

Tenth Series

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

E. Haldeman-Julius

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By E. Haldeman-Julius

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Questions and Answers

I'm not very successful as a dinner conversationalist, especially with the ladies. I do well when sitting around with a bunch of men, smoking and drinking, but when near several women at dinner I feel like the Hon. Casper Milquetoast. Any suggestions?

Your desire to melt the ice around a petrified group of women is commendable, but let me warn you it takes heroic measures to make a success of conversation with the average woman who is at a formal dinner party. I rarely attend such functions, seeing to it, with my usual foresighted shrewdness, to have a convenient broken leg or an attack of chilblains when asked to attend such lay-outs. Funerals and dinner parties are my pet aversions. But I can draw on some anonymous writer who knows my reader's problem and offers what he considers to be an easy solution, though here I venture no opinion. He advises men who are bored by their women dinner companions to ask these three questions:

1. Ask the lady on your right if she's married. Should she say "Yes," ask her if she has any children. If she says "No," ask her how she does it.

2. Ask the lady on your left if she's married. If she says "No," ask her if she has any children.

3. Ask the lady across from you if she has any children. If she says "Yes," ask her if she's married.

All of the foregoing suggestions are guaranteed to start some kind of a conversation. And, while I think of it, let me add that I've found, during the past few months, that it's easy to send any middle-aged woman into spasms of ecstasy, if she happens to have black hair, just by mentioning casually that she looks a lot like Mrs. Simpson.

What is the status of the Monroe Doctrine in the light of President Roosevelt's speeches at Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro?

When the Monroe Doctrine was first promulgated, the idea in mind was to tell the world, especially Europe, to cease interfering with the

countries of North and South America. This was good as far as it went, but it only served to make trouble in Latin America, for the Monroe Doctrine didn't say that the U.S.A. itself would refrain from meddling in the affairs of Latin American countries. We posed as the saviors of the Americas, but the people of something like a score of countries got only one clear impression—that Uncle Sam wanted a free hand to do his own meddling.

This "big stick" philosophy reached its greatest strength under Theodore Roosevelt's administrations. To him, the Monroe Doctrine meant that the U.S. imperialistic forces reserved the right to dictate to Latin American governments how they should run their affairs, and Theodore Roosevelt never missed a chance to wave the "big stick" at Central and South America. Our marines became the bill-collectors of Wall Street. Theodore Roosevelt demanded that not only should Latin America behave as Washington directed, but that these countries should accept the policy of our using the navy to make them pay their debts. That interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine made the Yankee government hated throughout the two Americas. Theodore Roosevelt's imperialistic policies reached a climax when he deliberately provoked a revolution—financed by our government's treasury—in Panama in order to gain possession of a strip of land on which to build the Canal.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's speeches in South America have changed all that. He has given a new interpretation to the Monroe Doctrine. According to our President, the U.S. is no longer to consider itself a policeman in Latin America. We are pledged to the policy of regarding Latin America as equal neighbors, with full and equal rights in all matters of trade, foreign affairs, and the like. If this theory of the Monroe Doctrine is lived up to, there is every reason to believe that a score of American governments are going

to look on the U.S. as a friend instead of a bully.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt has gone even further. He told Germany, Italy and Japan that American democracies will not tolerate any attempts on their part to destroy our free institutions and inaugurate a reign of Fascist terror. In other words, Mussolini, Hitler and the Mikado aren't going to be allowed to do in any American country what they have done so brazenly in Spain, Ethiopia and China. That this warning wasn't merely rhetorical is plain to any student of Latin American affairs. It is known that German and Italian Fascism have been making marked headway in advancing their anti-democratic policies in several Latin American countries. The Western Hemisphere, which until recently was given over to republics, is now in a position of danger from the conspirators of European Fascism who would win influence over here. But the new Roosevelt policies make evident that the conspiracies are known and that counter measures will be taken to prevent Fascist penetration.

* * *

I heard "The Duchess at Tea" recited at a gabfest, but I didn't catch the thing so I could write it down. Can you give me the lines?

The ditty, author unknown, goes this way:

I sat by a Duchess at tea,
Embarrassed as I could be;
Her rumblings abdominal
Were something phenomenal—
And the guests all thought it was me!

* * *

I was deeply interested in the good work President Roosevelt did in the cause of peace at the Buenos Aires meeting of the Inter-American Conference. The reports said there are 21 countries in this Pan-American Union, but gave no population figures. Please supply them.

The most recent information prepared by statisticians gives the population figures as follows:

Argentina	12,000,000
Bolivia	3,400,000
Brazil	43,000,000
Chile	4,500,000
Colombia	8,000,000
Costa Rica	500,000
Cuba	4,000,000
Dominican Republic	1,000,000
Ecuador	2,000,000
Guatemala	2,000,000
Ha'ti	2,000,300

Honduras	900,000
Mexico	17,000,000
Nicaragua	850,000
Panama	500,000
Paraguay	1,000,000
Peru	6,200,000
Salvador	1,800,000
United States	128,000,000
Uruguay	2,000,000
Venezuela	3,100,000

Canada, which isn't a member, has a population of 10,500,000. Adding this to the foregoing populations, we find that the Americas have a total population of about 255,000,000.

* * *

I was glad to read the nice things you wrote about gardening. Perhaps your readers would like to see the enclosed comment.

The reader's enclosure is a delightful, shrewd Chinese proverb, as follows:

"If you wish to be happy for an hour, get intoxicated. If you wish to be happy for three days, get married. If you wish to be happy for eight days, kill your pig and eat it. But if you wish to be happy forever, become a gardener."

* * *

Certain expensive soaps are sold with the claim that they are better and purer because they are transparent. Please comment.

Soap can be made transparent by the addition of sugar. Sugar, as everyone knows, has no cleansing powers. The Bureau of Standards of the Federal government says, in one of its reports, that transparency "is actually no indication whatever of purity or quality." The public seems to have learned this fact, for transparent soaps are receiving lower consumer acceptance. They cost a great deal more, but aren't as good as an ordinary bar of Ivory. An odd thing about soap is the fact that the costly brands are invariably inferior to the low-priced soaps.

* * *

Do the people buy shoes for style or fit?

It looks as though the public, as the result of advertising campaigns by the shoe manufacturers, have got themselves into the habit of looking for style first and fit afterwards. Now, there's no reason for criticizing any person who wants his or her shoes to look good, but why the matter of comfort should be neglected is a source of surprise, for anyone ought

to know that badly chosen shoes can cause serious bodily ailments.

The Extension Service of the College of Agriculture, The University of Wisconsin, issued a revised report, in October, 1934, by Gladys Meloche, under the title "Foot Clothing for All Ages," which contains some facts on this question of good and bad fitting of shoes. The survey covered the fit of shoes of 1,000 men, women, girls and boys, at the Wisconsin State Fair, and the figures show that in some ways boys and girls are more sensible than their elders in the matter of selecting shoes. Here's the table:

	Good Fit	Fair Fit	Poor Fit
Men	40%	46%	14%
Women	14	55	31
Boys	45	27	27
Girls	32	40½	26½

And while on this subject, let me mention the fact that it's unwise to buy the shoes brought out by concerns that use some doctor's name in connection with their product. There are many such shoes on the market—Dr. Locke being the most advertised—and they have been criticized severely by the Federal Trade Commission. This federal department took action against some of these manufacturers and ordered them to "discontinue the use of the word 'Doctor' or the abbreviation 'Dr.' in trade names or any other manner to designate or describe shoes not made in accordance with the design or under the supervision of a doctor."

When in need of shoes, go to a regular shoe store or department and make your selection from some standard product issued by capable, efficient concerns like W. L. Douglas, Lady Douglas, Enna Jettick, Official Girl Scout, A. S. Beck, Florsheim, Walk-Over, Indian Walk, Montgomery Ward or Sears, Roebuck. But take your time. Don't think you should give about five minutes to so important a matter as the selection of a pair of shoes which may be called on to serve you for a year or more. Don't be ashamed to try on as many as a half-dozen different shoes before picking out the right ones, even though it takes a half hour or more to make your decision. The concerns I've listed in this paragraph make stylish shoes of good quality, so you ought to be able to

get exactly what you want, with regard to fit and looks.

Don't let a clerk tell you the shoe you're trying on will fit after a "few days' breaking in." That's nonsense. A shoe should be comfortable from the moment you put it on. Insist on that and you'll get comfort from the very first, if the store has any kind of a stock to select from. Never judge a shoe without getting up and walking around a few steps. And always be sure the shoe is long and wide enough. Don't judge by the clerk's measuring device—that's only a rough guess. Judge by actual try-outs, even though the clerk begins to show signs of impatience.

* * *

How does Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., a Catholic school, rank as an educational institution?

Georgetown University was founded by Roman Catholics in 1789, and 26 years later was put under the control of the Jesuits. It now has a faculty of about 200 and a student enrollment of about 2,000. The university ranks high among Catholic educational institutions, but when compared with our secular universities its importance is quite insignificant. Authorities in the field of education don't even list Georgetown among the first 50 higher institutions of learning in the U.S. Its standards of scholarship simply can't be compared with Harvard, University of Chicago, Columbia, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, Cornell, Yale, and so on down the line. Its school of medicine is fairly good, but third rate when put alongside giants of medical research like Johns Hopkins and a half dozen other secular plants. We frequently hear about "Catholic scholarship," as though the Church were a great power for good in this field, but the simple truth is that, as Joseph McCabe so brilliantly proved in an entire chapter in one of his books on the Catholic Church, Catholic scholarship is nothing more than a myth, or, to use plainer, blunter speech, it's the bunk. One of the handiest evidences of the low grade of "Catholic scholarship" is found in the fact that *Who's Who* lists fewer Catholics than any of the other great denominations, its outstanding men

being on a par with Seventh Day Adventists and Latter Day Saints. The tremendous propaganda machine of the Catholic Church has been able to convince many people that there is such a thing as "Catholic scholarship," but independent authorities are unable to find it.

* * *

"I have taken The American Freeman for a long time and can shake hands with you on everything you have written so far."—The Rev. A. H. Tyrer, 70 Bond St., Toronto, Ont., Canada. [The writer is a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal (Anglican) Church.]

* * *

What do the initials A.S.C. after "photography by So-and-so" mean in the introduction to a movie?

A.S.C. means that the man who did the photography is a member of the American Society of Cameramen.

* * *

Please comment on the Liberty article which exposed Commonwealth College.

I read the *Liberty* article and found it crammed with the usual sensationalism, unfairness, misrepresentation and distortion of the Macfadden press. The great bust-belly-behind exhibitionist is trying very hard to steal from Mr. Hearst the "honor" of being America's greatest red-baiter.

A bulletin issued by Commonwealth College, at Mena, Ark., says that the man who wrote the *Liberty* article spent exactly two hours at the college. Knowing the Macfadden press as I do, it surprises me that the writer spent even that much time on his yarn. Usually, such a writer goes to the most prejudiced source available and writes a rehash of every conceivable lie. The *Liberty* writer, after giving two solid hours to original "research" at Mena, used "data" reprinted by the Ku Klux Klan, which he presented to 2,000,000 *Liberty* readers as "evidence."

One of the most sensational discoveries this writer for *Liberty* made was someone's report that he had seen nude, mixed bathing down at the creek. Coming from a Macfadden journal, this is funny, especially when we recall that Macfadden has built up his following and made his millions from exploiting "the body beautiful," which, of course, is only an excuse for printing nude pictures. On this point, I recall the time I was in Macfadden's

office some years ago, in New York City. The great Macfadden was careful to call my attention to a life-size, nude statue of one of his numerous beautiful daughters, which he kept less than a dozen feet from his desk. It seems to me that a man who shows everybody a statue of his daughter, in her birthday suit, shouldn't try to shock the world with unverified reports about mixed bathing down in Arkansas.

The December 15, 1936, issue of the *Commonwealth College Fortnightly* contains a vigorous answer to Macfadden's rotten attack, from which I quote:

In effect, Liberty is conspiring with local reactionaries to give a false and distorted picture of Commonwealth College to the people of the nation, and to provide the basis for the destruction of the only residential southern labor school.

Liberty is serving "old hash" which has its basis in the planter-inspired Arkansas Legislative Investigation Committee's report of 1935.

After being thwarted in his attempt to enter Commonwealth as a student under false pretenses, the reporter, resorted, for his "facts," to the one-sided and out-dated testimony reprinted by the Ku Klux Klan from the Legislative Committee's report. The reporter hypocritically tries to give the impression that his "data" is current. The same slanderous material has recently been broadcast by the Reverend L. D. Summers, Mena Baptist minister.

There are reactionaries in the State and nation who will welcome the *Liberty* article. The planters of eastern Arkansas, with the blot of peonage, will welcome this latest attack upon Commonwealth. Hearst will side with his brother journalist. But the people of America will recognize the article for what it is: a shallow, sensational attempt to discredit the labor school which has consistently supported the struggles of the oppressed workers and share-croppers of the South—a school which has carried on, and continues to carry on, a valiant fight for academic freedom and for the protection of American civil liberties.

A Washington, D.C. dispatch, carried by Federated Press, says the La Follette senatorial committee investigating violations of civil liberties has

decided to look into charges that Macfadden's *Liberty* "participated in a conspiracy to incite mob violence among Arkansas residents." The report continues:

The charges were made by Charlotte Moskowitz, secretary-treasurer of Commonwealth College, a school for workers in Mena, Ark., following the appearance of an article in *Liberty* declaring that students at Commonwealth were being taught "Communism" and engaged in "free love" and similar practices. Miss Moskowitz categorically denied the allegations made by *Liberty* and termed them further moves in the efforts of local planters to destroy the school because of the sympathy expressed there for the unionization of share-croppers.

"The La Follette committee is giving earnest consideration to the letter," Robert Wohlforth, secretary of the committee said, "and if the situation appears as represented, we will take further action."

It's an old trick for our Tories to base their attacks on "morality" and "free love." Walt McCabe, who was a student at Commonwealth, writes on this point as follows:

"Through the generosity of Commonwealth, as one of three winners of an essay contest sponsored by this school, I went there for a period of three months.

"Brought up in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, I found nothing at Commonwealth of an indecent nature.

"On the contrary the students have a love of clean living and good sportsmanship seldom found anywhere.

"The classes are an example of free speech put into practice. One receives a keen appreciation of national and international events, discussed with an open mind. The student is free to disagree with the teacher and often does.

"What *Liberty* magazine resents is the fact that Commonwealth is educating working people who have been denied the right of an education.

"Surely Commonwealth College is a positive force for the making of a greater America. Any attack upon this school is an attack on those liberties won for us by the founders of this country."

* * *

A lot of talk has been made, mostly unintelligent, on the single political party system of the U.S.S.R. versus the multiple political party systems found else-

where. Would you care to discuss it?

I'm glad to see that the new Soviet Constitution is attracting a great deal of discussion in this country. *Freeman* readers, of course, were far ahead in the controversy because they had access to the complete text of the great document at least three months before it was finally adopted. *Freeman* readers were quick to grasp the point that the new Russia can't be understood without a careful study of its new Constitution, for this statement of revised fundamental social, economic and political doctrine upsets almost every theory held regarding the Soviet Union's purposes.

Editors of capitalistic newspapers have made much of the fact that the new Soviet Constitution recognizes only one political party. In their ignorance, they assume that the situation is similar to capitalistic countries which enjoy democratic rights and therefore imply that Russia's new constitution is really undemocratic.

These editors and other critics fail to recognize one important fact. Political parties represent various economic or social interests. We know of out-and-out Old-Guard Wall-Street political parties, middle-class parties, working-class parties, Prohibition parties, etc. This condition prevails because we live in a society that has class divisions, and various political organizations appear on the scene to speak, or at least attempt to speak, for these different, and frequently antagonistic, class interests.

In Russia, on the other hand, we are faced with a different situation, for there are no classes. The U.S.S.R. is building a classless society. That means Russia knows no capitalist class, or speculators, or financiers, or merchants, or transportation monopolists, and other visible signs of a social regime based on class lines. Having only one class—the workers—the U.S.S.R. has use for only one political organization. There would be no sense in having one political party for factory workers, another for land workers, a third party for white-collar employees, a fourth party for foremen and executives, and so on. In view of these facts, the new Soviet Constitution is right in providing for only one political party, though the same document does recognize the

right of individuals to present differing views as reasons for their election, should they wish to run for office. Under the new Constitution, any citizen has the right to run for office.

Of course, the individual who would attempt to use the new Soviet Constitution to reestablish Capitalism would find himself in difficulties. The Russian people have decided that a return to Capitalism, Imperialism, Monarchy, affiliated Church and State, private monopoly, and the like, are closed issues, forever outlawed and not subject even to debate. There is room for self-criticism and differences of opinion regarding policy but it must be within the framework of a Socialist economy—in other words, the Constitution doesn't permit anyone to use the machinery of government to destroy a state that is building a social order based on collective ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange. If the new Soviet Constitution were to carry over the policies of the constitutions of capitalistic countries, the U.S.S.R. would have to establish facilities for groups that would destroy the Socialist Republic, that would establish Czarism, or Imperialism, or capitalistic ownership of the things needed by the masses. Such developments wouldn't be permitted in a classless society, so the obvious result is a one-party system.

A careful review of the new Soviet Constitution will demonstrate beyond any reasonable doubt that Russia is headed in the direction of genuine, sincere, lasting democracy, because it has only one class—the workers—and knows no other class interests with which to deal.

* * *

Don't you agree that most books are too long?

That's been one of my pet peeves for more than a quarter of a century. I've been preaching brevity so long and often I'm afraid I'm beginning to tire even my most forgiving friends. It's my notion that the most profound scholar ought to be able to tell his story in about 60,000 words—128 pages—at the outside. Even there it's reasonable to ask that further condensation be resorted to in order to hold one's reader instead of driving him away. Fat books look

good on the shelves, but they have a way of staying there unread. On this subject of too-long books, I found a few valuable paragraphs by William Feather, which I want to pass on:

"In my opinion, nine-tenths of all non-fiction books that are published are too long. What is new and pertinent in them could be expressed in one-third the pages.

"The reason for the excessive size of books is the desire of the authors and publishers to offer something that will command a price of \$2 or more. A 60-page booklet in a paper cover, adequate to contain everything important that the author has to say, will bring only 50c and will be difficult to market.

"A publisher sent me a book on conferences. It contains 300 pages. It would be a much better contribution to the subject if 250 pages were eliminated."

* * *

1. How much freight do our railroads haul? 2. How is this freight classified?

1. The railroads of the U.S., in 1935, hauled 789,626,714 tons of freight.

2. If we took an average 1,000 tons of this freight, we would find it divided as follows: products of agriculture, 97 tons; live stock and products of animals, 19 tons; products of mines, 564 tons; products of forests, 54 tons; products of manufacture and miscellaneous articles, 249 tons; less-than-carload shipments, 17 tons.

* * *

Is it advisable to build in the winter months?

Homer C. Bastian, Kansas director of the Federal Housing Administration, when asked at his Topeka, Kans., office whether winter building is practical and inexpensive, replied as follows:

"The popular impression that building during the winter is impractical and too expensive is gradually being dispelled. The old-fashioned theory that building operations should start about April and run their course, leaving several winter months for labor and material to hibernate, is a mistaken one and unfortunate for all concerned, the prospective home-owner among them.

"Of course, during unusually wet or freezing weather, concrete or masonry or other such work requiring water presents difficulties, but these can be easily overcome

and need not concern the owner. As to expense, the actual cost of the extra work and precautions necessary will be, in most cases, completely offset by the increased efficiency and greater supply of labor, the increased availability of materials, the willingness on the part of contractors and sub-contractors to accept lower profits in order to hold their organizations together and pay overhead expenses, and the extra time the contractor and architect will have to devote to the job.

"By building out of the rush season people will have all the advantages of efficiency and gains already mentioned. Winter is an ideal time for building, particularly when it may be planned so that foundations and masonry work may be completed before freezing weather sets in. However, if it is impossible to complete the masonry before this, there is no reason why they shouldn't carry on anyway. Custom is really responsible for the fact that so few houses are built during the winter."

* * *

What are the comparative weights of common materials like concrete, bricks, coal, steel, sand, water, ice, etc.?

A cubic foot of 14 common materials will weigh as follows:

	Lbs. per cu. ft.
Concrete	150
Common Brick	125
Soft Coal	45
Hard Coal	40
Water	64.4
Ice	57.2
Earth Common Loam Dry	85
Mud	110
Limestone	160
Steel	490
Oak White	48
Pine White	25
Sand	115
Pine Long Leaf Yellow	65

* * *

Are the possibilities of a Fascist rising in Britain since the passing of Edward increased or lessened?

Leaving aside the question of Edward's romantic love for Wally, the political side was a clear-cut schism between the Crown and Parliament. As a man, I was for Edward's right to marry his sweetheart, but as a believer in political democracy I couldn't shut my eyes to the fact that Parliament had a right to decide whether or not the woman Edward wanted to marry would be acceptable

as queen. The question wasn't one of personal rights but of the House of Commons' strict right to accept or reject the king's wife as queen. For the first time in several centuries the Crown was in opposition to Parliament, though one might wish the issue had been brought to a head on a matter of greater social moment. Had the Crown won, a great step would have been taken in the direction of Fascism, and that the Fascists recognized such a possibility is shown by the manner in which Mosley and his Blackshirts rushed to the defense of the King. The fact that Parliament won proves, so far as I can see, that Fascism's chances were lessened.

* * *

Have you any information dealing with the deceptive practices of butchers?

A meat-cutter who worked for two years behind the butcher counters of a chain of stores in Philadelphia has exposed the tricks used to deceive consumers, as follows:

One of the simplest tricks of the trade is to hammer tough meat and break its connective tissue fibers (gristle), and then sell it as a tender cut.

Stale and film-covered meat, if not too far gone, emerges rejuvenated from a bath in salt brine; or if this measure won't work, sodium sulfite or saltpeter will make the meat look fresh and mask its putrid odor.

When green slime forms on frankfurters and lunch meats, it is wiped off with plain water. Plain water also suffices to refresh aging lamb; but spareribs that have become dark are given a washing-soda bath.

Smoked hams and shoulders that have become dry, hard, and fuzzy can be renovated by re-smoking over a gas range, to bring out the oils and make the withered meats shine as before. A superior sheen can be imparted by rubbing salad oil over the meat after the gas-burner re-smoking.

De-maggotting of smoked hams and bacon slabs is accomplished by smoking the maggots out over a gas flame, or immersing the maggoty meat overnight in a pail of water.

Miscellaneous meat left-overs, which may be far from fresh, find their way into ground-meat products such as sausage, hamburger, patties, frankfurters, and bologna.

There are housewives skeptical enough to insist on having meat for

hamburgers ground before their eyes; but some butchers have been known to keep meat scraps near the grinder and by skillful sleight-of-hand to manipulate the scraps into the grinder along with the cut that has been shown the wary customer.

Even with the addition of meat scraps, fresh-ground is by far the safest hamburger. The consumer purchasing previously ground meat is likely to get such unlooked for additional substances as sawdust, canned tomatoes, and water. (Water causes the ground meat to freeze in the ice-box overnight and therefore gain in weight.) But the most serious hazard involved in the purchase of ground hamburger is the addition of sodium sulfite to stale, even putrid, meat to make it look fresh and to destroy the odor of decay.

The application of the butcher's thumb when the customer's attention is distracted or below the level of the tray is still common enough. In this way an increase in the scale reading of a half-pound to four pounds has been demonstrated to be quite easy. If spring scales are viewed at an angle, the weight reading may appear to be an ounce or two more, or less, than it actually is. The buyer should face the scales directly.

Frozen meats contain excessive water, and when defrosted weigh less; but the consumer buying frozen meat pays for the extra water as well as for the meat.

Experienced housewives look for a cut of meat with plentiful fat, as this makes for a tender, juicy cut of meat. A booklet issued by the National Live Stock and Meat Board instructs butchers in ways of utilizing fat to prepare cuts of beef which are deficient in fat covering. It is explained how a pot roast may be made from shoulder meat by wrapping cod fat (fat from the hindquarters of a beef animal) around two inside surfaces of a shoulder cut and tying the whole together, to be presented to the consumer as a fine pot roast.

All of the shank meat and heel may be used in preparing a cut of round pot roast, the butcher is told. The bone is removed from the heel and shank meat, and the resulting cavity filled with suet. The shank and heel meat and suet are then rolled and sewed together, making what looks like a good pot roast, to be sold at pot roast prices.

There are, of course, tricks in all

trades, and it would be interesting if *Freeman* readers, who see the subject from the viewpoint of the consumer, were to exchange knowledge. Of course, there are many tricks that aren't crooked, and they, of course, should be left only for those who are actively interested in the trade, but when the tricks are used to deceive and defraud consumers we should do our utmost to spread accurate information regarding these practices. Such work can be done best by public-minded employees who know the inside tricks and are ready to pass on their data, always with the assurance that their identity will not be divulged.

The consumers have always been considered "legitimate" prey, but there are increasing signs of resistance. The consumers are entitled to value for their money, and if they will stick together they will find it possible to get fair treatment. The best immediate weapon is accurate, intelligent publicity. Once a consumer has been put wise to the tricks of a certain trade he can usually be depended on to watch out. Consumers have been the goats too long.

* * *

How many miles of railroad does the Santa Fe run?

As of December 31, 1935, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company operated 13,259 miles of railroad, as follows:

Illinois	289.82
Iowa	19.99
Missouri	309.35
Kansas	3,088.18
Nebraska	2.53
Oklahoma	1,586.96
Texas	3,516.42
Louisiana	64.53
Colorado	554.59
New Mexico	1,478.83
Arizona	819.71
California	1,528.56

Total 13,259.47

The foregoing figures will have to be revised when the 1936 annual report is issued, making the new total 13,586 miles.

* * *

Please discuss the relative merits of automobile tires.

The federal government is the greatest single buyer of tires in the world, and its standards are strict. It tested 300 tires (12 brands) and

reported marked variations in service. Incidentally, it was shown that price has little to do with merit. Frequently the cheaper tire can out-run and outlast the expensive article.

It was found that only three brands are bad—Dayton, Mohawk, and Dunlop. The three good tires are Diamond (Goodrich Co.); Federal (Fisk); Goodyear. The remaining six tires were found to be acceptable, as follows: Kelly-Springfield, Century, Goodrich Silvertown, Firestone, U.S. Royal, and General.

The report's findings are summarized in the following table:

	Approx. Retail Price	Average Mileage	Approx. Cost Per 100 Mi. Use in Cents	
			1 4	
			Tire	Tires
Diamond	8.50	27,051	3.1	12.4
Federal	8.50	26,009	3.3	13.2
Goodyear	10.00	29,276	3.4	13.6
Kelly-Springfield	10.00	26,286	3.8	15.2
Century	10.00	25,854	3.9	15.6
Goodrich				
Silvertown	10.00	24,675	4.1	16.4
Firestone	10.00	23,502	4.3	17.2
U.S. Royal	10.00	22,928	4.4	17.6
General	11.00	23,241	4.7	18.3
Dayton	10.00	19,754	5.1	20.4
Mohawk	10.00	15,321	6.5	26.0
Dunlop	10.00	13,550	7.4	29.6

A Wilmington, Del., Episcopal clergyman says that "throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations . . . the laws of Christ regarding Christian marriage are regarded seriously, and the legal separation and remarriage of those who have been joined together in marriage is regarded not only with disapproval but very generally with absolute disgust." Please comment.

This clergyman is speaking for his own kind, and they are only a minority. However, our ecclesiastical powers are organized and able to assert themselves all too frequently in the places that should properly express the wishes and hopes of the masses. The majority is made to accept the views of obscurantists—a vocal minority asserts itself effectively—and antiquated ideas of marriage, birth control, divorce and the like are given positions of power over the temporarily-helpless majority. The people generally are liberal in matters of our emotional lives. See how the people of the U.S., during the past 50 years, have been able to liberalize

our divorce laws. The movement started in the "wicked West" and gradually worked eastward, with the result that divorce is almost on a civilized basis, except for New York State and a few other Commonwealths, especially in the South. But even these will be compelled to surrender to mass pressure, for the people are sensibly taking the sound position that marriage is a civil contract, intended to serve humanity, and when marriage becomes a source of misery the victims are to have the legal right to rid themselves of their ties. If the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations could only express themselves on this question of divorce, they would be found to be just about like their American cousins—ready to use the machinery of government to enable those who blundered in their marriages to correct their mistakes and begin over again. We all know of thousands of large and small communities where divorce is no longer a "disgrace." When religious obscurantists were more powerful than they are today, the conventional-minded people regarded divorce with "absolute disgust," but time has succeeded in lessening the influence of our religious Mussolinis and the result is all to the good, with a healthy feeling of disgust for those who would compel men and women to return to the old days of unbreakable marriage ties. The Church's blight on marriage is being wiped away—slowly, to be sure, but the signs of progress are measurable.

I wonder what you think of a recent photograph showing the Dionne quintuplets at their "devotions"?

I didn't happen to see the picture, but I can well imagine what it was all about. They were probably on their knees, like perfect little angels, praying to Gawd. If I'm wrong, set me right.

That's the way the Roman Catholic Church works everywhere, grabbing 'em while they can't think for themselves. If the Church didn't have control of such young, immature, impressionable minds, the work of indoctrinating the masses would be hard. This should cause our most pious brothers to wonder why it is that man's unbending "religious instinct" has to be supported by such vigorous

methods. The Church must put them in the intellectual yoke while they're unable to think for themselves, and even when the victims reach maturity they still aren't safely chained to religious superstitions or there wouldn't have to be so many millions of priests, preachers and rabbis throughout the world to keep "man's religious instinct" in line.

But to return to the quints. I admire the cute little girls even though the priests are using them for Catholic propaganda. And while I'm saying again how charming they are, let me repeat what a reader was good enough to call to my attention. He writes:

"Everytime I look at them I wonder why all children can't have the chance they are having. Why should they be picked out, because these happened to be five of them, to have the best care, food and training, while there are countless rickety little wretches who can go on being rickety, for all the world cares? Such favoritism would be impossible under Socialism."

My correspondent is right, of course. There's no reason why these quints should get better food and living conditions than the children of the lowest laborer. When the parents generally realize their power as workers and producers, they'll demand that all children be given the best that the world can afford, quints or no quints, and when that time comes we will be able to say, for the first time in our history, that economic justice at last prevails.

* * *

What proportion of the world's population lives under censorship?

Almost 1,500,000,000 people—about 75 percent of the world's population—live under censorship, and are unable to get the bare facts of current events except as their rulers see fit to release truth, near-truth, or, as is more often the case, outright falsehood. There are about 400,000,000 people who have to endure an uneven form of censorship, with a certain amount of real news slipping through to the people. As for full freedom of the press, the world still knows very little of that luxury.

As Bruce Bliven, one of the editors of *The New Republic*, said in a talk before the Contemporary Club, Philadelphia, Pa., December 21, 1936:

"However good or bad the American press, it is now on the whole the freest in the entire world. The only other important country that approaches us in this respect is Great Britain, and we have just had a painful example of self-censorship in the British Isles which left public opinion to face, unprepared, a sudden crisis of the greatest importance." This means, as Mr. Bliven says, that something like 250,000,000 people—a small percentage of the world's population—have "the degree of freedom that exists in Great Britain or in the United States."

Mr. Bliven's address contains many keen observations on our press problems, from which I quote the following valuable sentences:

"Even in this country, of course, there are effective censorships of various kinds. Of these, by far the most effective censorship is through the audience—people who refuse to buy any paper that does not print the kind of thing they want to hear. This censorship is implicit, not explicit: the editors know what sort of readers they have, and select what will please them, by a process so automatic that it is usually unconscious. The theory that advertisers dictate the contents of newspapers is naive. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, there isn't any dictation, because publishers and advertisers are the same sort of people, and want the same kind of paper.

"Except in case of war, there is less government censorship in this country than anywhere in the world. I wish American publishers who complain about pressure from Washington would go and take a look at conditions in Germany and Italy.

"Dozens of schemes have been advanced for improving the American press, through papers owned by the government, or by private non-profit corporations, etc. For a long time to come, such plans must remain academic. The task of improving our newspapers is not one problem, but at least 10. We need, and are rapidly getting, higher quality among the men who make the press. We need less financial dependence on advertising, and more on the subscriber. We need a public trained to demand better papers, and to complain loudly and repeatedly at derelictions on the part of the press.

"Meanwhile, we must recognize that at almost any moment, techno-

logical advance may come along and completely change our journalism and its problems. Day after tomorrow, we may be getting all our news flashes by radio printer, in the home, with supplementary national and international news prepared at a central place like New York and transmitted by radio photography to scattered printing plants throughout the country for simultaneous daily publication, and with the local papers publishing exclusively local news and advertising."

Mr. Bliven's remark about the influence of the audience on editors is worthy of serious thought. As he says, they are known to want a certain set-up or viewpoint, and the editors see to it that they get what they are willing to buy. If they don't get their opinions or prejudices catered to, they simply let their subscriptions lapse. The business is mostly silent, and effective. On the other hand, subscribers have a moral duty to support and enlarge the influence of a publication that frees itself of restrictions on expressing the truth. Here, of course, I refer more to the radical and liberal publications, most of which have a difficult time making expenses, let alone a profit. Such periodicals can't command much advertising. Their printing expenses are as high as those carried by the conservative and reactionary publications. Their difficulties are much more numerous, because of their determination to tell the complete truth, as far as they can discover the truth, regardless of the opinions of economic Tories who would ladle out only such "news" as would assure them continued social control.

A free paper must always cost the public a little more money, because the editor is forced to expect a decreased volume of advertising, or, what is more likely, no advertising revenue at all. I repeat this point because I consider it extremely important. Such extra costs should be borne with the full knowledge that it's a real bargain to get the unfettered truth, even though one must part with a few extra pennies. After many years' experience in the field of outspoken, liberal journalism, I have come to the conclusion that the most important element for achieving success is the morale of a free paper's

audience, who not only take the publication for their own enlightenment but strive to attract friends and acquaintances to that publication's subscription list. I don't believe this is asking too much of the reading public that wants something besides empty sensationalism or inane pap. That sounds as though one were resting on the public's messianic impulses, and that's probably the true condition, but just what's wrong with the messianic urge when it's directed towards better and freer things in the world of thought? If we are to have free thought, we must first have access to facts, and it costs money to get facts. The facts of the case form the basis of the problem. The editor who would get the facts, regardless of selfish opposition, is erecting a foundation on which both the editor and his readers can build freedom of thought. Get the information straight to begin with and editorial comment will form itself easily. But that means money, and the expense must be carried by no one but the readers. They should take the stand that their money must always foot the bills, not interests outside the family of subscribers. We have the makings of a really free press in this country, for, as Mr. Bliven says, we already have the freest press in the world. But thus far we have made only a small beginning.

Many people are so unaccustomed to reading a truly free publication that when they go through their first few copies they gasp. The experience is almost shocking. They haven't conditioned themselves to reading sincere, honest, frank, outspoken opinions and facts dealing with religion, politics, government, sex, marriage, and the like. Some of them even rebel, for they prefer the old inhibitions, so they shout anathema on the editor and order the subscription stopped. Some are so certain that telling the truth about religion, sex and government is illegal that they yell for the cops and demand that "something be done" to break up the rascal's presses or throw him out of the mails. I've had many such experiences and am sure other unshackled editors have gone through the same amusing—and saddening—trials. People get accustomed to their

chains and grow to like them. If someone tries to break the chains on their thinking, they protest violently and insist that the editor with libertarian notions belongs in the hoosegow along with labor leaders, pickpockets, Atheists, Socialists, gangsters and other criminals. But many other people don't react in that infantile way. They recognize quickly what a free press is aiming at. They like the meaty, vigorous mental diet. And they give their support and good-will to the project. They are the life-guards without whom the editor will sink. May their tribe increase.

* * *

I warn the innocent public that there is a low, vile, corrupt, immoral, sinful character loose and to be on the watch for him. What makes me shout this warning is the fact that on the beautiful day this is written, Christmas, I find a penny postcard in my mail that contains a few lines written in pencil. And those scrawled words undo all the sweet, pious sentiments engraved on dozens of expensive cards. The rascal's words follow:

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Ring out wild bells in joyful tones;
Let every one be gay.
If God had practiced birth control
There would be no Christmas Day.

* * *

Writing from London, Joseph McCabe sends Freeman readers the following impressions: "The outlook here, in mid-December, is a little better, though worse on the surface. Our Tory rulers are shivering between fear for the Empire from Mussolini and hypocritical 'non-intervention' to let him and Hitler smash Communism. If Italy does not give more open and larger help, Spain may win, but I fear he will take it up. Otherwise a healthy dread of Russia, and especially of Russia and France combined, is scaring Germany, and the 'next war' is less certain. Our government is, of course, pro-Fascist, and our Labor 'leaders' are the most incompetent lot Labor ever had in this country."

* * *

A CRITICISM OF THE BRITANNICA

Editor, The American Freeman:

I want a good encyclopedia, up-to-date, and not a reprint with supplement or some addenda. I know of none except the Britannica, and have just received a set. Hurried examination shows much of what I feared—sins of omission in treating controversial subjects. The articles on Witchcraft and Inquisition

are, I suppose, true so far as they go, but the knowledge that would impress a layman most vitally is omitted. The legal aspect, the doctrinal variations, and the legal history are given in almost ponderous King James style, but, for example, the millions of victims of persecution and incineration for witchcraft are not even hinted at. The old Chambers said there were 9,000,000 victims in Europe alone, while there were more in North Africa put to death by Mohammedans. The new Britannica makes no mention of the Mohammedan persecution and the 9,000,000 Europeans are dismissed with the five-lettered word "force." Where is the ordinary citizen going to look for a fair illumination on the barbarity and the enormity of the persecutions that spelled the absolute blanketing of civilization and progress, except in his encyclopedia? Volumes of Lecky and Lea are so rare that none but scholarly recluses know of them.

In the Inquisition we are learnedly informed that there was contention between state and Church as to the revenue derived, and that torture was resorted to. The dry and tedious sublimity, the atmosphere of mathematics without figures, very adroitly avoids any stimulation of horror in the reader by failure to include any data as to amount of revenue or the numbers tortured and put to death, or the nature of the torture and its instruments. It speaks of posthumous punishment but omits the purpose or the procedure. In the article on Inquisition in Spain, if the reader is already familiar, he could get the suspicion that the nation was stifled in some way not clear. It all reminds one of the Saturday Evening Post in dealing with economic questions. Any word that tends to alarm or incite is strictly taboo. Even statistics.

There is the biography of Thomas Paine, the man but for whom there would have been no American Revolution, who stepped into the breaches of defense time after time, even to making it possible to capture Cornwallis. He is given a meager little column and all the better for its brevity. It is impregnated with sneers, with truths so told as to leave nasty impressions, and in the case of his imprisonment and "The Age of Reason," actual untruths appear.

Most encyclopedic articles are so carefully written as to be able to retort that they are confined to the truth, half-truths but still truth. There is the case of the Alexandrian Library wherein it is told that Mohammedans destroyed it, but doubt is cast on the accuracy of this by virtue of the calamities previously suffered. There isn't a

word of the burning by Christian monks at an earlier date. Former encyclopedias gave us a separate article on the Library, but not so this new one.

And we have been propagandized on the idea that this really new encyclopedia is Americanized, has been for 30 years, sold now by Sears. But we have page after page of biographies of minor Britons. Everything is treated from the British point of view. Even the Court of Common Pleas does not exist in the U.S. so far as this work is concerned. When money values are given it is in pounds and shillings. This to an American is abominable.

Dress, customs, practices, common law, all British. True perhaps, but some of us would, as well as being informed of manners of the tight little isle, like to have a slant on "America First." There is so much American that we are anxious to learn about but must content ourselves with what we can glean from British sources. We are given an endless array of small-caliber British biographies and among them not one word of Joseph McCabe, even in the bibliographies to which he has contributed worth-while volumes.

We are told that theological essentials, dogmas and doctrines are falling into the discard to such an extent that there is no life nor enthusiasm to be injected into any anti-clerical or free-thought organizations, no more than would be possible in the case of anti-slavery sentiment. But when we see the latest great reference work compelled to soft-pedal, omit, and even distort vital facts upon which the liberal world attaches so much vital importance, then it comes home to some of us there is vigor and might in the dead hands that stretch forth from the graves of dogma. We can all remember how the Church warned Ridpath that his works would lie unsold if he shed too much light on its part in history. The barrenness of his pages reveals his fear. And now nearly a half century later that fear still functions.

ALBANY, GA.

F. P. WORTMAN

Editor, The American Freeman:

Recently I heard over the radio an address by Rabbi Lazaron (is that spelled right?). I have to quote from memory, but toward the end of his talk he said something to the effect that if anyone told him the Catholics were planning to gain control of the government of this country, he would reply: "What is your racket, brother, and who is paying you?" Now wouldn't you say, in view of the maneuvers of Pacelli, Coughlin, et al., that one could believe such a thing, without being in any racket, or in anyone's pay? Haven't they

tried to gain control of certain European governments—and succeeded in most instances? Are not those the countries where Jews are cruelly persecuted?

In my opinion, this is one of the weaknesses of Jews and lazy-minded liberals—they pride themselves on being "broad-minded" when in fact they are gullible and stupid. Instead of being on the alert against foes of freedom, they join those foes in scoffing at us who still believe that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Don't they realize that if it were not for those who refuse to be gulled by hypocritical words, who refuse to call a fanatic anything but a fanatic, these Jews and pseudo-liberals might quite conceivably be in the same fix as their comrades in Germany and Poland?

This is no doubt due to the propaganda of the Catholic hierarchy, who have succeeded pretty well in making Americans think that criticism of the Church's obviously anti-humanitarian Fascist policies is narrow-minded, bigoted, intolerant. It is amazing that so many Americans, with the atrocious deeds of the Roman Catholic Church right before their eyes, particularly in Spain, can be convinced that to denounce those deeds is to be bigoted. The Church is delighted with these wishy-washy folk who, it knows, will never have the sense or the courage to frustrate its activities.

Wilmington, Del. J. MATTHEWS

* * *

"I like the humorous slant to some of your answers. I generally send my copies of The Freeman to persons who write letters to the daily papers."—Charles Phillips, Conn.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

May I suggest that you change the present form of your Freeman to a magazine with large print, even if you would have to increase the price, as I am sure your subscribers would gladly pay the difference. As it is, the print is small, making it hard to read, and the paper, being folded, becomes soiled and marred.

Philadelphia, Pa. EMIL D. GILBERT

* * *

"I don't think Hitler's prospective over-running of Czechoslovakia is going to be such a howling success. It's over 500 miles long, has no through east and west railway and the country is mountainous, especially at its eastern end, thus offering natural obstacles to the rapid advance which would be necessary for such an approach on Russia."—A Missouri Reader.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

In Rex Eastman's book, "How to Im-

prove Your English in Speech and Writing," I was again amused when I encountered a quotation from Marcet's "Jane Addams As I Knew Her," words at which I had smiled earlier when I read them in the original. I refer to Marcet's description of Miss Addams' scissors-and-pins method of composition. My amusement arose from the fact that I had myself, in my amateur literary endeavors, independently stumbled on that very selfsame expedient. Apropos Mr. Eastman's book, I want to add that it is a fine and very helpful piece of work. I have studied it rather carefully and learned a lot from it, and I am sure the more careful application to it which I hope to make, will be productive of even greater benefit.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *

"In your February, 1937, issue you seem to be all 'het up' concerning a certain Rev. Gerald Winrod. You seem to hold him in extreme contempt. That is your privilege, and I do not object. But I do object when you express that contempt in terms of lower animals. That shows injustice to the lower animals and a pitiful lack of imagination. I see nothing contemptible in a sewer-rat. I have more respect for a pig than I have for a whole lot of people. I would also have you understand that swine, properly taken care of, do not stink."—J. A. Agarand, Hanskoro, N. Dak.

* * *

Is there any way of getting a copy of the New York City Secret Black List of dangerous drugs and cosmetics?

New York City's Health Department has prepared a list of drugs and cosmetics known to be dangerous. This list is kept secret, access to it being given only to staff members. By having this Secret Black List handy, doctors connected with the department are able to understand certain illnesses and deaths. Some officials in the department believe it would be a public service if this Secret Black List were made public, but the higher-ups are afraid of the political influence of the interests that reap millions of dollars from their patent medicine and cosmetic rackets. However, I have a copy of this Secret Black List, which gives the names of the dangerous drugs, etc., and follows the trade name with their injurious ingredients. I'm glad to be able to pass on this Secret Black List to my readers, and hope other publications will pick up the list and give it wider publicity. Such concerted action by publishers who

aren't answerable to big advertisers will result in saving thousands of people from serious ailments, and even death.

The records of the New York health authorities show that these preparations are dangerous, but it's necessary to add that each drug doesn't "do its worst" every time it's taken. There are many people who aren't sensitive to certain dangerous drugs, but there are many who react unfavorably, and it's to save such people from needless suffering that the public is warned. You may be able to take every medicine or use every cosmetic listed below and survive, but then again you may not. You may be rubbed out in a few hours because you happen to be sensitive to these particular poisons. As it's impossible to tell in advance whether or not you are sensitive to these articles, you can only find out by actually testing the nostrums, and such a test always includes the danger of illness or death.

Some of the articles listed below are advertised everywhere—in newspapers, magazines, billboards, radio, etc.—and yet they are on the Secret Black List. When one sees, in the list below, such well-known medicines as Ex-Lax, Grove's Laxative Bromo Quinine, Marmola, etc., one begins to understand what tremendous influence these patent medicine interests have and how disgraceful it is that our officials who are paid and who have taken an oath to protect the people's health are compelled to keep secret a Black List that should be blazoned to the entire world.

However, this editor refuses to join the conspiracy of silence, so here's The New York City Secret Black List:

DRUGS

Ammonol Tablets—acetanilid, acetphenetidin.

Anacin Tablets—acetphenetidin, aspirin, caffeine.

Arium—radium, strychnine.

Asper-Lax—phenolphthalein, aspirin.

Atophan Tablets—cinchophen.

R. C. for Headache & Neuralgia—aspirin, acetanilid.

Beecham's Pills—aloes.

Boals Rolls—phenolphthalein.

Bromo Seltzer—acetanilid, bromide.

Capudine—antipyrin, salicylic acid.

Carter's Little Liver Pills—aloes.

Carriers Tablets—bismuth subnitrate.

- Cuticura Pills—nux vomica.
 Cystex—nux vomica.
 Doan's Kidney Pills—potassium nitrate.
 En-Ar-Co-Oil—amyl alcohol.
 Eopa Phytolberry Tablets (ingredients not named in Black List).
 Epsotabs (Espotabs)—phenolphthalein.
 Ex-Lax—phenolphthalein.
 Faid—thyroid.
 Felsol—antipyrin, acetanilid, caffeine.
 Formamint—formaldehyde.
 Formula 281—dinitrophenol.
 Gray's Ointment—lead compound.
 Groves Laxative Bromo Quinine—acetanilid.
 (Dr.) Hand's Teething Lotion—potassium bromide.
 Hill's Cascara Bromide Quinine—acetanilid.
 Hogan's Old Reliable Cough Syrup—chloroform.
 Kohler's Antidote—acetphenetidin.
 Korein—iodine.
 Low's Worm Syrup—santonin.
 Marmola Tablets—thyroid.
 Miles Restorative Nerve—bromide mixture, Fowler solution.
 Munyon's Grippe Remedy—arsenic (trace).
 Neutroids—iodol.
 Nurito—colchicine salicylate, aspirin, phenolphthalein.
 O. B. C. T.—thyroid.
 Phenolax—phenolphthalein.
 Phenol Sodique—carbolic acid.
 Pinex—chloroform.
 Raz-Mah—aspirin, caffeine.
 Re-Duce-Oids—thyroid, phenolphthalein.
 Renton's Hydrocin Tablets—cinchophen.
 Rinex (Dr. Platt's)—aspirin, acetphenetidin.
 R.X. 157—(ingredients not named in Black List).
 Salicon—aspirin, phenolphthalein.
 Shac—acetanilid, caffeine.
 Slim—dinitrophenol.
COSMETICS
 Mrs. S. A. Allen's Hair Color Restorer—lead acetate.
 Ambrosia—carbolic acid.
 Anti-Mole—nitric acid, glacial acetic acid.
 Barbo Compound—lead acetate.
 Barry's Tricopherous—cantharides, capsicum.
 Bay Roma—lead acetate.
 Berry's Freckle Ointment—ammoniated mercury.
 Black & White Ointment—mercury.
 Buckingham's Dye for Whiskers—ammoniacal silver nitrate, copper sulphate.
 Bleachodent—hydrochloric or sulphuric acid.
 Campana's Italian Balm—carbolic acid.
 Canute Water—silver salt.
 Clear-Tone—mercurous chloride.
 D. D. D.—chloral hydrate, carbolic acid, methyl salicylate.
 Damchinsky's Hair Dye—copper chlorides, pyrogallol acid.
 Dander-Off—arsenic trioxide.
 Delatone—barium sulphide, barium sulphate.
 DeMiracle (depilatory)—sodium sulphide.
 Derwillo—salicylic acid.
 DeWans—strontium sulphide.
 Dew-Deodorant—aluminum chloride.
 Eau Sublime—paraphenylene diamine.
 Empress Instantaneous Hair Color Restorer—paratolulylene diamine.
 Farr's for Gray Hair—silver nitrate.
 Glover's Mange Cure—creosote.
 Mary T. Goldman's Gray Hair Restorer—silver nitrate, pyrogallol acid.
 Gouraud Oriental Cream—mercurous chloride.
 Hay's Hair Health—lead acetate.
 Herpicide (Newbro's)—salicylic acid, carbolic acid.
 Hess Hair Milk—lead acetate.
 Hill's Hair & Whisker Dye—pyrogallol acid, silver nitrate.
 Hubert's Malvina—ammoniated mercury.
 Inecto—paratolulylene diamine, nitrobenzene.
 Kingsbery's Freckle Lotion—bichloride of mercury.
 Kintho Beauty Cream—ammoniated mercury.
 Kolor-Bak—lead acetate.
 Kurlene—mercury.
 La Creole—lead acetate.
 Lea's Hair Tonic—lead and sulphur dye.
 Liquid Arvon—arsenous oxide.
 Mahdeen—arsenic trioxide.
 Marvo Skin Peel—resorcin.
 Mr. McCorrison's Famous Diamond Lotion—bichloride of mercury.
 Mercolized Wax—ammoniated mercury.
 Nadinola Skin Purifier—mercury.
 Nect—calcium sulphide.
 Neos Henna—copper salt.
 Nu-Hair—lead.
 O'Dell's Hair Color Restorer—lead acetate.
 Othine Freckle Cream—ammoniated mercury.
 Palmer's Skin Whitener—ammoniated mercury.
 Parker's Hair Balsam—lead acetate.
 B. Paul's Hair Coloring—pyrogallol.
 Pebecco Toothpaste—potassium chlorate.
 Mrs. Potter's Walnut Tint Hair Stain—paraphenylene diamine.
 Q-Ban Hair Color Restorer—lead acetate.
 Royal Hair Restorer—silver salt.
 Ruppert's Face Bleach—bichloride of mercury.
 Shavix—strontium sulphide.
 Simplex Hair Coloring—paraphenylene diamine.
 Snow—calcium sulphide.

S. T. 37 Toothpaste—hexylresorcinol.
Stillman's Freckle Cream—ammoniated mercury.

Walnutta Hair Stain—pyrogallol.

Well's Hair Balsam—lead acetate.

Wildroot Dandruff Remedy—arsenic, resorcin.

Winx—iron oxide in shellac or similar resin.

Woodbury's Hair Tonic—resorcin.

Wyeth's Sage & Sulphur Compound—lead acetate.

X-Bazin—calcium sulphide, barium sulphide.

Zip Depilatory Cream—barium sulphate and calcium hydrosulphide.

* * *

What is your opinion of the late Elbert Hubbard? Do you consider he was a great genius and able man?

Elbert Hubbard always impressed me as a clever, shrewd writer, but never as anything even remotely like a genius. He was able, in his smart, commercial way, but never a great man. As a writer, he cultivated a facile, snappy style, but the stuff itself was superficial and insincere. He started out as something of a liberal and Freethinker, but when he found that the great corporations had money that he could connect up with, he switched his literary efforts to glorifications of business, advertising executives, and captains of industry. His ideas that suggested some small degree of philosophical thinking were swiped from better men. He never made an original contribution to sound thinking in all his long and active career. The man went through all the motions of being something of a romantic esthete—he liked to dress and fix his hair to make him look like a literary genius, whatever that suggests—but down underneath it all the man was just a small-time literary whore ready to sell his pen to the highest bidder. Elbert Hubbard was one of America's greatest frauds. His influence today is practically at zero. He shocked some of the schoolmarms of 30 years ago, but the world has had enough time to catch up with him, look over his stuff and decide he was just one more phoney.

* * *

How many warships are the various powers building?

Jane's Fighting Ships, published in London, is considered authoritative in naval matters. Its latest edition, released December, 1936, reports

that during 1937 the nations will be at work building war vessels as follows:

Great Britain, 99; U.S.A., 83;
Italy, 66; France, 43; Germany, 39;
Japan, 38.

The report omitted Russia because of the lack of verifiable data. Soviet authorities are careful to hold back information regarding naval plans. In fact, it is difficult to learn what Russia's present fleet includes, let alone trying to figure out what that government intends to build. While Moscow wants the protection of a strong navy, it prefers to rely on a large fleet of submarines rather than entering on a program of battleship construction. Russia claimed, a few months ago, that its submarine fleet was 715 percent larger than it was in 1933, but as the report failed to state what the 1933 number of submarines was, the statement doesn't really reveal very much, except that the Russians have settled on the policy of a heavily augmented submarine fleet and coast defense vessels.

* * *

Please comment on Mary Pickford's book, "Why Not Try God?"

I wrote a column review of her book shortly after it appeared. All I care to say now is that it was pretty awful, but not quite as bad as Upton Sinclair's *What God Means to Me*. Mary Pickford turned to God after America decided its national sweetheart was getting to be a little too matronly, but it now looks as though God didn't have exactly what she wanted, so she turned to handsome Buddy Rogers, who looks more capable of filling her needs.

* * *

In which countries is it forbidden to speak or print Freethought?

Literature, lectures, discussions and other activities in support of Freethought are outlawed in Italy, Germany, Austria, Poland, Rumania, Lithuania, Latvia, Esthonia, and Bulgaria. Persecution of critics of religion is accepted as a natural thing—mainly in Catholic countries—but these same theological fanatics are quick to protest when an enlightened country like Russia decides to follow the U.S. and separate Church from state and Church from schools.

Freethinkers never persecute, or even suggest restrictions on, their re-

ligious opponents, preferring to rest their case on appeals to reason and logic. But the Church can't tolerate the free play of thought, for that means, in the end, the collapse of religious notions. Basically, religion must rest its structure on force.

The theocrats who live by religious propaganda never miss a chance to use the vast powers of the state to crush all forms of liberalism in economics or systems of thought. In Spain, for example, the priests joined with the Fascist mass-murderers in an attempt to destroy the secular-minded Republic because the people, through their law-making bodies, decided to separate the Catholic Church from the state, took away its immense subsidies, and in other ways showed their determination to establish a government free of church ties.

The rationalistic Spaniards didn't move a finger to deprive the devout of their right to worship as they pleased, but they did insist that they limit their political and social activities to their own institutions. This rankled, and when opportunity presented itself the priests even went so far as to bear arms against the Republicans and open their church buildings to the Fascists, to be used as forts, military observation points, or storehouses for arms and ammunition. When the people burned down a number of such misused establishments, the cry of persecution was raised, as it was when some armed Fascist-minded priests were legally executed.

In Russia, where the Church was a part of the bloody regime of the Czar, the government cut all official ties with the Church and passed strict laws compelling priests to keep out of secular matters. Also, the priests were told they could expect no money from the people's treasury but would have to look to their followers for the funds to carry on their work of indoctrinating the masses. The howl that went up shook the world, but the Russians stood firm, and today the people in Russia who want to go to any church have a legal right to do so and are given the full protection of the government.

The atheistic Russian government is opposed to religious ideology, of

course, and it uses every legitimate method to rid the people of old, mind-stultifying superstitions, but it makes its appeal on the score of reason and persuasion, not force. Today, in rationalistic Russia, we read of thousands of church buildings being open for services, and those of us who are anti-clerical will be pleased to learn that most of these plants are empty most of the time. When there are a few worshipers, it is found they consist mainly of the old people who never received the benefits of a scientific education.

Everywhere else the Freethinkers fight a fair, clean battle, but they have learned not to even expect the same treatment in return. The religious bigots fight back with every conceivable lie and misrepresentation, and when they have the power they compel the secular arm to crush Free-thought movements and make Free-thought educational work a penitentiary offense. When Hitler was throwing his hundreds of thousands of anti-Fascists in concentration camps, a great deal was heard about the way the Communists, Social Democrats, Liberals, Pacifists, Republicans, Jews and others were mistreated, but hardly a word was said about the additional fact that the same treatment was accorded tens of thousands of Freethinkers. But, despite all persecution, Freethought grows at a steady pace. The world is gradually throwing off its religious shackles. The people are growing less religious-minded. The future is bright for Freethought. Everywhere, Freethinkers see the day coming when man will live without having to carry the burdens of church parasitism, reactionary priesthoods and mind-poisoning priestcrafts.

* * *

Please comment on the article attacking anti-Semitism in the December 14, 1936, issue of Father Coughlin's paper, "Social Justice."

The Coughlin article, which poses as being opposed to anti-Semitism, contains evidence that Father Coughlin's old anti-Semitism is still with him. I have, during the past three years, written dozens of columns dealing with Coughlin's aim to bring Hitleristic racial antagonism into American life, and have found, in looking over his record, that every

time he disowns anti-Semitism he sees to it that his words show malice towards a persecuted minority. The present instance is in line with the others.

For example, Coughlin's paper says "anti-Semitism is a plague of our so-called civilization," which sounds good, but read on a few sentences and you find that while there are good Jews ("some of my best friends are Jews") the real enemies of humanity are the "Jewish bankers." There you have the subtle Coughlin touch. Why does he pick on a few Jewish bankers, when the world knows that the bulk of our banking institutions are in non-Jewish hands? The record shows that we have non-Jewish bankers who outnumber the Jews a hundred to one. Doherty, Mellon, Morgan, Rockefeller, Jr., the Drexels, Aldrich, and scores of other great financiers, are non-Jews. As for the smaller run of bankers, a mere glance at the bank directory will show that Jews are hardly represented.

And yet, Father Coughlin, while denying racial prejudice, would have the average uninformed person accept the inference that we are in trouble because of the conspiracies of "Jewish bankers." I have written numerous articles attacking the institution of banking, so it can't be said I am pleading their case, but I insist that we must deal with plain bankers, and not "Jewish bankers." The difference is vital. A person who would approach our financial problems in the spirit of honesty will discuss the institution without maligning a race, especially when that race is not a dominating influence in the system.

* * *

Joseph McCabe, from his ivory tower in London, looks over the Simpson-Edward to-do and tells *Free-man* readers about it this way:

"I do not suppose I can tell you anything about our 'crisis.' Edward was a poor type, and, though I should like to have seen a fight for the sake of public education, a man can't expect to take his mistress about to night-clubs, etc. (a photograph of this now published) while waiting to be crowned. America would hardly stand that in a President! Even F. D. R. couldn't get away with that.

"As soon as the Bishop of Bradford began the publicity with a public reference, about three weeks ago (this is being written on December 15, 1936) to Edward's un-Christian conduct and unmuzzled the Press, the end was certain. Our London public (which for the most part does not care a damn how many mistresses Edward had) drank the news with joy and hundreds of jokes were soon circulating.

"There was a horrified reaction of the virtuous—Labor leaders rushed to show themselves respectable—Baldwin and the Press generally covered the facts with unctuous lies. Anyhow, after last week it was unthinkable that she could be queen, but the change-over is so complete that on Sunday the Archbishop directly attacked Edward in a broadcast sermon. It is a victory for the Church and Toryism and another proof of rotten Labor leadership, but Edward, who is a poor fish, played into their hands so much it was easy. The whole thing really means nothing except that Edward made a fool of himself."

* * *

Do you consider the strategy of the stay-in strike more effective than the old style strike accompanied by picketing outside the plants?

The old-fashioned stay-out strike was often a disheartening affair, for various reasons which I'll touch on briefly before discussing the advantages of the streamlined stay-in demonstrations.

When the employees struck against a plant, in the days of conservative craft unionism, the employees deserted their machines and went out into the streets, where they usually made feeble attempts to dissuade others from taking their jobs. When they surrendered the shop and machines to the employers, the strikers literally opened the door to strikebreakers—usually well-organized professionals who came by plane or fast trains to keep the plant going.

When the strikers gathered outside for peaceful picketing, they soon realized it was hopeless to try to convert professional scabs who were being paid high rewards not for doing the actual work of the plant but for destroying the morale of the strikers. When they picketed, they made possible another boss strategy—the professional promoter of violence, paid by the employers to provoke disturb-

ances among the strikers, which in turn served as a pretext for hard-boiled action by the company's professional guards, spies, and others who were hired to break down the physical resistance of the strikers through generous use of tear gas, clubs, guns and other weapons. Frequently the police were compelled to join the company's private army in the war on labor. And all this could be done under the pretense of preserving law and order. The company deliberately provoked violence, but the public, through press and radio, was given the impression that it was the strikers who were the law-breakers. This queer twisting of the truth was possible because of the strategic disadvantage labor found itself in—outside the plant that the employers wanted to keep running. They appeared, to the superficial observers, to be there to make trouble, when, as a matter of fact, they were meeting quietly to protect their jobs, which, of course, were the most important things in their lives.

Such a strike had other serious disadvantages. Stools were sent among the strikers to sow dissension and suspicion. Such whispered rumors were usually effective after the third day of the strike, by which time the average striker's enthusiasm began to cool when he saw that his act of deserting the machine didn't compel the employers to ask him to return. Women were also hired by the employers to visit the wives and families of the strikers, where it was usually a simple matter to turn the women folks into enemies of the strike. The longer the strike lasted, the worse the women at home became, until the nagging broke down the striker's wavering morale. This feature of the science of strikebreaking is effective, though too frequently ignored.

Now let's turn to the new model—stay-in strikes. Here we find an entirely different procedure, and its intelligent use strikes terror into the hearts of the employers. The bosses have learned how to break the old-style strikes, but they are frankly baffled by these new stay-in affairs.

First of all, the employe strikes on the job, instead of against the job. By this, I mean he stays in the shop to watch over his machine. This prevents the company from rushing in

professional or amateur strikebreakers. Here, at the very beginning, the employes succeed in delivering a tremendous blow at the morale of the employers. Instead of wandering up and down the street outside carrying banners that are ignored by professional scabs, the stay-in strikers remain where it's warm, organize singing clubs, orchestras, entertainments, lectures, classes, games—a whole social atmosphere is developed in a few hours or days. It has been remarked that men who have worked in the same shop for years without hardly knowing one another get to know each other intimately after only a day or two of stay-in striking. The effect is heavily in favor of stronger morale, discipline and solidarity.

Where, under the old technique, the pickets became potential lawbreakers the moment they appeared at the gates of the plant to urge professional scabs to quit, under the new method the men are at peace with the plant and the world. They are keeping the shop clean, preserving order among the strikers, and seeing to it that the machines aren't damaged. The employers previously saw to it that the strikers appeared to be on the offensive by acting on the picket lines, but in the stay-in strike the employers are compelled to assume the offensive if they intend to drive the men out of the plant and thereby make room for the professional strikebreakers.

The first thought that suggests itself is that the strikers are trespassers—the plant is private property and belongs to the bosses. True, but that's only a technical violation. After all, the jobs mean life to the workers. To the employers, the jobs are merely a means to profits. Which is more important—human life or profits? The men calmly say they don't intend to see their livelihoods destroyed by a lot of professional strikebreakers, so they stay in the plant, despite the howls of protest from those who look on these questions in a cold-blooded, legalistic way. Besides, if the employers assume the offensive and send their private armies into the place to drive out the strikers, they are in danger of destroying their own machines, thus far protected by the strikers. Real damage to property could fol-

low if attempts were made to oust the stay-ins by physical force. Besides, the public and other workers would most likely be won over more completely to the side of the stay-in strikers. The situation becomes a delicate one, and the strikers know it. They even laugh at court injunctions. After all, what are they doing? Staying in the shop, protecting the machinery and other equipment until they come to terms with the employers regarding conditions, recognition of the union, wages, and the like. The employer always has it within his power to set the machines working again, by the simple process of bargaining with the stay-in strikers. That's what puts the men in a strong position, even though they are technical violators of the law.

All along, the private armies of the employers—armed guards, and others—have nothing to do, because an attack on the stay-ins might damage the property of the bosses. So the cossacks stand aside and wonder what this crazy world is coming to.

Now we come to the women. I've already explained how the wives, sweethearts and other women folks are influenced by stools. Many, under the old system, became enemies of the strike even when they weren't influenced by rumor-mongering stools. Now what do we find? Instead of staying at home—individuals without contact with the other women affected by the strike—we find them rushing to the plant to help take care of the physical needs of their men. They bring blankets, mail, fresh laundry. The children are held up so their fathers can get a look at them. The women then organize quickly to see to it that their men are fed. Usually they rent a vacant store building near the plant, where they install cooking equipment. They get to work preparing the meals, while others do the buying, others collect funds, others see to it that the cooked food is delivered. Instead of staying at home, as before, nagging and complaining, they are a part of the struggle, right down on the firing line. They become acquainted with the other women who are concerned in this labor struggle. They develop a solidarity which never existed before. Thus does the stay-in strike win another line of trenches.

In all, the stay-in strike is the most effective weapon in labor's control when conditions on the job must be remedied. This is important, but there are other features which must be developed. The men must learn to recognize that the problem is social as well as industrial. There is a political side that must be studied. They must learn to use their ballots intelligently, so that the government will be made to serve the masses instead of being a mere tool of the employers. By fighting on both fronts—as stay-in strikers and as political citizens—they open the gates to industrial, economic and social emancipation.

* * *

If Germany attacks Czechoslovakia, what will the anti-Fascist countries do?

It seems agreed now that Czechoslovakia is slated to be "the next Spain." Germany is preparing to crush that country's resistance and take it over, thus bringing Hitler nearer the goal of Nazi dominance in Central Europe. German secret agents have been at work throughout Czechoslovakia during the past few years, the country's large German population is being organized along Fascist lines, and Conrad Henlein seems to be the one who is to play the part of this little Republic's General Franco. Henlein, of course, is to be nothing more than Hitler's tool, as is Franco in Spain today.

The question now arises: What will Russia, France and England do about Hitler's invasion, once it becomes a reality? Russia, of course, is deeply concerned and has committed itself to intervention in favor of the Republic once it is attacked. But this support is predicated on simultaneous support from France. Thus, Russia will turn immediately to France and ask: What now? France will turn to England and ask: What now? England, if we are to judge this government by its policies during the past few years, will shrug its shoulders and say nothing. When England says nothing, France does the same, so Russia will see itself holding the sack. Naturally, Russia will be most reluctant about stepping in alone. It may, as in Spain, render material and financial help, but it's decidedly debatable about its actually waging war against the Nazi aggres-

sors. Thus, Czechoslovakia will be exposed to the storm—alone. And that will mean a substantial victory for Hitler.

* * *

This is written on the fourth anniversary of Hitler's dictatorship. How long is this horrible thing to continue?

Anti-Fascists throughout the world have reasons to feel that Hitler's regime can't last indefinitely. The Nazis are always able to put on a gigantic spectacle. They are masters of the art of showmanship. Their parades and demonstrations can't even be equaled. But how long can an industrial organization—and Germany, for more than a half century, was primarily an industrial country—live on promises of war, threats of aggression, shortage of foreign exchange, absence of credit, total disappearance of gold, unproductive public works, ceaseless expenditures for armaments?

The limit is in sight. Just when the crisis will come to a head no one can say, but one has a right to expect collapse before long. Hitler's policies could overlook every form of opposition, because they were based on the mailed fist, but there's one obstacle that can't be clubbed out of consciousness—and that's the economic situation.

On this point, I want to quote a few words from Wilhelm Sollmann, who arrived in this country on January 20, 1937, to report on the activities of the German Social Democrats (Socialists) who have organized for underground, illegal opposition to the Nazi government. Sollmann himself, before he became an exile, was Minister of the Interior in two Stresemann Cabinets. He said:

"The crisis of the Nazi regime is rapidly nearing a climax. The belief even in Nazi circles is general that the rulers of the Third Reich will not be able to master economic difficulties. The situation is aggravated by an increasing war fear."

* * *

Czechoslovakia, which has been described as an island of democracy surrounded by dictatorships, is threatened from various sources, as you say. Will the country hold to its democratic ideals?

The President of Czechoslovakia, Eduard Benes, made a speech before an audience of Germans in the northern part of the Republic, in the sum-

mer of 1936, in which he said:

"Our political philosophy and morality takes the form of democracy, a democracy which provides us with a key to a solution of all our problems, since it postulates in all practical negotiations a respect of human personality and complete civic equality, irrespective of diversity of class, nationality or religion—the ideas which I have expounded are truly human—and upon them rests our whole state. With them it stands, with them it will fall. It cannot therefore abandon them, come what may."

President Benes expressed the Bohemian philosophy of government in that statement. The sentences aren't a mere collection of words. They mean exactly what they say—they voice the feelings of the nation. Czechoslovakia will stand by democracy to the very end. Should Hitler decide to crush the Republic—and that is likely to happen in the near future—he will find Czechoslovakia ready to sacrifice everything rather than voluntarily accept the rule of dictators. Of course, left to its fate by its allies, the country will be defeated, for its 15,000,000 people aren't strong enough to crush the Nazi aggressors, but these people will prefer an honorable defeat in the name of democracy to the political tyranny of the Hitlerites. At least, that's the way it seems to stack up before the eyes of this commentator.

* * *

When you speak of Hitler's aim to crush Czechoslovakia, do you mean he plans to march his men into that country and openly start a war?

I don't think it will be done that crudely. The new technique demands a fair degree of finesse, though it's obvious to anyone who has watched the cavortings of Fascist mass-murderers.

Hitler's war on Czechoslovakia is really on as I write this piece. His propagandists are at work wherever there are Germans living in Czechoslovakia, and there are about 3,000,000 such people to work on. The German press keeps pounding against Czechoslovakia, accusing the Republic of being "an outpost of Bolshevism," a rallying place for Communism, and similar lies. The Hitler press prints faked photographs (as I've explained before, in detail) to give the

impression that the Soviet Union is building airports in Czechoslovakia.

These moves point to only one thing—Hitler is conducting a sporadic war, which, in time, can become the real, open thing. First, of course, he will see to it that Nazi sympathizers in Czechoslovakia start a revolt, which will be financed and munitioned by Hitler. When Czechoslovakia takes measures to preserve its government, as the Loyalists did in Spain, Hitler will tell the world that Bolshevism is persecuting and exterminating the decent, civilized, enlightened Fascists in Czechoslovakia. This will serve as an excuse for a holy war on Communism. Circumstances will then determine whether or not Hitler will send an army into the country under his own banners or go through the farce of organizing “volunteers.”

Germany could find a pretext for war almost anywhere, so long as it looks on anything non-Nazi or anti-Nazi as Communism. By this logic, Hitler could follow up his adventure in Spain with “anti-Communist” drives in France, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and some other countries, even including Great Britain. That, in a word, is the Hitler technique. But informed people refuse to let themselves be fooled by such stupid propaganda.

As I've written a dozen times in the past, the Communist movement is strong in only one country—Russia—and never had, or has, any real strength anywhere else. But Communism serves Hitler as a handy ogre with which to scare the world and try to make it believe he is leading a war between Fascism and Communism. As I've claimed many times, the real issue is Democracy versus Fascism—the real goal is to crush all democratic governments and give the world a blood-bath of dictatorship and Fascism. On this point, Miss Dorothy Thompson, special writer, on January 20, 1937, said, in an address before the League for Political Education, Town Hall, New York City:

“The overwhelming impression I got in England and France and some of the northern countries was that the issue is no longer a choice between Communism and Fascism, but between democracy and dictatorship.

There has been a revaluation of the principles of democracy, and the realization is growing that civil liberties and rights of the people are worth retaining at all costs.”

* * *

Please comment on Father Coughlin's decision to return to the air.

Father (of what?) Coughlin has lied so often—and been caught at it just as often—that it's almost an act of supererogation to pile up new instances. I felt he was lying when he made his much-quoted statement shortly after Roosevelt's re-election to the effect that his movement was “so thoroughly discredited” he would retire from radio broadcasting. I was careful to write at the time that Coughlin undoubtedly was merely crawling into his hole until the cyclone passed over, when he could come forth again as America's champion of Fascism, anti-Semitism, and anti-labor in general. In my nine volumes of questions and answers one can find an immense amount of material exposing this blatant mountebank. It looks now as though the next 10 volumes will have to continue giving a great deal of space and attention to this would-be Hitler.

* * *

Please comment on The Daily Worker's campaign in behalf of the half dozen or more boys under sentence to be electrocuted at Sing Sing.

The Communist newspaper has given a great deal of space to its news stories and editorials dealing with young Negroes and whites in the death cells of Sing Sing. I haven't the data at hand, but it's my impression that these prisoners range in age from 19 to 31, with most of them between 19 and 21. It's a terrible thing. I grant you, to condemn youths to the chair—and I, as an old opponent of capital punishment, hate to see the State join murderers with its own legalized murders—but it's rather strange for a Communist organ to permit itself to get excited about exacting the extreme penalty from murderers. The reason, of course, is that the Soviet Union—which *The Daily Worker* goes to great extremes to defend—has a criminal code that is, in some instances, as inhuman as that which prevails in the most backward parts of China. I refer, of course, to the U.S.S.R.'s decree of 1935, in which the death penalty for theft

was made legal for children of only 12 years of age. *Izvestia*, in its issue of April 8, 1935, printed the text of the decree, so our Communist propagandists can't meet this argument with the denial that such punishment exists for mere minors who have stolen something. On this point, Max Eastman, writing in *Harper's*, for February, 1937, calls attention to the words used by Communist apologists who had been compelled to admit that the decree of 1935 is not a figment of the imagination of anti-Communists. The Communist supporters, when faced with the facts, argued this way: "Under Socialism children are so precocious and well educated that they are fully responsible for their acts." It's difficult to believe that supposedly intelligent people are capable of such obscene depths. The execution of young men of 19, 20 or 21 for murder is a crime of capitalistic civilization, according to *The Daily Worker*, but the shooting of boys and girls of 12, 13, or 14 for stealing a bag of flour off a freight car is a glorious measure for the protection of proletarian civilization.

* * *

Without denying or mitigating the fact that the Spanish rebels have committed numerous atrocities, isn't it also true that the Loyalists have done their share of ruthless killing?

The great atrocity is the Civil War itself, and here the blame rests entirely with the rebel military clique, the absentee landlords and the Roman Catholic Church. The terrible rebel atrocities committed since July 18, 1936, are not to be discussed here, as my reader grants the fact that they took place, and are being committed today. The question deals with the Loyalists.

Let's get one important fact in mind—the small blocs of militarists and priests declared war on the Spanish people, because the masses had decided to deprive the priests of control over education—secularized education is a child of Satan, in the view of the Catholic Church—had decided to make the army a defensive arm of the Republic, had decided to rest their government on democratic, liberal ideas, and had decided on certain land reforms in order to bring the landless peasants closer to economic independence. The Spanish people certainly committed no atrocities

against themselves—the millions of toilers, farmers, intellectuals, and the like. Their enemies were a small body of tightly organized Fascists, and here, my reader says, atrocities took place. The facts, of course, show that priests who were shot were found guilty of using their churches as arsenals or of bearing arms. Some officers and Fascist sympathizers were executed, after legal trials, because they were open and dangerous enemies of the Republic.

John Langdon-Davies, who is well known in this country as a lecturer and writer, who has been a Labor member of the British House of Commons, and who knows Spain because of many years spent in that country, has just had a book published in this country, entitled *Behind the Spanish Barricades*, in which the charge of Loyalist atrocities is treated honestly and candidly. It would be well to study his words with extreme care, for he goes to the heart of the issue. For example, in Ripoll, the members of the Committee of Defense, according to our author, shot 13 Fascist sympathizers, several of whom were priests. Langdon-Davies discusses the subject as follows:

"Think for a moment of this Committee of Defense. They were heirs of all the hundreds of years of black oppression that had made the Spanish people the most ruthlessly exploited of the sons of men; they had seen for the first time a mild, liberal, well-intentioned government come into being in Spain; . . . they had seen this government at once attacked by illegal armed rebellion relying on foreign hordes of Moors and criminals.

"They knew that, thanks to Italy, Germany and Portugal, the Moors were well armed, while they themselves had little better than museum pieces to protect their barricades; they had heard that 13 Fascist sympathizers, who doubtless spent their days praying that the Moors should come, had met together and were planning to escape; they took their guns and shot them in cold blood.

Ugly? Yes, but how natural; thanks to those who let loose the supreme horror of civil war. Do you condemn the harassed workmen on the Committee of Defense of Ripoll? It was not through them that the offense came."

* * *

One frequently hears the remark:

"What else can you expect from a woman driver?" The idea seems to prevail that women are more dangerous than men when they get their hands on a steering wheel. What are the facts?

Women drivers are safer than men drivers, according to available statistics. T. J. Seburn, Kansas City Traffic Engineer, reports that a study of motor car accidents in his city during 1936 shows the woman driver is better.

After a careful check of the city's traffic, says Engineer Seburn, it was found that "an average of 11 percent of the cars on the streets of Kansas City at any given time are 'manned' by women."

During 1936 there were 76 fatalities caused by motor cars, in which women drivers were involved only to the extent of 6 percent.

During 1936 there were 1,832 accidents in which 2,372 persons were injured, none fatally. Women drivers "participated in only 7 percent of these," says Engineer Seburn. In the accidents which involved only property damage 9 percent of the persons who participated were women.

The facts, therefore, establish a powerful alibi for women drivers.

* * *

Please compare food prices in New York City and Berlin.

In December, 1936, before the people of Germany were compelled to go on food cards, with butter and other fats rationed to 80 percent of October, 1936, consumption, prices were as follows:

	Berlin	N.Y.
Sirloin steak (lb.)	72c	38c
Cheap beef cuts (lb.)	43-54c	29-34c
Pork (lb.)	43-65c	21-28c
Veal (lb.)	65-80c	18-50c
Poultry (lb.)	32-45c	26-33c
Butter (lb.)	58c	39c
Margarine (lb.)	32-40c	20-24c
Lard (lb.)	36-43c	16-24c
Storage eggs (doz.)	48-53c	43-49c
Potatoes (lb.)	1.4c	3.4c
Rye bread (lb.)	5.8c	5c

Since the foregoing table was prepared, conditions have worsened, with the average worker confining his diet to stale bread (adulterated to keep the grain shortage from getting more serious than it is), potatoes, cabbage, and a butter substitute made mainly of whale oil. Wages are going down, prices are rising, and suffering is growing intense, but Hitler continues

without halt his program of preparation for war.

* * *

What do you think of Mexico's proffer of asylum to Trotsky?

President Lazaro Cardenas showed himself to be a real statesman when he offered to take Leon Trotsky after Norway had decided it didn't want any more of the man. Cardenas certainly is no Communist; his administration hasn't even recognized the Soviet Union diplomatically, but the man is a real progressive who believes in liberty of conscience and the right of asylum. Put to the test by Trotsky's friend, Diego Rivera, Cardenas did the simple, and decent, thing, later receiving Trotsky's pledge that he would refrain from interfering with Mexico's internal affairs and that he wouldn't use his new home in Mexico as a base for assaults on governments with which Mexico is on friendly terms. There was a time, not so long ago, when the U.S. was a haven of safety for victims of foreign oppression, but reactionary influences are now able to assert themselves in such a way that the fine, libertarian traditions of the country are being damaged, at least with regard to the issue of political asylum. When the German revolutionists were compelled to leave their country, in 1848, because of the absolutism of the government's rulers, they came to the U.S. by the thousands, where they were welcomed as men and women of the finest caliber. They helped constructively to build up the American nation, and when the Civil War came they gave Lincoln their full-hearted support, risking their lives that slavery might be crushed and the Union preserved. Literally thousands of these emigres of the 1848 revolution died on our battlefields. I could give proof after proof of America's love for foreign fighters for liberty, but that would only serve to emphasize our present policy of removing, at least partially, the precious principle of political asylum from our national life.

In Trotsky's case, to deny the man asylum would be tantamount to condemning him to death, for if he were returned to Russia Stalin would have him condemned to death before he had been in the country an hour, after which a trial would be held in

which elaborate "confessions" would be produced, all properly signed by Trotsky. At least, that's the way Russian trials have been conducted thus far, when persons known to be opposed to certain Stalin policies were called on to pay the penalty for their sublime impertinence in having ideas disapproved by the hierarchy. In Stalin's mind it is sure proof of "counter-revolution" to question anything that Stalin believes. Thus, a great Communist like Trotsky—long Lenin's main co-worker—is branded as a "Fascist" and "counter-revolutionary" because he happens to have a tremendous personal dislike for Stalin and Stalin's main principles. The situation on this score has become so ridiculous in Russia that it's impossible to get a decent history of the Russian revolution or a record of the early days of Communist rule because no able writer will venture to do the job, for fear he will bring on his head the wrath of Stalin and his supporters. This happens to be the case because it would be impossible to write a true history of the Russian revolution without telling about the activities of Trotsky, and that, of course, is heresy. Trotsky's contributions to Russian history must be suppressed, or distorted, so as things stand today the Russian millions are still without a definitive history of one of the greatest episodes in the entire history of mankind. The situation has become so ludicrous that it's forbidden, for the present, to print all of Lenin's thousands of notes and letters which were written while he was leading the Russian masses to Communism, because so many of these letters show what Lenin thought about his much-trusted Trotsky and how frequently he condemned the tactics of Stalin. Of course, when Stalin and Trotsky are both dead the truth will come out as it's written in these Lenin documents, but for the present the world must be kept in ignorance because of the power of Stalin.

The situation, as I see it, is purely personal. Stalin and Trotsky simply don't like each other. That, of course, is putting the situation mildly. They hate, despise and loathe each other. They've always been enemies, even when Lenin was their liv-

ing leader. The men simply can't breathe the same air, and when Lenin died, Stalin—the solid, clever, party man—saw to it that the political machine he had constructed was strong enough to compel the retirement of Trotsky. He would have had Trotsky shot at the time, but that was impossible because the Russian people still remembered the then recent activities of Trotsky in their behalf as the second-greatest leader during Russia's darkest days. Today, of course, enough dirt has been spilled on Trotsky's name to make it possible to have him shot once he gets into the clutches of Stalin. That shows the power of years of propaganda. But Stalin's say-so doesn't make Trotsky a traitor to Russia. The facts merely indicate that Trotsky doesn't like Stalin or Stalinism. Of course, Stalin's ideas may be right—I'm not arguing that point—and, having sufficient power, he is able to suppress Trotskyism every time it shows its head, even going so far as to shoot old Bolsheviks who fought alongside Lenin when the constant risk was sudden death.

The Stalin-Trotsky drama is probably the greatest personal feud in all history. Stalin—the quiet, modest, burrowing type of party hack—was able to crush the brilliant, intellectual, spectacular, theatrical Trotsky. Why? Because brilliance alone isn't enough when it's compelled to meet the challenge of machine politics. The sheer weight of numbers can crush the brightest, showiest leader. It's been done many times in bureaucracies—and in democracies, too. Today, Trotsky is as loyal to the international proletariat as Stalin ever was or is, perhaps more. Trotsky is not a Fascist or an anti-Communist. He always was for the Russian revolution, and today he is as much for the rule of the workers as ever before. But Stalin is his personal enemy, and Stalin has the power to keep Trotsky from reaching the Russian people with his message. There you have the situation in a nutshell. The outcome? That I can't even attempt to forecast. But this much I can say: The time will come when the world—and this includes the Russian people—will know that Trotskyism doesn't mean opposition to the Soviet Union—it means merely opposition to

Stalinism. If some great crisis were to arise again in Russia, it's quite conceivable that the Russian masses, remembering how Trotsky served them when the Revolution was defending itself on 13 fronts, will call for his return to leadership. I'm not saying that will mean a greater economic future for the Soviet Union. That, I grant, is debatable, but it doesn't alter the fact that Trotsky is hated in Moscow not because he is a tool of international Capitalism but because he asserted his right to disagree with Stalin. So long as Trotsky lives, Stalin will feel uneasy. Even if Trotsky were to be cooped up at the North Pole, Stalin would still shiver in his bed whenever the thought of Trotsky flashed into his mind, for Trotsky is the one man Stalin fears, the one man whose voice makes Stalin turn pale and froth at the mouth.

The Stalin-Trotsky feud is one of the most dramatic incidents in history. Before long there will be shelves in our libraries devoted to books dealing with this gigantic schism.

* * *

Can you explain why waiters and waitresses invariably grab the menu card after getting the customer's order?

I've often wondered at that myself. The answer is given by President R. D. Clarke, of the National Restaurant Association, who says "it's because the diner too often changes his mind if the menu is not removed."

* * *

Wouldn't it be a good thing if Mrs. Simpson hunted up a girl friend in Baltimore who could make Hitler abdicate?

There would be a better chance if Mrs. Simpson were to hunt up a boy friend.

* * *

What is your opinion of The Good Housekeeping Institute?

William Randolph Hearst's *Good Housekeeping* magazine (one of Hearst's most profitable publishing enterprises, making something like \$2,000,000 per year net profit) started The Good Housekeeping Institute as a plain racket, and such it has always been. It employs "laboratory experts" and issues a "Seal of Approval" to much-sought advertisers, regardless of the fact that many of

the articles approved by the Institute and advertised in *Good Housekeeping* have been exposed as plain schemes to rob the public. Even dangerous patent medicines like Saraka, Vapex and Lysol are offered to *Good Housekeeping* readers with the full endorsement of the Institute racketeers. The whole scheme stinks. Always remember that Hearst's Institute is just a money-making plan to give "prestige" to advertisers who are part of a conspiracy to rob the consumers. I wonder if I've made myself plain?

* * *

A well-informed anti-Nazi claimed, in my presence, that the people of Germany, as a result of Hitler's program of militarism, have been reduced to eating dogs. Is this true?

The Neue Volks-Zeitung, a German language newspaper published in New York City, in its December 26, 1936, issue containing a reproduction of the front page of the *Zittauer Morgen-Post* an official Nazi paper published in Germany. This copy of a Hitler organ contains an advertisement, which was inserted by a horse butcher, telling the public that his establishment had on sale a supply of "fat dog meat." Just how general this situation is I'm unable to say at this time, but you can certainly believe your anti-Nazi friend knows what he's talking about when he asserts Hitler has dragged the great German people down to a lower standard of living. When a recognized Nazi newspaper actually prints an announcement offering "fat dog meat," the conditions must be appalling.

How long will the German people tolerate a gangster regime which glorifies war and reduces its masses to a diet that includes horse and dog meat?

* * *

I have noticed, during the past four years, that you make it a practice to report on U.S.S.R. affairs more closely than I have been able to find in any other American publication. When you speak of Russia's economic progress you grow enthusiastic. You go to great pains to show that the Russian people are improving their economic position right along, but when you treat of Soviet cultural life—its ideology, its intellectual manifestations—you sometimes grow impatient and critical. Why?

I am usually pleased by some aspects of Russia's cultural life, es-

pecially in the sphere of materialistic science. I also like Russia's realistic manner of treating religious notions. But, to me, civilization means something precious and fragile, but something of tremendous significance—I refer to the mood for the free play of thought—unhindered discussion, curiosity about things intellectual, skepticism, unlimited criticism and discussion, friendly protection of the spirit of controversy. Those are the qualities that make for genuine culture, for a real civilization, and without them we live in a prison, no matter how swell that prison may look, no matter how rich the prisoners may be in creature comforts.

When we approach this phase of civilization in Russia, we begin to meet difficulties, doubts, emotions of dread. Of course, no matter how bad things look, at times, there's the certainty that Russia's situation is by no means the world's worst. The very lowest acts against civilized ideas have been committed in Germany, where intellectualism has been crushed almost beyond recovery. So, while Russia's status isn't the worst in the world, one has good reason to demand that a proletarian civilization shall build a culture that rests on sound foundations, an example to the world. That explains why I have occasionally been critical of Russian experiences in the realm of culture.

On this point I want to refer to a distinguished French author, Andre Gide, who went to the U.S.S.R. and spent five months there. Gide is something of a figure in the Republic of Letters, and he has, for some years, been friendly to Communism and the U.S.S.R., and, so far as I can figure out from his latest book, still is friendly, albeit critical.

Gide left to others the task of describing Russia's almost miraculous progress in industry, invention, production, mining, agriculture, chemistry, power, public works, and the like. These matters are of great importance, as Gide knows, but our Frenchman of letters wanted to study the field he knows best—the world of ideas, of culture, of thought. And it's at this point that Gide lets loose a blast that is shivering, even though it's couched in warm, patient, friendly words. He expresses his feelings in the following questions:

"A deep concern, never before experienced, animated me: What shall I say upon my return to Paris? What shall I reply to questions already ringing in my ears? I shall, of course, be expected to give precise answers. How am I to explain that I was now hot and now cold—in a moral sense—while in Soviet Russia? Must I conceal my reservations? Must I lie, must I approve everything? No—I should do the U.S.S.R. and the cause we believe it represents a poor service."

Remember, Gide speaks as a friend of Communism, one recognized as such in the U.S.S.R. His words, therefore, should be studied carefully, every thought considered sincerely and wholeheartedly, for, to my way of looking, Gide's case against Russian culture is not to be dismissed with a gesture of impatience. Certainly no anti-Communist red-baiter ever sent home such telling thrusts. I urge my readers to read—and reread—the sentences Gide wrote about the Soviet Union's cultural life, in the following paragraphs:

"Those who have followed the evolution of the U.S.S.R. in the past year may determine for themselves whether it is the U.S.S.R. or I that has changed. By the U.S.S.R. I mean those who rule it. There is both good and bad there or, rather, things both fine and ugly. The fine has frequently been attained at the price of tremendous efforts. Not always or everywhere have these efforts achieved the desired ends. In many instances, one may say, they have not been attained yet. And very often the fine is entwined with the ugly—we may even say that one is the consequence of the other. From the bright to the dark the transition is very sharp, astonishing.

"Frequently, the traveler observes only what corresponds to his preconceptions. And very often it happens that friends of the U.S.S.R. refuse to see the bad, or at any rate to admit it. For this reason we too often find people speaking the truth about the U.S.S.R. with hatred or lying about it lovingly. If I have been mistaken, it would be best to recognize my mistake, for I am responsible to those who have been influenced by my error. For me there are things more important than myself, than the U.S.S.R. I mean humanity, its fate, its culture. . . .

"There is only one opinion about

everything in the U.S.S.R. The minds of human beings are so molded and their capacity for conformism has become so natural and unconscious, that one cannot even suspect hypocrisy. Are these the people who made the revolution? No, they merely extract the profit from it. Every morning the 'Pravda' teaches them what they ought to know, tells them what they ought to think, what they must believe. Anything else is from the devil. To such an extent has this become true that when you speak to one you realize that you have spoken to all. Nor is this true in the sense that all obey a given order; the simple fact is that everything is so ordained that it is impossible for anyone to differ with anybody. This molding of the mind begins from childhood. Hence, the astonishing things that strike a foreigner.

"You pity the people who wait in line for hours—but they find it quite in the order of things. The bread, vegetables, fruit they buy are of poor quality—but there are no others. The cloth, the goods available are shoddy—there is nothing else to choose from. There being no means of comparison, it is necessary to be satisfied with what is offered. The important thing (for the government) is to make the people realize that they have nothing to expect—that others are worse off. This is attained by carefully barring all contact with the outside world."

The gist of Gide's case is, of course, that the critical spirit is dead in Russia, and the Russian people never will have a genuine culture so long as that spirit has no honored place in their lives. Gide covers this point in the following statement:

"We are impressed by the great yearning in the U.S.S.R. for education, for culture. But this education is confined to satisfaction with what has already been achieved, while culture in general is totally devoid of any critical spirit (despite Marxism). I know that much is being said about 'self-criticism' in the U.S.S.R. From afar I too was enthusiastic about it, and placed much hope upon it, but I very soon perceived that this 'self-criticism' is confined to squealing and warnings, mixed with fears, that it must not go beyond the 'party line.' The 'party line' itself is not subject to criticism. What may be discussed is whether this or that action, achievement or theory is in har-

mony with the sacred 'party line.' And woe to those who step over it! Any further criticism is forbidden. There is nothing more dangerous for culture than such a mentality.

"The Soviet citizen lives in utter ignorance as to what is taking place abroad. Nay, he has been made to believe that things abroad, in all aspects, are much worse than in the U.S.S.R. This illusion is cleverly nurtured. It is the source of the belief in their own superiority."

At this point Gide gives examples of how the Russians react to the outside world—a world about which they know next to nothing. They ask foreigners like Gide whether France has facilities for taking care of children in kindergartens; whether the children are permitted to go to schools, whether there are street cars and buses in the streets of Paris, and all along absolutely convinced that Moscow is the only city in the world to have a subway.

Gide sums up his views on Russia's lack of intellectual freedom in the following words:

"I doubt whether there is any country, not excluding Hitler Germany, where intellectual life is less free, more distorted, more terrorized, more vassal-like than in the U.S.S.R."

Such criticisms must be debated seriously, and if there's any hope for Russia's cultural future it's because there's a possibility that such words may eventually take effect and perhaps bring about a change that will make possible a real civilization in the land of the Soviets.

Gide's book has hardly left its publishers, yet controversy over its viewpoint is raging throughout most of the world. Unfortunately, Gide's criticisms were, and are, being used to the limit by the Nazi press in order to create prejudice against Russia, but even this must never deter real friends of the U.S.S.R. from studying every shade of opinion dealing with the mind and body of Russia.

Another French author, even more distinguished than Gide, has sprung to the defense of the U.S.S.R. I refer to Romain Rolland, one of the most famous writers in the world. From his home in Ville Neuve, Switzerland, Rolland, who has spent more time in Russia than Gide, wrote to a group of steel workers at

Magnitorgorsk who had asked him to comment on Gide's "metamorphosis." Rolland replied with a vigorous attack on Gide, but, I'm sorry to confess, a careful examination of his epistle fails to reveal even a hint of discussion over the various definite charges Gide hurled at the Soviet Union, the gist of which I give my readers in this brief review. However, Rolland's letter is worth reading, and I'm pleased to be able to quote it as follows:

"I quite understand your indignation at the book by Gide. It is superficial, childish and contradictory. It is valueless. A fuss is raised around the name of Gide. His prominence is being utilized by enemies of the U.S.S.R., who always lie in wait ready in their inward rage to make use of any weapon.

"I react to Gide's book as Ostrovsky reacted: I am angry with Gide not so much because of any criticism he makes—he could have come out openly with that while he was in the U.S.S.R. had he been honest. But I am angry with him because of his double-dealing, because in the U.S.S.R. he never stopped proclaiming his love and admiration of the Soviet Union, but when he returned to France he struck the U.S.S.R. in the back—unceasingly protesting his 'sincerity'!

"If he now protests at the humiliating praise showered on him by the lackeys of reaction, even by the Voelkischer Beobachter (Nazi newspaper), that means in my opinion that he feels himself to be in an unpleasant situation.

"But it is already too late, the harm is done. . . .

"Not Gide, nor anything can hold up the movement of history or the development of the Soviet Union."

Rolland's letter closes with the following comment:

"We want to be true and modest, but at the same time steadfast in our fight, and in our uninterrupted efforts to enrich and to adorn the great Fatherland of the working people of the whole world, created by the October Revolution (the Bolshevik Revolution).

"The furious hatred of the enemies and the bankruptcy of friends who are too weak to follow us should not trouble us. Let us enjoy and take pleasure in our fruitful efforts (these efforts are a joy), in our glorious and difficult work and in that happy future which we are creating with our labor."

This discussion brings us right smack against the new Soviet Constitution, which points several fingers in the direction of freedom and not in the direction of the intellectual slavery so bitterly outlined by Andre Gide. On this point, permit me to quote a constructive, friendly, intelligent sentence from the usually well-informed and frankly honest reporter, Walter Duranty, who, writing in *The Nation*, January 2, 1937, says:

"The new Soviet Constitution may or may not be functioning completely in the U.S.S.R. today, but it is, nevertheless, a pledge of future freedom."

I think Duranty goes to the heart of the question here—the future holds promises of freedom, so there is room for a certain degree of intelligent optimism. A reading of the new Soviet Constitution leaves one inspired and uplifted. Here, one says almost automatically, is humanity's new key to freedom—of the body, of the mind, of culture, education, art, science and expression in general. Can it be made to function? To me, the answer seems a positive Yes. But the document isn't going to assert itself, as though one could get intellectual light by pressing a button. A piece of paper won't do it; human beings will make the transformation a reality. And a great people that has done magnificent things during the past two decades should be able to give birth to the social conditions that will make possible the living glories that rest in that great Constitution which the Russian people, a few short months ago, ratified and established as the basic law of the land.

* * *

For some years I have been following your writings and have made a special study of your style of writing. You seem to write grammatically all the time, and yet you never miss a chance to pooh-pooh grammar. How come?

I don't recall ever having pooh-poohed grammar. In fact, I have a lot of respect for grammar, if by that we mean putting words together in an orderly way. I like the common speech, but that doesn't mean I care for linguistic barbarisms. First of all comes clarity—I insist on writing in such a way that my readers can't help understanding me, and if, on the way, I split an infinitive,

tive, I let it remain unrepaired. There are dreadful forms of speech I can't permit myself to adopt, because they offend me. I can best illustrate what I try to avoid by quoting a paragraph from a speech delivered by an attorney for the plaintiff to an Arkansas jury that was judging a damage suit against a railroad company which had killed an inoffensive cow. Said our lawyer:

"Gentlemen of the jury, if the train had been running as slow as it should have been ran, if the bell had been rung as it ort to have been rang or the whistle had been blowed as it should have been blew, none of which was did, the cow would not have been injured when she was killed!"

* * *

What is a "T" man?

The U.S. government employs a board of experts who taste tea. Their palates decide whether the stuff is fit to send into the country. That's why they are called "T" men. Darn clever people, these Americans.

* * *

I was greatly interested in your Black List of Dangerous Drugs and Cosmetics in the March, 1937, issue of *The American Freeman*. I use Italian Balm, so I wrote a short note to the manufacturers saying I understood they were on the black list of the New York Health Department and would appreciate their comments. I received in reply the hysterical effusion enclosed, which may interest you.

Italian Balm is made by the Campana Sales Company, Batavia, Ill., a concern which does a large volume of business. The company employs Genevieve Warren as head of its "Department of Public Relations," which is a fancy way of describing the job of a woman who must argue about complaints, supply propaganda in support of its product, and in other ways do the work of an official booster. No matter how angry Miss Warren may become, when so responsible a body as the Health Department of New York City warns its staff to be on the watch for poisonings that result from the use of Italian Balm, I think it's simply a public duty to let one's readers have the information once it becomes available.

And what is Italian Balm's reply? Believe it or not, the company is being made the victim of a Commu-

nist plot. No, I'm not joking. This is the literal truth. From the company's letter I quote:

"Let us state at the out-set that this is a country of free speech and free press and that very fact is a 'cover-up' for a great number of communistic actions in this country."

I wish I could convince Miss Warren that while we have free speech and free press in this country we have no right to commit libel, and if what was written and printed about Italian Balm is false, the company certainly has recourse. Also, I wish I could convince Miss Warren that Moscow and Stalin had absolutely nothing to do with Italian Balm's inclusion in the black list quoted in *The Freeman*. But Miss Warren sees Reds all over the lot, for a few paragraphs later she busts out with this:

"When a person condemns ITALIAN BALM either by speech or writing because it contains phenol they do it with a communistic frame of mind—not for anything constructive. . . ."

I'm sure Miss Warren is seeing red because her nerves are in need of some kind of a soothing balm. Just because a person doesn't want anyone to be poisoned by phenol, it doesn't follow that he is suffering from a "communistic frame of mind." And as for being "constructive," it's my notion that wanting to save one's eyesight is very constructive behavior indeed, or is that Communism again? The answer must be in the affirmative, for Miss Warren continues yelling red revolution in another paragraph, this way:

"... we assure you absolutely that anything you have heard regarding our being on any 'Black List' has for its foundation, minds of communistic people who are in this country for no good whatever but to destroy what we Americans have set up . . . There is no way for an American manufacturer to stop the publishing of such things because of our free press and free speech."

Again I rise to advise the makers of Italian Balm that free speech and free press don't give us the right to spread falsehoods about their product, and again I advise these het-up souls that a just criticism of their product doesn't imply that Russian Bolsheviks

are loose in this fair land of ours trying to inculcate Atheism, Free Love and Free Vodka.

* * *

My children say they should like to scan your correspondence for a few days. I dare say, if any of us did, we would better understand why you were compelled to abandon in despair your recent ambition to develop new writing talent by correspondence.

I'm positive this reader's children would find many of the letters I get very amusing. It seems that about 10,000 persons throughout the world are convinced I'm a combination of Aristotle, Aimee Semple McPherson, Gandhi, King Solomon, Benjamin Franklin, the Voice of Experience, Major Bowes, Will Rogers, Dr. Freud, Karl Marx, Abraham Lincoln and Jee-zus Kee-ryest. Just because I pick out about 125 questions for this publication each month, they assume I can, and will, do anything that's asked of me. Let me give just a few examples:

A woman out West tells me her preacher will finish his 50th year of sermonizing next month, and since it's planned to give the old pulpit-pounder a big shindig, would I be good enough to write out a complete program—something snappy, interesting, happy, elevating, inspirational and entertaining. I never agreed to give that kind of service to my readers.

A farmer up in Nebraska—or is it Iowa?—writes me a long letter about the troubles he's having with the county school commissioners. It seems that his daughter is a student at the county high school and that the teachers compel her to attend religious services. He has complained to the County Attorney, who admits that while there's a provision in the State Constitution against teaching religion in the public schools, the question has never been tested in court, so he will do nothing about the case, except if the farmer hires a lawyer to bring some sort of an injunction suit against the county. Here's where I come in. My reader asks me to recommend a lawyer in his home county—someone with liberal, rationalistic, debunked ideas. You see, I'm supposed to know the mental and cultural ideas of every lawyer in his county and then pick

out one he can trust to save his daughter from the clutches of the sky-pilots. I never agreed to give that kind of service to my readers.

A woman in Glasgow, Scotland, asks me to inform her "how it is that although I am married I get least satisfaction from my husband and most satisfaction from a few colored male friends." How do I know? She knows more about those colored men than I do. I don't even know what color she has in mind—black, yellow, mahogany, pork, or albino?

The long distance operator gets me on the phone and connects me with a man in Memphis, Tenn., who, in a solemn, broken voice, tells me his father has just died and would I be good enough to jump a plane in time to come to the funeral the next afternoon and deliver the burial sermon. Why? The man was one of my most ardent readers and asked that I be invited to conduct a strictly rationalistic funeral for him when he kicked off. I hate to have my readers die off—they're so hard to get—but I never agreed to help bury them, so I had to excuse myself.

Here's a night-letter which contains descriptions of two poker hands—four aces in one hand, a king-high straight flush in the other. Each player has bet his shirt and now they can't agree, after the show-down, which won the pot. Would I be good enough to decide this question, by Western Union collect? Being an old poker player myself, I relented and wired the fellows that the man who held the straight flush gets the money, but when did I ever agree to give that kind of service to my readers?

I could go on like this for columns, but that would only tire my readers. Yes, this business of answering questions gets me into many a tight fix. But that doesn't mean I dislike the job. Really, I get a lot of kick out of this thing.

It takes about 25,000 words to fill an issue, and that's a whole lot of words, but I don't mind saying I'd feel sad if I had to give up this pleasant literary chore. Most of my readers are a reasonable, intelligent, understanding bunch of rogues, and they know I can't always do as my subscribers expect.

My old-time readers usually wind up their letters with the remark that

they expect no answer, because they happen to know I employ no secretary. I write my own letters, which means I can't keep up a lively correspondence with lonely, talkative subscribers who suggest quite simply that I join in a long and friendly exchange of letters. There are two reasons why I don't use a stenographer—first, because I make a mess of dictating by getting gabby and saying too much; second, I can't afford one.

I like to hear from my readers—in fact, I'd feel lonely if the girls who open the mail in the front office didn't fill E. H.-J's letter-tray every morning—but I expect these correspondents to be reasonable with me, for they should know that I not only have the tasks of writing this publication but the jobs of running the plant, getting up circulars, broadsides and other advertisements, arranging with authors—especially Joseph McCabe—what they are to do for me, and so on down the line.

It's a busy life, but I like it.

* * *

What do we mean when we speak of horsepower?

When we refer to one horsepower, we mean the amount of power it takes to lift a body that weighs 33,000 pounds one foot in one minute. Another way is to lift 550 pounds one foot in one second, which is one horsepower. I was amused to find in one of Upton Sinclair's books the startling information that a machine of so much horsepower—let's say 100—has the pulling power of 100 horses. The fact, of course, is that horses, like horsefeathers, have nothing to do with horsepower. This is a common error that refuses to die.

* * *

How long does it take a body to fall through the air?

According to a report issued by the Army Air Corps's experimental station at Wright Field, a man with a parachute pack attached to his back never falls faster than at the rate of 118 miles per hour. The same authorities deny the superstition that falling men lose consciousness. The report on falling bodies is summarized as follows:

"In the first second of its descent a body falls 16 feet; second second, 16 plus 32 equals 48 feet; third second, 16 plus 64 equals 80 feet;

fourth second, 16 plus 96 equals 112 feet; fifth second, 16 plus 128 equals 144 feet; nth second, 16 plus 32 (n-1) feet. The total distance fallen by a body at the end of the nth second is given in feet by multiplying the square of the time in seconds by 16.

"Thus at the end of the first second it has fallen 16 feet, at the end of the second second 2 times 2 times 16 equals 64 feet, at the end of the third second 3 times 3 times 16 equals 144 feet; at the end of the fifth, 5 times 5 times 16 equals 400 feet. Conversely, to find the time in seconds to fall any distance, divide the distance in feet by 16 and extract the square root; thus to fall a mile divide 5,280 by 16 which gives 330 and the square root of 330 is a little over 18, the number of seconds which is the vacuum time to fall a mile. Owing to the resistance of the air it takes about 19 seconds for a bomb to reach the earth when dropped from an airplane a mile high."

* * *

How many inches of snowfall does it take to equal one inch of rain?

It takes 10 inches of snow to equal the water content of an inch of rain.

* * *

How many stars can the naked eye see? How many by field glasses and telescopes?

A person with normal eyesight should see about 6,000 stars on a clear night, but as half these stars are always beyond the horizon only between 2,000 and 2,500 stars can be seen. The number varies according to conditions—clear or dark skies, haze, moonlight, etc. Street lights make a glare and thus reduce the number of stars one can see with the naked eye. With the help of field-glasses one should be able to see 50,000 stars. When we come to telescopes the number increases rapidly, beginning with several hundred thousand through a two-inch telescope and about 1,000,000,000 through the 100-inch Mount Wilson reflector.

* * *

The Japanese people are taught to believe that because they paid such an immense price, in lives and money, to defeat Russia they shouldn't be questioned about their occupation of Manchuria. Please comment.

The argument is quite naive. To begin with, it happens that the Japanese didn't lose many lives or spend much money in their war on Russia in 1904-05. The number of men kill-

ed was quite small, and the expense was so slight that Japan's taxes didn't even increase during the war years or for a few years thereafter. But, let's suppose they did pay a lot in blood and gold to whip the Czar, so what? If that means what the Japanese are taught to believe, then they should go on through all of China, then on into Siberia, then down into India, and then over to Alaska, and so on.

* * *

Is the U.S.A. limited by law to 48 States?

It would be legal to add four more States to the present 48, even though we annexed no new land. When Texas was admitted into the Union in 1845, Congress stated specifically that the people of Texas, should they desire, could exercise the right at any time to split up the State's 265,896 square miles into four additional States.

* * *

I sent Joseph Lewis, of the Freethinkers of America, a few dollars to help pay for a statue to Thomas Paine. Was this money put to good use?

On January 29, 1937, Joseph Lewis unveiled in Paris an eight-foot statue of Thomas Paine, the work of the famous sculptor, Gutzon Borglum. This effigy of the great patriot, Freethinker and libertarian, was presented to the French government as a part of a movement to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Paine's birth. The French, of course, admire Thomas Paine as fervently as the most enthusiastic American Freethinker, because he went to France after the close of our revolution and served the French people in their great revolution against a rotten Church and corrupt State. So, this reader's few dollars, I can assure him, went to pay the expenses of a great gesture of appreciation for the services of one of the great men of the 18th Century. If Thomas Paine had done nothing but write his book, *The Age of Reason*, he would still be entitled to a dozen statues, for this volume has done wonders in freeing the modern mind of superstitious ideas.

* * *

Being afflicted with obesity, I would like to know your opinion of Marmola.

Marmola is made and distributed by the Raladam Company, of Detroit, a concern which spends immense

sums yearly advertising this alleged cure for overweight. Marmola is dangerous to take internally and can't be considered a safe means to reduce. In fact, Marmola, taken to cure obesity, may kill.

A report on Marmola, issued by the federal government, on January 24, 1937, claims its findings, "based on distinguished medical and scientific opinion, are that only a small proportion of cases of overweight result from thyroid deficiency; that in many cases the respondent company's product cannot be safely used, and in any case should be taken only on the advice of a physician."

This statement has reference to the company's claim that Marmola's active ingredient is desiccated thyroid made from the thyroid glands of certain animals. The company's advertising is based on the alleged fact that "thyroid deficiency is a common cause of excess fat, and that thyroid should be taken for reducing." This, of course, is denied by competent medical authorities, who insist that only the exceptional, rare case of obesity is caused by thyroid trouble. The Federal Trade Commission's order to the company insisted that if it continued advertising that Marmola's properties and effects are described fully, the following paragraph must be appended in explanation, for the information of the public:

"That desiccated thyroid is a powerful and dangerous drug or product when used internally for reducing purposes, attacking and oxidizing or burning not only fatty tissue, but all bodily tissues; that cases of abnormal excess fat caused by deficiency of the secretion of the thyroid gland are rare and exceptional; that physicians prescribe the use of thyroid for treating obesity only in cases of actual deficiency of thyroid gland secretion; that in cases of excess fat not caused by thyroid deficiency, thyroid is not usually indicated as a proper treatment and its use in such cases is apt to be and frequently is harmful to the user's health."

* * *

How much food does the average person eat in a lifetime?

36 tons.

* * *

I happen to be a householder who has to shovel the snow and ice around his

home. I've just finished, and the place looks decent, but the weather man says there's more snow on the way, so I'm keeping my pick and shovel handy. Meanwhile, I'm getting ready by applying liberal doses of liniment to my sore muscles. What I want to know is, have you any data about snow removal? How much snow and ice do we move?

Any information I can give must be looked on only as an estimate, for there's no way of gathering authentic figures. However, an otherwise normal mathematician, W. J. McDonnell, of the Federal Communications Commission, did some figuring that ought to satisfy one's curiosity.

Arithmetician McDonnell, whose home happens to be in Kansas City, Mo., reports that he estimates the ice coating he removed from his sidewalks and driveway was four inches thick. By reducing some of the ice to water, in order to be able to weigh it conveniently, he found that a square foot weighs 10.9 pounds. He then found that he had chopped, minced, coaxed, scraped and shoveled 6.13 tons of ice and snow. His home is just an ordinary-sized affair.

McDonnell, whose mood is truly scientific and objective, insists that it's not enough to say that he removed 6.13 tons of weight, for consideration must be given to the pick and shovel he used in getting the chore done. He found that his pick and shovel weighed 14 pounds, and as it took one smash of the pick and one scrape of the shovel to send a square foot of four-inch ice on its way, the lifting of his tools added 7.938 tons to his job. One begins to realize now that Mr. Einstein—no, I mean Mr. McDonnell—is getting his dope down to a pretty fine edge. It all goes to show how wonderful modern science is.

Our modern Sir Isaac Newton kept his pencil working to find out, within reasonable limits, how much ice was removed by the men in Kansas City's residential district, basing his figures on the assumption that each square foot meant the lifting of 25 pounds of ice, pick and shovel. His mathematics showed that the men lifted 660 tons per mile, allowing 10 feet for the sidewalks. But as the streets have two sides, McDonnell had to double this figure, making the total 1,320 tons.

McDonnell next throws in the street

cleaning department, which went to work on the 60-foot streets, which meant that 3,960 tons per mile had to be removed, that is, if it's true that the street department went to the bother of removing the ice and snow from the residential district. We now find, says Mr. McDonnell, that the average block contains 32 homes—another unverified estimate—so 1,792,000 tons had to be handled. But here the scientific house of cards collapses because he finds—after another unverified estimate—that hardly anybody bothered to remove the snow and ice because they had heard over the radio that more snow was on the way. Besides, after the coming snow there might be a swift, hard thaw, which would enable more procrastinators to spend their time productively with the comic sections or following the latest adventures of Amos and Andy.

* * *

Which electric shaver do you consider the best?

I still prefer the old safety razor, which, for many years, has served me faithfully in the daily chore of removing surplus stubble. I like to turn on my Victrola and hear three or four records from a Beethoven symphony, or Strauss' "Life of a Hero," or one of Stokowski's Bach transcriptions, while I lather my manly face and scratch away the hair. I like the aroma of the soap and the fresh, clean feeling after the skin is dried. I imagine I'll be using that razor after all the world turns to electric shavers, even though there's something up-to-date and progressive about the idea of using electric power to shave one's face.

There are three well-known electric shavers—Schick, Clipshave, and Packard. From the best reports I can get, it seems that only one of these three machines really works, and that's the Schick. The others are flops. But even the Schick doesn't give one the close shave that can be obtained from a 25c safety razor. And as for the price—\$15—I think it's simply crazy. The contraption looks like a \$5-buy to me, but reports have it that hundreds of thousands of men are paying out \$15 for these shaving machines.

It is estimated that it costs a man about \$2 per year to shave himself

the old way. That, of course, means a low-priced razor, resharpened blades (which nowadays cost little when first bought), shaving soap or cream, and the wear and tear on a brush. For \$15 you can expect about seven and a half years of razor shaving. Will an electric shaver last seven and a half years? I doubt it.

* * *

Do any of our State educational institutions offer courses in the management of cooperatives?

The only two I know of are Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, and the University of Minnesota. The one at Manhattan is intended to train the managers of cooperatives and requires only two months. Special attention is given to problems of management, business organizations, accounting, etc. The one at Minnesota covers the same ground. Managers or prospective managers will find themselves better able to serve their organizations by taking a course.

* * *

Is it true that savages don't suffer from cancer because their diet consists of whole wheat and whole grain?

Dr. Morris Fishbein, the distinguished editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, one of the highest authorities in the world, answers this question as follows:

"The truth of the matter is that the savages do not die of cancer as the civilized man does, simply because the savage does not live long enough to die of cancer.

"His life expectancy at birth is still about 35 years, in contrast to the 59-year life expectancy acquired by the civilized man. Ninety percent of the cases which die of cancer concern people more than 45 years of age."

Dr. Fishbein's habit of debunking so many popular notions has earned him a handsome crop of enemies, but this brave fighter for scientific truth keeps up his vigorous campaign of education, and the results seem to be steadily progressive. What this country needs is an extra supply of men of the type of Dr. Fishbein, one of the most useful guides in the land.

* * *

Of what did George Washington die?

There has been some controversy on the question of what caused Washington's death, with claims for tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancer, diph-

theria and a few other diseases, each disputant being able to marshal more or less convincing testimony in support of his diagnosis.

Dr. Creighton Barker, member of the clinical staff of the Yale University School of Medicine, has reviewed the case for *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, writing his report in the form of a present-day record. Dr. Barker claims Washington died of septic sore throat, a streptococcus infection.

Dr. Barker's case-record is presented under such headings as "family history," "past history," "present illness," followed by a "clinical diagnosis" based on the numerous facts gathered "from the careful and minute entries made in the diary of Tobias Lear, Washington's faithful secretary." Based on these notes, Dr. Barker rejects the diagnosis of the doctors who attended Washington, who entered the cause of death as cynanche trachealis.

After reviewing a few facts regarding the patient and his general condition and circumstances, Dr. Barker records Washington's family history:

"G. W., white, male, farmer, married, no children, age, 67 years 10 months. First seen at 4 a.m. December 14 (1799), complaining of difficulty in breathing and swallowing, aphonia, soreness and pain in the neck.

"Family History:

"Father dead, age 49, pneumonia. Mother dead. Remainder of family history vague and irrelevant.

"Patient had led a vigorous and rugged outdoor life, had had smallpox, dysentery, malaria and pneumonia. After the age of 50 had carious teeth that necessitated complete removal. Eyesight failed early; there is some evidence of recurrent attacks of iritis."

Under the heading of "Present Illness," Dr. Barker takes from his various sources the following account:

"The present illness dates from December 12, when the patient, as was his custom, rode about his farm from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day was inclement, with rain, snow and sleet. When he came in, it was noticed that his clothing was wet and snow was hanging from his hair. It being late he went to dinner without changing his clothes. Retired early, rested well. The next morning, December

13, he complained of a sore throat, but went out of doors marking trees. When he came in he was quite hoarse, but otherwise normal, and read aloud for some time to his family. It was suggested that he take something for his cold, but he replied, 'No, you know I never take anything for a cold, let it go as it came.' Retired early.

"At 3 a.m. December 14 he awoke in a chill and informed his wife that he had the ague. He could hardly speak and breathed with difficulty. While attempting to swallow a mixture of molasses, vinegar and butter he was 'convulsive and almost suffocated.' A pint of blood was let, and sal volatile was gently rubbed on the throat. The patient complained that the pressure of the rubbing hurt him and it was discontinued. A piece of flannel soaked in sal volatile was bound about the neck. Shortly after 4 a.m. the patient was seen by Dr. Craik, who found him sitting up bathing his feet in hot water. Changing position from lying down to sitting up had not relieved the dyspnea and he was put back to bed. At this time the patient was feverish, breathing with difficulty, face flushed, pulse rapid, mentally alert. Chest examination negative. There is no record of examination of the throat.

"Dr. Craik applied a blister of cantharides to the neck, took more blood and prescribed a gargle of vinegar and sage tea. In trying to gargle, the patient gagged severely and became cyanotic. Inhalation of vinegar and hot water was given, more blood was let, swallowing became more difficult.

"Consultation was sought and Dr. Gustavus R. Brown, of Port Tobacco, and Dr. Elisha Dick, of Alexandria, visited the patient advising further bleeding, and it was noted that 'the blood came slow and thick.' Late in the afternoon a full dose of calomel and tartar emetic was given. Dyspnea increased. At 8 o'clock p.m. another blister was applied to the throat and hot wheat plasters to the legs and feet. The patient sat up for a time and, in full realization of his approaching end, gave his attention to various property matters and to correcting his will.

"The patient died between 11 and 12 p.m. December 14. He was conscious until a few minutes before the end and one of his last acts was to take his own pulse."

Recording the clinical diagnosis as

"cynanche trachealis; post-mortem diagnosis not given," Dr. Barker launches into his "Differential diagnosis," which follows:

"Controversy has arisen as to the accuracy of the diagnosis, and from time to time many attempts to clarify it have been made. Literally translated, cynanche means 'the strangling of a dog,' and cynanche trachealis would literally mean 'a dog strangled by the trachea,' which, it must be admitted, is a rather indefinite pathological classification. In the nomenclature accepted at the time the edicts of the Edinburgh School of Medicine were widely accepted throughout the English-speaking world, and in it cynanche trachealis was considered as a variety of quinsy, 'an inflammation of the glottis, larynx, and upper part of the trachea, whether it affects the membrane in these parts or the muscle adjoining.' With that definition in mind, the diagnosis made by the attending physician, although vague, was no doubt accurate. However, it still leaves something to be desired, and the conclusion as to what was the actual cause of death is open to argument. It has been stated that the disease was diphtheria, and there are some observations to support this argument. But it has been quite definitely determined that there were no other similar cases in Washington's household at the time. And, moreover, there appears considerable evidence that Washington survived an attack of 'black canker' in his early youth. It is now generally accepted that the appellation 'black canker' was frequently given to diphtheritic infection.

"Other suggested diagnoses that have been advanced are:

Vincent's angina, Ludwig's angina, tuberculosis, pneumonia and cancer. Vincent's angina is rarely fatal, and when it is, death is usually the result of a long-drawn-out necrotic process. Ludwig's angina (subglottic suppuration) is not often so rapidly fatal, and death usually results from increasing cellulitis in the neck and from asphyxiation. The patient's age and the course of disease are contrary to the expected course of a tuberculous infection. Pneumonia is not so easy to rule out, but there is a good deal of evidence to point toward pathology in the upper respiratory tract rather than within the chest. The idea that it was cancer is hardly ten-

able; there was no history of preceding aphonia or other laryngeal symptoms. In short, careful study of the records made at the time and paralleling them with clinical observation, leads to the conclusion that the disease from which Washington suffered and which caused his death in a little over 24 hours was the condition now recognized as 'septic sore throat,' a virulent streptococcus infection of the pharynx, with cellulitis in the walls of the hypopharynx and edema of the glottis.

"Treatment: The therapeutic procedures employed were orthodox treatment at the time, and followed closely the teaching of the great Edinburgh School, from which two of the attending physicians had been graduated. The blood-letting, for which the doctors have been so bitterly criticized and which alarmed Mrs. Washington, was expressly advised for cynanche trachealis, and repetition of the procedure was recommended as the most effective means for combating the progress of the disease. In the light of present-day practice which introduces blood into the patient to increase his resistance, instead of withdrawing it, one may almost say that the bleeding may have hastened the end. In extremis a tracheotomy might have been performed, and there has been criticism of Craik for not advocating it. The operation did not have the endorsement of leading physicians at the time; in fact, most of them were opposed to it, and an even greater scandal would have arisen had it been performed with the same fatal results.

"Dr. Brown and Dr. Dick each received \$40 for their services. The amount of Dr. Craik's fee is not recorded."

* * *

Some time ago I suggested to some booksellers and publishers that one of the troubles with our profession was that most people thought that only rich men could have a home library. I went so far as to suggest that with intelligent, judicious selection a civilized library could be bought on a reasonable budget. Believe it or not, it could even be done for \$1 . . . or \$10 . . . or \$100 . . . through the careful use of reprints, little books, anthologies, etc. Why don't you discuss this in your paper some day and show how \$1 wisely spent can provide the nucleus of a home library, and continue with budgets up to \$100? Specifically, I would like to see just what you'd suggest for \$1 as the most indispensable basic books of all

time, being the best of the old and some representation of the new, to offer a balanced cultural diet. This suggestion is purely personal and disinterested, and I should not like to have my name quoted, as my motive might be misinterpreted, but you can pass on the idea and give your suggested list in your own columns, if you wish.

The foregoing question comes from one of the best known publishers in New York City, a man who has been wonderfully successful and who has shown intelligence in the selection of titles and their proper exploitation.

I believe I can pass on a few hints to those who would like to lay the foundations of a library—20 volumes that shouldn't cost more than \$1. The following list of key books suggest themselves to me:

1. A volume of Emerson's essays, preferably *Self-Reliance, Friendship, and Love*. (A reading of these three essays should stimulate a desire to read most of Emerson's works, though I must warn the beginning reader that Emerson doesn't always run in his best form, for the man was given to the annoying habit of writing a valuable essay that could appeal to realistic minds and then turning out one that was crammed with mysticism and moonshine. Emerson is the sort of writer who opens the door to scores of other geniuses—philosophers, various essayists, historians, etc.)

2. A volume of Shakespeare. Here I recommend one of the more popular plays, like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, etc., but don't plan on reading more than 10 Shakespearean plays, unless you intend to specialize in Shakespeare. (From Shakespeare it's easy to travel to ancient history, English history, other dramatists, books of critical studies on Shakespeare, life in London, and so on—another excellent key author.)

3. One of Moliere's comedies, preferably *Tartuffe*, or *The Show-off*.

4. Voltaire's essay, *Toleration*. Or, that masterpiece of philosophical fiction, *Candide*.

5. Paine's *Age of Reason*. (This eternally popular examination of revealed religion is one of the most important books ever written. It has been one of the world's greatest mind-liberators, and has opened the gates

to other debunking authors, especially Voltaire, Gibbon, Ingersoll, Bradlaugh, Joseph McCabe, Lecky, and a host of other exponents of theological mysticism and obscurantism. The *Age of Reason* can easily be the foundation of a special library of Free-thought, one of the important subjects in the arena of culture.)

6. *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. (This beautiful masterpiece of literature and philosophy tends to "urbanize" the mind, to teach it the delicate strength of skepticism.)

7. Nietzsche's *The Antichrist*. (This book is one of the most devastating attacks on Christianity ever written, in many ways the finest. I consider it Nietzsche's greatest piece of writing and a key-book that can't be omitted.)

8. Erasmus' *In Praise of Folly*. (This book, which is about four centuries old, is good entertainment, along with being a broom to sweep away numerous intellectual cob-webs. This classic refuses to die. It's as fresh today as the time it was written.)

9. A collection of H. G. Wells's short stories. (Such a book of imaginative, social-minded, scientific tales will delight beginning readers and will point the way to other masters, including Shaw, Wilde, Huxley, and a host of others.)

10. A collection of Guy de Maupassant's short stories. (This Frenchman was the supreme master of this difficult art form. A study of his great stories will undoubtedly lead to other workers in this field—Chekhov, Gorky, Poe, James, Hardy, and many others who worked in this rich, lush field.)

11. A comedy by Oscar Wilde, or his *Ballad of Reading Jail*.

12. A collection of Schopenhauer's essays.

13. Poe's prose and poetry.

14. Joseph McCabe's studies in rationalism, history, philosophy, or science. (This great thinker and teacher will serve the beginner as a wise, kindly guide into the beautiful gardens of creative thought.)

15. Anatole France's stories, reviews or essays. (This Frenchman gives sophistication to the liberated mind, polishes it, makes it urbane, gentle, and natural.)

16. Selected humor from Mark

Twain, including his *Jumping Frog*, and *The Mysterious Stranger*, the latter, of course, being a serious, philosophical study.

17. A short history of the world since the close of the Great War. (This is important if one is to be familiar with the modern world. Such a volume is a key to current life, international affairs, government, theories of progress, etc.)

18. Great ideas made simple—in science, economics, philosophy, religion, commerce, etc.

19. A digest of modern Sexology, covering Freud, Havelock Ellis, McCabe, Fielding, Dr. Robinson, Margaret Sanger, and others.

20. One of Ibsen's plays, such as *Ghosts*, *The Master Builder*, *Rosmersholm*, *The Wild Duck*, or *Poor Cyp*. (Ibsen is the key to the modern drama, especially the works of Hauptmann, Sudermann, Gorky, Andreyev, Shaw, O'Neill, and a few others.)

* * *

Is movie attendance increasing?

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that the movies in 1936 had a weekly attendance of 88,000,000, an increase of 10 percent over 1935. For the first time since 1929, movie revenues reached \$1,000,000,000 during 1936.

* * *

What are "nuisance taxes" and how much does the federal government get from them?

In his budget message of January 8, 1937, President Roosevelt called attention to 19 "nuisance taxes" which will expire in June and July of this year unless they are renewed by Congress. If these 19 taxes are continued, the President estimates that the revenue they bring in during the next year will amount to \$452,580,000. President Roosevelt listed the various "nuisance" levies and estimated their income for the next year, as follows:

MANUFACTURERS' EXCISE TAXES

Lubricating oils, \$31,360,000.

Brewers' wort, malt, etc., \$800,000.

Matches, \$6,840,000.

Gasoline, \$190,180,000.

Electrical energy, \$34,060,000.

Tires and inner tubes, 29½ million dollars.

Toilet preparations, etc., \$14,470,000.

Trucks, \$6,700,000.

Passenger cars and motorcycles, \$48,300,000.

Car parts or accessories, \$7,900,000.
 Radios, phonographs, etc., \$7,570,000.
 Mechanical refrigerators, \$9,950,000.
 Sporting goods, cameras, etc., \$7,460,000.
 Firearms, shells and cartridges, \$2,940,000.
 Chewing gum, \$880,000.
 Telephone, telegraph, radio and cable facilities, \$24,150,000.
 Oil transportation by pipeline, \$10,220,000.
 Stamp taxes, bond transfers and deeds of conveyance, \$12,300,000.
Total, \$452,580,000.
 Levies suggested for retention at present rates and estimated revenues:
STAMP TAXES
 Issue of securities, \$9,400,000.
 Stock transfers, \$17,600,000.
 Sales of produce for future delivery, \$1,830,000.
 Admissions, \$15,240,000.
Total, \$44,070,000.
Grand total, \$496,650,000.

The Nazis are making tremendous use of a book entitled "The International Jew," which carries the name of Henry Ford as author. Is this work authentic?

The book, which was never written or authorized by Henry Ford, according to his own statements, is a pack of mendacious lies. The Hitlerites keep the book in circulation despite signed disclaimers by Mr. Ford. In a letter to Samuel Untermyer, president of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, E. G. Liebold, writing for Henry Ford, said that "he (Ford) cannot be credited with its authorship without misrepresentation of the facts," and added that "steps will be taken to prevent the continued misuse of his name in this manner."

I can tell Mr. Ford that any attempt to get the Nazis to stop circulating that mess of libels will be that much wasted effort, for the German anti-Semites aren't interested in the truth. They know that Henry Ford's name carries a great deal of weight throughout the world and that their inhuman, scurrilous propaganda will benefit by his supposed support. It is a part of the Nazi credo to use any set of tactics that will enable them to achieve their ends.

An instance of Nazi propaganda methods comes to mind as I write this. Some months ago the official propaganda department in Berlin released a sensational circular that contained a reproduction of an article

in a Soviet newspaper. Over a map of Czechoslovakia the Russian journal is alleged to have run this line: "Our airports in Czechoslovakia." The circular was intended to prove that the U.S.S.R. was building airports in Czechoslovakia in anticipation of an air attack on Germany. The Germans were shown the original page from the Russian newspaper, which didn't carry the word "Our," thus making the map merely a report of what the Czechs were doing in the way of aviation. Did that cause the Nazis to withdraw their lies? By no means. The circular was kept in print, and is still being used, despite the fact that the concoction has been exposed as a rank fraud. That's the way the Hitlerites work, and that's why I say a million disclaimers from Henry Ford can't move the Nazis so long as they can use *Der International Jude* to arouse hatred for an innocent, helpless people.

What is Russia's population, according to the 1937 census?

The Soviet Union, beginning January 1, 1937, sent out 1,000,000 census-takers to gather data for one of the most thorough surveys in history. They worked for a week, not only visiting every home but checking hotels, railroad stations, trains, ships, tourists, etc. While the final tabulations aren't ready yet, it's fairly safe to assume that Russia's population is now about 180,000,000, the greatest the country has ever known. Under the czar, a census showed 125,000,000. Soviet statisticians claim that 25 years hence Russia's population will be 300,000,000.

The 1937 census showed that the Russian people are, overwhelmingly, disbelievers in religion. About 90 percent of the Russian people between the ages of eight and 50 are literate, as against only 5 percent in czarist times. In 1897, Russia had 300,000 priests, nuns and other professional religionists, and 17,000 witch doctors, against only 70,000 teachers and 17,000 physicians.

The world will wait impatiently for the full digest of the 1937 census, for it promises data of the utmost significance.

How may a volume of verse be gotten published nowadays, assuming that the poetry is, according to competent judges,

above average and worthy of publication? The poetry is philosophical and social in its trend and is often revolutionary. Please preclude the routine mailing of the ms. the round of publishing houses. Please comment on the status of poetry in American literature today, whether it be the fault of the poets who fail to give the public what it needs, or the fault of the publishers who seek only what "the public wants."

Some years ago a Kansas City politician—it may have been Pendergast himself got off this precious line: "Art's on the bum in Kansas City." In answering your question I draw inspiration from this esthete and paraphrase his remark: "Poetry's on the bum in the U.S." I really don't see much hope for your volume of poetry except by your offering, frankly and simply, to bear all, or most, of the expense. Of course, I don't publish books that way, so I'm not trying to get some money out of you.

I simply can't make the people buy poetry. I've made several desperate attempts, and each time was brought to a dead stop by the appalling information that the books were gathering dust on the shelves and would continue doing that from now on. I've been able to distribute certain kinds of poetry—famous masterpieces and classics, like the *Rubaiyat*, the *Ballad of Reading Jail*, *The Deserted Village*, *The Cottar's Saturday Night*, and the like—but even here I didn't make much of an impression. Even Shakespeare, by and large, is shied away from, though the best-known plays—like *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and a few others—sell steadily, though mainly because of substantial orders from teachers.

I've done all the resisting I can stand. The public says no, a thousand times no, when I offer books of poetry, so what can I do? I can't go on trying to buck the impossible. After a dozen bad flops I decided, calmly and sweetly, to lay off whenever a poet pops into sight. It angers the poet, but I'd rather stand his ire than dig into a slim treasury that needs every available dollar to cover the expense of worth-while, educational, useful volumes by men like Joseph McCabe who turn out high-grade manuscripts on history, philosophy, science, re-

ligion, and related subjects. You see, it doesn't mean that because a publisher can't get anywhere with poetry, it follows that his audience is low-browed and moronic. There are lots of intelligent, educated, discriminating readers in this country who will greedily swallow tons of books on difficult subjects like science and history and yet refuse even a thin ounce of poetry. They're made that way and you'll never change them in a dozen years.

Whose fault? I don't know. Surely not the publisher, for he'd be tickled to death to publish a long list of poetic works if he thought he had a gambler's chance of keeping from going broke. The people like what they like, and that's that. I don't know how to push them over the hill. * * *

Have all the old large-sized one-dollar bills been called in by the U.S.?

It's about five years since the government began making small one-dollar bills. Whenever the old-style bills show up at the banks they are taken out of circulation. Despite every attempt to retire them, it's reported that 240,000,000 are still out, which means they are being held by collectors or have been lost. If they never show up, the government stands to make \$240,000,000, minus the slight expense incurred in printing them. In my own mail order business I notice the old bills show up once in a while, perhaps two or three per month, and they are always greeted like old, lost friends. However, the new style bill isn't looked down on. * * *

Joseph McCabe made the statement about 10 years ago that when he had reached the age of 65 he would probably step off the rear of an ocean liner and call it a day or a life. How do you suppose he feels about it now?

The answer should be written by McCabe himself, but as I'm to speak for him let me venture the guess that he isn't committing hari-kari yet because he's finding himself too useful. What he must have meant when he wrote as he did a decade ago was that he assumed his intellectual labors might be at an end, which would mean that life wouldn't be worth living any more, but as he's being kept busier than ever before it looks as though the trip to the boneyard will be postponed indefinitely. Only the

other month he and I came to terms on a new project that will keep his pen scratching for quite a while. He's at work on a pet idea of his—an A.B.C. library of living knowledge.

* * *

I am just an average gink. I enjoy The Freeman so much that I take real pleasure in getting others acquainted with it. So—I am asking, why is it that the other average members of the human race don't give you at least a circulation of 1,000,000?

Search me, I don't know. But, then, maybe the fault's mine, for not blowing the trumpet a lot louder and attracting a larger audience. Nothing would suit me better than to have that sized body of readers, but for the next year or two I'd settle 10 cents on the dollar, or, rather, on 100,000 readers instead of the million my subscriber seems to think I ought to have. I find it quite a job holding my gang together at the 25,000-mark. Maybe my readers could solve this problem for me by getting busy all along the line and talking their friends into taking the paper. I'm all fixed at this end to handle any number.

* * *

Is there any truth to the Nazi complaint that the Columbia Broadcasting System refused to broadcast a 30-minute speech by Hitler?

I don't know how true it is, but at any rate the story goes that Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, offered the Columbia Broadcasting System a speech by Hitler, which was to be accepted on a free basis, but the officials replied they would be willing to accept the broadcast if Dr. Goebbels would accept for Germany's radio stations, during the same 30 minutes, a speech by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. For some strange reason the Nazi propagandist refused to play ball.

* * *

Is it true that 1909 pennies are worth \$2.50?

I never answer any questions dealing with the market price of stamps or coins. I know there are quite a few people who are interested in such information, especially stamp-collectors, but still the subject is too specialized for the general public. There are publications galore for people who like to read about stamps or coins, so I beg to be excused. (However, I don't want to miss the opportunity

to "call" my reader's gag, for that's what it is. I can tell him, in all seriousness, that 1909 pennies are not worth \$2.50 but \$19.09. Now, while I'm at it, don't ask me if it's true that the fur interests have hired the father of the Dionne quintuplets to give pep talks to rabbits.)

* * *

Please comment on Kemmerer's statement that our cost of living will go up 109 percent in the next few years.

Dr. Edwin W. Kemmerer, professor of economics at Princeton University, made that prophecy before the American Finance Conference, according to a statement by Silas Bent in *The New Republic*, January 20, 1937. Economics is a science, and a professor of economics should always use scientific methods when treating questions connected with his subject. I assert it's impossible to discuss Kemmerer's statement scientifically because his forecast is completely unscientific. For example, he states definitely that the hike will be 109 percent, which is a sensational prophecy. He then becomes completely indefinite by saying this calamitous development will take place "in the next few years." Now just what is that worth, "in the next few years"? If the increase is to be exactly 109 percent, the professor should balance that figure with an exact date, which, of course, he can't do. Therefore, my only comment is that Dr. Kemmerer should be put under arrest by our G-men for failure to take out the usual \$2 prophet's license which must be applied for under oath before the Federal Bureau of Prophets' Licenses, established by law on the 32nd of December, 1938.

* * *

Here in Grants Pass, Oregon, we have no colored or dark-skinned people whatever and never have had. Then the CCC camps became filled with negroes and other riff-raff from here and there, and now when you walk along the streets with your wife or lady friend it reminds one of lower Seventh avenue, in New York City, when the fur workers congregate and take up all the sidewalk space. The worst part of it is they can't or don't talk English. Isn't it about time that people who want to stay here ought at least to be forced to talk English? I think papers and other periodicals printed in any other language should be abolished. Somehow or other, I can't seem to be as tolerant as you

are. I sure try to be, but guess I'll never make it.

The reader who submitted the foregoing questions betrays every sign and proof of miseducation and prejudice. Just because he happened to be born with a pork-colored skin, he thinks he's better than the next fellow, who happened to be born mahogany-colored, or perhaps black. A black-hued man walked down the street at a time my reader thought it would be better if Grants Pass were given over entirely to pork-colored people. Why? Because my prejudiced reader—I'm really ashamed to admit I have such riff-raff as readers, but you know how an editor can't be choosy about who subscribes—felt he was superior to the black individual. The evidence? Search me. It may be that that black man was a fine musician, a good mechanic, a doctor, a poet, a farmer, or something equally useful and dignified—but because his "skin didn't happen to fit the notions of the gent whose skin undoubtedly looks like a slice of cold pork just before it's made into a sandwich, he'd have the CCC camps made over so that such things couldn't happen again. From his letter I can't see the least sign of intelligence in my reader, so I wonder just what it is he bases his feeling of superiority on. Think of the stupidity of a man who would forbid any language other than English in the U.S.! Think of the dumbness of a man who would suggest that all publications issued in any language other than English should be suppressed! And think of my having to admit that such a chuckle-head is a member of my family of devout, pious, God-fearing, praying readers. It sickens me to come face to face with subscribers who show disgusting symptoms of racial prejudice. My Grants Pass reader should move to Germany, where he'd make a perfect Nazi and would always feel at home. He simply doesn't belong in a civilized, decent country.

* * *

What are the life-spans of spiders, crabs and leeches?

Spiders, 10 to 15 years; crabs, 20 years; leeches, 20 years.

* * *

What's your opinion of The Reader's Digest?

This immensely successful enterprise is one of the miracles of the

business side of publishing. The little publication has a circulation of almost 2,000,000 copies per month, and its profits are immense.

The editors put a great deal of effort into the magazine's 128 pages, and are, without question, the ablest condensers of non-fiction articles and books in the country, if not in the world. I always read this publication, though I often feel it puts too much emphasis on the conventional side of politics, economics, social problems, etc. But, then, its owners are shrewd businessmen who know just what the business office needs.

However one may dislike the editors' conservatism, one can't deny they know what the average literate person is interested in, and, by and large, they give good value for what they're paid. I never fail to find at least two or three articles of genuine help in each issue.

* * *

What's your opinion of The New Masses magazine?

I've been a steady reader of this magazine for some years and must confess I don't think my time or money are well spent. I get an idea out of it once in a long time, but not often enough to warrant the energy I must expend. These *Masses* editors are cocksure about everything, but a careful examination of what they have to say betrays their superficial knowledge of the great subjects they discuss so glibly. The liberal *New Republic* and *Nation*, much criticized by *Masses* editors, contain more of worth in a single issue than you'll find in a whole year of *The New Masses*. I suppose I'll continue taking the publication—more out of habit than anything else—for I rarely find anything in it worth quoting and have never met up with a single idea that it presented in a scientific, informative way. In other words, *The New Masses* is too much the partisan propagandist to be trustworthy. It's more interested in establishing its case than in seeking to achieve truth. At that, it's just about the best Communist publication in the country, but that isn't saying much, because Communist journalism in the U.S. has always been on a low plane. Its first cousin, *The Daily Worker*, isn't as bad as it used to be, but it's still plenty awful.

Until a few years ago *The Daily Worker* was the worst lying sheet in the country, but several changes of editors have succeeded in toning down the outright lying, but that doesn't mean the paper is of any real value, for the editors still roar and bellow without making much sense. Believe it or not, I hardly ever get a paragraph out of any American Communist publication when I'm looking for material dealing with the Soviet Union, one of my special subjects, as *Freeman* readers know. If you want to know what's going on in Russia, you have to go to mediums other than the official Communist organs. They're so busy painting Russia as a paradise that one doesn't even look for facts, because there are none to be had. In brief, American Communism, especially in its journalism, is represented by a bunch of lunkheads. They think they're smarter than anyone in the world, but the least investigation should convince an intelligent high-school student that they are just a lot of show-offs. If it's Moscow gold that keeps their wheels greased, it means that Stalin and his crowd are a pretty dumb lot, for their money is being wasted. The ignorance and incompetence of American Communist journalists are appalling.

* * *

What's the best way to get rid of visitors?

There's no single system that's guaranteed to do the job. My favorite practice is to receive certain kinds of visitors in the main business office instead of inviting them into my office. Out there I can attend to my business and, when the last word's been said, politely bow myself out of sight. Those that manage to barge their way into my own office are really hard to handle, but my favorite, which often works, is to keep standing until the talk-out visitor says his belated good-bye.

Senator James Watson, in his recent book, *As I Knew Them*, tells what systems our Presidents used, as follows:

"Grant drilled them out; Hayes, the first abstentionist, dried them out; Garfield preached them out; Arthur smiled and bowed them out; Cleveland, in his first term, nudged and elbowed them out; Harrison froze them out; Cleveland, in his

second term, crowded them out; McKinley loved them out; Roosevelt rode them out; Taft laughed them out; Wilson shut them out altogether; Harding joked them out; Coolidge let them talk themselves out, and Hoover just went out with them."

* * *

It is claimed in some quarters that the recently signed pact between Germany and Japan is not directed against the Soviet Union but against the Comintern (Third International with headquarters at Moscow). Please comment.

A pact between these two great military powers would have no meaning if it were aimed only at the Communist International (Comintern), for that body has no army or navy—in fact, all it has is a building. The pact, of course, was aimed at the Russian government, and for a clear admission of this fact I need only refer my readers to Reiji Kuroda, well-known Japanese journalist, who, in the authoritative publication on economic affairs, *Diamond*, admitted the German-Japanese agreement is really a contract that aims to bring about a joint assault on the Soviet Union. He says:

"War with the U.S.S.R. is the destiny of Japan, whatever the pacifists may say. There is only one way out for Japan, and that is to annihilate the advance of the Soviet Union in the Far East. Japan had to sign an agreement against the U.S.S.R. with some country that also considers the Soviet Union its deadly enemy. . . . The necessity of concluding an agreement with Western powers can be understood only as that of creating an instrument for carrying out Japan's iron policy to thrust the U.S.S.R. back into the Arctic regions."

I rather doubt this pact is going to bring Germany and Japan the easy pickings they covet, for the Russians are thoroughly alarmed and are putting every ounce of energy into the gigantic task of preparing the country against expected assaults from the West and the East. I have already given numerous figures dealing with Russian armaments and organizations, especially in the fields of aviation, submarines, man power, etc. The facts seem to indicate that the Soviet Union is making every possible sacrifice to keep Hitler and Japanese imperialism from stealing its country and forcing its people to move

up into the Arctic regions. From information I have already given my readers, it seems clear that Russia doesn't intend to neglect its vast Arctic domain—for that part of the world is rich in many natural resources, especially gold and other minerals—but that doesn't imply they intend to surrender their territory in more salubrious sections.

* * *

Is birth control a product of recent science?

Dr. Norman E. Himes, of the Sociology Department, Co'gate University, reviewed the history of contraception and pointed out that the Ebers papyrus, of 1850 B.C., contains descriptions of chemical means of birth control. He also claims that the so-called Rhythm Method—the "safe period"—"dates back to primitive society, but that the variation in women was so great that it could not be relied on."

* * *

How many witches did the Puritans burn?

The common error that New Englanders burned witches is hard to correct. The story persists despite all efforts at setting the record straight. There was no witch-burning at Salem, but it's a fact that 19 so-called witches were hanged in that Massachusetts town in 1692.

* * *

"One of your readers suggested having only one page for questions and answers, the rest for articles. We'd like the articles all right, but do have more than one page of questions and answers. It gives subscribers an opportunity to find out the truth concerning many controversial subjects that interest them. I don't know where else they could get information that wasn't doctored to please Catholic bigots."—J. Matthews, Wilmington, Del.

* * *

"Your article in the March, 1937, Freeman on dangerous drugs in cosmetics and patent medicines was most timely—especially for those poor people looking for a panacea. Such courage as yours is to be commended."—Albert Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.

* * *

"I read The Freeman regularly. It is second to none. There is only one thing better than a copy of The Freeman—another copy."—John Salamanchuk, Spangler, Pa.

* * *

"Congratulations upon the work you are doing through your Freeman rela-

tive to combating anti-Semitism and other social injustices."—R. V. Cottam, Richfield, Utah.

* * *

Newell Martin, Turkey Lane, Huntington, Long Island, N.Y., gives me advice which I shall study carefully, for I know him to be 82 years old, a member of the New York bar for 60 years, and otherwise decorated with all sorts of venerability and respectability. His words of wisdom:

"I beg you not to listen to people who ask you to make The Freeman a weekly. It has life and fire. People listen more attentively to a preacher who comes once a month than to a preacher who dilutes his thoughts in weekly sermons. The Freeman is one of the few voices against Fascism and against religion. May it be, for years, loud and clear."

* * *

"In the February, 1937, Freeman, you state that in the days of Galileo (in the 16th Century) it was heresy to believe that the earth is round. Now, the fact is that after the discovery of America by Columbus, and particularly after the circumnavigation of the earth by Magellan (round 1520), the Catholic Church admitted the roundness of the earth. The heresy of Galileo and his ilk did not consist in preaching that the earth was round but merely in maintaining that the earth moves round the sun."—S. Elkin, N.Y.C.

* * *

"I have been a professional writer for a goodly number of years now and still try to sell stuff from time to time but I can truthfully say that I have yet to meet a more courteous, reliable and honest editor than E. Haldeman-Julius. Hence long may you, the Blue Book company and the plant flourish."—From a well-known author.

* * *

"I have just finished reading Joseph McCabe's 'History of the World Since 1918' after having read his 'Key to Culture' and all the other wealth of his writings that you have brought forth, and can't resist the temptation to tell you that if you never did another thing, the fact that you have brought the lucid, informative, sparkling output of that peer of writers within the financial reach of all of us, should call for a ton and a half of praise for you."—Laurence A. Barrett, Salida, Colo.

* * *

"Your paper is the most interesting of the few I read. In fact, I cannot say enough in favor of it other than I intend to get you more subscribers in my community. I admire your humor, wit, tact, and facts in answering the

questions. The same goes for the book-lets you publish."—Edmund G. Maxwell, Fla.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

A good neighbor, staunch Catholic, just past three score and 10, stopped one day for a talk with me, a frequent occurrence. After the usual hour's disagreement we concluded that my materialistic views and his bible-founded ideas could hardly coincide.

A part of our conversation follows:

Neighbor—drawing a line on the road—"That's when Adam was born"—another line—"There's the flood, 2,700 years later"—another line—"That's the birth of Christ 2,000 years more"—the last line—"That's 2,000 years more to the present day. Now we have the complete chronology, with no break in the succession of biblical characters, for those 6,000 years from Adam."

Me—"The geologists can prove that man was present on the earth between the first and second glacial period, at least 250,000 and maybe 750,000 years ago."

Neighbor—"There was a man on the earth over a quarter of a million years ago?"

Me—"Yes."

Neighbor—reaching in one pocket for a paper and in another pocket for a pencil—"What was this man's name?"

Now I think that would stump Joseph McCabe.

Milnes Landing, B.C., Canada

B. J. JOHNSON

* * *

"The set of Questions and Answers we recently bought is very useful, indexed as it is. The books are handsomely bound, and should be quick sellers."—W. Matthews, Wilmington, Del. (We now have nine large volumes of Questions and Answers, which may be had, prepaid, for only \$2.95.)

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Regarding the suggestion recently made by one of your readers that, because of a raucous voice and other physical characteristics, Hitler may not be a homosexual at all, or, if so, is of the active, or Roehm type, permit me to say that, in my opinion, these physical characteristics mean little, or nothing.

It is popularly supposed that the pansy, or receiving, class is of effeminate type, but my observation is that this is not so; that at least nine of every 10 pansies are of a decided he-man type physically, and that the more masculine a pansy appears, the more impelling is his obsession. And I believe that the great bulk of men of feminine type are not homosexuals at all. I know all this does not seem rea-

sonable, but it is true, nevertheless. I have lived in large cities, in continental U.S., virtually all my life, and it is in large communities, where identities are lost, that the activities of these strange folk can best be observed, since obviously approaches in small communities are made only with great danger to themselves.

I believe you are right about Hitler. And I believe you are right about the reason for the beheading of those two beautiful women some little time since. And to my mind the recent beheading of a popular male actor in Germany is not inconsonant with this—perhaps he spurned the "Furore's" attentions. Dead men tell no tales, and the form of death would satisfy Hitler's disappointment, and his resentment.

Ponce, Puerto Rico J. E. RODRIGUEZ

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"Enclosed find \$1 for renewal to The American Freeman. I darn near overlooked this, and I wouldn't miss an issue for \$10."—F. A. Breeden, Harrisburg, Va.

* * *

"We enjoy The American Freeman very much; it is a goad to me, a challenge to be 'up and doing.' Some of your wit is exceptionally keen and brilliant, and I like your pungent, racy style. At times I am mildly shocked by some of your smart smut (I was born and brought up a Catholic, but have recovered nicely) but I believe shocks are good for us."—Ida Peterson, Holden, Alta., Canada.

* * *

"I have read Joseph McCabe's 'History of the World Since 1918.' This book should circulate by the millions. It strips the false glamour from statesmen and their policies and lays bare the cesspool of hypocrisy and corruption at the fountain-head of government."—Walter Roper, Safford, Ariz.

We agree that McCabe's new book should be read widely, and in order to help bring this historical review to the public it deserves, we are offering to give a FREE copy to every person who sends \$1 for a year's subscription to The American Freeman, or renews his subscription now regardless of when it expires. (Canada and foreign, \$1.25.) Add 20c for packing, handling and carriage. Remit by cash, postal money order or "small" U.S. stamps. (Add 10c to check.) Address: The American Freeman, Girard, Kansas.

* * *

What did you think of Frank Harris' 'My Life and Loves,' and can the book be purchased in the U.S.?

Frank Harris' autobiography (which can be had only through subscription channels) impressed me as a

dull piece of work. His endless record of sexual triumphs over women got tiresome. As a piece of literature it struck me as second-rate, for Harris never impressed me as being a literary giant. He could, to my notion, write only moderately well, but as an editor he had an uncanny knack for being able to pick future big-shots. I knew Frank Harris very well, spending a great deal of time with him, and he always impressed me as a spectacular personality—explosive, violent, brilliant—but underneath it all very shallow. I remember introducing him to Charlie Chaplin, and how, for hours on end, he regaled us with his impressions of men and events—most of them lies, of course, but interesting, fascinating lies. I believe he knew everybody worth knowing during more than a half century, but the romanticist in him was so powerful that he couldn't stomach celebrities as they were, so he remade them—a sort of tin-pot God—and made them somewhat clever, but always seeing to it that they served to make Frank Harris a giant among mortals. It was always they who said the half-right things, but it was always Frank Harris who shot back at them with the perfect retort—brilliant snatches that came to life only while he was talking. But that didn't make him less interesting.

The scoundrel was rotten from head to heel, but that didn't drive celebrities from him. You never could take Frank Harris' word for anything, and as for money matters, the man was born crooked. He'd steal a dime from a blind beggar. In his dealings with editors and publishers he didn't stop at anything to get money, frequently selling the same manuscript to two or more concerns and letting them fight it out at the proper time, and when they turned to Harris for help he would denounce both publishers as rogues and rush to a third publisher and get still more money. He robbed me several times, even though he posed as my friend, but I couldn't help liking the dirty sneak, and once when he sold me his biography of Oscar Wilde he sicked another publisher on to me, who warned me against touching his (the publisher's) literary property. When I hunted up Harris and faced

him with his perfidy, he broke into tears and got another \$500 out of me.

If we are to believe Frank Harris, he slept with every beautiful woman from Moscow to Denver, and while I'll admit he had far more than his share, I'm positive he didn't have more than a tenth of the females he claimed.

As for Harris' opinion of himself as a writer, he frankly told me that he considered one of his short stories—I forget the title—the greatest piece of literature ever to come from the pen of man, barring the Bible's yarn about the woman taken in adultery. I demurred, telling him I didn't think much of that little speech Jesus made to the woman who had "sinned," so he decided to drop that reference to the woman taken in adultery and admit simply that his tales were the mightiest works of literature ever to pop from the noodle of genius. I always thought he was a pretty good story writer, but I never thought enough of them to go into spasms whenever they were mentioned. I published some of his stories in Little Blue Book form because I liked them, but I didn't insist they were better than Guy de Maupassant. But Harris wouldn't have it any other way than to have me believe I was buying things that were priceless, that would live forever, and that I would achieve immortality merely by having been one of the means of keeping his fiction in print, which was plain hokey, of course.

I remember after returning to Girard he called me long distance one afternoon and spent 45 minutes chatting with me over the phone. I don't know what it costs to call from New York City to Girard, Kansas, and talk 45 minutes, but it must be plenty, and everything he said could have been told on a postcard. I found out later that he wasn't being generous in order to talk with me about himself, that the call cost him less than a penny postcard because he was leaving for Europe a few days later and didn't intend paying the telephone company.

Harris always tried to pose as a great figure in international politics, especially during the World War. Of course, he couldn't kid me, for I knew any propaganda office could

hire his pen by paying him \$25 more than the opposition. He fought like a demon for Germany before we went into the World War, but that was because he was on Bernstorff's pay-roll and wrote what he did because Germany paid him, like any other literary prostitute. He was especially sore at the British at the time because he had been driven out of England a short time before, the authorities having caught him in the act of blackmailing rich and powerful Britishers through threats to publish unsavory things in his periodical. I believe the rumors to that effect were absolutely true. The man had a perfect genius for finding out that Lord So-and-So had syphilis, that Earl Blank liked boys, that Viscount Blubber did queer things with women—and so on. He got out of England and stayed out, for they had the goods on him, but they were afraid to slap him into jail where he belonged for fear he would spill all the dirt he knew, and God knows he knew plenty.

And what a liar he could be! He'd invite me to his home, treat me like a guest, and touch me for \$20. Later he would be over at the Brevoort eating a \$20 dinner, with imported wines, and when he saw me he'd yell to me with that amazing bass voice of his and invite me over for a pint of wine I'd paid for with money I had been given to understand would go to the landlord in order to keep a roof over Harris' head.

And yet, I'd go back for more. Why? Because, to be frank, he was worth everything he cost, for the dirty scalawag always put on a good show, even though it was expensive. He was one man who could always be generous with other people's money. He'd give you a house and lot, if it belonged to someone else. He was always the perfect snob—ever polite to people who had plenty of money, so long as he felt there was a chance of getting some of it for himself, but if he got it into his sensitive skull that Mr. Money-bags didn't intend to part with any, the old literary giant would grow independent, thunder insults, and tell the rich boor to get the Hell out of his sight. He hated busted people, like himself, for he never knew what to do with them, and they might try to borrow some of his borrowed money. I'll never

forget how he acted when some guy gave him a rubber check. When it bounced back, he rushed into print in the next issue of his magazine, warning the world against a certain crook who was passing out hot checks, which was amusing to those who knew what a Frank Harris check was worth. The lousy little crook simply couldn't stand the sight of a crook.

I don't know how I happened to get started on this line of drivél. I guess I'd better cut it short now, before I begin telling some really personal things about Frank Harris, one of the strangest characters ever to walk through the temple of literature.

* * *

"The Freeman continues to be the most interesting and informative journal that comes to my attention."—L. J. Hedgecock, Pittsburg, Kansas.

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"The Freeman is a gold mine of information."—Pierre Audin, Akron, O.

* * *

Do you think our people are becoming less prudish about sex matters, especially in the fight on venereal diseases?

The signs all point to a more intelligent approach to this great problem. A poll, taken recently by the Institute of Public Opinion, showed that 90 percent of the people of the U.S. are in favor of lifting the puritanical taboos against open warfare on syphilis and gonorrhea and believe that the federal government should join in a nation-wide fight to stamp out these diseases. President Roosevelt, in his recent letter to the 300 doctors and social workers who attended a conference called by Surgeon General Parran, called for a vigorous campaign to stamp out venereal diseases and offered the facilities of the U.S. government and its money to reduce and eventually wipe out two ailments that could be eliminated in about a generation if the problem were approached in a detached, objective, scientific spirit, unclouded by the mists of religion and church morality. Even our newspapers—for too long skittish about even mentioning the diseases by name, preferring to refer to them with squeamish euphemisms—are beginning to throw off their old false modesty and are mentioning the diseases by name. That in itself is something of a minor revolution. In all this, we're on the right road, but it's a sad fact that

even 10 percent of our people actually stand opposed to ridding humanity of venereal diseases for fear the people will feel free to go on a sexual binge. They shut their eyes to the fact that the sexual impulse is so strong that millions of people permit themselves to be infected rather than go without sexual experience. Editors know how blind the convention-bound 10 percent are, and, while on this point, let me add that there are even some readers of this paper who write me vigorous protests against the few advertisements I print which offer rubber goods—a fairly safe form of disease prevention—at low prices. They always pose as people of sweet reasonableness who seek only for the refined things in life, and that rubber goods are vulgar, coarse, immoral things which should not be advertised lest they call attention to lewdness and orgies of sex. Such people don't object to the presence of the twin diseases of sex—they actually believe they are good things in that they serve as policemen for "morality." But, by Gawd and by Jee-zus, they're a disappearing minority, and let's hope they go jump into the handiest lake.

* * *

Is it a fact that the Gutenberg Bible was the first printed book?

I certainly don't want to detract from the greatness of Johann Gutenberg—whose magnificent contribution to society will be celebrated throughout the world in 1940, the year of the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing—but the famous "Gutenberg Bible" is not the first printed book, according to an article in the December, 1936, *Inland Printer*, a good authority in this field. The article, written by Douglas C. McMurtrie, asserts:

"Far from being the first book ever printed, the book usually referred to as the Gutenberg Bible was certainly preceded from the press by 15 or 20 publications which have been preserved to us in varying stages of completeness, not to speak of others undoubtedly printed which have succumbed to the ravages of time. It may, however, be properly referred to as the most important book issued from the early press.

"Furthermore, the 'Gutenberg' Bible was probably printed, not by Gutenberg, but by his erstwhile as-

sociates, Fust and Schoeffer. There is far greater likelihood that Gutenberg printed another and much rarer edition of the scriptures, known to experts as the 36-line Bible, because there were that many lines of type on each page.

"The evidence points to the probability that Gutenberg was working at Strasbourg as early as 1439 on his invention, which has since come generally to be regarded as the most important invention in the history of mankind. As it is impossible to fix on the exact date of Gutenberg's original conception of typography, 1940 has been determined upon as the year to celebrate the achievement, previous centenaries having been observed in 1640, 1740, and 1840. This celebration will be shared in by printers' organizations all over the world."

* * *

Is there any truth to the popular belief that the practice of birth control leads to sterility?

This common notion is just another piece of bunk. Dr. Cheri Appel, of the Morrisania Hospital, conducted an inquiry at the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, and found there is no factual basis for the belief that contraceptives or birth control devices cause sterility. He says 2,500 of the bureau's records were studied and it was found that 65 percent of the women became pregnant within 90 days after they stopped using preventatives. He adds:

"From these statistics we may at least infer that the time required for conception to occur in those women who have used the clinic method of contraception is of no greater duration than that observed in those not using contraceptives."

* * *

The Hestand Clinic, Houston, Texas, claims it can cure cancer. Please comment.

I have read carefully the booklet issued by this so-called clinic, which is run by "Dr." David M. Hestand. I make the charge that the man is a brazen quack. The man took a course at Baylor, in Texas, and therefore has the right to call himself a medical doctor, but competent authorities assert that the institution is without standing in the medical world. But even if Baylor were worthy of respect, Hestand would still be below contempt, because he has thrown over all the fine ethical ideals of the men and women who are

trying to be true to the spirit of scientific medicine.

I have received many letters from *Freeman* readers—most of them suffering from cancer—asking not only about Hestand's institution but about many others private institutes which claim to be able to cure cancer. I can say—and here I have the support of the best minds in the profession—that anyone who asserts he can cure an advanced, or even moderately advanced, case of cancer is a dangerous quack.

I hate to say it, but it's literally true that science has still to conquer advanced cancer. Caught early, there are chances of a cure, through radium, X-ray and surgery. Neglected, permitted to get a strong hold on the patient, the prospect is quite hopeless, at least for the present. The world of science says there are no early chances of specific cure for cancer. I feel certain that medical science will solve this problem in time, but I feel sure it's going to take a long time.

Dr. James Ewing, director of Cancer Research at Memorial Hospital and professor at the Cornell Medical School, one of the highest authorities in his field of research, replied as follows when asked about a specific cure for cancer:

"Anything which encourages the public to look for a universal cure for all forms of advanced cancer is unintelligent. One might just as well indulge in the hope of a cure for all forms of infectious diseases. Cancer comprises a great group of diseases resulting from different causes and requiring many different forms of treatment which are successful only when the disease is recognized in a comparatively early stage.

"The important fact that the public should know is that early cancer is curable in a high proportion of cases. Late cancer is rarely curable, and therefore every one should become familiar with the early signs of the major forms of cancer. The recurring announcements of a cure for cancer have no news value whatever."

But this doesn't mean there's no hope for the future. Cancer research is continuing its endless, tireless war. Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Crocker Cancer Research Laboratories, Columbia Uni-

versity, discussing the claim that there might never be a specific cure for cancer, expressed himself as follows:

"I would not use the word 'never.' A connotation of extreme permanence attaches to it and it suggests unchanging failure for all of our efforts. 'Never' therefore has no place in the vocabulary of medicine. I am unwilling to say that we will never have a cure for cancer, but I do not expect to see it in my lifetime.

"We don't know why a cell divides. If we knew that we would be in a better position to understand the cause of cancer. It is up to the zoologists to discover the reason and we have had no new developments in that field in the last 20 years. We can cure cancer in its early stages, but a specific that will reach into the cause is something entirely different.

"One of our leading newspaper publishers once told me that if I would announce a cure for cancer the story could take the front page of the paper no matter what else was happening in the world, but as I said before I have no expectations of seeing the story published."

When we hear great authorities on cancer speak so frankly and honestly about the problems facing them, can one be blamed for resorting to curt, insulting words when discussing the ghouls who set up "clinics" and advertise to thousands of miserable people that they can be cured—for a price? Whenever I meet such charlatans I use the simple, expressive word "quack," and invite them to do their worst if they don't like my manners.

* * *

On what date will the Philippine Islands become completely independent?

July 4, 1946.

* * *

What is the difference between a "sit down" and a "stay in" strike?

Officers of the United Automobile Workers of America say there is a difference. They assert a "sit-down" "usually covers a short period in which workers put down their tools in an effort to obtain adjustment of some minor grievance, frequently lasting only during the shift on which the men are engaged." A "stay in" is a much more serious matter, for it means "a suspension of work during which the men remain in the affected

plant for several days, and even weeks, and are fed and aided by fellow employees or friends and relatives on the outside."

* * *

Is it true that in China a doctor doesn't get paid when he treats a sick person, his fee being collected yearly only when his patient is well?

That's a cute idea that's held by millions of people. The only fault I can find with the notion is that it hasn't a grain of truth to it. If you're sick and you go to a Chinese doctor, you pay his fee, whatever it happens to be. If you're well, you don't see him, and therefore he gets nothing.

Incidentally, Chinese doctors often are dangerous, for their methods include the rankest superstitions. In recent years Western scientific medicine has been making headway in China, the result being that some of the old and dangerous measures have been gradually thrown into the discard.

Dr. Logan Clendening, who has made something of a study of Chinese medicine, writes interestingly on several points. He tells of having seen "one curious object" in every upper-class Chinese home—"a small soapstone image of a Chinese lady lying on her bed, perfectly nude." This image, says Dr. Clendening, is kept for the benefit of the doctor. "A doctor in China, in the old days," writes Dr. Clendening, "would not be allowed to examine a woman's body under any circumstances. So the sick woman made a mark on the little naked image where she had a pain, and the attendant took the image to the doctor, who thereupon prescribed the treatment." It doesn't take much of a scientist to know that such a method of "treating" sick people must do more harm than good.

Another interesting observation reported by Dr. Clendening deals with the practice of acupuncture, which he describes as a system of sticking needles underneath the skin of the sick person. He reports:

"Elaborate charts of the human body were made, and spots marked on them where the acupuncture needles were to be inserted for various diseases. The makers of these charts must have known a great deal about anatomy, for the needles are stuck in exactly where there are no blood vessels or nerves in the way.

"I have heard an eye witness tell of seeing a Chinese doctor insert one of the acupuncture needles into the soft tissue of the neck exactly over the top of the breastbone to a depth of three or four inches. That would take some skill to keep from hitting the large blood vessels. The needles are not sterilized; in fact they are lubricated in the doctor's hair. If the patient gets worse after the treatment this is always ascribed to the disease. Clever, these Chinese.

"New scientific methods in medicine are coming into China to replace the old methods. In this same exhibit were a number of the health posters of the new China. They teach graphically by pictures; one set shows the care given the prospective mother and the new-born baby. Others show foods containing vitamins, and vaccination against smallpox and diphtheria. Most graphic were the ones designed to prevent the spread of animal parasites—liver flukes especially, so common in China, almost unknown in this country of comparatively good sanitation and plumbing."

* * *

What part of the human brain is the seat of intelligence?

Dr. Harold Hildreth, of Syracuse University, explained at a recent gathering of the Association for the Advancement of Science that "the seat of intelligence is traced to the whole human brain, rather than to any part." Dr. Hildreth added that talents like musical ability and such physical actions as sight, hearing, taste, control of muscular movements, etc., are located in special areas of the brain.

* * *

I invite your comment on the charge that Roosevelt is acting like a dictator in the matter of "packing" the Supreme Court.

The interests that are greeting the President's plan with the cry of Fascism and "packing" aren't ignorant—for they know they are talking nonsense—but dishonest. The Constitution has always left open the question of how many men are to sit on the bench. This matter of failing to specify the exact number was decided on because it was felt that different conditions would demand different methods of handling the problem of making the court responsive to the will of the people. We have had five members on the bench, seven, and now

nine. It's within the Congress' constitutional right to decide that the public interest requires a larger body of judges, and it's certainly within the President's constitutional right to make such a suggestion to the people's lawmakers.

Roosevelt has shown real courage and statesmanship by the manner in which he went right to the heart of our present public problem that resulted from the usurped power of the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the measures passed by the people's representatives in order to meet a national emergency. If there's any justice in crying "unconstitutional," it would come with better logic from the President, who knows that the Constitution never gave the Supreme Court the power to pass on laws enacted by the House and Senate.

The Wall Street press, the Fascists and reactionaries in general are urging that the President should have reformed the Court by the method of a new amendment to the Constitution. That would mean a strict curb on progressive, liberal legislation for another 10 or 15 years, at a time when the people are in serious need of social changes in order to achieve security. It's simpler, more efficient and more honest to handle the problem by adopting the President's legal, constitutional, sane, orderly solution—the naming of more men in order to have the current will of the masses translated into legislation. To meet such a program with the charge of "Fascism" or "Dictator" means to resort to hypocrisy and misrepresentation. There isn't an iota of Fascism in the President's message, and his methods have always been—and most likely will continue to be—strictly within the limits of the Constitution, with the greatest respect and protection for our democratic processes.

The President ought to win his fight, because he's right and because the people are behind him. The last three elections—especially the national election of 1936—let it be known that the people want progressive, liberal laws in the interests of the poor and dispossessed. The Supreme Court has deliberately stood in the way of such progressive laws by its tyrannical decisions against the expressed will of the people. The beginnings of Fascism and dictatorship

are in the reactionary Supreme Court, not in the attempt of the President to see to it that new social legislation shall not be killed by open tools of reaction and mass exploitation. The people declared themselves last November in support of laws to protect humanity.

* * *

I have heard several times that the New Deal of the Roosevelt Administration is one of the repetitions of ancient history. Some of the people here in Pensacola, Fla., have stated that the ancient Babylonians had almost the identical ideas, theories, policies, and aims as the New Deal has as its goal. If you will give me what information you can on this, with your views on the subject, I will appreciate it very much.

I have seen the same view expressed in several articles and editorials, the writers in each instance betraying a calamitous ignorance of history and social evolution. If they had just a little more knowledge they wouldn't indulge in such fairy tales.

The great social problems facing us today—poverty, unemployment, mass production under the profit motive, science applied to industry, over-production, under-consumption in the face of industrial facilities for the prodigious production of wealth, etc.—were unknown in ancient times, because the social order that prevailed in those days is entirely dissimilar to the one that functions today. One can find eccentric measures in ancient records, here and there, which sound superficially like issues troubling us today, but even a casual investigation of the fundamental situations then and now ought to make obvious the fact that the diseases of Capitalism have practically nothing in common with the economic issues that prevailed 20 or 30 centuries ago.

The first interesting difference that strikes the student of history and social forces is this: In ancient society the system of wealth production was based on chattel slavery, while today's system (Capitalism) is based on wage labor. In those days the body of the worker belonged to his master, as against today's capitalistic system, in which the master (Capitalism) doesn't own the body of the worker but instead owns the machines by which the worker must earn his living.

Ancient society didn't know the problem of unemployment as we

know it today under our current system of private ownership of the large-scale industries and other means of wealth production, distribution and exchange. In ancient society there was, basically, no over-supply of labor, because it was impossible for the producers to turn out more wealth than was needed. Poverty, in ancient society, was inevitable, a result that couldn't be escaped, because the system hadn't developed to the point where it was possible to apply science to the processes of production. Therefore, poverty under the ancient order was natural; today, under our scientific civilization, poverty is a monstrous jest, a tragic-comedy.

Ancient society didn't know the meaning of the machine age. That in itself puts the two systems planets apart. There were certain crude mechanisms in ancient days, but they were playthings when compared to the gigantic mechanisms of modern industrialism. No one would dream of even comparing today's vast productivity with the meager output of ancient tools.

Ancient society knew absolutely nothing about mass production. Straight-line mass production developed in the last few generations. Our whole machine age is only a few hundred years old. In this alone the two eras show themselves to be complete strangers to each other.

The ancient world didn't know the meaning of the concentration of capital, in the modern sense. There was, of course, wealth in the hands of individuals, but such wealth represented gold, silver, jewels, rare articles, fabrics, houses, land, and the like. Such articles were the result of applied labor and, with the exception of the land, weren't able to be used for the purpose of producing new wealth. Today, we have vast corporate bodies which own enormous factories, mines, mills, transportation and communication facilities, etc., and such bodies were unknown only a few centuries ago.

There are other features—capitalistic imperialism, for example. The ancient world knew the meaning of military might, but not in the sense that we know it today. Under Capitalism, labor produces a surplus, and in order to dispose of that surplus our economic masters must find for-

eign markets for their wares, even to the extent of using militarism in order to establish their imperialistic designs. The ancient forces enslaved people in order to get a plentiful supply of cheap, forced labor— chattel slavery. Today, we don't want to own the bodies of our workers—we only want to make them tend our machines, buy our goods and pay our corporations and other forms of capitalistic enterprises the profits on which the system is based.

When we study the differences in the two social systems, we realize how silly it is to find a few superficial likenesses and then say that we moderns are merely repeating the doings of ancient Babylon.

* * *

I have seen frequent references to Hearst as our No. 1 Fascist. Can you state briefly why he has been given that title?

It's no exaggeration to call William Randolph Hearst a Fascist. The reasons are summarized below:

1. His anti-labor policies.
2. His attacks on academic freedom and civil liberties.
3. His unconcealed support of Fascism, in the U.S., Germany, Italy and Spain.
4. His persistent use of his news columns for distortion of all foreign and labor news and his use of pro-Fascist propaganda.
5. His policy of promoting war and militarism.
6. His hounding of teachers, especially in the institutions of higher learning, whenever they show the slightest sympathy for liberal ideas.
7. His espousal of un-democratic ideas and support of anti-democratic elements.

* * *

Soon after the General Motors strike was settled, William Green issued a statement criticizing John L. Lewis for the way he handled the settlement. Please comment.

The president of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, can't get over his feelings of disappointment and jealousy over the brilliant leadership John L. Lewis is giving the mass production workers. The contract Lewis got with General Motors—the second largest corporation in the U.S., and long a notorious enemy of organized labor—means one of the greatest victories in the history of American labor. Lewis is measuring up as a great leader, one who

knows what he wants and isn't afraid to go after it.

Lewis gave President Green a good chance to go into the motor car, steel, rubber and glass industries to organize the men, but the timid, conservative misleader of labor was plain scared of the job and begged off because he "didn't have enough money to do the job." After Lewis told him there would be plenty of money available to do the great work, Green side-stepped again, whereupon Lewis jumped in and did the chore himself. This upset Green, for he saw that Lewis was headed towards complete leadership of American labor. More rat than man, Green didn't miss a chance to slander the Lewis forces during the 44-day strike of the motor car workers. If he keeps this up long enough, he'll soon find himself completely divorced from the labor movement, and that, to my notion, will be a good thing for the workers and the country at large, for Green is nothing more than a stool of Wall Street.

If Green had done something for the men during the General Motors strike he would have had the right to express his criticism, but, as he did everything in his powers to help the General Motors interests instead of the workers, he served merely to advertise his betrayal of the masses of toilers.

Lewis, quite properly, ignored Green's carping complaints, for he knows the creature for what he is—a rat. Lewis is going right ahead with the tremendous job of building up industrial unionism in the mass industries, and before long we'll see labor victories in steel and rubber, along with more concessions from the motor car magnates, especially Chrysler and Ford.

The victory Lewis won against General Motors will go down in history. Lewis is showing a generalship that means new battles on the industrial front—battles that will most likely be won, for Lewis understands strategy and has the courage to meet the most powerful industrialists without batting an eye or retreating an inch.

* * *

American progressives hailed the People's Front election in Spain, in February, 1936, as liberal, but since September, 1936, the swing has been drastical-

ly to the Left. Does this forecast some form of proletarian state in the event of a Loyalist victory?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers this, as follows:

"In February, 1936, the People's Front fully triumphed at the elections, at which a clear expression of the real opinion of the country was shown. . . . This support of all anti-Fascist elements for the government culminated in the inclusion in the government of two most extreme elements—the Basque Catholic party, on the one hand, and the National Labor Confederation, of anarchistic leanings, on the other hand. The participation of the latter caused a greater Left tendency than in the government formed immediately after the elections. However, this does not presuppose that a proletarian state in any fixed form would result from a triumph by Loyalist Spain."

* * *

Which industry does John L. Lewis plan to unionize next, now that he has succeeded in making the all-powerful General Motors Corporation sign on the dotted line?

It looks as though steel is next—and that will be the biggest organizing job in the world, for there are about 500,000 men concerned directly, and probably 1,000,000 men indirectly.

Lewis—who is measuring up as a leader of magnificent proportions and seems entirely capable of carrying out his tremendous attack on steel, that citadel of anti-unionism—has many hundreds of organizers in practically every steel center in the country, and the enrollments are proceeding at a rapid pace. It seems likely that the next 60 days will find Lewis's organization in control of a heavy majority of all steel workers. When he feels ready, Lewis will ask the steel industrialists—representing the most powerful financial interests in the world—to meet with committees of workers, with a view to working out a contract covering wages, hours and other conditions. This invitation will be rejected, of course, for steel is notoriously open shop, and always has been that way. It has succeeded in fighting off unionism thus far because it was easy for this rich industry to defeat workers organized along craft union lines. The last steel strike, in 1919, was lost because the men were divided into 20

different unions, thus creating a situation that made it easy for the steel bosses to divide and conquer. However, the picture has changed, for Lewis, as the public well knows by now, pursues a policy of industrial instead of craft unionism. It's his sound theory that the bosses, tightly organized, can easily whip the workers when they are organized into many unions representing various crafts. When all the workers in an industry—this is the gist of industrial unionism—join a single organization and present their petitions as a single body, they stand a better chance of meeting their employers on more equal ground.

Just how the strike in steel will be managed—I refer, of course, to the question of strategy—is still an open question. The stay-in idea proved effective in the General Motors plants, but one vital reason for this was the fact that this company's plants are open and easily accessible, thus enabling the men to receive a steady supply of food, medicines, reports, news, etc. In steel the situation is different, and much more difficult. The enormous plants are located far from centers of traffic, and often are inaccessible. Most large steel plants are surrounded by high fences, are lighted by flood lights at night, the entrances are heavily guarded by hired thugs and private police, and in many other ways are hard to reach, let alone get into, when the owners want no one to enter. The men, to be sure, could stay-in quite easily, for they are husky specimens of manhood and ought to be able to defend themselves against the company's private gunmen, but the question of supplies, especially food, is hard to solve. A system might be worked out whereby food could be dropped by parachutes from airplanes. Something like that will have to be done for the steel workers, if they decide to become stay-ins. If the stay-in principle doesn't work very well in the steel mills, the men will be able, at any time, to resort to the old-fashioned stay-out strike.

The world is watching Lewis prepare for his greatest battle. When zero hour arrives, Lewis will lead a gigantic army of workers in what may be the greatest labor struggle in the entire history of Capitalism. The General Motors strike was a big pro-

ject, but when the steel workers sound the call of battle, the new strike will make the previous one look like a Sunday school outing.

* * *

Is the Spanish Loyalist government communistic?

Julio Alvarez del Vayo, foreign minister in the Loyalist government, answers the foregoing question, as follows:

"At the latest League of Nations session at Geneva, replying to an arbitrary definition of the situation in Spain by the Chilean delegate, I rejected once again the legend that Spain is communistic, a legend deliberately spread by those who use the fight against Bolshevism as a pretext to hide their designs of aggression and war."

* * *

Recognizing the existence of many political blocs within the Loyalist group, what form of government—that is, the French, American or the Soviet type of republic—would receive the largest vote if a plebiscite were possible?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers this, as follows:

"I consider the personality of Spain sufficiently strong that it would not form its political structure at any time according to foreign patterns. I consider that the most obvious pattern will be a continuation of a democratic republic which will permit extremely advanced social legislation."

* * *

Do the Spanish Loyalists desire to abolish completely, or to modify, the capitalistic system?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers, as follows:

"The Spanish capitalistic system must immediately be modified. It must be remembered that it is a barbarous form of capitalism with many more feudal survivals than any other form of capitalism—as is proved by the agricultural system in Andalusia, which is a veritable disgrace. . . ."

* * *

With the separation of Church and state accomplished, will Spain duplicate Russia's effort to stamp out religion?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers:

"In Spain no real anti-religious movement exists. It must be remembered, however, that for centuries the Catholic religion in Spain, instead of being purely spiritual, was equally political."

"During the 1936 electoral campaign, in which the People's Front triumphed, Spanish bishops took an

openly belligerent attitude against the republic. When the rebellion began, many churches were converted into depots for arms or centers of conspiracy. In the rebel forces priests who joined the army have been distinguished for their combative fury and ferocity. . . .

"On the other hand, I received last week at the Foreign Office a mission of English Protestant churches who told me it was unanimous in stating that no evidence of religious persecution could be found in loyal Spain."

* * *

How many foreign troops are aiding the Loyalists in Spain? What percentages are Russians?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers:

"The number of foreign volunteers fighting on our side for liberty is much less than is generally believed. While it is not possible to give exact figures, I do not believe the number exceeds 10,000 to 12,000 foreigners. I can absolutely and truthfully state that there is not a single Russian soldier on our fronts. In this respect what the Fascist press has said with regard to mass expeditions of Soviet soldiers are lies."

* * *

How many foreign troops are with the Spanish rebels, and of what nationalities are they?

Foreign Minister Vayo answers:

"I regard the number of foreigners fighting for the rebels as very much superior to those on our side. I affirm that Franco and his generals, who, to begin with, were Fascist marionettes, now play a secondary role, because Germans and Italians occupy all the posts of responsibility and are at the side of every enemy cannon and machine gun."

* * *

Can you explain why the Nazis go to such elaborate pains to explain that the Japanese are a superior race?

Ever since Hitler signed his anti-Soviet pact with Japan, his government has been very anxious to undo the mean things Hitler himself said about the Japanese. In his book, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler described the Japanese as a "degenerate and sterile race." Now that Germany and Japan are allies this dirty dig must be wiped out somehow, so Hitler had his Bureau for Race Investigation put in its oar, with the result that it issued a report which described the blood of the Japanese as containing "with-

in itself virtues closely akin to the pure Nordic strain." In this country we call such cavortings eating crow.

* * *

Trotsky says that anti-Semitism is a characteristic of Stalin. Trotsky should know, though I'm afraid Trotsky's bitterness is speaking rather than truth. Did you ever run across any other person of prominence who made the same accusation against Stalin?

I read Trotsky's charge of anti-Semitism against Stalin, early in February, 1937, and am positive this was the first time I'd ever heard such a thing from any source. While it's true that a number of the alleged conspirators executed after Moscow's strange trials were Jews, the fact remains that several Jews are in very important positions in the government of the Soviet Union, and, so far as I know, in Stalin's good esteem. I refer, of course, to Foreign Commissar Litvinoff, Lazar M. Kaganovitch, Commissar of Railroads, and Kaganovitch's brother, who, at last reports, was suggested to take the place of the Commissar of Heavy Industry when the official who held that key position died in mid-February, 1937. Jews have not been numerically strong in important posts, despite the claims of professional anti-Semites, who would make it appear that the words Bolshevik and Jew are synonyms. I believe the war between Trotsky and Stalin is not based on the former's Jewishness. Trotsky, it seems to me, is fighting with both fists and isn't sparing any weapons that may come within reach. If Stalin is an anti-Semite, he'll have to show it more definitely than he has thus far. Acts of racial prejudice are penitentiary crimes in Russia, and Stalin, I sincerely believe, is as ready to obey that law as anyone else in the Soviet Union.

* * *

Do you agree with the assertion, frequently made, that wars will always curse mankind because we human beings have "a fighting instinct"?

If man has a "fighting instinct" how strange is the interesting fact that the branch of science (psychology) which studies man's emotions knows nothing about it. The simple fact, of course, is that there's no such instinct. I recall vividly the months before we were whangedoodled into the World War, back in 1917. I saw no "fighting instinct" at work.

In fact, all I could observe was a healthy desire on the part of our young men to stay out of the damned mess. Official reports show that 9,000,000 out of 10,000,000 young men who registered for the draft claimed exemption on one score or another. If the Allies, later assisted by our own militarists, hadn't flooded the country with propaganda, we wouldn't have had the slightest enthusiasm for the war. Our militarists went ahead on the theory that man has no fighting instinct, concluding logically that it would be more effective to rely on the draft than on voluntary enlistments. The causes of war are economic, not man's "fighting instinct."

* * *

Recently I read Nietzsche's "The Antichrist," one of the most inspiring essays ever to come to my attention. I brought up this topic during the course of a conversation with a fellow worker and he was rather scornful regarding this particular book, insisting it was the product of a diseased mind. One of my pet diversions is to read Khayyam's verses. Incidentally, he derides these, too. I'd appreciate an answer very much.

It's true that Nietzsche died insane, but I fail to see what that has to do with the truth or falsity of *The Antichrist*, one of the greatest books ever written and one of Freethought's most annihilating attacks on orthodox religious thinking. This masterpiece must be judged on its own merits. Any intelligent, open-minded person who reads the stirring, brilliant, candid, scholarly, clear pages of *The Antichrist* must grant, as have many competent critics and other authorities, that here is one of the supreme utterances of genius. However, I don't see what's to be gained by arguing with the type of mind that would dismiss such a book—usually without reading it—because its author ultimately became a mental invalid.

Only the other day we all read in the newspapers the sad news of Edwin Markham's court experience. The venerable poet was found mentally incompetent. Would it be logical to infer from this tragic episode that he must have been mentally diseased when he wrote "The Man with the Hoe" or his various poems on Lincoln? To suggest another instance, today Nijinsky is in an asylum for the insane, in Austria.

He's been there for many years, but the world remembers the great Nijinsky when he gave exhibitions of his marvelous talents as a dancer. Critics of the dance insist that Nijinsky was the greatest dancer that ever lived. Are we to assume that because he is insane today his dancing of several decades ago was the expression of a crazy man?

If my correspondent's acquaintance doesn't care for *The Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam*, I wouldn't try to argue with him. Just pity the poor jackass. One should no more try to convince a fool of the beauties of fine poetry than one should waste time trying to convince a boor that a rose is a thing of beauty.

* * *

Could a system of compulsory health insurance by the U.S. government be made self-sustaining?

There's no reason why it should be operated at a deficit. Compulsory health insurance in Great Britain has shown a profit in all but two years since its inception in 1911. The latest reports I have are for 1934, when the balance sheet showed a surplus of \$13,000,000. This brought the accumulated surplus to \$547,000,000.

Income:	
Contributions	\$110,000,000
Parliamentary grants	25,000,000
Interest, etc.	26,000,000
	\$161,000,000

Expenditures:

Cash benefits	\$ 73,000,000
Medical services	52,000,000
Administration	23,000,000
	\$148,000,000

* * *

Did Woodrow Wilson originate the phrase "Pitiless publicity"?

President Wilson popularized it, but Emerson, in his *Conduct of Life: Worship*, first fathered it, in the following sentence: "As gaslight is found to be the best nocturnal police, so the universe protects itself by pitiless publicity."

* * *

Today's newspapers (February 2, 1937) report a lynching in Alabama, the first of the year. How long is this savagery to continue?

It is the rural, backward sections of the South that tolerate lynchings, and they seem able to flout State laws. Responsible Southern opinion is coming around to the position that the

only way to wipe out the blot of lynching is to call in Federal aid. The North wasn't ashamed to ask for Federal help when kidnaping became a serious threat, and the government's help has done much to eliminate the crime. It's only a matter of time before kidnaping will be as rare as dueling. The rural South alone can't solve its lynching problem.

One of the most important newspapers in the South—*The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*—early in February, 1937, met the problem candidly in a two-column editorial, which demanded the South's support for a Federal anti-lynching law, admitting there was "no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action."

There is an anti-lynching bill before the present Congress, and support from all sections of the country, particularly the South, will assure its enactment. *Freeman* readers are urged to write their Congressman and Senators asking them to support this humane, decent measure. Southern readers, in particular, are requested to help. This bill has suffered many defeats, but it'll win in the end, because it's right and because decent citizens everywhere, including the South, are asking for it.

The New York Herald Tribune, which joins the Virginia newspaper in demanding action against lynching, discusses the problem in its issue of February 5, 1937, from which I quote:

"The new anti-lynching bill, already introduced in the House and soon to appear in the Senate, is constructed, as 'The Times-Dispatch' points out, on the sound principle of enforcing Federal action not against the members of the mob but against the local officers whose dereliction allows the mobs to operate. It thus provides for effective Federal intervention at the points where it will be of the maximum preventive effect, but through the normal Federal court machinery and without the release of swarms of Federal police upon Southern communities. This is closely in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and involves the least violence to Southern feeling."

* * *

How is Canada doing in the matter of national debt, compared to the U.S.?

If we think the U.S. is heavily in debt

—\$35,000,000,000—we can take a look at Canada and feel better. Our neighbor has a debt of \$6,786,896,473. As Canada's population is only 11,000,000 people, this means that we, with 125,000,000, could jack our debt up to \$70,000,000,000 and still stand even with Canada, on a population basis.

* * *

Please tell your readers something about the Museum of Social Change.

In 1934, Robert Carlton Brown, who then was a member of the faculty of Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark., hit on the bright idea of establishing a museum devoted to showing articles connected with Capitalism in its period of upheaval and change—the Museum of Social Change, as it's now called. I'm sure that Brown's idea was basically humorous, for the fellow has an impishness that refuses to be quieted even in the most solemn moments.

I used to know Brown almost 25 years ago when I was on a newspaper in New York City. At that time, Brown was writing thrillers for the pulps, which he turned out at the rate of 10,000 words per day, more or less. Between mystery and crime stories he'd dash off a movie scenario, which usually took two or three hours to pour out of the slop jar he carried for such services and for which he received \$200 or thereabouts per quota of excrement. Then he'd write revolutionary poetry for *The Masses* and in other ways turn out literature a million yards from the sort of stuff he did for the pulps. This confusion was enough to drive anyone to drink, so Brown would, now and then, go on a toot. I remember joining him on one all-night party, and in order to get ourselves together for our chores the next day, we went to Fleishmann's Baths, on the corner of 6th Avenue and 42nd St., where, after paying the fee, we found we had exactly two bits between us. As we both wanted, and needed, a rubbing at the strong hands of a masseur, we told the masseurs exactly how much money we had for the tip. They tossed a coin to decide which of the pair of rubbers was to give us the works for a combination tip of 25 cents.

The next I heard from Brown was to the effect he was running some sort of a magazine in South America. Years—many years—later, he was back in this country again, but doing

no writing for the pulps. Instead, he was on the staff of Commonwealth, which meant he was working hard for room and eats. Then came the bulletin announcing the Museum, an idea which took hold, for men like Henry L. Mencken joined in the fun of finding specimens. I don't know what Mencken sent, but I happen to have a list of some of the articles on display, from which I select the following examples:

O'l stock certificates.

Sales tax tokens.

A rope which planters had put aside with a view to lynching the president of Commonwealth, Lucien Koch, a crime that didn't happen to come off as scheduled.

Two German iron crosses.

A lamp made from two empty fruit jars.

A wooden plow, used in Louisiana, in 1934.

A membership card in Father (of what?) Coughlin's Union for Social Justice.

A collection of circulars advertising a patent medicine owned by a Socialist leader who saved the workers by day as an editor and sold them a concoction (condemned by the federal government) by night.

At the time the Museum was organized, Brown issued a statement outlining its policies, from which the following excerpt is taken:

"Here we are building a complete record of the collapse of capitalism while it is still in process and the records are at hand to preserve and classify. We are doing this in the knowledge that it will not only help hasten the day but become a permanent archive of research and educational amusement to the ever-growing class conscious of America."

* * *

I've read the statement that Maine and Vermont were not members of the original 13 States. Is that true?

Yes. The 13 original States:

New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

* * *

Have you any figures to support the oft-repeated statement that our population of old people is increasing?

I have given space to numerous facts bearing on this point. The latest to come to my attention is the Census Bureau's statement, released on February 18, 1937, which said persons of 70 years of age or more, in the U.S., have been increasing

about twice as fast as the total population. The report:

"The increase in total population from 1900 to 1935 was about 51,346,725, or a little above 70 percent. The gain in those over 70 in the same period amounted to slightly more than 140 percent."

"The total number of persons over 70 in 1900 was 1,777,572, but on April 1, 1935, it was 4,319,200. Such persons in 1900 comprised about 2.4 percent of the total population; in 1935 the percentage had risen to about 3.4 percent."

* * *

Is there any truth to the claim that our excessive death rate from diabetes is attributable to our increased consumption of sugar?

The U.S. has the highest death rate from diabetes in the world—25 deaths per 100,000 of population per year. Frederick L. Hoffman comments on this condition as follows:

"It is shown by tabulation that high diabetes death rates coincide with excessive sugar consumption. The correlation is far from perfect but it is nevertheless significant that the United States should show a sugar consumption considerably above the average for the world at large."

* * *

If the British Empire were to get into another war, could Canada stay neutral?

There's no questioning the fact that Canada has a legal right to declare itself in favor of a policy of strict neutrality should there be another World War, but it's not possible to say Canada would take that step. The Canadian Socialist leader, J. S. Woodsworth, of the Cooperative Commonwealth party, offered the Canadian Parliament a declaration of neutrality, "even though Britain were a belligerent," but the doctrine wasn't adopted. The Dominion Parliament debated the question vigorously, but refrained from taking a definite position. One of the arguments used against Woodsworth's resolution was to the effect that a neutral Canada could turn a British ship, pressed by the enemy, out of a Canadian port, and if this were done Canada couldn't very well remain as a part of the Empire. Of course, this is somewhat academic at this time. There's no doubt that Canada would help a British ship in Canadian waters, if it were threatened by an enemy ship, but this doesn't mean that the Ca-

nadian people would favor sending contingents of their men and boys to die in Europe or some other foreign place. It's possible that Canada, in a new World War, might help the Empire at home, with goods, and even money, and at the same time keep its manpower in the Dominion.

* * *

How many kinds of sausages are there in the world?

The best estimate I can find puts the number at 400, which presents just one more proof of man's endless ingenuity and flair for variety. Man has poured his genius into thousands of different forms of wines, whiskies, ales, beer, and the like, but his powers were so generous he found himself with a surplus, which he diverted to sausages. Man, in his creative moods, is a thing of wonder.

* * *

I am enclosing a statement made by a scientific poultry farmer, dealing with the question of white versus brown eggs. I feel sure your readers will find it of value.

The piece I wrote several months ago, in which I quoted good authorities who claimed there is no difference between white and brown-shelled eggs, brought me a prodigious flood of letters (at least six) in which some of the correspondents asserted brown shells provided better food values, while others said just the opposite. The following statement, by a poultry farmer, covers the subject authoritatively:

"The sole difference between brown and white eggs, stated in the simplest terms, is that 'birds in which the gene of major importance is in a homozygous condition lay eggs the shells of which are dark brown in color.' (Poultry Breeding, by Morley A. Jull.) A Hitlerite geneticist would undoubtedly make a fine case for Aryan eggs if necessary, but the American approach would assume that the color of the shell, like the color of a man's hair, had very little bearing on the quality of that which it sheltered. As a matter of fact, no expert has ever been able to detect the slightest difference in flavor, quality or richness between a white and a brown-shelled egg. You must realize, however, that it isn't every hen who can boast a homozygous condition of her most important gene, and for that reason the red hen, or Rhode Island Red, as she is often called, takes no mean pride in pro-

ducing eggs evidencing her homozygous superiority to other, lesser breeds, and cannot help feeling, for that reason alone, that some preference should be given the brown egg, to say nothing of the psychological effect of wholesomeness and richness conveyed by the healthy tan of a brown-shelled egg."

* * *

What is the correct pronunciation of "levee," referring, of course, to an artificial bank holding in the water of a stream?

The correct pronunciation is lev-vy, with the accent on the first syllable.

* * *

Which is the better jumper—man or flea?

The flea does a better job, being able to leap almost eight inches. It would be able to jump 300 yards if it were man-sized. Still, I'd rather be a man than a flea, even though my leaps aren't quite up to the marks established by fleas.

* * *

Among men's shoes I notice that the Regal shoe sells for the same price as the Douglas. Are they equal buys?

Arthur Kallet, of Consumers Union, reports the two shoes are not equal in quality though they sell for almost the same price—\$5.55 for Regal; \$5.50 for Douglas. Director Kallet's laboratory report shows:

	Regal	Douglas
Number of abrasive strokes on test machines required to wear out equal thicknesses of sole	32,169	43,171
Number of pounds per inch required to tear or pull apart inner sole ..	284	638
Number of pounds required to burst outer vamp lining	261	319
Total rating on 19 points	694	851

According to this test, it's obvious the Douglas shoe is the better buy.

* * *

We members of a Saturday night poker and beer club are in need of an anti-booze hymn that we can sing before breaking up. We want something that comes hot from the prohibition camp and will sound funny when sung with mock earnestness by a bunch of boozers who have their snouts full. What have you to offer?

I have just what you need. It's called "The Old Saloon" and is sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Written by that devout defender of virtue, George N. Cannon,

the song can, with just a little burlesque—and perhaps it would be better to sing it straight Epworth League style accompanied by Salvation Army beating of time with glasses on table—bring many a sinner from the paths of perdition to the quiet and pure alleys of rectitude. I found this delicious masterpiece of dry propaganda in *The Arkansas Methodist*, an organ of righteousness which I've read for 20 years and which I could hardly do without. The next time you boozy bums get ready to stagger homeward, give this song a trial and I believe you'll either have a good laugh or get saved. Here it is:

The old saloon has come again, come again, come again.

And makes its bid for all our men,

And for our boys as well;

It hangs its trappings in full view, in full view, in full view,

And flaunts abroad its poison brew,

That has perdition's smell.

In its vile web of foul deceit, foul deceit, foul deceit,

Entangled are the indiscreet,

Fast bound as helpless slaves;

To gilded hall, to road-house wild, road-house wild, road-house wild,

The heedless thousands are beguiled,

And headed for their graves.

Yea, in these dens of vice and crime, vice and crime, vice and crime,

The serpent leaves his track of slime,

That winds through many a soul;

The old saloon dispenses death, dispenses death, dispenses death,

Exhaling pestilential breath,

From every sparkling bowl.

How tragic that fair maidenhood, maidenhood, maidenhood,

Should offer up her virtue good,

On some vile altar there;

All wisdom spurned, how low she falls, low she falls, low she falls,

She heeds no more when conscience calls,

Naught left but dark despair.

* * *

Does the Baker Cancer Treatment actually cure a substantial percentage of its cases, as it claims it does—or are such claims a pack of lies?

Norman Baker, of Muscatine, Iowa, is one of the most dangerous quacks in the world—a mercenary charlatan who is a menace to his gullible victims. The man knows absolutely nothing about cancer, but he is a brilliant publicity-monger, which enables him to attract thousands of ailing suckers to his "hospital," where he advertises,

lying of course, that cancer is curable. He rests his publicity on so-called testimonials, which mean merely this: uninformed, untrained laymen diagnose their ailments and sign statements that Baker has "cured" them. Such "evidence" means exactly nothing. Instead, let Baker receive a group of cancer patients who have been declared to be in even moderately advanced stages—accredited as cancer sufferers by competent experts of real standing in the scientific world—and let him cure just one such case and I'll take back my charges of quackery and become his most enthusiastic supporter. The fact is, of course, that Baker can't cure cancer, because the terrible malady is still incurable, science being helpless. Science doesn't even know what cancer is, let alone know how to cure it. It's possible to save some cancer patients who have contracted cancer recently, before the condition spreads and gets a strong hold on the system, but any patient whose disease has gone beyond the first stages is doomed. I hate to be so discouraging to cancer patients, some of whom will read this, but I refuse to hold out false hopes. If one's cancer is advanced, it's best to accept the inevitable in as good spirits as conditions will permit, put one's affairs in order, and get ready to kick off. The chance that a cancer cure will be found in the next few years is remote, so make yourself comfortable and try to be cheerful about the whole mess. Don't, by any means, listen to a Baker who is out to get your money and grow rich through your suffering. He has no standing in science, he is known to be nothing more than a yokel-baiter, and trusting him will mean nothing but wasted time, money and hope.

Knowing that Dr. Morris Fishbein could give me accurate, honest information about this notorious charlatan and quack, I wrote to the distinguished editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, our highest authority in this field of science, and received the following illuminating statement:

Norman Baker, who is back of the Baker Hospital at Muscatine, Iowa, is not a Doctor of Medicine. We exposed his quackery in *THE JOURNAL* of April 12, 1930. As a result, he sued for half a million dollars in damages, but when the case came

to trial, a jury, after hearing all the evidence, returned a verdict in the Association's favor.

A short time after the trial, and following some trouble that Baker had with the Iowa authorities, he went to Mexico and established his radio station, XENT, but we understand that he still runs his Iowa institution in Muscatine. In March, 1935, it was reported that Baker's application for a restoration of his federal license to run a broadcasting station in Muscatine had been denied.

Early in October, 1935, the newspapers reported that on his return to Iowa, Baker was again in trouble with the Iowa officials for practicing medicine without a license in conducting his Muscatine outfit, and on December 6, 1936, the papers reported that the State Supreme Court had found Baker guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to one day in jail and fined him \$50. The court, in its findings, declared that Baker, in letting a certain physician run the Muscatine hospital, was merely "engaged in perpetrating a stupendous fraud against the court."

We might add that last April (1936) the Iowa papers reported that Baker and two other individuals were under federal indictment on charges of violating the U.S. Communications Act of 1934 in conspiring to maintain and use apparatus to make records for broadcasting from a station so located that its programs could be received in the United States, without first obtaining a permit from the Federal Communications Commission.

Arthur J. Cramp, who is one of our greatest authorities on medical charlatans and quackeries, has made a thorough, conscientious, candid study of the amazing enterprises of Norman Baker. I have made use of his writings for the facts presented below.

We learn from this writer, for example, that Baker's original enterprises "have been wholly in the commercial field," in which he applied his shrewd salesmanship to cigars, radios, storage batteries, alarm clocks, and numerous other articles. Suddenly he blossomed as a cancer expert! Mark you, without medical education or experience, according to Mr. Cramp, our Iowan, in his TNT magazine (*The Naked Truth*) and over his radio station, claimed public consideration of his new slogan "Cancer is curable." In utter defiance of med-

ical, scientific experience, Baker urged that his treatments positively cure cancer "while medical trust refuses recognition because it affords them no financial gain."

We learn, according to Mr. Cramp, that Baker started his cancer "treatments" after obtaining an "external" cancer formula from a Harry M. Hoxsey, whose methods have been exposed as rank quackery, and injections for "internal" cancers from a Charles O. Ozias, of Kansas City, Mo. Just what Baker paid for these "formulas" I don't know, but whatever the investment it was productive, for Baker confessed, when questioned on the witness stand, that he made as much as \$75,000 in a single month (June, 1930) and even after his "cures" were exposed by competent authorities Baker continued taking in large sums of money, his income in January, 1932, amounting to \$7,000.

The trial to which I have already referred was useful in many ways, aside from forcing Baker to expose his own quackery, for it enabled the intelligent public to learn some facts about his past. Says Mr. Cramp:

"It was brought out during the trial that Baker's education went no further than a year and a half of high school work, after which for two years he worked in machine shops. He then went into the vaudeville business, putting on 'hypnotism' acts. He continued in that field for about eight or 10 years, but in 1914 came back to Muscatine, where he started to manufacture calliopes. This work was interrupted for a short time when he again went on the road 'putting on an act.' In 1920, his factory burned and he then started a mail-order business. Although Baker admitted that he could not paint, nevertheless he advertised to teach 'oil painting in 10 lessons by mail.' His broadcasting station went on the air in November, 1925."

I know my readers are finding it hard to believe that a person of Baker's type, character and background could get very far in the field of medical science, but let me repeat that the facts advanced in this article are from the highest sources and that much of the damning exposure of Baker's history came from Baker himself while he was in court. According to the court record, it seems that Baker originally planned to make

some sort of a financial arrangement with Ozias of Kansas City, whereby the Ozias "injection cure" for "internal" cancer could be used at Muscatine. On this point Mr. Cramp writes:

"Such plans, however, never materialized, and Ozias testified that he had never sold, loaned or permitted Baker to use the formula. Baker, when asked on the witness stand who it was that told him what was in the Ozias mixture, refused to tell. It was brought out, however, that two persons previously employed by Ozias were later hired by Baker. One of these was a woman, Mary Turner, and the other a chiropractor, Charles Gearing. The Turner woman admitted that she had given thousands of injections of the Ozias 'cancer treatment' while in the employ of Ozias; she was employed by Baker to do the same kind of work when she came to Muscatine. Mrs. Turner had no medical training and was not even a registered nurse! The material injected at the Baker Institute was found on analysis to be composed of one-third carbolic acid in a mixture of glycerin and alcohol."

I know that all this sounds like a story out of Munchausen, but I want to assure my most skeptical readers that I am dealing with recorded facts, not Wellsian fiction. One wonders why a person like Baker would lay himself open in a court case, especially when he would be faced by the best scientific brains of the American Medical Association, but this rather difficult problem in psychology is explained when one gets a "line" on Baker's "slant" in the scandalous controversy. Baker, says Cramp, took "the attitude that the American Medical Association had no right to attempt to interfere with his business or injure his reputation as one who had conquered cancer." In other words, he was in the cancer business and no one had a right to injure his good thing—a project that brought as much as \$75,000 in a single month!

Several of my readers who saw what I wrote about a cancer quack in Texas have sent me Baker's literature and have urged me to admit that Baker reproduces actual photographs of cancers which had been cured—"before and after" publicity. This point deserves consideration, and here I am able to make use of brilliant work done by Cramp, who now

enters on the sensational parts of his exposure of a quack who undoubtedly will go down in history as one of the cleverest to ever shake down the cancerous.

Baker started his cancer promotion with the invitation, which he broadcast over his radio station, that he "wanted five men and women...who were suffering from cancer to consent to become a test patient for this treatment, that I would pay all of their expenses for them, all doctor bills, nurses' care, medical fee, room and board, and they to pay their own transportation to the hospital (in Kansas City, Mo.) where the treatment would be made." These "test cases" were given tremendous publicity, via the radio and special promotional literature. The main article, which was given prominent display in Baker's TNT, opened with these paragraphs:

"Cancer is conquered. The greatest discovery in medical science in years—a positive cure for cancer, that dread disease which has taken toll of millions of lives, caused thousands to commit suicide and driven other thousands to insanity—has been revealed by an investigation conducted by Norman Baker, publisher of TNT Magazine and owner of the Norman Baker Enterprises and radio station KTN'I, who was assisted by a physician and member of his staff.

"Seeing is believing. Mr. Baker and his fellow investigators have seen with their own eyes enormous and malignant cancers in advanced stages of growth rapidly yield to a new and painless treatment, soften and disappear. They selected the cancer cases themselves for observation after they had determined beyond any doubt that they were authentic cases of cancer. They have watched these true cases of cancer under treatment and have seen the cancers grow smaller and pass away."

Baker went on to say that "pains-taking observation" of the test cases had "thoroughly convinced Mr. Baker that cancer has been conquered," and went on to exploit the five cases, with photographs. We now come to the sensational fact that Baker was sending out this advertising literature when the five "test patients" were dead and buried. His test patients were in their graves, but Baker's publicity continued to claim that

"Cancer Is Conquered." Mr. Cramp, who investigated the five cases for the trial, reports as follows:

Test Case No. 1.—This was the case of a woman who had an "abdominal cancer," and the case had been diagnosed as incurable by reputable physicians. She took the Ozias treatment and, according to Baker, "began a rapid recovery" and the "cancerous mass in the abdomen had softened and most of it had passed away." The facts were that the poor woman was practically bedfast when she left Kansas City and she died a few weeks later—in November, 1929, although Baker continued to reprint his article, implying that she had been cured, as late as June, 1930!

Test Case No. 2.—This was the case of a man with cancer of the throat that reputable surgeons had declared was past the curable stage. In describing the case, the Baker magazine implied that the man was being cured and had gone back to work at his trade. The magazine article was still being sent out six months after the poor fellow was dead and buried!

Test Case No. 3.—This was described in Baker's magazine as that of a patient who had had an exploratory operation by reputable surgeons which disclosed the fact that the case was inoperable. He took the "treatments" at Kansas City as one of the "test" cases, and then continued taking them at Baker's "institute." As late as June, 1930, Baker was still sending out reports implying that the man was practically cured, although, as a matter of fact, he had died six months previously—in December, 1929!

Test Case No. 4.—This patient was a man with cancer of the jaw. He had previously been operated on by reputable surgeons, who held out no hope of permanent cure. The man took the Ozias "treatment" in Kansas City and Baker's magazine had this to say about him:

"At this writing the patient has recovered sufficiently to begin to worry over the fact that due to the operation he is destined to go through life disfigured. He keenly feels that had he known about the treatment sooner he could have saved both his life and his face from disfigurement. On this account, he harbors considerable resentment towards the doctors who performed the operation." This statement was being sent out

as late as June, 1930; the patient died May 5, 1930!

Test Case No. 5.—This was of a woman with cancer of the breast. She was accepted by Baker as one of the "test" cases and went to Kansas City for about two months, during which time the cancer trebled in size. The Baker magazine article, implying that the woman was being cured, was still being sent out in June, 1930, although the patient died of cancer in February, 1930!

Space doesn't permit me to go into the Cramp exposure of Baker to the extent that the case warrants. The appalling record is crowded with heart breaking reports of cancer victims putting themselves in Baker's hands at Muscatine, separated from their money—and sent home to die. It's humiliating to admit that such scandalous enterprises are permitted to operate in this country.

* * *

Your article on Washington proves to any thinking person the unreliability of the average doctor's ability to care for the sick. The bunch of ignoramuses that attended Washington belonged to the good old days of witchcraft and medical malpractice. What Washington really died of was the bleeding process aggravated by a complete lack of knowledge of everything pertaining to health. Was the bleeding scientific?

As my article showed, Washington's disease was a serious one, a septic condition of the throat. In addition, Washington was treated by men who resorted to bleeding on such a scale that the poor man was left without physical strength to fight the disease. We should bear in mind that doctors of that time—a century and a half ago—knew practically nothing of scientific medicine. Not until the 19th Century was medicine put on a scientific basis. Doctors, like other scientists, have been slow to learn the methods of science, but progress has been steady and fruitful. It would be the essence of folly to blame today's medical science for the superstitious practices of men who tried their esoteric arts in the days before medicine began evolving in the direction of science. Today, medical science needs no defenders. Its wonders speak firmly and clearly. Only eccentric fanatics would shut their eyes to the magnificent service medical science is rendering humanity today. There's still

much room for advancement, but the mood is one of open-minded experimentation, research and cold realism.

Another reader—himself a medical doctor and the graduate of a recognized institution—takes me to task for my few words of praise of Dr. Morris Fishbein, the editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, a man for whom I have the highest respect and admiration because I happen to know definitely that he is truly scientific in his approach, a hater of shams, and a brave fighter against the forces of quackery. He has enemies galore, but he should be proud they're against him. It would be a serious blot on his character if the men and interests who are fighting Dr. Fishbein were to be for him.

At the same time, I must insist that I don't see eye to eye with everything Dr. Fishbein writes, though frankness compels me to say that our points of disagreement are few and far apart. The doctor mentioned in the previous paragraph protests against Dr. Fishbein's campaign against state or social medicine. Here, of course, I cross lances with Dr. Fishbein, for I am a firm believer in the necessity of socialized medicine. I'm willing, however, to grant Dr. Fishbein's strict honesty of purpose. And I recognize several of his arguments to be very strong indeed. My readers will recall that I have written several times in the past that I favor state medicine, but not as a monopoly of the State. I prefer what appears to be a happy compromise. The state should use its vast facilities to give the masses free medical attention, but at the same time I would permit private practitioners to follow their profession, should they prefer to function privately instead of publicly. I believe such a solution will come eventually in this country.

Is there any college in the U.S. that confers the degree of A.B. or B.S., by mail, on a woman, without her taking a course of study or examination, i.e., by merely paying for same—a diploma mill, in other words?

I'm sure there's no college in this country which gives diplomas under the conditions described above. Of course, there are diploma mills—especially fake institutions run mainly

by religious groups of racketeers—but they have no standing, and any certificate issued by them would have no value.

After seeing the movie, "The Garden of Allah," with your favorite, Marlene Dietrich, in the lead, I am wondering if you have seen it and, if you have, what you think about it.

I didn't like this story when I saw it on the stage and intend to waste no time seeing it on the screen, even though it's done in colors and has for its star Marlene Dietrich. I never said the beautiful Marlene is my favorite actress; I merely said I admire her cool, eye-filling, rich beauty.

What's your opinion of the Gilbert Allen School of Undressing?

All I know about this school is that it proposes to teach the women of New York City and environs the art of preserving their sexual glamour by teaching them how to undress in a provocative, artistic, esthetic, stimulating manner. Most of the men of my acquaintance have complained not so much at the manner in which many women undressed but their reluctance to do so after they had been propositioned. As for myself, undressing is a chore which takes little of my time and thought. I usually sit on a couch and throw my shoes and socks on the floor and the rest of the stuff on the couch, where I greet the outfit again in the morning, getting it back over my skin with the least time and thought. That's one reason why I always play my records immediately after getting out of bed. Good music—Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Brahms, the two Strausses, Sibelius, Saint Saens, any of the Russians—such masters enable me to exercise my cultural taste while I go through the unhappy process of getting this chunk of meat in shape so I can present it before the world with a minimum of shock and displeasure. But, if the Gilbert Allen school has hit on something that works—that makes a woman desirable long after she has lost her bloom of the honeymoon (horrible word, that) I'm hot for the Gilbert Allen teachers, whatever it is they teach. However, I know many women who should continue to dress and undress in the strictest privacy, because a thousand diplomas wouldn't help 'em.

The next time I'm in New York I'll drop around at the Gilbert Allen school, study the behavior of some of their most brilliant students and report to my family of pure-minded, moral, pious readers.

* * *

How many hours of sleep do you get?

I'm a great believer in the old-fashioned, conventional eight hours. Add a half hour's nap in the afternoon and I'm all set to endure the rasping blows of life. I never regret the hours spent in sleeping. And I've learned from long experience that if I'm to do any writing it's first necessary for me to invite Morpheus to remove the cob-webs from my brain by presenting me with a refreshing spell of dreamless slumber. No sleep, no copy for the linotype operator. I simply won't—and can't—write these gigantic masterpieces if my body is fatigued. And, since you're curious about my bed-room manners, let me add I can do a better job of sleeping by crawling in raw, Winter or Summer. Also, I don't like to throw the windows wide open for the blasts of Winter to sweep over my blankets. I keep the room cool by turning off the radiator, and that's all. No heat—and no icy gales. A sleeping room should be comfortable, not a replica of a barn. I always remember that warmth is life—so I always keep warm.

But don't ask me to tell you what sleep is, for I don't know. As T. B. Aldrich put it, in his *Human Ignorance*, "what probing deep has ever solved the mystery of sleep?" But this I do know—sleep is the great democrat, or, as Cervantes worded it, "while we are asleep, we are all equal." If life's inequalities bear down too hard, carry them to your pillow, the great leveler. If you must, take a nightcap, but don't wear one. Personally, I prefer to drink a glass of rich, pure milk and eat a couple of scrambled eggs before retiring to the sleep that, as Martial said, "makes the darkness brief."

Plato asserted that no one when asleep is good for anything, but why try always to be good for something? Drowsiness is positively painful to me, and when it comes over me I must surrender to the glorious uselessness of letting "fall the windows of mine eyes," as Shakespeare said it.

And, while I'm quoting Shakespeare, let me jot down his lines from *Macbeth*:

Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve
of care,
The death of each day's life, sore
Labour's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second
course,
Chief nourisher in life's feast.

Cervantes, in his *Don Quixote*, sang his blessings on him that first invented sleep. "It," he wrote, "covers a man, thoughts and all, like a cloak; it is meat for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, heat for the cold, and cold for the hot. It is the current coin that purchases cheaply all the pleasures of the world, and the balance that sets even king and shepherd, fool and sage."

* * *

Please comment on the way the Inquisition put out Galileo's eyes.

Galileo was, for a time, the prisoner of the Vatican because of his heretical writings and discoveries, but his eyes were never gouged out. The truth is bad enough without making it worse.

* * *

In your letter replying to my inquiry regarding Norman Baker's claim he can cure cancer, you use the word "quack" several times. You should explain exactly what you mean by a "quack."

I always use that word in the sense it's defined in *Webster's New International Dictionary*, from which I quote:

"To make vain and loud pretensions, esp. of medical ability; to play the quack; hence, to talk pretentiously without sound knowledge of the subject discussed."

* * *

What was H. G. Wells's estimate of Napoleon?

Wells described "the little corporal" as "a hard, petty, lying, vain, unscrupulous little adventurer." He also painted him as having narrow vision, extraordinary luck and great ability as a leader of armies, Bernard Shaw once said the world would be better off today if Napoleon had never been born. The same goes for Hitler, Mussolini and Franco. And, while we're at it, let's throw in that would-be dictator and cockroach totalitarian, Father Coughlin. The difference between Coughlin and Mussolini is that the latter is a real mass-murderer while the former, being

without actual military power, must content himself with squirting bladder-drippings and kidney-waste.

What is your opinion of the theory of Reincarnation?

The notion is pure bunk. It's offered without even an attempt at evidential support. If you can believe in that bowel-paste, you can believe just about anything. I've never known of a single intelligent person who held this theory seriously and sincerely. But I've met up with clever deceivers who had learned the knack of making money from gullible believers in Reincarnation, but they were in the game for the easy living they could make out of it. Thus, only fools believe in and knaves exploit Reincarnation. The whole proposition is just so much bladder-dew and kidney-seepings. Any man who falls for such hooey is suffering from too much lint in his navel.

I have frequently heard, and said so myself, that the financial and business interests control the church. I would like to see some authority for this charge.

Harper's, for January, 1937, contains an article on this subject which will be found valuable, especially because of the publication's usually conservative attitude on church questions. The main facts are:

Control of the church, especially in cities and towns, is now largely in the hands of the favored economic classes. About three-fourths of the chairmen of the boards belong to the business groups or are subservient to them. Thus there exists an interlocking control of the church by the same capitalistic interests which control business. The church organization itself has a tremendous stake in the profit system. The annuity fund for Congregational ministers alone has large sums invested with 54 railroads, nine governmental agencies, two industrial corporations, and 43 public utilities, aside from other stock and vast real estate holdings. A single institution, Trinity Church, in New York City, has an annual income from investments alone of nearly \$2,000,000. Church welfare is bound up financially with the welfare of capitalism.

What is the nature of the biggest insurance policy in the U.S.?

According to *Barron's*, for Decem-

ber 28, 1936, the biggest insurance policy ever written in the U.S. is the one covering the Port of New York Authority's tunnels and bridges. The protection is for \$85,000,000, with 32 insurance companies dividing up the risk. The contract covers, among others, the George Washington Bridge, Holland Tunnel, and the Midtown Holland Tunnel. "Protection," says *Barron's*, "is provided in the policy against all conceivable damage and loss due to the direct or remote consequences of war, strikes, riots, and civil commotion, and loss of revenue from interruption of operations of the crossings."

What are the facts regarding Howard Hughes's recent record-breaking flight across the U.S.?

On January 19, 1937, Howard Hughes, averaging "332 miles an hour, or 5½ miles per minute, covered 2,490 miles between Los Angeles, Calif., and Newark, N.J., in 7 hours 28 minutes 25 seconds, breaking all landplane distance-speed records. His previous transcontinental mark was 9 hours 26 minutes and 10 seconds."

Which musical instruments are popular among our young people?

The only information I have on this subject is a report printed in the *Sierra Educational News*, December, 1936, which studies the instrumental preferences of 340 members enrolled in orchestras in San Benito County, Calif., where musical instruction is given in 23 of the county's 26 rural schools. The popularity of various instruments may be judged from the figures in the following table:

Violin	109
Piano	45
Guitar	34
Trumpet	31
Mandolin	28
Drums	25
Accordion	21
Saxophone	16
Clarinet	12
Trombone	9
Bells	7
Bass-viol	1
'Cello	1
Flute	1

Do Americans still believe they are living in a land of opportunity, that any young man who has ability and ambition, and practices thrift, can some day earn \$5,000 or more per year?

This question was polled by

Fortune's quarterly survey, January, 1937, which showed the following answers:

Yes	39.6%
Yes, if he's lucky	18.0
No	34.7
Don't know	7.7

The same report shows that "more than half of the poor having an opinion on the subject believe that, with or without luck, a man may achieve the status of prosperity through his own abilities; among the prosperous there are 29 percent who find opportunity dead." These facts prove that the U.S. is still the home of optimism, despite seven years of depression.

* * *

Can you give some facts touching on the business side of Bible salesmanship?

The Reader's Digest, for January, 1937, contains data supplied by a Bible salesman, which is summarized below:

Three-fifths of the 5,000,000 Bibles sold in the U.S. each year are distributed in the Bible Belt, that is, in the States south of a line drawn from Pennsylvania to Nebraska. Salesmen earn 40 percent commission; they often sell as high as \$500 worth of Bibles a week at \$5 each. Women buy four out of every five Bibles sold in America by commission salesmen. The easiest person to sell is one who can neither read nor write; 5 percent of all Bibles bought in southern States from house-to-house canvassers go to illiterates. Bible houses encourage business with them.

* * *

Some Jews of my acquaintance have an apt expression which I've heard several times. It's to the effect that "Hitler will die on a Jewish holiday." What does it mean?

You didn't quote the sentence in its entirety. It goes this way: "Hitler will die on a Jewish holiday, no matter what the date." Ketch on?

* * *

Was Coolidge sincere when he announced he didn't choose to run?

W. E. Woodward, an excellent authority, in his *A New American History*, asserts that Calvin Coolidge did choose to run. Woodward writes:

"It turned out, in the end, that he did not want to be taken literally. He wanted to be drafted. He envisaged a Republican convention that yelled for Coolidge, and would accept no substitute. Nominated

unanimously by a convention of a thousand enthusiastic delegates, he would then recede from his determination and, as a patriotic American, bow again to the yoke of martyrdom. An eyewitness at the White House says that Coolidge upon hearing the news from the convention "threw himself across the bed and lay there a long time...."

When the accident of Harding's death made Coolidge President, his stepping up to the Presidency was based on good precedent but was really unconstitutional. Woodward explains the situation as follows:

"The framers of the Constitution intended the vice-president to act in the deceased president's place until the next election. Tyler would have none of that; he insisted on being sworn in as a real president and not as an acting president. By doing this he established a principle which has been followed ever since."

* * *

Is gold mining Alaska's biggest industry?

Alaska's biggest industry isn't gold but salmon. During 1936, nearly 500,000,000 pounds of salmon were shipped out of Alaska, worth \$46,273,276. The combined production of gold and silver was valued at \$16,870,580, according to a report made by J. J. Connors, collector of customs, Juneau, Alaska.

* * *

Have you any facts regarding the electric sign business in the U.S.?

The electric sign industry distributed, in 1935, about 1,100,000 electric signs, at a cost to the public of \$205,000,000. It gave employment to 57,000 employes in the production departments, offices and selling, all of whom received \$71,000,000 in wages. Materials and accessories cost \$80,000,000, and overhead cost \$44,000,000, leaving a net profit of \$10,000,000.

* * *

How many people in the U.S. brush their teeth?

At a meeting of the Dental Institute of America, in Chicago, it was reported that only 25 percent of the people brush their teeth.

* * *

Which President referred to Thomas Paine as "a filthy little Atheist"?

This enormity was perpetrated by Theodore Roosevelt, in his biography of Gouverneur Morris. I have paid my respects to this monstrous untruth many times in the past, but I'm

glad to dwell on the issue again. Paine made wonderful contributions to our struggles for freedom and deserved better than he's been treated. In Theodore Roosevelt's case, the three statements about Paine are all false, for the great Deist and Libertarian wasn't filthy, wasn't little and most assuredly wasn't an Atheist.

Paine was scrupulously clean physically. As Dr. L. M. Birkhead puts the matter, "he had the Englishman's love of the bath." As for being little, Paine was five feet nine inches tall, which, says Dr. Birkhead, "was taller, in fact, than Theodore Roosevelt." It's inexcusable to call Paine an Atheist, for he says, again and again in his writings, that he believes in God. Paine rejected Christian theology, but that doesn't make him an Atheist.

Our obscurantists have convinced a sizable portion of the public that Paine was "a filthy little Atheist," but lovers of truth and honesty should counter this low propaganda whenever they meet it. No editorial writer or public speaker should be permitted to get away with such lies. Admirers of the great patriot should always write letters of vigorous protest when they see the falsehoods repeated in the press.

* * *

How many old people have we in this country? Will the number grow?

We have 6,500,000 persons of 65 or over. Dr. Robert E. Chaddock, professor of statistics, Columbia University, estimates the number of old people past 65 years of age may grow 300 percent in the next half century. The aged people of this country are not distributed evenly, according to Dr. Chaddock, who shows that Los Angeles has twice as many persons of 65 or more in proportion to population as Detroit.

* * *

Recently I read that when the cast iron plow appeared, many farmers opposed the invention. Can you tell me why?

Until the end of the 18th Century plowing was done by a pointed stick. When Charles Newbold, in 1796, produced the cast iron plow, the farmers—that is, most of them—fought the idea because they believed the metal would poison the soil. The superstitious prejudice gradually disappeared.

In 1837, John Deere, in Grand Detour, Ill., used slick, shiny steel to make a plow, which became an immediate success. This was because the old cast iron plow wasn't successful when used to work the soft, damp, mucky prairies of the West, because the rough surface held the wet earth, making it necessary for the man to stop every few feet to clean off the muck. In the East, the iron plow was all right, because the soil was loose.

Deere, knowing about the farmer's trouble with cast iron plows, and happening to see some broken parts of a large circular saw, took the pieces of bright steel to his blacksmith shop and turned them into an all-steel plow that pleased the farmers because it cut a neat furrow through the sticky soil.

* * *

I am troubled by mice, but can't set a cat after them because we have a dog who is unfriendly to cats. I don't care for traps, nor do I want to use poison. What would you suggest?

Scientists connected with the U.S. Department of Agriculture suggest, in all seriousness, that you can drive away a mouse by giving strong offense to the creature's sense of smell. They report that many experiments have proved "the bravest mouse could not tolerate the odor of flaked naphthalene scattered about furniture, books, clothing, etc. This must not be used around foodstuffs, or persons as well as mice may be repelled." The same authorities advise persons to change the bait on their mouse-traps from time to time, as the same old bait begins to prove unattractive to variety-loving mice. Mice are exceptionally fond of peanut butter, chocolate candy, fried bacon, sardines, nut meats and bananas.

* * *

What's the horse population of New York State? Is it growing? Are horses bringing higher prices?

In 1936, New York State had 312,000 horses; in 1930, 339,000. Today, the average price, in New York State, is \$143; in 1930, \$109. The figures show, of course, that the horse population is slipping, but the old saw still holds, to the effect that there are more horses' rears than horses.

* * *

Is there any remedy for the winter decline in Vitamin A content of milk?

The cause is the lack of fresh pas-

ture. Scientists are now at work on a dairy farm near Lockport, N.Y., experimenting with a view to providing cows with fresh alfalfa all winter, which, if successful, will remedy the seasonal decline of Vitamin A in milk. They are taking a hint from the frozen food distributors. They are building silos fixed up with vacuum tanks, with the temperature controlled by dry ice. The work is still going on, hopefully, according to late reports, but without definite results.

Another scheme is expected to produce the same result—a hay dryer. Such a machine has been available for years, but has had slight acceptance, except among the most progressive farmers. The big agricultural implement concerns manufacture them, but they're still too expensive. The machines are used to dry or toast the hay immediately after it's cut. This process, it's said, retains a great deal of the food values that would be burned out if left on the field for the usual sun-curing.

* * *

How many newspaper readers are there in the U.S.? How many buy magazines?

There are 40,000,000 newspaper buyers; 30,000,000 magazine buyers.

* * *

How many Jews and Catholics are there in New York City?

Jews, 1,765,000; Catholics, 1,733,000.

* * *

Can you tell me something about Citro-carbonate?

This proprietary medicine is sold by Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich., with the support of an immense advertising appropriation, carloads of circulars and booklets, countless millions of samples to doctors and laymen, "testimonials" from laymen incompetent to form a scientific opinion, and the like. When the medicine was proposed for inclusion in the American Medical Association's "new and non-official remedies," this public-serving body, representing the best brains of the medical world, rejected the preparation "because it (Citrocarbonate) is a mixture of semi-secret and unscientific composition, containing an excessive number of active ingredients, marked with extravagant and unwarranted therapeutic (curative) claims under a misleading and uninformative name."

The February, 1937, issue of *Health and Hygiene*, contains a val-

uable article entitled "Be Wise—Don't Alkalize," in which the public is warned that "the body, except in severe diabetes and kidney disease, manages with great efficiency to keep a balance between acids and alkalies. Citrocarbonate, if used as suggested by the ads, will only hamper the body by supplying more alkali when the body may be trying to combat alkalosis (too much alkali). Belching and shortness of breath may be caused by a number of conditions, ranging from mental worry to disease of the arteries of the heart. Those people having such complaints should have a thorough examination to determine the cause."

* * *

Please comment on what has been described as the greatest miracle of modern times—the stigmata girl.

Teresa Neumann, the so-called stigmata girl, was born on Good Friday, 1896, at Konnersreuth, Bavaria, the oldest of 10 children. It is asserted that she has had no solid food since 1923, and since 1926 has taken absolutely nothing, not even water. This so-called miracle girl is being exploited by the Roman Catholic Church.

It puzzles me how anyone can be taken in by such fakery. The priests, of course, live by such nonsense, so they're merely protecting their rackets. As for the believers in this "miracle," they strike me as a lot of gullible asses who would believe anything, if only the priests told them it was so. The priests know that the ignorant portion of the masses are always looking for miracles, and when one's "passed" it brings in vast profits—to the priests—so they see to it that the market for miracles is supplied. In other words, the whole business is a disgusting, mercenary deception. There's nothing so low and contemptible but that a priest will do it, if only it helps keep his human jackasses in line.

This Neumann business reminds me of a passage in James Harvey Robinson's new book, *The Human Comedy*, which I'm sure my readers will find valuable. This hard-boiled, realistic thinker takes up the question of why the human advance is obstructed, and then points to two reasons, as follows:

1. We are burdened down by a vast baggage of outworn traditions

and folkways coming to us from the remote past.

2. Few men ever grow up mentally. They plod along on ideas and convictions acquired in childhood from historical baggage and never question these "fundamental verities."

There you have the "miracle" racket, along with dozens of other obscurantist conditions that tend to keep mankind mentally backward. And the priests, who've had long experience in administering opium to the minds of the masses, know this better than anyone else. They are masters of the black art of keeping their victims in dark ignorance. The world will never have a clear road ahead until the priests and other misleaders of the people are stripped of their power to obstruct the path to progress.

And while I'm at it, let me tag on a constructive note to this rather critical passage by referring again to Robinson's book, noting the few sound suggestions he passes on to readers who would be mentally alive. They follow:

1. Develop the habit of critically examining basic assumptions.
2. Be grown-up mentally, that is, be historically minded.
3. Don't over-rate the past.
4. Live for the present and the future. Don't waste your life whining for "the good old days."

* * *

Have the whales in the Antarctic been exterminated?

In London, England, The Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire has given some attention to the distressful situation of the Antarctic whales. It heard recently from Dr. Dilwyn John, who is considered one of the foremost authorities on the subject of whales. Dr. John says the whales were once brought to a few factories, but during the past 10 years the industry has turned to the use of floating factories, which now enable whaling to go on nearly everywhere in the Antarctic continent. One of these floating factories weighs 43,000 tons.

There's supposed to be a certain amount of control. For example, it's considered wrong to kill the calves, immature whales or females accompanied by calves. But these checks aren't doing much good, for the immense killings continue, and even

grow worse from year to year. From 1927 onwards the production of whale oil in the Antarctic was tripled. Thirty thousand whales are being killed every year, and already there are indications that the blue whale is being exterminated. Dr. John reports that the average length of whales caught in 1935 was about 80 feet, which is less than it used to be and is hardly beyond the minimum length of whales capable of reproducing themselves. A female whale can give birth to only one calf every two years.

Dr. John says that science is learning a great deal about whales. He gives a few exceedingly interesting facts in the following paragraphs:

"The researches at South Georgia and on board the *Discovery II* and the *William Scoresby* are building up our knowledge of this mysterious creature's harassed life. The scientists have found out, for instance, that the blue whale lives entirely on a certain sort of prawn which frequents the Antarctic in shoals, and that this prawn lives on a certain marine vegetation, which in turn lives on certain salts in the sea. The result is that they can now predict to some extent the concentrations of whales by testing the salts in the water. They also trace the winter migrations of whales to warmer waters by shooting numbered darts into them, as ornithologists ring birds.

"The legends about the great age of whales are apparently untrue. A whale is old at 30. To judge by the statistics of whales killed, he is also lucky."

* * *

"The American Freeman is very good. Joseph McCabe's 'The History of the World Since 1918' is a gold mine. I gave it to the Communist party of Toronto, and God knows they need it, for they are not over-burdened with intelligence. McCabe is, in my humble opinion, one of the greatest historians, if not the greatest, the world has ever known. Not only is he an historian, but he is also a genius well versed in every subject known to man. I would consider it a great honor to shake McCabe's hand—the most brilliant exponent of Freethought that our Fascist Church (Roman Catholic) has had since the days of St. Peter."—Pat Sullivan, Toronto, Canada.

* * *

What is the extent of business recovery as expressed in actual profits?

The United Press, early in 1937, made a survey of the business situa-

tion, which is summarized as follows:

"Net profits of America's leading business enterprises last year (1936) rose more than 50 percent above 1935 to within 1 percent of the 1930 earnings. The total was 446 percent above the depression low of 1932 and about 60 percent of the net profits recorded in the peak boom year of 1929."

* * *

What's the difference between a \$2 and a \$5 "house"?

As founder and chairman of the Spit and Argy Club, I have to decide many delicate and difficult questions, but this one easily stands out as the hardest. After meditation and prayer, I'm able to say that the only difference I can find is that the \$5 houses have floor-lamps.

* * *

What is Freethought? What does Freethought seek to do? What does Freethought demand?

Joseph Lewis, president of The Freethinkers of America, 317 E. 34th St., N.Y.C., outlines Freethought's aims and principles in a clear, orderly manner, as follows:

WHAT FREETHOUGHT IS

Freethought teaches that conduct should be based on reason and knowledge. It knows nothing of divine guidance or interference; it regards happiness as man's proper aim, and utility as his moral guide.

Freethought affirms that progress is possible only through liberty, and therefore seeks to remove every barrier to the fullest freedom of thought and speech.

Freethought declares that theology is condemned by reason as superstitious, and by experience as mischievous, and assails it as the historic enemy of progress.

Freethought maintains that Man is not the enemy of Man and that universal peace can be accomplished only by the eradication of religious and racial prejudice, not only among individuals, but between nations as well.

WHAT FREETHOUGHT SEEKS TO DO

Freethought accordingly seeks to dispel superstition; to spread education; to dis-establish religion; to rationalize morality; to eradicate prejudice; to promote peace; to dignify labor; to extend material well-being; and to realize the self-government of the people.

WHAT FREETHOUGHT DEMANDS

1. That no religious instruction

be given or religious observance be held in schools supported in whole or part by taxation; and that the machinery and organization of the public school system be in no way used to further religious doctrines.

2. That churches and other ecclesiastical property shall be no longer exempt from taxation.

3. That all public appropriations for educational and charitable institutions of a sectarian character shall cease.

4. That all religious services now sustained by the government shall be abolished; and especially that the use of the Bible in the public schools, whether ostensibly as a text-book or avowedly as a book of religious worship, shall be prohibited.

5. That all laws directly or indirectly enforcing the observance of Sunday as the Sabbath shall be repealed.

6. That the judicial oath in the courts and in all other departments of the government shall be abolished, and that simple affirmation under the pains and penalties of perjury shall be established in its stead.

7. That the appointment by the President of the United States or by the governors of the various States of all religious festivals shall wholly cease.

8. That not only in the Constitution of the United States and of the several States, but also in the practical administration of the same no special privileges or advantages shall be conceded to any established or special religion whatsoever; that our entire political system shall be founded and administered on a purely secular basis; and that whatever changes shall prove necessary to this end shall be consistently, unflinchingly, and promptly made.

9. That the employment of chaplains in Congress, in the Legislature, in the navy, militia, and in prisons, asylums and all other institutions supported by public money shall be discontinued.

* * *

Can you tell me something about the matrimonial agency business? Is it a racket?

The *American Magazine* conducted a survey of this interesting "industry" and found that 2,000,000 men and women in this country are members of matrimonial clubs, spend \$4,000,000 per year in dues and use up \$9,000,000 worth of postage in writing to and through 400 "lonely heart"

organizations. Just how many marriages result from these activities I'm unable to say, but one estimate puts the number at only 5,000, which strikes me as being an understatement. Here are some of the facts learned by the magazine's investigators:

"As far back as 1859 there were matrimonial clubs in this country, but in a small, dishonest way. Country lads were induced to send \$5 to a city slicker who promised to provide a beautiful young heiress, and when the country lad had sent his money he was that much poorer and wiser. Later, shrewd persons on the look-out for easy money figured that an honest matrimonial club could be conducted at a good profit with little effort, and, since that discovery, the business has been growing by leaps and bounds.

"The lonely are like the poor: They are always with us. The social club offers them everything they desire. Its function is simple. For a small fee, paid by each member, it offers to exchange the names, addresses and descriptions of men and women so that they can correspond with each other. This, basically, is all it offers to do. Actually, it offers romance by mail, with the possibility of marriage.

"Women over 50 represent one of the major problems of every club. They clog the rolls, have an exalted opinion of their importance to men and never seem to realize that they have lost the charm which men demand in women. The average person who enrolls in a club is ready and willing to 'tell all' and it is from this that the danger of blackmail and swindle emanates.

"Most of the women club members are school teachers, nurses, office workers and widows. Most of the marriages are between middle-aged persons who look for companionship and security rather than romance. The men are retired soldiers and sailors, clerks, accountants, rural doctors, farmers, engineers, widowers and those whose profession takes them to far-away places where suitable mates are scarce or non-existent."

* * *

I am collecting sobriquets of famous Americans and would appreciate your listing any you may have.

Americans have always had a taste for fitting sobriquets. Here are a few:

The Old Man Eloquent—John Quincy Adams.

The American Cato—Samuel Adams.
The Plumed Knight; the Tattooed Man—James G. Blaine.

The Sage of Wheatland—James Buchanan.

The Mill-Boy of the Slashes—Henry Clay.

The Nestor of the Press—Charles A. Dana.

The Little Giant—Stephen A. Douglas.

The Pathfinder—John Charles Fremont.

The Canal-Boy—James Abram Garfield.

Unconditional Surrender—U. S. Grant.

Little Ben—Benjamin Harrison.

The Cincinnatus of the West; Old Tippecanoe—William Henry Harrison.

Fighting Joe—General Joseph Hooker.

(This was also applied to General Joseph Wheeler.)

Old Hickory—Andrew Jackson.

Stonewall—Thomas Jonathan Jackson.

The Sage of Monticello—Thomas Jefferson.

Light-Horse Harry—Henry Lee.

Father Abraham; Honest Old Abe; The

Railsplitter; The Martyr President—

Abraham Lincoln. (John Hay, in his

letters to Nicolay, called Lincoln "The

Tycoon.")

Black Eagle; Black Jack—John A. Lo-

gan. (General John J. Pershing has

also been called "Black Jack.")

Little Mac—General G. B. McClellan.

Young Hickory—James K. Polk.

Old Fuss and Feathers—Winfield Scott.

The Watch-Dog of the Treasury—Francis E. Spinner.

Old Rough and Ready—General Zachary

Taylor.

The Sage of Greystone—Samuel J.

Tilden.

The Little Magician—Martin Van Buren.

Mad Anthony—General Anthony Wayne.

The Schoolmaster of the Republic—

Noah Webster.

The Quaker Poet—John G. Whittier.

The Good, Grey Poet—Walt Whitman.

The Father of His Country—George

Washington.

The Sage of Potato Hill—E. W. Howe.

* * *

Please give all the nicknames of the

States.

Alabama—"Cotton," "Lizard," "Yaller-

hammers."

Arizona—"Baby," "Sunset," "Apache."

Arkansas—"Bear," "Bowie."

California—"Golden," "El Dorado."

Colorado—"Centennial," "Silver."

Connecticut—"Constitution," "Nutmeg."

Delaware—"Diamond," "Blue Hen's

Chickens."

Florida—"Everglade," "Land of Flow-

ers."

Georgia—"Empire State of the South,"

"Cracker," "Buzzard."

Idaho—"Gem."

Illinois—"Sucker," "Prairie."

Indiana—"Hoosier."

Iowa—"Hawkeye."

Kansas—"Sunflower," "Jayhawk."
 Kentucky—"Blue Grass," "Corn-Cracker," "Dark and Bloody Ground."
 Louisiana—"Pelican," "Creole."
 Maine—"Pine Tree," "Old Dirigo."
 Maryland—"Old Line," "Cockade."
 Massachusetts—"Bay," "Old Colony."
 Michigan—"Wolverine," "Auto."
 Minnesota—"Gopher," "North Star."
 Mississippi—"Bayou," "Eagle," "Magnolia."
 Missouri—"Ozark," "Iron Mountain," "Show Me."
 Montana—"Stub Toe," "Bonanza," "Treasure."
 Nebraska—"Antelope," "Black Water," "Cornhusker."
 Nevada—"Silver," "Sage Brush."
 New Hampshire—"Granite."
 New Jersey—"Jersey Blue," "Garden," "Mosquito."
 New Mexico—"Sunshine," "Spanish."
 New York—"Empire," "Excelsior."
 North Carolina—"Old North," "Turpentine," "Tar Heel."
 North Dakota—"Flickertail," "Sioux."
 Ohio—"Buckeye."
 Oklahoma—"Sooner."
 Oregon—"Beaver," "Web-Foot."
 Pennsylvania—"Keystone," "Steel," "Cral."
 Rhode Island—"Little Rhody," "Plantation."
 South Carolina—"Palmetto."
 South Dakota—"Sunshine," "Coyote."
 Tennessee—"Volunteer," "Hog-and-Hominy."
 Texas—"Lone Star," "Beef."
 Utah—"Deseret," "Beehive," "Mormon."
 Vermont—"Green Mountain."
 Virginia—"Old Dominion," "Mother."
 Washington—"Evergreen," "Chinook."
 West Virginia—"Panhandle," "Mountain."
 Wisconsin—"Badger," "Copper."
 Wyoming—"Equality" (Suffrage Pioneer).

* * *

What is the cat population of New York City?

About 1,500,000, according to an estimate.

* * *

Will you please comment on the Ouija Board?

Such a contraption might make a toy for children, but can mean nothing to an adult. A person who looks to such a thing for advice, guidance, or reports on the future, betrays nothing but an immense capacity for absorbing bunk.

* * *

Do American women know how to sew?

The National Retail Dry Goods Association reports that 27,000,000 American women don't know how to

sew. The report also shows that 92 percent of America's homes have sewing machines, but only 15,000,000 out of 42,000,000 women know how to use them.

* * *

What's the difference between the Canadian Mounted Police and Hitler?

A "Mountie" always gets his man, while Hitler always makes his boy.

* * *

Please reprint "But Riley Came Home."

Some anonymous bard tells the tragic story in four short lines, this way:

Beneath this stone lies Murphy

They buried him today

He lived the life of Riley

When Riley was away.

* * *

I am in the mail order business and am looking for good lists of names to rent. Can you suggest anything extra fine?

There are lists for many different kinds of offers, so it would be quite impossible for me to recommend any rentals offhand. Let me suggest that you get in touch with James M. Mosely, 230 Congress St., Boston, Mass., who, in my opinion, is the greatest authority in the world on lists for direct mailings. Mosely has handled over 21,000,000 pieces of direct mail in the past few years, so I'm sure he can handle your problems constructively. I've had dealings with many men in the mail order business, but never have I known anyone to even compare with Mosely when it comes to offering lists of names for direct mail exploitation. Besides being completely efficient, the man is absolutely honest. Put your proposition in his capable hands, and if your offer has any merit, and you have enough liquid capital to move a lot of circulars, you ought to be flooded with orders.

* * *

How many combinations can be made out of a deck of cards?

Fifty-two playing cards can be made into 53,644,737,488,792,839,237,440,000 combinations.

* * *

What do you think of a person who brags?

It all depends on who is boasting, the way he boasts, and what he's boasting about. If the boaster is indulging in plain bluff and bluster, he gives me a pain in an exquisitely private part of my physical mecha-

nism. An empty boaster is enough to turn the hardest navel inside out. He's just so much crap-vapor mixed with dung-steam, and that's my idea of a big stinker. But when a man who has done a good job successfully takes time out to tell about it, I usually listen respectfully. Such bragging—if done intelligently—isn't at all offensive. After all, no one with a good catch of fish sneaks home by the way of back alleys.

* * *

What do you think of these strip-tease acts now being put on by the burlesque houses, mainly Minsky?

To tell you the truth, I wouldn't leave my couch to walk across the street to see one, but if one walked across the street to my couch, I wouldn't run away.

* * *

What's the difference between Joe Louis and the father of the Dionne quintuplets?

Joe Louis fought for his fame....

* * *

Who was the last man to box John L. Sullivan?

The undertaker.

* * *

What is the attitude of the public with regard to "mercy deaths" for incurables?

A poll taken by the Institute of Public Opinion in January, 1937, showed that 46 percent of the nation favor Euthanasia, or "mercy deaths." The question was worded as follows:

"Do you favor mercy deaths under government supervision for hopeless invalids?"

The poll is summarized as follows:

	Yes	No
Nation	46%	54%
New England	43	57
Middle Atlantic	54	46
East Central	40	60
West Central	32	68
South	38	62
Mountain	63	37
Pacific Coast	64	36
Women	48	52
Young persons	54	46

A similar poll among medical doctors showed 53 percent in favor and 47 percent against euthanasia.

* * *

I am horrified by the rising tide of anti-Semitism. What can we do to combat it?

The Jews themselves, especially their leaders, can't agree on a program. Some assume a pious air and warn their fellow-Jews in words something like the following: "Jews

must always strive to live better, purer lives, setting such examples of rectitude that they will be above attack." The German Jews, of course, were attacked not because they were bad, sinful scoundrels but because they applied themselves to improving themselves, morally, culturally, physically, intellectually, artistically, etc. The German Jews weren't crushed because they were "inferiors," morally and otherwise, but because they had applied themselves too seriously to the fine tasks of bettering themselves and their community. No, "living better lives" can't be considered a remedy, for it is, in truth, one of the excuses of anti-Semitism.

Other Jews say that anti-Semitism is a just punishment visited on them by Jehovah or something because of their failure to be more Jewish. They warn their fellow-Jews to return to the ideals and traditions of older days. The answer to that is to point to Poland, where the Jews have always been, and still are, completely Jewish in their ideas, outlook, religion, manners, customs, and the like. And Poland, as we all know, is the worst anti-Semitic country in the world, even worse than Germany, and that, in all conscience, is saying a lot.

The only effective weapon the Jews can use, to my notion, is to stand together with all persecuted minorities. Being themselves a small minority, the Jews can't fight and win their own battles. The enemies are too powerful and numerous. In Germany, for instance, the Jews never numbered more than 1 percent of the population. Democracy offers protection to minorities against racial prejudice. That is one of the glories of democracy. Jews, therefore, should invariably stand for the ideals of democracy and help not only their own persecuted group but all victims of obscurantism, tyranny, prejudice, persecution, discrimination, exploitation and other forms of anti-social behavior. When labor unionists are persecuted and attacked, Jews should stand by them. When Negroes are discriminated against, lynched and in other ways tortured, Jews should hold aloft the banner of justice, freedom and fair play. When the Jews learn the great lesson of cooperation—helping other victims of abuse and injustice—their own position will be

strengthened. Of course, this won't crush anti-Semitism, because that evil is based on prejudice, not reason, and no prejudiced person can be influenced by logic, facts and honest discussion, but cooperative action with other objects of social hatred will present a stronger front to the would-be destroyers of the Jew's right to a decent place in the community.

* * *

Is it true that fatigue has a great deal to do with motor car accidents?

T. J. Seburn, Kansas City Traffic Engineer, says the facts prove conclusively that fatigue is responsible for many accidents. Here's what he says his department's records prove:

"In the morning rush hours, between 6 and 9 o'clock, when drivers were fresh and alert, there occurred only 4 percent of the fatal accidents. In the afternoon rush period, 3 to 6 o'clock, drivers apparently were more fatigued—5 percent of the fatal accidents, 21 percent of non-fatal and 20 percent of property damage accidents occurred during these hours."

* * *

Please reprint Mark Twain's paragraph in praise of England's country-side.

It's found in *More Tramps Abroad*, and its sentiment immediately endeared our great humorist and philosopher to the English people. London is discussing favorably the plan to erect a statue to Mark Twain in the Victoria Embankment Gardens, to be unveiled during the coronation period. Mark Twain's impression of the English country-side follows:

"It is made up of very simple details—just grass, and trees, and shrubs, and roads, and hedges, and gardens, and houses, and vines, and churches, and castles, and here and there a ruin—and over it all a mellow dream haze of history. But its beauty is incomparable, and all its own."

* * *

Is it true that the New York World's Fair will, in some cases, use bubbles of water as lights?

Yes. This novel scheme was evolved by physicists to help illuminate the grounds in a new and esthetic way. Bubbles of water will actually be used as electric lights. The laboratory says the bubbles will act like soap bubbles floating in the sun. The report continues:

"The bubbles will dance up through a column of water which

rises slowly in a tall glass cylinder and overflows. Their number and size is regulated by compressed air, which enters at the bottom of the tube where a lighting unit is placed. The light shoots up and the rays bounce off each bubble they hit.

"Without the bubbles, the water would give only a dull glow. With the bubbles, it will sparkle out a wide circle of soft, clear light."

* * *

Have you any information regarding the plan of the New York World's Fair to do away with flood-lighting from the outside?

The buildings are being designed to emit light from their own walls, according to a dispatch sent to Europe by Reuter. Outside flood-lights will be discarded in order to avoid the glare of direct lighting. "The walls will be made of plaster and studded with bits of mica or splinters of glass, or they may be coated with paints sensitive to ultra-violet rays," says the report.

* * *

Please reprint Senator Vest's tribute to a dog.

U.S. Senator George Graham Vest, of Missouri, prosecuted a man, years ago, for having killed a neighbor's dog. In his speech to the jury Senator Vest delivered a eulogy that has become a classic of popular oratory and homey philosophy. The speech:

The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog.

A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry wind blows and snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side.

He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that came in encounter with the roughness of the world.

He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.

When all other friends desert, he remains.

When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him to guard against

danger, to fight against his enemies.

And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes the master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there, by his graveside, will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even to death.

* * *

Does Roosevelt intend to run for a third term?

There's nothing to support such an idea. F. D. R. has done or said nothing to warrant such a conclusion.

* * *

Is there anything to the report that Roosevelt plans to make Secretary of Agriculture Wallace President in 1940, whereupon Wallace will name Roosevelt Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

There isn't a shred of evidence to back up that report.

* * *

Do you happen to know whether or not George Washington's Rules of Civility are available?

The Library of Congress contains, among its Washington manuscripts, the school exercises of George Washington, in which he copied 110 "Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation." His advice is sound and could be taught profitably to our young people today, with slight changes, of course. Space doesn't permit me to reprint the entire manuscript of 10 pages, but the main points will be found below:

In the Presence of Others Sing not to yourself with a humming noise, nor Drum with your Fingers or Feet. . . . If You Cough, Sneeze, Sigh or Yawn, do it not Loud but Privately; and Sneak not in your Yawning but put Your handkerchief or Hand before your face and turn aside . . . Shift not yourself in the Sight of others nor Gnaw your nails . . . Beware no man's face with your Spittle, by approaching too near him when you Sneak . . . Turn not your Back to others especially in Speaking. Jog not the Table or Desk on which Another reads or writes, lean not on anyone . . . Keep your Nails clean and Short, also your Hands and Teeth Clean yet without Shewing any great Concern for them . . .

Be no Flatterer, neither Play with any that delights not to be Play'd Withal . . . Read no Letters, Books, or Papers in Company but when there is a Necessity for the doing of it you must ask leave: come not

near the Books or Writings of Another so as to read them unless desired or give your opinion of them unask'd, also look not nigh when another is writing a Letter . . . Reproach none for the Infirmities of Nature, nor Delight to Put them that have in mind thereof . . . Do not laugh too loud or too much at any Publick Spectacle . . .

Superfluous Complements and all Affectation of Ceremonie are to be avoided, yet where due they are not to be Neglected . . . Let your Discourse with Men of Business be Short and Comprehensible . . . In visiting the Sick, do not presently play the Physician and you be not Knowing therein . . . Undertake not to Teach your equal in the art he himself Professes; it Savours of arrogance . . . Wherein you reprove Another be unblameable yourself; for example is more prevalent than Precepts . . . Be not hasty to believe flying Reports to the Disparagement of any . . . Wear not your Cloths, foul, upript, or Dusty but See they be Brush'd once every day at least and take heed that you approach not to any uncleanness . . .

In your Apparel be Modest and endeavour to accomodate Nature, rather than to procure Admiration . . . Eat not in the Streets, nor in ye house, out of Season . . . Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you Esteem your own Reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company . . . Sublime matters treat Seriously . . . Being Set at Meat, Scratch not neither Spit, Cough or blow your Nose except there's a Necessity for it . . . Let your Recreations be Manfull not Sinful . . . Labour to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Celestial fire called Conscience.

* * *

A reader voices vigorous objections to Benjamin Franklin's letter to the Royal Society of Brussels, in which the great patriot and philosopher suggested that chemists get to work on the problem of discovering something to take with one's food in order to make wind-breaking a pleasant, esthetic experience instead of a social offense. It is urged that nature must have had some purpose in making the odor unpleasant, and I am asked to make an attempt to discover that hidden aim. Perhaps, after all, it was intended to guide the deaf.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Let me tell you how good it is to read your spritely, one-man publication each month, and to contemplate what a hell-raising city editor you would make instead of a cigar-smoking pamphleteer,

who, enounced in the heart of rural Kansas, ruminates in print over the fate of the world. All of which is to say, you're doing a splendid—and unique, using the word in its correct meaning—piece of work in pricking the puffed shirt front of hypocrisy in which so many of our American institutions and headline-getters are garbed. Nowhere have we seen a publication or an editor that handles more down-to-earth stuff than you.

Herman A. Horowitz, Editor and Publisher, The Jewish Transcript, Seattle, Wash.

* * *

"I thoroughly disagree with Mr. Newell Martin's request in the April, 1937, issue that The American Freeman should not be turned into a weekly publication. Whether the people will listen more attentively to a preacher who speaks once a week or once a month all depends on what the preacher is speaking about. If he is expounding good, sound sense, I can't see why people wouldn't be even more anxious to listen to him once a week than once a month. I know I would want to be around as much as possible to listen to a person who has some sense. The idea that a paper of The Freeman's caliber would lose some of its life and fire (as Mr. Martin put it) if turned into a weekly is absurd. In fact, I'm quite sure it would increase its 'life and fire.' The mind works something like an automobile. If you don't keep feeding a car gas it will stop and if you don't keep feeding the mind sound knowledge and information it is liable to slip back into the everyday current of bunk. In a month's time a person could practically forget that he has a subscription to your paper. I suggest you turn The Freeman into a weekly and cut the price to a nickle a copy. I'll bet your circulation would increase, too, with more copies of The Freeman floating around."—The Staten Islander.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

We have had your papers a long time and, without agreeing with everything in them, consider you what Heine called himself—"a soldier in the liberation war of humanity." Because of that fact, I write you concerning the current explosion of controversy about Leon Trotsky.

In your April, 1937, issue you speak of your sympathy with the progress in the Soviet Union, and at the same time criticize the intolerance prevalent there. Now the Russian Revolution is one of the major overturns of history, comparable to 1649 in England and 1793 in France. The English explosion wrecked the theory of the Divine Right of kings, but did not touch the divine

right of property. Yet the bitterness and reaction were so great that in 1666 the bodies of the judges of Charles I were dug up and hanged. And that swing went so far that the reaction from it brought the revolution of 1688. The French Revolution hit not only the king, but the landed property of the nobility. There was uninterrupted war over most of Europe till 1815, followed by revolutions of 1830, 1848, 1870. The Russian Revolution struck at all the French Revolution hit, and in addition the bankers, factory owners, and merchants. It is reasonable to expect painful repercussions. One of these is the current outbreak of Fascist dictatorships. I think, and assume you agree with me, that Hitler is the outstanding menace to civilization and progress today. He proclaims his purpose to destroy the Soviet Union. He and every enemy of the Soviet Union are seizing upon Trotsky's case merely as a means to aid their attack. Since that is so, it seems to me that to broadcast Trotsky's case just now is to aid Hitler. In the present state of the world that is the ultimate evil. Just now Hitler has abolished Catholic parochial schools in Bavaria. I do not like parochial schools, but I shall not mention that fact in the present controversy. When a man is fighting for his life against a tiger I do not bid him see the beauties of the striped skin. I do not suppose you regard Hitler's sexual peculiarities as of cosmic importance, yet you use them as a weapon.

For the sake of the argument let us suppose Karl Radek and the rest lied about Trotsky's connection with them. It is not denied by anyone that Trotsky's aim is to overthrow the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union, to break off the alliance with France and Czechoslovakia, and to replace the attempt to build Socialism in one country by permanent, world-wide revolution. Counting men, guns, ships and resources, does it look like a better bet than the building that the alternate program is engaged in?

And adding Trotsky means just that. If it were possible for him to be rewarded for his really great contribution to the Revolution without endangering its permanence, I should be glad. But he is a dynamo of energy and just now whether he wishes to be or not he is an aid to Hitler.

For the sake of the record, I am not a member of the Communist party or any other political organization. So. Tacoma, Wash.

JESSIE BULLOCK KASTNER

* * *

Melville Charlton, a Negro Rationalist, who for 18 years functioned as organizer of Union Theological Seminary.

N.Y., and as organist at various Jewish temples, writes: "Your Negro readers heartily commend your scientific and highly ethical treatment of the Negro Question."

* * *

From London, Joseph McCabe writes: "I am beginning to think that war is off. Hitler (or at all events his army chiefs) is afraid of Russia, and a combination of Russia, France and England would pulverize Germany and Italy. England is the weak point, however. Our Tory government, which has so disgracefully sacrificed Spain, wants to see Russia crushed."

* * *

An employe of the government of Alberta, Canada, who is a *Freeman* reader, writes as follows about his boss, the "social credit" premier and charlatan:

"You have heard of the second coming of Christ. I am not sure whether we have it here, or a New Moses, but at any rate William Aberhart is a man sent by God to guide Alberta out of the economic wilderness. He, a former high-school teacher, founder of a Prophetic Bible school, has got that idea in his head anyway. He is now Premier of Alberta, and I am a humble civil servant.

"You are somewhat peeved at there being limitations on free speech in Russia. You should be a civil servant in Alberta and you would appreciate Russia!

"Quoting from one of his followers whom I chanced to overhear, 'Y'know Aberhart is the smartest man in this country, and he gets it all from the Bible, too!'

"He is a wonder indeed, but pity the poor Freethinker!"

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Apropos your failure to make the public accept poetry you say, "They (the public) are made that way". . . . Whose fault? My answer is that it is the fault of our educational technique. Of course, I must qualify that at once by saying that very many of us are congenitally "made that way." With these there is nothing to be done; they, as you point out, may have talents in other directions. But there are very many more of us than now give any sign of it who have potentialities for poetic appreciation. But this latent quality has to be drawn out and exercised if it is to function. And the literary hack who is commonly hired (and beset with the usual fears of being fired, the need of showing subservience to "superiors" in the teaching staff or on the school board—the latter composed usually of local

Babbitts) for this tact-requiring task is simply not equal to the job.

And so what have we instead? A dully perfunctory cramming of the driest output of the most ancient poets, fed in regular forced doses. By the time the student has wearily come to the end of his course in English—yes, this goes for the prose part of it too—he is a confirmed enemy of most everything literary, and sedulously avoids it all for the rest of his life.

It takes a poet to teach appreciation of poetry, that is, a person with a poetic temperament even if he does not write verse. And, what is more important, he must not be hedged about in his activities as most teachers are today. Things as fragile as are all forms of art expression and appreciation do not flourish in such an atmosphere. There is need for what you call "the mood for the free play of thought." I doubt if in a capitalist economy such an ideal can ever be realized in even a modest way, in a large way certainly not.

When I went to school—and that was not too long—I heard of such things as Chaucer's *CANTERBURY TALES* and Balzac's *DROLL STORIES*, for instance; to actually start reading these things was not even thought of. My own children have gotten so far as to read them—that is some of them (the stories, not the children), the dullest and safest of course (a moral code more immoral than anything contained in these works preventing a deeper delving into them). But, curious spirits that they are, one of them delved nevertheless, and forthwith, in celebration of the alleged natal day of the "saviour" of all good Christians, she presented me with a beautiful copy of each. And now, wonder of wonders, I, who might much earlier have been led into an appreciation of these things by proper instruction, find myself at this late date chuckling and cackling my way through these volumes, and having little shivers run up and down my spine at the consummate skill with which Chaucer put life into lines of just 10 syllables. After an evening of this I go to sleep and even seem to dream my ideas in metrical form! And yet, this Chaucer is but a good translation. What an adventure it would have been to have learned the medieval English and to have read it as the old boy actually wrote it.

Maplewood, Mo.

C. A. LANG

* * *

"In view of the way your Grants Pass, Oregon, correspondent massacres the English language, I should say that when he speaks of abolishing all foreign language newspapers and compelling the use of English only, besides betraying an ignorance of enlightened socio-

logical attitudes, he shows a colossal egotism, an egotism, by the way, characteristic of his type. I imagine that after the way you polished him off he must have become your life-long and devoted friend. But no matter; if a fellow could read even one issue of The Freeman through, with understanding, and still write such dumb stuff, he's hopeless and would leave you in a huff over something else anyway, sooner or later."—A Reader.

* * *

"I think your New York octogenarian is right about keeping The Freeman a monthly. In the present mental development of most of us it takes about a month to become satiated with the lies and hypocrisies found in other reading matter and to again acquire a hunger for truth, candor, wit and common sense."—C. A. L., Mo.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

The long piece you wrote on the Soviet cultural outlook, in which you quoted Andre Gide and Romain Rolland, was the sort of thing which makes The Freeman unique. If one could more often find that sort of incisive material in publications such as SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY, those publications would be vastly more interesting. That such a spirit is lacking in the Soviet press, is apparent to anyone who occasionally examines the English editions obtainable here. It seems that there is being accepted there, quite as a matter of course, a kind of fanatical complacency (peculiarly Russian, Atheist and Socialist, to be sure) but nevertheless a complacency such as I should not like to live under. Your criticism of The New Masses, The Daily Worker, etc., is a just complaint along the same lines.

When, however, I see the power wielded by the churches here; the lugging of tiny children to church kindergartens where they begin to be plied with superstitions which cripple their brains for life; when I see the extent to which this insidious error-mongering pervades even the public school system, then I am not so proud of ourselves either. It is not at all far fetched to say that the sort of tirade let loose by "the department of public relations" of the company manufacturing Italian Balm in response to criticism of their product, is, in part at least, the outcome of cock-eyed mental habits thus early begun, the same satisfaction with self and intention to defend, by heck, our right to it, that we have been finding fault with in these Russians. Instead of this company admitting that its product contains phenol, in a quantity harmless to all but an idiosyncratic few—even as does carbolated vaseline and many other products, that steps

would be taken to further investigate its power for harm in that degree of dilution, and promising a change in formula if that seemed to be warranted, this company idiotically rushes to convict itself by the very puerility of its reply. Even as capitalistic sales technique, that's bad. Grant such people large bureaucratic power and we should be as bad off as the Russians.

A STEADY READER

* * *

In the April, 1937, issue of The Freeman you said that 1909 pennies are worth \$19.09. Can you send me the address of the firm that buys these coins? I have a number of them I would like to sell at that price. I certainly owe you a debt of gratitude for bringing this to my attention.

Well, it looks as though I'm going to have to diagram all my little jokes from now on. I've received a dozen letters like the foregoing, from readers who are ready to dispose of 1909 pennies for \$19.09. I plainly said this was all a gag—that 1909 pennies, meaning one thousand nine hundred and nine separate and distinct pennies were worth \$19.09, because each penny is worth 1 cent and it takes 100 of them to make \$1, and 1909 to make \$19.09—ketch on? By Gawd and by Jee-zus, it's enough to turn me into a sour-puss to have my attempts to cheer up my readers with a little laughter turn back on me. However, I intend to continue plugging for a laugh, even though a dozen out of my 25,000 pious subscribers can always be relied on to miss the joke. Despite all discouragements, I still hold the following verse as one of my unalterable articles of faith:

A laugh is just like sunshine,
It freshens all the day;
It tips the peak of life with light,
And drives the clouds away;
The soul grows glad that hears it,
And feels its courage strong—
A laugh is just like music
For cheering folks along.

* * *

Is it true that Italians have more than one form of the word "bravo"?

When Italians cry "Bravo" they have in mind a male performer; "brava" is for women performers; "bravi" is for two or more performers.

* * *

What's the history of the words "blackguard" and "blackmail"?

King Henry VII had some menial servants who were dressed in black and therefore became known as

"black guards." Gradually the word "blackguard" came into use to describe a low, unreliable individual.

The word "blackmail" comes from the North of England and Scotland, where robber chieftains exacted tribute in the form of money, crops, live stock, and the like, for refraining from looting certain towns and villages. "Black" meant bad and "mail" meant tax or tribute. Subsequently the word "blackmail" came to mean any attempt to extort money or property.

* * *

How'd we come to use the word "bluestocking" to describe swells?

About 200 years ago there was a club of women in London that went in for literary conversation. It invited famous figures in the world of literature and learning to attend its meetings. Benjamin Stillingfleet, the naturalist, attended these meetings, and, as those were the days when men wore knee breeches, his stockings always attracted notice because they invariably were blue. When the scientist failed to show up a few times, the women complained: "We can't do a thing without the blue stockings," for he was always such a great help to the members because of his brilliant conversation and wide knowledge. Soon the club got to be known as "the bluestocking club," and later the members themselves got to be called "bluestockings."

* * *

I work as a conductor and in collecting fares I find that once in a while some passenger takes offense at the bluntness of my yell of "Fare!" What can a man do under such circumstances?

Dealing with the public is a difficult, trying job—enough to wear down the stoutest nerves. I know what I'm talking about for I'm in the mail order business, and that means dealing with all sorts and sizes. Someday I'll tell about some of the things that happen in this plant. Meanwhile, I'd suggest that you abandon the peremptory "Fare!" and get in the habit of saying "Fare, please." If that doesn't work, learn to reel off the following speech:

"By the ejaculatory term 'Fare!' I imply no reference to the state of the weather, nor even to the kind of service vouchsafed by this philanthropic company. I merely allude in a manner perhaps lacking in delicacy, but not in conciseness, to

the monetary obligation incurred by your presence in this car, and suggest that you liquidate."

Not that there's any connection, but it happens that I'm reminded at this moment of what the money-order clerk at the Girard postoffice told me the other day. During the Christmas buying season last year a woman, who wasn't known to the clerk, approached his window and asked:

"Do you happen to have a good handwriting?"

"I don't think it's at all bad. At any rate, I've had no complaints," replied Mr. Millington, the ever-obliging functionary.

"Well, I want to see a sample of your handwriting before I buy a postal money order for my daughter at college."

He showed it to her and she expressed complete satisfaction. By this time our clerk was burning up with curiosity. He didn't have to fish for information, because the woman volunteered this:

"I live at Pittsburg, Kansas, (14 miles from Girard) but I couldn't buy a money order there because I don't like the clerk's handwriting. I want this money order to look nice, so I decided to shop around the county and find something I could use. Your penmanship is just fine."

Who said "nerts"?

* * *

I run a boarding house and have a good chance to marry a lodger who owes me a lot of money. Would that be a good match?

It might work out that you could spend your old age in comfort living off the money this feller owes you. (Does anyone else want sound business advice?)

* * *

In what field is the most slang used?

The evidence seems to point to carnivals, though circuses, rodeos, the stage, sports, movie studios and radio stations are rich sources of slang. Harry Buchanan, who is at work on what will eventually be published under the title of *The Encyclopedia of the Amusement World*, has spent almost five years studying slang, and reports he has garnered only about 90 percent of the available material. He says:

"The most highly colored slang and the most difficult to translate is among the carneys (carnivals). It

is pure grifter slang." (Grift is a term for high pressure, unethical means of getting money from a gullible person.) "They've got more gaffs on those joints than you could think of." (A gaff is a mechanized contrivance to control carnival gambling devices. Their use in carnivals is almost universal.) "I had the toughest time on the carney lot. I was nothing but a gilley." (A gilley is a mark, a rube, a local yokel or the person who is to be separated from his money. In other words, a sucker.)

I wonder if Mr. Buchanan is familiar with the immense library of slang that is used by pitchmen. While they don't belong strictly to the amusement world, the average pitchman is usually connected with some form of entertainment, mainly "carneys," or graduated from them, or will return to them in time. I've heard a pair of pitchmen talk for 10 minutes and I didn't understand a sentence they uttered. At that, they'd have to go some to beat carnival people.

According to Mr. Buchanan, carnival people make their slang even more difficult by translating it into pig-Latin. He explains this by saying that when a mark has lost his roll and begins to grumble, someone will say: "Illshay to the untfray," which, when turned back from pig-Latin to slang, means "the shills (accomplices) are to come up to the mark and 'chill him off,' or lead him away and divert his mind from his losses."

Mr. Buchanan, asked to improvise an imaginary conversation and translate it into understandable English, assented, asking his hearers to assume that two "flat joint" (carnival game) operators were talking about their profession. The men said:

"What's the line on them dolls?"
"They're just slum. I snag 'em for a sawbuck a thousand."

"How much do you have to spring for your intermediates?"

"About a dimmer. Why should I dish out more? The marks don't know the different. They're flash to them."

"I sprung a century the other day to a guy whose joint was sloughed and I got me enough flash so I can throw a cop once in a while and it won't break me."

"I ain't throwin' any cops. I'm workin' strong."

This is the way Mr. Buchanan decoded it:

"Tell me, what is the actual cost of those dolls you use for prizes?"

"They are of very inferior quality but keep up the interest of my customers. I purchase them for \$10 a thousand."

"How much do you have to pay for your mediocre prizes?"

"About 10 cents each. Why should I invest more? These silly persons who play the game are unaware of the difference."

"I paid \$100 the other day to a fellow whose establishment was closed by the police. I got enough prizes of the type that attract attention so I can permit some one to win a major prize occasionally and it will not injure my profits."

"I am not indulging in any philanthropy. I intend to realize all I can on my investment."

I still insist that a couple of pitchmen could do as well, judging by the pieces I've read in their official organ, *Billboard*, where a few columns each week are given to the news and views of pitchmen as they wander around the country selling gadgets, knick-knacks, novelties, and the like, from hurriedly set up stands on crowded streets.

Carnival people, says Mr. Buchanan, have worked out an elaborate system of signals, which they use among themselves when in crowds, especially around the wheels and other gambling devices. They make effective use of coughs as means of information. They also speak to one another through a system of changing the position of their hats. This non-verbal procedure is called "giving the office."

* * *

Is aviation making progress in Alaska?

The Air Commerce Bulletin, January 15, 1937, says aviation has become the foremost means of transportation in Alaska. Figures are produced to show it's cheaper to travel by air in the Territory than by dog team. Throughout much of the year the airplane is the only means of transportation. In the first half of 1936, 21 operators flew almost 1,000,000 miles and hauled 8,733 passengers. Alaskan aviation is becoming increasingly important.

* * *

Does book-selling rest mainly on best sellers?

In *The Atlantic Monthly*, January,

1937, a Boston bookseller, who does about 1 percent of the retail book business of the U.S., reports that best sellers, while important, don't dominate the business. He analyzes dollar volume of sales, for a single week, as follows:

National best sellers	18%
Other books of the year	40
Classics	8
Science and medicine	7
Religion and geography	7
Periodical subscriptions	7
Reference works, cookbooks ..	3
Dictionaries	2
Rental libraries	8

My own experience in the publishing business has taught me to avoid basing my editorial selections on the "best seller" principle. Instead of trying to pick a title that's likely to make a hit during a season or two, I work on the idea that a title should be added to the list to remain there from now on. At first I wasn't always able to do this, but during the past seven years I've made only one bad guess, which strikes me as being a pretty good record. During almost 20 years of publishing—during which I issued about 3,000 titles—less than 200 had to be withdrawn because they sold badly. If I had it to do over again, I believe I could bring out 3,000 titles with not more than 30 flops. I don't mention this because of a desire to boast, but merely to show what experience can teach a reasonably alert person. It's a theory of mine that when a book is published it should stay in print for years and years, not merely to catch fickle attention for a few months. This doesn't mean I am prejudiced against "best sellers." To be perfectly frank, it's my unexpressed ambition to see every book I issue sell exceedingly well. I like to publish good literature—I believe I do more than my share—but I don't like to be rewarded with the public's indifference. It's nice, to my notion, to publish what's good and still have it receive reader acceptance.

If flies are flies because they fly and fleas are fleas because they flee, then what are bees?

Bees are bees because they be.

Did lynchings in 1936 increase over 1935?

During 1935, we had 28 lynchings; in 1936, 13. Two of the 13 victims

were white persons, killed by the Michigan Black Legion. Our worst State is Georgia, which had five lynchings last year. The record shows that only the Michigan Black Legion murderers were arrested and punished. A bulletin issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, N.Y.C., says:

"Since 1889, 749 white people and 3,020 Negroes have been lynched, among them 99 women. During the last seven years, 25 persons were burned alive. About 200 victims have been proved to be innocent after they were lynched. One-sixth of the victims have been accused of sex crimes. In less than 1 percent of the cases, prosecution resulted in conviction of lynchers."

* * *

What is the Associated Press?

Fortune, for February, 1937, contains a comprehensive article on the AP, parts of which are summarized below:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is a cooperative of 1,300 U.S. newspapers (out of 2,200 dailies in the U.S.) of which 1,000 are wholly dependent on it for outside news. The great bulk of AP news is drawn directly from its member papers. As a clearing house for news, AP spends, of a total of \$10,000,000 a year, nearly \$3,000,000 for wire rentals. Trunk circuits, leased about two-thirds from A.T.&T. and one-third from Western Union, deliver 200,000 words of national and foreign news a day. Capillaries of state wires carry 500,000 words of local news; AP's 280,000 miles of leased wire and 3,000 printers may carry 1,000,000 words in 24 hours. Of the 200,000 words that flow over the West Wire on an ordinary day, 25,000 words will be foreign news, 50,000 Washington reports, about 25,000 sports, perhaps 10,000 routine work, renewed day after day. Of Hearst's 30 newspapers, 19 now carry AP news (paying \$600,000 a year). Nine of the 24 Scripps-Howard newspapers pay \$180,000 a year for AP service. About 400 AP newspapers also use United Press.

* * *

Have you any data dealing with the way our young folks amuse themselves?

The University of Denver made a survey of the recreational interests of Denver's young people, between 16 and 24 years of age, and issued its findings in a report (Vol. 12, No. 4) which showed that boys go in more for outdoor sports while girls "tend

to distribute their interests over a larger number of activities, of which reading compares with outdoor sports in importance." The report gives the following figures:

	Boys	Girls
Community Amusements .	.3%	3.1%
Dancing	3.4	10.2
Household Activities	1.7	6.5
Movies	3.5	6.5
Music	2.9
Outdoor Sports	46.2	19.9
Outings	1.3	1.9
Reading	9.3	19.3
Riding	2.8	2.2
Sewing	4.0
Swimming	13.6	8.9
Other	8.9	4.9
No Choice	9.0	9.7
	100.0%	100.0%

* * *

Can you let me have a few facts dealing with the business sides of football and baseball?

The Commentator, for February, 1937, contains some business statistics dealing with sports, from which the following facts are taken:

About 5,000,000 spectators attended 217 major football games in 1936. Assuming an average of \$2 a ticket, total revenue was about \$10,000,000. In addition it has been estimated that football annually adds more than \$2,000,000 to the income of railroads, hotels, filling stations, restaurants, etc. Ushers, ticket takers, program sellers, groundmen, and the like receive about \$50,000.—There are two major and 30 minor baseball leagues in the U.S. The 234 teams in these leagues play about 16,500 games annually. Last year, 302,924 spectators paid \$1,104,399 to see the six games of the World Series, and radio rights brought in an additional \$100,000.

* * *

How many motions does a barber make in giving a customer a haircut and shave?

Always count on me to be Johnny-on-the-pot. A barber reports that, on the average, it takes 250 motions with the razor and 450 snips with the scissors. There is no estimate of the number of times he wags his jaws. Ain't pure research wonderful?

* * *

"So far as I am concerned you can leave out the puzzles and problems you are running in each issue. One or two would be more than enough for me."—I have decided to leave this matter of the continuation of our puzzle department to Freeman readers. I'll put their letters in two stacks. If the majority

of letters tell me to quit the problems and puzzles, out they'll go. So, let me hear from you at once, pro or con.

* * *

In the May, 1937, Freeman you say that it would delay social legislation from 10 to 15 years to amend the Constitution. Now, I do not see how you arrive at that conclusion, because the Prohibition Repeal Amendment was ratified within less than a year. With the present Democratic majorities in most State legislatures it should be quite easy to pass an amendment to reform the Supreme Court.

This reader is repeating one of the favorite arguments of the reactionaries who want to keep the Supreme Court in a position to be able to nullify the expressed wishes of the people. The Prohibition Repeal Amendment is often cited in support of a constitutional amendment, but we should remember, as the President told us, that when great economic interests are opposed to an amendment it can be made difficult to get it passed. The Repeal Amendment went through in a hurry because the people and the great financial interests of the country were for it, the opposition being limited only to a small group of religious fanatics and puritanical blue-noses. This merely vocal opposition was swept aside with little effort. But when we come to an issue which touches great economic interests—such as the Child Labor Amendment—we find a different situation. We have been trying for 13 years to get this humanitarian measure written into the Constitution, and we are still to get it, because the great industrialists who thrive on child labor and the tremendous power of the Catholic Church are centered on the fight to keep the American people from removing their children from mines, mills and factories and putting them in schools, where they belong. Our social problems are urgent, and remedies must be applied now, not in the remote future, and nothing is more important to future social legislation than this current fight to deprive the Supreme Court of its power to throw out laws passed by the people's representatives. Nothing would suit the moneyed interests better than to have us go after what we want by way of a long, seemingly endless campaign for an amendment. Congress has the power to compel the Supreme Court to obey

the mandates of the people, and the application of that power is within the Constitution, so all forward-minded citizens should support the President's plan.

Several other readers say they are opposed to seeing the Supreme Court "packed." That's nonsense. The Court has already been "packed"—by the reactionary interests who want to see the Supreme Court knock out every measure that touches social problems. The President's plan will "unpack" the Supreme Court by making it an instrument of the people and not the tool of our Tories.

Other readers say the President's plan is "unconstitutional." That's not so. The Constitution grants the justices life tenure. The President's plan continues that tenure, but adds younger blood when the members become physically incapacitated. The Constitution gives Congress the right to set the number of justices, and during our history we have changed the Court's size six times.

Another favorite argument of the plan's opponents—expressed in several letters that have come to my desk—is to the effect that President Roosevelt aims to usurp the functions of the Supreme Court. There is no basis in fact for that belief. The usurpation has all been on the side of the justices. They have usurped the power to undo the acts of the people's elected representatives, a function which the Court never derived from the Constitution. Instead of usurping the powers of the Court, the President's plan would achieve the balance that the Constitution aimed to establish.

In addition, some of my correspondents urge that the President's plan is a direct attack on American democracy, that the President, in other words, aims to establish a dictatorship. Here again we are pressed to become hysterical about a non-existent condition. The President is aiming to preserve democracy, not destroy it. So long as the Supreme Court contains men who are opposed to social-minded legislation and intend to throw such laws into the discard, we have a permanent attack on American democracy. By adding—never more than six—younger men of social conscience and liberalism to the bench we fortify democracy. In-

stead of making a move in the direction of a dictatorship, the President is striving to remove the powers of dictatorship from the reactionary, tory-minded Supreme Court.

The Fascist forces in this country—our Wall Street financiers, our powerful, kept press, our Coughlins, Winrods, Gerald L. K. Smiths, our Hearsts and the other economic royalists—are all lined up against the President's plan. If Roosevelt were heading the country in the direction of Fascism, these powers would all be whooping it up for him. Instead, they are fighting him as never before, while, on the other hand, the democratic, liberal, progressive people of the country, including the overwhelming majorities of labor and agriculture, are giving the White House the support it deserves in this great fight to establish the sovereignty of the people.

* * *

The Chicago Daily News, for March 15, 1937, contained an Associated Press report from Salamanca, Spain, which quoted Isidoro Cardinal Goma y Tomas as writing, in a pastoral letter entitled "Spain's Lent," that "the war tribulation was visited upon the nation by God and . . . it was for expiation of Spain's sins." Please comment.

The cardinal's letter proves he has a sure grasp of the fact that his followers are so stupid that it's possible to tell them anything, however ridiculous, and still keep a solemn, straight face. It happens that the Spanish civil war was started by the Fascists and the Roman Catholic Church. So we are to conclude that God decided he was dissatisfied with the election of February, 1936, during which a substantial majority of the Spanish people voted for the Madrid government's democratic, liberal policies. Being a good Catholic and a Fascist to boot, God put the urge in the hearts of his pious militarists and the hierarchy to start a civil war, which they did last July. If that's sound logic, the Catholic Church, from now on, can start a civil war anywhere on the mere say-so that God is dissatisfied with the country. That sort of an argument might go big with the nitwits who accept without reservation the idiocies of the priesthood, but there are some intelligent people left in the world and I'm sure they'll meet such an argument with gales of

laughter. And if the priests pass beyond the point of argument and break into overt acts, I'm sure all liberty-loving, democratic-minded people will do as the Spanish loyalists did—resist the powers of black reaction.

* * *

The reactionary press is opposing Roosevelt's plan to reform the Supreme Court with the argument, among others, that the proposal is without precedent. Please comment.

The President's fight isn't anything new. In fact, his brilliant speech of March 9, 1937, sounded, in some places, like an echo of statements made by previous Presidents. Let me quote from just two sources, Lincoln and Jefferson.

In a letter written in 1820, Thomas Jefferson said:

"... to consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions is a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which places us under the despotism of an oligarchy."

In his First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln said:

"... the candid citizen must confess that, if the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by the decisions of the Supreme Court the instant they are made, in ordinary litigation between parties in personal action, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their Government into the hands of that eminent tribunal."

The usurpations of the Supreme Court have long constituted a serious problem in this country, and we are indeed fortunate to have a President with courage enough to face the issue four-square. The President's plan may not be adopted exactly as submitted, but there's little doubt that the end of the fight will see a Supreme Court with more sympathetic regard for the liberal side of pressing political, economic and industrial questions.

* * *

I wish you would comment on the oft-quoted claim of certain Southerners that "lynching is necessary to protect southern womanhood."

I have, several times in the past, presented statistics on lynching to show that this matter of "protecting

southern womanhood" is almost entirely a bunkistic myth. Now comes a clipping from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, which reports that this traditional alibi is being exposed by a group of intelligent southern women. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, says:

"The white women of the South protest the use of their skirts as a blind for lynching... Economic greed is the cause of many more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor... We want women everywhere to know that most of the so-called attacks by Negroes are fictional."

The association, according to Mrs. Ames, is active in 13 States, with the support of 35,000 women. In recognizing the economic basis of racial prejudice, they are going to the core of the problem.

* * *

Why doesn't the Mexican government ban Norman Baker's "cancer cure" broadcasts from that country as was done in the U.S.?

Quacks like Baker, "Dr." Brinkley, and others erect or rent radio stations in Mexico, near the U.S. line, to advertise rackets that are forbidden in this country. This is an unfortunate situation that will, in time, be remedied. At present, the arrangements are made through State officials in northern Mexico, and just what such arrangements consist of I can leave to the imagination of my readers. The Mexican federal government can be expected to take a hand in this flagrant misuse of the radio, especially since a man of the high character of Cardenas is President of the Republic. Cardenas is the last man in the world to want to see discredited Americans conduct their questionable enterprises in Mexican territory, and will squelch them, even though their activities down there are immensely profitable to certain Mexicans.

* * *

Is there anything to the report that Woodrow Wilson was superstitious?

It surprised me to learn from Wythe Williams' book, *Dusk of Empire*, that President Wilson was superstitious about the number 13, but in reverse, it being his queer notion that 13 is a lucky number. Williams writes:

"He timed his voyage [to Europe] to arrive on the 13th. Later he insisted on the importance of Article

13 in the Covenant of the League of Nations. The drafting of the Covenant was finished on the 13th of the month, and Wilson was pleased that the total number of Articles formed a double of 13."

* * *

Has the Pope issued any statement upholding or condemning Mussolini's program in Ethiopia?

The Pope has, from the beginning, supported Mussolini's rape of Ethiopia. When the great Fascist mass-murderer sent his troops to East Africa, the priests, bishops and cardinals of the Catholic Church in Italy blessed their banners and prayed for victory. The Pope did everything he possibly could to destroy independent Ethiopia, incidentally the oldest Christian country in the world. At one time—just before Mussolini's men advanced to take Adowa, their first objective—the Pope, in a widely printed interview, said he hoped Mussolini would be able to achieve his ends without bloodshed. That sentiment could have been repeated by Mussolini himself, for he would have been the first man to grab the chance to steal Ethiopia without a struggle. The Pope's sentiment wasn't for peace, for his actions proved his genuine feelings. At one time, before Mussolini actually took Addis Ababa, the Pope seemed, in a vague sort of way, to have the idea that Mussolini would take less than all Ethiopia, probably the result of British and French willingness to give the Italian Fascist a big slice of Haile Selassie's country before the real struggle had opened. But nothing came of that. Later, when the overwhelming majority of the nations in the League of Nations went through the motions of half-hearted sanctions against Italy for its conduct in Ethiopia, the Catholic Church stood by Mussolini and helped the new Caesar overcome the insincerely advanced objections. We can always depend on the Catholic Church's standing by political and economic tyranny. The whole history of the Church shows that. Mussolini has given the Catholic Church complete control of Italy's public schools in return for the "moral" support of the Vatican. In addition, Mussolini signed a concordat with the Pope which established the Catholic Church as Italy's official state religion, to the

exclusion of all other Churches. Protestantism, or any other form of religious expression, isn't tolerated in Italy. If a few Methodists want to meet in Rome, let us say, they must sneak up some back alley, like so many criminal conspirators. And Freethinkers, of course, are hounded into silence. In all, the Vatican and Italian Fascism are allies, and any murderous act of Mussolini will always be blessed by the Pope, so long as the Italian regime gives the Church the benefits and privileges agreed upon in the concordat. But once let democracy triumph in Italy, once let popular, democratic, liberal government return, once let public education be secularized and all Churches be tolerated equally, once let freedom of conscience, press, speech, and the other precious civil rights of democratic countries return to the benighted Italian slave-pen, once let the idea of democratic, social progress be established in Italy and we can feel certain the Pope will turn against the Italian government and damn it to hell and perdition.

* * *

How is Stalin's name pronounced?

Accent the first syllable and sound the "a" as in "far" and the "i" as in "kin."

* * *

How did Stalin get his name?

It was given him by his leader, the late Nikolai Lenin. It means "steel man" or "man of steel." His real name is Joseph Vissarionovich Dzugashvili. Most revolutionists, in czarist days, took false names in order to be better able to escape the notice of the police and to protect their families in case they were arrested. Answering another correspondent, Stalin is not a Jew. He was born into the Greek Catholic Church and during his youth studied for the priesthood.

* * *

Can you give me a word picture of Stalin, the man?

Lion Feuchtwanger, the great German novelist and anti-Fascist writer, had a three-hour interview with Stalin, on January 8, 1937, and when asked to give his impression of the man, wrote:

"The first immediate impression is that of extraordinary simplicity. In the course of a conversation of several hours I was unable to observe in him a single gesture suggesting a pose. Stalin in his words

is clear to incisiveness. He is ready to argue, does it well and firmly defends his point. He is not excessively polite but, on the other hand, he does not resent being attacked by the other party to the conversation.

"He speaks with a frankness which impresses; at the same time he is not without a certain roguishness. He has humor and appreciates humor as well. One soon begins to understand why the masses not only respect but love him. He is part of themselves, he came from the masses, he is a real representative of the 170,000,000 people of the Soviet Union, more deserving than could be imagined by any artist. He also appears to have inner conflicts and nothing human is alien to him. Stalin, as he appears in conversation, is not only a great statesman, Socialist and organizer, but is primarily a real Man."

At about the same time Feuchtwanger, after attending the architectural exhibition in Moscow, expressed himself in the following moving words:

"In harmony with the rapid inner growth revealed to me in the conversations with the young representatives of the proletarian intelligentsia is the external reconstruction of the country, displayed so graphically at the architectural exhibition. One must possess a heart of stone not to be filled with emotion at the sight of the model showing the future Moscow. For the first time in world history it has been decided to build here a giant city based exclusively on the principles and laws of reason. How wisely everything is coordinated here! What harmony there is between the buildings, the streets, the parks, the waterways, constituting a single powerful and useful whole! And all this is not a utopia: what can be accomplished has been calculated here with precision and this measure is not overstepped. The task has already been tackled and during this period more has actually been accomplished than was planned. Unless a war or something similar interferes, one may feel confident that in 1945, the appointed time, the new Moscow will become a reality embodied in stone and iron, in flesh and blood, in verdure and expanses of water—a symbol of Socialism incarnate."

* * *

I am enclosing a press clipping of an address by Cardinal MacRory, Archbishop of Armagh, in which he de-

nounces Communism. Please comment.

The Cardinal's words, which are taken from a British newspaper, follow:

What is the condition of the rank and file, the great mass of the Russian people? They are reduced to a dead level little above slavery, held down under an iron discipline, treated as so many State machines, and afraid at the peril of their own lives to utter a word of criticism of their circumstances. . . .

Catholic apologists never miss a chance to attack the Soviet Union. As I've given scores of columns to conditions in Russia, I won't go into that subject now, but I can't resist the impulse to laugh right out loud when the Cardinal goes into this spasm over the death of Freedom in Russia. Since when did the Catholic Church become the defender of liberalism, democracy and tolerance? I had the notion that the Vatican and Mussolini were in cahoots to keep the Italian masses poisoned with the mental opium of Catholicism and their bodies enslaved in the iron bands of Fascism. Maybe I've been reading the wrong sources. Maybe the Catholic Church is really anti-Fascist, is horrified by the rape of Ethiopia, wants the return of free press and free speech in unhappy Italy, and would help institute a regime in which rulers govern by the consent of the governed. I seek the truth.

* * *

Do the American people favor the Loyalist or Rebel side in Spain's Civil War?

Early in 1937, the *Review of Reviews* printed a ballot, on which it asked its readers to answer: "In the Spanish Civil War between Loyalists and Rebels, my private sympathies are with—" Then followed two places, one marked "Loyalists" and the other "Rebels."

The magazine received votes as follows: For the Loyalists, 1,760; for the Rebels, 571; neutral, 166.

The vote shows clearly that the people of this country are overwhelmingly in favor of the regularly elected, democratic, liberal government and opposed to the Fascist-Catholic insurgents. The *Review of Reviews* editor adds the following comment:

"Judging from letters, notes, and comments by voters, the American verdict is clean-cut. It favors the Spanish republic as against mon-

archy or fascism; it believes that Franco's rebels started the war last July; it dislikes the aerial bombing of Madrid; it is opposed to Hitler and to his ardent support of Franco."

* * *

Is F. D. R. a reader of your publications?

I know that *The Freeman* goes to the White House, but I can't say the President reads it.

* * *

Is it true that the scientific journals published in Germany see to it that scientific ideas from Jewish individuals are excluded?

I know it sounds ridiculous to say that anyone pretending to be a scientist would refuse to consider an idea, discovery, theory, invention or report of special research unless first assured that the person responsible for the survey, report, article and the like, could prove his "Aryan" origin. But the simple facts establish the truth of this deplorable, and idiotic, condition. For proof, let me call attention to a letter published in *Pravda*, Moscow newspaper, written by N. Falkovsky, a scientist, in which he says an engineer sent an article to a Berlin periodical, *Archiv fur Electrotechnik*, which in return sent him a form letter, as follows:

"Contributions to the above-mentioned periodical will be received from Aryan authors only. If you do not satisfy this condition, we ask you to request the return of your manuscript." It further explains, "Persons whose parents are Jews or who have a grandfather or grandmother of Jewish origin are considered non-Aryans."

The engineer, whose name is Yasin-sky, replied to the editor of the Nazi publication, as follows:

"It has never occurred to me to think of my origin, but as an actual fact I belong neither to the Aryan nor to the Semitic race, but to the yellow race, since I am of Turk-Mongol origin and family tradition has it that my distant forefathers participated in the campaigns of the famous Tamerlane. Under such circumstances I cannot think of burdening you with my manuscript and ask its return."

It's difficult to really believe that Germany's glorious scientific world has fallen to such depths. The poison of Fascism has corrupted every phase of German life, and the worst

sufferers have been the scientists. German scientists who fit into Hitler's conditions are traitors to the spirit of free inquiry, without which there can be no real scientific movement.

* * *

I have read the statement that the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith's new organization is "suspiciously like the Black Legion." Do you believe this to be true?

The Rev. Smith is organizing what he calls the "Committee of 1,000,000," and while he's too smart to come right out for violence and terrorism, there is a strong suggestion of the methods of the Black Legion in a section of the membership leaflet of the Rev. Smith's outfit. It reads as follows:

"Do you realize that in joining the Committee of 1,000,000 you may be required under oath to express your willingness to participate in activities that shall transcend all political party lines, that at times may be beyond the concepts of any other organization to which you might belong? Are you willing to do this?"

The Rev. Smith, like the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, hopes to become America's Hitler, and my readers don't have to be told what such a calamitous situation would mean for the future of our country. I'm not given to beating the bass drum and seeing a Fascist in every woodpile, but facts are stubborn things and they indicate clearly that the forces of Hitlerism are hard at work in our land. Whether they will gain power or not, I can't say. Many of them, like Father Coughlin, will discredit themselves soon after they get a following of any size, but if such terroristic movements were to have efficient leadership we could repeat Germany's horrors. We had a sample of such methods in Detroit, but we also saw how effectively an aroused democracy can handle such criminals.

In a sizzling speech before a vast throng in Madison Square Garden, March 15, 1937, General Hugh S. Johnson described Adolf Hitler and his immediate staff of "Nazipathies" as a sort of monster, threatening the peace of the world. "This country," he said, "does not presume to tell other peoples how they should be governed, but we have a right to stand here on our own shores and tell other peoples how we will not

be governed." That explains the real reason for the anti-Nazi work of all vocal Americans who hate Fascism and don't want to see such theories of government gain control in the U.S. It's our duty as citizens to expose incipient Fascism every time it shows its ugly head. It would be the essence of folly to shut our eyes to Fascist propaganda in this country merely because the movement hasn't yet been able to produce a demagogue of the tremendous powers of a Hitler.

As Johnson said in the speech from which I've already quoted, "a paid Nazi propaganda is in progress here. The whole mess of dirty intrigue and attempted seduction of American citizenship doesn't yet amount to anything." In the same speech Johnson said that "German consulates are canvassing German-Americans to learn how many will enlist under the swastika in case of war. Nazis boast that 10,000 storm troops are already enrolled here and 25,000 are expected this year. . . . They once tried to ooze their stooges into the national guard and the journal of the Nazi party in America now carries an advertisement suggesting that German-Americans enlist in a particular national guard battery." General Johnson added:

"This bestiality breaking suddenly through centuries of civilization—there must be some explanation of it, and I think there is. But that explanation will be found in the psychopathic wards of hospitals and not in historical analysis. This rule by force—this political animalism—there is something sadistic, perverted, abnormal, unclean about these welterers in human blood, these Sybarites in cruelty, these voluptuaries in the misery of mankind. . . ."

At the same meeting, John L. Lewis, the leader of the Committee for Industrial Organization, said, according to an Associated Press report, that the four-year record of the Nazi regime "reveals a program more thorough in its ghastly practices than any of us could have foreseen in 1933." The Hitler government, Lewis asserted, practiced a "deadly terror" against workers and against all minorities. He continued:

"Unionism no longer exists in Germany. . . . Hundreds of union leaders have been murdered . . .

because of their loyalty to the trust placed in them by German workers."

Lewis then quoted figures from the "official paper of the German labor front"—a hideous substitute for Germany's once-great trade union movement—to show that "one-third of the German workers earn less than \$2 a week." The same source, said Lewis, shows that "the death rate of workers increased 32 percent from 1932 to 1935."

Such horrors would shock us even if our shores were completely insulated against Nazi doctrines, but we realize that such savagery could be repeated here if men of the type of the Rev. Smith or the Rev. Winrod were to gain secure positions in the saddle. They would ride the American people with all the fury of a Hitler or a Mussolini.

* * *

Lloyd George, in *Liberty*, for March 6, 1937, gives what he considers to be an explanation for anti-Semitism. Please comment.

Lloyd George, who certainly never qualified as a student of anti-Semitism, offered the following argument:

"The root of the trouble is to be found in the determination of the Jews throughout the centuries not to lose their identity as a separate and distinct people in any land where they dwell. They seem to insist on preserving their individuality as an Oriental nation. . . . He is just as much a Hebrew today in his sentiment, in his pride, and in his racial loyalties as when he was driven from Palestine. . . . The Jews refuse to be good mixers."

The argument, of course, isn't original with Lloyd George. It's one of the favorite arguments of the anti-Semites, and even some Jews have been known to repeat this piece of nonsense. The line followed above betrays a shallow, superficial knowledge of the subject. It's true that the Jews of Poland are very Jewish and refuse to "lose their identity." They are persecuted by the Catholic-Fascist regime, so, ergo, all Jews are persecuted because they aren't good "mixers." But let's take a deeper look.

In Germany, for a thousand years, the Jews were good mixers. Before Hitler stole power the half million Jews of Germany had the reputation of being more German than Jewish, which proved they weren't addicted

to "separatism." They followed the practice of racial assimilation. And what happened? They were persecuted by the German anti-Semites, not because they weren't good mixers but because they were too good at mixing. The racial policy of Hitler's hoodlums isn't aimed only at persons who have perserved their racial identity but is intended primarily to root out the several million persons who happen to have a Jewish grandmother. One can have a non-Jewish grandfather and two parents and still be subject to the harshness of Nazi persecution because one's grandmother happened to be a Jewess. So what becomes of the argument that the Jews must cease clinging to their "racial loyalties" if they would escape the horrors of anti-Semitism?

* * *

What is the U.S. government's gold worth? Where does Russia stand in ownership of gold?

In March, 1937, the U.S. government owned gold worth \$11,500,000,000, a new high for a government which has held first place for a long time. The latest figures from the Soviet Union come through the foreign correspondent of *Business Week*, who reports in the March 13, 1937, issue of his magazine that while Russian officials refused to give precise figures they admitted "that the Russian reserve exceeds \$7,000,000,000." This puts Russia in second place, a fact that is sensational news of the first order. One wonders how long the capitalistic press will see fit to ignore such a tremendous piece of information. Russia's 1937 production of new gold is expected to pass South Africa's production, which, as is known, has had first place for many years. Russia's activities in gold mining are immense, and it looks as though the country will soon be producing most of the world's gold and having more of it in reserve than any government, not barring the U.S. The Soviet Union piles up gold as a part of its peace policy, it being the sound theory of its officials that an immense gold reserve may serve to discourage governments like Germany and Japan from attacking it, especially since both these countries have little or no gold. Gold is a tremendously powerful weapon in war times, when it gives the authorities entrance to practically all world mar-

kets. In addition to its energetic gold policy, the Soviet Union is piling up an immense food reserve, also as a measure of defense should war take place. The same issue of *Business Week* that told about Russia's gold stock also reported that the Russians now have "at least a three-year's supply," which means that Russia, in case of war, will be absolutely self-sufficient. The longer Russia can keep from being attacked the surer will that country's position be—economically and financially.

* * *

What does the present population trend in Russia mean for that country's near future?

Robert R. Kuczynski, in his new book, *Population Movements*, published by Oxford University Press, says that Russia will have 650,000,000 population in 65 years or less if the present birth and death rates continue. Russia today has 180,000,000 people, as against 193,000,000 in northern and western Europe. At the present rate, the rest of Europe will have 150,000,000 population when Russia reaches 650,000,000. All this is not an actual prediction. As the author explains, "both fertility and new factors of migration may change things."

* * *

In buying a cut of beef should the meat have considerable pieces of fat scattered throughout or should it be just solid meat?

Solid meat is usually tough. Always select meat that has bits of fat distributed everywhere. This usually means tender, better-tasting meat. The exception to this is veal.

* * *

Will you comment on the peculiar way the capitalistic press and the big industrialists have suddenly become so solicitous about the craft unionism of the A.F. of L.?

When A.F. of L. craft unionism was all there was to American labor, it was fought. But after John L. Lewis came along with the C.I.O.'s industrial unionism, the picture changed, for the big boys immediately recognized the Lewis idea as being loaded with dynamite, something which made craft unionism, by comparison, a cream puff. Perhaps it would be better to let a good, capitalistic writer speak on this subject. Colonel Leonard Ayres, vice-president of the Cleveland Trust Company, and one of the

best known business and financial commentators in the country, wrote in his *Business Bulletin*, January 15, 1937, as follows:

"The industrial union, having in its membership all kinds of workers within an industry, is far more powerful in its participation in a labor dispute than is the old-fashioned craft union, which includes only one class of worker."

Needless to say, I endorse every word of Ayres's statement.

* * *

What do nudists do when it rains?

I don't know. But I've seen the suggestion that they wear raincoats made of cellophane.

* * *

One gets hungry for intellectual companionship, but in this small community one's opportunities are limited. The nearest substitute is correspondence. Would you care to exchange a weekly letter with me? I have been a reader of yours for a long time and feel competent to discuss subjects close to your interests.

I wish I had the time and energy for such activities, but exchanges of letters with readers can't be considered. I beg to be excused, and I'm sure my readers understand why such a decision is necessary. At that, I still feel my reader's desire should be satisfied in some way. Maybe a correspondence club of my readers would be the solution, with my office serving as a clearing house, thus enabling would-be letter-writers to get together for interesting and stimulating contacts. If the suggestion strikes fire, I'll give the project serious thought. I'll let the matter rest until I get the reactions of readers, who are invited to let me know what they think about the suggested activity.

* * *

What is your opinion of the opposition of the Catholic Church to the Child Labor amendment?

Words fail me when I see the way the Catholic Church is playing into the hands of the big exploiters of child labor. When I read of how every bishop and other members of the hierarchy in New York State appeared before the New York Assembly, at Albany, to urge the State not to ratify the constitutional amendment, my blood boiled. But after all, they were merely running true to form. They not only have

millions of dollars invested in industries which depend on child labor for their dividends, but they also serve the general interests of the exploiting employers, whom they are always ready to help when it comes to keeping their medieval-minded followers in line. Any high-school boy knows that the Child Labor amendment deals exclusively with the plan to take children out of the mines, mills and factories. The measure has no intention of controlling the young in any other way. The parents are still to remain in control of their children. But these priests and bishops would give the country the false impression that the amendment would deprive the parents of control over their children and would let the state enter the farm or home in order to dictate to the nation's children. This, of course, is gross misrepresentation. The Catholic Church must lie this way because it knows it would be poor policy to come straight out for child labor. This is only one more proof of the Catholic Church's reactionary and anti-social policies.

* * *

In a friendly discussion over the possibility of future depressions, I made the statement that the system is establishing conditions, that will bring another collapse, because the great industrialists are increasing their profits immensely but at the same time doing little to put people to work or to enable those who have work to put more money into circulation. Please comment.

The facts support this reader's argument. The best illustration I can think of is a summary of some of the important features of the financial statements issued by the A.T.&T., the world's greatest telephone corporation and one of the greatest economic organizations in the world. Here's what we find:

In 1929, the above-mentioned company had 456,682 employees. In 1936, 294,362. That means 162,320 fewer jobs.

In 1929, this company paid \$676,543,312 in wages. In 1936, \$475,000,000. That means a drop of \$201,543,312.

In 1929, dividends amounted to \$116,378,371. In 1936, \$168,081,179. That means an increase of \$51,702,808 in profits.

Thus, we find that the number of employees decreased immensely; wages declined alarmingly—but profits to

the owners took a great hike.

It's such conditions that compel millions of our wage workers to spring into action, through spontaneous stay-in strikes or organized labor union activities. If the workers fail in their drive the results will be appalling, for they will be unable, through inadequate purchasing power, to absorb the goods produced by our industries, which, in time, will cause new slow-downs, closings, and industrial collapse. The future of the country rests with the brave workers who are using the power of solidarity to wrest from their employers the concessions that will make possible a more healthy social adjustment. If they fail, the next depression is being prepared right now.

* * *

What do you think of "Bugs" Baer as a humorist?

I don't follow "Bugs" Baer regularly, but now and then I come across his column, which I find fairly funny in spots, though I notice he never hesitates to steal anything good in sight. I've seen several of my best jokes in his department, without credit, but I don't mind. I remember two Baer lines that stuck me in the right place, and I'm pretty sure they're his own, because they carry the Baer hints of near-lunacy. They go this way:

"You can always judge a man by what he eats and therefore a country in which there is no free lunch is no longer a free country."

"People who live in glass houses need lots of windshield wipers."

* * *

What do you think of the mail order houses for false teeth?

It's difficult for me to understand how any person can expect to get competent service from people who sell artificial molars by mail. There's only one satisfactory way of getting new teeth into your mouth, and that's by going to the office of a practicing dentist. Most of these houses that sell sets of false teeth by mail get their orders from individuals who live far from towns and cities, but even such persons should wait until they can get to a community that supports a dentist, for in the end it'll be only such a practitioner who will be able to fit a patient properly. Even under the best conditions, a set of teeth made by a dentist will cause dis-

comfort and inconvenience, but at least such dissatisfaction can be reduced to a minimum, while the other way practically guarantees to inflict on the customer a maximum of pain and distress.

* * *

How many checks does the U.S. government issue? What does it cost to write them?

During 1936, according to a statement made to a House committee by Guy F. Allen, chief disbursing officer of the Treasury, the government wrote 35,735,746 checks, as against 28,509,924 in the previous year. It cost about \$2,000,000 to write these checks, or at the average rate of almost 6c per item. It costs about 10c each to write AAA checks; checks typed in the field cost 13.5 cents; pay checks issued to federal employes in Washington cost slightly over 9c each. The big volume of checks issued by the Veterans' Bureau, which are done on a mass production basis, cost slightly over 3c each.

* * *

Is it true that certain crimes are more prevalent in some months than others?

An examination of 461,589 arrest records throughout the U.S., in 1936, by the Bureau of Investigation of the U.S. Department of Justice, showed that more murders are committed in August than in any other month, the average being 8.5 per day. December is the favorite month for robberies, burglaries, larcenies and motor car thefts.

* * *

I am looking for a short collection letter to send subscribers who owe me small sums. Knowing your interest in circulation problems, I would appreciate your help in finding something on which I could model an appeal to people who are reluctant to pay up.

James M. Mosley, of Boston, who is one of the greatest authorities in the country on direct mail, says the following letter by Roy E. Larsen, circulation manager of *Time*, is a masterpiece. I understand this same letter received the Dartnell gold medal. It reads:

"Our accounting department does solemnly affirm, maintain and assert that you owe us two dollars and fifty cents.

"We hate to get excited about two dollars and fifty cents. We also dislike the usual 'collection letter'

which bursts into tears in the first paragraph and yells for the law in the second.

"Trouble is though that you and 999 other subscribers all holding out two dollars and fifty cents leave us \$2,500.00 in the hole. It is this little problem in elementary arithmetic that shakes our faith in humanity.

"So (to quote from an esteemed contemporary) won't you 'obey that impulse' and send us your check for two dollars and fifty cents, for in this case procrastination is certainly the thief of TIME."

I have read that it's possible to prove from John the Baptist himself that total immersion isn't necessary in baptism. What say you about this great issue?

I'm on the side of the light sprinklers. If there's to be any baptism, let's have it right. Now for the proof of my thesis. The dear, old Bible (bless its black covers) plainly says John the Baptist baptized 3,000,000 persons in nine months. If he had worked on a six-hour-per-day schedule, this would mean a steady stream of customers at the rate of two per second. This, I insist, is mathematical evidence that John the Baptist simply had to sprinkle them if he was to get the job done at all. Does anybody else want new light on the Bible?

How do women compare with men in crime?

Out of 461,589 arrest records examined by the Bureau of Investigation of the U.S. Department of Justice, in 1936, 7.3 percent represented women. "More of these women were 22 years old than any other age," says the report. The same age also prevailed among men, in contrast with the condition that held only a few years ago when more males of 19 were arrested than at any other age. The usual crimes of young men are robbery, burglary, larceny and motor car theft. Drunkenness is the most frequent charge against women.

Please give your opinion of Greta Garbo.

I have limitless admiration for Greta, who qualifies with me as the Sarah Bernhardt of the screen. Her work in *Camille* was superb, I thought. The actor who played the part of the baron—I didn't catch his name—struck me as being strikingly

effective. Speaking of Garbo reminds me that "Sodie," a keen, discriminating, intellectual young woman in this town—now married to a great, distinguished editorial executive in Racine, Wis.—has long advanced the opinion that Greta should play in Shakespeare.

I noticed your several references to Max Eastman's book on laughter. Did you like that work?

Max Eastman's *Enjoyment of Laughter* is a good beginning, though I felt it was a little too cocksure. I know how bad cocksureness is in authors because I'm so often guilty of the same fault, though I do try to fight the habit. It's like dope—hard to throw off. What we laugh at—and why—is a subject worthy of wider treatment, and it's my notion that Isaac Goldberg could do a much better job than Max Eastman, if he ever set himself to the task. Such a book—and coming to think of it the title could easily be "What We Laugh at—and Why"—should take in all the known sources and classes, and salient—and original—examples of the types of humor and wit. Isaac Goldberg has, for many years, impressed me as being a thinker who knows that laughter has a physiology as well as a psychology. Yes, and he knows that laughter also has a geography, a sociology. I pass the suggestion on to Goldberg, free gratis for nothing.

Have you any data dealing with the comparative intelligence of convicts and their guards?

Dr. Ames Baker, psychiatrist, was called in by the authorities at Sing Sing to test the mental powers of convicts and guards, with the following results: average mental age of convicts, 13½ years; guards, 13.

I enclose a clipping which asserts that the higher institutions of learning are coming back to religion. Please comment.

The facts—always stubborn things—give the lie to such claims. Religious propagandists like to chatter about the reconciliation between science and religion, that Agnosticism and Freethought in general are outdated 19th Century notions, and all that sort of thing. In my books I have given space to a great quantity of data—especially that gathered by

Dr. Leuba—showing that religion is losing ground, instead of gaining. I can't repeat those facts, for they would take columns of space, but I can call attention to the latest piece of information to come to my attention, a survey which I'm sure will be found interesting and encouraging to supporters of the philosophy of Freethought.

On March 4, 1937, *The New York Times* contained a dispatch headed: "Reports Students Cool to Religion." The gist of the report reads:

"The statement that three out of four college freshmen get along without religion was made today in the report of the Connecticut Survey Committee of Transition from School to College, of which Professor Hugh Hartshorne of the Yale Divinity School is chairman.... The findings were based on the records of 3,167 students from 39 colleges, who came from 103 secondary schools. The case method of investigation was used, supplemented by questionnaires."

What is the fundamental fallacy in the attempt to achieve truth through Mysticism?

A Mystic attempts to establish a truth by dipping into himself—his feelings, intuitions, impulses, inspirations, and the like. That, it seems to me, is the basic weakness of Mysticism. The truly scientific method is to use reason after studying the various expressions of life—from the cosmos to the tiniest division of matter. In other words, the Realist, or anti-Mystic, reaches out for the facts—for verifiable data—and then turns them loose in his world of reason, for analysis, for an understanding of what the facts mean. Some of the ancient Greeks followed this scientific method. Whenever we have slipped from it and resorted to intuitive methods—Mysticism—we have found ourselves in a whirl of dogmas, suppositions, guesses, superstitions, inspired but unsupported utterances, sweeping generalizations, and, all too frequently, bunk. The scientific method makes slow progress because it's the harder technique. Any muddle-headed nit-wit can rush into words or print with the outpourings of his soul, but it takes painstaking, careful research to get a measure of truth by way of Realism. The intelligent world at last has learned that

nothing is to be gained from the mental cavortings of the Mystic. The truly learned have settled down to faithful, honest, tireless, accurate, factual, logical research. If we can keep to that road, the world will eventually become a more livable place.

* * *

Recently I saw in the press a report from Germany which said that a chess club had been raided and the players sent to jail. What could have been the reason? I ask this as an old-time, albeit bad, chess player who knows, from long experience, that chess clubs are never used for anything but chess.

The Nazi gangsters learned that a group of chess players got into the habit, between moves, of saying what was on their minds regarding Hitler and his rotten regime. Even such whispered comments couldn't be tolerated, so the players are now in concentration camps getting properly coordinated. This is only one more proof of the German state's insanity. Hardly a day passes but that one finds new enormities.

The February 14, 1937, issue of *Chess* was sent to me by one of my readers, John T. Hazuka, accompanied by the following note:

"I am enclosing an article, 'Chess and Nazi-Dom,' which appeared in 'Chess,' a British publication, and which I think you will find very interesting. Although 'Chess' is purely a chess magazine and not given over to political purposes, it seems to me that the editor could not help himself in exposing just one more angle in the rotten Nazi set-up in Germany. I wouldn't be surprised to hear that Dr. Goebbels had banned 'Chess' from Germany after he gets wind of this article printed in it. This wonderful chess magazine, which has subscribers in all the countries of the world, is the best publication of its kind, in my opinion, although it has been in existence less than two years."

I read the article and am glad Reader Hazuka remembered to send it on to me, for it gave me material for this piece. The article, which is well written and shot through with the most biting sarcasm, is based on a sober, factual, objective news report in the *London Spectator*. Space, I'm sorry to say, won't permit me to quote all or much of this article in *Chess*, but I want to cull the salient

facts in order to give *Freeman* readers an idea of what's going on in the crazy noodles of the Nazi piss-ants. What happened—and the incident belongs in a story of the wildest fancy—is this:

A luckless chess journalist, in Berlin, contributed an article to a publication, which, of course, is controlled by Dr. Goebbels' censorship, as are all periodicals in Germany. The article caused the journalist to be arrested and sent to jail for having actually described a game between the great chess master and former champion, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, and Dr. Euwe, the present champion. The article contained the following paragraph, which caused the journalist's arrest and imprisonment. The writer's name is Hans Schmidt and he actually permitted himself so far to forget Nazi culture as to write the following earth-shaking sentiments:

"At this point Dr. Euwe was guilty of gross oversight. After playing remarkably well during the first part of the game, he carelessly moved his bishop into a loose and undefended position. His opponent, Dr. Lasker, taking prompt advantage of the error, was able, by moving up a pawn, to gain a piece quickly. Continuing to play with great skill, he compelled Dr. Euwe to resign in half a dozen more moves."

There you have it—the whole bitter, tragic truth. What, you ask, was there in that paragraph to warrant a jail term? Poor, ignorant barbarian, don't you know that Dr. Lasker is a Jew? Anyone who praises a Jew—even the way he plays chess—is guilty of some form of treason, which, in more critical days, might cause one to be sent to the block.

Chess, which had printed the game in question (No. 287 in its September, 1936, issue) comments that Hans Schmidt's presentation of the facts might seem as correct as one might expect. *Chess* adds: "The prosecutor found, lurking beneath the surface of the words, an inveterate antagonism to the Nazi system." How? By attacking Dr. Euwe's game this miserable journalist insulted the Aryan race. Dr. Euwe happens to be a Dutchman. Dr. Lasker is, as already stated, a Jew, a member of the most detestable of races, the most grasping, the most invidious—so runs the Nazi argument.

Today I found, in the December 30, 1936, issue of the *Moscow News*, a candid camera shot of the same Dr. Lasker playing, at one time, 31 selected chess players, beating 29 of them and playing two to a draw. The picture shows the veteran master smoking his cigar, his hair ruffled, leaning over the table and studying one of the 31 games, and down the full length of the room are to be seen the other numerous players waiting for Dr. Lasker to walk down the broad aisle. Looking carefully at a picture on the far wall—rather dim in the engraving—one finds a portrait of the great Karl Marx, another Jew, detested in Germany because of his Communism and the fact that he didn't get born into a race Hitler is positive is the only one worth belonging to.

You see, in the proletarian state the great Dr. Lasker's ability is appreciated and he is invited to play, to the admiration of the many devotees of this fascinating, beautiful game. The terrible Russians don't ask Dr. Lasker which race he happens to belong to—they merely want to know what kind of a game he plays. That, needless to say, shows their utter depravity. Let's always remember, "Whoever serves Adolf Hitler, serves God."

* * *

A German friend of mine, who has just returned from a visit to his native land, tells me he talked to some of the political prisoners in a concentration camp and heard them insist they were being treated just fine. Please comment.

It would be sure, quick suicide for one of Hitler's prisoners to even hint at torture and murder. The conditions have been, and are, horrible beyond words—as I've helped prove again and again—and no responsible editor or student of affairs outside Germany doubts the fact that the reports of Nazi atrocities aren't exaggerations.

I'm reminded of a few lines that have been floating around the publications of the world—at least where a free press still exists—dealing with a short conversation held with Karl von Ossietzky, the great German anti-war publicist, who was held in one of Hitler's concentration camps for about three years before he was released, because of serious illness. While in his camp Ossietzky,

who recently received the Nobel Peace Prize, was interviewed by a group of English writers, which, of course, had to take place in the presence of jailers. Here's what has been reported as a verbatim transcript of what was said:

"How are you?"

"Well."

"How are you being treated?"

"Well."

"How is your food?"

"Good."

"Have you anything to read?"

"Yes."

"Is it permitted to send you books?"

"Yes, without any trouble."

"Have you any preference as to books?"

"I want only one thing. Please send me some literature with descriptions of medieval torture methods."

* * *

Is "The Writer's Digest," of Cincinnati, Ohio, a reliable school from which to take a correspondence course in Short Story Writing?

The concern is reliable, of course, but I'm skeptical about the course. It's my notion that a little book on the technique of short story writing will serve as productively as this \$22.50 course.

* * *

My son graduates from high school soon and wants to take a three-month course in civil, or some kind of engineering, as soon as he graduates. He is 19 years old. Would you give me addresses of reputable schools?

A three-month course in engineering wouldn't qualify anyone to hold down a job in this field, so going to one of the privately owned establishments—such as the Finlay Engineering College, in Kansas City, Mo.—would be wasted time and money. I always advise against these private establishments which advertise so glowingly. As before, I urge the fuller use of our state-owned colleges and universities, where the motive is education and not the enrichment of profit-seeking owners. If this young man intends to be an engineer of some sort, he should plan to do the job right and enroll with a State university, where the best instruction is waiting for him at little cost.

* * *

How do women compare with men in discoveries and inventions?

There's no evidence to support the claim that women are incapable of

doing the same kind of creative work that has been done by men. The reason women have done little in the fields of invention and discovery is because of the obvious fact that they have, throughout the centuries, been shut out of such domains. If the doors were thrown open and women were given the same opportunities as men, they too could serve society as discoverers and inventors, though the record already shows a surprisingly large list of contributions that women have made to scientific advancement. You can't sentence the world's womanhood to serve in the home and raise children and then wonder why they haven't competed with men as composers, chemists, inventors, explorers, surgeons, engineers, etc.

* * *

What is the best cure for dandruff?

The best and safest cure is good soap and water, frequently applied. Don't bother to waste time and money on these dandruff "cures" that crowd the shelves of the druggists. Take a good shampoo at least once a week and in time your dandruff will disappear. If it comes back, slap in a few extra shampoos for good measure. If they don't cure the case at least they'll hold it down. If you have a really stubborn case of dandruff, go to your family doctor for treatment. In bad cases applications of X-ray have been known to do a lot of good.

* * *

What is the best way of making a religious person anti-religious? Perhaps you, with your experience, know of some special or scientific way of doing it.

I assume you use the word "making" in the sense of appealing to a person's reason instead of using force. Never try to impose non-religious ideas on a religious person. Such efforts are usually worthless. Instead of antagonizing your religious friend by a frontal attack, approach him indirectly, with gentle hints, and, above all, Freethought literature that is from the pens of writers who know their subject. I have always observed that the printed word is the greatest propagandist for Freethought, though, in the larger communities, public lectures and debates also are useful. Books, pamphlets, magazines and papers which print Freethought material can be depended on to "convert" a victim of superstition, if he's

not too far gone. Frequently, the brain gets so corrupted by religious ideology that the afflicted one is quite beyond rescue or cure. Such cases should be avoided like poison. It's a certain waste of time to argue with such trash. Let them wallow in their mental slop. Save your mind-liberating literature for more open-minded persons, especially the younger men and women.

* * *

I notice that your various comments on patent medicines include no criticisms of aspirin. Is this a safe drug to take?

Aspirin isn't a patent medicine. Drs. Louis E. Prickman and Harold F. Buchstein, of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., contributed a valuable article on aspirin to a recent issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, from which I quote:

Acetylsalicylic acid is a useful and effective drug, and it may be prescribed with relative safety to patients who give no history of personal or familial allergy. It may also be used with caution by allergic patients after ascertaining that it has been used previously by them without ill effect.

Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) must be avoided by persons who are sensitive to the drug, for its effects may be bad, even fatal. If a person knows from experience that aspirin brings about no dangerous effects, the drug may be taken to meet certain conditions. Returning to the two doctors mentioned above, we find that their article gives a comprehensive report on 62 cases of hypersensitivity to this familiar drug. Says the report:

All one of these persons needs to do is to swallow a 5-grain aspirin tablet. In from 10 minutes to two hours dreadful things begin to happen.

Asthma in an alarming form is the most frequent and serious type of reaction.

Other people get terrible sneezing fits and their noses stop up. Some have "giant" hives and others break out into a rash. Some persons' faces swell until their eyes are closed. Others get severe cramps in the abdomen. Still others develop great purple splotches on the skin.

Women are more sensitive to the drug than men. Everyone who is upset by aspirin seems to have a personal or family history of allergy.

Those with asthma are particularly liable to be sensitive and if along

with their asthma they have nasal polyps, it goes hard with them indeed. Patients such as these have been known to die following a dose of aspirin.

If an individual knows he is sensitive to aspirin, he can avoid it, and he will after one attack of any violence. But the presence of acetylsalicylic acid, its scientific name, in many "patent" medicines makes them an unsuspected source of danger.

* * *

Please comment on the people who take naps while driving.

The National Safety Council has made a study of drivers who fall asleep at the wheel, according to a summary issued by Science Service. The facts are of great interest and value. For instance, a survey of driver-asleep accidents in 12 States "reveals that one out of 12 kills somebody, and that one-third of the time it is the driver himself." It's safe, therefore, to say that the driver who falls asleep at the wheel and has an accident is likely to stay asleep from now on. The thing to remember about such drivers is that they fall asleep because they're sleepy, the facts showing that nearly 50 percent of such accidents take place during the first two hours of driving. In other words, the driver was sleepy when he climbed into his motor car. He should have taken a nap before starting his engine. Or, at any rate, he should have stopped at the first sign of sleepiness—off the road, of course—and caught a little sleep. Under such circumstances even a little nap of about 20 minutes will put a driver in shape to continue driving another hour or two without mishap. After saying that about half of the accidents happened during the first two hours, the report of the National Safety Council continues:

A third of them, however, had been without sleep from 16 to 20 hours, so that it is evident that lack of proper amounts of sleep rather than grueling grinds at the wheel is responsible for a large number of these mishaps. The drowsy driver returning home from a late party is the most common victim of the highway nap, and he usually drops into slumber and oblivion at about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Like passenger-car drivers, truck operators often nap after only a short turn at the wheel, and the ex-

planation lies in the same lack of sleep, 80 percent of them having slept less than seven or eight hours in the past 24, and more having been without the normal 14 or 16 hours in the preceding 48. Truck drivers, however, are more apt to fall off at about 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning. Miscellaneous freight and furniture movers fell asleep more than any other class of truckers, and haulers of milk and petroleum products were widest awake.

Pedestrians need not worry too much about slumbering motorists because only 2 percent of fatalities involved the innocent bystander. A case was found, however, of a pedestrian falling asleep himself, with equally fatal results.

* * *

How much do we spend for groceries?

During 1936, according to the *Progressive Grocer*, the people of the U.S. spent \$10,000,000,000 on their food and grocery needs. This was about 16 percent under 1929, the record year. Prices in 1936 were 20 percent lower than in 1929, on the average.

* * *

What do you think of a man who tucks his napkin in the top of his vest?

Such a person is sensible. I know, because I do it myself. Only a prissy Emily Post (terrible bores, usually) would attempt to outlaw such a practice. That bit of foresight saves many a cleaning bill.

* * *

I was glad to read your definition of Free thought. Could you do the same with Rationalism?

I have written reams of copy on the philosophy of Rationalism, but I'm always glad to come back to this subject, one of my pets. For the present, I prefer to quote a brief, pointed, sound letter which appeared in the British *Spectator*, written by Lady Maud Simon. The letter:

Sir—Speaking for myself, as a member for many years past of the Rationalist Press Association, I can say that the term "Rationalism" in that connection does not represent a new ready-made system either of ethics or philosophy. No such agreement could be claimed for it, not even immunity from possible irrationalism. One of its main functions undoubtedly is to turn the light of reason upon beliefs associated with Christianity which, in accordance with modern thought, rank merely as legends in the case of other religions. Rationalism is

fully cognizant of the psychology of religious belief and of its many varieties, but it definitely rejects the claim still made, either tacitly or avowedly, to found such belief on myth, miracle, or the like, whether inside or outside the pages of the Bible. It realizes the grave danger of placing progress, mental or moral, on the shifting sands of superstition, and would substitute for that the firmer ground of human ideals and efforts to bring about their realization.

* * *

Are wide roads safer than narrow ones?

Traffic engineers connected with the highway department of New Jersey have studied this question and report that narrow roads are safer than wide ones. Here's what the survey shows:

On a two-lane road the number of accidents is 2.75 per 1,000,000 vehicle miles. In three-lane roads the figure is 3.53. In four-lane roads, 3.61.

The main cause of accidents on wide roads is the attempt of a driver to get out of line and pass cars ahead of him. If a driver coming from the opposite direction gets the same idea at the same time, there's a good chance of a head-on crash. These experts claim that the wide roads could be made much safer if raised center strips were provided. Sidewalks would also help keep down accidents.

* * *

What is the meaning of the term "political applause"? Is it something like our "razzberry" or "Bronx cheer"?

"Political applause" can best be explained by giving a few illustrations. The reader will see in a moment that such applause has nothing in common with our "razzberry" or "Bronx cheer."

Recently there was produced on the Berlin stage a play by Schiller, *Don Carlos*. This old play has never enjoyed the popularity it has had since the advent of Hitlerism. Large audiences flock to the Deutsches Theater, not so much because they are anxious to see this revival of a famous classic of the stage, but because the actor who plays the part of a liberal-minded character of the 16th Century—Marquis Posa Xomma—makes an eloquent appeal to the monarch, Philip II, to abolish the Inquisition. Tremendous, prolonged, almost hysterical, applause invariably

greet the words that follow:

"Point the way to the European kings! A stroke of your pen and the earth is newly created. Grant, I beg of you, freedom of thought!"

The applause at this moment is not intended for the actor, nor is the moment properly entitled to a demonstration of such proportions. The applause, in brief, is "political applause"—the emotional and spontaneous reaction of people in Germany who are living in mental chains, who can't even discuss ordinary political topics without taking the risk of going to prison should their remarks be construed as critical of the degenerate dictator who has crushed everything that's fine and decent in German life. These people have kept their emotions in a straight-jacket too long—they are ready to explode if some outlet isn't provided. And here are a few words from a play written more than a century ago which enable Berlin's people, who still love freedom and democracy and hate Fascism, to voice their opinions and still be safe from even the threat of the concentration camp. That, I repeat, is "political applause."

Another illustration comes to mind, this one in Milan, about 75 years ago, where audiences used to break into frantic applause during a certain scene in Verdi's opera, *I Lombardi*. At that time Lombardy was under Austrian rule, and the Italians hated this. The Lombards would go to La Scala Opera House for a wonderful chance to express their hatred of Austrian rule, in comparative safety because they intended to indulge in "political applause." At one moment a number of Lombards march off the stage, dressed for battle, to join the First Crusade. This was a signal for a mighty demonstration, the audience rising and cheering its Lombard ancestors. It wasn't the music or the artists who were being honored. The spectators were indulging in "political applause."

There was a case of "political applause" in the Soviet Union a few years ago when a Moscow audience displayed its discontent with the Communist regime by applauding a character in Moussorgsky's opera, *Khovanstchina* who speaks these words: "God help poor, suffering Russia." This was "political applause"

from an audience that wanted the return of the old, czarist times.

* * *

What is the trouble with the American Federation of Labor that John L. Lewis feels is reason enough for splitting away and forming the C.I.O.?

As already explained in several articles, one of the fundamental reasons is the fact that the A.F. of L. insists on following the line of craft unionism—each occupation in its own separate union—while John L. Lewis, through the Committee for Industrial Organization (C.I.O.) holds for industrial unionism, which means, of course, the merging of all workers in some particular industry into one mass organization. While it's true that craft unionism can be made to work all right with the highly skilled, the condition remains sadly apparent that such a limited form can't be effective in the mass production industries, mainly steel, motor cars, rubber, coal, glass, and the like.

John L. Lewis, in January, 1937, issued a statement, in which he outlined some of the other reasons why he can't tolerate the A.F. of L. and prefers to go his way with the C.I.O. I quote the salient points, as follows:

"One of the greatest tragedies in our labor history was the inertia of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in the face of the great, spontaneous uprising of the unorganized industrial workers in the summer of 1933 in response to the hope and promise contained in Section 7 of the Recovery Act. If the Council had been responsive to the appeal of labor for industrial freedom through organization and had taken advantage of the widespread spontaneous revolution among the workers then in effect, our leading basic industries could have been easily organized before reactionary industrial managements were able to mobilize themselves for effective opposition.

"But the majority of the Executive Council and the officers of the American Federation of Labor were unequal to this 'time and tide' in the fortunes of the labor movement, which if taken at its flood would have led to unprecedented victory. They were dead to the fact that conditions prevailing in America in 1933 were epoch-making. They were so engrossed with technical controversies raging around the paper jurisdictional disputes of 1937-

mer years that they could not see the dazzling light of a new day."

So much for the past. The important thing now is: What about the future? Lewis answers, as follows:

"The C.I.O. will undoubtedly, as in the past, refrain from any interference with established craft unions or their memberships. We shall push forward our drive to organize the operating forces of our basic mining and manufacturing industries into industrial unions. We are confident that in due course of time we shall succeed in unionizing the major portion of our 30,000,000 unorganized industrial workers.

"Our success, during the limited time which our Committee has been in existence, leads us to feel completely sanguine as to the future. From the original seven members of the C.I.O., our membership has expanded to 15 organizations. Our campaign to organize the steel industry, together with the subsidiary campaigns in the automobile and rubber industries, is progressing rapidly. In addition, we are constantly receiving requests from unorganized workers throughout the country asking for assistance in organization and assuring us of their support.

"My conviction is that the overwhelming majority of craft union members will soon realize that the C.I.O. has no animus towards established craft organizations but is concerned only to serve the labor movement by adding to its economic and political strength through the unionization of unorganized mass production workers. With the realization of this fundamental truth, craft unionists will voluntarily exonerate the members of the C.I.O. of any unworthy motives or actions."

The foregoing statement came from John L. Lewis before he won those startling victories from General Motors and U.S. Steel. History is sometimes made quickly, and Lewis' policies have been demonstrated speedily as being in keeping with the spirit of the times and the needs of the previously unorganized millions of toilers. Events prove Lewis entirely right; the same events prove the A.F. of L. leadership to be entirely wrong. With astounding dispatch, Lewis and the C.I.O. have stepped forward as the outstanding, dominant organization of American

labor. And he has only begun. What the future holds no one dare even imagine. But this we can say in all certainty: American labor is on the march and the goal of solidarity will be reached.

* * *

Are you buying manuscripts now from unsolicited sources?

Very few. The editorial assignments now being handled by my regular authors will keep my publishing schedule crowded for at least two years.

* * *

Please reprint Mark Twain's advice on diamonds.

Mark Twain's sane piece of constructive philosophy reads:

"It is better to have old, second-hand diamonds than no diamonds at all."

* * *

I would like to start a forum here in Leith, N. Dak., for the discussion of public questions, using your Questions and Answers as a source of information. Will you please discuss this idea?

I would like to see the idea worked out in Leith and lots of other communities. It's my impression that the material I dish out in this paper could serve to keep any number of forumites wound up from now on.

* * *

Have you any special suggestions for a person in love?

Yes. Take my hint and always try to love within your income, because it is very difficult to love without it.

* * *

How many of your 25,000 pious readers are women?

About 30 percent.

* * *

Why doesn't the Federal Trade Commission get after Norman Baker's "hospital," where his quackery is promoted on the false assumption that he can cure cancer?

The Baker Hospital doesn't come within the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission because this concern isn't engaged in commerce.

* * *

Can you tell me the origin of the well-known "Monk's Confession"?

I have seen this little story many times, but don't recall its source. Maybe some readers can give us the desired information. The little yarn runs this way:

A monk was dying and had been making his last confessions to the priest in charge of the monastery.

"Have you anything else to con-

fess?" said the priest.

"I don't think so, Father," said the monk.

"Are you sure?"

"Well, perhaps I should mention just one thing—"

"And that is?"

"Only that I don't believe in God."

* * *

CORRECTION—The last issue of The Freeman contained a peculiar typographical error, which amused and embarrassed me, sensitive soul that I am. I wrote "Johnny-on-the-Spot," and it got into print "Johnny-on-the-Pot." Of all things! My pious readers know I avoid any expression that suggests coarseness, for I always consider the delicate sensibilities of my most refined subscribers. The chaste purity of these columns must be preserved at all times.

* * *

I am a young woman who is contemplating marriage in the near future. How many meals will I be called on to prepare?

The average runs at about 30,000.

* * *

Isn't it true that the mind has a lot to do with digestion?

Food won't benefit a person much if the mind says it doesn't like what's going into the mouth. Professor E. P. Cathcart, professor of physiology, University of Glasgow, expressed the whole idea of digestion in five lines of homely poetry, which appeared in the staid *British Medical Journal*. The advice:

Eat all kind nature doth bestow;

It will amalgamate below.

If the mind says so, it shall be so.

But, if you once begin to doubt,

The gastric juice will find it out.

* * *

Is science making any headway in handling the problem of controlling the sex of eggs?

Professor Kiyosumi Ninomiya, at Tokio, announced, early in 1937, that it was possible to guarantee to produce a female chicken from any hen's egg, claiming 100 percent success. This is done by injecting a female hormone into the egg. Such an injection costs only 50c per 100 eggs. The professor is a teacher at an agricultural college.

* * *

Can you let us have Charles Hanson Towne's "Around the Corner"?

This wholesome, human, heart-moving piece follows:

Around the corner, I have a friend

In this great city that has no end;

Yet days go by and weeks rush on,

And before I know it, a year is gone.

And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race.

He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine. We were younger
then

And now we are busy, tired men—
Tired with playing a foolish game
Tired of trying to make a name.

"Tomorrow, say, I will call on Jim,
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes—and tomorrow
goes,

And the distance between us grows and
grows;

Around the corner, yet miles away.

"Here's a telegram, sir." "Jim died to-
day!"

And that's what we get—and deserve—
in the end,

Around the corner, a vanished friend.

* * *

What is your opinion of Bahaism?

This religious sect, which has a few hundred followers in this country, emphasizes the "spiritual unity of humanity" by a system—colored by oriental mysticism—that would merge all faithful believers in the various religious dogmas. Since there is bedlam enough in any one system, imagine what would happen if the followers of the various organized dogmas were to "get together." It would, to my notion, add only new powers of chaos to the world's prime organizers of intellectual confusion. The leaders of Bahaism preach a form of pacifism and tolerance, but as the approach is religious—mystical—the words, after all, can be nothing more than words, because genuine peace movements and efforts at racial tolerance can best be promoted through elements closer to reality, elements that base their thought and efforts on actual conditions instead of vague, unconnected impulses.

* * *

The press reports a Los Angeles woman, convicted of murder, has declared she would "kill herself by will power" and has already thrown herself into a trance. Is it possible for a person to will himself to death?

Not much chance. There have been some reports of such self-willed deaths (without physical acts of suicide) from India, but psychiatrists assert there has never been an authenticated case. Dr. Joseph Jastrow, a psychologist of international repute, says "it is possible for some persons

to throw themselves into a trance, but extremely doubtful anyone could end his life just by willing to die." Dr. Jastrow described the Los Angeles woman's trance as being merely a case of hysterical coma, a condition so common as to be found discussed in all psychiatry textbooks.

* * *

Which is more efficient, tooth paste or tooth powder?

Dental authorities agree that tooth powder is better than paste, and costs less. But no tooth cleanser will do what the advertisements say. I refer, of course, to the claim that these articles will whiten the teeth. They won't do anything of the sort. There are a number of chemical whiteners sold in drug stores which are positively dangerous to one's health.

* * *

I often think, when I'm fussing with my unwieldy, cumbersome garments, how nice it would be if we could return to the simple, free costumes of the ancient Romans. Please comment.

I've never worn a toga, so I can't give my reader any first-hand information, but I can call his attention to an interesting passage in a book, published last year by Columbia University Press, entitled *The Roman's World*, and written by Frank Gardner Moore. This author has made an elaborate study of the clothes worn in ancient Rome and shows that it was something of an art to wear a toga. He writes:

"The Roman citizen of olden days had his troubles with his clothing, and they were probably more trying than any of today's troubles. He had to drape the toga as meticulously as any lady's gown, and, just like today, styles changed from year to year, both in the manner of draping the toga and in its shape.

"In general, the toga approached the form of an ellipse, the corners of a large, rectangular piece of material having been cut off, at different angles or in curves according to the style of the time. (You can readily see that the well-dressed man simply couldn't wear last year's toga. In length this cumbersome, formal garment was twice the height of the wearer and might be worn double. Since it was wool and white, the cleaners were busy. They kept the togas of Rome white by using pipe clay."

Mr. Moore also proves that our hatless vogue isn't anything new, for

the Romans usually went around without hats, especially on the streets. Our Beau Brummels who like to go in for the fastidious will be interested in knowing that the dandies in ancient Rome were simply crazy about the *lacerna*, "a gay-colored mantle fastened at the shoulder or over the breast with a brooch."

* * *

What's your opinion of the Perfolastic Girdle?

This girdle, which is sold by a corporation in New York City, costs \$12.50, which strikes me as too much money for any article of that kind. Take my advice and go to a regular department store or mail order house and buy one of the ordinary girdles you'll be able to get for a few dollars. But don't fool yourself that any of these girdles—including the Perfolastic—will enable you to reduce. That's bunk. Your weight is usually controlled by what you eat, or, as sometimes happens, by the manner in which your glands work, and under such circumstances a reducing girdle is just that much wasted money and energy.

This publicity about the "gentle, efficient, imperceptible massage" of the Perfolastic girdle, or any other brand, is hokey thought up by clever advertising writers who want to cash in on the big demand for slimmer women. The stouter mamas are a little out of style these days, though for a time it looked as though the Mae West fad was going to bring them back to their old-time prestige. Excessive weight is very bad, but I'm old-fashioned enough to have strong prejudices against these women who strive to show the world they have snake-hips, flat chests, and no fannies to speak of. A woman, to be beautiful, must have at least some of those old-time curves.

* * *

Is it inconsistent, illogical and wrong for a confirmed Socialist to buy stocks on the stock exchange?

There's nothing wrong about buying stocks in a corporation when one is living under the capitalistic system. Personally, I don't speculate or invest in stocks, preferring to put my spare cash in this publishing business. I usually warn my readers against monkeying with the stock exchange, for they usually get their fingers burned. I advise my friends

to put their savings in postal banks, in a home, or Liberty and State bonds. The little fellow who dabbles in Wall Street usually loses his shirt.

* * *

I would like to know your opinion of Consumers Union, in New York City. Also, Consumers Research, which has just published a new magazine, called "Consumers Digest."

Consumers Union is a good organization, which is run on a non-profit basis and gives excellent advice to consumers. The other concern, Consumers Research, isn't much account. It's magazine, *Consumers Digest*, isn't of real benefit to its readers because, so far as I can make out, it devotes its editorial matter only to recommended articles, leaving the un-recommended goods unmentioned. It's my theory that the public should be told what's good, of course, but it's even more important to warn consumers against the bad. Not doing this, the magazine strikes me as being lop-sided.

* * *

From study and experience I know there is a mine of truth in Astrology. Do you draw a line against all mysticism, all occult "truths," including Astrology?

From study and experience I know there isn't an ounce of truth in Astrology. The whole business is mixed with fraud, deception, gullibility, illogicality, infantilism, and just about anything else that suggests the moronic or idiotic. Astrology is a game that is played by shrewd charlatans to steal money from ignorant suckers. In the entire world of learning there isn't a single first-rate mind that accepts the ridiculous, childish notions of Astrology.

Let me give just one illustration. Recently we read the horrible news from the Ohio River, where hundreds of lives were lost in the terrible floods. Those numerous victims were born "under" any number of different "stars," whatever that means, and yet they all died at the same time. How come? This thought of mine is by no means original, though I'd be glad to father it. I take it from Voltaire, who, more than a century and a half ago, called attention to the great Lisbon earthquake, in which something like 60,000 persons were killed in a few minutes. They, as Voltaire mentioned, should, according

to the great "truths" of Astrology, have died at different "meetings" of the planets, or words to the same effect—but, alas, they all died as though they'd been born "under" a single star. The same goes for the World War, in which almost 10,000,000 men were killed in four short years.

I must apologize to my intelligent readers—there are some, I know—for taking up this much space with such a bunk-laden piece of tripe as Astrology. The whole mess is pure ignorance or cunning fraud—the ignorance being on the side of those who pay out, and the cunning fraud being on the side of those who take in the kale. No educated, intelligent, informed person who keeps abreast of the currents of thought ever falls for such clap-trap as Astrology.

As for Mysticism and the occult "truths," I reject them in toto as bunk. I am a Realist, who believes in verifiable conclusions; I am a Rationalist, who believes always in applying the rules of reason and evidence to everything presented to my mind for consideration. Therefore, I repudiate as false and hollow any notions that rest on mysticism, unreality, sacred writings, or any form of unsupported infallibility. Occult "truths" are hokum; Mysticism is intellectual trash.

* * *

Please comment on the enclosed newspaper clipping dealing with Father Coughlin's views on strikes.

The clipping is a United Press dispatch from a March 1, 1937, newspaper, in which Father (of what?) Coughlin said:

"I am opposed to needless strikes. Not because I am opposed to labor, but because I recognize the inefficiency of this method of obtaining the desired objective of every honest man."

Coughlin, who is now back on the air on a network costing many thousands of dollars weekly—all paid by General Motors and other industrialists in an attempt to split the labor movement—says he's opposed to "needless strikes." That's just another way of saying he's opposed to all strikes, for after all who's to decide when a strike is "needless" or "necessary"? This is Coughlin's mealy-mouthed support of Fascist ideas. It's one of the prime conditions

of the totalitarian state to forbid mass action on the part of the workers. Whenever you find Fascism, there you find strikes outlawed.

The coordinated German press—which always parrots the ideas of Dr. Goebbels—is giving a great deal of space to U.S. strikes, and tries to make political capital out of them, the moral being that Germany—which is strikeless—is a model utopia, where peace, order and brotherly love prevail. I'm sure such propaganda will influence no intelligent worker. The difference between Germany and the U.S.—so far as the workingman is concerned—is the difference between slavery and free labor. In Germany a striker is guilty of treason against the state and can be imprisoned and even beheaded. He doesn't strike because he isn't ready to take the terrible consequences under a police state in which all the arms belong to the state while the unarmed, helpless workers must do as they are told or be mowed down by Hitler's gangsters.

In the U.S., on the other hand, labor is free to assert itself, not because Capitalism is liberal, but rather because our democratic ideas still prevail and give the workers the right to decide for themselves whether or not they are to sell their labor power and on what conditions. Thus, strikes in the U.S. are signs of social health, of freedom, of progress, for the results are, uniformly, all to the good, increases in pay following one another in rapid-fire order. In many cases the workers don't even have to strike, since their power as unionists is so obvious that the industrialists pay through the nose in order to avoid stoppages that are certain to be disastrous to dividends.

As I write this, the press blazons the fact that the steel industry has capitulated, without the strike which everyone expected was a certainty. This tremendous victory—greater by far than the campaign won on the General Motors front—will go down in history as one of the greatest incidents in the history of organized labor, and makes John L. Lewis—the greatest labor leader America has ever had—a tactician without equal. Can you imagine how far the steel workers could have traveled in the direction of economic progress if they

hadn't been organized in a union which insists on the right to strike. If all the workers were "organized" but denied the right to strike, what possible concessions could they expect from the industrialists? Our industrial leaders are realists, they recognize cold facts—and Lewis' strategy looked powerful enough to command their respect and willingness to compromise. If the workers had listened to Father Coughlin, what a break that would have been for the steel magnates.

No, American labor is determined to protect its right to strike, when a strike is unavoidable. Workers are always willing to negotiate before quitting *en masse*, but when they see their propositions rejected by the bosses they must always have the right to back up their demands with a stoppage. But our Fascists like Father Coughlin would introduce into this country the ideas of Hitler and Mussolini with regard to strikes—ideas that would make our industrialists absolute monarchs in their domains. Labor knows better. Father Coughlin can talk himself to exhaustion over his immense radio network, but labor goes right ahead listening to its true and trusted leader who wins battle after battle because he knows when to argue and discuss—and when to strike. Lewis, and his millions of brave and loyal followers, are deaf to the Fascist mouthings of a Coughlin, whose aim is to strangle and enslave labor, not help it.

The same report that I quoted from above tells labor to quit its "needless" strikes and turn to the Constitution. Coughlin advises the workers who know, of course, that his advice is really anti-labor—that they should amend the Constitution in order to get national laws covering wages, etc. That would mean doing nothing in the industrial field for at least five years while a new amendment to the Constitution went out to the States. Wouldn't that be a swell break for General Motors, Ford, U.S. Steel, Chrysler, and the other great employers? When a public man tells labor to avoid action in the economic field, he aims, in all truth, to deprive labor of one of its most effective weapons. Intelligent labor knows the value of political action—and intends

to use it to the hilt—but that doesn't mean labor is going to neglect a weapon that is at hand—solidarity and strikes—in order to protect its own status.

* * *

Is it true that Thomas Jefferson attacked the priests?

He did, in the following words:

"In every country and in every age the priest has been hostile to liberty; he is always in alliance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection to his own."

Apologists for the Catholic Church might reply—if they ever brought themselves to notice such criticism—that all has changed for the good since those dark, distant days. Well, let's see what George Seldes wrote in his book, published in 1936, entitled *Can These Things Be?* He said:

"In Bavaria, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and some of the Balkan States I have found the priesthood and the Fascist leaders so closely cooperating it is evident that in a great encounter they would work together as they have in the small inconsequential political storms which have passed almost unnoticed in various parts of the world."

Since the foregoing paragraph was written we have had good opportunities to watch the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in action, in Spain, where the priests, bishops and cardinals helped put guns in the hands of half-savage African Moors to kill liberty-loving Spaniards who wanted their democratic, liberal government to prevail. The Church has always been the sworn enemy of everything that's decent in humanity, and it'll never change.

One of the real reasons why the Catholic Church fights so determinedly against Russian Communism is because the hierarchy knows that the Russians will never agree to tolerate the age-old abuses of the priesthood. The Church knows its enemies, and it never forgives them. The function of the priests is well described by Jean Meslier, in *Superstition in All Ages*, as follows:

"Priests in all times have shown themselves supporters of despotism, and the enemies of public liberty. Their profession requires vile and submissive slaves, who never have the audacity to reason. In an absolute government, their great object is to secure control of the mind

of a weak and stupid prince, in order to make themselves masters of the people. Instead of leading the people to salvation, priests have always led them to servitude."

That's putting it in good, strong language, and every word of it is true. We, in the U.S., have had a close view of the behavior of the priests in Mexico, where the Church has been under just attack for two decades. Why? George A. Moreno, in the September, 1935, *Forum*, explains:

"The long historical record of the Church's persistent opposition to every liberal movement aimed at winning social justice for the people and the Church's defiant attitude toward and violent action against the Constitution of 1917 were themselves responsible for this sentiment [of opposition to the Roman Catholic Church as hitherto operating in Mexico]."

Or, let's go farther South, to Peru, and what do we find? According to Carlton Beals, in his recent book, *Fire in the Andes*, priestcraft in Peru means the following things:

"Yet today, after four centuries, the mass of the Peruvian people are ignorant or uneducated, subject to disease and death, vilely exploited; they live in unsanitary, miserable homes; their economic lot is worse than it was under the Inca emperors before the coming of the Spaniards. The Church has filled the land with beautiful edifices, but it has not taught the Indians and mestizos, who comprise 85 percent of the population, how to build decent homes or how to keep their bodies clean. The priest in Peru has catered to native superstition and ignorance, and it is doubtful, given the situation in which the masses live, that he has contributed anything to their spiritual welfare. ONE IS FORCED TO THE RELUCTANT CONCLUSION . . . THAT THE CHURCH AS AN INSTITUTION IS ORGANIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MASS EXPLOITATION AND THAT IT IS A PARTNER OF ALL THE ECONOMIC CLASSES WHICH FOSTER SUCH EXPLOITATION."

Or, let's take a little trip to the Philippines. We find that Emilio Aguinaldo, in his Letter to Major-General E. S. Otis, November 3, 1898, wrote:

"These [Catholic] priests, exercising the right of absolving in the Philippine towns, have been for a long time the absolute masters of

the life, honor, and property of the Filipinos. For this reason, it is a widely known and notorious fact, recognized by all the foreigners who have studied Philippine affairs, that the primary causes of the Philippine revolution were the ecclesiastical corporations which, taking advantage of the corrupt Spanish government, have robbed the country, preventing progress and liberty."

Why stop now, when we can turn to an authority able to discuss the practices of the Roman Catholic Church in Ethiopia, Italy, Austria, and elsewhere. Here I present a paragraph from an Open Letter (January, 1937) to Archbishop Hinsley, of Westminster, written by J. W. Poynter, formerly a member of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, in London. He writes:

"SO FAR AS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IS CONCERNED, THE LAST 10 YEARS HAVE BEEN MOST NOTABLE FOR THE CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF THAT CHURCH WITH POLITICAL TYRANNY AND SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL OBSCURANTISM. In reality the teaching of the Church is such (as I showed in the Open Letter [to Cardinal Bourne in 1927] already mentioned) as to make that identification inevitable given favorable conditions, but until recent years the conditions were such as to hide the fact from many people, and to give numbers of optimistic progressive Catholics the idea that the Church had abandoned or modified its old spirit. That illusion can be entertained no longer. IN 1929 THE PRESENT POPE MADE A TREATY WITH ITALIAN FASCISM, AND AS A RESULT THE CHURCH UPHOLDS THE DICTATORSHIP—with all its suppression of liberty—in that country. Further, the Pope (though professedly a lover of peace and hater of war) looked on in silence at the destruction of Ethiopia; AND WHEN THAT AGGRESSION HAD PROVED SUCCESSFUL HE CONGRATULATED ITALY ON 'THE TRIUMPHANT HAPPINESS OF A GREAT AND GOOD PEOPLE.' In Austria the liberties of the people are crushed under an iron dictatorship which was initiated by bloodshed, and which again is upheld by the Church. The Church also supports a regressive regime in Hungary. To some extent Catholics are at issue with Nazism in Germany, but it is credibly stated that the Pope is ready to come to terms if the privi-

leges of the Church are safeguarded. But the most dreadful case is that of Spain. . . . Is it the pagani or the Church which had held poor Spain in darkness for so long? YET THE CATHOLIC PAPERS OF YOUR GRACE'S OWN DIOCESE ARE LAUDING WITH HIGH PRAISES THE REACTIONARIES WHO WOULD BRING THE DARKNESS BACK AGAIN WHEN AT LONG LAST SOME SIGNS OF THE DAWN WERE APPEARING!"

Now let's turn to an authority a little closer to home—Bruce Bliven, one of the editors of *The New Republic*—who said, on December 23, 1936:

"IT [the Roman Catholic Church] STANDS TODAY WITH THE FORCES OF CRUELTY AND TERROR. It stands with those who deny the power of reason, the effectiveness of abstract truth. IT SUPPORTS POLICIES THAT CAN ONLY BE MADE TO WORK BY THE ENSLAVEMENT OF WHOLE POPULATIONS, BY THE DESTRUCTION OF FREEDOM OF EVERY TYPE, BY A RETURN TO CONDITIONS PARALLELING THOSE OF THE DARK AGES, but even worse because men today have an alternative of which the Dark Ages knew nothing."

Thomas Jefferson's words—quoted at the beginning of this piece—were true when he wrote them, are true today, and will be true just as long as the world has to endure the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. Every lover of freedom, liberty, tolerance, free inquiry, progress, democracy, popular rule, and the like, knows that one of the greatest obstacles to social advancement, if not the greatest, is the world-wide, reactionary, liberty-hating Roman Catholic Church.

* * *

What are "treers"?

Treers are persons who hire themselves out to take rich persons' dogs for daily walks. In Chicago, treers charge \$1.75 per week for taking a dog out to his favorite tree twice a day, half an hour each time. Treers are permitted to lead their charges to fire plugs and lamp posts, but it's considered more professional to head for a tree. And that, my friends, is just another way of making a living.

* * *

Please offer some suggestions that will help one who is seeking mental health.

In my own life I find it rather helpful to remember these words,

"Keep little things little," when problems begin to assail me. We are so given to inflating our current trials. A thing will look ominous today—but tomorrow's sun may dissolve the black fog. So, I often say to myself: *"Keep little things little."* Again, when I bump into a series of incidents that really give me cause for worry, I say, *"This too will pass!"* Again, there are certain cases when I catch myself in time with the remark: *"Never complain; never explain."* In other words, if you have to take a sock on the jaw, meet it half way, even though it hurts; and once you outline a course of action that strikes you as being the solution of your ills, don't wear yourself out explaining. Do it as though you believed it was the precise thing to do, for once we begin explaining ourselves, we find little time for anything else. Again, whenever possible, try to be the master of your financial affairs. In other words, the old adage, *"Don't spend more than you take in,"* makes for good mental health as well as good business. And that's about all I can think of.

Now let's turn to The Cleveland Academy of Medicine's bulletin, which contained a winning set of rules for mental health. The institution staged a contest for the best 10 rules of mental health, and the winning set follows:

1. Have a hobby; acquire pursuits which absorb your interests. Sports and "nature" are best.

2. Develop a philosophy; adapt yourself to social and spiritual surroundings.

3. Share your thoughts; cultivate companionship in thought and in feeling. Confide, confess, consult.

4. Face your fears; analyze them; daylight dismisses ghosts.

5. Balance fantasy with fact; dream, but also do; wish, but build; imagine, but ever face reality.

6. Beware of alluring escapes; alcohols, opiates and barbitals (hypnotic, habit-forming drugs) may prove faithless friends.

7. Exercise; walk, swim, golf; muscles need activity.

8. Love, but love wisely; sex is a flame which, uncontrolled, may scorch; properly guided, it will light the torch to eternity.

9. Don't become engulfed in a whirlpool of worries; call early for help. The doctor is ready for your rescue.

10. Trust in Time; be patient and hopeful; Time is a great therapist.

* * *

Is there any good source of vitamin C without having to buy expensive oranges?

Tomato juice costs less and is just as good.

* * *

Are taxis safe?

Surprisingly so. The best record I know of is that of Chicago's Yellow Cab Co., which carried 63,000,000 fares during the last four years without a single fatal accident. The cabs traveled about 160,000,000 miles.

* * *

Is the correct spelling of the new strike technique "sitdown" or "sit down"?

The correct spelling, according to the Committee for Industrial Organization, is "sit-down." Also, "stay-in."

Answering another correspondent, the source of the sit-down is hard to trace, but there may be something to the theory that it's descended from the old "slow-motion" strike used now and then in coal mines. A miner, according to the C.I.O., "would load the coal, very carefully and very slowly. Another would remove the dirt and rocks, and in so doing remove most of the coal. Sometimes it would take a whole day to load one small car."

* * *

What do you think of the way people spell the same name so many different ways?

I don't think much of it, but I don't know what to do in the way of a remedy. Look what little Katy does when she gets wound up: Katherine, Katharine, Catherine. Catharine. Kathryn, Cathrine, Cathryn, and Kathrine. This is one of those things you just have to put up with.

* * *

Which birds are unable to fly?

Ostriches, the New Zealand kiwis, the Australian cassowaries and emus, and penguins.

* * *

Why is the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod called the "Jayhawk Nazi"?

Kansas, of course, is the Jayhawk State, and Winrod's headquarters are in Wichita, Kansas. That makes him a Jayhawker. In addition, he's a Nazi, according to clear proofs presented by L. M. Birkhead, of Kansas Semitism in Germany and discovered that Winrod is an agent of Julius

Streicher, the world's most notorious Jew-baiter. This Winrod swine is one of the worst hate-mongers in the country. If he could have his way, he would establish in this country the horrors of the Hitler-Goebbels-Streicher gangster-regime.

My little son is given to sucking his thumb. What shall I do?

Perhaps you'd better explain to him that if he doesn't stop he may never be a successful hitch-hiker.

Every now and then I read that someone or other has been chosen champion liar. Can you give me a sample or two of their whoppers?

Here are a pair of whoppers that are supposed to be very good, but frankly I don't care for that form of humor. I've heard lots of these supposedly funny lies, and I'm still to bust out with even a faint snicker. But, there's no telling; some readers may like this sort of thing:

WHOPPER NO. 1

Out on the old family farm in Kansas, I had the most harrowing experience of my life. We had just finished planting the corn crop when an exceptional rain storm came along. It rained for a week! When it stopped and we ventured out we discovered that the corn was growing so fast that you could see it go up. This called for immediate shucking so that the corn would not grow out of reach.

I was working so feverishly at this task that my overalls caught on an ear of corn, and before I could get loose I was hoisted off, 'way off the ground. Well, I screamed and hollered until one of the hands heard me. Everyone stopped work and set about chopping down the stalk. This job took three weeks. And to keep me from starving called for an ingenious scheme. My father shot biscuits to me out of a cannon.

WHOPPER NO. 2

I was a youngster vacationing in the Sierras with my grandfather. One day while he sat on the doorstep of his cabin, idly blowing smoke-rings, I was playing near some bushes. Suddenly, a big grizzly appeared and knocked me sprawling. He was standing over my prostrate form, paws and jaws ready for business.

Old Granddad was a fast thinker and straight shooter. But he didn't have time to reach for his gun. So he just blew a ten-inch smoke-

ring right over the bear's snout. It jammed there and held his jaws shut. I scrambled to safety while the bear was endeavoring to claw the smoke-ring loose.

Is it true that certain oranges are treated with ethylene gas? If so, why?

Those green-colored oranges that used to be a drug on the market are sold everywhere, but they aren't green any longer. Spraying them with ethylene gas changes their color to the much-sought orange hue. There's no evidence that the treatment does any damage, except that one buys an article he'd be more inclined to reject if he knew what it really was like. And he pays enough to be entitled to good, properly ripened fruit. I tell you the consumer is treated like an eternal sucker by these tricksters. The consumer, as usual, takes it where it hurts without so much as a whimper.

The official Nazi press is giving a great deal of space to a document which is supposed to prove that Benjamin Franklin was an anti-Semite and urged a constitutional ban on Jews. Please comment.

I gave considerable attention to this fabrication about two years ago, at which time I showed that the whole business was a crude forgery. Dr. Charles A. Beard, our greatest historian, investigated the literature and branded it a canard, but the American Hitlerites, of the type of the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, went right on using the despicable stuff. Now the lie has traveled to Germany, where the Nazis pounced on it with shouts of glee. I see that the Franklin lie has been growing rapidly during the past few years. When first distributed, the quotation consisted of a few short sentences, but now the brazen libel has been added to until it fills about a half column of space. The lie grows, but the truth which exposes the lie languishes. The Nazis know this simple fact, which explains why they are never discouraged when a truth-seeker exposes their lying literature. They merely shrug their shoulders and order new printings of the fabrications.

According to the Nazis, Franklin is supposed to have appeared before the American Congress, in 1789, shortly before his death, and delivered a violent attack on the Jews, branding

them as destroyers, mercenaries, cheats, exploiters, grafters and vampires. Franklin is supposed to have followed this attack with the advice that the Constitution provide for the exclusion of all Jews lest "within 200 years they will stream into this country in such numbers that they will rule and destroy us and change our form of government for which we Americans shed our blood and sacrificed life, property and personal freedom." He is also supposed to have warned his hearers that if "the Jews are not excluded, in less than 200 years our children will be working in the fields to feed the Jews while they remain in the counting houses gleefully rubbing their hands."

Of course, the whole thing is a rank fake. The Franklin statement is supposed to have been found in a diary or journal kept by Charles Pinckney at the Philadelphia convention, but scholars point out that Pinckney never kept such a journal, none is in existence, and the sentences credited to his journal are forgeries that are as palpably false as the discredited Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

As one authority expressed it, the Franklin statement, itself, "is incongruous inasmuch as one of Dr. Franklin's chief characteristics was his love of liberty." These obvious lies are useful to the Nazi type of mind and therefore remain in circulation, despite the demonstrable fact that they are manufactured only for hate-provoking purposes.

* * *

Do you know anything about the religious beliefs of Charles P. Steinmetz, the electrical wizard?

Steinmetz, all his life, was an Atheist. He never missed a chance to expose the assumptions of religion.

* * *

Who are the real owners of the gold in the U.S. treasury?

The gold in the U.S. treasury belongs to the U.S. government.

* * *

How would you define a hillbilly singer?

A hillbilly singer warbles through his nose by ear.

* * *

Doesn't it haunt all writers that everything has been said and done before?

It doesn't bother me in the slightest, because I know things are happening right along that are important

enough to be commented on, even though some of the things happened before in history. There have been tyrants and dictators before, but that doesn't alter the fact that Hitler and Mussolini are world forces that must be reckoned with today. To me, writing isn't a game but a weapon with which to fight. So, when I see sadistic brutes like the two mass-murderers just mentioned or other savages who would arouse racial hatreds in an attempt to encourage persecutions of minorities, I fight back with the best machine gun I know of—my typewriter. Of course, words will never stop a Fascist degenerate, but words can be used to warn others still free from falling into their clutches. Such issues—and I could list dozens—make writing worth the bother. These horrors have happened before, but we who believe in the possibility of a truly civilized social order don't surrender to a defeatist attitude. We know the struggle is long and hard, but it's worth the effort.

And, while I'm at it, let me insist that I don't believe that "everything has been said and done before." That's an idea that is held only by those who have a superficial grasp of the history of man's thought and activity. Every year things are done and said that were never done or said before. When Sir Isaac Newton worked out his theory of gravitation, he was on new ground. The same goes for Einstein when he gave the world the set of ideas that goes by the name of Relativity. Our scholars are exploring new ground every day. As for our doers, when we got the products of the minds of our great discoverers, inventors, scientists, chemists, etc., we became the heirs of new possessions. Need I give a long list? Look at Madame Curie's radium, Edison's talking machine, moving pictures, the electric light, and a hundred other great and useful discoveries. Look at the radio, television, sewing machines, electric refrigerators, motor cars, and so on down the line. Today, hundreds of quiet, modest scientists are at work in great laboratories trying to break down the atom in an attempt to use the power that holds together the atom, as a new servant of industrial man. It may take a century to win that great battle, but when the victory is achieved human-

ity will be on new ground. The lesson of civilization is that everything hasn't been said and done before.

* * *
Does the U.S. have the biggest divorce rate?

No. Japan comes first. The U.S. is second.

* * *
How much shoe leather does the average person wear out in a year?

Some one has figured that a person normally grinds into dust a pound of shoe leather per year. As it's estimated that 300,000,000 people in the world wear shoes made of leather—the figure looks rather small to me—the amount of leather ground into waste weighs about 300,000,000 pounds.

* * *
How much waste is there through wear and tear on the world's gold and silver coins?

An estimate I've seen on this point claims a ton of gold and 85 tons of silver are worn off the coins per year.

* * *
What is the average selling price of radios in the U.S., and how many machines did we produce last year?

During 1936 we produced about 8,825,000 radios, which were sold at an average price of \$57.

* * *
How much business does a mail order catalogue produce, compared to the catalogue's cost?

Hardly any two mail order concerns show the same proportion of sales to catalogue costs. One successful, large mail order house says that each \$100 it puts into its catalogue will bring back \$1,000 in sales, which strikes me as an extremely high ratio.

* * *
Must a blanket be heavy in order to be warm?

This is a popular notion that lacks factual support. It isn't the quantity of wool that counts but the way the blanket is napped.

* * *
H. E. Moore, Newton Center, Mass., wants Freeman readers to know that he paid considerable sums to the A. O. Leonard Corporation, 70 Fifth Ave., New York City, and The Way Company, Detroit, Mich., for their treatments for deafness and now is compelled to call himself "a victim." Freeman readers are warned against advertising companies which sell gadgets to deaf persons. They should invariably go to an eye, ear and nose doctor—a specialist—who will be

able to serve them scientifically. If a regular doctor can't help you it's pretty certain these mail order concerns won't be able to do you any good. Besides, it's impossible to treat physical ailments by mail. The physician must be able to deal directly with the affected parts, instead of depending on written reports from persons who are attempting self-diagnosis, which, of course, is practically impossible of achievement among laymen. Go to a regular M.D. specialist, and you'll be better off—financially and physically.

* * *
"Let me add my best wishes to the long list of others who praise The American Freeman. For sustained variety, honesty and calling them as you see them, this publication has no equal, and I read a great number of publications each month."—Frank Levine, Lynn, Mass.

* * *
Editor, The American Freeman:
No man suffered more from prejudiced minds against the promulgation of new ideas than Thomas Paine and his observation on the nature of prejudice is made illuminating by the following quotation:

"There is something exceedingly curious in the constitution and operation of prejudice. It has the singular ability of accommodating itself to all the possible varieties of the human mind. Some passions and vices are but thinly scattered among mankind, and find only here and there a fitness of reception. But prejudice, like the spider, makes every place its home. It has neither taste nor choice of situation, and all that it requires is room. Everywhere, except in fire or water, a spider will live. So, let the mind be as naked as the walls of an empty and forsaken tenement, gloomy as a dungeon, or ornamented with the richest abilities of thinking, let it be hot, cold, dark or light, lonely or inhabited, still prejudice, if undisturbed, will fill it with cobwebs, and live, like the spider, where there seems nothing to live on. If the one prepares her food by poisoning it to her palate and her use, the other does the same; and as several of our passions are strongly characterized by the animal world, prejudice may be denominated the spider of the mind."

Equally pertinent and equally true is the quotation in regard to racial and religious prejudice, and with the elimination of prejudice against new ideas, the eradication of racial and religious prejudice from the minds of men should quickly follow. This quotation should be published in our school books and

impressed upon the mind of every child; religious institutions should make it a motto and many a home should have it carved above its entrance.

As Thomas Paine rarely made an analysis of a thing he sought to destroy without likewise proposing a beneficial exchange, the following observation as an antidote is appropriately quoted:

"Letters, the tongue of the world, have in some measure brought all mankind acquainted, and by an extension of their uses are every day promoting some new friendship. Through them distant nations become capable of conversation, and losing by degrees the awkwardness of strangers, and the moroseness of suspicion, they learn to know and understand each other. Science,

the partisan of no country, but the beneficent patroness of all, has liberally opened a temple where all may meet. Her influence on the mind, like the sun on the chilled earth, has long been preparing it for higher cultivation and further improvement. The philosopher of one country sees not an enemy in the philosopher of another: he takes his seat in the temple of science, and asks not who sits beside him."

Thomas Paine was great in more ways than one, but none of his accomplishments exceeded those of his efforts to help man to live in peace and understanding with his fellow-man.

JOSEPH LEWIS, President, Freethinkers of America.

Editor, The American Freeman:

When I was about 10 years old my teacher, who was a mathematician, taught me how to make an abbreviated multiplication. I am now 68 years old and have never met one person acquainted with the manner of proceeding.

It has occurred to me that some of your readers who are fond of figures and problems would be interested in it.

No matter how many figures are contained in the multiplicand or in the multiplier, the procedure is the same.

Let us assume that 5678
is multiplied by 1234

The product will be 7006652

This is how it is done:

4x8 equals 32, write down 2
and carry 3) plus 4x7 plus 3x8 equals 55, write down 5
and carry 5) plus 4x6 plus 3x7 plus 2x8 equals 66, write down 6
and carry 6) plus 4x5 plus 3x6 plus 2x7 plus 1x8 equals 66, write down 6
and carry 6) plus 3x5 plus 2x6 plus 1x7 equals 40, write down 0
and carry 4) plus 2x5 plus 1x6 equals 20, write down 0
and carry 2) plus 1x5 equals 7, write down 7

Suppose now that 70983
is multiplied by 124

The product will be 8801892

4x3 equals 12, write down 2
and carry 1) plus 4x8 plus 2x3 equals 39, write down 9
and carry 3) plus 4x9 plus 2x8 plus 1x3 equals 58, write down 8
and carry 5) plus 4x0 plus 2x9 plus 1x8 equals 31, write down 1
and carry 3) plus 4x7 plus 2x0 plus 1x9 equals 40, write down 0
and carry 4) plus 2x7 plus 1x0 equals 18, write down 8
and carry 1) plus 1x7 equals 8, write down 8

WILLIAM FALBE, U.S. Commissioner, Puerto Rico.

What is the state of American public opinion in the matter of legalized prostitution as the best way to curb venereal diseases?

Fortune's quarterly survey, January, 1937, questioned a certain number of people in the U.S. and found that five-eighths favor legalized, controlled prostitution as a measure of public health. The answers:

	Total	Sex		Age	
		Men	Women	Under 40	Over 40
Yes	50.5%	52.7%	48.3%	52.0%	49.2%
No	30.9	32.8	28.9	30.4	31.3
Don't know	18.6	14.5	22.8	17.6	19.5

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