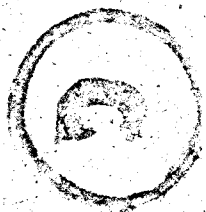


MY MAGAZINE
OF INDIA.

15th Nov - 1953

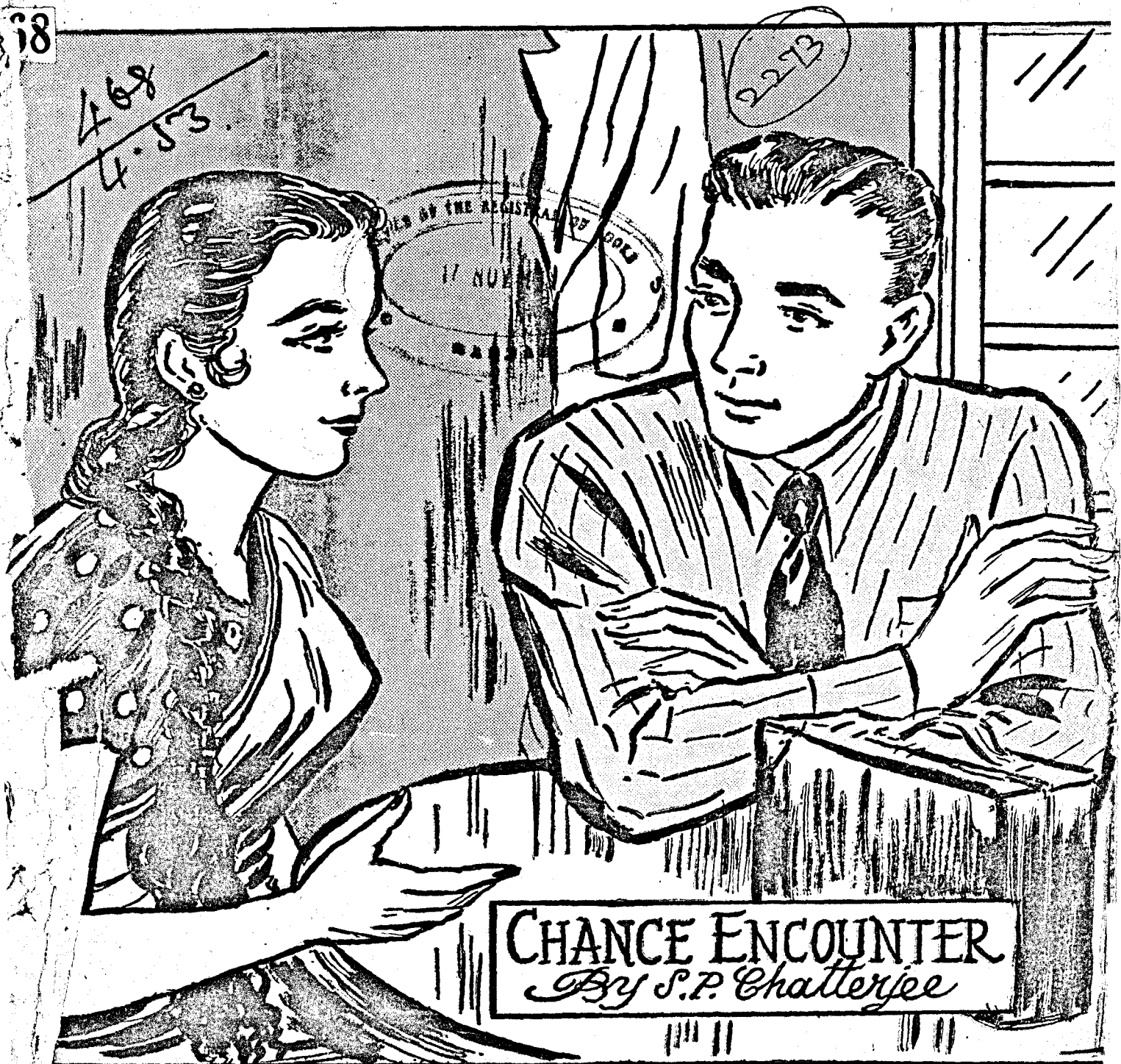


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INLAND:— YEARLY Rs. 6.
SIX MONTHS Rs. 3.
FOREIGN:— YEARLY Rs. 7-8 OR
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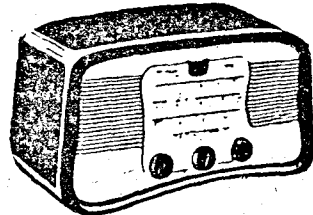
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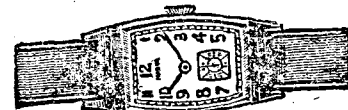
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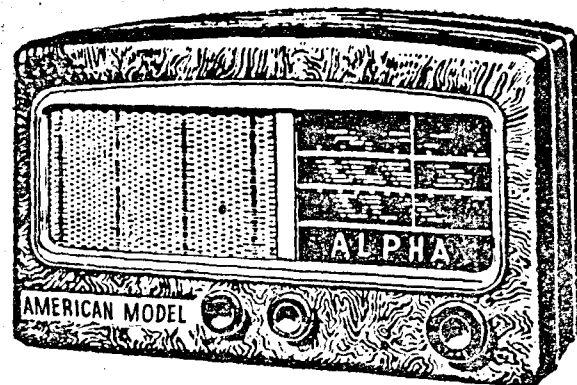
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ACROSS

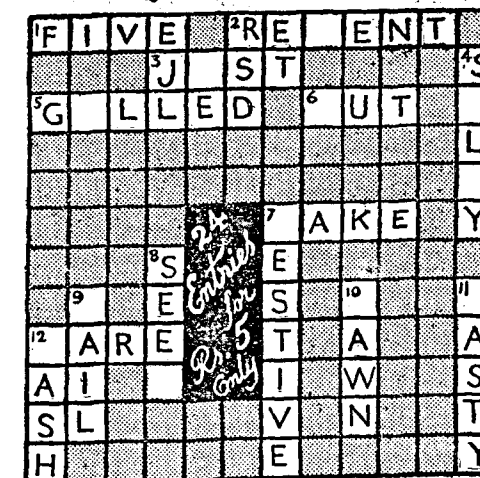
- You can now send 24 Entries for Rupees — only!
- Sensitive people will surely — soon after first flush of anger.
- Even though the remark be this, woman will resent it if it refers to her bossing over hubby.
- How satisfied would man feel when he has — mother-in-law he dislikes!
- Rarely do people realise that man in — can be more at peace with the world than others.
- It is sheer conceit that makes some people claim they can easily spot out a —
- Those who don't — to make the necessary attempts to succeed will most about cruel Fate!

CLOSING DATE IN MADRAS:

7th JAN. 1954 (Subject to Rules and Conditions.)

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DOWN

- When wife's behaviour is markedly this, it bodes ill for poor hubby!
- Man in love should be careful of what he says to his sweetheart when he is in this mood.
- To — to be cheerful even when badly off reveals a man's determination to succeed in spite of heavy odds.
- Nowadays, students — even when the tests are very simple.
- Some people don't seem to care whether it is proper to — before others.
- Opposition Members' — remarks about the Congress administration are usually due to personal disappointments.
- Many a man has lost a splendid opportunity to make good owing to lack of sufficient this.

FOR FULL LIST OF FIXED WORDS AND ALTERNATIVES, SEE PAGE 58.

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With a firm faith in the rectitude of his own Purpose and Principles, by which he has made it the highest duty of his life to serve his Country and People, he has declared in no uncertain language that, "so long as life and vigour last, whether I am in office or not, I must oppose the 'Spoils System' in our democracy." He is not going to be frightened by Dr. Krishnaswamys or Dr. Varadarajulu Naidus. Rajaji knows, as he himself says, only too well the lapses and follies of Dr. Varadarajulu Naidu and so the doctor's

childlike game of trying to set up Congress Party men against him only rouses laughter as the joke is but too transparent. Rajaji, far from being bamboozled by their imbecile and impotent attacks, takes a pathetic view of opposition from disgruntled and disappointed speechifying politicians who pose as representatives of some Party or other. In thus treating them with sincere sympathy and graceful pity, Sri C. Rajagopalachariar chivalrously maintains the intrepid tradition set up by the Raja of Bobbili and Sri Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar, both of whom, when Chief Ministers, no amount of veiled or overt threat of legislative harassing could frighten. Legislators and Party men will not be allowed to encash their position into privileges or patronage.

Rajaji, as a student of history, knows only too well that a well established Democracy like Britain or a more powerful and opulent one like U.S.A. has paid the penalty of deterioration and degeneration when Legislative Members of the Party in Power claimed preferments on the idea of "Spoils of Victory." Rajaji is not prepared to sacrifice Public Welfare and Public Purity to save or safeguard his position which has been thrust on him—a fact which is matter of common knowledge. That is why he would sooner sacrifice his place or job. As Rajaji himself has frankly expressed it, it is not his actions that it is sought to be condemned; it is himself, Rajaji. He is brutally frank; he is cruelly uncompromising. But these traducers cannot hinder or harm either Rajaji or the Cause for which he stands.

It is also the selfsame Rajaji that has put down Official Corruption with a ruthless hand. A terror to the corrupt official, and one indifferent to the frowns of the clamouring Party men, verily, this Daniel in the lion's den will not be harmed by the



Favourite of the Fortnight

noble and discerning Intelligentsia, though the vile wolves and jackals might set up a discordant howling. The wiser and saner sections feel towards Rajaji and repeat what Wordsworth felt and wrote about Milton "Thy country hath now need of thee, especially, in these degenerate days."

MY MAGAZINE

OF INDIA

24th Year of Publication

Vol. 24 ::

MADRAS, 15th NOVEMBER 1953

:: No. 22

NO JUSTICE TO MINORITIES

AFTER six years of deliberation and discussion, the Pakistan Constituent Assembly has decided that Pakistan is to become a Republic. Like India, it will continue to remain in the Commonwealth. But the comparison stops there. The regret is that there will be a world of difference between the two neighbours. Pakistan will be an out-and-out Islamic Republic. Only a Muslim can be the Head of the State.

Pakistani spokesmen have been at pains to convince the outside world that there is a lot of difference between a theocratic State which Pakistan was originally intended to be and an Islamic Republic which she will be. The Mullah Board will still be there and the State is to provide funds for the propagation of Islamic principles and ideals. The significance of this provision will not, however, be lost upon others. The constitution makers are probably nursing the secret hope that there will be no non-Muslim in the State after some years and that the desired results will be achieved through proselytization.

How can minorities expect justice in such a set-up of things? Will they have equality of opportunity, can they exercise their franchise fearlessly, are there sufficient safeguards to protect their religion, language and culture? The answer is obvious. There will be sympathy for those Hindu Opposition members who said their presence was rendered useless by the new developments and walked out of the Constituent Assembly. They insisted, rightly, that there should be a guarantee that their personal laws should never be interfered with.

In a statement released to the Press, the minority leaders have reiterated their opposi-

tion to the proposed Mullah organisation for the teaching of the Quran as that would definitely hinder the quiet pursuit of their own religious practices. What is more repugnant, the framers of the Constitution have taken a page from Indo-British history and introduced separate electorates to keep the minorities in a water-tight compartment. Worse still, the Hindu community has been divided into two electorates — Caste Hindu and Scheduled Castes. The seeds of disunity and disruption have thus been sown so that Hindus can be played against one another.

All these decisions show how secularism has been thrown overboard and religion has come to dominate every aspect of the Pakistani's life and activities. Maybe, the Islamic character of the Republic engenders in him a sense of unity and fraternity with the people of Egypt, Iran and Turkey but the latter are not keen on such sentimental show. The proceedings of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly smack a good deal of mediaevalism against which many factors and forces of the modern age are bound to militate. One redeeming feature is that there are several sections of Pakistanis who are not enthused over these decisions.

They must be aware also that when Pakistan came into being, Mr. Jinnah, its founder, envisaged a secular modern state wherein the majority and the minority communities could have perfect freedom and equality of opportunity and wherein there would be no discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of race or religion. Such a fine ideal seems to have been given a decent burial if the decisions of P.C. Assembly are any indication.

The Editor invites short stories and skits for publication. He reserves the right to cut or alter any contribution as he thinks fit. Payment for accepted contributions will be made after publication only. The articles, skits and stories printed in MY MAGAZINE OF INDIA are copyright material and as such any reproduction of the same, either partly or wholly, without the previous written permission of the Editor, is forbidden. The characters and names in the stories and skits in MY MAGAZINE OF INDIA are purely imaginary and have no reference to real persons.

News & Notes

Call To Engineers

The new India of which we have all been dreaming must become a reality very soon. Pandit Nehru made this observation at a reception given in his honour at Nangal last week. To a gathering of engineers and other officers connected with the execution of Bhakra and Nangal projects, he said: "We want to do in ten years what other countries have done in a hundred." India should achieve something substantial soon; otherwise it would founder, he warned. In working for this magnificent objective he wanted speed but not at the cost of efficiency.

The sight of big works like the Bhakra-Nangal, and the Damodar Valley, projects was very exciting and induced a feeling of legitimate pride, said the Prime Minister. He advised engineers to throw themselves heart and soul into the task assigned to them and create a feeling of fraternity and sense of partnership among the workers in building a new India. And such a sense of partnership among the workers would produce in them a feeling of responsibility and pride which would contribute towards greater speed and efficiency.

Paying a tribute to the American engineers employed on the project, the Prime Minister said: "As Americans are leaders of the technique in building dams, we want to make the best use of their skill. They are partners in this great task, for they have come here not to earn money, which they can do better in their own country, but on account of their interest in the job."

The completion of projects such as these, went on the Prime Minister, gave us faith, confidence and experience. It spurred on the nation to bigger efforts and greater deeds.

Chiang's Men In Burma

After years of uncertainty and dispute, the evacuation of Kuomintang troops from Burma has

begun. They have proved a headache to the Rangoon Government and terrorised people in many villages and towns. It may be recalled that Burma was overrun twice during the last World War; the ravages are still to be repaired. The rebels are another source of threat to internal peace and security. The K.M.T. troops often side with them and do their worst.

Unable to drive out these foreign elements, the Burmese Government sought the help of the United Nations. Last April the General Assembly condemned their presence there and called for their immediate withdrawal. But little progress was registered thereafter. General Chiang disowned the troops in Burma and declared that he was powerless to do anything. But the world was fully aware that the guerillas operating in Burma belonged to Nationalist China. The United States professing to evince keen interest in the rehabilitation of Asiatic countries would not raise its little finger to help Burma. It could have easily brought pressure to bear on the Formosan Government. It might have spoken firmly to Chiang or made him see reason by withholding aid. But it did none of these.

Now, at last, Chiang has conceded that 2,000 of the guerillas are his men and they should be taken back to Taipei. The ten thousand that are left behind are still strong enough to terrorise the countryside and give endless trouble to the Burmese Government. It is evident that armed assistance from outside may be necessary to disarm these guerillas and round them up. One hopes that the U.N. will consider the new situation that has arisen and actively help Burma to establish law and order in all parts of the country. It is now clear that these troops must have infiltrated into Burma with the main object of opening a second front for Chiang, raiding Chinese territory and confusing Peking. Mao is not to be disconcerted by such puny attempts. It is better for Washington to realise this truth and arrange for the

evacuation of all Chinese guerillas in Burma.

Nehru Is Sixty-Four

It is hard to believe that Pandit Nehru is sixty-four. Though he generally hates to be reminded of his age, celebrations of his birthday have provided occasions for national rejoicing and respectful felicitations. Anyone is as old as he feels. At sixty-four our Prime Minister shows remarkable vigour and energy that would put many a lad to shame. On average he works for eighteen hours a day; while on tour he addresses ten to twelve meetings, visits various institutions, grants interviews and attends to correspondence in his twin capacity as Prime Minister and Congress President.

The various projects launched since Independence, the execution of the Five-Year Plan and the slow but steady growth of the democratic spirit are rapidly paving the way for a Welfare State and changing the structure of society. For all this the nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Pandit Nehru. Within a few years our leader has raised the prestige of the country to undreamt-of heights. Even our worst enemies have agreed that Pandit Nehru is a lover of peace and is keen on steering clear of both the Power Blocs. Recently, it will be recalled, Burma's Prime Minister Thakin Nu said that whatever else might be forgotten about Pandit Nehru the world would always remember his labours in the cause of peace. The keynote of his foreign policy is that should war break out in any part of the world all efforts must be made to limit the area of the conflict. And if such a war should extend into Asia, his anxiety is that Asians must not be found fighting Asians. India's present mission in Korea shows that the risks of peace are sometimes greater than those of war. Another distinguishing feature of Pandit Nehru's foreign policy is that all possible assistance must be rendered to those nations that are struggling to be free. Even the London Times is constrained to admit that "Mr. Nehru speaks for the vast masses of Asians emerging from colonial rule who have, on the international stage, no other voice to follow

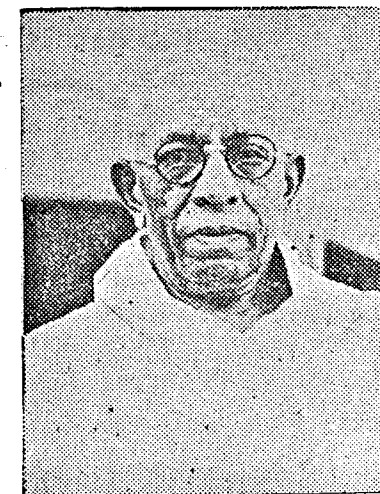
In The News



THE PRESIDENT, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, performed the opening ceremony of the Graph Centenary Exhibition, in New Delhi, recently. Photo shows the President being conducted round one of the sections of the Exhibition. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, and Shri Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister for Communications, are also seen in the picture.



Prisoners-of-war repatriated to KPA and CPV Command are seen receiving tea and cigarettes from the Korean Red Cross representatives.



DR. T. S. S. RAJAN, veteran Congress leader and ex-Minister, who passed away recently.



SRI G. LATCHANNA, of the Krishik Lok Party, who has joined the Andhra Cabinet as Minister for Agriculture.



GEORGE C. MARSHALL, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

except that of Communist China or Soviet Russia."

The colonial powers both in Africa and Asia stand in mortal dread of Pandit Nehru's criticism because the oppressed races are only too ready to act on his disinterested advice and suggestion. India is indeed fortunate to have him at the helm of affairs. It is our hope and prayer that he will serve his country for many more years and live to see all his dreams come true.

Doctors And Progress

Doctors must always endeavour to keep pace with the progress in modern medicine and surgery. Sri A.B. Shetty, Madras's Minister for Health, gave this advice while inaugurating a refresher course at Kozhikode for the medical practitioners of Malabar and South Kanara. In course of time, he promised, they would have refresher courses at the headquarters of each district. He cited the instance of Russia where medical men brushed up their knowledge periodically.

A refresher course is a desideratum; it would go far towards dispelling old-world prejudices and ideas about treatment of patients. Even laymen read about how the West has made revolutionary progress in medicine and surgery, how dead men are brought back to life long after the heart has stopped. They read about eye banks, bone banks and skin banks but they hear of no such achievement in India. Are our doctors so conservative and cautious or are they hiding their light under a bushel?

It is not enough to advise our doctors to read the medical journals and periodicals published in America and Britain. The Government of India must import medical films and shorts or produce them under expert supervision and screen them for the special benefit of doctors working in our rural areas. It is said that important operations are being televised in the United States, and surgeons in far-off places watch and learn. Of course, such a possibility is too remote for this country. During the last War, it was stated, hospitals in India lacked equipment and surgical instruments were not as sharp as they should have been.

But our doctors, even as they are circumstanced at present, can do much to promote the cause of

public health and environmental sanitation. They can give wise guidance to their patients in regard to dietary habits, teach them how to keep their persons and surroundings clean and how to render first aid before calling in the family doctor. But alas! they are seldom communicative with their patients, and often do not even care to tell them what they are ailing from.

Campaign Against Rajaji

When the general elections were over it looked as if the Congress Legislature Party in Madras would have to surrender power to the mixed group of Communists, Praja Socialists and Independents. The tide of disaster that threatened to inundate the State had somehow to be stemmed. And all Congressmen knew that Sri C. Rajagopalachariar alone could come to their rescue. At first the veteran leader was unwilling to come out of his shell. He had served the country in various capacities to the best of his ability and was enjoying a well-deserved rest. But the call of the Congress and his native State was irresistible and he assumed the leadership of the Congress Legislature Party with reluctance and hesitation.

The task of forming a Government with a minority party was far from easy. With considerable shrewdness and sagacity, he broke up the opposing groups and won for himself a vote of confidence. He took courage in both hands and abolished rationing by a stroke of the pen. He went about from district to district and village to village to see things for himself and speak to the people and succeeded in rehabilitating Congress prestige and popularity that had been so much on the wane. The people's confidence in C. R.'s leadership was amply demonstrated when the Government loan was over-subscribed in no time.

The separation of Andhra Desa would have created serious complications and overwhelmed any other leader but Rajaji coped with the task like a giant and handled an explosive situation with such tact and suavity that nothing untoward happened and there was genuine regret on both sides at the parting.

But some Congress legislators became panicky. If C. R. conti-

nued to be their steward for some more time the chance of making any private gain through power in office would recede, perhaps, for ever. They began to see red when the Chief Minister put his foot down and denounced the very idea behind land gifts to political sufferers. And so they waited for an opportunity to oust him. With the creation of an Andhra State on 1st October, they said Congress in the State could stand on its own legs and the party in power could manage its own affairs without the leader "who had been foisted on us." Sri Kamaraj Nadar, the leader of the rebel group, shocked a Madurai audience with his remark that older men must vacate in favour of younger men. What promised to become regular fireworks fizzled out soon and the Legislature Party's meeting was put off for the time being.

But a new outcry was raised when an innocuous reform like the Elementary Education Scheme was introduced. It was a Hitlerian measure, the rebel group shouted. They fretted and fumed in despair until they found a new champion in Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu who said that C. R. was setting the spirit of democracy at naught through his irrational policies and measures. So they sent a memorandum to Pandit Nehru, the Congress President, suggesting that C. R. should resign.

But the President has refused to oblige the signatories. Only last year, he retorted, they wanted Rajaji badly to save them from an awkward scrape. And now they were in a mortal hurry to bundle him out. What was it—a sign of gratitude? As for C.R., he is totally indifferent to his future—whether he remains in power or chooses to resign. But he has told the public what these legislators and their supporters are after. They are eager to perpetuate the spoils system. Rightly does C.R. remark that it has no place in a true democracy and the Constitution forbids it. As Sri C. Subramaniam points out, an artificial agitation is being worked up to discredit our leader. The appointment of Srimathi Jothi Vencatachellum as Minister for Prohibition and the adoption of the new Elementary Education Scheme are just excuses to camouflage the petty personal motives of these self-seeking politicians.

Dr. T.S.S. Rajan

In the death of Dr. T.S.S. Rajan the nation has lost a veteran Congress leader. An able physician and surgeon, he built up a lucrative practice in Tiruchirapalli but he did not hesitate to suspend it whenever the call of the Congress came. He was a trusted lieutenant of Gandhiji and C.R. since the Non-Co-operation days and spent long stretches in jail. Memorable was his part in the Salt Satyagraha movement in 1930. He was elected to the (Central) Legislative Assembly in 1934. Later on in 1937, when Congress chose to assume the reins of administration in the provinces, Dr. Rajan entered Rajaji's cabinet in Madras as Minister for Public Health and Religious Endowments. But Congress went into the wilderness with the outbreak of the second World War in 1939 and Dr. Rajan went to prison again. He became Food Minister when Congress accepted responsibility in 1947 and, two years later, took over the portfolio of Public Health.

As party organizer and administrator, he was thorough and ruthless. And he was a zealous champion of Prohibition and Harijan uplift. He scorned hypocrisy and his bluntness and plain-speaking often shocked even his own associates. But he was simple and straightforward and made immense sacrifices in the cause of the country. The most remarkable thing about him was that he never knew what fear was like, either in his private or public life.

The Agonies Of Travel

Ticketless travel and beggar nuisance in trains must be stopped forthwith. This suggestion made to the Railway Ministry by the National Railway Users' Consultative Council will be endorsed by the general public. The Railways sustain heavy losses every year on account of ticketless travel. In other words it means that bona fide passengers have to dig deeper into their pockets to make good the loss or they may have to forgo some of the amenities available. The Council recommends that the Ministry "should take steps to

improve not only the efficiency, calibre and integrity of the ticket-checking officials but also to secure public co-operation in stamping out this evil."

We should, however, point out that ticket-examiners are more vigilant and efficient than before but the railway authorities need to tighten up their cordon round every station, devise more stringent measures and increase the penalties for those who attempt to travel free. Any railway official who is disposed to be lenient or connives at such offences or accepts illegal gratification must be strictly dealt with. The administration can improve only when every servant, high or low, has a wholesome fear of disciplinary action. As for the public, it should be made clear that it is unwise to show sympathy to, or shield, a ticketless traveller.

How best can the problem of the beggar nuisance be tackled? Swarms of beggars invade every long-distance train. Where passenger crowds are densest, there one finds the beggars doing roaring business. Shrill voices raised to the highest pitch, singing or wailing, and exhibition of freaks give an endless headache to the wearied traveller from the start of the journey till he reaches his destination. As the National Railway Users' Consultative Council rightly points out, "tangible results can be achieved only if adequate and effective steps are taken by the Police to remove beggars from stations or trains."

Referring to the question of catering and vending at stations, the Council expresses dissatisfaction and urges that the quality of the service and the eatables should be improved immediately. Contractors in general let down both the railway authorities and the consuming public and earn notoriety for themselves. What they serve as beverages are just

apologies for coffee or tea and the eatables are seldom prepared with care. Officials must not only supervise these catering establishments regularly but also act on the suggestions or complaints of passengers.

Fighting An Epidemic

Reports agree that cholera has assumed an epidemic form and there is almost no part of Madras City that is free from it. At a recent meeting of the City Council several members complained that the Corporation was not able to arrest the spread of the epidemic and there was delay in removing patients from their residences to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Tondiarpet. Sri M. Radhakrishna Pillai rightly said that all the facts of the situation must be placed before the public. Suppression of the news does no good to anyone. In Calcutta, for instance, whenever there is an outbreak of the disease, the Health Officer of the Corporation inserts announcements in all the leading newspapers of that city stating where it is rampant and advising the citizens to get themselves inoculated, to avoid taking cut fruit and contaminated stuff and to drink boiled water only.

During the debate in the (Madras) City Council, one member asserted that many people thought that the I.D. Hospital provided more graves than cures. That seemed to be a bold statement for anyone to make at this juncture. The sad truth is that the Hospital is unable to cope with the present rush. It is woefully wanting in accommodation and every time there is an epidemic special sheds have to be put up to receive the new cases. In point of equipment and staff also there appears to be serious shortage. "We must take more effective measures and allot more money," said Sri Radhakrishna Pillai. If, despite its best and most earnest attempts, the Corporation has not succeeded in controlling the epidemic, it must ask the Public Health Department to join in the fight and save the City. The sooner it turns over the I.D. Hospital to the Government the better it will be for its own reputation and the health of the citizens.



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

"We will always look upon you, sir, as our guest, guru and philosopher," said Mr. Poonacha, the Chief Minister to Mr. Katju, Union Home Minister, because it was Mr. Katju who converted Coorg as Part "C" State. Better, therefore, Mr. Poonacha called Mr. Katju, "Guest, Guru and Godfather."

Mr. Rajaram, Leader of U.P. Party in the Hyderabad State Assembly, wants the Nizam to be deposed. He accuses Mr. Nehru of "Softness and leniency." That is exactly what Nehru accused Rajaji as being "Soft" to certain political groups of S. India. A case of biter bitten, as Rajaji must feel.

Thanks to goodness, Mr. Rajaram wants the Nizam only to be deposed but not deported.

A 90-year old resident of Bombay is sent as gift an autographed letter by the Pope with his blessings.

The good lady, Mrs. Eustochium D'Souza, has nine surviving out of her 15 children; she has 51 grand children and 60 great-grand children. Let us hope the good lady read the gift and would enjoy health, happiness and peace through the Blessings of H.H. the Pope.

New Mayor for Madras nominated: So the retiring Mayor, Mr. Chengalvarayan, will have rest

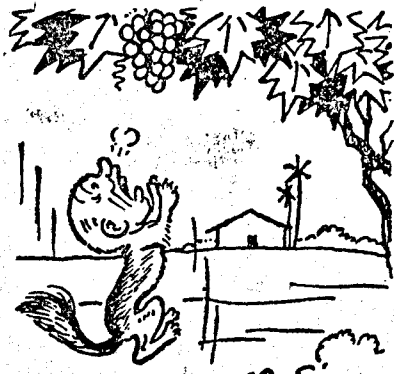
from speechifying — a rest which he so urgently needs, and, may it be added, a rest, from his speeches the Citizens of Madras need as well.

Speaker Mr. Sivashunmugam, of the Madras L. Assembly, told the Pressmen that the Speakers who had met in Delhi had arrived at conclusions which are now "confidential."

One wonders at Speakers coming to "confidential" conclusions!

Oh, would some power the giftie give us to peep into these "confidential" conclusions like that precious giftie with which some candidates are blessed, of knowing Exam. questions beforehand!

Dr. P. Varadarajulu, in his reply to Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, admits with very graceful modesty, "... at no time did I hanker for positions of power and influence ..."



By his self-denial, Dr. Varadarajulu seems to follow the wise

example of the fox denying himself the "sour grapes."

Very wise of him if he did not hanker after power, etc. Hopemany others will know their own limitations as our wise Dr. Varadarajulu does; for, it is better not to have loved and lost than to have loved and lost the claim for self-abnegation which our Doctor claims as his virtue!

But, did not our self-denying Dr. Varadarajulu try for a seat in the Legislature? Maybe that is not hankering for power, etc.

All twist and quibbling is fair in love and polemics and politics!

Seven employees of The Mail, Madras, were fined for rioting, etc., in connection with some Labour trouble in The Mail. But, why give the news on the leader page? Is it as a victory for The Mail or are the convicted men of such social importance?

Mysterious why The Mail zooms some men or matters.

The new title for Pakistan, "Islamic Republic of Pakistan," seems to out-Malan Malan himself, since the trend of the proceedings in the Pakistan Constituent Assembly leave no doubt that things will be aggressively theocratic in outlook; hence the walk-out of the Congress Party from the meeting of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly.

Animal Husbandry is taken up seriously in Bangalore, Cow Protection being the most important item.

But what about Husbandry of the Homo? Only one has to see the depths where the Homo are, our own fellow-men.

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Now that high mountain-climbing is the rage, after the Himalayan exploits of Tensing, Madras University authorities are seriously thinking of instituting the degrees of B.M.C., M.M.C. and D.M.C.

(B.M.C. is Bachelor of Mountain Climbing, etc.)

I do not know if I am following the following excellent precept.

Says a wise man: "A word of advice — never give it."

Since the wise man himself does not follow his own advice, why should I?

Dr. Voitskovitch, the Russian Scientist, broadcasts on the Moscow Radio that Soviet scientists can make several types of Atom and Hydrogen bombs. Why this anxiety to publish what was kept as the most confidential item of Soviet Russia?

Rather suspicious, because no Great Power, however philanthropic and peace loving, is so unwise as to broadcast what is truthful.

Dr. A. Krishnaswamy, Member, Union Parliament, says that he visited some of the Rural Elementary Schools working under the new Education Scheme and found boys were turned into "vagabonds."

What a luck that Dr. Krishnaswamy himself escaped being trained under the New Scheme!

Sri C.M. Trivedi, Governor of Andhra State, said, "If all the requests made to me are counted, it will come to more than 25 crores. Obviously, nothing can be done. There is only one way of getting what is wanted: self-help."

The old proverb still holds good: Governments help those who help themselves.

And then why gubernatorial, and ministerial Tours, Addresses and Replies?

Mrs. Philip of the Women's Christian College, a Nutrition Expert, is carrying on an intensive propaganda to induce people to take to wheat.

Why propaganda? The need is not faith in wheat but wheat itself; that is what the Nutrition Expert, Mrs. Philip, should clearly understand.

Thieves in England display a marked preference for Indian Jewellery; and some high Indian Officials are victims, we read in the Papers.

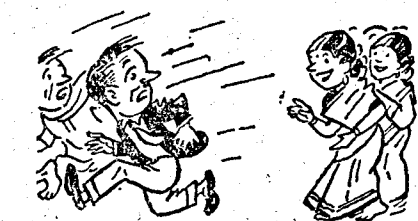
That speaks volumes in favour of the highly artistic beauty of Indian Jewellery so famed from the earliest times. This must be so gratifying to that well-known savant of Indian Art, Ancient and Modern, Sri. G. Vencatachalam.

"I sometimes have an awed thought that the annihilating character of these agencies (the atom and hydrogen bombs) may bring an utterly unforeseeable security to mankind," said Sir W. Churchill in the H. of Commons.

Perhaps Sir W. Churchill is right; but the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of Japan will not endorse the optimism of the Br. Premier.

"We must talk things out," said Srim. Vijalakshmi Pundit, speaking at a luncheon given in her honour by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Many a man honestly feels that the woman at home needs no advice to "talk things out."



Many men feel inclined to go out when women start "talking things out."

In a competition, a prize was offered to anybody who gave the best definition of Woman.

One of the competitors began, "Women are, speaking generally,"

The competitor had not finished. But the Judges shouted, "Stop, stop, you have won the prize."

If that is the definition of Woman, I cannot understand the force of Srim. Pundit's exhortation.



Half a seer of rice for a pie was, it is reported, sold in Mulbagal, Kolar Dt. They can't believe their senses!

The difficulty was to find the pie which has practically disappeared from circulation.

Rather hard to obtain rice without pies.

500 Kurnool Students marched in procession to Sri Sanjivi Reddi, Dy. Chief Minister, to protest against changing capital of Andhra State from Kurnool: Mr. Reddy promised his sympathy.

So the political epidemic has not spared Kurnool Students.

It is dangerous progress that Education for ignorant adults is making, if this report be true.

Superintendent: Master, are these grown-up people learning to read?

Master: Their improvement is steady, Sir.

Supdt: Can any of them write?

Master: Yes, sir. Some of them can write their own names and even more.

Supdt: What do you mean, Master?

Master: Why, sir, two of them signed their names for their own pay; in addition they stand charged for forgery because they signed for others and got their pay also.

ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE'S

VIEWPOINT

ACROSS

2. "Person who is feeling peevish is bound to become better when he finds himself in the company of a — individual." **SURLY, Sulky, Sunny?**

A person is described as being Sulky if he is silently sullen. The company of such a person surely cannot make a peevish, annoyed, fretful man better. It might, it was felt, make him more peevish. A Sunny individual is one who is cheerful to an infectious extent, one who radiates charm and goodwill. Instead of feeling better in such a company, the already peevish person might become worse still. The other person's happy nature may not be appreciated by him. He will feel that the Sunny person is deliberately trying to annoy him by being cheerful. "Set a thief to catch a thief," it was felt, is a good enough proverb here. If a peevish person found himself in the company of a Surly, uncivil, tempestuous person, he is bound to become better for he would feel extremely hurt by the Surly person's behaviour and begin to think how bad it is to be so. This realisation would make him shed his peevishness. SURLY thus got the vote.

3. "This is bound to make intelligent student strive his best to rank first in the examination." **PRIZE, Pride?**

It was felt by the Members that *Pride* was not quite clear here. No doubt, it was agreed, the Compiler meant that the intelligent student's *Pride* that he alone should rank first in the examination would goad him to exert to achieve the first rank. But cannot *Pride* be also taken to mean blind arrogance, overweening conceit, which would harm him surely? Hence, *Pride* was rejected. A *Prize* like a medal, a cup, a cash award, etc., are usually awarded in the name of an individual who has made an endowment for that purpose. To win the *Prize* will be a great scholastic distinction. Hence, the offer of such a *Prize* will make intelligent student study hard to secure the first rank in an examination so that he could achieve fame and bring credit to himself, his institution and people. The Members thus preferred *PRIZE*.

5. "Those engaged in serious conversation are likely to feel annoyed by the remarks made by

one who is — of wits." **DULL, Full?**

"Wits" means mental faculty, intelligence. The Members felt that those engaged in serious conversation are bound to listen and appreciate also the remarks made by one who is Full of wits rather than feel annoyed. Hence, they rejected *Full*. A man who is Dull of wits, a foolish person, a simpleton, can never understand any serious conversation for such a conversation is bound to be full of wisdom, experience, etc. His remarks would also be silly, out of place. Hence, it is only quite natural for those engaged in serious conversation to feel annoyed with a dull man. *DULL* was therefore chosen.

12. "Unfortunately, even educated youth seem to derive pleasure when they this at every Eve they see." **JEER, Leer, Peer?**

Peer was rejected on the ground that even the uneducated persons, both young and old, would look closely at women. Surely educated youth are not so defective of vision to be forced to *Peer* at women! To *Leer* is to look askance, look in a sly, sidelong manner. While to *Jeer* even is not good manners, to *Jeer* is still worse. Hence, *Leer* was dropped. One can understand the uneducated people jeering, treat with derision, mocking at, speak in an insultingly ridiculous manner but not educated persons. But an observation of the conditions obtaining today shows that even educated youth seem to derive pleasure by jeering at every woman they see. *JEER* was quickly preferred.

DOWN

1. "Vanity has made many a guilty person to be —" **TRAPPED, Tripped?**

To be *Tripped*, it was felt, did not indicate fully the extent to which vanity would betray a man. *Tripped* merely conveyed that the vain man had unconsciously made a statement of guilt or provided a Clue to his guilt. This surely is not so bad for the vain man as his being *Trapped* by his own vanity. *Trapped* is to be completely caught, ensnared. Sheer vanity would make a guilty man boast of things he has done. Normally, he would not reveal things. But if a clever person can so question as to make the vain man feel flattered, he would start boasting and end by reveal-

ing his guilt. He would thereby get *Trapped*. The Members quickly preferred *TRAPPED*.

6. "The way some girls make up their faces only results in making them appear rather this!" **ODD, Old?**

Unless the girls wanted to look like old women and went in for such a make-up, it was argued, they cannot look "rather" *Old*. "The way some girls make-up" clearly hinted at the excessive use of make-up. This overdoing of the make-up cannot result in their looking rather *Old*. They may look only awkward, appear to be *Odd*. Without make-up the girls do appear quite good looking. To some girls ordinary, light make-up does add to their beauty. But some girls use make up materials so much that it results in their looking rather *Odd*. The Members unanimously agreed to *ODD* only.

7. "This must have caused most of us a fright sometime or other." **CAR, Cur?**

The word *Cur* can mean either a worthless dog or a churlish fellow. Whether it means the one or the other, it was argued, it was hardly possible for a *Cur* to cause us a fright. If the worthless dog is neither the barking nor chasing type, can it cause a fright? No. Whether we are in the city, suburbs or in the villages, most of us must have been frightened by a *Car* sometime or other. The way the cars speed about the roads or the way their horns blare forth does frighten most of us. Hence the preference of the Members for *CAR*.

8. "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." **KIND, Mind?**

Mind, it was felt, merely referred to the mental capability of the persons that the self-made men had to deal with. But *Kind* referred to other factors also. It described the peculiar traits, weaknesses, strong points, etc. The Members felt that *Kind* included *Mind* in its very wide reference. Hence, *KIND* was preferred.

9. "Businessman who firmly believes that quality — will strive his best to keep it up." **SELLS, Tells?**

If the quality of a product merely *Tells*, brings it prestige, gives it a distinctive name, will it be enough? Quality should not only tell but also sell. The businessman who firmly believes that quality and not mere publicity and cheap prices will greatly help the sales of a product will certainly strive his best to keep up the quality. *SELLS* thus scored.

(Continued on page 56)

SOMETIME ago India was suffering from drought for some years as the rains held aloof. Quite naturally the thoughts of all turned towards rain and people



send down abundant showers of rain. They even affirmed that this method was always successful in the past and was occasionally successful in the present. I was not quite sure of the reality of the events nor can I attribute a chance coincidence to the operation of the inexorable and inescapable law of Cause and Effect.

Some other rural folk extolled the efficacy of the dragging of a *Kodumpavi* along the street. *Kodumpavi* means "great sinner." A human figure made of bundled straw is dragged along the roads with ropes tied to the feet. Very possibly this is a symbol of expiation or repentance, and an affirmation that we have purified ourselves and adequately deserve the bounty of plenteous rain. I have often seen *Kodumpavis* dragged without any realisation of the desideratum. We have heard of similar things called Voodoo in Africa but the day of the Voodoo is over. We have heard of African rain-makers but that race is as dead as the Dodo.

Synthetic Rain

H. S. Ramaswami Sastri

were discussing about the way in which they could be quickly and adequately secured. The pundits prescribed *Varuna japa* and a *yajna* (sacrifice). But in these days of declining faith none paid heed to them.

The very backward folk in far-off villages suggested certain time-honoured methods which were probably employed in pre-historic days, no one knowing then or now with what results. Some of them suggested the beat of *tom-toms* to wake up the sleeping god of rain. Others commended the slaughter of sheep and goats and buffaloes to propitiate the waking and hungry god of rain. How can the same person, even if he be divine, be asleep and awake at the same time?

Others turned their attention to frogs, very possibly because frogs are vocal and vociferous after a plentiful shower of rain. Where

frogs generally live and thrive no one seems to know or care. They are silent and seem to be dumb. But let the rains come down and let water flow freely on the ground and let puddles and ponds be formed. The frogs suddenly make their appearance and make strange noises. Some of them seem to be overjoyed over-enthusiastic and over-noisy and make loud and strident noises.

My grandmother used to tell me that they are called *moda thappalais* (whatever the word *moda* may mean). I humbly request the new race of Tamil grammarians and philologists to trace the word to its *Tholkapiam* or *pre-Tholkapiam* source. The rural primitive folk suggested that if we beat the frogs, the rain-god whose proteges they are will rush to their rescue and

Last year our great and popular Chief Minister Rajaji advised the people to offer collective and individual prayers for rain. The people gladly and readily did so and prayers were followed by rains. But in a rational, agnostic, sceptical age the tendency is to forget God and overrate Man. The mood of prayers has nowadays evaporated more or less.

I WAS in a very pessimistic mood when these reflections passed through my mind. Just at that moment Dr. Nesan came into my room like a South Western monsoon cloudburst with pouring rain and dazzling lightning and dreadful thunder. He said: "You seem to be in the midst of a widespread drought and look as miserable as crops which yearn for rain and do not get it."

I said: "Dr. Nesan! You are right. But how is it that you are happy and hilarious like a rain-cloud? I have been pining and waiting for you like the fabled *chataka* bird which is pining for rain."

Dr. Nesan roared with laughter and remarked: "Come, come, you miserable *chataka* bird! I have come to take you to taste some rain."

I felt suspicious and said: "Dr. Nesan, this is no laughing matter. I feel parched up. The whole of India has gone dry. No doubt it has not gone dry in the sense of resorting to total prohibition. Illicit distillation is more abundant than ever. But the whole country is dry because rain has not fallen for years and even grass has vanished. What is to become of you and me in the near future, Dr. Nesan? You are bouncing about like a child."

Dr. Nesan said: "Forgive me, Ramu! I know what has been vexing you. But I have come now to announce quick and adequate relief."

I asked: "How? What is it?"

He said: "Dr. Cloud has come to India from the West and is delivering to-day a discourse on the scientific manufacture of rain. Let us attend it."

I WAS surprised to learn that science was taking up a new role. I thought that, of late, science is busy only with new terrible weapons of destruction like the Atom Bomb and the Hydrogen Bomb. It is a great relief to learn that science is turning its attention to constructive and creative efforts. I said: "I have heard about making a desert blossom as a rose and also about making two blades of grass where only one grew before. But I was and am under the impression that all that was only a flash of rhetoric. Dr. Nesan, let us attend the lecture."

We attended the learned lecture because we had heard that by simple and cheap means the eastern scientists had been able to get rain when, where, and in at quantity they wanted. In it, it was as if the old times

of sorcery had come back, the new sorcerers being the scientists. But alas! we found that the scientific manufacture of bombs was a terrible certainty while the scientific manufacture of rain was an unreliable uncertainty. There on the platform were learned scientists, *viz.*, Dr. Cloud, Dr. Rain, Dr. Lightning and Dr. Thunder. I thought that their names themselves were happy augury.

THE lectures by them were interesting and added to our stock of knowledge — whether such knowledge be useful or useless. "It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven" says Shakespeare about Mercy. The words dropped like the gentle rain from heaven but gave no cheer because the net result of the exposition was the advice: "Abandon all hope of making rain to order all ye who enter here!"

Dr. Cloud said: "There were different types of clouds, though laymen know only about white rainless clouds and dark rain clouds. The beautiful white clouds that sail proudly and slowly on sunny days are nearly six miles high and seem to be going about to enjoy the sunshine rather than to help us. We must leave them alone because by no kind of attack or squeezing could they be compelled to part with rain. They are the cirrus clouds.

"We have then the strato form of clouds which are about 2 to 4 miles high. We must leave them also severely alone. We must pray for and wait for the cumulus type of clouds which have a flat base and a dome-like top and which are comparatively nearer to the ground. It is with these that we can have the greatest chance of success in respect of induced rainfall.

"The water particles in such clouds are of the order of 1/10,000 of an inch in diameter. But these infinitesimal water-particles will never leave the parental home. They are ultra-tiny tots and the mother-cloud will die rather than let them go. The raindrops will fall to the ground only if the ultra-tiny drops abovesaid condensed into bigger drops having a minimum diameter of 1/100 inch.

"About a million droplets must coalesce to give one drop of rain that would fall to the ground. Thus the only clouds that are capable of giving rain but have some incomprehensible destruction in their way should be selected by cloud experts for various types of scientific experiments in the direction of artificial rain-making. My brothers will now describe those experiments."

I could scarcely contain myself. I asked the lecturer: "Is there any scientific way of converting barren sterile clouds into fruitful helpful ones?"

He replied: "No, no!"

I queried: "Instead of waiting for barren rainclouds and bombarding them, is it not better to wait for fruitful ones?"

Dr. Nesan whispered to me: "Ramu! Contain yourself. The important thing is not the classification of clouds but the new wonderful experiments with them."

THE other professors then explained the new wonderful processes of "seeding" clouds. I interjected and asked: "We sow seeds and reap harvests on earth. Is there such a thing as sowing seeds and reaping showers of rain from clouds?"

Dr. Nesan said: "Ramu, you are at it again! Wait and hear."

I collapsed and heard the other lectures in silence without trying to seed the lecturers themselves. The youngest of experts said that we can seed the clouds by spraying water from below, that we can spray a mixture of water and glycerine, that we can also seed the top of the clouds with dry ice particles so as to induce the clouds to give us rain, that we can also seed the clouds with hygroscopic salts like silver iodide, that for such work an aircraft would be helpful, that another method was to attach to a hydrogen balloon a tin containing silver iodide, common salt or calcium chloride and gunpowder with a lighted wick of predetermined length and allow the balloon to rise into the sky, so that at the desired height the tin would be exploded and the silver iodide particles would be broadcast in

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the clouds with the result that water particles from the clouds condense on the silver iodide particles and become bigger drops of water which would fall to the ground as rain.

There was also the ground-generator method; according to them, by which if some materials are burned the generated smoke could go up with silver iodide particles and bombard the disobedient clouds.

I THEN burst out with a torrent of words and asked the lecturers: "Hereafter, with a team of experts we can, by all the methods and at different places, make the clouds stand and deliver, I suppose. We can be sure of abundant rainfall when and where it is needed."

But Dr. Cloud said: "Please do not be so full of hope. These experiments have been found to yield at the utmost only 0.1 inch of rain."

I was in a state of fury. I told Dr. Nesan: "I can stand this no longer. I shall go to Paniwala Maharaj and other water diviners and force sub-soil water from under the ground. I shall try to de-salinise sea water and pump it to the fields. You told me some time ago about your trip to Laputa where they are trying to extract sunbeams from cucumbers. Let us both go and ask those Laputan scientists if they have found any new successful method of extracting rain from clouds. I am not going to tolerate wasting

materials worth one hundred rupees to produce 0.1 inch of rain which will probably enable us to get a harvest worth one rupee."

Dr. Nesan laughed and said: "Ramu, do not get excited. The ways of Science are inscrutable and mysterious like those of Providence."

I retorted: "If that is so, how is new Science better than old Spirituality? Let us

'bear the ills we have
Than fly to others we know not of.'"

Dr. Nesan said: "This is not all, Ramu! After all the scientific experiments are performed at a tremendous cost and when the 0.1 inch of rain begins to fall, it may happen that the air and the heat may re-convert the falling minimal rain into aqueous vapour once again."

I WAS horrified at this possibility and said: "We must then seed the new diabolical clouds once more, I suppose? Dr. Nesan, I am fed up with this synthetic rain-making business. It is far better to wait for abundant rain if and when it is pleased to come or die of famine. Anyhow, let us both take a trip to Laputa and try our luck. Man here in our modern age destroys forests in high hills and prevents the formation of clouds. Then he bombards the few clouds that form and gets 0.1 inch of rain. Even that is doubtful, as you say. Why not try Laputa?"

Dr. Nesan agreed.

Sensible!

A class of would-be Army officers were going through a general knowledge test.

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The cadets got busy, drawing diagrams and making calculations, with one exception. He wrote a few words only, then sat back. The instructor picked up the sheet of paper. On it was the brief comment: "Tell the sergeant to carry on."

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A farmer took his small son to market. A prospective buyer was examining some cattle, and Johnny inquired: "Why's that man pinching those bullocks, Dad?"

"He's thinking about buying them, son, and he's making sure they're good, sound meat," replied his father.

The following day the farmer was busy in his yard when Johnny came tearing towards him, yelling at the top of his voice: "Dad, come quickly! The postman's going to buy cook!"

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THE MAN WHO KNEW



By DAWOOD ADAM

THE man at the wheel was sweating profusely. The collar uniform seemed to be choking him. He loosened it with nervous fingers and felt as if he had been waiting for ages, though it was hardly a minute since he had driven the car out of the police parking lot and braked it in front of the Police Headquarters.

Presently he heard the Superintendent coming down the Headquarters' steps.

"Where's Harish?" the Superintendent asked the man at the wheel, regarding him sourly.

"He... he was sick this morning, sir. The sergeant assigned me to take his place."

The big man grunted and climbed into the car. "What's your name?" he asked.

"Dinesh, sir."

"A new recruit?"

"Yes, sir."

"How long have you been with the force?"

"J—just since this morning, sir."

The car slipped into the stream of traffic.

"You know where we are going?"

"Yes, sir. The sergeant said we were to drive to 64, Pandva Lane, and pick up a witness in the Sankar Rao killing. Raghunath Sethi, Sankar Rao's landlord. The one who reported the body, and put the finger on this Devender Nath, Sankar Rao's partner, as the man who went up to Sankar Rao's room last night, quarrelled with him and shot him. Devender Nath was picked up at his own house a little time ago, and we're now to take Raghunath down to identify him formally."

The Superintendent grunted again.

The car turned into a narrow street and drew up before a two-storey building. Dinesh jumped out and opened the door for the big man. Together they mounted the front steps, and the Superintendent pressed the door-bell.

A wizened little man of hard on fifty opened the door.

"What can I do for you, Officer?" he inquired in respectful tones.

"You are Raghunath Sethi?"

The little man nodded.

"Our men picked up Devender Nath a little while ago. We'd like to have you come down to the office and identify him formally. You can identify him, can't you?"

"Absolutely! I've only seen him two or three times—when he came to visit Sankar Rao, you know. But I'd know him any place. In fact, I'm the one who let him in last night. Will you come in while I dress?"

Dinesh stepped forward and confronted Raghunath. "Hey!" he said grinning suddenly. "Have't I seen you somewhere before? Back in Ceylon, maybe. You don't remember me?"

"I'm afraid not, sir. And I never was in Ceylon."

"Oh!" Dinesh's face fell.

The Superintendent was scowling at him impatiently.

They entered a long, dark hall with stairs at the rear. Dinesh pointed to the stairs. "Sankar Rao's room was up there?" he asked.

"YES," replied Raghunath. "That's where he was killed. I heard them quarrelling, after I'd let Devender in. But I figured it was none of my business till I heard the shot. Then, before I could do anything to stop him, Devender ran down the hall and out of the front door. I rushed up to Sankar's room and found him shot through the back of the head. I called the police at once—but he was already dead when they got here."

"What," asked Dinesh, "were they fighting about?"

The Superintendent was glancing at Dinesh now. "We already have Mr. Raghunath's complete statement on file," he growled.

"Yes, sir," Dinesh said, denying.

Raghunath smiled and said, "It's all right, Superi-

I don't mind repeating the story for your man's benefit. They were quarrelling about their business—the glass factory they owned down on Karam Street. I couldn't help overhearing, they shouted so loud. Devender accused Sankar Rao of stealing money from the Company and threatened to call the police. Then one thing led to another and Devender shot him."

Dinesh's mouth opened again, but the big man cut him off, saying "I'll handle the interrogation of witnesses, probationer Dinesh. Your job for the time is only to drive that car out there. You go on and get dressed, Mr. Raghunath."

THEY were halfway to Headquarters before Dinesh opened his mouth again. "Please, sir," he began, looking at the Superintendent pleadingly, "I just want to ask Mr. Raghunath..."

"Shut up!"

Raghunath leaned forward on the seat behind them. "If there's anything I can do, sir," he said, addressing the Superintendent, "to set your man's mind at rest, I'll be only too happy."

"Well..." Dinesh gulped. "Did you actually see Devender Nath leave the house, after the shot?"

"Certainly."

"But—are you sure it was Devender? Are you sure it wasn't somebody else who just said he was Devender?"

"Nonsense! I'd seen him before. And I heard Sankar Rao call him by name, just before the shot."

Dinesh took a deep breath. "Are you sure you'd ever seen Devender before? Are you sure Devender wasn't just someone you'd heard previously from Sankar Rao? Someone you decided to use as your scapegoat after you killed Sankar Rao yourself?"

In the rear-view mirror, the Superintendent caught Raghunath's face turn deadly pale with fear.

"Didn't you happen to overhear," Dinesh's voice rose mercilessly, "just an hour or so before

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you murdered Sankar Rao, a telephone conversation between him and a person whom he addressed as Devender Nath? Didn't you learn from this conversation that Devender was Sankar's partner and that he was accusing Sankar of having stolen from the Company a big amount, 85,000 rupees, and that he was threatening to call in the police? Didn't you notice that Sankar was frightened, and didn't you hear him agree to talk it over with Devender in the morning?

"DIDN'T you then, armed with greed and a gun in case of need, sneak into Sankar's room last night and try to steal the money? Didn't Sankar wake up before you had put through your job and, in the struggle that followed, didn't you shoot him? Didn't you then phone Devender's house, posing as the telephone operator, and learn that he was home alone and thus wouldn't have any satisfactory alibi for the time of the killing?

"Didn't you then frame your story for the police, figuring that if you implicated him enough at the start, you wouldn't have

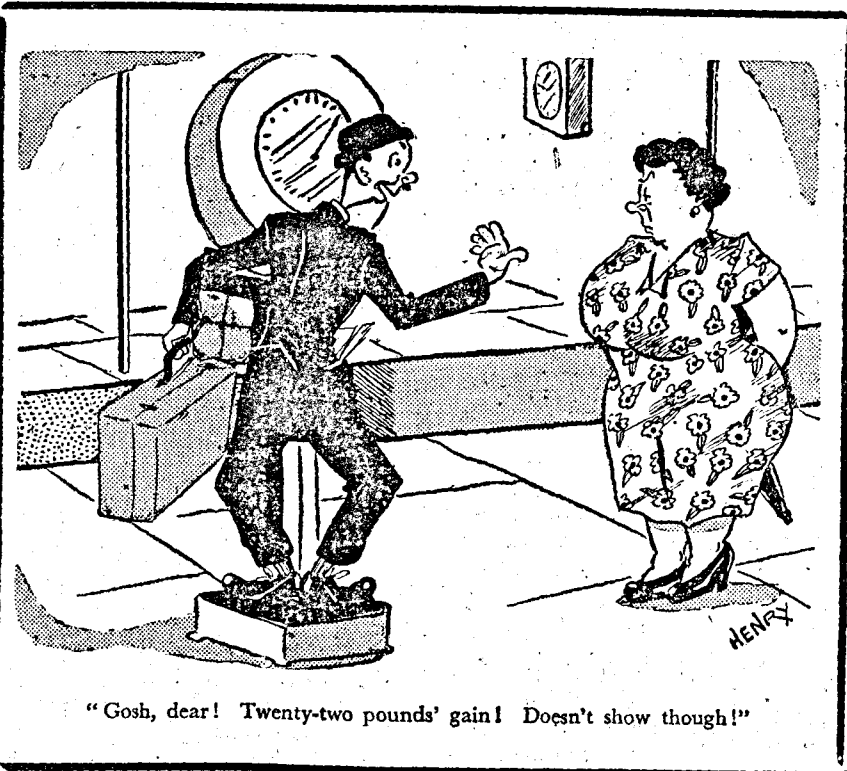
to worry about identifying him later even though you'd never actually seen him in your life? You figured that because of your claim of previous acquaintanceship with him the police wouldn't take you to pick him out from among a group of other suspects, anyway? That they would merely bring you two together and have you identify him under oath, just as a formality?"

He paused for breath, keeping one eye on the traffic outside the car and one on the sick, abject face in the rear-view mirror. He realized that the Superintendent was watching the mirror, too.

"Look at him, Superintendent!" he said harshly. "Look at his face! I'll bet when you search Raghunath's rooms you'll find the 85,000 rupees or enough evidence as to its whereabouts."

THE Superintendent grunted, keeping his eyes on the rear-view mirror. "You seem to know a hell of a lot about this case for a new recruit!" he said.

"Thank you, sir. Anyway, he's just proved that at least one



"Gosh, dear! Twenty-two pounds' gain! Doesn't show though!"

part of his story is a lie. He's just proved that he has never seen Devender in his life and wouldn't know him now, unless somebody pointed Devender out to him first."

"How do you figure that?"

DINESH slowed for a turn on the right. "Because" he began. But a sudden movement from the back seat interrupted him. Raghunath had grabbed the car's doorhandle and was twisting it desperately.

"No go!" the Superintendent told him flatly, showing a revolver with a snarl. Raghunath subsided into his seat meekly and the car shot forward.

A few minutes later they pulled up at the Police Headquarters. A red-faced Sergeant met them at the gate. "Thank God you got him, Superintendent!" he gasped. "I tried to phone you at Raghunath's and tip you off but there was somebody on the line and by the time I got on to Raghunath's, I guess you'd already left."

"Yes," said the Superintendent, "I got him all right. But how did you boys know it was Raghunath?"

"Raghunath!" The Sergeant looked puzzled. "Raghunath is just a witness, isn't he, sir? It was Devender here that got away! He slipped into the squad room while we were waiting to book him, locked the door and stole Harish's uniform out of a locker. Then he sneaked out of the washroom window! I guess he must have heard me ordering a car for you to go and get Raghunath in."

The Superintendent glared malevolently at Dinesh.

"So!" he said, while putting the handcuffs on Raghunath. "That's how you knew so much! Well, you'd better come quietly. You've still got one or two things to square, you know."

"Sure, sir," said Dinesh, grinning. "I'll come quietly. I'll even plead guilty to the charge of impersonating a police officer. But you'll agree that it helped me out of a framed-up murder rap."



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Professors And Problems!

By N. Ganesan

I THINK when the Creator gets bored with his job he turns out professors!

They are awe-inspiring. We wonder how much knowledge is treasured within that little head. But how often have they provided us with occasions for hearty laughter!

Certainly you have heard of the professor who dropped the watch into the water and looked on to the egg in an attempt to find the time taken for an egg to boil. You know, too, of the professor who dragged behind him his hat and took hugging in his hand his dog after a short conversation with a friend when he had to place his hat beside his dog.

But you know it is all fiction. I have around me here, in my University, a handful of professors who could beat hollow those imaginary professors.

Of all the good souls whom God created in His relaxing mood to send to my University as a present for its bunch of professors his first choice must have been our smiling, robust, rotund professor of Mechanical Engineering.

He is a Northerner, with beard, turban and all complete. Just as his person is large and just as his heart is large, his family is a large one, too.

We once asked him, "Sir, how many kids have you?"

"Me? Kids? Wait."

And then he counted, one, two, three.....

Then he said: "I think thirteen. Or, is it fourteen?"

One day a class-mate of mine took with him a gentleman who had come from his native place and went to meet the professor to get permission from him for leave to go home for his marriage.

"My marriage has been settled, sir, and I have come to convey the happy news to you and get your blessings and permission to go home," began my friend.

"Leave? Marriage? For you? No, no! You shouldn't marry now. When you consent to marry you don't realise what you bargain for. Elders ask you to marry and you simply nod, like a sheep. Can you support yourself, leave alone supporting your wife and children? And for those thoughtless men who come forward to give their daughters in marriage to young men who are yet to find means to stand on their own legs—I don't know what to say about them."

My friend put in, "But, sir, everything has been settled and this gentleman..."

"So what? When you know you are committing a mistake it is never too late to retrace your steps."

With much difficulty my friend blurted out: "This is my future father-in-law, sir, who has come to take me with him."

OUR beloved professor turned to the future father-in-law with a benevolent smile and said: "Oh! I'm glad you have chosen my student for your son-in-law. He is a nice boy. I was just trying to find if the fellow was really earnest about his marriage."

And there were good wishes, happy smiles and hearty farewells all round!

You are perhaps familiar with elderly people blessing the unmarried ones! "Let marital happiness be yours soon."

How do you like blessing a fellow as follows:

"I pray to God Almighty Mr. Ramachandar may remain a bachelor for many more years to come. For when bachelor lecturers marry, the University has the

problem of finding a house for the couple, and the hostel authorities have to find a new resident tutor for the hostel."

The fact was the professor who blessed the lecturer thus happened to be warden of the hostel also. And you may be interested to know that the young man who was the recipient of such sincere and loving blessings fortunately remains a bachelor still!

WE have a Mathematics professor who takes classes only for the final year Honours classes. In the evenings you can find him going round and round the football ground. We asked our Director of Physical Education. "What's the matter with the Maths. Professor, sir? Has he any new theory boiling in the pot about football playing?"

The Professor-Director and Head of the Department of Physical Education (that is how this simple soul likes himself called) said: "Yes, he has."

Our appetites were whetted and we 'just died' to know what it was.

And our Director of Physical Education went on: "The Maths Professor asks why the University should be so stingy and not give one ball to either side. I tried to explain the idea of the game as best as I could. He says he simply can't understand it."

You may say all this is only quite natural if one has to be the august personality of a professor.

All right. What do you say to this?

During our composition classes, one of our boys had kept on his desk a note-book, with a couplet of verse written on its last flap. Most of us are probably familiar with the lines:—

"I fell asleep and dreamt of beauty
And walking found that life was duty."

The English Professor who came round took that note-book and glanced through it. He wrote something in it, kept it back and talked away.

The student opened his note-book with much eagerness. Below its lines were to be found these:—

"Then sleep again and wake to find
That duty is beauty."

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"Fine," he replied. "I can hear conversation perfectly now."

"Your relations must be pleased," commented the assistant.

"Oh, I haven't told them. I sit around just as I always did, only now I can hear what they say. I've changed my will three times already!"

Costly Lie

"I believe in calling a spade a spade," said the emphatic person. "That's right, friend," replied Bronco Bob. "There was a man who nearly lost his life here by playing cards an' tryin' to call a spade a club."

A Novelty

Traveller: "Why do you keep that goldfish in its bowl on your desk?"

Manager: "Because it's novelty to have something opening its mouth without asking for a rise."

Wife's Grouse

Recent Bride (to magistrate): "I can't stand it any longer. My husband actually swore at me. And I was learning to drive just to please him."

Magistrate: "What did he say?" "He sat there in the ditch and said, 'Holy cats, woman, didn't you see that lorry?'"

A SCHOOL Inspector was questioning some boys. "Can you take your warm overcoats off?"

"Yes, sir."

"Can the bear take his warm overcoat off?"

"No, sir."

"Why not?"

This poser met with a long silence. Finally a little fellow spoke up. "Please, sir, because only God knows where the buttons are."

Silenced

A husband and wife could not speak to each other except in the deaf and dumb language. One night when the husband came home rather late the wife let him have her raging anger, her fingers flying a mile a minute.

Just as he raised his hands to answer her, she turned out the light!

Guessing While Eating

"Guess what I've cooked for dinner, darling?"

"All right, dear, serve it up and I'll try."

A Week Ahead

"Does your wife have her own way in the home?"

"Well, she writes up her diary a week ahead."

Hubby Did It

"Who broke your window, Mrs. Higgs?"

"My husband, dearie — he ducked!"

A MINISTER and his wife were discussing two men who were in the news.

"Yes," said the minister, "I knew them both as boys. One was a clever, handsome fellow; the other a steady, hard worker. The clever lad was left behind in the race, but the hard worker — well, he died and left sixty thousand pounds to his widow. It's a great moral, you know."

"Yes," replied his wife, with a smile, "it is. I heard this morning that the clever one is going to marry the widow."

Hair-Raising?

"I told Jim all my past history yesterday."

"What did he say?"

"Nothing. He just took out a comb and smoothed his hair down."

Another Word

A lovelorn sailor decided to celebrate pay day by sending a telegram to his girl in Manchester. After chewing on his pencil for several minutes, he finally handed in a message which read: "I love you, I love you. Bill."

The counter clerk read it and said: "You're allowed to add another word for the same price."

The sailor pondered for several minutes, then inserted his extra word. It was: "Regards."

Kiss or Fag?

They sat in the gloaming.

"Just one," he pleaded.

"No, certainly not," she replied.

"Please, darling," he persisted.

"Don't ask me again," she insisted. "I've only one left, and I want to smoke that on my way to the office in the morning."

Over the Phone

"Your wife wants to send you a kiss over the 'phone, sir."

"Oh, take the message, Miss Smith, and give it to me later."

Good Sign

"I think I'm getting over my insomnia. I had another sheepless night last night."

A WOMAN decided to have the shape of her nose changed. So she called on a beauty surgeon. "How much will you charge to alter the shape of my nose?" she asked.

"One hundred guineas, madam."

"One hundred guineas!" she exploded. "Isn't there something less expensive?"

"Well," replied the surgeon, suavely, "you could try walking into a lamp-post."

Small Bellow

"I think you've met our small son John."

"Yes—how is the little bellow?"

Sober Answer

Angry Wife: "And what is your reason for coming in at 5 a.m.?"

Husband: "Breakfast."

A Little Doubt

"Darling," said the Hollywood bride, entering her new home with her new husband, "this house looks familiar. Are you sure we haven't been married before?"

Elephant's Trick

"The ivory carvings you sold me last week turned out to be imitation."

"I can't understand it — unless the elephant had a false tooth."

Brains Gone!

A proud father was talking about the intelligence of his son. "You know, dear," he told his wife, "I think he must have got his brains from me."

"He certainly must have done so," retorted his wife. "I've still got mine."

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"My rose!" he whispered tenderly, as he pressed her velvet cheek to his.

"My cactus!" she said, as she dodged his whiskers.

Extra Edition!

"She's so dumb she thinks that extradition means a late evening paper."

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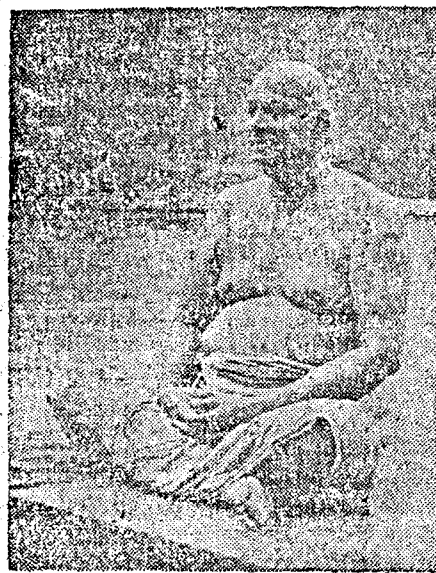
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Precepts FOR Practice

BY

His Holiness Maha
Mandaleswar Sri SwamiSIVANANDA
SARASWATI

You may start singing His Name right from today. Take a bath and start singing mentally Murli Manohar's mantra: "Om Namoh Bhagavathe Vasudevaya." Sit in front of a Murlimanohar picture and do the *jap* with eyes open and fixed upon the beautiful form of the Lord. Weep in your ardency to meet Him. With each *mantra* let your heart flow in tears at the yearning to meet Him. Slowly you will find yourself forgetting the outer world of clamour and contentions, miseries and pains, hopes and disappointments. This is the start. The rest is to come of its own accord. Never leave the thoughts of Him. Like the lover who always thinks of his distant sweetheart, you too must always think of Him, whatever be the circumstances you are in, and whatever be the work you are doing. Surrender your ego and personality entirely to Him. Let Him work through you. Be yourself, His Murli. Let Him sing whatever music He wants to sing through you!

Vairagya and keen *mumukshatwa* are the very foundations on which alone can be built the grand edifice of Yoga with its high tower of Self-realization.

The best institution to join for spiritual growth is the place where the Lord places you. You should always have *satsang* with divine thoughts and with spiritual books. Through constant *vichara* and

company of the Lord you should acquire peace and joy.

The tree of *samsara* can be cut asunder in the twinkling of an eye through discrimination, wisdom, and *vairagya* of an enduring type.

Get up early in the morning and spend the hours before sunrise in *japa*, meditation and study of *Gita*. Do *kirtan* at night. Do not chit-chat. Do not join the gossiping groups. Spend all your leisure in *likhit japa* and study of religious books.

Rest assured that once you turn towards Him, He will look after you miraculously and help will come always in time. But you should never take your eyes away from Him. He is your bosom friend. He is your Father, Mother, your life itself. Remember Him always. Pray to Him fervently. Do not taint your heart by any worldly desire. Do not go out to lonely

places for the present. Seek a secluded spot in your own house. You need not shun the company of your own parents and elders. Avoid evil company by all means. Make your family people understand your state of mind and your ideals. They will understand. They will not stand in your way. All worldly pleasures are false and are sufferings only. Keep away from them ruthlessly. Prepare a regular routine for *sadhana*. Stick to it. Maintain the spiritual diary. You will evolve very quickly. May God bless you!

Anger is more harmful to the person indulging in it than to the person against whom it is directed. It is temporary madness. It is unclean and should be slowly, but determinedly, eradicated. With whom does one get angry? Naturally with those who, one thinks, have harmed one. Well, can anyone cause you harm and not anger? Then, why don't you get angry with anger itself and get rid of it? Try gentleness, soft words, unselfish love. The maid-servant is sure to respond and behave better than if you scolded her all day long. But, if she should be so perverse that only harsh treatment would have any effect on her, even then, you should only put on the appearance of anger. Keep cool. Remain unagitated in your mind and simply pretend to be hard on her. Smile within and act anger outside! Continued practice will soon enable you to treat every contretemps in the same way and not to be ruffled by anything.

Do not sleep after *japa* and meditation. It defeats the very purpose for which you get up at *Brahmamuhurta*. It is a mere matter of habit. Try to overcome it by a resolute exercise of the will.

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As soon as you feel sleepy, walk about, muttering the Lord's name till you feel the sleepy sensation passing off. A few days' practice should be enough for you to get rid of the habit. Use the time thus saved for increasing *japa* and meditation and for studying some religious book.

Kindly cultivate the habit of getting up early and try to be regular in your *sadhana*. Regularity is of paramount importance. Study *Gita* and other religious scriptures according to your taste. They will inspire and elevate you and create a deep spiritual impression on your mind.

Keep the Lord in your heart. Remember Him always. He is your only true support in the world. Repeat His name constantly. Equip yourself with the four means—*viveka*, *vairagya*, *shat-sampat* and *mumukshatwa*. Then control the mind and the senses and do *manan* and *nididhyasan*. This is the essence of all the *sadhanas*. Follow this, and be ever free.

Observe *mouna* at least for one hour daily. Never hurt anybody. Control anger by love, *kshama* (forgiveness) and *Daya* (compassion). Think of God as soon as you wake up and just before you go to sleep. Surrender yourself completely to God.

Kindly take more and more to *japa*, *dhyana* and seclusion. This need not mean going away from the house but you can do *japa* within the meditation room in the 'cave' of your heart. Kindly be very, very regular in *sadhana*. This is the most precious moment.

Even nectar will turn out to be poison if taken in overdoses. Moderation should be observed in all practices. Practice of *asans* and *pranayama* should produce joy and exhilaration. If one finds that he is getting fatigued on account of the practice, it means that he is overdoing it. Be careful. Be within your limits. Then, you will come by no harm. *Shirsasan* is very good. It is the king of all *asans*. It can never be the cause of any harm, if the necessary precautions are taken.

Whatever you read, you should practise. Practice is the most important thing.

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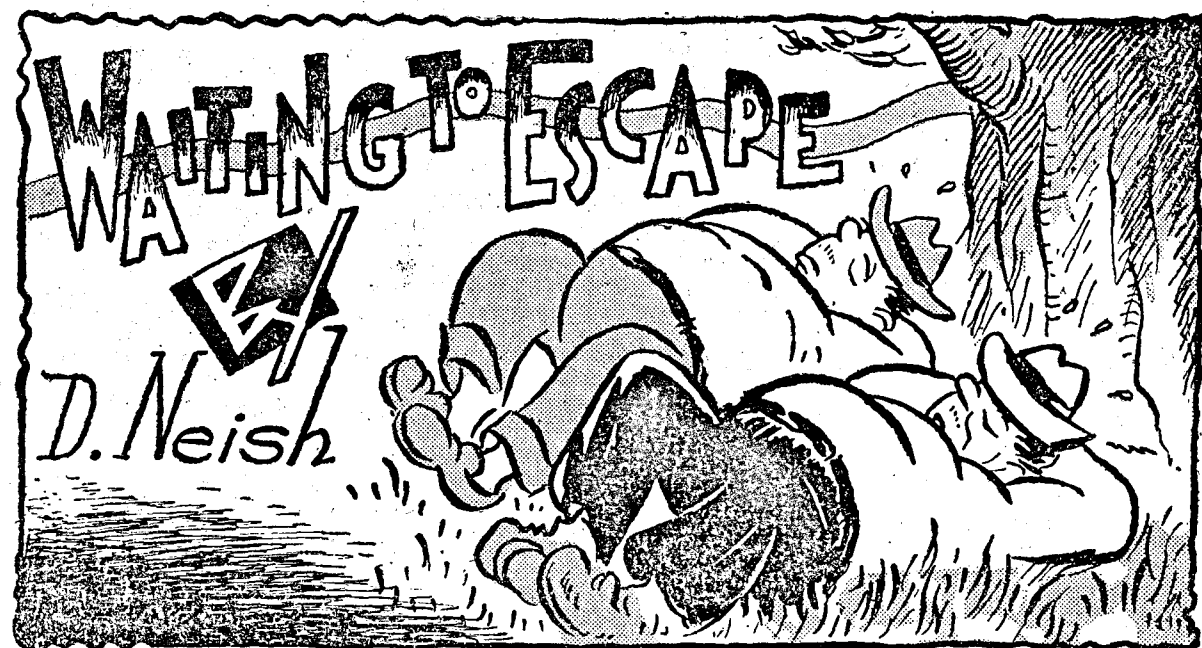
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THE two men gained the narrow belt of trees and plunged into wet, tangled undergrowth. Behind them, still contained by mist, stretched the weary miles of desolation their hastening feet had crossed.

Beyond the wood, Bart Logan and "Mousey" Blane hoped to discover a bare ridge. Beyond that again, if they had followed correctly the directions passed to them from the "outside" by the devious methods known to the fraternity of the underworld, they would come upon the village of Frampton.

That was the goal to which the directions smuggled in by well-wishers had been designed to lead them. Yet they had found it none too easy to follow those brief directions in their breathless flight from the jail. They were strangers to these northerly regions of the wasteland. Neither of them had ever been so far across its barren expanse any time they had been detailed for a working-party.

The mist had seemed their ally, but might prove to have been a false friend from the very outset. Perhaps it had served to throw them off their course.

They slashed through clinging foliage that hampered their legs. It was hard going for Logan, powerful as he was. It was harder

still for Blane who was so much less robust.

"Do we have to plough through this stuff?" the smaller man protested. "Let's shove out into the open."

"And run the risk of bein' spotted by somebody before we've spied out the lay of the land?" Logan countered, "Don't forget we're on risin' ground and the mist is beginnin' to lift."

SO they kept to the wood, a long and narrow wood that stretched northward for a mile or more, and at length they reached the upper fringe of it. It was so much clearer here that they had a reasonable view of the country ahead, and sure enough they beheld at no great distance a rocky elevation.

"That should be the ridge we're lookin' for all right," Logan panted. "I knew I'd smell it out, Blane—mist or no mist."

Blane clutched him. He was nervous, sharp-featured, the antithesis of the bulky and aggressively confident Logan. They looked what they were, these two—Logan, a man of brutal character, who had been committed to prison on a charge of robbery with violence—Blane, a jackal of an accomplice who had been convicted as an accessory.

"Wait!" Blane ejaculated. "For Pete's sake wait! Look up there!"

HE pointed, and following the line of his skinny arm Logan saw a man's figure on the summit of the ridge. A false crest of the hill concealed the man from the knees down. The upper part of him was in sharp silhouette against the grey sky. As that figure stood looking out across the wasteland, with steadfast attention Logan discerned in one brief glimpse that he was armed.

"He's from the Prison!" Blane whimpered. "They've headed us off, Logan! I knew we'd never get away with it..."

"Shut up!"

Logan snatched him back. They crouched in the undergrowth, hidden from that motionless and sentinel-like figure which Blane had detected in the nick of time. Slowly and warily they retreated into the depths of the wood again, and presently they were holding a muttered conference.

"He didn't see us," Logan affirmed. "The mist over the lower ground was thick enough to screen us on our way up to the wood, and I pulled you back before he was able to pick us out at the edge of the trees. But listen, from the squint I got of

him he didn't look like a prison 'screw' to me. The hat he was wearin' was the wrong shape."

Blane answered him querulously. "You're right. He—he looked more like a soldier."

"A soldier! That's it. The Prison Governor must have 'phoned through and alerted the military to help in the hunt for us, curse him!"

"Then we're dished, Logan—dished, I tell you!"

The bigger man ground his teeth together.

"Not yet, we ain't. We had a long start on them 'screws'—the prison guards. I'm certain of that. And in an hour it should be dark. If we lie up till then and that soldier don't come down this way, we can still reach Frampton. Or if he does come down here, the two of us can fix him."

BLANE licked his lips. "But will Conner wait for us at Frampton with that truck-load of fake ballast, like the message said?"

"Of course, he will. Sam Conner ain't the kind to run out on us just because we don't show up on the dot. He'll make allowances. And he'll have everything laid on to get us in the clear. Now, all we have to do is to lie up here until the light fails. Then we can sneak past that soldier and work our way over the ridge."

"Mousey" Blane was not comforted. In his strung-up frame of mind the thought of remaining inactive for so long was not easy to contemplate.

"By now," he groaned, "the prison 'screws' are spreadin' out from the jail in every direction, some of 'em headin' this way. You can lay to that. How long do you suppose it was before we were missed?"

Logan considered. "An hour and a half at least, I'd say. Longer, with any luck. If my calculations are right and it's dark inside the hour, we should be all right. Now stop frettin' and lie down."

He and Blane stretched themselves out wearily in the shadowy



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INDIA HOUSE, DELHI 5

dampness under the trees. They realised now how exhausted they were, and could almost have felt grateful to the soldier for the respite he had enforced upon them. Prone on their backs they waited, and time dragged by. Occasionally they lifted their heads to listen, but for a long while the only sounds they heard were the rustle of small creatures in the wood and the chirping of birds.

The protracted rest revived them. The grip of fatigue relaxed from their leg-muscles. Yet, as aching tiredness ebbed from their limbs, so impatience stole upon the two men to nag at their minds.

CONFOUND the daylight! Confound the vagaries of weather and terrain, in depriving them of the mist that had been their shield. Confound the sparseness of the cover that the ground to the north afforded. If only they could have made a detour and outflanked the vigilant sentinel on the ridge; but the narrow wood barely spanned a distance of a hundred yards from east to west, and they must be detected the moment they moved out of it.

Besides, there were bound to be other sentries strung out across the landscape to the north, posted more cunningly than the one on the ridge perhaps, who had chosen his vantage point with a guileless disregard for concealment.

"In an hour it should be dark," Blane faltered all at once. "That's what you said, Logan. But we must have been here more than an hour already, and it's nothing like dark....."

Logan cut him short with a savage gesture. He had faced round quickly, head cocked to one

side, and he froze into an attitude of desperate alertness as the unmistakable sound of voices reached his ears. Suddenly he thrust his way to the eastern edge of the wood, and, with Blane shambling after him, the two of them peered southwards and described a party of men approaching from that direction.

THEY were the uniforms of prison officers. Each carried a rifle. As Blane and Logan saw them they were fanning out in extended line to advance upon the wood where the two convicts skulked. Logan braced himself.

"I'm makin' a bolt for it, Blane," he said fiercely. "Takin' my chance in the open. Are you comin' with me, or stayin' here like a rat in a trap?"

Blane crouched in the shadows, trembling. He seemed unable to speak. His mouth opened and closed, but no word came from him. Contemptuously Logan turned his back on him and launched himself from the covert where they had lain so long.

He burst clear of the trees and was immediately seen. The oncoming warders changed course and broke into the double. Cowering in the wood Blane heard their voices summoning Logan to halt,



CLERK (to colleague): "And the barking of this dog reminds me, Mohan, that my wife will set up a howl when she finds I haven't bought her a sarree for Divali!"

threatening to open fire. Logan dashed on heedless of the warning, and the pursuers checked. One of them carried his rifle to his shoulder and the blast of a shot echoed over the desolate scene. As the sound reached Blane he saw Logan fall.

TWO of the warders detached themselves from the group and made for the spot where the runaway had been dropped, and where he was now squirming with pain. The others swung towards the wood again and deployed, evidently with the intention of searching it.

They did not have to scour the covert. Blane spared them the necessity of doing so. Quakingly he stumbled forth to meet them with upraised hands. He was a prisoner in their midst when one of the guards who had hurried across to Logan returned and joined the main party.

"Shot through the leg," the warder reported laconically, "and swearing like a trooper. Kelly's staying with him. We'll take this fellow Blane to Frampton and rig up a stretcher of some kind for Logan. Two of us can come back with it. We'll probably get transport at Frampton, too. I've had about enough of padding the hoof."

They followed the eastern edge of the wood, shoving Blane before them with scant ceremony. Then they trudged forward to the base of the ridge and began the ascent. Laboriously they climbed through shifting gravel and cluttered boulders and won their way to the summit.

They trooped over the crown of the hills, and passed close to the figure of the soldier who had barred the escape of the two convicts so unwittingly. He stood there with his rifle held across his body at the position known in military parlance as "the high port." And all of a sudden "Mousey" Blane began to curse tearfully.

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V. K. Patel Bombay-19

Q.—Which is a greater work — “Kamashastra” or “Psychology of Sex”?

A.—Both no doubt deal with the complications and amplifications of the mechanics of sex but Vatsyayana's “Kamashastra” scores over Havelock Ellis' “Psychology of Sex” in that it was written centuries before when the author did not have the facilities for such detailed inquiry. Despite this, what Vatsyayana had written is true of all time and of all people. In a real sense, Ellis' work is an authoritative proof of the theories advanced by the ancient pioneer. Hence, “Kamashastra” is a greater work.

S. Shyamasunder, Salem

Q.—What is the secret behind Communism's increasing power?

A.—Execrable exploitation of people's hunger.

N. V. Babu, Eluru

Q.—What is prudery?

A.—Fig leaf over one's thoughts!

V. R. Gadepalli, Madras-21

Q.—If a rejected lover says that he can't marry anyone in his life, what would you call him?

A.—That he is just maturing into a real man.

W. Atul Chandra, Imphal

Q.—Is it true that modern love rises to the higher levels?

A.—First, there is no such thing as “modern” love and “ancient” love. Its expressions might vary but basically it has been the same through the ages. And how far love can rise to the higher levels would depend entirely on the persons concerned.

Nalinikant Misra, Patna

Q.—What is love between the teen-aged?

A.—Effervescent emotional excitement.

Rajinder Bhushan Garg, Chandigarh

Q.—Is the life that we live worth living?

A.—If many look upon us with genuine gratitude, it will be.

Srinivas, Waltair

Q.—Even when many of the young men and women of India are educated, why cannot they bring a revolution to abolish the present dowry system?

A.—The old order has changed, yielding place to the new. Cash and carry has given place to the robbery called jobbery.

Susheela Raman, Bombay-1

Q.—Define real poetry, will you?

A.—Flights of fancy ravishingly rhymed and exquisitely expressed.

G. Rama Rao, Ahmedabad

Q.—When will man become dreary?

A.—The moment he is in terrible want — of money or maid or meals.

P. Pandari, Hyderabad

Q.—Is it true that opportunity never comes twice?

A.—No; opportunity, however, “knocks many times but the first knock is the loudest.”

Parkash Narain Raina, Simla

Q.—What is life?

A.—Fool's delight. To the wise one, a means to a better end.

Krishna Chandra Tandon, Kanpur

Q.—Is Winston Churchill an advocate of peace?

A.—Now, yes. This is because of the grim alternative of Britain being blown up to bits by the atomic ammunition of Russia.

Vankadari Sankarayya, Kothagudium

Q.—Is it not better for the new Andhra State to begin in right earnest the execution of Sabari, Tapati, Upper Bhawani and like projects which will require small capital and yield good results?

A.—Better even than this will be the swift “execution” of several of the opportunist human elements in that state.

A. C. Nair, Palghat

Q.—If women are the fair sex, what are men?

A.—The unfair ones, undeniably.

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 QUERRIES DECIDE THE ANSWERS — SERIOUS, FRIVOLOUS OR INFORMATIVE. AND IF THE ANSWER IRRITATES YOU, REMEMBER YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Gleanings

Prodigy Who Predicted His Own Death!

HAVING a child prodigy is one of those remote yet impelling possibilities, regarded with something akin to horror by many, while others are entranced by them. Every generation produces its crop of staggering prodigies, with their fantastic powers in the arts, sciences (especially mathematics), and creative fields, and with brains altogether super-normal for their ages, writes David Gunston in a British periodical.

What are the chances of your child becoming a prodigy? These amazing mental powers are always in part hereditary, although that does not mean that the parents may pass on the brilliance; it may lie much further back in the child's ancestry.

Of every thousand children born, it has been reliably computed, about fifty may be termed as bright, twenty-five as really brilliant, and only one as a prodigy. Even then, that one may not turn out in the end to be a real, undeniable genius. Infant prodigies, it may be noted, are nearly always boys.

Read At Three!

Take a look at some of the world's most outstanding mental prodigies. Lord Macaulay's parents must have been staggered when he sat down and wrote a serious history of the universe at the age of seven. And when he was only eight he composed a treatise on Christianity designed to convert the inhabitants of Malabar.

Dean Swift could read any chapter of the Bible before he was three, Lord Byron read all kinds of literature from the age of five, while of John Stuart Mill it was said that he must have begun to read in his cradle, so wide was his knowledge of books before he was eight. He started to learn Greek at three.

Dr. Johnson could read easily at three, and when still toddling in petticoats he would daily be handed a prayer-book by his mother, shown the Collect for the day, and told: “Sam, you must get this by heart.”

She would then go upstairs, but before she could reach the second floor he followed her and “repeated it distinctly,” although he had not read it more than twice over.

Unique Case

Even more remarkable was the case of Sam Sidis, who read at two and actually read on the fourth dimension to a group of learned professors when he was eleven. His brilliance quickly faded, and he became a clerk at £3 a week and died unknown at forty-six. But the classic prodigy Christian Heineker, who was born as early as 1771, and is said to have been

able to speak a few hours after birth, knew the Bible inside out at two, and had a knowledge of Latin, Greek and French as well as history and geography at three.

Strangest of all, he predicted his own death which took place, not entirely unexpectedly, at the age of four. Surely a prodigy to end all prodigies!

Musical prodigies are equally numerous, and capture popular fancy even more, as witness the recent crop of child conductors. Handel played the organ, composed and was famous in Germany by the time he was five.

At the age of six, Mozart, with a string of excellent compositions already behind him, embarked on a violin, piano, and organ tour of Europe. But he was a good example of the flame of genius burning out quickly, for he died at the age of only thirty-five.

In our own day Yehudi Menuhin was playing the violin well at three, with his sister at the piano.

Solomon and Pouishnoff were key-board prodigies, although their gifts were wisely fostered in those early days by long years of study before concert work was undertaken full-time. Sir Landon Ronald could play the piano before he could talk.

Lightning Calculation

Strangest of all the prodigies are perhaps the unique mathematical freaks, who can

do lightning calculations or abstruse problems in their heads while still children. Very few of these turn out to be anything more than a flash in the pan, and most lose their gifts very early, often before adulthood is reached.

George Bidder, for instance, the son of a Devon stonemason, could compute the compound interest on £4,444 for 4,444 days at 42 per cent p.a. in two minutes when only two.

An even more startling prodigy of this kind was Truman Safford, who became a mathematical scholar before he was eight or nine. When only ten he was asked, in a test, to multiply in his head 365,365,365, 365,365,365 by itself.

It is on record that “he flew round the room like a top, pulled his pantaloons over the top of his boots, bit his hand, rolled his eyes in their sockets, sometimes smiling and talking, and then seeming to be in an agony.”

In not more than a minute he replied correctly: “133,491,850,208,566,925,016,658,299,941,583,225.” Apparently it was all done by a spontaneous mental picture.

Perhaps it is just as well for the sanity of the world that infant prodigies are so rare!

Royal Citizens Of Denmark

The Danish Dynasty is the oldest in the world. There have been Kings of Denmark uninterruptedly for a thousand years, all descended from Gorm the Old, whose son was Harald Bluetooth of the Viking raids, whose descendants Sweyn Forkbeard and Canute conquered England. For over a thousand years the monarchy has developed from a peasant aristocracy through hereditary absolutism to the constitutional democracy of our time, writes Kees Van Hock in *World Digest*.

A republic is unthinkable to the Danes, who know no difference in standing or education between nobility and burghers.

Queer Facts

Release of thirty bed-bugs in a rival's hotel was unfair competition, Hanau (Germany) magistrates decided, gaoling Paul Sonnenfeld for three months!

A Policeman's bike has been stolen from outside Buckingham Palace station! Lipstick with built-in torch, for making-up in the dark, has been patented in Philadelphia.

During a cricket match at Mersham-le-Hatch (Kent), the ball was lost — down a rabbit-hole!

People have been known to jeer and the firemen blush when Lancing (Sussex) brigade turns out. For sometimes the engine won't start, or it does and breaks down. The parish council have asked the county authorities to look into the matter.

Keenest member of a Manchester health and beauty class is a grandmother — aged 70.

Boys at Haltwhistle (Northumberland) youth club are to learn to bathe the baby and bake cakes.

Police called to arrest an “intruder” at a house in Hollingbourne (Kent) found it was the local constable on an investigation.

Twenty minutes after his car vanished at Notting Hill (London), the owner saw two men repairing it six miles away. He got his car.

Caught in an hotel fire, John Guilfoxy, of San Francisco, hurriedly put on socks, shirt and jacket and dashed into the street — without his trousers!

Whistling noise in her new radio puzzled Mrs. P. McMahon, of Malla-nam, until she found a set of false teeth in the loudspeaker.

Stewardesses on Japanese airliners will wear the traditional kimono in the air.

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To the Danes the King is the first citizen rather than the sovereign, and the head of their largest family, the nation.

The present ruler, Frederick Francis Michael Carl Waldemar Georg, King of Denmark, of the Wends and the Goths, Duke of Schleswig and Holstein, was born in the Castle of Sorgenfri in March, 1899. He is the eldest son of the later King Christian X and of his consort, nee Grand Duchess Alexandrine of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. In 1935 he married in Stockholm Princess Ingrid of Sweden, a granddaughter of the Duke of Connaught.

Scandinavian Ties

The close brotherly as well as neighbourly relations of the three Scandinavian kingdoms is reflected in their dynasties; the King of Denmark is the son-in-law of the present King of Sweden, Gustav Adolf VI, and a nephew of the King of Norway, since King Haakon is his late father's younger brother.

Frederick IX is a most democratic ruler. His first demand, when he succeeded to the throne in 1947, was to scrap the archaic style in which all governmental communications to the Monarch were traditionally clothed; he insisted that forthwith they should be as short, simple, and clear as a business letter and "without frills."

As a monarch, Frederick IX of Denmark is more of a paradox than a type. He has a crown on his letter-head and an old sailor—dragons tattooed on his husky chest and back.

He is a tall, square jawed and shouldered man's man, an athlete who boxes, sails, swims and rows, who prefers beer to wine and can lead a rousing chorus.

At the same time he is an excellent pianist, a composer, and a very good conductor who occasionally (but never in public, the tickets go only to friends, the majority of whom are ordinary citizens) conducts the Royal Theatre or the State Radio orchestra, in which he excels as an interpreter of Beethoven.

A Family Man

Above all Frederick IX is a family man—and no other quality could endear him so much to the people.

Not so long ago the School Radio was allowed to visit the royal home, and all Denmark listened in to the unhearsed programme.

"We try to live as normal a family life as you live," began the King. "We have three fine children, they can be very sweet, like your own, or be as naughty. They are grand kids, really; only, now and then—you know—you feel like losing your temper!"

Then they came to the microphone. They had been rehearsing a school play based on Hans Andersen's "The Princess and the Swineherd." (The Royal children have no private tuition but go to the 100-year-old "Nathalie Zahles" Girls School in Copenhagen, where they are not called Princesses but by their Christian names.)

The radio reporter supposed that Princess Margaret would play the princess. "Not at all," came the prompt rebuttal, "that's a poor role."

With her two sisters, nine-year-old Princess Benedikte, who is a fine horsewoman

like her mother, and seven-year-old Ann Marie, they play Redskins in the palace garden. Papa often plays with them; he will accompany a song on the piano, or romp on the living-room carpet.

They Go Cycling!

Often one can meet their Majesties, he in a soft felt hat and a raincoat, she in a tailor-made, going shopping together. No gentleman or lady-in-waiting accompanies them, no secret-service man follows them. In the summer you might meet the entire Royal family on their bicycles, like any Danish family.

The "Town House" is Amalienborg Palace, and another favourite residence is Fredensborg ("Castle of Peace"), north of the capital.

But when the royal couple want a real holiday, they go to Trend in North Jutland, a hunting lodge in the forest. There they are really by themselves. The Queen cooks, the King uses the vacuum-cleaner round the rooms, their girls do the shopping in the nearest village.

A few months ago King Frederick had one of his dearest wishes fulfilled. A plebiscite approved with overwhelming majority a change in the Constitution, already passed by Parliament. One of its principal provisions revoked the Salic Law by which succession is possible only in the male line. The law is now the same as in England, so that the King's eldest daughter, Princess Margaret, has become Heir Presumptive, instead of the King's younger brother, Prince Canute.

A thousand years of glory and might rise behind that big, manly, modern man who is the King of Denmark today. His own rule may best be summed up by the bronze inscription on the statue outside his palace, of his ancestor who gave Denmark her Constitution: "Folkkes Kærlighed Min Styrke"—"the love of my people is my strength."

Hanged Three Times!

On a late spring morning in September, 1803, a gaunt featured convict, Joseph Samuels, stood in the death-cart under the gallows on a headland overlooking the blue waters of Sydney Harbour, says John Sidney in *Tit-Bits*.

Wearing a jacket and trousers daubed with broad arrows, he made his last speech and owned up to stealing, with other convicts, a writing desk containing gold and silver coins, for which crime he had been sentenced to death.

But he firmly denied that he had committed the murder of the police constable, of which he had also been accused.

Formed up in a square around the death-cart and the gallows, with its grim noose, were massed lines of red-coated soldiers of the New South Wales Corps, under the command of the provost-marshal in charge of the execution.

Joseph Samuels, in the very shadow of death, spoke with such mildness and composure, and with so little bitterness, that many of the onlookers were deeply impressed. They were more so when he said, without heat, that the murder of the police constable had been carried out by a spectator who was under police (and

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SQUAREWORDS

Till the moment of going to Press, the Advance Pull of SQUAREWORD No. D-20 has not been received. Hence, the full comments on SQUAREWORD No. D-20 will appear in the 1st December, '53 issue.

As there is still plenty of time for submitting entries for SQUAREWORD No. D-19 (the Closing Date for it is 4th December, '53), Second Thoughts on the same are published below for the benefit of the SQUAREWORD fans.

— "Spotter".

2nd Thoughts:

Squareword No. D-19

(Closing Date :—4-12-'53)

ACROSS

9. Previous choice of AIM is confirmed.
12. "Is highly nervous" does not mean thoroughly scared but merely that the timid speaker will feel uneasy. *Tense* crowd will be sure to upset him thoroughly. The *Dense*, absolutely crowded, audience affects, erstwhile self-confidence. Back DENSE.

14. The *Oath* could have very well been taken in privacy or it might be forgotten. But path or stand taken is different. Vote for PATH.

15. RAIN is still a good bet.

16. I think that "without a *Jot*" describes the least exertion required better than "without a *Lot*". So, enter JOT.

17. *Lofty* merely refers to a mental bearing while *Softy* describes the disposition, mental and physical condition. So SOFTY scores.

18. BANE is confirmed.

19. The thought of income-tax to be paid will always make worker *Haggard* whereas it would sometimes only make him *Laggard*. Go in for LAGGARD.

20. Previous choice of ROPE is good even now.

DOWN

1. SLEEKY still scores.

2. The frequency suggested by "many a deed is done daily" goes against *Grave*. Back BRAVE.

3. I still prefer CONFESSION.

4. No one would willingly act in a *Potty* manner on the advice of others. Vote for PETTY.

5. Permute both HEALTH and WEALTH.

8. "Putting out" might mean eliminating from the field. Businessman need not go to that extent with regard to rival. But *Cutting* out cannot be avoided. Enter CUTTING.

10. The "event" does not go well with *Mercy*. MERRY scores.

11. As nothing dishonourable or unprincipled is suggested, HUMOUR alone scores.

13. ENRAGE is still a good bet.

FULL LIST of FIXED WORDS and ALTERNATIVES

Given below is the Full List of Fixed Words and Alternatives for "MYWORDS" No. 30. The Adjudication Committee's selection of the apt words will be from this List only.

— Competition Editor.

MYWORDS No. 30

Closing Date: 7-1-1954

FIXED WORDS

Across:— 1. FIVE.

ALTERNATIVES

Across:— 2. RELENT, REPENT.

3. JEST, JUST.

5. GALLED, GULLED.

6. HUT, RUT.

Down:— 4. SILKY, SILLY, SULKY.

8. SEEK, SEEM.

9. FAIL, RAIL, WAIL.

10. FAWN, YAWN.

11. HASTY, NASTY.

INTERLOCKERS

Across:— 7. FAKE, RAKE.

Down:— 7. FESTIVE, RESTIVE.

Across:— 12. CARE, DARE.

Down:— 12. CASH, DASH.

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Posted Entries: 6-1-'54.

LIST OF FIXED WORDS & ALTERNATIVES

ACROSS: 1. COUP 5. PERT, PEST 7. MAGNOLIA 10. AGE, AWE 11. BENT 13. AID, AIR 15. DAY, DRY 16. URGE 17. SEE 18. SAY, SPY 19. ACE, ACT 20. SHAM 23. CALL, CELL 24. JUST, MUST 25. HAMPERED, PAMPERED.

DOWN 1. CHAPS, CHATS 2. PLAN, PLAY 3. MINISTER, SINISTER 4. SHOOTING, SHOUTING 5. PRIG, PRIM 6. TRAMS, TRAPS 8. KEYS 9. EASE, EAST 10. ADVICE 11. BUYS 12. TEAM 14. DEBATE, REBATE 21. HIP, HOP 22. AXE.

ACROSS

5. "Child who is — can be very embarrassing when guests are present." PERT, PEST?

It is the degree of embarrassment that we should take into account in selecting the proper word. If a child is *Pert*, sharp in speech, impertinent, it would no doubt embarrass one when guests are present. At times, the *Pert* behaviour or speech might even be liked. But a child that is a *Pest* will cause greater embarrassment. When guests are present, the child described here as *Pest* may worry the guests with all sorts of questions, ask for all sorts of things, run about the place to everybody's inconvenience and annoyance and weep even when pulled up. It can thus be seen that child which is a *Pest* when guests are present can be very embarrassing to its parents. Go in for PEST.

10. "Terrifying experiences are likely to — persons used to tranquil life." AGE, AWE?

Persons used to tranquil, peaceful, calm life are definitely sure to get terribly frightened, jolted, by terrifying experiences. This reaction is described by the word *Awe*. The word "likely to" goes against *Awe* for the man who had been used to tranquil life will feel *Awe*. Having been accustomed to a tranquil life, terrifying experiences are likely to *Awe* the man. It is to provide for the exceptions that the word "likely to" is used. Hence, back AWE.

15. "Unless it is — we can't very well enjoy a picnic." DAY, DRY?

Usually, picnics are enjoyed during day time but at times picnics are held even in the night time when there is brilliant moonlight or with the help of lights. As most people have a preference for picnicking during the *Day* only, we can leave the night picnicking well alone. The "unless it is" imposes a condition which is not in favour of *Day*. It need not necessarily be *Day* for having the picnic parties. Whether it is picnicking by day or night, one thing is very essential—a spell of fine weather. As picnicking is an outdoor affair, the weather must be a *Dry* one. Wet weather means rain and that would spell ruin to picnic prospects. The "unless it is" fully explains the aptness of *Dry*. If the weather is not so, then picnics have to be given a temporary go by. Back DRY.

18. "Boss who wants to have his — in every department cannot have much confidence in his subordinates." SAY, SPY?



By "SPOTTER"

"To have his *Say*" means to have his own way, to impose his own will. Just because boss wants to have his own *Say*, it does not mean he lacks confidence in his subordinates. He may do so because of a desire to see that things do not go wrong or to ensure proper and expeditious turnover of work. Reject *Say*. To employ *Spy*, boss need not necessarily employ outsiders for that purpose. He may make one of the employees in each department to be a *Spy* so that he can get periodical reports of what is happening. But why should he appoint these spies at all? Exactly because he does not have much confidence in his subordinates. Enter SPY.

23. "To have to remain within — must be very irksome to man who loves freedom." CALL, CELL?

Can we take "freedom" to mean freedom to be at large, to roam about in a carefree manner? It might be also taken to mean freedom to do what he likes, to say what he likes, to read what and where he likes, to move in any manner he likes and so on. Remaining in a *Cell* may be voluntarily preferred. It may also be due to an external pressure. But how to connect "freedom" in the Clue with this *Call*? Reject it. "To have to remain within *Call*" means to be under the beck and call of a person, to serve under a superior. To a man who loves freedom, absolute independence, it will surely be quite irksome, rather annoying, to have to remain within *Call*. Vote for CALL.

24. "When father's word is law and he tells children to do a thing, they — do it!" JUST, MUST?

That the father's word is law is sought to be proved by a specific instance of how the children obey him. They *Must* do it means that if the children do not do so, then dire consequences are in store for them. It is because of this fear that they do whatever they are asked to. But to state that they *Just* do it shows that the children obey not so much due to fear but because they know father's way is law and also because they are accustomed to obeying. This submission to paternal will is clearly indicated by the word *Just*. No question of consequences arises. Like automaton the children simply obey the father. This implicit obedience is best expressed by the word *Just*. Back JUST.

25. "Lad who shows promise shouldn't be unnecessarily —" HAMPERED, PAMPERED?

To be *Pampered* means to be brought up in a highly spoilt manner, to give in to every capricious demand made. The "unnecessarily" in the Clue clearly implies that there is a "necessarily" aspect also. So far as pampering is concerned, there can be no exceptions to the rule. Unnecessarily pampered and necessarily pampered is a wrong distinction. If a lad shows promise, exhibits signs of having really good abilities, then he should not be unnecessarily *Hampered* by exaggerating difficulties, etc. etc. But this does not mean he should be left absolutely unhampered. There may arise instances or circumstances when he will have to be *Hampered*, prevented, from doing certain things. There is thus an unnecessarily *Hampered* and necessarily *Hampered* category of action. Bet on HAMPERED.

DOWN

1. "If business is to be run efficiently — in office certainly cannot be permitted." CHAPS, CHATS?

Chaps means fellows but the word is usually used in everyday conversation to refer to persons with whom one is very familiar, one's intimate friends. If we take this word to mean friends, it is true that their presence in office would affect its business efficiency. But the *Chaps* may also happen to come there only for business purposes, in which case it cannot be said that their presence would be harmful to the business being run efficiently. There may at the worst be a temporary diversion but the "being run" seems to refer to a result in the long run. Hence, reject *Chaps*. If *Chats*, conversation or discussion, among the employees is to be permitted, it would mean that they would tend to be slack in their work and this would surely affect

business efficiency not only in the long run but even immediately, too. Back CHATS.

2. "is not likely to be successful when plot is not well thought out." PLAN, PLAY?

A Play is a drama. For a Play to be successful it will not be enough if the plot alone has been well thought out. Good actors, fine costumes, clever stage managing, etc., are other factors that decide the success or otherwise of a play. The "not likely" in the Clue seems to stress the importance of the plot only. At times even when the plot is no good or is totally absent even, a play can score for other reasons. Hence, reject Play. Here Plan should be taken to mean the plan or blueprint for a house, bungalow, hospital, factory or some such building. Before deciding on putting it on plan, one should decide what plot is available and the extent of the plot. When this has not been thought out any Plan, be it the architect's or the investor's own, is not likely to be successful. This is analogous to counting the chickens before they are hatched. Enter PLAN.

3. "When man is — ordinary people may be somewhat chary of approaching him!" MINISTER, SINISTER?

Man is said to be Sinister if his appearance is rather frightening, if he looks evil, inauspicious. Why should the ordinary people, the average type of us, feel somewhat chary of, cautious in approaching him? The ordinary people are too shrewd to be deceived by mere appearances. Hence, reject Sinister. When man is Minister, ordinary people may be somewhat chary, surely, of approaching him for any favour, etc., for they are awed by the high office he holds. To the rich or influential or highly educated people, a Minister is no different from any other individual except that he has been voted into that office by his own fellow men. It is this difference that is sought to be shown here. MINISTER scores.

4. "There is likely to be plenty of — when football match is hotly contested." SHOOTING, SHOUTING?

Here is a Clue which is so worded that it is really difficult to decide the apter of the two words listed. When a football match is in progress, there is bound to be plenty of Shooting, quick kicking of the balls by the players. And when the match is hotly contested, there should be plenty more of this Shooting. It is also equally true there is likely to be plenty of Shouting on the part of the football fans who will cry hoarse in appreciation of the play of certain of the players. If there is no Shouting, it means that the play is dull. Hence, permute both the words SHOOTING and SHOUTING here.

5. "Modern girl tends to view with disfavour young man who is —" PRIG, PRIM?

A Prig is a pert fellow who gives himself airs of superior wisdom. To be Prim is to be affectingly nice. The word "girl" in the Clue is qualified by "modern" clearly with a view to contrast her with the girl of the past generations. There is no reason why the modern girl alone should tend to view with disfavour young man who is Prig. Even girls of the past generations would have reacted in the same manner towards such of the young men who put on affected airs

of superior wisdom. Hence, reject Prig. The modern girl likes young men to be frank, free and friendly. She would tend to view with disfavour all kinds of formal behaviour, speeches, attention, etc. But in the days gone by, society set much store by the formalities of behaviour, speech, etc. Hence, the Prim young men are likely to be viewed with disfavour by the modern miss. Back PRIM.

6. "People who go about in — usually do so because they can afford nothing better." TRAMS, TRAPS?

It is not a question of availability but affordability that has to be considered here. It is not quite correct to state that people go about in Trams because they cannot afford anything better. In certain routes one can travel either by bus or by tram for the same fare. And if people prefer the tram to a bus in such routes it will be due to sheer personal liking and not because they could not afford the better mode of travel, viz., by bus. Hence, reject Trams. The word Traps means carriages. These may be jettas, motor-carts or rickshaws. People prefer these Traps, carriages, exactly because they can afford them. This mode of conveyance and cannot afford better ones like cars. This is a correct appraisal. TRAPS wins.

21. "Astute employer who suspects servant of pilfering may well try to catch him on the —" HIP, HOP?

Hop means a jump, a spring. In its particular usage here it means catching the servant when he is about to run away with the pilfered things. The employer here is described as "astute." Such a person will not be foolish to wait for servant, whom he had been suspecting to be a pilferer, to attempt to run away. Having become suspicious about pilfering of money by servant, astute or clever employer will try to catch him on the Hip, in the very act of stealing the money. HIP scores.

Interlockers

Across: 13. "Man of little real ability can often rise above his fellows if he has the — of an influential person." AID, AIR?

Even to assume or put on the Air of an influential person a man must have the necessary ability to do so. The man is described in the Clue as one having "little real ability," a thoroughly useless man. It is thus crystal clear that man of little real ability cannot "often" rise above his fellows through the means suggested here. Even men of real abilities do not often rise above their fellows, are not a great success in life. Only a few hit the top by sheer dint of merit. When such is the case of these men, it is no wonder that man of little real abilities cannot but seek and somehow get the Aid, help, backing of an influential person. This kind of help to achieve success in life has of late become far too common to doubt the statement. Back AID.

Down: 14. " — may well be called for when big bill is presented." DEBATE, REBATE?

A Rebate is a concession given, a percentage of what is due that is given back. How "big" exactly the bill is, we do not know. And even if the bill be "big" why should a Rebate be called for? A Rebate is never given unless there is a specific understanding to that effect. If that be so, then a

Rebate must be given. The "may well be" in the Clue thus goes against this interpretation. Here "big bill" should be taken to refer to the various legislative measures or bills presented before the members of the Assembly or Council. If it is a minor bill, only a few questions like supplementaries, etc., may be asked but there would be no Debate over it. However, when a big bill is presented, it is very likely that the party in power and the Opposition may like to discuss it on the floor of the House and hence a Debate may well be called for by them. DEBATE scores.

Across: 19. "Daring — is usually very much admired by the ladies!" ACE, ACT?

What constitutes a "daring" Act is difficult to decide. No doubt, actions that call for great physical exertion or courage are always characterised as daring acts but here the persons reacting to the act are described as women. They might call an Act daring which men might not care to praise. Hence, reject Act. A person who excels, one who is a champion, is referred to as an Ace. A daring Ace would no doubt be admired by men but he will be very much more admired by women. That is the special weakness of Eve! Go in for ACE.

Down: 9. "Person used to living in — cannot easily adapt himself to any other sort of life." EASE, EAST?

To assert that persons living in the East, in Asia broadly speaking, cannot easily adapt themselves to any other sort of life is an unwarranted reflection on all Asiatics. Many Asiatics have given up their traditional ways of life and have become highly Westernized. Many men, and even women, who have gone to countries in the West have easily adapted themselves to the sort of life obtaining there. So, reject East. It is a fact that a person used to living in Ease, in absolute comfort and free from exertion and worries cannot adapt himself to any other sort of life. EASE wins.

Below is the Official Key Solution of MYWORDS No. 28. The Prize List will be published in My Magazine of India of 1st December 1953. If you believe you have won a Prize and it is not stated in the published Prize List that you have won such a prize or you have not been otherwise notified by us to that effect you may submit a Security Claim in accordance with conditions to be published in My Magazine of India of 1-12-1953.

Key Solution of MYWORDS No. 28



CHANCE ENCOUNTER

It was the drawing room of Mr. Ghose, a retired Government officer. Some of his closest friends met there regularly in the evening. They drank tea, smoked cigars, and could talk for two or three hours no matter whether they had anything worth while to chatter about or not.

"The sky is cloudy. It will rain soon. Ghost stories will suit the atmosphere best today," said Mr. Sen.

"Why ghost stories? We are soon going to be ghosts ourselves! Let us rather go back to our youth," said Mr. Roy, laughing.

"A very good suggestion," said Mr. Gosh. "Young men are to advance and old men are to retreat. I prefer personal love stories."

"Old men and love stories! Will it not be a case of trespassing in the field of the young people?" asked Mr. Sen, the retired public prosecutor.

"No," Mr. Sil, the retired Judge, gave his final decision. "Love is not the monopoly of young men. We may not fall in love in our old age, but the law does not forbid us to tell stories about love."

"Well," said the public prosecutor. "The honour should be given first to Mr. Bose."

Mr. Bose remained silent for some time. He touched his long grey beard and said, "I do not know what love is and whether the story I am going to tell is a love story or not. But the very fact that it comes to my mind as soon as you asked me to tell a love story is a proof of its having some connection with love. It is up to you to give your verdict when I have completed."

"Well begun," encouraged Mr. Sen. "Please go on with the story itself."

I was a student of the M.A. class in the Calcutta University (Mr. Bose began). I received a letter from my mother just before the com-

mencement of the summer vacation. Mother had asked me to start for home on the very day the college closed for the vacation. A bosom friend of my late father's would soon come to our house for negotiating his daughter's marriage to me. She was a beautiful girl of eighteen, and had passed the I.A. examination, I was told. The news filled my heart with joy. The day came, and I caught the evening train at Howrah Station.

I entered an Inter-class compartment, and took my seat in the corner near the window by the side of the platform. There were a few passengers inside, and I thought that I could sleep comfortably in it. But to my great disappointment I soon found myself among the members of a family that had just entrenched themselves with bags and trunks. They occupied all the seats by my side and in my front leaving no space for me to sit at ease. I was thinking if I should change my seat when my eyes fell upon the occupant of the seat in front of me. A young girl of fair complexion, with deep black eyes and rosy cheeks, was sitting there. I gave up the idea of moving elsewhere.

THE train started. I had a magazine with me which I intended to read during the journey. But I could not. I tried to cast sly glances under some pretext or other towards her. Our eyes once met. She blushed and I averted my head.

There was complete silence in the compartment. No one talked. We became accustomed to the monotonous sound of the running train. At last the silence was broken by the middle-aged gentleman who seemed to be the head of the family and father of the charming girl. He asked me what my name was, where I was going

and what I did. I gave my answers most politely. But they seemed to arouse commotion in the family. Every one looked towards me. The mother of the girl asked in a sweet voice, "He is the son of Paresh Babu? How strange!"

The eyes of the girl sparkled. She moved a little, felt uneasy, and made vain attempts not to look towards me. This I did not actually notice, but I felt it instinctively. I heard from the gentleman that our destination was the same railway station. How pleasant it would be to have their company during the whole journey, I thought.

IT was an express train and there were only a few halts. Men came in and went out as the train stopped. There happened nothing new. At last the train reached an important railway junction. Some passengers got down and a young woman of about twenty entered the compartment. She did not belong to our party. Her dress told that she was an up-country woman. She sat on the bench occupied by the girl.

One of the passengers warned her that this was an Inter-class compartment. But she did not pay heed to the warning. She looked vacantly hither and thither. But as soon as the train started, she seemed to be perturbed. She came towards the door, peeped out for a time and then stood still for a moment. She made a helpless gesture and, all of a sudden, burst into tears.

We were astonished. Many questions were put to her by different men, but she did not utter a single word. She wept and wept. The girl in the seat opposite to mine turned her eyes upon me, and a spirit of chivalry rose in my heart. I did not like to lose the opportunity to show how large-hearted and intelligent

a young man I was. No one could make her speak, but I was sure that I could elicit from her what had happened.

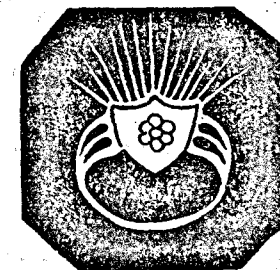
I WENT near her and asked her in Hindi what the trouble was. She lifted her head and looked at me. Her eyes were full of tears but were very attractive. She was no less beautiful than the girl whom I had been admiring. She remained silent for a moment, then began to sob again. I asked her, "With whom have you come?" She answered in a language which was not easily intelligible to me. But what I understood from her speech was this—she had come with her elder brother who asked her to enter the compartment and went to the booking office. I assured her that he must have entered another compartment and that she was sure to meet him in the next station. When the train stopped at the next station no one came to enquire about her. Her countenance grew paler and paler as the train stopped at more stations during the journey.

I did not know what I should do for her. I had every intention of handing her over to a station-master who would probably send her back to the junction where she might find her brother. But the woman did not like to get down from the train. At last we reached our destination. I did not notice that the sky was overcast with dark menacing clouds. A fierce wind was blowing and it began to drizzle. I gave a five-rupee note to the woman and told her she might get down at Gaya and catch the passenger train back to her place. She took the note but uttered not a single word.

In the meantime the gentleman with his family got down from the train. He hurried towards the over-bridge. When I got down from the train, I found none on the platform. A storm was already raging. The ticket-collector had somehow managed to stand near the gate with a dim light in his hand. He was not very particular about collecting tickets. While I was giving my ticket to him, I felt a tap on my back. I looked behind and saw the woman whom I had expected to go back. I was astonished at her behaviour

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and asked her in a harsh tone why she had not proceeded, as I had instructed. She did not answer me and I had no time to argue. It was raining so heavily.

The ticket-collector did not demand the ticket. The train had already left the station. I crossed the over-bridge with the woman and took shelter in the second-class waiting room. The wind was howling and the skies had let loose a veritable deluge! There was none in the station except the station-master and a porter, who shut themselves safely inside the office-room. A dim light was visible from outside.

It was so dark that we could not see each other. I had a torch-light in the suit-case. I took it out, flashed it carefully and surveyed the room. We were shivering with cold. I changed into dry clothes and offered the woman a dhoti and a bed-sheet. She changed into them and sat upon a chair.

The flashes of lightning that lit up the room, the peals of thunder, the howling wind, and the creaking sound of the doors and windows made the atmosphere dreadful. The woman could not sit alone. She came to me and said, "I feel frightened." She sat by my side. We had a short but warm conversation. Her name was Kasturi, she said. She had no father nor mother. She was unmarried. She had a distant relative—a cousin brother with whom she lived. While we were talking the porter came into the room with a lantern. "Are you here, Babu?" he asked. "Please shut the door from inside." Saying this he left the room. I bolted the door and took my seat. "Will you sleep?" I asked her. I could not understand what she said. There was a terrific crash somewhere nearby, and immediately I felt her arms round my body; she clung to me like a creeper.

The night sped on, and I did not know when I fell asleep. When I woke up I found that it was half past three. The sky had become clear. I switched on my torch, and looked at Kasturi. She was asleep. I took my suit-case and left the room without disturbing her. I came out of the station

premises but found no conveyance. I would have to go on foot three miles to reach my village. I was hesitating whether I should start immediately or wait for some time to see if I could get any rickshaw or tonga to carry me home.

When I decided to start walking, I found Kasturi by my side. She had put on her clothes which had become dry. She gave me back my dhoti and bed-sheet and said, "Will you kindly show me your home?" I objected, but she would not listen to me. "You will write a letter to my brother, and he will come to take me home. How can it be possible for a young woman like me to travel alone in the train?"

I thought for a moment and then asked her to follow me. She snatched away my suit-case, placed it upon her head and began to walk with me.

WE soon came out of the town, crossed the railway bridge, travelled a long way, turned to the left and continued along the path leading to our village. We were walking silently. It was still dark though the stars were shining bright in the clear blue sky. "I asked Kasturi to hand over the suit-case to me. She refused. "Then take rest for a while," I said.

We sat down on a big stone. "What is your name?" asked Kasturi.

"Kamal," I said.

"Are you married?"

"No, but I am going to be married soon."

"Are you going to be married to the girl who sat just in front of you in the train?"

"No, I have not yet seen the girl whom I may have to marry."

Kasturi thought silently for some time and then said, "I shall never forget this night in the waiting room."

We reached home before dawn. My mother looked askance at us. I told her everything. "Well," she said, "just send a telegram to her brother. We should not keep the girl for a long time in our house. People are apt to misunderstand."

But there was no need to send a telegram. Just at 9 a.m. a man came to my house. He asked, "Is Kasturi here?"

"Yes," I said, "are you her brother?"

WE were in the drawing room. Kasturi did not seem to be glad to see her brother. Her face grew pale. She spoke not a single word. Her silence amazed me.

The man said without hesitation, "Are you willing to marry her?"

"Why?" I looked bewildered at this sudden question.

"You kidnapped my sister and took her to the waiting room. I have proof of it."

I regained my composure. I scented a conspiracy. I asked him in a threatening voice, "What do you mean by this?"

The man looked unperturbed. He said in a serious tone, "To be frank, Babu, I want money. If you marry my sister, you will have to pay five thousand rupees in cash. If you don't, only one thousand will do. I leave the choice to you."

I looked at Kasturi. She appeared dejected and helpless. I said in a thundering tone, "Well sir, you may do whatever you like. I have nothing to choose. I am quite innocent."

The man stood up and said, "Well, Babu, there is the court. You will have to answer for your conduct in the court."

My mother requested the man to take his dinner. But the man did not agree. He had come in a rickshaw which was waiting outside. Kasturi met me in my room before her departure. She said with tearful eyes, "My brother is a scoundrel. He earns money at my cost. He will do what he says. But God will save you, I hope."

A gentleman who travelled with me with his family in the train came on the next day. The news that the girl whom I had admired so much in the train was to be my bride could not fill my heart with joy. The dire threats of the man were troubling me.

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P.B. No. 17, HOWRAH (W. Bengal)

ONE day I was arrested and sent for trial on those baseless charges. I wondered how the villain had managed to get so many witnesses. Three of his neighbours came, stood in the witness box and said that they had seen me one night going away with Kasturi to the railway station. Then there was the ticket collector and the porter who told the court what they had seen. The medical report also went against me.

Sunil Babu, my would-be father-in-law, his wife and daughter gave evidence in my favour. While Lalita, the daughter of Sunil Babu, was giving her evidence, Kasturi looked steadfastly at her. The latter had learnt from the cross-examination that Lalita was to be my wife. I expected that Kasturi would surely state the case in my favour. But to my great distress and despair I heard her telling that all the charges against me were true. And I was committed to the sessions.

At the commencement of the sessions trial, my counsel drew the attention of the court to the fact that Lachman, the brother of Kasturi, had told my mother that if she would pay him a thousand rupees the case would turn in my favour. The judge recorded the allegation. Lachman denied it.

Next came the turn of Kasturi. She looked at my emaciated figure. Her eyes became full of tears. Then she narrated a strange story before the court. Lachman was not her brother, not even her distant relation. She used to live with her mother in Calcutta. Lachman also lived in the same ward. When her mother and herself fell on hard times Lachman took advantage of it. He began to use her for entangling innocent people from whom he would demand money. Kamal was quite innocent. Lachman was trying to get money from him. The charges had no foundation at all.

The Judge asked her a few questions, and she answered them to his entire satisfaction. The public prosecutor declared her hostile and asked permission of the court to cross-examine her. The court did not allow him to do

so. Kasturi then told the court that after all she had said her life would not be safe in the hands of Lachman. The court ordered that she should be sent to some asylum for destitute women. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty and I was acquitted without a stain on my character.

SOMETIME after our marriage, Lalita told me one day that we should visit the asylum to see how Kasturi was getting on. She proposed that Kasturi should be requested to live with us as one of our family. I admired the large-heartedness of my wife. We started one day for the asylum. Leaving Lalita in the carriage in front of the gate, I entered the asylum. I was taken to the visitors' room and, after a little waiting, I found Kasturi standing before me.

"How are you?" I asked, eagerly.

Her eyes sparkled. She smiled, but said nothing.

"Do you like to live with us as one of our family?"

"Why not?" she answered gladly. "But have you married that beautiful girl whom you met in the train?"

I was going to say something but I stopped on seeing my wife entering the room. I said to my wife, "Kasturi is willing to live with us."

Kasturi knitted her eyebrows and said in a shrill voice, "No, no, I don't like to live with you!" Saying this she ran away from the room. We were perplexed at her strange behaviour. We left the asylum with a sorrowful heart.

Mr. Bose stopped his narrative and lit a cigarette, which indicated that the story had ended.

"She seemed to have fallen in love with Mr. Bose," said Mr. Sen. "But did you not visit her any more?"

"There was no need of that. She committed suicide on the day immediately after we had called on her," said Mr. Bose after a brief pause.

HOW I BECAME A LANDLORD

(This is a true narrative, of course, with the names changed. Judge for yourself which couple is the nobler of the two. Manjari and myself or Roshun and Eusuff. This judgment will be a judging of one's own conscience. Better still, discuss it among your friends and you can understand their own mind.)



"NO, you don't believe it? I am not surprised, my dear man, because that doesn't happen everyday, not to everybody," I said to Narain when he looked unbelievably at my owning a house.

"I don't mean to say you are spinning out a story just as Mun-chauson or Crusoe did. But that is certainly quite out of everyday's happening," persisted Narain, the old slow, staid and stolid classmate of mine.

"Well, well, here is what actually took place. Take it as you like

and you might jolly well do with it or with yourself as you please," I remarked, not without a touch of warmth because I was naturally anxious that my good Eusuff should get the credit he deserved full and fair.

"Look here, Narain, I put the matter in a nutshell." And I told him, fixing him with my eyes as the Ancient Mariner did, what did actually happen.

This is what I told him.

It was one evening—to be exact, it was the first of June, 193— I was coming home as fast as I

could after a day of very heavy and hard work in the office. Still there was a lightness of heart, a quiet cheerfulness which is more felt than expressed or measured by the "joy-meter" or any other such contraption. It was that subtle feeling of an unexpressed happiness like that you find painted by the great masters in their masterpieces of Madonna and the Child.

ORR-BEE

That was only natural. You know what the first of a month means to any and every chap who draws his hard-earned salary. I drew my month's pay. I had tucked it away safe in the inner pocket. You know why that precaution is somewhat badly needed of late! Not so much for my own sake as for that person at home under whose sway every fearless and self-respecting man at home lives. True, not that I had a very handsome salary—it was only 140 rupees. But a rupee in the thirties went much farther than it cares to do these days.

SHE had her own way at home. In fact she was a very "well-obeyed" wife, Manjari—you know what that means. And so I couldn't object to her ways so long as she delivered the goods, that is, vouchsafed a decent measure of quiet and comfort with the care of the beloved young ones—two of them being all her sole job it is so comfortable to obey than to be obeyed.

Every pay day she would take the amount, place it before the Lares and the Penates, the household gods, on the morrow give away some of it to the poor and meet the demands with as little fuss as if we were so many wax dolls in a museum. That was why I was making home as fast as I could, so that the good woman, Manjari, might not be kept waiting.

But then, you plan and somebody else has the undoing of it. Well, is that not the common saying or something like it?

Whom should I meet that evening coming along just opposite? None other than Eusuff. Surely you know Eusuff—our dashing fieldsman? That was the very man—but what a Eusuff! "Why, my dear Eusey, what the ghost of a man you are! Whatever have you been doing these three months? And good Mrs. Roshun? My wife has been asking me about you and your wife almost every day these last four or five weeks. Whatever do you mean?" I asked him.

Eusuff stood silent for a short while.

"Can you make out anything from my look or person? I know you used to like Sherlock Holmes

stories immensely; now, come along and apply Holmes' methods," smiled Eusuff, not in that full and youthful manner as he would, after an audacious catch on the cricket field.

"Eusuff, you don't look quite happy, I am sure; and you don't expect me to be analysing a friend's bad luck as if it were a mental sport or feat. No, no that is no sport, I can assure you. And if the wife hears of my applying Holmes' methods at a time like this, without straightway finding out what happened to you these three long months, surely, that is not the way to procure peace at home nor trophies for my detective skill. Tell me or come along with me so that the wife too can know all about you and your wife straight from your lips," said I.

"If you insist on it, it is here in a nutshell. Three months back I had the sack, not the fault of my Uncle: you know I was working in my Uncle's small business. And he was so good to me, too. But things worsened from bad to worse and worse to worse, and, at last, it came to the worst. You smile at my grammar. But my plight was much worse than my grammar. You know Roshun, what could she do? She wouldn't listen to tightening the belt, at any rate not my belt nor that of the boy. The last four or five weeks, well, I don't know how the home was run. No wonder, you can, with your analytical skill find out that I look as miserable as miserable can, without the help of make-up artists."

I COULD only exclaim, "Eusuff, Eusuff!" I paused speechless. "You, Roshun and the boy to face all that and we eat and sleep as if nothing had been wrong with you! How you pain me; and the good woman, my Manjari, what will she say? All the worse for me. Will she not say, 'I knew something was wrong with Roshun, and that is why she hasn't come these days; and you wouldn't go and find out what was amiss. You see how it all happened. Is that how we treat them?' She will blame me, Eusuff," I said.

"Excuse me," pleaded Eusuff, "many a time she started for your place. But lest you should be

inconvenienced or owing to some such delicacy of feeling she did not go to your place and mine too was somewhat the same feeling. Do, do forgive us, good brother."

"That is very wrong," I said as seriously as I could.

"What have you got with you, any cash?" asked Eusuff.

"Here is 140; that is my pay."

"How much can you spare?"

"Whatever you care to have."

"All of it?"

"Certainly; it is all yours—no condition of terms."

"Give me your pay. With that we can pull on for about three months by which time my Uncle hopes for a turn in his affairs—and he is no dreamer—and things will sail, smooth as usual. But then what about yourself?" That was what Eusuff told me in a breath.

TO any other fellow such a frank demand might seem absurd and unreasonable. But loving Eusuff and his wife Roshun and their boy as the wife and I did, I was so pleased, I was so happy, that I drew the small wad of notes some of them 10's, some 5's and the rest in rupees and gave it all to him.

"But, what about yourself? How can you manage? What will you tell good sister?" asked Eusuff.

"My dear Eusuff, don't worry about us. You don't know Manjari. She knows how to get on. On the other hand, she would never forgive me if I acted differently."

"I shall see you in a day or two; I must carry relief to the besieged fortress as early as I can." With that Eusuff disappeared.

Home I reached; a bit late, later than usual on a pay day. The wife came to receive me, rather, the monthly salary. I told her as briefly as I could what happened. She only felt so grieved at the blow the Eusuffs had. "But," said she, "you did quite well. But then had you gone to them earlier, how much better? You don't expect Roshun, poor girl, to run about telling people her trouble. I knew, I had a feeling that something was seri-

ously wrong with them. And there you are. Even now, if you hadn't met Eusuff by luck, I am sure we couldn't have been of the least help to them with all our friendship and what not!"

That was what I had for my unconditional surrender of my full month's pay.

Yet, I felt the justice of the charge and, like a wise man who occasionally has to err as a human being, I kept silent.

However Manjari made amends: in a minute from frown to kindly look. She laid aside the pooja plate she had in her hand; and coming up to me, she gave me a look of thorough satisfaction and holding my face in both her hands, she printed a loving kiss on my lips.

That very evening the wife cut down our monthly expenses by 40. She would save four times forty. On the fifth month we should live as if we had an increment, a jump—in my salary. Surely, there were days when we lived quite sumptuously and honourably on 100 a month. Why not now?

I brought a hundred from that good fellow who occasionally helps me. We help each other whenever we need it.

EUSUFF came the next day, his wife too and the chubby little fellow. They looked cheerful though a bit pulled down.

The wife waved them to a seat, but did not speak. She gave them refreshment and sat with them.

Roshun was not over-educated as many of our girls dangerously are. She had as much modesty as she had common sense. Both these womanly graces of modesty and good sense had not been replaced by "higher education."

Roshun got up, went up to the wife, held her hands in hers and spoke as tears ran down the wife's eyes, "Sister, sister, forgive me. It is all my fault. My husband wanted me to come round and see you weeks ago. But..."

The wife kissed Roshun; she assured her that she understood how it all came about. But, after the explanation, reconciliation and satisfaction, the wife said, "He is to blame; I guessed how things were going on. But it was so lucky they met yesterday."

I do not mean to say that I entirely pleaded guilty to the charges made out against me. But, who is the hero who dare challenge the lady when, as in this case, her forebodings were nearly right?

The wife had made up two large parcels of sweets and with some respectable variety of tempting looking mangoes, the Eusuffs left us.

The home went on without any appreciable change. And, if in anything, there was something wanting, we knew the cause and we got on well enough.

Eusuffs would be seeing us now and then.

Nearly three months had rolled by. We had half gone through the fourth month.

IT was one pleasant Sunday morning in September. Eusuff and Roshun came rather unexpectedly. It was a roomy car that brought them.

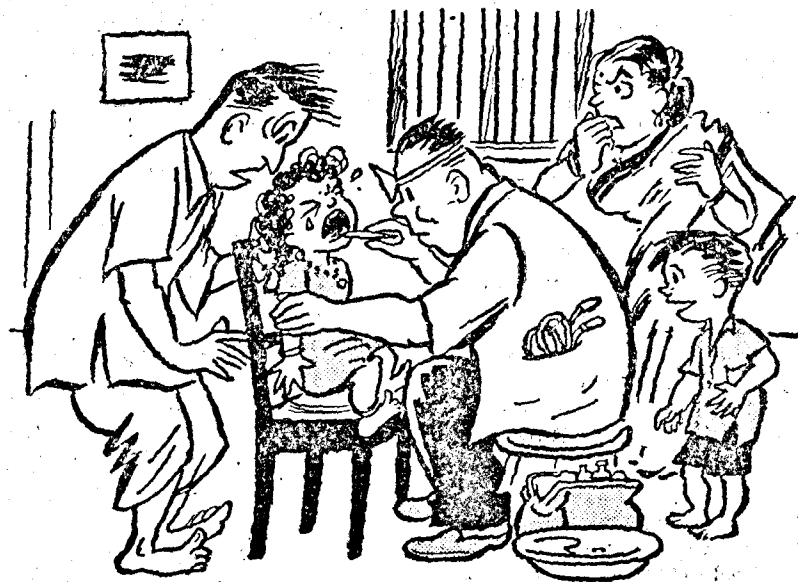
"Sister, I am sure you have finished your morning *chhota*. Sundays you don't worry or hurry about Brother's breakfast before 'office time.' So, you both come along for an hour or so and we shall get back," that was Roshun's command.

On the way, Eusuff reminded me of our talk about how he

would like his dwelling to be and how I would like my own castle to be: of course, talks of castles in the air; I was wondering what those dreams had to do that morning. We reached Eusuff's. There were two neat cosy homes exactly as we used to dream about. Eusuff took us round his home. Then taking us to a neat new house built and furnished just as I used to talk about, Eusuff looks at me and says, "This is yours. The deeds have been made out. I know you are not very particular about lucky or unlucky days. Here is the lorry to move round your things today. Your breakfast is to be with us and you stay for dinner with us so that you can start your home on the morrow."

I COULDN'T make out what it all was. A dream or a picture palace? The wife too stood still, stood silent.

"Well, sister," began Roshun, "you set us on our feet. We were getting on fairly well. Our Uncle's things turned out well. He took back my husband. He knew all about us. He gave the business and all his property as he felt his end was very near. And my husband was his heir. As he foretold, Allah took him to Himself. Without losing time, this house next to ours was altered to suit brother's ideas. And so from this day we live side by side as we often dreamed."



Little Brother: "Remember, Papa, when the Doc takes out the four-anna coin it goes to me. Grandma gave it to me while leaving town."

JIM FERRIER was sitting his horse easily as he turned the bend leading to Rocky Hollow. A moment later, his gun was in his hand and he was erect and alert.

"Put 'em up!" he snapped.

The youth, with the smoking revolver in his hand, tensed over the prostrate body beneath him. Then he swung sharply, head and gun coming up together. The crack of the snap shot at Jim was echoed in a split second and the revolver spun from the youth's hand.

"Raise your mitts!"

This time the youth obeyed and Jim urged his horse forward. Slipping from his horse, he looked down at the crumpled figure. The hair was white and the face was lined with age.

"You are mighty young to be carryin' a rod," Jim smiled. "But why should Butch or anyone else want to kill your Father?"

Peter had relaxed a little, although he was careful not to look at the figure on the ground.

"It's a funny story," he said. "The Bar 2 was a prosperous ranch until about three years ago. Doing well enough, in fact, for Dad to send me East to a good school. And then things began to happen. Rustlin' started on a large scale. Father did everything he could to discover the gang that was cutting out his cattle, but always they managed to get away. For some reason, the posses Dad organised never managed to come up with the cattle thieves."

Jim's smile was like a tightening rein on his lips.

"Well, that's easy to explain," said Peter. "You see, Dad wasn't any too happy about what he'd done. I came home last week, and he was so worried he told me all about it. I persuaded him it was a fool thing he'd done and he made up his mind to return the cash."

"Good for him," Jim was smiling. "And then?"

"It was easier said than done. Even if he took it back, he'd be had up for stealin', and that meant he'd be finished for good at the Bar 2. Besides, there was Butch. He was mad, good and proper, when Dad told him he'd changed his mind and that he was takin' the money back."

"I'll bet he was!" Jim laughed. "And mebbe he didn't believe your Father. Most likely he'd think your Father was doing a double cross."

The Red Rider

The eyes he turned on the youth were flintily contemptuous.

"So you waylay and shoot down an old man?" His voice was soft, yet it had a curiously whip-like quality.

"But I didn't!" The boy's face was set, the eyes shadowed. "This is my own Father!"

Jim took in the frank features, the steady grey eyes, the proud tilt of the head. The lad was speaking the truth, he felt sure.

"What's your name, son?" he asked.

"Peter Marlow."

"Tell me about it all," Jim re-holstered his gun. "Who were you aimin' at as I was roundin' the bend?"

"I don't know. The man was masked, but I reckon it was Butch Lannigan."

"Who's he?"

"Manager of my Father's Ranch, the Bar 2. It might have been him who bushwacked my Dad. I guess he didn't think I'd be armed."

"Your Father suspected treachery, did he?"

"He did. But he couldn't prove anything. But things went wrong so often, I reckon they began to affect Dad's mind a little. Anyway, he'd plenty to worry about, for he was owing plenty of money to the United Bank, money he'd borrowed to replace his stolen stock and to cover other losses. And he couldn't have been himself to take up with Butch's idea to rob the United Bank to save himself from going bankrupt."

JIM'S face did not betray his surprise. "Your Dad robbed the United Bank?"

"Yes!" Peter's voice was hard. "He did it with Butch last week, gettin' away with 50,000 dollars. They separated after leavin' the bank, Dad riding to the ranch and hidin' the money."

"I still don't see why Butch should want to kill your Father."

"Perhaps he did," Peter agreed. "Anyway, Dad decided to slip into Dry Gulch and leave the money at the bank. Butch didn't want that, and that's why I think it was him that waylaid us here and shot Dad."

"Seems to me you might be right," Jim said, thoughtfully. "Do you know where the money's hidden?"

"I do."

"Then we've got to take it back to the bank, Peter."

"It won't be easy," the boy warned. "Butch is bound to be keeping an eye on me from now on."

"Sure! And I'm going to help you. We'll go into Dry Gulch and see what happens." Jim turned towards his horse.

At that moment Peter was about to ask who he was, but his question was never framed. For, as he turned, Peter saw Jim's scarlet shoulder cloak.

By Frank Madigan

"You're the Red Rider!" he cried, his eyes shining.

"That's right, son." He brought his horse to the side of Mr. Marlow's dead body. "Help me lift your Father up here," he said. "I guess it's necessary to let the folks in Dry Gulch know that he's been killed. Butch, or whoever did that shootin', will know then he has to give his attention to you — and me!"

DRY GULCH, a one-street town of weathered frame and adobe buildings, boasted only one hotel, and they didn't boast much about it. It was rough, rarely ready, least of all for guests, and it was none too clean.

Jim and Peter reached the hotel in the middle of the afternoon, and already they had put in hand arrangements for Mr. Marlow's funeral. Having had a meal, Jim began to outline his next move. Peter listened intently and with great respect, and as he listened his eyes gleamed more and more.

"We're gonna have fun!" he said, when Jim had finished.

"Dangerous fun!" Jim warned. "We'll have to be careful."

The brief twilight held sway as they walked on to the verandah of the hotel. There they stood ostentatiously for a few minutes, and then they set out into the swiftly gathering darkness.

They walked along the almost deserted street, slowing to look over the bank and then they passed on beyond the limits of the street.

The attack came sooner than Jim had expected. But he had judged rightly that his assailants, whoever they might be, would not want gun-play. That would attract too much attention in the town. They were passing a large rock, and were in its black shadows, when a noise caused them to swing round.

Jim ducked aside as two figures came at them with clubbed revolvers. But Peter was not so quick, and the butt of a gun struck him a glancing blow on the head.

Jim's fist sank savagely into the middle of his attacker. There

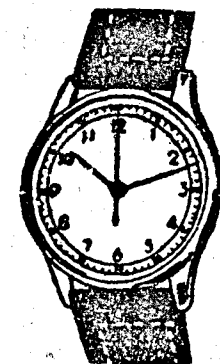
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was a gasp, like wind escaping from a balloon, and the assailant crumpled. Jim swung sideways as the second attacker came at him. He was bigger than the first, and he fought savagely. A blow that struck Jim on the jaw caused his head to swim and he staggered.

INSTINCT warned him of the gun butt crashing down on his head, and he jerked away. And then he dived, caught the big fellow by the ankles and jerked sharply. His attacker went down with a shout. Over and over they rolled in the dust, each trying to take a hold that would give him mastery. But his opponent suddenly jumped to his feet.

"Come on, Slim!" he panted. "They'll hear this rumpus in the town."

Jim came to his feet, ready to dash forward, but he halted as he caught the gleam of a revolver in the moonlight.

"Stay where y'are!" a voice snapped.

Jim kept still and his attacker was backing away, Slim with him. Further and further they backed, their figures becoming less and less distinct in the darkness.

When they turned and ran, Jim made no effort to follow them. Instead, he turned to Peter who was already stirring on the ground. He lifted the boy into a sitting position. The wound on the side of Peter's head was not deep and in a few moments he opened his eyes.

"You'll soon be all right," Jim encouraged.

"Sure," said Peter, putting a hand to his throbbing head.

"Did you see who came at us?"

"The big one was Butch," said Peter. "I saw him just as that pal of his hit me on the skull."

"Then we've plenty to do," Jim's voice was crisp. "Are you fit enough to walk?"

"I can try."

Helped by Jim, he got to his feet and soon his head was clearing. By the time they reached the hotel it was clear enough for him to understand what Jim intended to do next.

"We've got to move quick," Jim said. "Do you feel well enough to take a sharp ride?"

"Sure."

Two minutes later they were saddling their horses and soon they were riding out of town. They were well beyond Dry Gulch and Jim was satisfied they were not being followed, when they stopped their quick gallop. Then they tethered their horses, and for a long time they sat in the deep shadow of a gully.

When they started out for Dry Gulch again, Jim's leather saddlebag was bulging and he was smiling grimly. They were at trotting pace when once more they reached the hotel, and it took Jim several seconds to unfasten the bulging bag from his saddle.

Reaching their room, Jim lit the lamp and he moved about with Peter in such a way that their shadows were thrown on the blind.

"If we're being watched," he said, "they'll know we're here and they'll think we've got the dollars with us. Now, we'll make ready to receive our guests."

He switched to the light and put it out and then he pulled up the blinds, allowing in a pale illumination. Having arranged the pillows in the bed to look like two sleeping figures, they took up their positions behind the door.

IT was a long time before anything happened, and Peter was beginning to think that wait was to be in vain, when there was the sound of a stealthy movement beyond the closed door. Peter tensed as the door opened slowly. Into the room, crouching, a knife in his hand, crept Butch. He reached the nearer bed and the knife flashed in the thin light.

"Stick 'em up!"

The knife fell from Butch's hand and his arms went above his head.

Peter lighted the lamp, and Jim eyed their visitor grimly.

"So you're after the 50,000 dollars," he said. "And you've already killed a man in trying to get them. They hang men for murder, Butch."

The sweat broke out on Butch's swarthy face.

"I didn't kill Mr. Marlow," he said. "It wasn't me. It was —"

Butch's sentence splintered into silence as a shot rang out. He slumped to the floor. Jim dashed for the open window, leaping through, to land on the ground twelve feet below, his revolver already in his hand. A figure was clearly silhouetted only five yards away and Jim fired. There was a cry and the man went down.

Jim hurried to him. The man was not dead, Jim's bullet having struck him in his gun hand. He had picked up the man's revolver by the time Peter reached him.

"Who is this guy?" he asked.

"It's Mr. Chalmers," Peter gasped, "the bank manager."

They had the bank manager in the hotel five minutes later.

"The game's up, Chalmer," Jim said. "You'd better come clean."

IT took some time for them to piece everything together, but when they had all the facts they learnt that Chalmers had been the leader, and that he had been planning for high stakes. He had arranged the rustling of Mr. Marlow's cattle, with Butch's connivance. But Chalmers had not been very interested in the cattle. His aim had been the ownership of the Bar 2. He had set out to ruin Mr. Marlow and, growing impatient, he had suggested the theft of the dollars to Butch as the quickest way to finish Mr. Marlow for ever.

Butch, however, had developed some ideas of his own, deciding that he wanted the dollars for himself. For that, Chalmers had decided that Butch had to die.

Jim handed the bank manager over to the Sheriff, and then went back to the hotel with Peter.

"You'll be able to take over the Bar 2, son," he said. "That's what your Father always wanted, I reckon."

"He did." Peter was very happy. "And that's what I've always wanted, too." ♦♦

SOUND AND SHADOW

ESTHER WILLIAM'S JEWELLED SWIMSUIT FOR WINNER!

The aquatic gala held at the Mahatma Gandhi Olympic Swimming Pool recently in aid of the Society for the Rehabilitation of Crippled Children was one of the most brilliant functions seen in Bombay in a long time.

Previously featured in the 1st October, '53 issue of this Journal was the news of how the idea of holding an India-wide Invitational Swimming Meet in aid of this organization was conceived by the sponsors, Murphy Radio, after seeing a preview of M.G.M's *Million Dollar Mermaid*. Here was the once-in-a-lifetime chance of achieving the perfect tie-up! The movie biography depicts the grit, courage and determination of Annette Kellerman, a child cripple, who conquered her physical handicap to become the champion woman swimmer four decades ago. Portraying this remarkable woman is Esther Williams, famous M-G-M star and a champion swimmer in her own right. In fact, in 1940 Esther was selected to carry the U.S. colours in the Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland, which was subsequently cancelled with the outbreak of World War II.

Murphy Radio's brilliant suggestion for aiding Bombay's most laudable cause was received with great enthusiasm not only by the local Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer organization but also by the Hollywood Studios of this great company who were truly thrilled that a motion picture produced by them had served as an inspiration for so noble an enterprise. Esther Williams herself expressed her desire to be actively associated with this drive by donating an original jewelled swimsuit which she wears in *Million Dollar Mermaid* to be awarded to the winner of the individual women's championship event. Not to disappoint the rest of the enthusiastic female contestants, Miss Williams, once upon a time herself a keen competitor in American national swimming championships, has sent personally autographed photos of herself, to be presented to each and every one of the

runners-up. Typical of Miss Williams' keen sense of sportsmanship is this sample message on one of the autographed photos: "Keep trying — You'll be a Champion yet!...Esther Williams."

The response from the various State Aquatic Associations to the Swimming Competition has been really excellent, so we are informed by Messrs. Murphy Radio and the Bombay State Aquatic Association, under whose latter auspices the gala meet has been arranged. Representative teams from Bengal, Madras, Hyderabad, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and the Rajputana Rifles, New Delhi, started arriving early to put in some practice trials. Indeed, the enthusiasm and interest shown not only by the various State Association officials but also by the contestants themselves persuaded one to predict that Bombay swimming fans were in for one glorious treat. To add a last glad note, the entire affair has had the benevolent approval of both the Swimming Federation of India and the F.I.N.A.

The meets were held consecutively on 3 days, October 29th to 31, commencing at 6 p.m. each day. The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Olympic Swimming Pool grounds were gaily decorated and floodlit, and each day a different popular band was in attendance to entertain the spectators with lively, military airs.

Handsome silver trophies were presented to the winners of the individual and team events. These trophies, we understand, have been specially engraved with a picture of Esther Williams displaying her particular "back stroke" which brought her championship fame and a movie offer. It is a fitting end to a successfully organized affair that the Indian Swimming Competition winners were treated to a show of *Million Dollar Mermaid*, which should send them back to their home towns proud and happy that their favourite sport knows neither country nor creed, discomfort nor

disability — its appeal is indeed universal.

Both Murphy Radio and M-G-M are to be congratulated for giving the Bombay public a show they will remember for a long time to come. A special vote of thanks to the Million Dollar Mermaid herself — the one and only Esther Williams!

"Boot Polish" Has Message For The Unfortunate

R. K. Films' *Boot Polish*, produced by Raj Kapoor and directed by one of his assistants, Prakash Arora, is now almost complete. The film concerns two children, a brother and sister, trained by a woman of dubious repute to a destiny of professional beggary, whose only inspiration to better lives lay in John Chacha, a derelict old bootlegger. How these children learn to find in work the promise of a brighter future is narrated in *Boot Polish* with simplicity, sincerity and a direct human appeal.

The film stars Baby Naaz and Rattan Kumar, as the sister and brother, while Chand Burq plays Kamla Chachi, the woman of dubious repute who trains the children to beg, and David as John Chacha, the kind-hearted old bootlegger who loved the children enough to teach them that their lives must not be as his. One of the most interesting features of *Boot Polish*, which will be released in Bombay through Jaisinh Pictures Ltd., is that landmarks such as Crawford Market, Hanging Gardens, Khar and Wadala Railway Stations, Victoria Terminus and Flora Fountain figure prominently in this film, which is an honest attempt that seeks to prove that there is a better future for all the unfortunates of our country. Songs in *Boot Polish* are by Shailendra and Hasrat Jaipuri, and music is by Shanker and Jaikishen.

G.P. Sippy's "Shahensha"

India's first full-length feature film in Gevacolor, G. P. Sippy's multi-million rupee colossus *Shahensha*, was censored on the morning of Thursday, October 15th, without a single cut. Due to be released soon at the Roxy,

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ANANDNAGAR JN.	GUDUR
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ARKONAM	HARDWAR
ARNIKHANA	HATHRAS
ARRAH	HYDERABAD
AURANGABAD	IGATPURI
AVADI	JALARPET JN.
BADAGARA	JAMALPUR
BADARPUR JN.	JHARSUGUDA
BADNERA JN.	KAZIPET
BAGALKOT	KALYAN
BAGHPAT ROAD	KARUR
BALAGHAT	KATNI
BALAMAU JN.	KHURDA ROAD
BALASORE	KUL
BALHARSHAH	KURUDWADI
BANDA JN.	LASHKAR
BANDIKUI	LONAVLA
BARABANKI JN.	MANAMADURAI
BARGACHIA JN.	MIRZAPUR
BARHARWA JN.	METTUPALAYAM
BARNES BAZAR	MUZAFFARPUR
BARRACKPUR	NIDADAVOLU
BARSOTOWN	OLAVAKKOT
BARSOI JN.	ONGOLE
BARUIPUR JN.	PATNA
BARWADIH JN.	PODANUR
BASIRHAT	POLLACHI
BASSEIN ROAD	QUILON
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BATALA JN.	RAE BARELI
BAYANA JN.	RAMPUR
BETAMCHERLA	RENIGUNTA
BHADRACHALLAM	RUTLAM
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BHADRAVATI	SALEM
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BHAGALPUR	SATNA
BHATINDA	SHAHABAD
BHATNI	SHAHJAHANPUR
BHAVANI NAGAR	SHORANUR
BHOJEEPURA JN.	SRIVAIKUNTAM
BHOJUDIH JN.	TATANAGAR
BHONGAON	TENALI
BHUSAWAL	TENKASI
BILASPUR	THANA
BILMORA	TIRUR
BINA JN.	TIRUPATI
BOWRINGPET	TIRUVARUR
BULSAR	TIRUTURAIKUNDI
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this opus in colour is an "Arabian Nights" fantasy, and stars Kamini Kaushal as Princess Noor, and Ranjan as the dashing hero. The supporting cast is headed by K.N. Singh, Shakila, Achala Sachdev, Mukri, Cuckoo and Agha. The film is directed by Amiya Chakrabarty, photographed by Sarpotdar. Music is by S. D. Burman and songs by Sahir Ludhianvi.

Year-end Release For "Prisoner of Golconda"

Prem Nath and the P.N. Films' unit left recently for Aurangabad, where they will picturise all the location sequences of their Geva-color venture *The Prisoner of Golconda*. With the completion of these outdoor sequences, most of the film will be in the cans for it is scheduled for release in Bombay by the end of the year, having been booked at the Roxy in Bombay after *Shahenshah*.

The Prisoner of Golconda is directed by Prem Nath himself, and stars Prem Nath and Bina Rai, with Rajendra Nath and others. Music is by Jagannath and songs by Prakash Sathi. The story of *The Prisoner of Golconda* is set against the stormy days of the 1942 movement in India when the country was throwing off the shackles of foreign bondage in its desperate struggle for independence. The film is photographed by Malhotra and art direction is by Kanna Desai.

Four New Releases in City

The Divali day provided a rich film fare to the fans in the City and in other centres in Tamilnad. Motion Picture Team's *Kangal* ("Eyes") in Tamil has been released at the Paragon, Sri Krishna and Lakshmi theatres in the City. Sahasranamam, Sivaaji Ganesan and Pandari Bai play the main roles in the film. Narayanan Company's *Manampol Mangalyam* in Tamil featuring R. Ganesh, Savithri, Surabhi Balasaraswathi, and K. Sarangapani has been released at the Casino, Broadway and Saraswathi theatres in the City. The third picture that is screened is Madras Art Productions' *Rohini* in Tamil featuring Madhuri Devi, G. Varalakshmi,

S. V. Ranga Rao, Sahasranamam, Natarajan, K. Ramaswamy and Lanka Satyam. It is screened at Gaiety, Sayani, Maharani and Kamadhenu theatres in the City.

Sangeeta Pictures' *Naalvar* in Tamil is the fourth new release in the City. This picture in Tamil has been released, at Uma, Chitra, Kapali and Bharat theatres. N. N. Kannappa, M. N. Krishnan, Elumalai, Kumari Thangam and Muthulakshmi are in the featured roles. All these four pictures had a simultaneous Divali release in the various centres in Tamilnad.

Gemini's Announcement

Gemini Studio has announced *Kattabomman* as the next major production. The film will tell the story of Tamilnad's hero of the same name who dared to defy the might of the Britishers long before anyone dared to even think of doing so. *Kattabomman* can rightly be said to be the pioneer in the national liberation movement. The theme and Gemini's handling of it are bound to make the picture a memorable one. While it will be produced in Tamil as per the present plans, it would be worth the job for Gemini if Shri Vasam could produce it in English also.

Producer Passes Away

Shri G. Balaramiah, Managing-Director of Pratibha Pictures, passed away recently after a heart attack. He had produced several films and had also directed a few himself. He was in the production field since a long time. In his death, the Telugu film field has lost a veteran producer.

New Censor for the South

Shri G. T. Sastri has been appointed as the Regional Censor for the South. He took charge of his office recently. Many of the important producers, directors and distributors threw up a party the other day to meet the new Censor. Shri Sastri is no newcomer to Madras for he had already been here as the Station Director of the All India Radio, Madras, and had had wide contacts with the film personalities.

COMPETITORS' CORNER:

24 ENTRIES FOR A MERE 5 RUPEES ONLY!

Competitors can now send 24 Entries by paying Rupees 5 only as Entry Fees!

It will be remembered by the Competitors that a few months ago they were given the concession of sending 12 Entries for Rs. 3 only. After this offer was made and continued, hundreds of letters were received from Competitors not only from all over India but also from Burma, Malaya, Ceylon and South Africa that some more concession should be given to Competitors who pay bigger Entry Fees!

It was felt that this was a reasonable request, a legitimate demand rather, for having offered the concession to those who pay Rs. 3/- at a time as Entry Fees those paying Rs. 5/- or multiples of that amount should also be helped. Hence, it was decided

to allow Competitors who pay Rs. 5/- as Entry Fees to send 24 Entries.

It must be noted that a Competitor will be entitled to this concessional offer only if he submits all the Entries under one name only and the Entry Fee of Rs. 3/- or Rs. 5/- is sent as one payment.

Hence, do hurry up to send more Entries for you are likely to win more prizes and thereby get a greater financial return!

Remember: 3 Entries for Rupee One, 12 Entries for Rupees Three, and 24 Entries for Rupees Five.

This concession can be availed of by the Competitors with effect from this Competition (MYWORDS No. 29) itself.

— Competition Editor.

"Promptness Is Really Appreciable" Says Competitor

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of the Cash Coupon issued to me towards the Runners-up Prize I won in MYWORDS No. 25, and I thank you for the same. I hope to score the First Prize in the near future, because the Clues of MYWORDS are quite few and very simple to understand.

MYWORDS is really a pastime for pleasure and profit. Your promptness in dealing with the Competitors is really appreciable.

I wish every success to MYWORDS Competition.

M.H. KANPUR } Yours faithfully,
CANTT., (U.P.) } Sd. P.K. GOVINDAN KUTTY.

Dear Sir,

I am very thankful to you for the money you sent to me towards Three-Errors Prize. I am very glad to receive it and though it is a very small amount, it gives me courage to compete regularly.

My best wishes to you and the staff of *My Magazine of India*.

Branch Works, } Yours faithfully,
Sri Krishna Printing } Sd. M. V. PRASADA
Buckinghampet, } RAO.
Vijayawada-2.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for publishing my name in *My Magazine of India* dated 1st August

1953 in the Prize list of MYWORDS No. 24 among the two-error winners indicating two shares won by me.

I am very glad to be blessed with even this small prize amount and I hope I can score a First Prize in the near future.

I can confidently say that the Clues of MYWORDS are simple and with a little thinking one can choose the apter words and thus bag a First Prize.

I am glad to receive the prize amount which gives me courage to compete regularly. Accept my best wishes to you and to the Staff of *My Magazine*.

Narain Mandir, } Yours faithfully,
BERHAMPUR. } (Sd.) BATCHU
VENKATARAMANATHAM.

Full List of Fixed Words and Alternatives

MYWORDS No. 29. Closing Date: 5th Dec. '53.

Given aside is the Full List of Fixed Words and Alternatives for MYWORDS No. 29. The Adjudication Committee's Selection of the apt words will be from this List only.

— Competition Editor.

Fixed Words—Across: 1. PROUD.

Down: 3. GOAL. 6. SIOL.

Alternatives—Across: 2. FRIGHT, SLIGHT. 5. LOOTS, TOUTS. 7. GAG, NAG, RAG. 9. BOIL, FOOL, TOOL. 15. LIFE, WIFE.

Down: 4. GAINS, PAINS. 8. HAZY, LAZY. 10. RILE, RULE. 12. CATTY, RATTY.

Interlockers—Across: 13. MEDDLE, MUDDLE.

Down: 11. DENSE, DUNCE.

Across: 14. BAD, SAD.

Down: 14. BORE, SORE,

My Magazine of India's "MY WORDS" No. 29



35

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Rs. 2,250

*Runners - up
with 1, 2, 3 & 4 errors*

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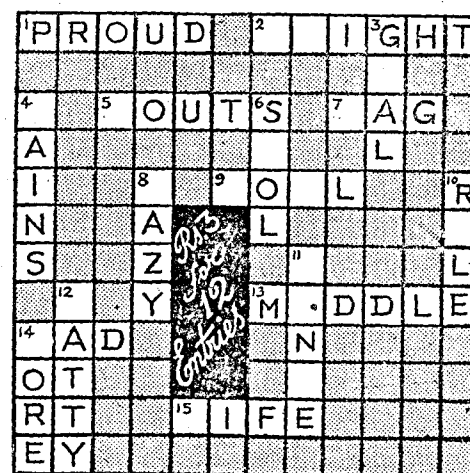
Across

1. Remember how — your people will feel if you bag the First Prize outright!
2. The more sensitive a person, the more would he be upset by this.
5. — usually fail to realise when they are a nuisance till sharply pulled up.
7. Men who never miss a chance to — others tend to resent others paying back in the same coin!
9. Woman who dislikes the attentions of a man — knows how to make him —
13. The practical minded rarely this.
14. Sympathetic tackling would make — child altogether different.
15. Man who tends to treat — lightly will soon have cause to regret it.

CLOSING DATE IN MADRAS :
5th DEC. 1953 (Subject to Rules and Conditions.)

KEY SOLUTION will be published in the 15-12-'53 and Prize List in the 1-1-'54 Issue of "MY MAGAZINE OF INDIA"

THIS SQUARE IS FOR PRACTICE ONLY.



Down

3. Object of effort or ambition.
4. The petty minded are always inclined to belittle the — of others.
6. Jumbled spelling of the word SOIL.
8. This type of young man will make a poor lover.
10. She is a poor specimen of Eve who doesn't know how to — her man.
11. Father would cease scolding son as — if he realises that the repeated suggestion would make son really so.
12. When poor girl had been loved and married by rich young man, women's remarks about it are bound to be —
14. One who is this has a tendency to feel annoyed with others who are so!

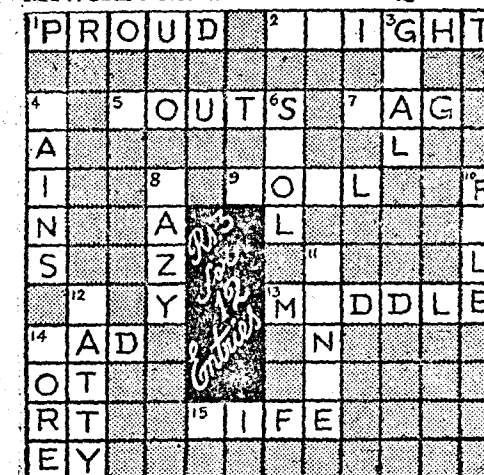
Entry Fee is Rupee ONE for the Three Squares. If one Entry is filled up, leaving the other two blank, and sent still the Entry Fee is Rupee ONE. Irrespective of the fact whether all the three Squares or only one Square in the Entry Form is filled up, the whole set must be sent intact. Competitors in Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma should send British Postal Orders to cover payment of Entry Fee. Sterling payments must be at the rate of 1s. 6d. per rupee.

FOR FULL LIST OF FIXED WORDS AND ALTERNATIVES, SEE PAGE 49.

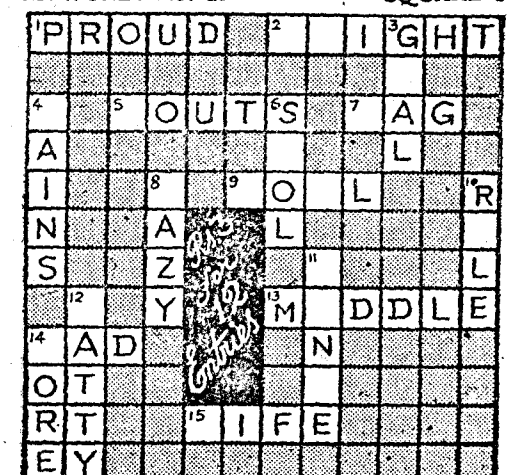
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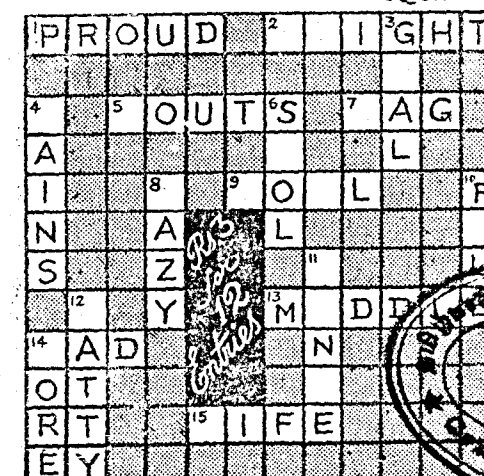
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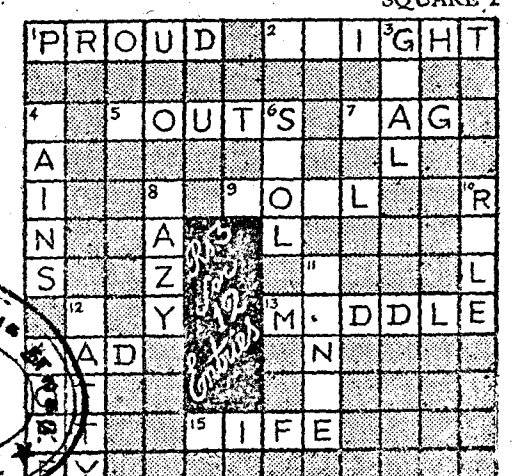
MYWORDS No. 29 SQUARE 1



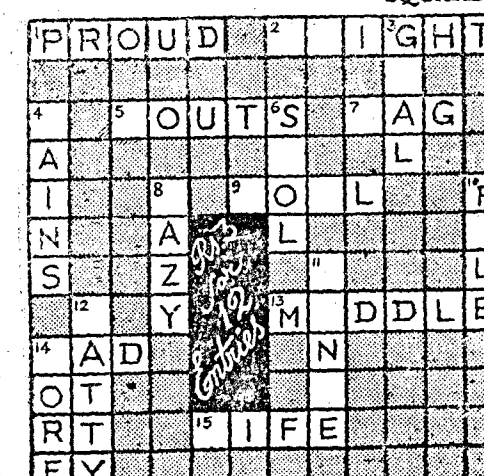
SQUARE 2



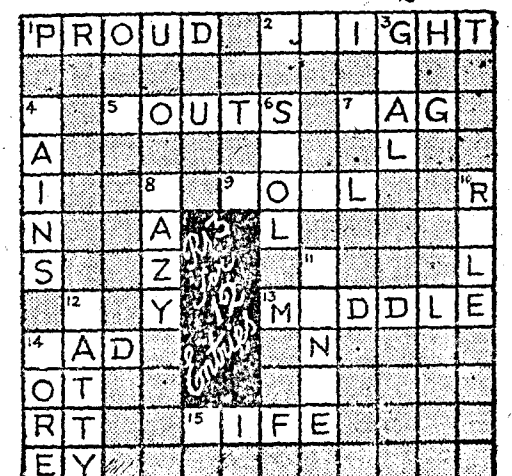
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SQUARE 3



SQUARE 3



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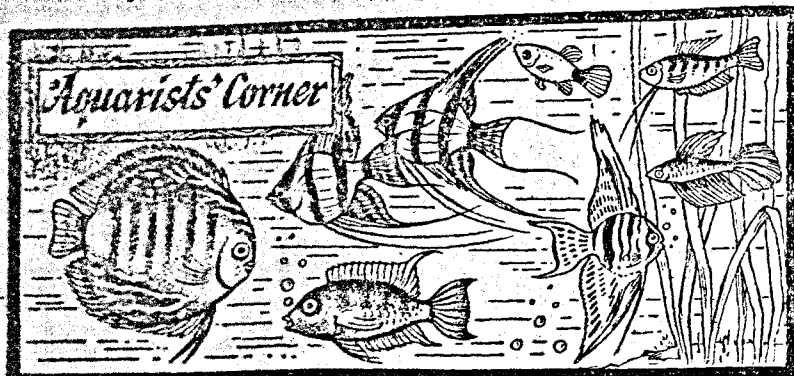
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"MYWORDS" COMPETITION

15th November 1953



OUR INDIGENOUS FISH—6

THE LOACH

KEEPING an aquarium is like keeping a house for ourselves. Good house-keeping rests with cleanliness first. We do all the cleaning or we employ servants to keep our houses and surroundings clean. Everyday the scavengers come and clean our back-yards and the roads and remove all filthy matter. Such sanitary conditions are also essential in an aquarium to keep the inmates of the aquarium in perfect health. There are some fishes which do the scavenging work in an aquarium, and one such scavenger is the Loach.

The Loach is an odd little pretty fish useful in many ways in an aquarium. It belongs to the family of Carps but it differs from the Carp in many ways. The body of the Loach is elongated and cylindrical like that of an eel, and sometimes compressed but never depressed. It has a small mouth furnished with from six to twelve barbels or whiskers. The whiskers are very sensitive to touch and probably to taste and smell. Some Loaches have scales and some do not. On an average, it is about as thick as an ordinary lead pencil.

There are a good number of Loaches in India than in any other country. The following nine different kinds of Loaches are interesting: (1) *Botia*, (2) *Acanthopsis*, (3) *Somileptis*, (4) *Lepidocephalichthys*, (5) *Acanthopthalmus*, (6) *Apua*, (7) *Jerdonia*, (8) *Nemacheilichthys*, and (9) *Nemacheilus*.

The Loaches are found in tanks and rivers throughout the hills and plains of India. Though these fish do not attain respectable edible size they form one of the important food-fishes and these are mostly captured by baling out tanks which begin to dry up. In Tamil the Loach is popularly known as *Asarai*.

Of all the Loaches the *Botia*, *Lepidocephalichthys* and *Nemacheilus* varieties are very interesting for aquarium purposes. There are some beautiful species in *Botia*. They are *Botia dario*, *Botia gelo*, and *Botia almorhae*. These are mostly found in the Himalayan borders, valleys of the Ganges, Assam and Cachar. The *Botia* Loaches attain sometimes more than six inches. The body is light brownish in colour with seven or eight oblique bands descending from the back to the abdomen and these Loaches carry six to eight barbels.

IN Madras, Wynaad and South India the Loach named *Lepidocephalichthys thermalis* is the most popular one among aquarists. This Loach attains to four inches and has eight barbels. It is easier to distinguish this Loach from others. The colour is sandy with irregular blotches or spots on the lateral line and a black spot generally exists at the upper half of the caudal fin. The dorsal fin has black spots or bars, and the caudal fin is slightly emarginate and has four bands.

In the genus *nemacheilus* there are more than 31 species found

in India. *Nemacheilus pulchellus* occurring in the Bhavani river grows to 2½ inches and is most suited for the aquarium for scavenging purposes. This beautiful little Loach is of grayish colour, becoming whitish below. There are along the side between the head and middle of the dorsal fin two rows of large, vertical, canary yellow spots, having deep yellow margins. The caudal fin has three or four black oblique bands, and a deep black spot at the centre of its base. The dorsal fin at its upper anterior portion is tinged with yellowish-orange marked with

BY "BIVIOR"

two wide black bars along its centre. There is also a single bar across the anal fin.

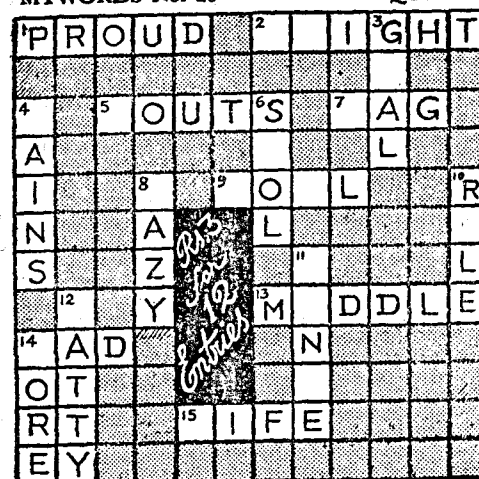
In the Nilgris, *Nemacheilus guntheri* is found. This is equally smaller and more beautiful as it is pinkish in colour, coarsely reticulated with olive brown markings, leaving three rows of large spots along the side. Mysore and Coorg can boast of a similar Loach — *Nemacheilus denisonii*, and Travancore can take pride in possessing *Nemacheilus triangularis*.

MANY aquarists do not like the Loach because it is not a showy fish and it always keeps moving on the aquarium bed and hides behind plants. Every aquarium should have at least one Loach as it is found to be a useful scavenger keeping the aquarium bottom clean and tidy. In its special occupation as scavenger the Loach employs a method which is both effectual and interesting. The dirt and top sand are taken in the mouth and rapidly shot out through the gills. Any particle of food considered edible is automatically separated from the bulk of the dirt and swallowed. Most other fishes except the gold fish do not touch the sand, which allows it to cake. The Loach always keeps the sand loose and in good condition by picking it up in its mouth. Therefore, even a single small Loach is very much desirable in an aquarium to keep the sand loose on the top.

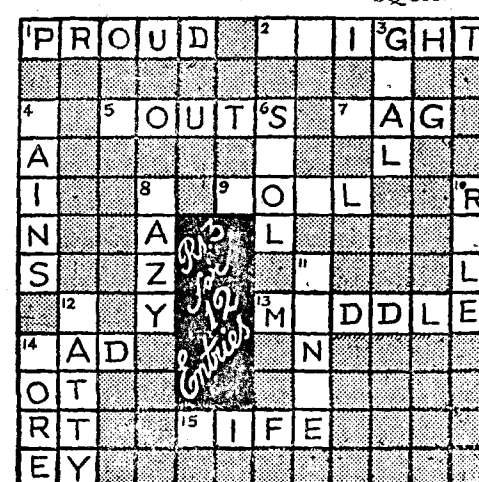
Ordinarily the Loach is useful in cleaning up any debris and

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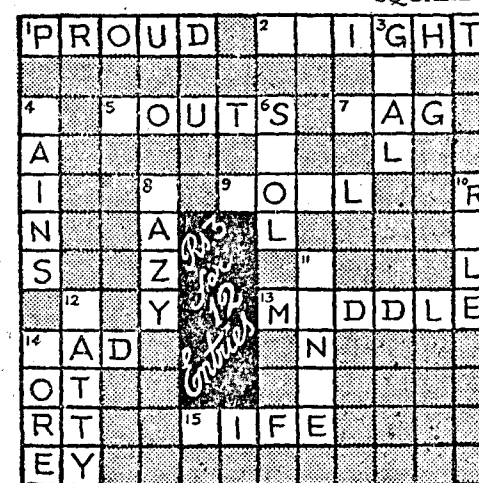
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mulm that may have accumulated in the bottom of the tank, but in his moments of excitement he ploughs up the sand and uproots the plants. Sometimes big *Loaches* are seen to annoy other inmates of the aquarium. Small specimens of two-inch-size make good aquarium subjects, despite their retiring nature. They like plenty of mossy stones to rest on and hide beneath. Naturally, the *Loaches* are very active during night time only but in an aquarium they readily learn to eat in day time.

Aquarists living in and around Madras can collect the small *Loach* called *Lepidocephalichthys thermalis* found in plenty along the margins of the river Cooum. This *Loach* has an advantage over most of the other *Loaches* of the aquarium, inasmuch as it never grows too large and is the best scavenger. Like many of the *Loaches*, this one is long lived and can endure worst conditions.

IN European countries the *Loach* is popularly known as the "Weatherfish." The Weatherfish is supposed to have some mysterious barometric powers. At an approaching change in the weather, especially just before a stormy weather, the fish is said to become greatly excited and go dashing about the aquarium. Hence the popular name. We have not observed any such characteristics as far as our *Loaches* are concerned.

Indian aquarists have not attempted to breed these *Loaches* and it may be due to the fact that aquarists did not care to keep the *Loaches* separately and study their breeding habits, and no one seems to have bred them in indoor aquarium in our country as they are not very attractive like most other fishes. There is not much information about the breeding habits but there are a few authentic instances in which the *Loach*, or

Weatherfish as they call it, has been bred in indoor aquarium. Dr. Day, in his works, observed that the *Loach* called *Lepidocephalichthys thermalis* is a prolific breeder and that a female carried about 1500 to 2000 eggs!

IN one of the issues of *The Aquarium*, it is reported that a foremost German aquarist was successful in breeding this fish in a home aquarium in 1933. It is interesting to study his methods. Eight specimens, three females and and five males, were fed for a week on adult brine shrimp and placed in a fifteen-gallon aquarium filled to the top with three-day-old, slightly alkaline tap water. During the spawning activities, the *Loach* repeatedly would burrow under the gravel and almost instantly would re-appear six to eight inches from the point where it disappeared. On the evening of the same day, the fish were removed to another tank and many crystal clear, non-adhesive eggs could be observed about the aquarium. When first released by the female, the eggs were very small and oval in shape, but as they dropped down towards the sand they grew larger and assumed a round shape. As the Weatherfish swam by, those eggs which had dropped to the bottom would swirl up again through the tank, only to settle once more when a moment of quiet occurred. The eggs hatched out in about nine days. The young immediately disappeared into the bottom mud and buried themselves for a long time, and they were observed to feed on microscopic organisms. It is also reported that the youngsters remain in the loose algae which floats at the surface.

Some aquarists have the habit of putting in large quantities of bloodworms or tubifex in their aquarium to give their fish enough time to eat them leisurely. But the worms settle down to the

bottom and bury themselves in sand. In such cases the *Loach* comes to the help by digging them out. The technique it employs when scavenging is very interesting. The pectoral finrays are modified in adult males into a flat osseous spine which is used for diving down into the mud. The *Loach* usually skips on the bottom, and while doing so it takes in mouthfuls of sand and shoots it out through the gills. It finds every speck of lost food and thus the *Loach* keeps the sand loosened and gives no room for dirt or worms to get lodged in the bottom.

THE *Loach* and the snail are always employed as scavengers in the aquarium — the *Loach* scavenging the bottom and the snail cleaning the glass sides. Many of the snails are attacked and killed by fishes resulting in great harm to the occupants of the tank. The *Loach* as scavenger has the great advantage in that very few fishes attack or trouble them. Sometimes the adult *Loaches* become very eccentric and behave wildly in a tank annoying other inmates of the tank. Therefore, it is always advisable to employ the *Loach* when it is from two to three inches in size. So, dear aquarists, say thanks to Mr. *Loach*!

WANTED

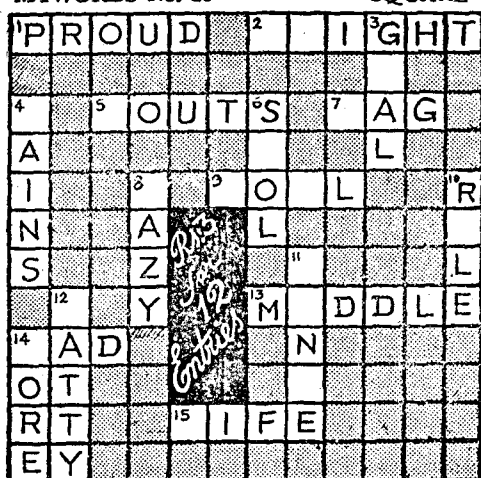
Aquarists who have the fishes mentioned below for sale may please reply giving details regarding quantity available, size, sex and price per pair or quantity.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
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| 2. Red Sword Tail | 9. Glowlight |
| 3. Albino Sword Tail | 10. Black-Moor |
| 4. Veiltail Guppies | 11. Black |
| 5. White Cloud | 12. Fighter |
| 6. Widow Tetras | 13. Angels |
| 7. Neon Tetras | 13. Fire Mouth |

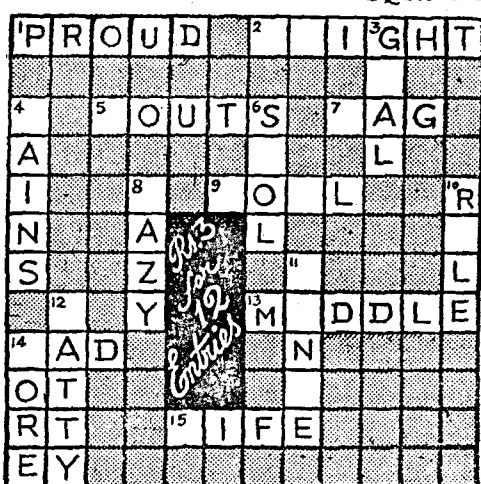
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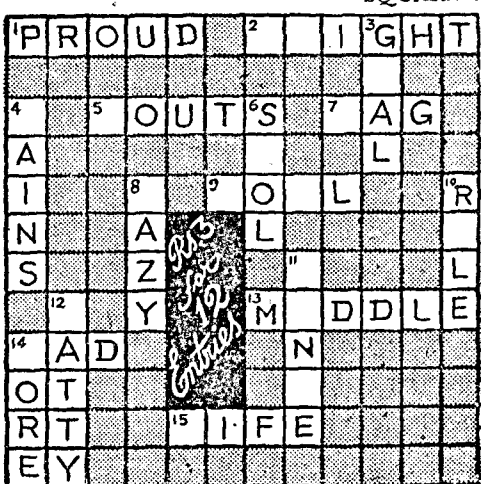
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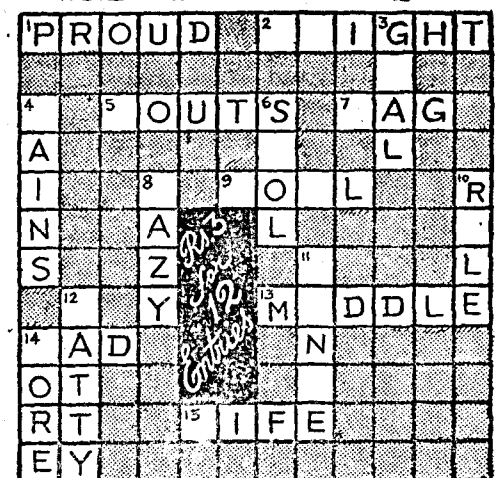
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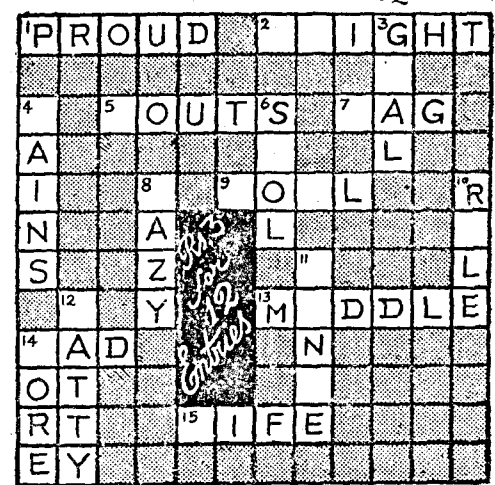
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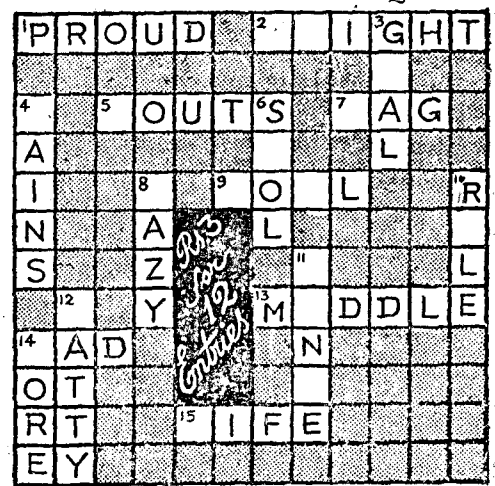
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"CROSSWORD EXPERT,"
56, Kuppumuthu Mudali St.,
Triplicane, Madras 5.

"CROSSWORD REVIEW,"
Fortnightly,
102, Long Bazaar, Vellore, S.I.

"CROSSWORD SOLVER,"
Mallawaram P.O., Bangalore.

"ENTERTAINER WEEKLY,"
21, Ghoga Street, First Floor,
Fort, Bombay 1.

"KEY" The,
Crossword Weekly, 21, Thumbavanam
St., Kancheepuram, S.Ry.

"THE MICROSCOPE,"
3, Ponnagar, Madras-16.

"THE PASTIME,"
101, Harrison St.,
Calcutta-7.

"PRIZE WINNER BULLETIN,"
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"WEALTH & WISDOM,"
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MYWORDS No. 27:

VIEWPOINT (Continued from page 13)

INTERLOCKERS

Across: 10. "What a person
— is conditioned by his mental
attitude." FEARS, Wears?

Down: 10. "Enterprising
person is bound to have plenty of
—" FOES, Woes?

It was felt that what a person *Wears* need
not necessarily be conditioned by his or
her mental attitude. What is worn may
also be due to certain rules like court or
palace or Club rules, or determined by the
fashion of the day, etc. But what a person
Fears is certainly conditioned by his mental
attitude. If a man has strong mental
power, is free from superstition, etc., he
will not fear devils, darkness, loneliness, etc.
But such man is likely to feel afraid of
other things like falling sick. Thus what
each man *Fears* is determined by his
mental attitude. FEARS thus scored.

Not only the enterprising but the un-
enterprising person also will have *Woes*.
An enterprising person need not necessarily
have *Woes*. He may see through his efforts
with cheerfulness. Whereas an unenter-
prising man will not arouse the jealousy or
hatred of others the enterprising man is
bound to have *Foes*, enemies. In his
attempts to achieve success, the enterprising
man will have to offend many and thus
create *Foes* all round. This is inevitable.
The Members voted for FOES unanimously.

Across: 11. "It is, indeed,
astonishing how some persons allow
themselves to be badly this."
WED, Led?

Down: 11. "It would certainly
be cowardly of a man if he tries
to run away from his unbearable
—" WIFE, Life?

The particular and not the general case
was considered here and this made the
Members reject *Led*. It is not each man
who voluntarily allows himself to be badly
Led. The man is one of many who allow
such a thing to happen. And to be badly
Led is not so surprising as to allow one's
self to be badly *Wed*, married. One need
not care much for beauty or money when
marrying a girl but one should certainly
not allow one's self to be badly *Wed* just
because of pressure from others. What is
astonishing is that some people do willingly
allow themselves to be badly *Wed*, un-
protestingly enter into a bad alliance.
WED won the vote.

To run away from an unbearable *Life*
can indicate a man's frustration. Even
then, except in death, there can *really* be no
escape from *Life*, however unbearable it
might be. Only cowards would run away
from *Life*. A real man will not do so.
He will face her, boldly, correct her even
if she happens to be the worst shrew on
earth. But to run away from *Life* even
though she is unbearable is inexcusable
cowardice. WIFE was therefore quickly
preferred.

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ARE YOU UNABLE TO HELP YOURSELF?

OF COURSE YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP YOURSELF TO ACHIEVE YOUR AMBITION. IS HAPPINESS DENIED TO YOU? DON'T RESIGN TO YOUR FATE AND WAIT FOR CIRCUMSTANCES TO IMPROVE. YOU CAN mould YOUR FUTURE AND ENJOY ALL HAPPINESS IN LIFE THROUGH SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE.

ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED?

Jobs are available everywhere your services are wanted. The Five-Year Plan of our Government, the Railways, Industrial and Commercial concerns, and private undertakings, all of them need more hands. The main reason for your unemployment is that you cannot find a place where you are wanted. Know the way to secure a job.

IS YOUR PROMOTION OVERLOOKED?

In spite of your long service, honest efforts and hard work? Understand the basic principle of how to influence your superiors. Remember you are asked to devote half of your precious life in the interest of your employer. In return you have every right to have a decent living if not a luxurious one.

IS SUCCESS IN YOUR EXAMINATION ELUDING YOU?

Do you fear failure with all your intelligence and hard study? Why have you failed? Do you blame your memory or ill-luck? Know how to secure Spiritual help and be prepared for your next examination.

ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED IN LOVE?

Have you failed to convince your beloved of your sincerity, or is she fascinated by another young man on account of his handsome looks or money? Or is either of your parents against the match? Banish all disappointments from your life. Read and follow certain simple instructions to make your love affairs successful.

HAVE YOU ANY LITIGATION?

Civil or criminal, which with the best legal assistance, involving heavy professional fees have remained unsolved and left you uncertain about your success? Then know how to ensure complete success.

IS YOUR BUSINESS FAILING?

Are you blaming world depression or other adverse evil influences? There is only one supreme factor in any business and that is to buy cheap and sell at a profit. If you are still unable to tackle this simple problem, you require spiritual guidance to improve your business.

IS YOUR AILMENT INCURABLE?

Has all medical aid failed you? Remember there are over 3,000 different diseases in this world, of which so far only one-third have been conquered by medical science. No known specifics have been found for the remaining two-thirds of these diseases. If medical aid is of little help to you, then be sure you are under the latter category. You should immediately place yourself under spiritual treatment. Regain good health and enjoy the fruits of healthy life. Spiritual aids alone will illumine your path towards better and healthier living.

Hon. Secretary, NAVROZ LODGE (32) BANDRA, Bombay.

NOT MERE APPRECIATION BUT A VOICE FROM WITHIN.
APPRECIATION FROM HIS LORDSHIP BISHOP, LONDON.

"My spirits revived that there is one in the world to help me out of my uncounted difficulties after I have tried all the world over and failed. You are my earthly Saviour under whom I have taken refuge. I received your fatherly sympathy and All Purpose Navagraha. Herewith my photograph. Have it placed in the Chief Devotee's consecrated Praying Room. My connection with you will be life lasting. How could I express myself for the unspeakable joy that has filled my heart. I stood speechless for a while. May Almighty Bless you." — (Sd.) His Lordship Bishop D.Q.A., L.T.H., (London).

OVER 10,000 SIMILAR LETTERS OPEN FOR INSPECTION

ARE YOU LOSING IN SPECULATION?

There are only two factors governing the wheel of fortune—TEJI AND MANDI. Are you unable, in spite of all your experience, to correctly assess the trends of markets, trade conditions, newspapers' and brokers' reports? If you have the right intuition for buying or selling at the right moment, a fortune is yours. You must therefore read the booklet, "SOURCE OF SUPER-NATURAL POWER." It is free for asking.

HAVE YOU DOMESTIC WORRIES?

Is there misunderstanding among your near and dear ones? Is someone hindering your progress? Do you blame your ill-temper or your bad luck? You can overcome all such domestic troubles if you only know the secret of successful living.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR LOST VALUABLES?

Lost articles are recovered under the miraculous circumstances. After repeating the Invocation, the thief has even replaced the stolen articles. Know the way of finding your lost or stolen valuables.

Do you suffer from an inferiority complex or fear of any sort? You can protect yourself from malefic influences, witchcraft or sorcery—accidents and misfortunes. The mysteries of life will reveal themselves to you with amazing clearness, the primal source of happiness leading you to the path of success. You can obtain this indispensable Gift of Divine Guidance.

"SELF-Preservation" is man's natural instinct, warmth in winter, protection against rain, safeguards against ill-health, shelter against heat, food against starvation, defence against attack. Very few have realized the hidden Secret of Spiritual Perfection. Fewer still have cared to invoke the Divine protection. The precepts of our life are mysteriously interwoven with the Divine cult, which enables one to elevate oneself to undreamt of heights. Life's problems no longer embarrass them.

Resolve today to receive the blessings of Divine influence for yourself and for your family, be forewarned against misfortunes and failures and know the simple rules of life. A valuable illustrated booklet, "SOURCE OF SUPERNATURAL POWER" containing detailed guidance to overcome all your life's problems, printed in two colours on art paper neatly compiled at considerable cost in simple English language will be sent to you at your request free of charge and without involving any obligations on your part.

If you have any problem, which you are unable to tackle yourself, write at once in English only for free advice. All correspondence will be treated as strictly confidential. Write your name and address legibly and address your enquiries to:

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