

KAHANIYA

CULTURAL & STORY MAGAZINE

Vol. VI |

SEPTEMBER, 1959

| No. 5

THE PRIZE PICTURE

This is the English rendering of a Tamil story by Mrs. Lakshmi Subramanian who has several prize winning stories to her credit. The first story by this famous writer appeared in our May issue. The story below originally appeared in *Kadir*

It was five by the time I reached the Travellers Bungalow in Anikaran Chatram. I was anxious to meet my friend Dr. Mani before it got dark and so started immediately for his house taking with me Arumugham, the caretaker of the bungalow, as my guide, as I was new to the place.

But Mani was not at home. I was informed that he had left early in the morning to the near by village to treat a very difficult case and that he was expected any moment. I was greatly disappointed not to find him at home. I had walked one and a half miles after a tiresome train journey and was eagerly looking forward to meet him. However I decided to wait.

I had come on transfer to this little town. At first I was a little disheartened when I got the transfer order to this place but soon I remembered that it was where my friend Mani had settled down for his practice. The thought

that I would have an opportunity to renew my childhood friendship was indeed a comfort and I had started for the place with a joyous heart.

I looked at my watch. It was past six. Darkness was gathering outside. The servant had offered me a chair and as I waited for my friend I looked round the visitor's room. On the wall opposite was a picture. The figure in it looked strangely familiar to me. Curiosity getting the better of me I went near it. There was no one in the hall and I took it in my hands. It was an

FRONT COVER

The danseuse with the lissom figure is Kuchala Kumari in Swasti Sri's Tamil offering *Raja Sevai*, to be released shortly.

enlargement of a picture taken some twenty years ago. And my mind wandered back to the days of my boyhood.

* * *

My parents were in Mayavaram then. We were living in a portion of a small house in Pattamangala Street. The other portion was occupied by Mani's family. Mani and I were of the same age and we were bosom pals and attended the same school. Four years later Ambi came to live with us. His mother was a cook and she earned her living by doing odd jobs in the neighbouring houses. She was too poor to afford any rent but we gave her a room in the back portion and she used to help both our families in cooking.

Sometime after coming and staying with us Ambi's mother started preparing sweets and other preparations. Ambi helped in selling them by going the round of houses. Often I was tempted to go in for the sweets myself. But I curbed my desire because I knew Ambi would not take any money from me and I did not want him to incur any loss on my account.

Everyday, early in the morning when I went to the well in the backyard to wash my face and teeth I used to see Ambi at the grinding stone grinding the flour. He used to toil all day, for it was his livelihood.

These memories of my boyhood friend flashed back in my mind because the picture I was seeing showed Ambi as he was then, grinding the flour.

I vividly remembered how my friend Mani happened to take

that picture. His uncle in Bombay had presented him with a camera and Mani had started taking snaps of anything and everything that took his fancy.

One day as we had gone to the well in the backyard for our morning ablutions, we saw Ambi as usual at the grinding stone. Mani then seemed to have some inspiration. He suddenly dashed into the house and fetching his camera took a snap of Ambi grinding the flour.

A Calcutta weekly had announced a photo competition, the subject being "household work" and Mani submitted this picture of Ambi at work. It won the first prize. Mani's joy knew no bounds. He was extremely happy at winning the prize and he went to the extent of cutting the picture from the weekly paper and pasting it on the school notice board.

This had an unfortunate sequence. For, when Ambi went out on his daily rounds that day hawking the sweets, the school boys who had seen the prize winning picture mocked at him. He took this so much to heart that for three days he did not stir out of the house. Consequently he and his mother were without food for those days. On the third night I had retired to sleep when I heard Ambi's mother scolding him and occasionally beating also. Ambi was crying.

My heart was filled with pity for Ambi. I got up and went to the backyard. Though I was young I could realise how much Ambi was suffering. It was not

his mother's beating that troubled him. It was the ragging by the students that was painful to him. I sat by his side and tried to comfort him. "Don't cry Ambi. Mani is a fool," was all that I could say.

Soon after my father was transferred to Kumbakonam and I lost touch with Ambi. Mani in the meanwhile had become a doctor and I had become an engineer.

* * *

I was disturbed in my reverie by the sounds of a carriage approaching the house. It was Mani returning. He welcomed me warmly and bade me wait till he changed his dress. I heard him order for coffee.

Soon we were talking about our old days. And I asked him whether he knew anything about Ambi and pointed to the photo on the wall.

"I happened to meet him last month," Mani replied.

"Where?"

"Don't you know? He is a big man in Mayavaram now. I had invited him to pay a visit to my house here."

"Did he come?"

"Yes, he was here yesterday. I had purposely framed this old picture of his and hung it on the wall so that he could see it."

I was silent for a minute. I was unable to fathom Mani's reason for displaying this photo and reopening the old wound in Ambi's heart. I ventured to suggest, "Mani, why not give this photo to Ambi?"

"Well," Mani was cautious in his answer. "I have only this copy. I am prepared to part



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with it if he pays me well."

"How much do you think it is worth to him?"

"Rs. 500."

"What?" I was surprised at the unconscionable demand.

"Why not?" Mani replied without even the least tinge of guilt on his part. "He can very well afford it. He owns three hotels in Mayavaram and also a car and lives in grand style in a bungalow."

I was happy to hear this news of Ambi's prosperity and resolved to see him at the earliest opportunity.

* * *

Two months passed. I had occasion to visit Mayavaram. I had taken lunch at a hotel and

was about to go out when I saw a man getting down from a car and entering. I learnt that he was the proprietor and that his name was Ambi. He had changed much and I could not recognise him at first. I introduced myself. Ambi was very happy to see me and insisted on my accompanying him to his house.

It was a large bungalow type of house and richly furnished. But what attracted my attention most was the photo of Ambi which I had earlier seen in Mani's drawing room. I was not a little surprised at seeing it there.

Ambi must have noticed my reactions. So I asked him, "Where did you get this picture?"

"I got it from Mani," he said.

"When?"

"Last month."

I felt bitter about Mani at that moment. I thought Ambi had purchased that picture from Mani paying Rs. 500 in order that others might not know of his humble beginnings.

"You must still be ashamed of that picture," I ventured to remark.

Ambi looked at me with a rather surprised look. He then

smiled and said, "I am not ashamed of that picture at all. I did not purchase it from Mani in order that others may not know of my humble beginnings. If that was my purpose I would have destroyed it and not displayed it so prominently here for all those who come to my house to see. I can afford to-day to take any number of my photographs but there is only this one picture reminding me of my hard days when I was young."

He continued: "In spite of my riches to-day I have not forgotten my humble days and I am not ashamed to own it. It is by hard work and firm determination that I have attained my present prosperous condition and I take pride in that fact. My only wish is that my mother is alive to enjoy the fruits of my hard work."

I admired him then. He was not educated in the sense that Mani and I were educated. But I did not consider him in any way inferior to us. Not because he was rich but because of his self reliance and his views on dignity of labour. I was convinced in my mind then that he fully deserved his present prosperity and high position in society.

PRACTICAL

The teacher had been explaining fraction to her class. When she had discussed the subject at length, wishing to see how much light had been shed, she enquired, "Now, Bobby, which would you rather have, one whole apple or two halves?"

The little chap promptly replied that he would rather have the two halves.

"Oh, Bobby," exclaimed the young woman, a little disappointed, "why would you prefer two halves?"

"Because then I could see if it was bad inside."

A little incident illustrating
the pitfalls into which an
unwary girl may fall into!

A BUS CONDUCTOR'S ROMANCE

GEORGE LEWIS

It was spring time and Delhi, the majestic capital with its rich cultural heritage and old grandeur, was at its loveliest. After the cold winter, spring brings with it a bouyant spirit and nature puts on its greenery and decks itself with flowers of variegated hues. And man and beast alike rejoice and move about in festive mood.

It happened in last spring when Minoo had stepped into the spring of her life, when her beautiful tender body had started showing changes of adolescence, of eye-filling curves. She was in her sweet sixteen and in her blue jeans, her school uniform, she looked lovely indeed.

Minoo's father was a prominent advocate in the capital. They had a lovely bungalow at Lodi. Young Minoo had to go to the city to attend the school, and the city bus daily carried her from her house. She was always punctual. Every morning at 8:40 Minoo would start for school. She would catch the same bus punctually at the nearby bus stop. It was such a regular habit with her that the particular bus crew became familiar and friendly with her. It was always delightful to watch her standing at the bus stop, waiting for the bus, elegantly carrying a bundle of books and smart enough to look like a young lady.

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She had already started to experience the appreciative glances from males of various ages, while she was out in the streets or inside the bus. Thus she herself had begun to realize the power of her attraction to the males. Instinctively she became proud, but she was sensible enough to ignore them. Her manner amidst the grown ups was rather mature and perfect. Much credit went to her mother who had a good part in moulding her, this only daughter's character and behaviour. Minoo and her four-year-old little brother Santosh, were the only children in that family. The mother was very particular to see that they both were brought up with delicate care and comforts. There in the house, Minoo seldom was allowed to move or mix with menfolk visitors. Because as a wise mother she wanted to shelter her from the temptations and pitfalls of adolescence.

* * *

But when it happened, it was just like a wild fire, its hungry flames leaping with all its fury. Minoo herself could not make out how it all started. It flowed into her life silently but suddenly. Her mind was disturbed and elated. From the childish tranquillity, it was dragged to a state of flaming disturbance.

It began one morning when she happened to leave behind one of her books in the bus. That was the beginning! That was the incident which caused the whirlpool of turmoil in Minoo's life.

The young conductor of the bus, Kishan Chand had found the book, and the next morning

he returned the same to Minoo. The bus was practically empty and Minoo acknowledged it by a winning smile and she said in a lovely voice, "Thank you very much". Her eyes revealed her gratefulness.

But Kishan Chand was surprisingly carried away by that look! It went deep, doing mischief.

Even though he was conscious of his good looks and complexion his job as a conductor gave him a very bad pull with the fair sex. All the pretty girls of Delhi, irrespective of their age, behaved towards him in the most curt manner. He felt as though they were keeping him at a distance and he was before them an insignificant figure. It pricked his vanity and pride, because he was a lonesome bachelor with no other relatives or kin to claim. He was a refugee.

Actually that momentary incident in the bus, did not cause any emotion in young Minoo's mind. Indeed his handsome features had attracted her attention, but she had never given him a second thought.

Next day morning, Kishan Chand was deliberate. While handing over the ticket, he softly but unseen by others pressed her soft supple palm. That was more or less intentional on his part. He watched for the emotions that would show in her beautiful face. Minoo blushed. It came right from her heart, unable to control. Her soft cheeks reddened and lips quivered.

During the course of her journey up to the school, those two young pairs of eyes again

met together in excitement, more than once, while both hearts beat faster like being carried away by some fast current. Kishan could not even concentrate on his job properly. He committed even some slips while issuing the tickets. In the same manner Minoo also had tried very much to brush off the guilty sort of emotions she had begun to experience. She felt as if she had committed some crime but she was weak and helpless. Thoughts and dreams about the young conductor haunted her throughout the day and night. She liked him, she thought.

But next morning, Minoo determined to be her correct self. However her resolve was short lived. Kishan smiled at her as she stepped into the bus. Again that smile did mischief. Minoo's determination flopped and she found herself blushing. Kishan Chand took another daring step; while handing over the ticket, he managed to give her a love letter, folded into the size of the ticket! Minoo saw it, understood what it was, but dared not to look into it. She was confused. She felt as though the piece of paper was gnawing at her veins and nerves. This daring act by Kishan Chand actually dragged her to a state of nervous excitement. She was upset and carried away by tumultuous emotions.

Only late in the afternoon, unseen and unnoticed by anyone of her schoolmates, Minoo opened and read the letter! It was a simple love letter, ardently pouring out that young man's infatuation for her. It was

AMRUTANJAN



FOR

All aches and
Pains

romantic. Exotic feelings crept into her mind, unknowingly giving her a sense of ecstasy. The feverish lover had pledged even his life, in keeping the affair safely secret. But he had requested for a reply, a letter from Minoo!

That was the beginning of the spring in her life! To her dismay, she realised that she was in love with the bus conductor Kishan Chand! Now she could not turn away. Thus she too started to write revealing the soft receptive corner of her adolescent mind.

* * *
Time cheapened the hot excite-

ment of exchanging the love letters. The two souls deeply engrossed in tender love longed to meet together alone! Both of them started to feel the desire to get close together, to passionately get into each other's arms! Kishan Chand knew her house, and many times during the early hours of the night, the forlorn lover had wandered around the beautiful villa in the Lodi area, wishing to get a glimpse of the loved one. But his courage always failed. The young soul within that advocate's house seemed to him out of his reach. A ferocious alsatian dog guarded the house and Kishan was terribly afraid of that dog. Whenever he tried to linger before the gate the dog had started barking at him. At last after many nights' vain attempts he thought the best plan would be to get rid of the dog. Then Minoo could slip out in the night and they could meet in some lonely corner in the garden.....

* * *

Next day as Minoo stepped into the bus Kishan Chand while handing her ticket passed a letter and a small packet. Minoo was at first afire with excitement to know what surprise that little packet contained for her. However, it was in the evening after she had returned home that she could open that packet and read the letter.

Minoo was shocked with disgust and horror at the suggestion conveyed by Kishan Chand in that letter. He had suggested that she should do away with the dog by giving it the piece of poisoned chocolate in the packet. He had poured out his love and

suggested that by doing away with the dog they could meet every night in her garden unseen by anyone. He said he longed to hold her in his arms and that that was the only way by which they could accomplish their desire.

Alone in her room Minoo sat brooding over the letter. Gradually she began to realise her folly in carrying on this secret love affair with the bus conductor.

She experienced a tumultuous rage and guilty pain inside. The magnitude of the horror she was asked to commit, began to take shape and prick from within her. All the little acts she had hitherto played with Kishan, in the secret pursuit of love and romance, began to appear as foolish, childish and frivolous. Shamefully she looked at the poisoned chocolate and the letter. Their very sight poisoned all the dreamy illusions of love and passion she had possessed. Then and there she came to the bold decision to put an end to the romance they were carrying on secretly. That night itself she burned away all the bits of letters her lover had passed on to her. Just as the flame leaped and swallowed all those love letters, her wounded dignity overpowered and smothered all the passion for love. She wanted to get rid of the poisoned chocolate. She was afraid to keep it with her and thoughtlessly threw it out of the window.

* * *

Meanwhile Kishan Chand's hopes were aroused. But next morning, strangely enough, he missed Minoo at the usual bus

home! She felt the food placed before her was poison! She could not eat a morsel. Her heart was filled with grief for she now realised that she was the cause of its death. Silently she got up from the table and wept bitter tears in the secrecy of her room. In her childish heart she asked forgiveness of the dog and resolved never again to yield to temptations.....

* * *

For several days Kishan Chand missed Minoo. He learned that

she was travelling by an earlier bus to avoid meeting him. He had unsuccessfully tried also loitering about her home in the nights. He knew the dog was not there but of Minoo he did not get even a glimpse!

After a few days he gave up the attempt. He realised he had failed again. His vanity of course was wounded but hope is eternal in a young man's heart and soon he was looking for pastures new!

THE TALKING CURE

According to a famous psychologist marriages have the best chance of success when husband and wife talk out their problems as they arise. They must share them with each other. They must put their worries or doubts into words. And the earlier they begin to share them, the happier their life partnership will be.

* * * *

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SUCCESS

A successful man always thinks optimistically. The corollary is also true to a great extent. A man who thinks optimistically attains success.

Christian D. Larson defines the optimist creed thus: Promise yourself,

1. To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
2. To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
3. To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
4. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
5. To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
6. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
7. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
8. To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
9. To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticise others.
10. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

You can achieve anything in life
provided you master your mind

HOW TO MASTER YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS MIND

MASAHARU TANIGUCHI

The most powerful and most benevolent power in this world is God. There is no better method of neutralizing the self-destructiveness of the subconscious than meditating on God and praying to Him.

God, who is our Father and Mother, loves us and continually watches over us, both from within and from without. God is ever-present and fills the entire universe. His life-power dwells in us and gives to us our being.

We must not look upon the negative side of ourselves or of others. Even if the negative side should be showing, we weaken our conviction through looking upon the negative side. Looking upon the negative side would result only in enclouding our view of the perfect world which was created by God. We should always meditate upon the Truth. We should say to ourselves, "In the world of truth, created by God, human beings are children

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of God. They are given infinite power. Thus, it is only a dream that they should fall ill. It is only a dream that they should be faced with financial difficulties. False conditions are not real, only dreams, projections of the mind."

After meditating in this manner, we must not focus our attention upon the phenomenal world, to see if our meditation on perfection will be soon realized objectively. The world of phenomena is a product of our thoughts; it appears as a superimposed image which beclouds our view of the world of Reality. If we turn our attention to the world of phenomena too quickly, we shall discover that the unfavourable conditions continue to exist and again affirm them in our thoughts; they are thus once again projected by the mind. The unfavourable conditions then do not disappear. Behind all phenomena we find the working of thoughts. The thoughts are the real cause of the phenomena. So long as we do not sever the cause, we cannot improve fundamentally the phenomenal appearance which is only the effect.

Thus, it is necessary to change the unfavourable thoughts, which are products of the mind, to favourable thoughts. In order to do this, it is essential not to focus our attention on unfavourable conditions. It is essential to let our mind dwell only upon favourable conditions. In order that the mind should think only of good thoughts and favourable conditions, we must meditate on God and upon favourable conditions as established facts. These

observations are in full agreement with the principle of prayer as taught by Christ. "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*."

Sometimes, the unfavourable condition continues even though one meditates on the perfection of Truth. It is even possible for a condition to appear which is worse than ever. The condition may seem for a time to improve and again turn to the worse. However, remember that all phenomena are only the reflections of the mind. When you are able to refuse to be disturbed by the phenomenal changes and are able to proclaim with determination that favourable conditions are already existent, you will be able to say that you have reached a stage of spiritual understanding.

You must learn to train your mind. God has granted you complete freedom of thought, and there is no reason for you to entertain in your mind ideas of things that are not real and that you do not desire. In spite of this, there are many people who think of "evil" conditions which they do not desire. The reason for this is that these people have not learned how to master their mind. You have to learn how to control the mind so that it thinks only of truth and the conditions and things which you want it to think. It is similar to training a horse, so that it turns in whatever direction you indicate. If you allow the horse to do as it pleases, it may quite easily go in the direction which you do not want it to

go. There is nothing so dangerous for a person as to ride a horse without knowing how to ride it. There is nothing so dangerous as to possess a mind without knowing how to control it. However, since you already have a mind, you should train yourself so that you will be able to master it.

In order to train a horse one uses a whip. In order to train the mind, one employs words as whip. One must meditate with words which express the perfect harmony of Reality or recite sacred words which express the Truth.

There is one very important point which we should remember when we seek to manifest some desired object through prayer or meditation. We should ask ourselves, "Is the prayer a proper prayer? Is the meditation, a meditation on Truth?" The criteria with which to determine proper prayer and proper meditation are:

1. The object of prayer or meditation is constructive and not destructive or decadent.

2. The prayer, when realized, will not lead to deprivation for anyone.

3. The object of prayer must be of plulence, not scantiness.

4. The result must be profit, not just for oneself, but for others as well.

5. The object of prayer must be pure and immaculate.

If the prayer can fulfil the qualifications described above, it is in harmony with the cosmic

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will itself and has the qualification necessary for it to be supported by the whole universe. If your prayer meets the above qualifications, you may fearlessly believe that your prayer will be granted by God, regardless of whether it is a house, money, a hall, an auto, or clothing that you seek. Meditate on your desired object and pray. The creative power of the great life-principle will bring your desired object into manifestation in the world of truth.

—*Seicho-No-Ie.*

●

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt till they are too strong to be broken.—*Dr. Samuel Johnson.*

THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM

M. P. PANDIT

Communism is a world movement. It is indivisible. It is a powerful idea seeking to express and realise itself wherever it finds or can create scope. It is an error to look upon Communism as just one of the many panaceas conceived by the social thinker in search of measures for the amelioration of the lot of humanity. It is, on the other hand, an idea of a different order, originating elsewhere than the labouring human mind and it is packed with a titanic force for its effectuation. In the language of our occult tradition, we may say that the idea of Communism as formulated at present proceeds from the plane or region of the Asura who stands opposed to the reign of the Deva. Like everything else in the world of the Asura, this idea too is a mistranslation and perversion of a great truth put out by the Divine for realisation in Creation. The truth of oneness of origin, truth of a governing unity underlying the diversity of manifestation, is seized and twisted into a soul-killing doctrine of uniformity. And this pseudo-idea-truth is projected by the Asura to check the evolutionary advance of mankind towards a real and spontaneous manifestation of the Creative truth of oneness of being and mutuality in becoming.

Communism is a regressive movement. It forces man who is

struggling to arrive at the expression of a various harmony among the several notes of the different faculties of his own being in unison with the harmonies of his fellow-creature, back to the stage which he passed long ago—the state of the dominion of matter. According to this doctrine, man is nothing more than a product of matter—an evolute of matter of which life and mind are subsidiary characteristics. Man is essentially a physical being and his happiness is best secured and promoted by following the fundamental laws of physical nature. The present conditions of imbalance in the life of humanity are due to departures from this norm of material nature due to the wrong lead taken by the mind of man (under whatever name—heart, soul, spirit etc.) in presuming to guide the body to a paradise. Your mind, your soul have in fact no *raison d'être* except to subserve and promote the life of the body.

Their freedom to develop their own life is denied and they—mind, heart, soul—are tied to the wheels of the materialistic destiny of the race. And this destiny is forged not on the individual but on a collectivist basis where all multiplicity in the play of life and thoughts is steamrollered into an impersonal, monolithic uniformity of physical well-being. Man as an independent entity with a freedom to develop his own

expression of the powers of life and soul dies; a robot collectivity, a pack of herds on the human scale, takes his place. Thus does Communism constitute itself into an anti-evolutionary force seeking to turn back the upward movement of human evolution. In this sense Communism is fraught with greater peril than movements like Nazism which were after all, exaggerations of collective vital egoisms seeking political and economic aggrandisement. Here the aim is to kill the very soul of man by smothering its free expression.

Its one object is to seize hold of the minds of men wherever possible, by whatever means, and control the lives of larger and larger sections of mankind till it can engulf the whole. Domination of the world is its sole aim which is furthered by political, economic, military and every conceivable and inconceivable means. It is a mistake to believe that those who have come to power on the crest of Communism are actuated only by nationalistic considerations or even imperialistic ambitions as of old, in seeking to extend their sway. They seek to win the mind first, true. But when that is difficult either due to certain racial predilections or other causes, they seize the body first and then force the mind to subscribe by indoctrination or often compulsive methods. It is the strength of an ideology, a fanatical faith in its incontrovertible inevitability that is at the back of the expansionist drive of Communism. It will not stop short of encircling the entire globe though it may halt here and there, tem-

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porarily for strategic considerations. This is what was emphasised by Sri Aurobindo when Communist China launched its first aggression against Korea. He warned:

“It is the first move in the Communist plan of campaign to dominate and take possession first of these Northern parts and

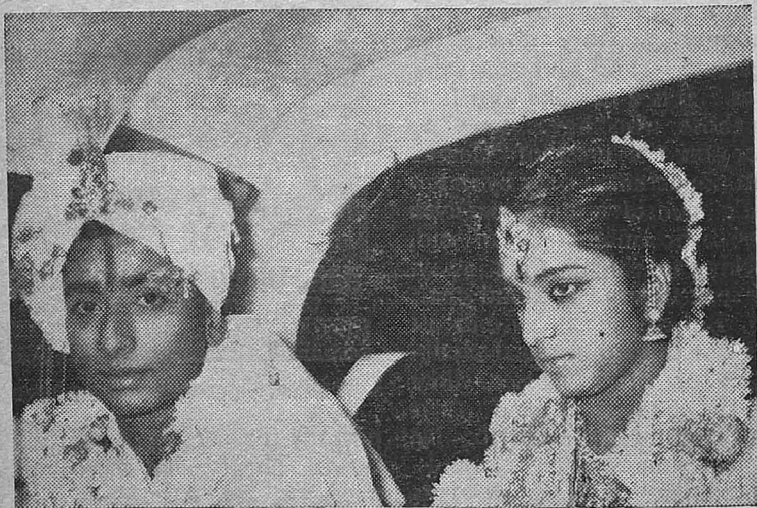
then of South East Asia as a preliminary to their manoeuvres with regard to the rest of the continent—in passing Tibet as a gate into India.”

Events since then have only gone to confirm this reading.

Whether internally or externally, Communism must be understood to be what it is and opposed wherever it raises its head, opposed positively by the inculcation and promotion of the higher ideals of freedom, brotherhood, God and truth, and negatively by the elimination of the conditions in which this evil seed breeds fertile. It is a pernicious doctrine which denies the truth of man as a God in the making and reduces him to

the level of a two-legged animal wiping out in the process the large gains made by the evolving nature in the unfoldment of her several powers in the person of man, her highest evolved being.

Happenings in India have given a severe jolt to complacent thinking on the subject and it is now coming to be recognised that Communism is not just one more *ism* jostling for power in the political field, but a movement with world-wide ramifications aiming to upset the existing world order governed by their values of the mind and soul, and to convert the whole of the human race into the image of a termite colony under the banner of the hammer and sickle.



Vijaya Gardens was converted into a veritable fairyland for the wedding last month of Sri B. Nagi Reddy's second son Venugopal with Padmavathi, daughter of Sri P. Ramana Reddy. Filmdom will long remember the magnificence of the arrangements both at the wedding and the reception. Messages of congratulations and presents were received by the young couple from all over India.

A HIT - OR - MISS MURDER

Four-year-old Sydney Albert Barker of Brighton was in a happy mood. His father had given him some pocket money to be of good behaviour while he went out on some business.

It was a sunny day and as soon as his father's back was turned, the lad ran out into the street and made a bee line to the confectioner's shop. He purchased a few chocolates and ate some on the way back home.

The chocolates tasted bitter and soon after he felt a sort of nausea and then a burning sensation in the stomach. By evening his condition grew worse. Convulsions followed and he

died an agonising death.

The doctor who attended on him suspected poisoning and since it was known that the chocolates were the cause of death they were analysed. Of the remaining chocolates one was found to contain strychnine. But there were no clues as to how the poison could have got into the chocolates. The law regarding the manufacture of chocolates was not so strict in those days and the coroner's jury, therefore, returned a verdict of accidental death.

The father of the boy was plunged into grief by this tragedy and he received many

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letters of sympathy. His wounded heart was thus gradually getting healed when one day he received an anonymous letter signed merely as "An old inhabitant". It accused the confectioner of deliberately putting poison in the chocolates and Barker was advised in the interests of justice to lodge a complaint against the confectioner with the police.

Barker read the letter, shook his head once or twice, shrugged his bent shoulders and thrust the letter into the drawer of the table. "Evidently some man who has a grudge against the confectioner," thought he.

A few days passed and the post brought him again another letter from the anonymous writer. For, he immediately recognised the handwriting on the envelope. He opened it with some reluctance and found that his surmise was correct.

The writer had once again accused the confectioner and urged him to act so that the murderer of his child may not go unpunished.

Barker read the letter several times. He felt disturbed in mind and for many days he did not even get sleep. He was averse to accuse a man who might after all be innocent. However, he thought no harm would be done if he placed the letter in the hands of the police and leave them to take whatever action they thought was justified under the circumstances.

It was a lucky thought. For the police had in their possession a letter bearing on the same subject. It was written by one Miss Christina Edmunds to the

coroner and she had mentioned therein that she had herself felt ill after eating the chocolates from the said confectioner.

A comparison of the handwriting showed that the writer of the anonymous letters was Christina herself. But what puzzled the police was the underlying motive. Why should she throw suspicion on the confectioner? Could it be that there were enough grounds to suspect him?

The case was entrusted to Inspector Gibbs, a painstaking and efficient officer. He soon began to pry into the private lives of both the people and soon he was convinced that the villain of the piece was Christina herself. By questioning a number of people he unearthed various pieces of information which when put together revealed one of the most diabolical plots known in the annals of crime.

It all started a few months prior to this happening. Christina was a spinster of handsome appearance and fairly rich. She was in her forties. One day she happened to meet one Dr. Beard and she was greatly attracted by his handsome appearance. From that day onwards she met him frequently on various pretexts and turned her charms on him. But the doctor was not impressed. He was happily married and had extensive practice.

Even if he had been attracted by her charms, it was doubtful whether he would have given her any encouragement, because the least bit of scandal would have ruined his practice.

Christina was not discouraged

by the doctor's indifference. She thought it was because he loved his wife more than herself and she decided to get rid of her. With this end in view she cultivated her friendship and one day while taking tea at the doctor's house offered the hostess some chocolates. The doctor's wife took one and put it in her mouth. Immediately she spat it out saying that it tasted bitter.

When the doctor returned home and was informed of the happening he took that bit of chocolate and on analysing it found that it contained strychnine. He informed Christina of what he had found and forbade her to have any further contact with him or his wife. He did not report the matter to the police because however innocent he might have been in the matter, there was bound to be some talk and his practice would suffer.

Christina, of course, protested her innocence. She told him that events would show that he was unnecessarily accusing an innocent woman. She had already formulated in her mind a clever plan to throw suspicion on someone else.

Her modus operandi was simple. She had in her possession some strychnine which she had purchased from a chemists shop to kill rats in her house. It was the possession of this poison which originally had put the idea in her mind of killing the doctor's wife with poisoned chocolates. She now engaged some street urchins to run errands for her, paying them a few pennies every time. Once she asked an urchin to get her some chocolates from the confectioner's shop. Having secured them she secretly put poison in the chocolates and returned them to the shop through another urchin saying that she needed a different variety. The substitution of poisoned chocolates was thus easily accomplished.

The four-year-old boy just happened to get some of these poisoned chocolates and he paid with his life. To Christina it did not matter who died. Her whole object was to remove the suspicion from the doctor's mind about her and make him think that it was purely an accident that she happened to possess the poisoned chocolate when she visited his wife.

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There was one thing which troubled Christina. It was the register at the chemists in which she had signed for the strychnine. She did not like to leave any trace behind connecting her with the poison. So she forged a letter in the name of the coroner requisitioning the register for inspection purposes. She then tore off the page bearing her signature and returned it. All this she did using different urchins and giving them handsome tips to keep their mouths shut!

Her plan was thus perfect and she would have escaped detection had she not committed the one error of writing to the coroner in her own name. That undid her.

Inspector Gibbs had done magnificent work. Now that he had gathered all the pieces of the jig saw puzzle and fitted them together and made his case water tight he called on Christina.

He found her lying in her bed pretending to be ill. She told him that someone was trying to poison her. She had received a parcel of fruits and after eating some of them she had fallen ill. She showed him the alleged label of the parcel. Her name was misspelled on it and she made much of it saying that it indicated that the person who had sent it to her was not well acquainted with her. But the Inspector was not deceived. A glance at the label was enough to tell him that it had been written by herself. He arrested her and she was tried at the Old Bailey in 1872. The case was strong against her and the only possible defence available to her was to plead insanity. But it did not carry conviction with the jurors and they returned a verdict of guilty and she was sentenced to death. The death sentence, however, was not carried out because the jail authorities found her really insane!



Labouring mightily, a small boy was trying to push a handcart loaded with broken stone up a hilly street. It was obviously beyond his strength, and a kindly passer-by took pity and helped him push on the load up to the top of the hill.

There, in front of a crowd of idlers that had collected, the stranger addressed the boy in indignant tones :

"I call it an outrage to give a kid your size a job like that ! Why didn't you tell your boss it was too heavy for you?"

"I did."

"And what did the big bully say?"

"Well, he said 'Go ahead with it—you're sure to find some fool on the way to give you a hand.'"

*

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The way to meet trouble is to face it.

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"After all, what is a mother-in-law?" asked one.

"A referee with an interest in one of the fighters," replied his married friend.

POINTS OF VIEW

Compiled by N. GANGA RAM, M.A.

There is nothing in women so graceful and becoming as modesty. It adds charm to their beauty, and gives a new softness to their sex. Without it, simplicity and innocence appear rude; reading and good sense, masculine; wit and humour, lascivious.

—Richard Steele.

* * *

One of the greatest dangers of living in large towns is that we have too many neighbours, and human fellowship is too cheap. We are apt to become wearied of humanity; a solitary green tree sometimes seems dearer to us than an odd thousand of our

fellow-citizens.

--J. B. Priestly.

* * *

In order to appreciate the beauty of existing things, I suspect one has to get used to them. Familiarity, they say, breeds contempt, but it also breeds liking.

—Robert Lynd.

* * *

No lady could be so very silly as to live single, if she could help it. I consider an unmarried lady declining into the vale of years, as one of those charming countries bordering China that lies waste for want of proper

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inhabitants. We are not to accuse the country, but the ignorance of its neighbours, who are insensible of its beauties, though at liberty to enter and cultivate the soil. —*Oliver Goldsmith.*

* * *

I do not like long-standing engagements. How can you tell whether on a certain day three or four weeks ahead you will wish to dine with a certain person?.....For a month the engagement hangs over you with gloomy menace. It interferes with your cherished plans. It disorganizes your life. There is really only one way to cope with the situation and that is to put yourself off at the last moment. But it is one that I never had the courage or the want of scruple to adopt.

—*Somerset Maugham.*

* * *

The properties of thrillers as soporifics have long been advocated: personally, I have become addicted to the short story for bed-time reading. They present enough reading to induce complete relaxation yet with a

termination clearly in view—whereas anything of greater length sometimes keeps me reading on until two in the morning. The short story has another quality in common with the detective story: tightness of construction. Early in the story, situation and character are outlined. The narrative once in motion, events and people move at a certain pace to the story's conclusion—at which time one is able to put the book down, usually well satisfied with the outcome, and meditate on the author's handling of his theme and material as one drifts peacefully into sleep.

—*Laurie Stafford.*

* * *

The National Book Trust has to depend on the Education Ministry for its grant; on the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for its publishing, and on the Ministry of works, Housing and Supply for its printing—which is to say, that it should depend on Providence for results!

—*“Junius” in Swarajya.*

NOT HIS FAULT

“M'mm,” mused the employer. “I'm a bit doubtful about giving a job to a boy who's left six jobs in six months.”

“Ah, but don't forget, sir—I didn't leave any of them voluntarily.”

* * * * *

“What's happened, George?” she asked her husband, who had got out of the car to investigate.

“Puncture,” he said, briefly.

“You ought to have been on the look out for this,” was the helpful remark. “You remember the guide warned you there was a fork in the road.”

* * * * *

Show me the dancing of a people and I will tell you what their king is like.—*A Chinese proverb.*

GANDHIJI & SELF HELP

How Gandhiji with a view to live a simple life started washing his own clothes and how he was complimented on his proficiency by Gokhale is related in the following article

V. G. RAMACHANDRAN, M.A., B.L.

We have seen in the last issue how the police asked Gandhi to prefer a complaint in writing with reference to the assault on him and how he abhorred such an idea. On the day of his landing in S. Africa a representative of the *Natal Advertiser* had come to interview him about his alleged anti-African propaganda

in India. Thanks to Sir Pherozshah Mehta's advice he had delivered only written speeches in India and he had copies of them all. He gave all these to the interviewer and added that he had spoken nothing which he had not already said in South Africa in stronger language.

This interview and Gandhi's

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refusal to prosecute the assailants produced such a profound impression that the press declared Gandhi to be innocent and condemned the mob. Thus the violence ultimately proved to be a blessing for Gandhi's cause. It enhanced the prestige of the Indian community in South Africa and made Gandhi's work easier. The incident also added to the professional practice of Gandhi. More clients sought him because of his uprightness and spirit of service.

While all this enhanced the prestige of the Indian community it also fanned the flames of white prejudice against Gandhi. For he had proved that the Indian could put up a manly fight. Ergo he was considered as a potential danger to the whites in Africa.

It was about that time that two bills were introduced in the Natal Legislative Assembly, one of them affecting the Indian trader adversely and the other imposing stringent restrictions on Indian immigration. This again increased the responsibility of Gandhi. He determined to make the Natal Indian Congress a live force to serve the cause of Indians and started augmenting its funds and membership.

Gandhi had now settled to family life and professional routine. The care of his two sons absorbed some of his time. His practice as lawyer progressed satisfactorily but it was far from satisfying him. The question of further simplifying his life and of doing some concrete act of service to his fellow men was constantly troubling him. A

leper once came to his door. He had not the heart to dismiss him with a meal. He offered him shelter, dressed his wounds and began to look after him. But he could not afford to go on doing this for long. He later sent him to the Government Hospital for indentured labourers. Gandhi longed for some humanitarian work of a permanent nature. He felt strongly attracted to serve as a nurse in Dr. Booth's hospital. This meant two hours of work every morning. It brought him in close touch with suffering Indians, most of them indentured Tamil, Telugu or North Indian men. This experience stood him in good stead, for during the Boer War, he offered his services for nursing the sick and wounded soldiers.

Gandhi wanted to lead a cheaper and simpler life. He began to cut down his expenses. The washerman's bill was heavy and he was always most unpunctual. Even two to three dozen shirts and collars proved insufficient. Collars had to be changed daily and shirts at least every alternate day. This meant heavy outlay on his wardrobe. So Gandhi decided on self help. He equipped himself with a washing outfit, bought a book on washing, studied the art and taught it to his wife. This no doubt added to his work but its novelty made it a real pleasure.

Gandhi treasured his first experience. The first collar he washed got more starch than necessary. The iron had not been made hot enough and for fear of burning the collar he had not pressed it sufficiently. The

result was that though the collar was fairly stiff, the superfluous starch continually dropped off it. He had gone to the court with the collar on. It invited the ridicule of his brother barristers.

In course of time he became an expert washerman. When Gokhale visited Africa he had with him a scarf which was a gift from Mahadeo Govind Ranade. He used it on special occasions. One such occasion was the banquet given in his honour by the Johannesburg Indians. The scarf was creased and needed ironing. Gandhi offered to try his art. Gokhale sallied, "I can trust to your capacity as lawyer but not as a washerman. What if you should spoil it? Do you know what it means to me?" With this Gokhale narrated with

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much joy the story of the gift. Gandhi insisted on ironing it, guaranteed good work and got Gokhale's permission to iron it and won his certificate.

Gandhi writes, "After that I did not mind if the rest of the world refused its certificate."

QUICK SERVICE

The airline information clerk sat at his desk and, when the phone rang, picked it up with a cheery "Hello."

A woman's voice said, "I am flying by jet airliner from London to South Africa—how long will the journey take?"

"Just a minnte," said the courteous clerk, as he reached across the desk to get the time-table that would give the information.

"Thank you," replied the woman, as she hung up.

There is only a slight difference between keeping your chin up and sticking your neck out but it is worth noting.

A certain amount of monotony is essential to life, and those who always try to flee monotony cut themselves off from a life-giving force! It is the monotony of the sun rising every morning that makes variety possible.

WISE HEADMAN

A famous explorer touring the jungles of Central Africa came across a native village. "You people in the forest are certainly lost to civilization," he observed to the headman.

"We don't mind being lost," was the reply. "It's being discovered that worries us."

SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

RITCHIE CALDER

How is it that its potential victim can recognise a buzzard by its shape or shadow, and take evasive action? How can a small boy tell you the name of an aircraft flying high overhead? Or, for that matter, how do we recognise "A" as the first letter of the alphabet? Or how can we distinguish a Southern drawl from a Brooklyn accent, or a word spoken in French from a word spoken in Russian?

It is done by "pattern identification", the recognition of a visual image or the form of a sound. It depends on remembering shapes, or sounds, comparing them with others and associating them with concepts. Birds or animals can distinguish the shape of a buzzard from that of an inoffensive bird and can associate it with death for their kind. A plane-spotter has seen the form of a particular aircraft as a picture and can recognise it in the sky. The alphabet is a visual imprint in our memories. We have stored away in our brains sounds which we can cross-refer to other sounds and associate them with accents or languages which we hear.

"Pattern identification" was one of the subjects most earnestly discussed at the International Conference on Information Processing, organised by Unesco, recently, in Paris and attended by 2,000 experts from 37 countries.

This was a meeting of the "Computer People" (as they call

themselves) concerned with the remarkable machines which can do incredible sums at fantastic speeds; have prodigious mechanical "memories" which store information; can be taught to think; can control other machines; send artificial satellites into orbit, or rockets to the moon; and translate one language into another.

All these things are done by what is called "programming". The experts work out the ways in which information can be stored in the machines and instructions about how that information can be used or recovered. A programme is a numerical code, like a secret service cipher which the electronic brain-cells can unravel. The information and instructions have to be fed into the machines as punch-cards or punch-tapes. This means that while the electronic part of a computer can handle at least 10,000 "bits" of information in a second, a great deal of time has to be spent in working out the programme and punching out the instructions.

If a text in, say, French is to be translated into, say, Russian, it has to be typed out on a machine which converts it into punched symbols. The machine then analyses this punched information, compares the words it has been given with the comparative dictionaries which have been similarly punch-fed into it. It makes the translation, again on to tape which operates an

electric typewriter and produces the Russian in readable form.

The ideal, of course, would be to confront the machine with the actual written page and have it quickly reproduce the translation as another printed page. It would be even more useful if it could take a voice speaking in French and translate the language either as a Russian text or as an artificial voice speaking in Russian. The machine would then replace those agile linguists who at international conferences carry on simultaneous translation.

But that, at the moment, in the language of the "Computer People" is just "blue sky"—talking about what one wishes to happen. Nevertheless, the discussions at the Unesco conference were optimistic about the technical possibilities. In the past twelve years, the "Computer People" have increased from a handful to hundreds of thousands. Their computers have been transformed from devices for doing arithmetic into thinking machines with faculties uncannily human. It is only a matter of time before they acquire "pattern identification".

What does it involve? There is no difficulty about electronically seeing and conveying an image. That happens in television. The camera records the image, converts it into electrical signals which are transmitted and re-assembled on the television receiver screen. The human viewer does the "pattern identification". The radio and the telephone converts the spoken word into signals which are

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reconstituted as the identical voice at the other end. But, again, it is the human listener who does the "pattern identification".

Images and voices can be memorised electronically. The television pictures can be stored, not just as visible film as in the cinema but, as the recording on magnetic tape of the signals which, reactivated, will faithfully reappear as a picture on the television screen. The same, of course, is true of tape recordings of voice "patterns".

Another remarkable advance is a device which takes a voice, analyses its frequencies and expresses them as a code—like sending a telegraph message instead of a telephone voice. This code is then deciphered at the other end and the receiving machine reproduces the code as an artificial voice. It is not the voice of the original speaker but it can be coded even to convey an accent; it can be recognisably Scottish, for instance.

That is another step towards "pattern identification". "You say, 'tomahto'; and I say 'tomayto,'" (in the words of the song) or the French say "for-

midahble" and I say "formid'ble". And the voice-coder can tell the difference.

The technical difficulties are, however, formidable (or formid'ble) because for identification purpose the machine has to have a memory which not only stores images but can compare them—associate them with the ideas which they represent. It has not only to recognise the letter "A"; it has to realise that it is the first letter of the alphabet. Or "2" is no longer the number with which the digital computer is familiar; it is an image which has to be built up. In arithmetic "2" is 1 plus 1—three "bits" of information, but as the Japanese scientists, reporting on their work on "pattern identification" at the Unesco conference, pointed out, the image "2" needs 120 "bits" of information to make it identifiable.

As scientists working on recognition of speech by machine at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S.A., told the conference, the analysis of speech is like chemical analysis—its substance has to be broken down into its constituent parts. For instance, alcohol may mean many things to many people—but chemists, anywhere, know that it is C_2H_5OH with the atoms of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen arranged in a constant way. So, too, the constituents of the spoken word must be constants no matter in what "formula" or in what language they are assembled. But a voice-prescription is more difficult than the chemist's formula. A machine to be effective will have

to translate not only the syllables but the inflexion—the sneer, or the good-humoured laugh, which makes all the difference in the speaker's intention.

Apart from the value of "pattern identification" in the ultimate translation of languages there is the mathematician's concern that the computer should be able to cope with geometrical shapes as it has done with arithmetical equations and, preferably, in three dimensions.

An immediate, and not too difficult possibility in "pattern identification" is in abstracting. The machine is being taught to glance at a scientific paper and select the parts which identify the authors and the sentences which would give the essence of the account. This will be of immeasurable benefit in the dissemination of scientific information.

Nowadays, something of the order of 3,000,000 original scientific papers are published in over 40,000 scientific journals throughout the world every year.

It is becoming almost impossible to cope with this Niagara of information, this torrent which is pouring into libraries and laboratories all over the world.

Once the machine has been taught not only to memorise but to extract and translate the significant material it will make the information easily and quickly accessible to those who need it and who can act upon it.

The awesome truth is that this will produce more discoveries and more papers—and more machines to cope with them.

—Unesco.

MATTER & ANTI-MATTER

Science has scored another victory over nature by the discovery of a new particle of anti-matter, known to scientists as anti-lambda.

William L. Laurence of *New York Times* reporting about this discovery writes:

Nuclear physicists from many lands who attended the International Congress on High Energy Physics in Kiev, Russia, saw a photograph on which was recorded one of the most dramatic events in nature, the birth and death of a never-before-seen particle of "anti-matter," the mirror image of the matter of which we and our world are made.

The world we live in, the vast universe of stars and galaxies, of men and microbes, is made up of atoms of matter, composed of positively charged nuclei surrounded by negatively charged electrons. The nuclei are built up of elementary particles named nucleons, of which there are two forms—the proton, which carries a fundamental unit of positive electricity, and neutron which, as its name indicates, is electrically neutral.

The opposite charges of the electrons and protons in the various atoms balances each other, making them atoms electrically neutral under normal conditions. When an electron is added to or subtracted from an atom, the balance is thus disturbed, so that the atom becomes ionized,

or electrically charged.

For a number of years theory had predicted the existence of anti-particles—particles that are the exact opposite, in charge and other properties, of the particles, of which the every-day atoms are made. These anti-particles included the anti-proton, a proton with a negative, instead of a positive, electric charge, and the anti-neutron, with properties the reverse of the neutron. It was also recognised that particles and anti-particles would annihilate each other if they met.

The positive electron, named the positron, was the first anti-particle to be discovered—first in cosmic rays and later in the laboratory.

In 1955 came one of the great triumphs of modern physics, when nuclear physicists succeeded at last in creating the anti-proton, a proton with a negative charge. This was followed in 1956 with the creation of the even more elusive anti-neutron. With these man had at last the basic building blocks of "anti-matter."

But nuclear physicists, in the manner of of the sorcerer's apprentice, came upon a good deal more than they bargained for. A multitude of new and unexpected particles were found, first in cosmic rays and later in laboratories, with billion-volt accelerators. There are now a total of thirty particles and anti-particles, observed or predicted,

ranging in mass from the neutrino and anti-neutrino, which have no mass at all, to the giant xi particles of the "hyperon" family, which have masses 2,585 times the mass of the electron.

Of the thirty particles and anti-particles so far observed or predicted, sixteen are particles and fourteen are anti-particles. Two of the predicted particles, the ones known as the neutral xi and the neutrino, have not yet been observed. Of the fourteen predicted anti-particles, only eight had been found until recently.

The six missing anti-particles were the "heavy weights" of the nuclear world. One of these was the "anti-lambda."

It is the creation of one of these six missing anti-particles, the anti-lambda, that was revealed in the photograph displayed at the Congress in Kiev.

* * *

Memory

Is there any particular part of the brain which is identified with memory?

Ritchie Calder in an *Unesco* feature writes:

Yes. The right and left temporal lobes are "filing cabinets" in which is stored information which reaches the brain through our senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. This was known 50 years ago when the Russian neurologist, Vladimir Bekhterev, demonstrated the case of a man who had a weak memory which played him false and who showed great apathy. A post-mortem examination of the brain showed extensive damage to both the temple lobes. But it is only in

recent years that the proof of this location of memory has been experimentally possible.

The famous Canadian neurologist, Dr. Wilder Penfield. O.M. F.R.S., gave an account of several experiments in the recent issue of the *American Journal Science*.

They involved the gentle electrical stimulation of various parts of the lobes. When the current was switched on and off memories were recalled or forgotten. A typical case was that of a woman who heard an orchestra playing an air while the electrode was held in place. The music stopped when the electrode was removed and resumed when it was again applied. She was able to hum an accompaniment to the orchestra. It was a popular song and over and over again the stimulation of the same spot produced the same song—like putting the needle back on a gramophone disc. The music always began at the same place and proceeded at the same tempo. It was so vivid that she remained convinced that a gramophone was being turned off and on in the operating room.

In another case, a boy repeatedly recalled a conversation which his mother was having with someone on the telephone. Each time the same spot was touched the same conversation was recalled. There was no particular reason why he should remember the conversation—it was quite an ordinary one—but it had got filed away in his subconscious and was recalled by the electrical signals.

As a result, neurologists now

call the general area of the temple lobes the "interpretative cortex". We "interpret" things by comparing them with previous experience—with something that we remember, like saying "That smell? Ah, yes. That's a rose, like the one in our garden when I was a child."

The "filing cabinets" of the memory obviously contain a great deal of information which we have few calls to remember. For instance, Dr. Penfield gave the example of meeting a man whose very existence you have forgotten. Before you have time to "think", i.e. consciously "sort him out", you become aware that you have seen this man before. You watch him as he smiles, moves and speaks. The sense of familiarity grows stronger. Then you remember him. You even recall that his name is Jones. The sight and the sound of the man has suddenly given access to "forgotten" records of the past in which he has played some part. It was not a voluntary act. The drawer in the filing cabinet had just sprung open. If the man had been associated with some frightening incident in your past, you would have had a sensation of fear even before you remembered him and identified him.

* * *

Horizon Range

The range of horizon which one can see across the sea depends on the height of the spectator. Standing on the beach, a person whose eyes are five feet from the ground would observe the horizon at a distance of about three miles. If he climbed a

20 ft. high dune he could see twice the distance.

Here is a table in which the distances to the horizon are calculated by a more precise formula, which takes into account refraction (the bending of light waves in the atmosphere):

<i>Height of observer above sea-level</i>	<i>Range in miles</i>
5 ft.	2.9
20	5.9
50	9.3
100	13.2
500	29.5
1,000	41.6
2,000	58.9
3,000	72.1
4,000	83.3
5,000	93.1
20,000	186.2

These figures apply in reverse, that is to say, the crest of a mountain 5,000 feet high would be visible at sea from a distance of 93 miles.

Distances to the horizon are important for reasons other than eye-observation. They are a factor in television, and in very high frequency transmissions where the reception depends on "horizon range" and the curvature of the earth. So the higher the transmission masts or the receiver-aerial, the wider and better the reception.

* * *

Exploring other Planets

Man some day will land on and explore Venus, Mercury and Jupiter, but conditions on these planets may make it difficult to establish settlements. On the other hand, conditions on Mars, it is believed, make it possible for human beings and animals to live there.

These opinions were expressed

in a recent interview by Dr. Lloyd Motz, astrophysicist of Columbia University, New York.

Venus, he believes is surrounded by heavy clouds of water and he says some scientists are of the opinion its surface is covered with boiling water. However, he said, Venus could hold a good atmosphere.

Dr. Motz said that man sometime in the future will explore Mercury. But since it is almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ times closer to the sun than the earth and since one side of Mercury remains turned toward the sun, the problem of extreme temperatures is a formidable one.

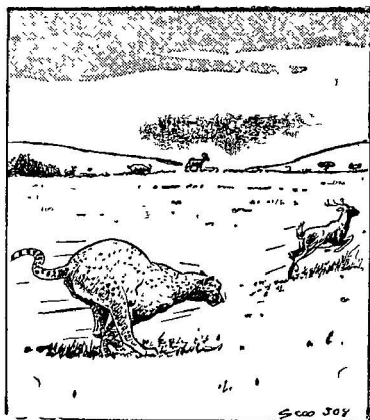
Jupiter, the largest planet, presents "substantial problems" for explorers. Dr. Motz explained that it is surrounded by poisonous atmosphere and that its gravitational pull is three times greater than that of the earth. Consequently, a 200-pound man landing on Jupiter would weigh three times as much as he does on earth or 600 pounds, he said.

* * *

Mosquito Repellent

Man, notwithstanding all his might, was for a long time defenceless against the tiny mosquito. In humid marshy places, in the taiga, clouds of mosquitoes are so dense that they put out campfires and constitute a serious danger for men and animals. For ages man has tried to fight them, employing nets and various volatile oils to scare the mosquitoes off. These substances were even given a special name—"repellents."

Until recently the best repellent was considered to be dimethyl



The cheetas are the fastest animals and attain 75 mph. speed. They are caught wild and trained into complete docility in about six months and used in hunting.

phthalate! However this substance retains its repellent effect for only one and a half to two hours. Recently Professor A. N. Kost, together with his colleagues at the the Moscow University Chair of Organic Chemistry, created a new repellent, a preparation they called kuzol. This substance is extracted from coal pitch and has a pleasant odour of pipe tobacco. Kuzol can be applied to the skin in its pure form, or as a constituent of creams, lotions and pastes. Pure kuzol repels mosquitoes during 6 to 8 hours; kuzol-cream retains its repellency for 12 to 14 hours. But the most efficient method is that of impregnating clothes. If a cover-all is impregnated with kuzol it retains its repellent properties, even after washing, for over six months.

Kuzol has been proved to repel twenty species of mosquitoes, horse-fly, wood lice, gnats, and—a particularly important

fact—the ticks that transmit taiga encephalitis.

* * *
Longer Lasting Tyres

Thousands of motorcars rush over the roads every minute of the day, swishing their tyres. But this swish is an expensive thing paid for by the owners of the cars. The friction of the tyre on the asphalt raises the temperature of the tyre to 110-115°C; at this temperature the rubber decomposes, and so the tyre gradually goes out of commission.

Investigations were undertaken in order to clarify the source of this decomposition. It was found that at such high temperatures the sulphur links connecting the caoutchouc molecules in rubber are broken. These links are formed in rubber during its vulcanization, i.e., when the separate molecules of caoutchouc are "linked" by sulphur.

It was necessary to find a way of joining the caoutchouc molecules directly, without sulphur.

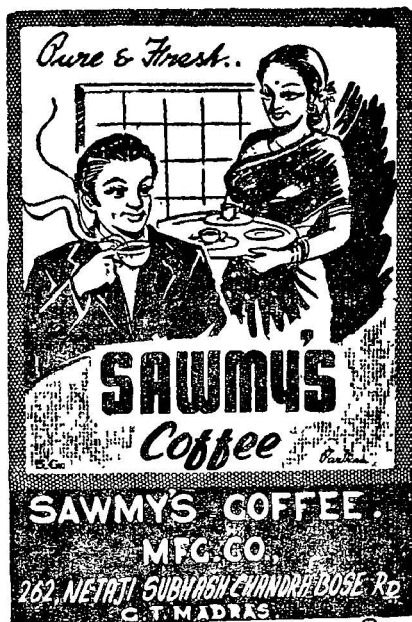
And thus the scientists established that when, instead of the usual vulcanization, rubber is irradiated by radio-active gamma rays, the caoutchouc molecules become firmly connected and the tyre is stable even at high temperatures. And this means that its service is significantly lengthened.

The new method of radioactive vulcanization evolved at the Tyre Industry Research Institute, Moscow, is another example of the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

* * *

Music and Colour

Is there any connection between



music and colour?

According to Leontyev there is and he has demonstrated it by his original experiments.

It was by chance that Leontyev came across the problem of sound and colour.

During the war, circumstances beyond his control had cut short his education and he had started working at a radio engineering plant, where he submitted several valuable rationalization proposals.

Leontyev's success was noticed and in 1947 he was sent to Moscow to work at an institute carrying out research in instrument making. But soon he felt his education to be insufficient and he entered an evening secondary school, which he finished two and a half years later. He then got a job at another research institute where he made a detailed

study of the complex problem that so interested him.

Here he came across another difficulty, for he found that he had not sufficient theoretical knowledge of music, although he had a good ear. So he began to study music and soon achieved considerable success.

He also read as much as he could on the subject, and he found that Aristotle had already noted the relation between visual and auditory impressions, and that Newton had even tried to find a scientific basis for this affinity.

Since then investigations made by scientists in many countries, have shown that when perceived by the senses simultaneously, music and colour have a remarkable capacity for reinforcing each other. This is accounted for by the fact that the organs of sight and hearing are interdependent and influence each other favourably or unfavourably according to the conditions. This means that it was necessary to find a perfect interrelation of visual and auditory stimuli, which, acting simultaneously on the sense organs concerned, would intensify the effect of the two related components—sound and colour.

After working for several years on the problem Leontyev succeeded in creating an electronic machine which interprets music scientifically as colour.

But those were only the first steps, reminiscent of what is being done in this connection in many countries. The link between music and colour was determined by the pitch of the sound. Leontyev realized that though this method yielded certain



You can tell how close lightning is by counting the seconds between the flash and the ensuing thunderclap. If thunder follows 10 seconds after the flash, the lightning is two miles away, etc., for sound travels one mile in five seconds.

results, it did not accord with the physiology of the interaction of the human senses. So he found another method for transforming musical sounds into colour, based on the physiological features of perception and the interaction between the organs of sight and hearing.

With the apparatus he has now invented, musical sounds are accompanied by a corresponding pattern of light, whose colour and degree of brightness and scintillation depend on the piece of music itself and the mastery of the musician.

His work is of great significance not only for music. Interest has been expressed in it in various spheres of physiology and automation, for instance, and extensive experimentation is in progress in this field.

DO GOOD TO REAP GOOD

What you are to-day is the result of your own actions past and present. There is no escaping the fruits of your actions. So start doing good now and love everyone. So says the Sankaracharya of Kamakoti Peetam in the following appeal issued jointly with the heads of other mutts.

VELANDAI

The wise have declared that the essence of Dharma consists in purity of mind. If the mind is to become pure, we should praise and worship the Lord who is an ocean of love, and who is most compassionate to all souls.

The reason for different individuals being born in different circumstances is explained easily. It is in accordance with the *punya* and *papa* done by each individual in his past birth. The good and bad deeds done by each individual are of several kinds; deeds known to others and deeds not so known; deeds consciously done and those done otherwise; deeds done with a motive of self interest and those done without such a motive; deeds that appear first as evil but which prove subsequently to be good; and deeds which appear first as good but turn out to be evil. One may reap the fruits of his good and evil deeds in the the present birth itself or may do so in his subsequent births. As examples of the enjoyments of the fruits of one's deeds in the present birth itself, the return of



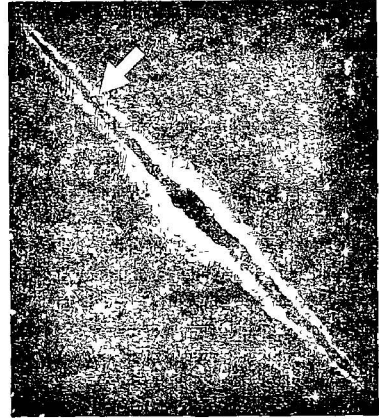
good by an individual to whom good was done and the immediate receipts of wages by a labourer for the work done by him may be cited.

If a man does a good deed to others without expecting anything in return that deed is registered as good karma and it helps him in his next birth as *poorvapunya*. If a man does not suffer now for the evil done in his present birth,

it will face him in his next birth as *poorvapapa*. All evil acts done deliberately in secrecy and all those done with deliberate hypocrisy will all be surely recorded. Acts of *papa* and *punya* are done by thought, word and deed. Man has necessarily to reap separately the fruits of his *punya* and *papa karma*. One cannot be set off against the other. Nor can one take over the fruits of another's deeds. God ordains that each individual should experience the results of his own deeds.

It cannot be held that God is responsible for all that men do. He gives us a body at every birth, puts us in it and provides for us all the various things necessary for one's life here. It is we that enjoy these provisions and not God. Further, He helps at our every birth as a teacher in this world school and develops our knowledge. He helps also as a doctor who administers to us doses of the sweet medicine of pain according to our individual needs in order to remove our disease of ignorance. He cannot on this account be deemed to be partial. This truth will become clear when we see that a king is not partial when he inflicts several kinds of punishment on some of his subjects for their wrong deeds and awards to several others different prizes for their merits.

The question has also been raised by a few whether God alone is not responsible for the evil tendencies and actions of men, seeing that it is He who created them all. The reply is that God has not created souls. They are eternally existing. The



Astronomers are now able to gauge the shape and size of our galaxy. If viewed edge-on from outer space, it would probably appear as above. The arrow indicates the location of our solar system which contains our earth, sun, moon, Mars, etc. Experts also say that our galaxy is but one of countless others.

help He renders is that He provides them with various bodies, the world in which they could move and all the requisite things that are necessary for the sojourn of the souls here.

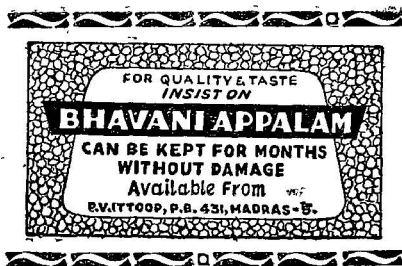
It is in this way that God performs his great *srusti*, *sthithi*, *samhara* etc.

So we should be profoundly grateful to our Lord who is ever rendering to us great help which no man can ever give. We should meditate on Him and worship Him, and we should strive to reach Him by treading the path He has chalked out for us. We can worship God under any name. Each will derive good according to the worth of his worship. We can also see and worship in our guru the Supreme Being, who is omnipresent, all blissful and all merciful. We

can worship Him in the holy images in a temple, and those worshipped by individuals in their own homes. It is a sin to speak ill of the names by which others worship Him.

All the evils like egoism, pride of possession, lust, anger, undue attachment to wealth, *asatya*, *himsa*, stealing etc., which are seen in human beings spring from *ajnana*. Doing good to others without selfish desires, anger or hatred is *punya*. Doing harm to them is *papa*. It is only to make souls realise this that good and evil deeds produce pleasure and pain to them according to divine law. *Punya* and *papa* may also accrue to an individual even if his acts are not directed towards others. All men must realise the divine law that to those who cause pain to others now, pain will automatically come later.

Good and evil deeds are also classified as those done with reference to God and those done with reference to fellow creatures. It is necessary that



both devotion to God and love for fellow creatures should be developed daily as far as possible. It is wrong to think that it is possible to do good only if one has money. Money is not indispensable to earn *punya*. Good heart is the first requisite. By thought, word and deed one can earn a great deal of *punya*.

The wise have declared that the essence of dharma consists in the purity of mind. God is the most compassionate and verily an ocean of love. To Him, we shall pray. Then our minds will become pure and our love for Him will shine in our hearts. Therefore, may all men realise the truth that love is an essential requisite of human life and may they all do only good deeds.

THIS BUSINESS OF LIVING

I think if we stand back from ourselves a moment, there is no essential difference in the human situation to-day from what it was before. We're all up to the knees in a certain kind of heavy mud which we have to get through, and this is part of the whole business of living.—*Richard Hoggart*.

ADAM & EVE

"Why do you have an apple as your trade mark?" asked a client of his tailor.

"Well," replied the tailor, rubbing his hands, "if it hadn't been for an apple where would the clothing business be to-day?"

"In times of trial," said the preacher, "what brings us the greatest comfort?"

"An acquittal," came a voice from the back.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS

Sri Ajit Prasad Jain,
Ex-Minister for Food and Agri-
culture,
New Delhi.
Sir,

Unwept and unsung you have made your exist from the Cabinet! The sugar debate in the Rajya Sabha proved your Waterloo. It also demonstrated how unpopular you had become!

It all started early in the year when you made the bold statement that we had a record harvest and that the prices had started tumbling down! But you proved such a bad prophet that instead of prices showing any signs of decline they actually moved up and still there is no sign of any relief!

And then came this sugar muddle! You claim that there is no scarcity and that the monthly releases have been actually more than those of last year. And yet prices have gone up by 20% and more. It is said that the public have been mulcted of at least 16 crores of rupees by the sugar magnates! All this because you have been unable to stop the manipulation of prices by the monied people.

The strange part is that you plead innocence! In the midst of plenty you managed to bring about soaring prices and you have the face to claim that your policy is correct and that there is no need to appoint a Commission!

That is the limit! Well might

the people pray, "Save us from such ministers!"

—Zero.

* * *
Sri Mahavir Tyagi,
Congress M. P.,
U. P.

Maha Veer,

Speaking on your Law Minister A. K. Sen's Dowry Prohibition Bill, you cried out in justifiable disgust:

"For God's sake do not come out with measures which will only make us a laughing stock. What will the people say about us?"

Yes sir! That is the Sixty Dollar question, as the Americans will put it. What will the people think of the Congress?

Let me tell you. The Congress has been interfering too much. They have interfered with our religion and age-old social customs. They are trying to put a ceiling on a man's income and possessions. They are bringing in too many laws and regulations which are more irksome than helpful.

The dowry evil is no doubt a blot on Hindu society but it can never be eradicated by mere legislation. The present Bill can only result in creating one more blackmarket—the blackmarket in bridegrooms! And every eligible bachelor or his parents will henceforth start demanding "black money" to evade the law, in the same manner as the more popular cinema stars are demanding

“black money” to cheat the income tax!

So you see in trying to rid one evil, the Congress will create a more sinister evil!

Yes, sir! The Congress has been interfering too much in our private lives. And by such interference they have made themselves the laughing stock of the public!

And if this reaction is not heeded in time the people may well laugh you out of office!

—Zero.

* * *

Sri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister,
New Delhi.
Sir,

When I read the news about the new sect which has sprung up in Sabarkanta district of Bombay State and how they have started worshipping you as the tenth avatar, I was just amused—that kind of amusement which one derives when one sees little innocent children make believe and play.

But you seem to have reacted differently. In fact you seem to have taken objection to it and written to the Chief Minister of Bombay not to put up with such nonsense!

Each man to his taste, of course! But with due respect to you, may I point out that by your attitude you are infringing one of the provisions of our Constitution—the freedom of worship?

—Zero.

* * *

Sri D. P. Karmakar,
Minister for Health,
New Delhi.
Sir,

At long last, the truth, the

whole truth and nothing but the truth, has come out of your lips! You have now admitted that too much consumption of hydrogenated oil is injurious to health and that it results in coronary thrombosis.

The Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, it seems, has banned the use of hydrogenated oil in his household. There is nothing like using the natural oil for health.

Why then are you not banning the hydrogenated oils? Why allow natural oil to be so poisoned and sold at double the rates?

It is not as if you have come upon this coronary thrombosis business only now. Gandhiji's *Harijan* carried a series of articles on the harmful effect of these hydrogenated oils. Why then is your government hesitating to put a ban on its manufacture?

Are you, by any chance, afraid of Big Business? Or is it government's secret policy to make more people die of coronary thrombosis before their time in order to keep down the rapidly increasing population?

—Zero.

* * *

Nikita Krushchev,
Moscow.
Sir,

Your forthcoming twelve day visit to the USA is looked forward to with great hope by every peace loving soul. For much depends on the outcome of this visit, whether there should be peace for some years to come at least or whether the present cold war is to continue with the possibility of its ending in a hot

war!

The Americans particularly have decided to spread the red carpet for you. They hope to dazzle you with a display of their wealth and their high standard of living. You will find there how even a labourer owns his own car and how his house is fitted with many labour saving appliances. And all this material prosperity, they will point out to you, is achieved under the democratic system, which according to your country's philosophy is decadent!

How I wish you see and get convinced of all this and decide that there need not be any conflict between the democratic and communist systems of government! But I am afraid accustomed as you are to see everything through red-tinted glasses you may not appreciate the freedom enjoyed by the people under democracy.

However, I do hope you won't say or do anything that would jeopardise the chances of your being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize along with Eisenhower as suggested by Rajaji!

For if you do indeed succeed in bagging the Peace Prize as a result of this visit, that will prove to be your greatest triumph—greater than even putting a man in orbit round the earth or landing on the moon!

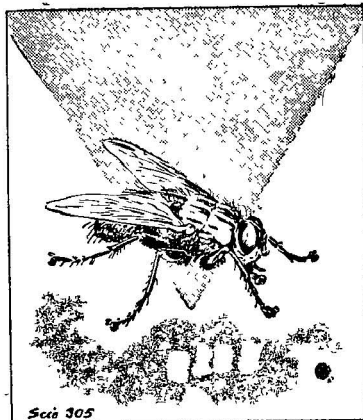
—Zero.

* * *

Sri S. K. Patil,
Food Minister,
New Delhi.

Sir,

You have long been regarded as the conjurer of the Congress Party, producing the rabbits from



A female fly can lay as many as 500 eggs in a season. Each egg develops into an adult insect in a week and each new female insect can lay 500 more eggs. If all the eggs hatched, and if all the newly hatched flies survived, the original fly would have some 200,000,000,000,000,000, descendants in a single season!

your Gandhi cap whenever occasion demanded it! No wonder you are now saddled with the food portfolio which Jain had found too hot to hold!

You have now revealed that the average tenure of the Food Minister has been just two years! My wife who is very old fashioned and religious, after reading your statement, remarked in a tone full of surprise, "Two years! I am surprised Food Ministers do not resign more often!"

"Whatever do you mean by that?" I asked puzzled.

"Don't you realise the Food Minister is carrying the curses of millions of people everyday?"

"Then what about the Finance Ministers who are delving deeper and deeper into our pockets every year?" I queried.

"Are they not resigning more often than the other Ministers?" she retorted.

Well, I am not superstitious like her but from my experience of nearly twenty five years I have learnt that there is much sense in what she says though apparen-

tly her views to my scientific mind seem old fashioned!

Well, I am not saying this to frighten you. But if you are superstitious, take my tip, Mr. Patil, shove the food portfolio on some other shoulders!

—Zero.

THEY MARRY YOUNG

A definite trend toward marrying at a younger age is under way in the U. S.

Today's average American bride is about 20 years old and her groom is 23. As statistical averages run, this is a significant juvenescence. The world average, incidentally, is 24 years for the bride, 27 for the groom.

What has prompted this rush to the altar by younger people? One reason, of course, is economic. The rate at which new families are formed is generally an indicator of a nation's economic health, and prosperity traditionally is reflected in an upsurge in marriages.

Readily available employment enables young people to establish their own homes and live independently, rather than share quarters with parents or other relatives. Recent figures show that at present only about three percent of all married couples in the U. S. do not live in their own homes.

The eagerness of teen-agers to marry has, in fact, become the subject of some concern to parents, educators and sociologists.

While some of the younger couples undoubtedly seize upon marriage as a convenient escape from parental restrictions, others—more mature and responsible—enter into it with full knowledge of starting upon a totally new phase of their lives.

A generation ago the married college student was a rarity. Today, however, married college students are far from being an exceptional minority. At the latest count (2 years ago), 29 per cent of male students and 10 per cent of female students were married. If postgraduate students are included, the percentage was much higher: 41 for males, almost 18 for females. In many instances, wives married to college students work to help with their husband's education.

And just as marrying young has become widespread, marrying at what once used to be a ripe old age is apparently neither frowned upon nor being avoided. Among widowed persons who remarry, one out of every eight men and one out of every 25 women are past seventy.

*

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Sometimes the biggest stumbling block to a man's success is his own head.

ISLAMIC TENETS & PROVERBS

He who seeks and uses earnest endeavour, finds; and he who knocks at the door and is persistent, enters.

* * *

The heart of the old is always young in two things, in love for the world and length of hope.

* * *

Treat others as thou wouldst be treated. What thou likest not for thyself dispense not to others.

* * *

Three kinds of people will not enter paradise: a deceiver, a miser, and one who reproaches others with obligation after giving.

* * *

Meditation is a mirror which reveals to you your virtues and your vices.

* * *

Extend thy pardon to him who has wronged thee, and thy charity to him who has withheld it from thee.

* * *

Do well the little things now; so shall great things come to thee by and by, asking to be done.

* * *

Knowledge is as a father, practice a mother.

* * *

The first condition of knowledge is doubt.

* * *

The law without the truth is ostentation and the truth without the law is hypocrisy.

* * *

The law of life requires:



Sixty feet is usually cited by experts as the greatest possible height a wave at sea can attain.

sincerity to God, severity to self, justice to all people, service to elders, kindness to the young, generosity to the poor, good counsel to friends, forbearance with enemies, indifference to fools, respect to the learned.

* * *

What is joy, what is woe, but scented ash that used to glow, a sandalwood of long ago, a camphor of the past?

* * *

The most wicked of man is he who accepts no apology, covers no sin, and forgives no fault.

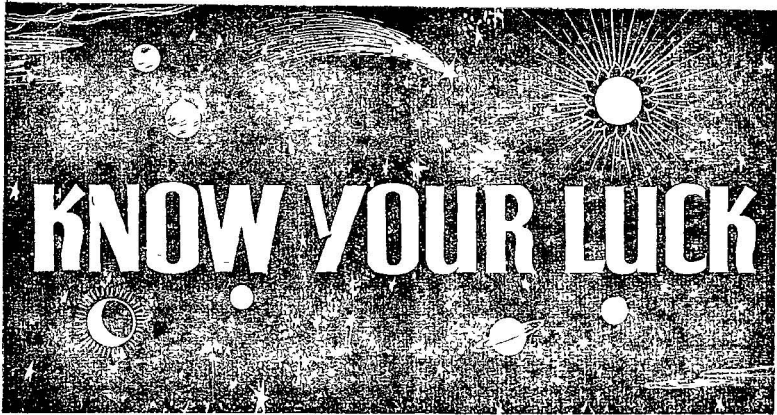
* * *

He needs no other rosary whose thread of life is strung with beads of love and good intentions.

* * *

To gain the fruit, man must break the shell; yet without the shell the fruit will come to naught.

—Dr. Selwyn G. Champion in
Divine Life.



P. V. RAO, 2/5, BESANT ROAD, MADRAS-5

MESHA RASI or ARIES

Planetary combination during this month is not satisfactory. The solar course through the 5th house makes you high strung and unnecessarily worried about your affairs at home and outside. Success seems near but outside your reach. Your lord Mangal in the 6th house along with Rahu does not indicate a satisfactory or carefree and physically fit period. Health may, therefore, be affected or the general state of affairs as to money, your undertakings and indebtedness may not be pleasant. Second half perhaps may prove slightly better but not quite dependable. The mutual aspect of Sani and Mangal may create some unnecessary or vexatious court case or complications during this month. It is better that you wait for the next half of the month for things to improve. One of your children may claim your special attention. Finan-

cially there is much anxiety. Your speculation may sometimes prove profitable. Officially first half is better. Merchants will be inclined to speculate more than before. They may gain more profits. Partners may not feel happy towards one another. Foreign business may not pay.

2, 3, 4, 11, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29, 30 are favourable days.

VRISHABA RASI or TAURUS

Planetary map is found more encouraging and fruitful in respect of your domestic affairs, property, house and finance. Second half perhaps may cause some anxiety and may bring about some differences of opinion as to money matters. Money will come more easily than before. Health perhaps will be the chief centre of trouble because of the mutual aspect of Sani and Mangal. Stomach will be out of order

often on account of gas trouble. A son will come up well. In the first half there may be some auspicious ceremony or birth of a child if not already occurred in the last month. Domestically you will be happy. Officially there may be more encouragement but avoid rift with others working along with you. Business men will be lucky. They may gain through partnership. New partners may come in. More business turnover may result. Foreign business will be lucrative.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 17, 21, 22, 29, 30 are good days.

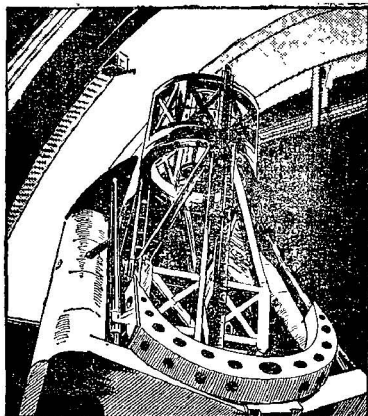
MITHUNA RASI or GEMINI

Major planets are not favourably configured during this month.

Mrigashira
Ardra & ½
Punarvasu

Guru in shasta viz.,
in the house of

enemy, will create more enemies or bring about some disease or boils or stomach trouble. Surya in the 3rd favours correspondence, contact with others, journey, reading, or writing. One of your elders might suffer causing you anxiety. You may come in contact with near relations like brother if already separated. Second half does not prove favourable and bring about distraction, differences or misunderstandings with wife and others on account of mutual aspects of Mangal and Sani. Your general health also will not be good. There will be trouble through elders during the month. However planets favour a house move or in some cases investment on house or a vehicle. Officially you may not gain much. Merchants will not be lucky.



The largest telescope ever made is the Hale reflector on Palomar Mountain in California. Its main mirror is 200 inches wide and weighs 14½ tons. This huge instrument can make the moon look just eight miles away.

First half may prove slightly better than second. New ideas of business expansion may be thought of and tried. Partnership may prove quite troublesome.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30 are better days.

KARKATAKA RASI or CANCER

Planetary disposition favours congenial and successful life during this month.

Punarvasu
Pusyah &
Ashlesa

The major planets are favourably situated. Guru's aspect to lagna coupled with planets in the 3rd indicates the constructive side of life. The month is favourable for all purposes of gain through correspondence, communications, journey and speculation. Second half is more favourable in financial

matters. Children will be happy making your life contended and cheerful. Domestically this is a happier month than the last one. In a few cases there may be an auspicious ceremony if it had not already happened in the last month. Officially this is a more important and luckier month than the last one. You will be favoured by your boss. There may be extra gain in a few cases or a promotion. A journey may occur in the second half. Merchants will be more successfully inclined towards speculative business, which will pay them well. A good future is assured from this month onwards.

1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, 23, 27, 29 are good days.

SIMHA RASI or

This is a favourable month than the last one, especially from the domestic angle. But outside there may be opposition. The malefics in the second house aspected by Sani do not envisage favourable financial tendencies. Heavy expenditure is indicated beyond your control. The lord of the 9th in the second house shows favours from higher ups. More money will be spent for good causes. Guru in the 4th refers to your heart and indicates fear complex or anxiety and unrest. Your lord in your rasi gives you new ideas which can be put into practice to your advantage. New undertakings are envisaged. Second half is luckier as more money will flow through your efforts. Domestically you will feel happier. Investment will be

Makha,
Poovaphal-
guna and
½ Uthara-
Phalgunā

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propitious Car owners will be happy and lucky. Office life is found encouraging, as Guru's aspect is considered more favourable. Merchants will be successful more in the second half. New business deals will be lucrative.

1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30 are better days.

KANYA RASI or VIRGO

Planets apparently seem to be unfavourably placed on account of their congestion in the 12th house. Actually they may not mean an unlucky time for you. The combination of the 12th is certainly propitious for your making money if you grasp the opportunities before you. More money will be earned though spent likewise. In fact expenditure may be said to be in ascending order which you may not be able to control. Second half may disturb your general health a little. Eye sight in a few cases may be affected. Your own people will be working against your interest. Health should not

¾ Uttara-
phalgunā
Hashta and
½ Chitra

be neglected. Your system will get heated resulting in a few cases in gastric or ulcer trouble.

It may need an operation even. Second half will prove more advantageous officially. Avoid friction with people around you in the second half. Merchants should be careful in their speculative dealings. Differences amongst partners must be avoided, for fear of a rupture.

1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29 are better days.

THULA RASI or LIBRA

This is a favourable month with a good placing of planets. Your ruler is in the 11th house making you gain friends, unexpected money, help from associations or bonus from companies or from your employers. In short you stand to gain much specially in the first half. Guru in second half protects your interests in all matters of money and relationship with others. Financially this is a favourable month. But, more expenditure than ever envisaged will be incurred. Mentally there will be unrest on account of your physical condition. Greater care of your health is needed in the second half. Officially a transfer may be anticipated. Perhaps in some other cases second half may make them take leave or go on a journey. Merchants will be lucky during the second half.

1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29 are good days.

VRISHCHIKA RASI or SCORPIO

Planetary alignment this month



The world's largest frogs are believed to be those found in the Montaro River area in Peru. They measure as much as 24 inches in length.

is more propitious than before. It presages general success and your coming into contact with bigwigs who may interest themselves in improving your status in life as desired by you. Guru in your rasi and planets near about the meridian and the 11th are happily posited for conferring special advantages on you according to the circumstances in which you are placed. From the 17th more friends than ever will surround you. Financially this is a happier month, as more income may be earned in more than one way. A marriage, if any, may occur. A journey may be envisaged to your advantage. Socially you will be happier. Officially you will gain the boss's favour. Merchants will be equally lucky. New branches or business plans may be thought of successfully. Second half brings heavy profits.

1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29, 30 are good days.

DHANU RASI or SAGITARIUS

Major planet Guru having entered the 12th house, the Poorvashada of disquiet and ¼ Uttarahshada high expenditure and troubled mind, this month may not prove in any way better than the last one. Saturn rising on your rasi aspected by Mangal is another disturbing force causing unnecessary excitement, pressure, anger, and stubbornness. One of your children will come up well. Financially more expenditure is incurred though the sources of income may improve. Mangal, the lord of the 12th in the 6th sign in the zodiac, is not congenially placed as it shows financial commitments and consequent indebtedness in a few cases. Domestically this may be a better month than the last one. Physically you may suffer from stomach trouble. Officially you may gain through the favour of your boss. Heavy work is indicated. Merchants will be lucky in their foreign business. New business connection may be established. Bank facilities will improve.

1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 17, 19, 25, 29, 30 are good days.

MAKARA RASI or CAPRICORN

Planetary map indicates a diminution of malefic forces this month. ¾ Uttarahshada Sudden and unexpected help may be forthcoming in the course of the month. Second half will



The fastest growing tree in the world is the *Eucalyptus saligna* which grows to 45 feet in 2 years. Bamboo, which is not botanically classified as a tree, has been observed to grow as much as 16 inches in a day, to a maximum height of 120 feet.

prove decidedly better. Connection with people far away whether relatives or otherwise may be found more advantageous and gainful. A distant journey may be undertaken in a few cases. Financially this month should be considered lucky. Money may come from a distant place. Second half will be more encouraging. Domestically this month may not prove better than the last one. Your health may not be good. Officially there will be anxiety felt in the first half. You may gain through your boss in the second half but avoid friction in all official matters. Merchants will be lucky during this month. There will be good turnover. Partnership will be fortunate. Foreign business will improve from the 17th.

1, 4, 7, 8, 13, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 28, 30 are favourable days.

KUMBA RASI AQUARIUS

But for the astama positions of Rahu and Mangal aspected by Sani the whole month would have proved quite advantageous and fortunate. This aspect may disturb your health in particular, besides causing heavier expenditure on account of your commitments. Financially your collections will be encouraging. There may be some undeserving blame thrown against you by your enemies. Domestically this is a much happier month. Change of residence with better amenities will be found necessary. Relations and friends will come and stay with you. In office there is likelihood of your incurring the displeasure of your boss. Or you may have some disappointment officially. Planets indicate that you better bide your time to improve your status.

1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 17, 19, 23, 27, 29, 30 are better days.

MEENA RASI or PISCES
Planetary combinations seem

to be more favourably inclined for your affairs in general during this month. Your ruler Guru in the 9th house indicates favourable trend in your affairs connected with bank, insurance, or legal affairs. A long journey, or pilgrimage may be undertaken. Planets in the 6th though they might affect your health temporarily will prove lucky to settle good many pending affairs. Indirect help through others will be a special feature during this month. Financially the lord of wealth in the 7th aspected by Sani is a happy indication of your increased income and at times gain of sudden money. The planets in the 10th and 6th may bring about heavier expenditure than before. Avoid misunderstanding and friction in financial dealings. Officially there will be some anxiety. Chances of official favours are remote. Merchants will have good business flow. Foreign business will pay more than before.

2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 22, 27, 29, 30 are better days.

THE INSULT

"Good morning, Mr. Hardy," said the vicar. "I haven't seen you at church lately. How is that?"

"I don't come to church to be insulted."

"Whatever do you mean?"

"Last time I came to church I was a bit late and while I was waiting in the porch I heard you call me a fool."

"I am certain I did not."

"Yes, you did! I distinctly heard you say 'There is no fool like the foolhardy.'"

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"Dad, what's a bigamist?"

"A man who loves wisely but not two well."

Congress & the Welfare State

SIR B. N. RAO*

What are the essential features of the Welfare State? Since the objective of all progressive parties is a Welfare State, though their approach may be different, I will briefly describe what has been accomplished in the U.K., which country I know best.

Britain has had compulsory primary education for nearly ninety years, but the school period has been considerably extended. The standard of education, even amongst the poorest classes, is remarkably high. Promising youths even get free university education through county scholarships. In fact, even in the once aristocratic Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the majority of the students are county scholars.

The U. K. has now probably the finest system of medical relief in the world. Everyone is entitled to free medical attendance, and, if necessary, treatment by specialists.

Slums have been practically abolished, and colossal subsidised housing schemes have provided decent accommodation for the poor.

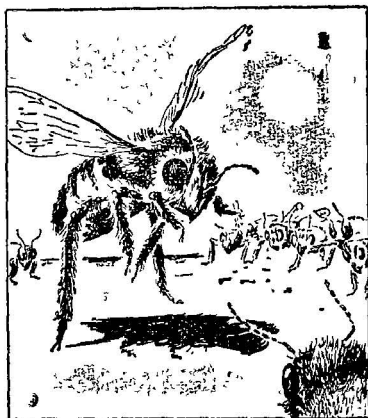
The State has made provision for unemployment, and for old-age pensions. In fact, there has been full employment for many years. The State has thus provided for almost complete security from birth to death, and for equality of opportunity so far as practicable. Incidentally, inequalities in incomes have also been

removed to a large extent, though the process was considerably facilitated by the requirements of war finance. Indeed, today the number of persons whose net income is less than £400, or more than £2,000 per annum, is remarkably low. All this has been accomplished without nationalisation, except of a few basic industries, with the fullest encouragement of private enterprise and without any infringement of the freedoms on which emphasis has been laid in the Beveridge Plan, and which are extremely important from the point of view of the political, social and spiritual evolution of mankind.

With the establishment of Welfare States in the older democracies of Europe and in America, the type of capitalism against which Karl Marx directed his massive attacks nearly a century ago is no longer in existence in these countries. They have demonstrated that without a revolution, and without the destruction of fundamental freedoms inherent in a totalitarian system, it is possible to establish a prosperous Welfare State by democratic methods with the full co-operation of the private sector. With this new development, the concept of socialism has seceded to the background. In our economic idealism we are at least twenty years behind the times.

* Talk delivered at the Rotary Club, Bombay.

The intention of the Congress has also been to establish a Welfare State with full employment. Our taxation is very high, and we have introduced taxation on wealth and expenditure, which the U.K. has not found it necessary to impose. As is admitted even by Congressmen, our progress has been diplorably slow in regard to education, about which there is a directive in the Constitution, in regard to medical relief, slum clearance in the cities, housing, village sanitation and water supply, agricultural development, etc. Even according to official appraisals, the working of the community development and extension projects has not been very satisfactory. I will indicate in general terms some of the trends in Congress policies that have probably contributed to this result.



Bees communicate by means of intricate dances. Scouting bees inform the swarm of the distance and location of feeding areas and nesting sites through dance steps. Some scientists who have observed bees at length have learned to translate this "language."

provided employment for hundreds of thousands of young men, many of whom were educated at great parental sacrifice, and who are now drifting into the Communist movement through a sense of frustration.

Secondly, in their anxiety to achieve quick results, the Government has committed itself to policies, and has formulated plans without carefully considering their practical implications or their administrative feasibility. In a democracy policy decisions on schemes involving big issues are taken after careful examination by expert committees, that invite public opinion, and consider all practical aspects. Here the process has been reversed, and public opposition only seems to harden the attitude of the Government.

Thirdly, I must make a brief reference to the attitude of

In a poor country with limited resources, priorities are of great importance. These must obviously be determined after a careful consideration of the interests of the country as a whole. There is a directive in the Constitution in regard to education, as well as prohibition. India is one of the most illiterate and also one of the most sober countries in the world. Nevertheless, high priority was given to prohibition, with what results you all know. It was reported at the time, that decisions were taken by the States in spite of a caution from the Centre. One crore of rupees lost annually through prohibition would have maintained over ten thousand teachers. The total revenue lost, if properly utilised, would have

Congressmen towards the private sector, especially during recent discussions. I fully realise that the scope of the public sector in an under-developed country must necessarily be much greater than in Western countries. The top Congress leaders have definitely declared that their policy is designed to build a mixed economy, and have clearly indicated the sphere in which the public sector would operate. A sustained campaign has, however, been carried on by Congress followers against the private sector and the so-called "profit motive".

No one defends profiteering or black-marketing, or fraudulent methods of finance. But what is ethically wrong with the profit motive in the case of the honest businessman who tries to give his shareholders, the majority of whom, now-a-days belong to the middle classes, a decent dividend?

The politician is as human as the businessman. There is something worse than craving for profits, and that is craving for power. Is the politician free from this? Profits can be and are taxed heavily, but abuse of power and authority, though far more damaging in its effects, is difficult to curb, especially when it appears in the garb of austerity or patriotism. It is time the politician gave up his superior attitude to businessmen and sought their co-operation in the formulation of policies, and programmes to implement them. We require the idealism and drive of the politician, and also the enterprise, the creative urge, the practical outlook and the

organising capacity of the better type of businessman in the formidable task of reconstruction. Without a vast and countrywide development of industries, which must mostly be in the private sector, the problems of unemployment and a higher standard of living cannot be solved.

I have had too long an experience of administration to expect spectacular results from the Congress or any other party in a few years. We are a poor country, and we have adopted a democratic system based on universal suffrage before we are a developed country. The difficulties in the way of rapid progress in a vast country in these circumstances are formidable. Our Welfare State will necessarily have to be on an austere basis, but even the achievement of this modest goal will require a reconstituted Congress party, that would discard western "isms" which have ceased to have their old significance, and concentrate, unhampered by its past commitments on nation-building services on employment, and on a high standard of integrity in administration which is greatly appreciated by the masses. I make a special reference to integrity since many competent observers stated after the last general election, that the success of the Communists in Kerala was due not to any ideological conversion but to general dissatisfaction with the Congress administration.

The new party (Swatantra Party), if it is properly led and organised, can play an important

role in our political system. It must not be discouraged by the fact that so long as Mr. Nehru remains the head of the Congress Government, it cannot expect substantial success at the elections in the next few years. Nor would a change in the leadership of the country be desirable when we are passing through a series of crises in international as well as domestic affairs. The doctrine of "Panch Shila" has recently been at a discount, but Mr. Nehru is still one of half-a-dozen statesmen in the world, who can make a contribution to world peace. He is also the only man in India who can hold the various states together, when linguistic and other controversies are exercising a disintegrating influence.

Mr. Nehru may, however retire from the political arena after a few years. He announced his intention to do so some time ago, but he was prevailed upon

to continue. If and when he does retire, the probability is that the Congress, which already shows signs of disruption, will split into two or more groups. At that stage, unless there is already in existence, a well-organised democratic party the Communists, with their powerful organisation and international affiliation, are sure to make a determined bid to capture the Government. It is, therefore, necessary that a progressive democratic opposition party should be organised immediately. The creation of an effective opposition takes years. In the meantime, if by constructive criticism the new party forces the Congress to reconstitute itself, to adopt a more realistic approach to problems, and to concentrate on practical programmes rather than on slogans, it will have rendered a great service to the country.

FACTS AND FIGURES

World illiteracy is estimated as between 43 and 45 per cent. Africa has the highest proportion of illiterates—from 80 to 85 per cent, followed by 60 to 65 per cent for Asia, 20 to 21 per cent for all the Americas and 7 to 9 per cent for Europe. The palm for the lowest illiteracy rate, on the basis of information supplied to Unesco must go to Sweden. There, the figure is 0.

The British are still the world's most avid readers of newspapers. Estimated circulation in the United Kingdom amounts to 573 copies per 1,000 inhabitants. Proportionately speaking, circulation is lower in the United States (337 copies per thousand inhabitants) but Americans get more to read when they buy newspapers: newsprint consumption per capita in the United States is 38 kilograms—the world's highest figure, followed by a shade over 28 kilograms in both Australia and New Zealand.

In the United States, it seems that nearly everyone has a radio: 892 sets per thousand inhabitants. Denmark leads Europe with 318 per thousand.

READERS' LETTERS

Sir,

I am glad that you have switched over to publishing photographs on the cover page of *Kahaniya*. This has made the cover bright and impressive. The cover is now all right except that the title of the magazine looks insignificant. Please use bigger and bolder types so as to make it prominent.

—V. Natarajan.

Thanks for the suggestion.

—Ed. K.

* * *

Sir,

You claim that yours is a story magazine, but we find only one or two short stories in every issue, and moreover these happen to be either translations or borrowed from other magazines.



Historians say that about 5,500 years ago, an inventive farmer on the Persian Gulf attached two wooden discs at either side of a slim log, producing the wheel and the first wheeled vehicle. From this simple beginning, the wheel has become a cornerstone of modern civilization, influencing every sphere of life.

It need hardly be stressed that every number of *Kahaniya* should contain at least three good, original short stories from Indian writers. We hope you will pay serious attention to this matter.

—A story-lover.

Translations of short stories from Indian or foreign languages should be welcomed if they happen to be good, and there cannot be any stigma attached to them. As for your complaint about the few stories appearing, one obvious reason is that good stories are not available always. The other more compelling reason is the requirement of the postal regulations which lays down that for concessional posting fifty percent of the matter appearing in the magazine must be "news". Short stories, however good they may be, are classed with the advertisements whereas a cent per cent views paper or even a rank propaganda rag is admitted as newspaper! Creative writing like the short story gets no recognition. Strange indeed are the ways of the government!

—Ed. K.

* * *

Sir,

I enjoyed reading your informal editorial note entitled, "A word about this issue" in the last issue but it surprised me that you should have relegated the note to the last page. Was this done unwittingly or deliberately in imitation of a famous American weekly which prints its editorials on the last page?

—N. Devaraj.

We plead innocent. There was no desire to imitate anybody. The real fact was a page of matter was wanting and we thought a word about the issue was not out of place.

—Ed. K.

Being an experienced editor, you should be knowing that the printer's devil can mar a journal. I wish you pulled up your drowsy sub a little and made him vigilant and alert.

—R. H. Subramaniam.

* * *
Sir,
May I bring to your kind notice that you are allowing the printer's devil to figure somewhat prominently in your magazine?

We cannot shift the blame to the sub even if one existed. Printer's devils are unpardonable. We will do our best to eliminate them in future issues.

—Ed. K.

SILENCED

Sitting in a concert hall waiting for the concert to begin, a man, seeing a little boy in front of him looking at his watch, bent forward and asked: "Does it tell the time?"

"No," answered the little boy. "You look at it."

"It seems to me I've seen your face before," said the judge to the prisoner in the dock.

"That's right, your honour. I once gave your daughter singing lessons."

"Thirty years!"

They were talking about their latest heart-throbs. "Yes," said one to her friend, "he's so deceitful, pretending to believe me when he knows I'm lying."

IN HIS LINE

"I want to buy that book in the window called 'How To Captivate Men'," said a little girl to the assistant in a bookshop.

The man looked dubiously at the child. "That's not the sort of book for you," he said. "What do you want it for?"

"I want to give it to my daddy for a present."

"But surely there are hundreds of books he would rather have?"

"No, he'd like that one. He's a policeman."

"Please, Grandpa," said little Johnny, "will you make a noise like a frog?"

"Whatever for, son?"

"Because Daddy says we'll get a lot of money when you croak."

Religion is the divinity within us reaching up to the divinity above.