. Olive Smythies, wife of a forestry officer in India, when she and her husband perched in seats slung in trees about fifty yards apart in the jungle, to await the tiger's return to its kill, writes *Tit-Bits*.

When it appeared, both fired, wounding it. It charged the tree, roaring hideously and climbed up it like a cat. Reaching the seat the tiger seized the front part of it in its teeth, so that Mrs. Smythies had only a very small space at the back to stand on.

She pushed the rifle into the enraged beast's open mouth, pulled the trigger, and kept on pulling. But nothing happened. It was a misfire.

The tiger had one end of her rifle, she the other. The barrel was caught between its fangs. All she could think of was to withdraw the barrel, if possible, and hit the tiger on the head with the stock.

She was about to try this when the tiger's paw came right through the string seat. Next moment the snarling beast was grabbing at her legs. She stepped backwards, forgetting she was in a tree, and somersaulted to the ground.

Running frantically, expecting to feel the tiger's hot breath on her as it pounced, she saw her husband in front of her, his eyes starting out of his head. He had fired his last cartridge, knowing her life depended on it, and by a miracle found the tiger's heart. Never, in all her thirty years in India, was she so near death, though she took part in many other tiger hunts.

Tigers, she says in a stirring account of her life out there — *Tiger Lady* — have such enormous power behind their spring that a big one, dragging his kill weighing probably 1½ to 2 cwt., leapt a 15-foot bank in one bound. She once saw a tiger, carrying a full-grown bullock, spring 11-feet up a waterfall!

No Sleep for a Week

Riding well-trained elephants on her tiger hunts, she marvelled at the manner in which they understand and obey the mahout's signs, given by hands and legs. Commands such as "Take a long step," "Break down that branch," and "Knock over that tree," are instantly obeyed. She has seen an elephant pick up and pass to its rider a coin, a knitting needle, a cartridge or a ball of wool.

In India, wild elephants are caught in three ways: by driving a herd into a strong stockade, by trapping them in camouflaged pits, or by chasing them with specially fed tame elephants, with the mahout crouching low on the neckband and a man called a *pachwa* standing on a rope loop behind the tail, goading the elephant to top speed with a wooden handle or club studded with blunt nails.

After a mile or so the wild tusker tires, turns, and shows fight. The big fighting-fit pursuers then go forward to titanic battle, urged by their mahouts. One tusker attacks head-on, with tusks interlocked, trunks writhing; others push and pommel at the sides. After a time the wild elephant gives up and turns tail in flight, and again the chase is on, again he has to stop and fight. This goes on until the quarry is exhausted, sometimes continuing for several days.

Finally subdued and tied to a tree, he is not allowed to sleep for a week, so that relays of trained men can teach him to obey words of command. After which, in man's service, he is well fed and well treated, with three attendants to look after him.

Snake Near Bed

Mrs. Smythies had some unnerving experiences with snakes. At a bungalow she and her husband used on his forest rounds she noticed a small earthen bowl of milk placed on a ledge outside, with a marigold stuck in it, and wondered why it was put there. Her Indian maid said she had seen a snake in the bathroom which escaped down the outflow hole, and a few days later when her baby son was having his midday sleep, Mrs. Smythies went into the room and saw a snake coiled round the rail of his bed at the foot.

Stricken with horror, she was able to lift him out to safety and called the servants, who soon killed the reptile, one of the most deadly of poisonous snakes, a krait, which the caretaker worshipped and had been feeding with the bowl of milk.

Female Mowgli

One day her husband came in very excited. A forest guard had brought in a girl, about eleven — a sort of female Mowgli — who had been brought up by a bear and lived as an animal all her life. The villagers who killed the bear had seen this strange being walking about nearby, captured it, and found to their astonishment that it was a human being.

She walked on all fours, grunted like a bear, and was very savage, snapping and snarling at anyone who came near her. In hospital, where she was carefully looked after and fed on fruits and roots, Olive Smythies often visited her but could never make friends with her. After a few months she pined and died.

Twins Born 56 Days Apart

Twin sons born to a woman in Sydney, Australia, were born in different years. The first was born on December 16 last and the second on February 10 — no fewer than 56 days later.

The mother is 24. Her first twin weighed 31b. 10½ oz. at birth: the second 5lb. 14½ oz. By the time the second was born, the weight of the first had increased to 6lb. 0½ oz.

Doctors say that they have never known such a long period between the birth of twins, reads a British Press report.

Meals on the Right Lines!

Food in a restaurant on Long Island, New York, is served to customers from a model train.

Small railroad tracks are laid out along the tables and an electric train stands by at lunch-time to be loaded up with food; the coaches then roll smoothly along, stopping in front of each customer who takes whatever he fancies — on the self-service system, says a London report.

There's a rush every day for these locomotive lunches, as they are called. The restaurant owner calls his train The Hamburger Express. Said a customer: "He certainly knows how to serve us on the right lines."

Ship That Was Stolen!

The story, reported by *Moskovskaya Pravda*, that a book-keeper named Pavel Pavlik, who worked in a fire-engine factory, stole a fire engine, drove it to a city 600 miles away and sold it for £1,200 will come as a surprise to those who believe that crime has been abolished in that arcadia, writes a British weekly.

But the history of crime records even more audacious thefts than that. In 1880 a man named Walker stole the *S.S. Ferret* from the River Clyde, and sailed her to Australia. Glasgow newspapers contained the unique advertisement, "Lost, stolen or strayed—*S.S. Ferret*."

Some years ago the people of Fotovitz built a lovely railway station, which was envied by a neighbouring village, the inhabitants of which slipped along one night, took it to pieces, carried it off and reassembled it on their own stretch of line!

Doctors Are Bad Patients!

Doctors are ever vigilant in warning patients to seek treatment for cancer symptoms. But they apparently don't heed their own advice, says Dr. Benjamin F. Byrd, of Vanderbilt University. In a series of 60 doctors who came to Nashville Hospitals for treatment, the time between onset of their symptoms and a diagnosis of cancer ranged over periods of from 3 months to 14 months, according to a New York report.

Woman's 8,000 Transfusions!

During the past twenty-two years Mrs. Barchet, a citizen of Chicago, has had more than 8,000 transfusions of gamma Globulin, a germ-fighting agent her own blood lacks.

Without the replenishments the woman would be susceptible to many serious diseases, writes a London weekly.

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PRINCESS AND A GHOST!



BY K.V. RAO

THE Jivanpur Palace was the ancient ancestral mansion of H.H. the Maharajah of Jivanpur, a worthy aristocrat whose state had been merged in the neighbouring province. The day being his sixtieth birthday, the genial old soul was celebrating it with some friends who were invited to the palace as guests for a short stay. Among them was Indrasen, a romantic young fellow who had an eye for Nalini, the Maharajah's beautiful daughter by his third wife.

Princess Nalini was blessed with an adorable "day after tomorrowish" air plus a sort of glamorous shine a fellow likes to run his hand over and lie in bed dreaming about it afterwards. And she also had that fascinating "touch-me-if-you-dare" look, which, when applied to Indrasen, had much the same effect as a lighted match has on a petrol-soaked rag! He fell in love with Nalini the very moment he saw her. Indrasen had never been so virulently afflicted with love whose germs cause palpitation of heart, and we can well sympathise with him, knowing how

violently this malady attacks an unvaccinated constitution—the patient might go to extremes in his dreamy delirium.

IT was afternoon already, when the Princess met her father. She appeared lovable, resembling a rose in full bloom in her pale pink saree and a blouse to match. Remembering that birthdays in old age are but reminders of the nearing end, the Maharajah thought of plans for his daughter's marriage. He wished to move the matter and so began with eligible bridegroom No. 1 he could pick up from the guests.

"Indrasen, I gather, is a nice chap but is not married yet."

"Yes," Nalini agreed with a saucy wink.

"That is your fault, Nalini. He has proposed to you enough times," the old dignitary spluttered.

She smiled down at her father. "Sure, he again proposed three times to-day," the Princess replied, "but daddy, it's not about Indrasen I came to speak, it is about the palace!" Her mouth was slightly open and her eyes were wide with amazement.

"The palace!" exclaimed His Highness inquiringly. "What about the palace? There's nothing wrong with it. It is a historic palace; it has been the property of the Jivanpur ruling family for over a hundred years. It was built in the days of Lord Dalhousie, you understand?"

"I understand, I understand! But, daddy, you never told me there is a family ghost!" Nalini more than surprised him.

"What? A ghost?" gasped the Maharajah, in a whisper that made his clothes freeze stiff. "I never even knew of it!"

AT this moment footsteps were heard and a servant announced, "Major Ranjit of the Indian Army."

"Show the Major in."

Almost at once Major Ranjit steadily walked in with the characteristic dash of an army officer, stood to attention and saluted His Highness. Ranjit was handsome and imperious, tall and imposing. In his officer's uniform he looked a splendid figure, his face all smiles at Princess Nalini's presence.

"Before you wish your many happy returns to me, my dear Major," the old Maharajah plunged in without ceremony, "tell me whether you know anything of ghosts, phantoms and apparitions. Do you believe in them?"

"I neither know nor believe in spirits, Your Highness," he expressed his opinion firmly, his scientific mind of course making sure such things were all nonsense.

"Well, my daughter says we have a family ghost," His Highness announced grimly. "Please give us full details about it like a good girl."

"Do not presume I am afraid," the Princess said cooly. "He was a gallant ghost, indeed a much loving one! I was half

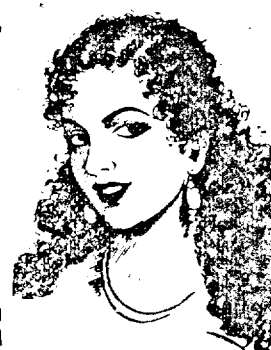
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asleep in my bed and I heard the palace clock strike twelve. And then above the mysterious calm I felt I heard somebody moving. Sitting up I glanced towards the old room and coming to me in a slow, mystic step was the ghost's form. As he neared me I observed his countenance, and it seemed to be pensive and serene. The ghost, almost like a wax model, didn't utter a word but approaching the bed, he bent forward, kissed me and made his exit, as silently as he walked in."

"Ah! While we men are women's playthings, women are the devil's," Ranjit mused rightly.

THE Maharajah and the Major each viewed the other's face, the old gentleman being at his wit's end. "What do you think of it, Major?" he questioned. "The Jivanpurs have a family ghost, eh?"

Ranjit laughed mildly. "I would very much like to catch this ghost," he opined with an affected little cough. "Do you mind, Princess Nalini, if I sleep in your room to-night?"

His Highness nodded assent, adding that it was a fine idea to see the haunting visitor. But Nalini was apparently a trifle disappointed for she promptly returned, "I am not frightened at all—as a matter of fact, I am myself most inclined to meet the kissing ghost again!"

"Then I feel that the Major must sleep in your room. Exchange your rooms, young people, for the night," her daddy ordered and so the Princess had no other alternative.

Later, when all were in the garden and as the sun was setting low, the Maharajah told all the guests about his daughter's adventure with the family ghost, and that the brave Major was going to catch him!

But the Major failed. He waited in vain, for the ghost never made his appearance. However, at breakfast, Princess Nalini informed the company that the ghost did come and was even more ardently vigorous in his kissing

than on the previous occasion. Hence it was settled she should rest for that night in the Maharajah's own bedroom.

His Highness and Major Ranjit sat in their rooms until nearly daybreak, and then fell into a slumber, deeply disappointed. Next morning, Nalini woke her daddy with the news that the ghost had walked even into his own room and was romantic more than ever, smothering her with kisses.

"Oh, was he?" he yelled in a voice tuned to dominate typhoons and tempests. "He was fortunate that I wasn't there!"

During midday, the Maharajah held a conference with the Major behind closed doors.

THAT night they kept a close vigil and found the ghost emerging from Indrasen's apartment and they thrashed him. The ghost jumped up and ran off with a speed that was worthy of an Olympic winner. And the Jivanpur family ghost never again poked his silly nose over Princess Nalini nor anybody in the palace or its environs.

Some time afterwards the "Ghost" received an invitation to the wedding of the Princess and the Major. And he was not an ungallant guy to decline! ♦♦

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"What did you want to kill the poor ant for?" he concluded.

"Aw, shucks!" the elephant said, hanging his head, "I only tried to trip him."

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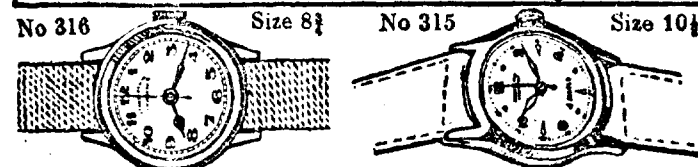
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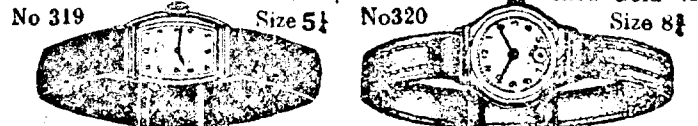
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"SANKU! My precious..." She cooed softly into the ears of the child that lay gazing vacantly in her lap. Her voice was feeble, cracked and hoarse with sheer weakness. It was no wonder for her body was itself emaciated, worn out and prematurely old. She was a picture of starvation.

She had been quite uneasy about her child, her first-born. He had been quite a healthy, bonny babe at birth. As the child now smiled in acknowledgment of his mother's caressing words, he did so without zest and with an effort. The wan little face creased into a faint smile where formerly a gleeful shout would have been the answer. Poor thing! His mother herself had been starving for days. What nourishing food could he draw from her shrunken frame?

The mother sat under the shade of a tree on the dusty road that wound its way crookedly as far as eyes could see. There was hardly any traffic. A stray cow passed idly by. Somewhere a mongrel barked. Otherwise everything was peaceful—to her it was all so painfully peaceful.

She was a daughter of the soil and had loved her little cottage and the bit of land her family had for generations owned. As she sat, her eyes wandered slowly and longingly back along the road by which she had come; and there

was a distant yearning look in them.

An involuntary shudder shook her when she remembered the horrors she had passed recently through. She still saw in her mind's eye the swirling waters of the river uprooting big trees, washing away huts, human beings struggling for their lives, the corpses of cattle floating, the expansive sheet of water that submerged her own little home and all that it contained. She had been too awe-struck by the forces unleashed by Nature without regard for human or animal life.

SHE had fled as fast as her feet could carry, with the little one in her arms, to the small hillock some miles away to join the shivering, cowering crowd who had found safety there. From up there she saw the havoc wrought by the flood, and now a prayer escaped her lips in gratitude to Providence. For many weeks timely rain had not come and the wells of the village had dried up. Everybody was praying for rain, that precious life-saving rain which would help to mature the grain and make it ready for harvest. It was when all had appeared lost that the clouds had burst. They had literally poured down and never seemed to stop pouring down. What a cruel, ironic, stroke of Nature!

What with the acute scarcity of grain following upon the failure

of the previous monsoon, the villagers had been hard hit. Many were on starvation diet, trying to make the grain last out longest. She, too, had been starving and had submissively suffered, knowing well that the condition of her neighbours was no better.

SHE now put the little one to sleep. She could not sing a lullaby. Her mind was too full with the recent events in her young life. And as often happens in moments of serious crisis, the human mind seeks an escape into reminiscence. She went back to her childhood days. She remembered the filth and squalor in which her native village abounded then, and she could now understand how much it had improved in cleanliness and size. It had, in fact, grown with her. The lanes had grown into narrow, clean roads. The village was looking beautiful with a small brick school-building, with a children's park nearby. There was also a small charitable Government dispensary under a qualified doctor to render medical aid.

She had herself not much of schooling; yet she could read, with much difficulty, the local language. She was the only child in the family and the household duties had fallen to her lot, as her mother was of a sickly disposition. She was the pet of her father—a sturdy man with a gruff voice and a kind heart. His face had a tendency to crinkle whenever he

smiled, which he did often whenever he spoke to her. Her mother, on the other hand, was a pale thin woman, who suffered from some incurable disease, which she patiently bore. It was more on her mother's insistence that she was married even before reaching her teens, till which time she stayed with her parents. It was about this time also, soon after the marriage, that her mother passed away, leaving her the young mistress of the house.

Marriage, therefore, had no meaning for her, she being too young. The marriage function, a simple ceremony though it had been, had appeared to her childish eyes a gala festive occasion, which she, personally, had immensely enjoyed. Her father's eyesight having begun to fail, it was his fond wish that his son-in-law should come and stay with him, and, moreover, the daughter of the house had come of age.

THE days that followed were the happiest in her life, her husband being of a kind, cheerful temperament and affectionate to her. This happiness was, however, not long-lived, as her husband had succumbed to some wasting disease of which he showed symptoms suddenly. The first blow thus fell, and at the time of his passing away, she was with child whose arrival to some degree helped her to forget her misfortune.

When her own father died within six months, his eyes failing him badly in his last days so much so he could not even have a good look at his grandson, the cup of her misery appeared to be full. Left thus on her own to fight life's battle, the young mother never hesitated, thanks to the kind and helpful neighbours.

And so the migration had begun. Villagers, one after the other, left their homes. Not one of them knew where to go. To remain behind was to court a slow death by starvation. Rumours were strong that a town of big size flourished miles away. Many hoped that they could find sustenance denied to them in their home village in that far away place. If not there, then somewhere else. All was so uncertain. It is a hard thing for a villager to part with

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his land on which he grew up, because he identifies himself completely with it. And the young mother was no exception.

The night was coming on fast and thick. She clung to the child in her arms to keep him from the sharp wind that whipped up dust all round. The air smelt rotten, of decaying matter. She dozed off into a fitful slumber, awakened again and again by the strange noises of the night.

IT was with despair that she paused and looked around her. She was in a big town, at least big for her who was a rustic, and who had not moved till then out of her little home-village. Her feet were red with dust of miles of trudging. Her clothes were untidy and she presented a picture of misery, almost insanity. The tall storeyed buildings that lined up on either side of the broad streets struck her dumb with surprise and awe. The bustle of moving traffic, the flow of pedestrians along the footpaths, the hurry characteristic of a big town, left her unnoticed and forlorn. She was actually lost in that crowd. How long she walked or where, she had not the faintest idea, till suddenly she was accosted by a voice, which had a familiar ring, shouting "Karthya-yini! ... Oh, Karthi!"

She stopped and looked back to see by her side a childhood and girlhood chum. She was hearing her name uttered as if after an interval of ages. She could not help bursting into tears when her companion approached her and, taking her by the arm, slowly led her forward.

"There, Karthi, be brave. This is not the place to cry. You will create a scene. Now, control yourself. I shall take you to a place where we will be left in peace and we shall talk about everything. Come with me!"

They reached a blind alley behind some tall buildings. It was a sort of backyard where the noise of traffic reached but faintly and there was comparative quiet. After they had squatted on the ground, Karthi's companion observed: "You seem to have had a bad time, Karthi! Look, the child is simply limp. Must

have been starving. There, let me have him." She took the child from Karthi and put him to her own breast. The child suckled hungrily, noisily.

Karthi, extremely tired though she was, could not help admiring the light-hearted manner of her companion, Paroo, whose spirits appeared always to be high. That girl had left her village some months ago. Being of an adventurous bent of mind and having a happy-go-lucky streak, she had ways with men, and when she grew big with a child whose parentage was in doubt, the whole village whispered. After the child's arrival Paroo had not remained long, and one day had left her aunt with whom she had till then been living on the outskirts of the village. And nobody was keen to know where she went.

SITTING opposite to her, gustily chewing pan and betelnut, she presented a picture of unconcerned youth. She was impishly attractive, strong and energetic, with flashing, mischievous eyes.

Karthi had no ears for the rambling talk of her mate who now suddenly stopped, puckered her eye-brows and asked sharply:

"Why, you look scared, Karthi! What is the matter? Out with it!"

"Oh, it is nothing, Paroo. Only, I just remembered your child and was wondering..." she halted awkwardly.

"What happened to him?" completed the other, nonchalantly. "Oh, it happened like this. Soon after coming here I secured a job as servant in a family, where they had enough children about the house. They did not like the idea of my keeping Kuttan with me, as the job was permanent and whole-time. I had to find some way out. I managed, through another servant, to approach a rich but childless couple. They took a liking for Kuttan and paid me twenty rupees. So, there you are! I am happy in the knowledge that Kuttan will be happy with his foster-parents and I am also free to move about. Now, then, let us hear your story!" She was all curiosity.

Karthi told it simply, halting often through sheer exhaustion, noticing which Paroo jumped to her feet. "Oh, my! I clean forgot!" She searched in the folds of her dress and brought forth a packet wrapped in old paper. "Poor Karthi! How hungry you must be! Here, take this, my morning breakfast, or rather what was in excess of my breakfast. They are very generous, you know, my master and mistress. That should do you a lot of good." She sat down again, and urged her friend to eat.

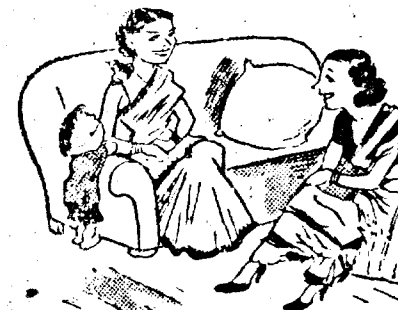
"How kind you are, Paroo!" Karthi exclaimed through a mouthful of food.

"Stop it, Karthi, you and your good manners!" the other said with her usual frankness. "Now, be quiet and eat to your heart's content."

THERE was silence for a while. Then Paroo broke in saying, "I have decided upon a plan for you, Karthi, and here it is!"

She whispered it into her friend's ears. Karthi's face was pale and shocked when she looked away. "That is impossible, Paroo! No, I just cannot do without Sanku... I will not do that..." Tears choked her words.

"You are being just foolish. What then do you propose doing, with the little baby about you? Nothing, I tell you. Nothing! I could fix up everything for you provided you agree to my plan. I am not so heartless a mother as you probably presume, Karthi. I love Kuttan as much as you love your Sanku. I did what I could for him, for his own future happiness. Of course, that does require sacrifice... Just think over it. I know of a family who would gladly accept your Sanku and



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treat him well." She patted the weak, sleeping child at her breast with marked affection. "He would make them a handsome adopted son, the sweet rogue!" she added, with a smile.

There was a pause for a few minutes.

"So there it is, Karthi. Everything has panned out well," she concluded with an air of finality which took everything, including Karthi's consent to her plans, for granted.

KARTHI who felt much better after her repast remarked, "I just cannot bring myself to part with little Sanku, whatever you say, Paroo, but, if there is no other alternative I will have to agree with you, willy-nilly. I feel so tired at the very idea." She was fighting back tears again.

"Then go back to your village, Karthi, and there is an end of it!" urged Paroo, with disgust.

"No ... no! Don't suggest that, Paroo! Anything except that!" Karthi almost shrieked.

It was getting on to dusk when Karthi, with much difficulty,

traced back her way to the spot where she had eaten with Paroo earlier in the day to find her waiting.

"Well?" Paroo asked with curiosity.

Karthi's answer was to break into a flood of tears.

PAROO allowed her to cry for some time and then asked, "How much did they pay you?"

"Thirty-five rupees!" she sobbed.

"Good, you are luckier than myself, Karthi. Well, you should call it a day. So that is that. Now, to fix up some good clothes for you. You should appear presentable, if you are ever to secure a job, and I have one in view for you. Give me ten rupees, Karthi, and you will get the clothes—a nice sari and a coloured blouse first thing tomorrow. You can have a bath before that ..."

"But, look here, Paroo!" Karthi interrupted.

"I won't have any objections, Karthi," broke in Paroo.

"No, I didn't mean to offer any, Paroo, but I must speak." Karthi

rushed with her words lest her friend should ramble on without giving her an opportunity to express her thoughts. "I am glad that the people who took Sanku have asked me also to remain and work for them, as their servant suddenly left them a few days ago and would not return. The wages are not at all attractive, but everything is found. I sleep in the servants' quarters. And what is best, I can always have Sanku near me. It is all because of you, Paroo, thank you!"

Karthi clasped her friend's hands in gratitude. "Keep those ten rupees, and here are another ten, for all the trouble you took for my sake!" She made a move to thrust the notes into Paroo's hands only to find the latter returning her the note originally given to her.

Paroo's eyes were moist as she said, "Karthi, I did not do all this for money, but only for the sake of our longstanding friendship. And, moreover, I have no need for money. I am getting enough and more by way of wages. And then again ..." she broke off, rather shyly.

"Yes?" prodded Karthi out of curiosity.

"There is a cook in S's house, whom I have come to know rather familiarly of late. He is a nice young man, Karthi." She rose and pressed Karthi's hands gently and kindly. "We are getting married. There, it is getting late for supper and to wash the plates. I must go ... So long, Karthi, we shall meet at this very place again and again."

SHE waited to see Karthi nod her head in assent, then walked fast. Her almost girlish figure swayed with a touch of unconcern and her steps appeared to be lighter than usual. Or, so it appeared to Karthi who stood looking at her till she was out of sight.

"Paroo, the same old Paroo!" was her conclusion. "How I envy her!" The next moment she sighed: "Sanku, my precious darling! Sleep on, the night has come, Be happy, my child!" Then she, too, turned and wended her way slowly to the house of her new employers.



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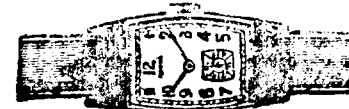
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SOUND AND SHADOW:

INDIA'S FIRST GEVACOLOR MYTHOLOGICAL!

Producer G. P. Sippy, who forges still ahead of any other Indian producer, will now produce India's first Gevacolor mythological entitled *Radha Krishna*, the *muhurat* of which was performed quite recently at Minerva Colour Studios. The *muhurat* shot was taken on Kamini Kaushal who said the two words "Krishna Kanhaiya," and the camera for this shot was switched on by the celebrated Indian director Bimal Roy. A select gathering was present at this impressive ceremony. *Radha Krishna* will deal with the early life of Lord Krishna and Radha. In this film will be blended all the traditional colour, romance and lavish glory of the mythological era as depicted in the poetry of the great Surdas and other great poets of Brijbhasha. *Radha Krishna* stars Kamini Kaushal, India's finest artist, as Radha, and is studded with an all-star cast including K.N. Singh, Agha, and Sunder, and even minor roles will feature some well-known artistes.

The story of this new expensive venture of G.P. Sippy's is by Pandit Fani. Its direction is in the hands of Raja Nene, the music will be composed by Sachin Dev Burman, while lyrics will be by Pandit Narendra Sharma. Y.D. Sarpotdar who has photographed *Shahenshah* will crank the camera.

Pankaj Mallick As Playback!

Sargam pictures' forthcoming production, *Kasturi*, is based on the cultural background of U.P.'s capital, Lucknow, the traditional seat of art, culture and learning. Script writer Rajendra Gaur who is assigned to direct *Kasturi* hails from Lucknow and so can be trusted in painting the real life of that gay city of verse and prose.

The veteran Pankaj Mallick has set to tunes the songs which are also written by Gaur along with the screenplay and dialogue. For the first time in his film career as a music director, Pankaj Mallick



Producer G.P. Sippy (right extreme) performs the puja during the muhurat of G.P. Productions' *Radha Krishna*, India's first Gevacolor mythological.

has sung four songs for the hero of the picture. It may be mentioned that it has never been customary with Pankaj Mallick to lend his vibrating voice to others. Rajendra Gaur has recently written the dialogue of Ashok Kumar Production's *Parineeta* and Bhanumati's *Chandirani*.

Demand of Omar Khaiyam Films For Either Brawn or Brains!

Whenever Omar Khaiyam Films Ltd., start a picture, a queer procession of men and women is to be seen going into or coming out of their office. They are not the normal men and women seen elsewhere, for an Omar Khaiyam film, with its full-blooded virility, is almost always enacted by tall, hefty, muscular men and women who are handsome in a big, amazonian way. Neither producer Sheikh, nor actor Mukhtar likes his cast to be puny, writes D.P. of the B.P.F.S.

That is why, besides Mukhtar himself, every Omar Khaiyam film

—including their current one, *Dara*, directed by Harish, himself a man of considerable rotundity—has the very cream of masculinity and femininity in it. "Villain" Ansari—who, incidentally, is to direct the Company's next film *Mangu*—is a six-footer, a big-game hunter and weighs 170 lbs. Sankatha Prasad, once a regular ladies' man, now partially grayed, still retains his once-famous wrestling qualities. Ghulam Husein, one of the toughs in *Ustad Pedro*, who trains horses when not acting, can lift a man clean above his head and fling him out through the window with the greatest of ease. There are others endowed with abnormal physical prowess. Even pocket-sized comedian Mukri compensates for his lack of height with solid muscularity and amazing toughness.

Consider the Omar Khaiyam women. In *Sartaj* they had Muhawar Sultana, a lovely woman with no littleness about her. In *Dara* and *Ustad Pedro* they had Begum Para—red, full-blown and full of sheer animal grace. For *Anndata*

they picked Veena, the tallest and the most aristocratic-looking girl on the Indian screen. In *Dara* Begum Para is back again, together with Nigar Sultana, whose height, gait and majestic bearing could be a model for the best of western ballerinas.

Sub-human proportions are tolerated only among those who will not personally appear on the screen. The *Dara* script team, for instance, is composed of four men, but cleverly recompounded they would make no more than two normal human beings, albeit with outsize brains. Tahir Lucknowi, the leader of this quartet, is a thin, shrunken, inconspicuous being with the quietness of a mouse. "But his mind is big enough for half a dozen normal men," avers Mukhtar. "In my Company," he adds, "you must either have brawn—or brains."

David As Goonda In Naya Sansar's "Munna"

David, who has given over 100 performances since he joined films, finds his role in Naya Sansar's *Munna* "one of the three or four best of my entire career." He made this categorical statement at the M. & T. Studios recently to a representative of the *Bombay Press Features Service* who had gone there to attend a set of *Munna*.

David was his usual gay self and kept on a flow of hilarious jokes as the correspondent looked at him, blinked twice or thrice and then scratched his head in perplexity. Something was wrong and he didn't know what. He thought and thought and then he suddenly realised with a shock that David was no longer bald but had thick hair all over his head!

"Grown 'em recently," David said. "There's a new hair oil, you know...!" He went on to describe the properties of the new find in ecstatic terms and, after convincing his questioner that he really had grown a new crop, calmly put his hand to his head and detached a wig! "See?" he said, like a conjurer. "Can't disappoint you. Still as bald as an egg!" The wig, the correspondent was told, was a local product and had necessitated no air flights to London or Paris. A remarkable

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achievement of native handicraft, it looked extremely snug and realistic on David's head.

On the set with David was Romi, the six-year-old star of *Munna*, who enters the senior man's life at a stage when David is just about to commit a few murders — "for the sheer fun of it" — and starts a minor revolution in a hardened criminal's life. "It is one of the most unusual films I shall ever have been in," David declared. "Not only the story, but also its treatment is the most original conceivable. There's been nothing like it before, except perhaps in foreign films of the highest rating."

Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, who is producing and directing *Munna*, took himself away, presumably in a fit of modesty, as David expressed this unambiguous opinion. "And I wasn't flattering Abbas," David concluded, glancing at the well known writer's retreating figure.

R.K. Films' Production Schedule

Due to the sudden shouldering of the Tensing story, R.K. Films' *Ghat* has been indefinitely postponed. Naturally, the Tensing film must be done as soon as possible, and Raj Kapoor is trying his best to put the finished product before his public by the end of the year. But the two immediate assignments on the R.K. Films' schedule are *Phagun* and *Shri 420*. While director Biren Tripathi starts *Phagun*, Raj Kapoor will start *Shri 420* on the R.K. floors, states a *Publicity Consolidated* report.

Phagun was to have started early this month, since writer Rajinder Singh Bedi had long since handed in the complete shooting script of the film. But casting presented a major problem to Raj Kapoor. It had already been decided that Shammi Kapoor, Raj's younger brother, would play the son-in-law, and Nutan the daughter, and Nyampalli the minor role of a doctor. But the major role of the mother-in-law had not been cast. Initially, Raj had toyed with the idea of casting Vanmala, after which Nargis decided that she would like to play the role. Meanwhile, Vanmala completed her other assignments in Bombay and left for her native Gwalior. Due to various profes-

sional reasons, it was decided that Nargis could not play the role. In consequence, Biren Tripathi was sent by Raj to Gwalior to personally convince Vanmala regarding the role. Young Biren is now in Bombay. He is confident that Vanmala has liked the role, and will soon be coming down to Bombay to start work. Jaywant Pathare, whose photography in *Aah* attracted such critical acclaim, will crank the camera for *Phagun*. While Biren Tripathi awaits the word "go" to leap into continuous shooting, Raj Kapoor is egging K. Ahmed Abbas to complete the full script of *Shree 420* so that he can go on the floors at once. Raj Kapoor will himself direct this film, which is a rollicking comedy depicting the unequal social status of big city life and indicating the economic set-up that compels honest people to become rogues in order to satisfy the call of the stomach. *Shri 420* takes up where *Awara* left off. Whereas the former epic melodramatised on the question of environment and heredity, *Shri 420* laughs at the follies of man, and laughs with the man too.

Starring Raj Kapoor himself in the major title role, the film will also star Nargis. Other casting has not yet been finalised, since the remaining roles are incidental. *Shri 420* is being planned on a large scale by Raj Kapoor who said recently, "I made them cry in *Aah*. I'll bring guffaws to their lips in *Shri 420*." Which is exactly what the film is calculated to do. Radhu Karmarkar, whose photography of *Awara* put him up among the front-rank cameramen, and who awaits his Technicolor assignment on *Ajanta*, will himself shoot *Shri 420*.

New Release in New Theatre

Released all over India recently, Bharani Pictures' *Chandi Rani*, in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, is running to crowded houses. Bhanumathi acts in the picture and has also directed it. Others in the cast are Rama Rao, Ranga Rao, Relangi, Agha, Doraiswami, etc. It was shot at Bharani Studio. This picture was released at "Plaza" and Sri Krishna in the city. The "Plaza" is the latest addition to the theatres in the city and is centrally situated on Mount Road.

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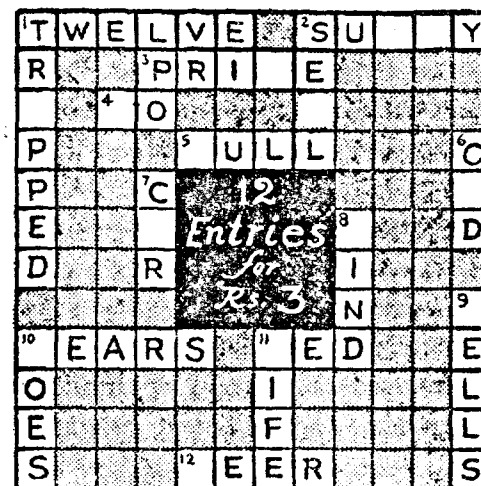
Across

- Remember you can now send — Entries for Rs. 3/- only!
- Person who is feeling peevish is bound to become better when he finds himself in the company of a — individual.
- This is bound to make intelligent student strive his best to rank first in the examination.
- To move from one place to another.
- Those engaged in serious conversation are likely to feel annoyed by the remarks made by one who is — of wits.
- What a person — is conditioned by his mental attitude.
- It is, indeed, astonishing how some persons allow themselves to be badly this.
- Unfortunately, even educated youth seem to derive pleasure when they this at every Eve they see.

CLOSING DATE IN MADRAS :
9th OCT. 1953 (Subject to Rules and Conditions.)

KEY SOLUTION will be published in the 15-10-'53 and Prize List in the 1-11-'53 Issue of "MY MAGAZINE OF INDIA"

THIS SQUARE IS FOR PRACTICE ONLY.



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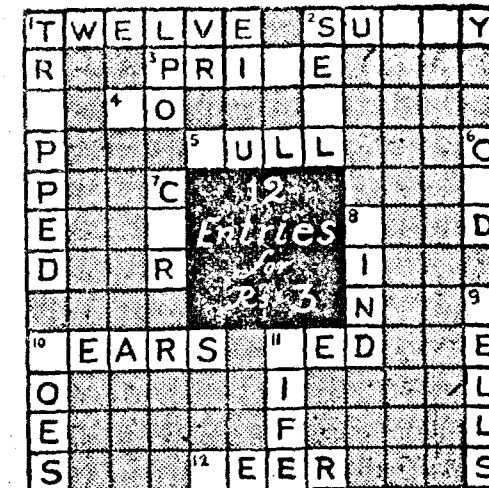
- Vanity has made many a guilty person to be —
- To offer for sale.
- The way some girls make up their faces only results in making them appear rather this!
- This must have caused most of us a fright sometime or other.
- The ability to quickly understand the — of men they had to deal with has been a great factor in the lives of most self-made men.
- Businessman who firmly believes that quality — will strive his best to keep it up.
- Enterprising person is bound to have plenty of —
- It would certainly be cowardly of a man if he tries to run away from his unbearable —

FOR FULL LIST OF FIXED WORDS AND ALTERNATIVES, SEE PAGE 56.

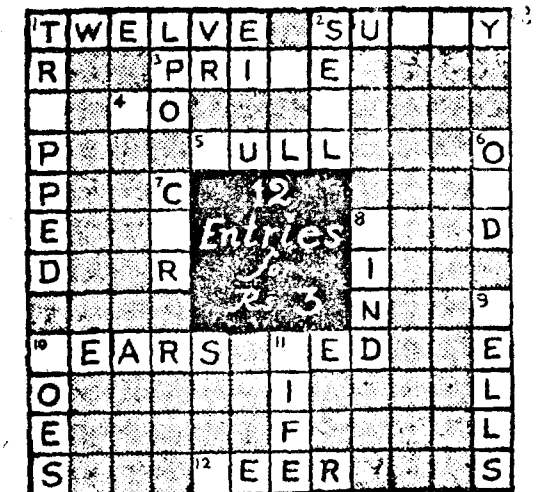
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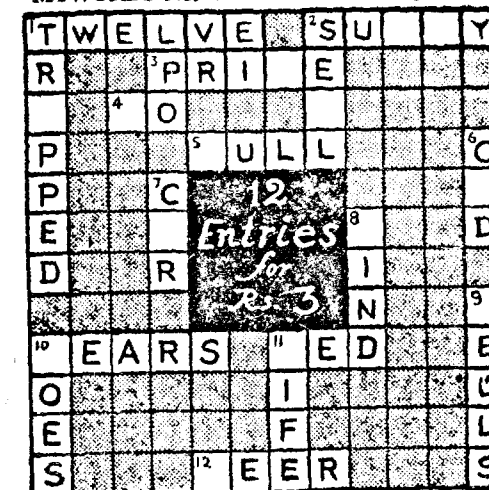
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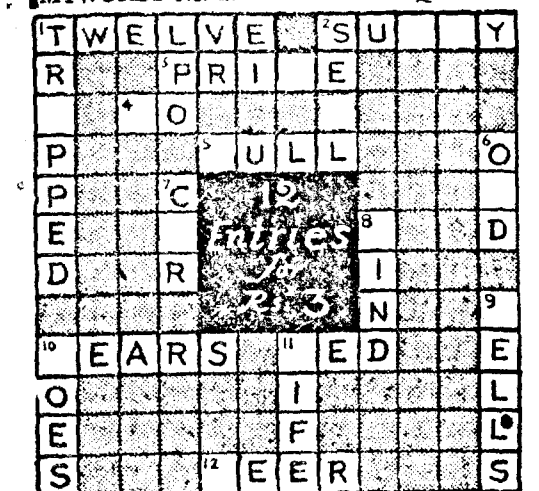
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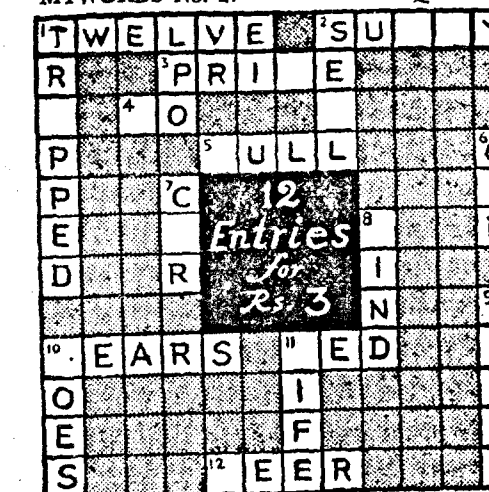
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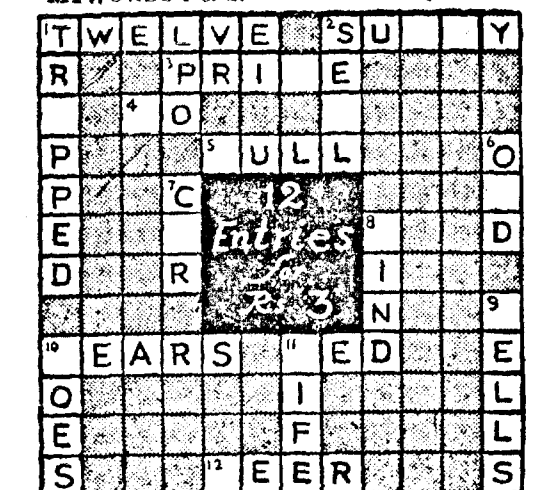
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"MY WORDS" COMPETITION

Sixty-Seventh Birthday Of A Saint

Admirers, devotees and disciples of H.H. Mahamandaleswar Sri Swami Sivananda Saraswathi gathered in large numbers at the Museum Theatre in the City on the 8th of this month to celebrate the sixty-seventh birthday of His Holiness.

The function was arranged by the Divine Life Madras Centre on behalf of all the Divine Life Society Branches in the City.

Hon'ble Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments, presided over the function.

The function commenced with prayer by Kumaris Sarojini and Vijayalakshmi, followed by the chanting of Vedic hymns by the Sri Veda Sabha of Egmore led by Sri M.R.V. Sastri.

Sri E. Gopalakrishnamurthi of the Royapuram D.L.S. Branch read the Birthday Message sent by H.H. Swamiji Maharaj. Sri K.R. Seshadri, Secretary of the Madras

Centre, read the Messages received from H.E. Sri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, Sri C. Rajagopalachari, Chief Minister of Madras, Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University, Hon'ble Justice A. S. P. Ayyar and others wishing the function success.

After Sankirtan by Sri Kannayya Pantulu, Sri K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, President of the Madras Centre, spoke on the life and achievements of His Holiness. The Swamiji, he said, is a person who "symbolised the multifarious activities of the independent, integrated, indomitable and irrepressible India."

Dr. T.M.P. Mahadevan, Professor of Philosophy, University of Madras, said, during his speech, that it was only when there was harmonious relationship between the thinkers and the doers, between the active politicians and the sagely saints, that the country could become great.

Sri Chenchia, ex-Chief Justice of Pudukottah, Sri C.R. Pattabhiraman, Bar-at-Law, Sri P. Ramaswami Chettiar, Special Engineer of the Corporation of Madras, Mr. S.M. Fossil, of the Crescent Society, Sri Sukabrahmam, Sri Venkateswarananda of Arogya Asramam and Sri A. Lakshminarayana Sastri also paid their tributes to the Swamiji's greatness.

Sri Venkataswami Naidu, the President of the function, said that the entire world looked to India for spiritual guidance and it was, therefore, absolutely necessary that we should live up to our spiritual tradition. He said that atheism was becoming more and more marked as the outlook of a growing number of people in our country and hence it was particularly fortunate that we were having in our midst a great spiritual savant and guru in the person of Swami Sivananda who was doing such magnificent service for the moral and spiritual upliftment of mankind.

4 Points Winners. Each Awarded Rs. 2-5-0.

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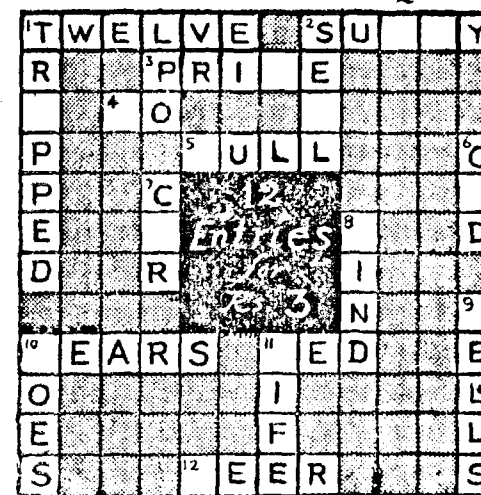
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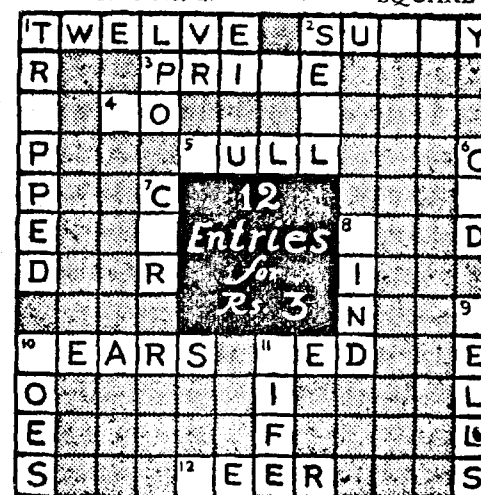
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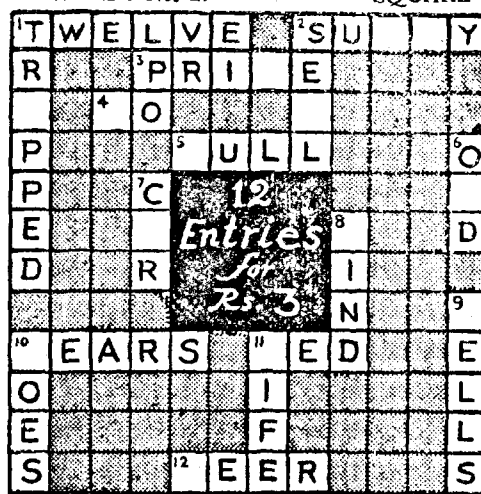
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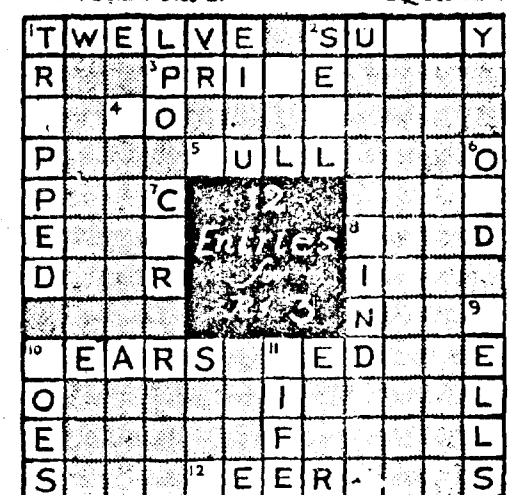
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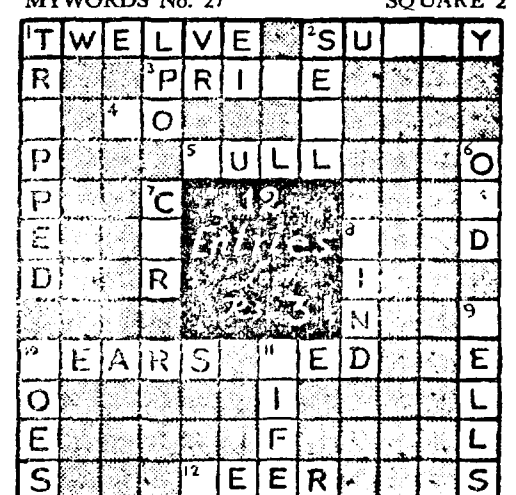
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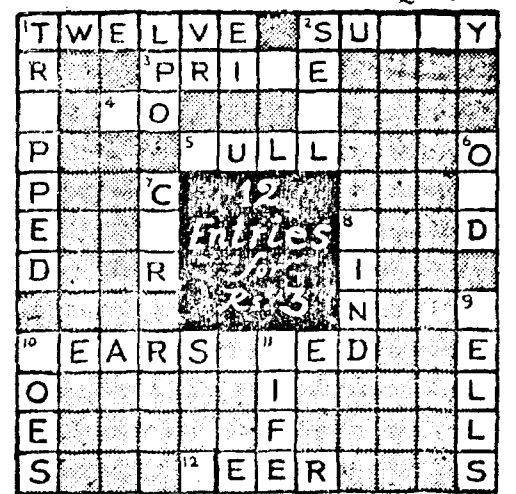
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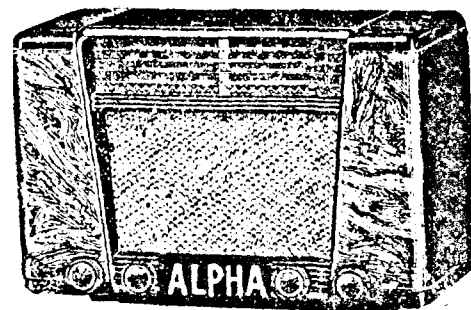
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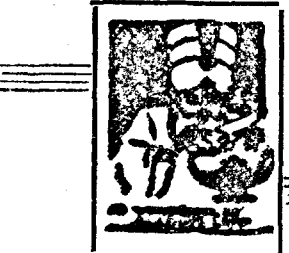
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MY MAGAZINE

55

MYWORDS No. 25

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VIEWPOINT

ACROSS

3. "Man whose near relations
are none too respectable is apt to be
this when questioned even casually
about them." SHY, Sly?

If we were to question the man in an
inquisitive manner, then he is likely to be
Sly, cunning in his replies. When we want
to know something about his relatives and
therefore question him in a casual manner,
thinking he would not mind giving us the
information, the person is quite apt to be
Shy, feel delicate and embarrassed, because
those relatives are none too respectable.
He knows that his being Sly would not
help him. So, he would feel Shy in giving
any direct or straightforward replies.
SHY thus scored.

8. "Many a man who has placed
—above everything else finds
himself without even one true
friend." PELF, Self?

To place Self above everything else
means to be extremely self-centred, selfish.
A man who has such a mentality would
also try to attempt to view things from the
point of how much he would stand to gain
in some way or other. And such a man
cannot afford to alienate others. He would
even sedulously cultivate the friendship of
such of those who will prove quite useful
to him. Those people may not be aware
of his real motive and are, therefore,
likely to remain sincere friends of his. This
view led to the rejection of Self. A man
who places Pelf, money, above everything
else would never seek friends lest he will
have to spend. Nor would others care to
be his intimate and true friends because
they become easily aware of his nature.
This kind of individual may have friends
but not true ones. The Members felt
PELF was the apt word.

9. "To improve a — calls for
considerable patience and putting
up with much criticism." SLUG,
Slum, Slut?

The members felt that it is only when a
Slum is not improved that there would be
much criticism. No one would ever
criticise an attempt to improve a Slum. A
Slut is a jade, a woman whose behaviour is
highly improper. The Members felt that
mere patience cannot help one to change
the nature of a Slut. They also felt that
not all can attempt this task but only
psychologists and social workers. The
general wording of the Clue went against
this view. So they rejected Slut. A heavy,
azy fellow is described as a Slug. It is

quite likely that a person (any one, that is)
might want to improve the Slug. He may
think that by tackling him in the way he
wishes to, he can achieve the desired result.
Whether he is a layman or an expert in the
job, he would have to have considerable
patience for it is not a job to be finished
within a short time. Besides this patience,
he would also have to put up with consider-
able criticism for people always think that
a lazy fellow's nature can never be changed.
SLUG thus scored.

10. "Healthy appetite would
induce one to eat a good — with
unconcealed relish." MEAL, Deal?

That healthy appetite would induce one
to eat a good Deal, to eat plenty, was
conceded by the Members. But they
queried, good Deal of what? This question
led to the logical Meal. And the "uncon-
cealed relish" clearly added to the aptness
of Meal. Even if a man has a poor
appetite, he will eat a good Meal with
some relish. And a person with a healthy
appetite would eat a good Meal with
unconcealed relish. What induces him to
do so is his having a healthy appetite. The
Members thus preferred MEAL.

11. "It is sheer stupidity to
— over what has happened." WAIL, Rail?

Meekly submitting to Fate, it was held,
was what was objected to here. To Rail
over what has happened, to abuse Fate for
our difficulties or to abuse someone for what
was done by him is at least a manly
reaction, though lacking in gracefulness.
But to Wail, to lament over what has
happened, is a very unmanly and unwise
thing to do. The "sheer stupidity," in
the Members' opinion, clearly indicated the
aptness of Wail. The choice was thus
of WAIL.

DOWN

1. "Man who spends much of
his time with — would feel un-
comfortable when forced to be
without them." BOOBS, Books,
Boors?

Boors was rejected on the ground that
no one would ever spend much time with
awkward, surly, unmannerly people. And
even if any one did, surely he wouldn't feel
uncomfortable for not being with such
people! Man who has been accustomed to
spending much of his time with Books
may no doubt feel it difficult to spend his
time when forced to be without books but
it was held that he wouldn't feel "uncom-

fortable." When a person is accustomed
or habituated to spending much of his
time with Boobs, silly, stupid people, he
would certainly feel uncomfortable, uneasy,
out of his element if forced to be without
them. Whether he is forced to be without
any company or forced to be in the
company of serious-minded people, he will
feel quite uncomfortable. BOOBS was,
therefore, preferred.

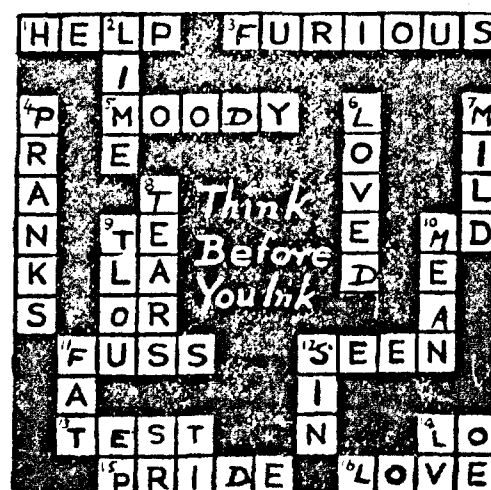
4. "Woman who hasn't criti-
cised the — of other women is
yet to be born!" HUBBY, Hobby?

It was felt by the Members that Hobby
here would be an unnecessary and un-
warranted reflection on women. In all
fairness it must be said that women are not
so bad as to fail to appreciate another
woman's Hobby. Particular hobbies might
be criticised but not all hobbies. It was
felt that Hobby fitted the Clue like a glove.
While a woman would always tell her
husband that her neighbour is lucky in
having a partner who meets her every
wish, she wouldn't say so while chatting
with other women! She would always
find fault with her neighbour, criticise her
husband. It is a typical feminine trait.
And the all-male Committee unanimously
and quickly agreed that a woman who
will be free from such a trait is yet to be
born! They thus preferred HUBBY.

(To be continued)

Below is the Official Key Solution
of MYWORDS No. 26. The Prize
List will be published in My
Magazine of India of 1st Oct. 1953.
If you believe you have won a Prize
and it is not stated in the published
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Key Solution of MYWORDS No. 26



FULL LIST of FIXED WORDS & ALTERNATIVES

GIVEN BELOW IS THE FULL LIST OF FIXED WORDS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR "MYWORDS" No. 27. THE ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE'S SELECTION OF THE APT WORDS WILL BE FROM THIS LIST ONLY.

— COMPETITION EDITOR.

MYWORDS No. 27

CLOSING DATE :— 9th OCT. '53

Fixed Words

Across :— 1. TWELVE.

4. ROM.

Down :— 2. SELL.

Alternatives

Across :— 2. SULKY, SUNNY, SURLY.

3. PRIDE, PRIZE.

5. DULL, FULL.

12. JEER, LEER, PEER.

Down :— 1. TRAPPED, TRIPPED.

6. ODD, OLD.

7. CAR, CUR.

8. KIND, MIND.

9. SELLS, TELLS.

Interlockers

Across :— 10. FEARS, WEARS.

Down :— 10. FOES, WOES.

Across :— 11. LED, WED.

Down :— 11. LIFE, WIFE.

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32, BROADWAY, MADRAS-1

SQUAREWORDS

Till the moment of going to Press, the Advance Pull of SQUAREWORD No. D-18 has not been received. Hence, the full comments on SQUAREWORD No. D-18 will appear in the 1st October, '53 issue.

As there is still plenty of time for submitting entries for SQUAREWORD No. D-17 (the Closing Date for it is 8th October, '53), Second Thoughts on the same are published below for the benefit of the SQUAREWORD fans.

— "Spotter".

2nd Thoughts :

Squareword No. D-17

(Closing Date :— 8-10-'53)

Across

1. "Good" should be taken to mean "skillful" and not conscientious. Then, TASK alone is apt.

2. Previous choice of HOPES is confirmed.

3. "Stop doing it" in the Clue becomes sensible only with the word KEEP.

9. I am not so sure of my previous choice of the word *Classes*. Hence, I would suggest permuting both CLASSES and GLASSES here.

14. I feel that "sometimes" is the pointer here. Seeing his friends *Merry* would always make a man to be likewise. But seeing them *Marry*, he may sometimes be tempted to follow their example. MARRY scores.

15. There is no reason for changing the selection of TALKER.

16. OWE undoubtedly.

17. *Dowdy* wife cannot move a dirty husband. A wife who is occasionally rowdyish will. Bet on ROWDY.

18. LIKES is still a good choice.

Down

2. *Change* is in status quo and hence cannot be failed to be noticed. CHANCE still scores.

3. I confirm previous choice of WISH.

4. A *Jolly* thing may be harmful or harmless. But *Folly* can never be good. We will thus have to suffer for the *Folly*. Back FOLLY.

5. TENSELY is the best selection.

7. For arguments already adduced, except *Genial* other words cannot at all be apt. Bet on GENIAL.

10. I feel it would be better to permute both COMELY and HOMELY here.

11. I feel that the end can and does justify the means. Hence, reject *Crawl*. Shouting and quarrelling can make one get his way but it may have unpleasant consequences. Vote for BRAWL.

12. PRIDE still scores.

13. The words "idle" and "riots" clearly indicate HANDS.

I. W. X-WORDS

Till the moment of going to Press, the Advance Pull of I.W.X-WORD No. C-15 has not been received. Hence, the full comments on I.W.X-WORD No. C-15 will appear in the 1st October, '53 issue.

As there is still plenty of time for submitting entries for I.W.X-WORD No. C-14 (the Closing Date for it is 23rd October, '53), Second Thoughts on the same are published below for the benefit of the I.W.X-WORD fans.

— "Spotter".

2nd Thoughts :

I.W.X-Word No. C-14

(Closing Date :— 23-10-'53)

ACROSS

4. The "notoriety" in the Clue clearly overstates the case for *Bully*. As already suggested, bet on BULLY.

5. On reconsideration, I feel *Flood* is superior to *Floor*. Because of its influence and money, the all-powerful party can *Flood* electorate with propaganda. FLOOD scores.

7. FEELING still holds good.

9. The "usually" points to exceptions. This can be in favour of WIRE only.

13. Previous choice of TEAM is confirmed.

19. Bet on BANGS.

20. I feel choice of *Revel* is being too uncharitable to man. Hence, vote for REBEL.

DOWN

1. "Nasty" certainly goes better with *Crush* than *Crash*. Hence, back CRUSH.

2. Choice of RAGE is confirmed.

3. Absence of data about *Waiters* makes me prefer WASTERS.

11. NEAR is the best reply to the "short-sighted" in the Clue.

12. It is better to permute the two words SORRY and WORRY here.

15. As *Hovel* has no claims at all for consideration, HOTEL is the safest bet.

17. As already suggested, permute FAME and NAME.

INTERLOCKERS

Across 10) I feel that no one would Down 10) confide in a person known to be a *Rake*. Hence, back the FAKE—FESTIVE combination here.

Across 14) I see no reason to change my Down 14) previous choice. Hence, back the FOOLS—FOURS pair.

5th September 1953

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