

**Eleventh Series**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

E. Haldeman-Julius

**ELEVENTH SERIES**

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**By E. Haldeman-Julius**

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# Questions and Answers

A friend offers the opinion that if Herbert Hoover had been elected for four more years, in 1932, we would now be better off than we are with Roosevelt. His argument has it that we would all have become so desperately poverty-stricken that a rebellion would have resulted, which would have ushered in a Socialist government.

The idea that things should be made worse in order to make them better is unreasonable, illogical, unsound—and dangerous. The Russian Communists, before their recent conversion to the principles of Democracy, held—along with Communists in the U.S. and other countries—that the horrors of Fascism are inevitable, in order to prepare for the final collapse of Capitalism and the inauguration of Socialism. This theory went up against the cold, bitter facts of reality, and we know how dangerous that belief was and how much damage it did to the human race, and is still doing. By maintaining that the decline into Fascist barbarism was necessary and inevitable, the Communists, through this defeatist philosophy, helped bring on Hitlerism. Instead of preparing the way for Socialism, Nazism destroyed the defenses of labor, with the consequence that Hitler's regime rests on mountains of arms while the disorganized, impotent toilers stand by, with hope almost dead. Before the advent of Hitlerism, German labor was within sight of a social order based on the collective ownership and democratic management of the large-scale means of production, distribution and exchange. Where is that goal now? Set back years and years, maybe decades. The lesson, it seems to me, is very simple. You can't make progress by inviting reaction. You can't go forward by moving backward. You can't advance civilization by insisting on the notion that savagery is an essential interlude. You can't promote culture by permitting a gang of hoodlums to destroy universities, burn books, hound liberal thinkers, and persecute non-conforming professors. The way to go for-

ward is to go forward. The evils of civilization can be remedied only by building more civilization. The faults of Democracy can be corrected only by more Democracy. It's a delusion to imagine that a desperate, miserable, starved population is more apt to reconstruct society than workers who enjoy high standards of living, have access to the best in modern thought, have political power to direct governmental policies, and have industrial power to hold their gains in mines, mills and factories. Crush the spirit of the workers with mass unemployment, disease, mental distress, and the like, and you corrupt fine, upstanding workers into degenerate slum proletarians. People who live their lives in the gutters of the community all too frequently surrender to crime and violence; too rarely express themselves through constructive action in the direction of social progress. No, the lesson of modern civilization is that progress depends on those who have the means and the leisure to live decently, improving themselves and their economic lot from year to year as they set themselves the task of creating a system that rests on cooperative activity and social security.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

In your volume, "The Fun I Get Out of Life," I encounter several discussions about the relative merits of the two words "Agnostic" and "Atheist." I know, of course, that you wrote most of this before the inception of the late lamented "Militant Atheist" of stormy memory, and I seem to sense a firmer stand in your most recent writings for forthright "Atheist." But since the question has, from time to time, been put to me too, I have had occasion to reflect on it somewhat, and therefore wish to record a few observations.

It has appeared to me that in accepting the term Agnostic, we give comfort, however meager, to the proponents of religion. For if we only admit that we do not know there is a god, a soul and immortality, we seem to imply that there is a possibility that someone, someday MAY find evidence of such a thing.



If the whole race, in some remote future, becomes as objective minded as you and me—is, or is not, that fine conceit?—and this religious foolishness is nevermore heard or thought of, and if then a sprinkling of poor unfortunates suddenly broaches the subject and seeks to proselyte everyone else with it, will the leaders of thought of that day be really honest, or even quite well balanced, if all they can say will be, as Joseph McCabe has said, “psychologically we are Atheists, but logically we are Agnostics”? Such an answer, though today it seems the very spirit of reasonableness and scientific caution, will then surely be considered evidence of degeneration and will almost as certainly lead to requiring them, along with these others, to submit to the humane and effective therapy which that more gracious age will have developed to rectify such aberrations.

Nor will it do to object that this is THIS age and that people ARE not as sane as they will be. In spite of their great numbers and the vast power of their pompous pretensions, they have, in regard to these religious notions, really nothing but pomp and pretension to bring forth in their support; no evidence of scientific worth bolsters their cause any more than it will that of the pathetic minority I have hypothesized above, and since there are even today a few who are as objective in outlook as the majority is ever likely to become, are these few not justified in taking a position at least as positive as their more numerous brethren in a remote future are likely to take?

The whole religious hokum, it seems to me, might be put on the same plane as such ideas as this: that more exhaustive research will show that the earth is flat; that it may even turn out to be concave, with the rest of the universe within; that when the earth becomes over-populated we shall start to colonize the planet Uranus; or that the lump of radium at the center of the earth will presently be dug out. I, for one, believe that I am an Atheist, just as I also believe that the earth is approximately a sphere, on the convex outside of which we live, that Uranus will never be colonized by man nor the center of the earth bored or reached in any other way, and for the same reasons: the inherent impossibility of any other conclusion, because of the nature of the materials of which we and the universe are composed, of the way in which they are put together or capable of being put together—all of which we can perceive and understand, and because of the limitations which all this imposes. If some crack-brained anthropoid had not pulled these religious ideas out of the realm of crude fan-

tasy eons ago, and if myriads of others, scarcely more agile mentally, had not by their solemn and servile acceptance and elaboration of them down to this very day, placed about them an aura of respectability and verity, it is quite unthinkable that anyone in this present-day world would give them even a moment's thought, except possibly to classify them suitably in some department of psycho-pathology.

Maplewood, Mo.

C. A. LANG

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What is your opinion of the position taken by some prominent Jews to the effect that anti-Semitism could be held down if Jews would refrain from taking high governmental positions.

I've heard the statement many times that Jews in general would be better off if men like Brandeis and Cardozo refrained from becoming justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, the idea being that anti-Jewish feelings are provoked by such accessions to power. That, of course, is only a fear, and fear is an emotional reaction, not an expression of reason. It's pretty useless to try to argue with a fear-ridden person. But let's try to look at a few interesting facts.

Recently the American Institute of Public Opinion polled American lawyers on the subject of the Supreme Court, in which about 8 to 2 voted against President Roosevelt's plan to reform that body. This, naturally, was expected, because the legal profession is notoriously conservative. But what was even more interesting—and somewhat unexpected—about this poll was the vote on the question of which members of the Supreme Court they considered most favorably. Here, naturally, was a chance to express anti-Semitism, should such a feeling be provoked because Jews happen to be elevated to positions of great responsibility, there being two Jews on the bench. The poll showed three overwhelming favorites—Cardozo, Brandeis and Hughes, in the order given. Thus, the two Jews, who were expected by some Jews to provoke anti-Semitism, were the very ones to receive the vote of confidence of the American bar.

Still another interesting fact should be recorded. The same poll submitted the question of which man would be best able to serve the nation should the President and Senate be called on to name a new justice. And here

the most votes went to Felix Frankfurter, the liberal, who is famous as a result of the work he has done as professor of law at Harvard and for his services to the President as "Brain-truster No. 1." This man, who may in time become a justice of the Supreme Court, is a Jew. Thus, there could conceivably be three Jews on that bench, instead of two, as now. Americans usually want the best qualified individuals to serve the people, and that means the elimination of "numerous clauses" in matters of race or religion. Such being the case, Jews should be proud to see individuals of their race appointed to high positions, provided they are highly qualified to serve the community.

\* \* \*

Your statement that Hitler's regime has done great harm to Germany's universities should be supported by figures showing what student attendance was before Hitler became dictator and what it is today.

In 1931, university enrollments in Germany were 126,537; in 1936, 76,808. These figures are from official German sources.

It's important to bear in mind that the corruption and crippling of Germany's magnificent universities are the result of a definite, clear-cut policy of anti-intellectualism. Nazi leaders—from Hitler down to the infamous anti-Semite, Julius Streicher—hate education and are always ready to do their worst to destroy learning. The Nazi hatred of culture and education is expressed bluntly by Julius Streicher, in a Berlin dispatch to *The Chicago Tribune*, as follows:

"Too much education ruins character. Mostly small persons who were not overburdened with brainy book learning were the ones who fought with us for the Nazi cause."

The Nazi mass-murderers loathe everything that is civilized, destroy everything that is precious in civilization, and nurture every savage impulse that would enthrone violence, prejudice and tyranny.

\* \* \*

What is the income of the Catholic Church in the U.S.?

The hierarchy issues no financial statements, as it's considered more expedient to keep such information a secret. But certain Catholic laymen have put the Church's income, in the

U.S. alone, at \$800,000,000 per year. The American real estate holdings of the Catholic Church are valued at \$1,000,000,000. It takes a lot of money to support four cardinals, 16 archbishops, 102 bishops, 29,782 priests, and 75,000 nuns. In addition there are thousands of teachers in parochial schools, colleges and universities, and large editorial and mechanical staffs on about 50 Catholic publications. Then, of course, there are the orders and lodges, particularly the Knights of Columbus, with about 725,000 members. All these organizations cost millions of dollars annually, but they aren't figured in the total of \$800,000,000. That money goes strictly to the ecclesiastical authorities. The Catholic Church claims 20,000,000 members in this country. If this is true, it costs \$40 per head per year to grease the way into paradise. I accept all the figures in this paragraph as reasonable, except the one dealing with the Church's membership. This claim of 20,000,000 I refuse to accept, for it seems to me that it's grossly exaggerated. I'd deflate it by about 5,000,000.

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"Copies of your unique publication, *The American Freeman*, for which I subscribed some weeks since, have begun to arrive, and I am very much pleased with them. While I find myself in sharp disagreement with some of the opinions expressed therein, you compel my admiration for your broad and liberal spirit; your strong, even passionate, desire for complete freedom of expression and debate, and your hot indignation over racial or any other form of persecution. You certainly display an amazing versatility in presenting such a vast and various amount of material for thought as you do in answering queries to *The Freeman*."—R. Y. Young, Wheeler, Mont.

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"I was well pleased with the 10-pound Grab-Bag, which cost me only \$1. It lasted me two months."—H. Edward Swigert, Hannibal, Mo.

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A Catholic priest, writing in a newspaper published in the West Indies, told his readers, in reply to a question, that as an historical authority Joseph McCabe has been fully exposed and discredited. Please comment.

Joseph McCabe writes that he has met that statement in publications issued in England, the U.S., Australia, India, Canada and elsewhere. It seems as though Catholic writers

have agreed among themselves to dismiss McCabe with that single assertion. An examination of that statement will convince any reasonable and intelligent person that the Church's apologists are mendacious and treat their followers like so many dupes. Says McCabe:

"Since no Catholic ever replied either to my 'True Story of the Roman Catholic Church' (a history of the Church in six good-sized volumes) or any other of 30 or 40 historical works of mine, I wondered. But my West Indies correspondent pressed the priest for detail, and all that he could reply was that 33 years EARLIER I had, in a totally unimportant phrase in my 'Haeckel's Critics Answered' (1902), given the name Lacordaire instead of that of some other French preacher! There are hundreds of thousands of statements in my historical works, since they run to millions of words, yet because some Jesuit more than 30 years ago noticed this trivial lapse of memory, the statement is still made repeatedly that my historical works have been exposed and discredited by scholars. What is one to call that? It is deliberate deception of the public."

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I don't care that you think Frank Harris could write only moderately well: time will sift the heap. When you call his autobiography a dull piece of work, I can only grin. You'd lose on that charge before any jury of ranking men of letters, and you know it. Harris never penned a dull line in his life, any more than he ever carried on a dull conversation. You could not have used a more inept adjective in connection with Harris.

You have published a number of Harris' works for years, and one finds it rather hard to believe that your screaming invective is the result of finding that you are still on the wrong side of the ledger with him. Surely a man of your wide business and editorial experience has lost a few hundred dollars, now and then, without receiving even a poor entertainment in return. Yet for Frank Harris you have only a stream of filth such as the editor of a Ku Klux sheet might use in denouncing the activities of a Jewish missionary among Texas Negroes. "Sneak, liar, snob, beggar, swindler, thief, blackmailer, prostitute," and at last, "I'd better cut it short now before I begin telling some really personal things about Frank Harris." Not one word to drop on the other end of the scales, save such

as one might fling to a street bawd. Here they are, the best you have to say for Frank Harris: "... I couldn't help liking the dirty sneak ... he was worth everything he cost, for the dirty scallawag always put on a good show." Those are the lights in your picture of Frank Harris—your fairest strokes; the rest is all black.

And your black is black as Hell. "... any propaganda office could hire his pen by paying him \$25 more than the opposition. He fought for Germany because Germany paid him, like any other literary prostitute."

And you tell us that you knew Frank Harris!

Did no one ever tell you of the Frank Harris, who, long after the Germans were out of the picture, and while his magazine was being slowly strangled by withdrawal of advertising and the persecutions of war-time Postmaster General Burleson, nevertheless fought on for amnesty to conscientious objectors? who cried out against the Allied blockade that continued starving children to death months after the Armistice was signed? who pleaded the cause of Jim Larkin and 'Gene Debs? Did you never glimpse that Frank Harris?

Bernard Shaw knew Frank Harris. Harris wrote a life of Shaw but died before it could be published. Shaw proofread the ms. and added a long postscript. In this book Harris records that Shaw was more than kind to him in money matters, as well as in other ways. A letter from Shaw to Harris, given in this biography, shows that Shaw too heard the rumors which you believe to be "absolutely true." Let me quote:

"... you cannot have a career in London as a journalist and politician unless you can be trusted to take Mrs. Humphrey Ward in to dinner and leave her under the impression that you are either a very respectable or a very charming man.

"You may say that this may be true, but why rub it into you now that you are out of London? Well, you are out of London; but you have left a reputation there, part of which consists of vague impressions that in some way or other you made yourself impossible and had to go off to Monte Carlo and then to America, where you publicly shook the dust of London from your feet. People whose curiosity is roused by your writings ask, 'What was wrong with Frank Harris? Wasn't he a Jew, or a financial blackmailer-journalist, or another Verlaine, or a German spy, or something?' It is necessary to reply, 'No, he was simply the most impossible ruffian on the face of the earth,' and explain

in the sense that I have explained above. As to myself of course I am a ruffian. Set a ruffian to catch a ruffian. But I am only ruffianly nor-nor-west. Though it be ruffianism yet there's method in't.

Yours ever,

G. Bernard Shaw."

And then Harris says: "I have personal reasons to congratulate myself on Shaw's kindness of heart, for when I left France and went to America and told what Shaw and others have since proved to be the truth about the war and England's partial responsibility for it, I found that I was being treated in England as a sort of traitor because I preferred to be loyal to truth rather than to English interests. The baser sort howled at me in every newspaper, and even men like Arnold Bennett, who had followed me with praise for years, were not ashamed now to hint at corruption in order to explain my admiration of certain German virtues. But when I was attacked in the 'New Statesman,' Shaw defended me in his own way with the old kindness."

It doesn't seem possible that you and Shaw have the same person in mind, Mr. Haldeman-Julius. Perhaps this explanation of Shaw's, in the postscript, will help us with the enigma:

"He (Harris) had not one career but two, simultaneous but on different planes. On the imaginative plane the invariable generosity of his transports of indignation, scorn, pity, chivalry, and defiance of snobberies, powers, and principalities enabled him to retain the regard of people who had the same sympathies. But on the prosaic plane of everyday life he got into difficulties and incurred maledictions from which it was not always possible to defend him. These difficulties are not worth bothering about now."

You have given us your epitaph of Frank Harris, Mr. Haldeman-Julius, now let me give you Bernard Shaw's from his postscript to this same life of himself by Harris: "I think I know pretty well all the grievances his detractors had against him; but if I had to write his epitaph it should run, 'Here lies a man of letters who hated cruelty and injustice and bad art, and never spared them in his own interest. R.I.P.'"

Williamsburg, Ohio SAM AUSMAN

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What is your opinion of the De Valera government and Irish Catholicism in general?

The Catholic Church's policy in Ireland has, for many decades, been confusing and contradictory. The

hierarchy is divided because England is rich and able to give the Church many favors in return for open or hidden support. On the other hand, Catholic Ireland is poor and unable to produce the volume of wealth the priests want. So, as a result, during the past century, we have found cases wherein the Church helped England to the injury of its Catholic dupes in Ireland.

But De Valera's appearance on the scene put the heavier weights of Catholicism on the scales in favor of his regime, because he was willing to give the Church more than it dared expect. De Valera's regime has become almost an annex of the Catholic Church, and the results are calamitous. Education has been Catholicized. The priests have been given almost complete control of the minds of Irish youth and adults. The press is heavily censored in favor of the Church. Anti-Catholic propaganda and criticism are frowned on, and those who would indulge in this luxury do so at their peril. In addition, the De Valera government bows down to the Church so abjectly that it now supports a censorship over outside publications that suggests the regimes of Hitler, Mussolini, and Spain under the monarchy. I have seen many of my own publications kicked out of Ireland again and again. Even "respectable" publications—like the literary section of *The London Times*—have been confiscated by De Valera's Catholic-minded henchmen. Any kind of literature that contains even suggestions of criticisms of the Catholic religion, that discusses questions like scientific sexology or birth control, or that indulges in political ideas unacceptable to the parasitic priests, will get booted out of Ireland, and that disgraceful condition will continue as long as the Catholic Church has a De Valera to do its bidding.

As I've written several times in the past, Ireland, for many years, had numerous Freethinkers and anti-clericals, but the De Valera government hounded them into silence or openly suppressed them when they dared challenge the black minions of superstition and mass exploitation. I remember vividly, during the days of the great Sinn Féin movement, how

Irish leaders, in America for the purpose of aiding in the work of independence, were Freethinkers and anticlericals to a man. But that element has been persecuted—at the behest of the priests—while the De Valera type of politician, who can always be relied on to serve the ends of priestcraft, goes to power and prestige, with Catholicism in the saddle and the Irish masses in a form of subjection that resembles the Catholic-Fascism of Poland and other benighted countries. As I've said a hundred times in the past, wherever one sees reaction, exploitation, tyranny and profit-producing superstition, there will the Catholic Church be seen as a part of the conspiracy to keep the masses in ignorance and squalor. Ireland is no exception to the rule.

One finds the hand of Catholicism even in pagan and heathen lands—like Japan, for example. How many people know, for instance, that the Vatican, since 1936, has had diplomatic relations with the Mikado and that Japan now has an ambassador at Vatican City? Very few. The press has hardly mentioned it. Yet, such things are literally true. Why? Because the Catholic Church, in conjunction with Italian Fascism and Hitlerism, wants to help in the coming struggle to destroy the Soviet Union. The Pope is in politics and international diplomacy up to his eyebrows, and his behavior in Japan helps prove it. The Pope would establish diplomatic relations with Satan himself, if such a policy would enable him to get closer to the day when he could destroy the Russian government and the liberalism and democracy of non-communistic lands. The Pope will quarrel with Hitler because of certain Nazi measures, but at the same time he will stand by Hitler in a war to destroy a country in which the working class is trying to build a new civilization.

Let us not forget that this accord between the Pope and Tokio was established while Japan was murdering thousands of Chinese and annexing Manchukuo. And it's even here that we see the hand of Catholicism. For information on this, let's turn to a French Catholic magazine, *The Revue des Deux Mondes*, which, in its issue of January 15, 1935 (page 297), said:

"Japan today respects Christian-

ity in general, but Catholicism particularly. It is just as favorable as Russia is unfavorable. No Japanese prince or mission now passes through Rome without paying its homage to the Sovereign Pontiff. A short time after it had given birth to the new State of Manchukuo the Japanese government advised its ward to turn to the Holy See with a request that it should be officially recognized: an event of some importance seeing that the Powers refused to recognize it and Japan had left the League of Nations. These Japanese-Manchukuoan overtures did not secure formal recognition, but, as the Catholic missions in Manchukuo supported them, the Vatican appointed a French Vicar Apostolic to negotiate with the government of Manchukuo about religious affairs."

Of course, we who know the history of the Catholic Church know that the words "about religious affairs" mean exactly nothing. The real purpose of the Japanese militarists—most of them unbelievers in any kind of religion—was to get official recognition for their puppet state and thereby build the foundation on which to erect a structure of world-wide recognition. Here, of course, the Vatican must move cautiously, for American opinion—which is opposed to Japan's campaign in China—mustn't be offended, for it's from this country, after all, that much of the Vatican's money comes, especially since Catholic Europe has fallen into such a chronic state of financial weakness.

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"Some time ago a friend brought me a bundle of *The Freeman*. I think it is the finest paper I have ever seen. The copies have been read till they are worn and tattered, but they are immensely interesting just the same and I pass them on to others as soon as I have finished reading them. I believe you deserve to be called the nation's best educator. I am enclosing postal money order for a complete set of your *Questions and Answers*, in nine volumes."—Arnt Gangnes, Port Orchard, Wash.

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A new elementary German history text book that is now being used in the Reich's schools says: "In the summer of 1934 there was an armed revolt of Marxists in Vienna and other places in Austria. In the course of the bloody battles which ensued the Chancellor was mortally wounded." Is this true?

This is another Nazi falsehood. The entire world—except regimented

Germany—knows that the Vienna putsch (July, 1934) which reached its climax in the murder of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss, was arranged by Hitler's henchmen in Munich and carried out by Austrian Nazis. Marxists had nothing to do with this uprising of Austrian Fascism. Several ringleaders who were hanged by the Austrian authorities for Dollfuss' assassination were known Nazis.

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"The Freeman is the most interesting magazine that comes to my home. I am sorry it is not coming weekly."—Clarence Jonk, Genoa, Wis.

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A German text book, which is used in Hitler's elementary schools, says that France has "rejected all the peace proposals of Chancellor Adolf Hitler." Please comment.

The statement is false. Herr (knob-polishing) Hitler offered a pact in Western Europe in order to be free to make war on the Soviet Union. It was pointed out at the time that this wasn't a peace pact but an attempt to localize the next war.

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"I am glad I discovered your lively, authentic, educational and interesting paper. I am convinced that here is a monthly paper really worth the money. It seems so many papers are afraid to tell the truth. I notice that you give the facts and are outspoken, and that's what I like."—Stevens Heartsill, Brownfield, Tex.

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A German history text book attacks French liberalism and adds: "The liberalism of the French Revolution demands 'liberty' for every one so he may do whatever he desires without consideration for others." Please comment.

Such a statement betrays the worst kind of intellectual dishonesty. The liberalism of France, or any other democratic country, doesn't sanction "liberty" without regard for the rights of others. If this German statement were true, any Frenchman would have the right to go into the street and murder the first person he met, because he might desire to commit such an anti-social act. Democracy insists on liberty, but at the same time holds the individual responsible for the social results of his acts. I must apologize to my readers for indulging in such trite, obvious comments—observations that are known to our average school boys—but, in these times of organized lying by Fascist propagandists who aim to destroy

world democracy, one must discuss the simplest and most patent facts as though they were brand-new discoveries.

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There is a great deal of hysterical shouting by enemies of labor because—so they allege—the stay-in strikes are revolutionary. Please comment.

A strike is revolutionary or conservative, according to the character of men and women engaged in the demonstration. A strike can be called revolutionary only when it's conducted by persons who have in view social revolution. Since the stay-in strikers are mostly Democrats who supported, and still support, Roosevelt, they are not revolutionists but sound supporters of the Capitalist system of society.

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While I appreciate the fact that you are overburdened answering questions on various matters, I would like to have you advise me what you think of the enclosed insurance plan. The attached circulars were secured after listening to a broadcast, and while reports have it that it is a "good" policy, I am somewhat wary of a policy with such a low yearly premium. May I have your unbiased opinion?

Readers who are considering insurance policies—covering life, accident or sickness—should make inquiries at the office of their State insurance department. Each State now has a competent department which serves its people with reports on the numerous companies working the insurance field. Naturally, I can't keep records on thousands of companies, so, instead of asking me for information which I can get only by writing to insurance commissioners, send inquiries direct to the State officials, who will, I'm certain, give you helpful advice. Always remember that our State insurance departments are run for the protection of the public, and so far as I can learn they serve, honestly and disinterestedly, from the viewpoint of the public. There may be exceptions to this condition, but I haven't met any yet.

However, there is a basic principle to consider when buying an insurance policy. Always make sure that the company soliciting you has a license to do business in your State. That is your most important protection. If the company advises you that it has authority to do business with you

through the mails, and fails to add the vital information that it has gone through the numerous, strict formalities for soliciting business in your State, you are warned to be on your guard. I'm not even hinting that a company is crooked because it does all its business by mail. There are some very good companies doing business that way. But, by and large, the odds are more in your favor if you can get a statement from the State insurance commissioner telling you that a certain company you are asking about meets all requirements of the State.

Let me repeat: Please don't look to me for reports on our hundreds of insurance companies and their thousands of different kinds of policies. I can't cover the field because I haven't the means or the help to gather the necessary data. But I can tell you one thing you can always do with safety and the assurance you will be treated honorably, and that is to get into the habit of asking your State insurance department for facts and opinions.

I have received hundreds of questions from readers interested in insurance, and I've answered only a few of them. There are several good reasons. First of all, I answer only about 100 questions in each issue, and I get at least 500 questions from my readers each month. This means that about 400 questions must go unanswered, because of lack of space, finances, etc. Such a condition results in considerable dissatisfaction among many of my readers, who seem to forget that these columns can contain only a certain quantity of type. Type isn't made of rubber, you know, and, besides, I already get many complaints because of the small type used in this publication. If I set the material in larger type, I'd have to cut the number of questions at least 25 percent, and that would only increase the volume of complaints. Some readers blandly suggest that I increase the number of pages or turn the paper into a weekly, but I know from experience that they won't pay the expenses, though some of them will do more than their share. Thousands of readers expect me to compete with media like *The Saturday Evening Post*, which gives as much as two pounds of expensive paper

for a nickel. When I ask them for a dollar for *The Freeman*, they squawk and urge me to dress up the publication so that it'll look like one of the big 5c weeklies. They forget that a paper devoted to telling unpopular truths can expect no support from the great advertisers. When a paper actually goes so far as to point out fakes and frauds in well-advertised articles, the advertisers generally stick together and withhold revenue-producing copy. I know that—and many of my readers are familiar with the facts—but thousands of others don't, and they expect the impossible. It's necessary to bear in mind that a paper devoted to unpopular truths must always cost more than a publication which has ready access to the fleshpots of racketeering Capitalism. You have to pay more, the general make-up can't be as swell, the paper stock can't be as slick, the number of pages can't be the same—but you can get the truth out of the smaller paper, and in the end that's what you want, if you are intelligent.

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"I get a lot of enjoyment as well as much education from *The Freeman*."—A. Rudolph Greenberg, Phila., Pa.

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"In renewing my subscription to *The Freeman* I cannot refrain from congratulating you on the good work you are doing in helping to liberate the masses from the bondage of superstition and slavery. I have learned a great deal from reading your literature, for which I am thanking you."—L. M. Bartlett, Willington, Tex.

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How many pictures do our amateur photographers take?

*The Literary Digest* says 500,000,000 snapshots are taken annually by amateur photographers in the U.S. They use up 3,000,000 pounds of film and 14,000,000 pounds of printing paper per year.

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"I believe *The Freeman* gives me more information for \$1 than any other paper I could buy."—G. C. Benham, Idaho Falls, Ida.

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Is there any truth to the claim that salmon return "with unerring instinct" to the streams where they were born when their time comes to reproduce?

Professor A. G. Huntsman, of the University of Toronto, one of Canada's leading authorities on fish, reported on Atlantic salmon in a special

article in *Science*, the gist of which follows:

"On inquiry and examination of the literature, I have failed to find a single clear case of a salmon returning to its natal river from a distant place in the sea, that is, away from the neighborhood of the river mouth."

Thus does another popular notion get the medal of the Ancient Order of Bunk pinned on it.

"I enjoy reading *The Freeman* and the fearless way in which you answer questions. I also like your puzzles, which my family and I attempt to solve, sometimes unsuccessfully."—A. J. Giancola, Louisville, Ky.

Is it true that the Bible says in one place that swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning-hooks and in another place that plowshares shall be beaten into swords and pruning-hooks into spears?

Yes. The famous one about swords into plowshares will be found in Isaiah 2:4 and Micha 4:3, while the one about plowshares into swords will be found in Joel 3:10.

I heard a Nudist assert there is Biblical authority for Nudism. Please comment.

I'm afraid the gentleman is right, though he was probably being whimsical, for I've noticed that Nudists aren't usually inclined to piety, though there's a religious body in Canada that goes in for Nudism. Nudists who like to see their acts endorsed by the Good Book can point with pride to:

David, First Samuel 19:24—"And he (Saul) stripped off his clothes . . . and lay down naked all that day and all that night."

"I simply can't get any of my work done on the day *The Freeman* arrives."—Mrs. Dan Fortune, Soldier, Ky.

Isn't it a fact that the superstitious fear of being moonstruck comes from the Bible?

Psalm 121:6 would indicate that this is a fact. The quotation reads: "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night."

What results can be expected from Magnetic Blankets?

These blankets, so-called, are supposed to be of benefit to persons who can't take physical exercises but whose circulation is poor. There isn't a scientific doctor in the world

who would say a good word for this nonsensical contraption. Keep away from these gadgets and you'll save time and money, for they have absolutely no curative value. These things were made with only one object in view—to be sold. Don't be a sucker.

Joseph McCabe, 22 St. George's Road, Golders Green, London, England, writes: "Europe is still marking time. I begin to think that if Japan and Germany don't attack Russia this spring, the great war is off. Our armament program, Roosevelt's warning (just published here with important effect), and Russia's new type of war-plane are making the Fascist gunmen sit up and take notice. If only we had a few statesmen, Labor or otherwise, instead of rabbits, the danger would soon disappear. Privately a Russian official tells me that they are not afraid of a joint attack by Germany and Poland."

What do you think of Dr. Francis J. Kolar, of Wichita, Kansas?

It is said that this man claims to be able to perform operations that are bloodless and painless. It is also claimed that he achieves this by paralyzing some part of the brain by some sort of a light which he uses. If I have described his routine accurately, it's plain that the process has no standing in the world of science.

Editor, *The American Freeman*:

The memory of the fierce, uncivilized political campaigns of the last few years are being dimmed by time. Why not compile a brief history of this vicious period? Start with the chicken-in-the-pot, two-cars-in-every-garage, prosperity-around-the-corner campaign.

The Upton Sinclair campaign in California, with victory in sight, aroused the Tory element to a frenzy. Vast sums of money were gathered to their war-chest to insure his defeat. By fair means or foul, they started a campaign of mud-slinging that seems incredible. Practically all publications were bought over. Most of the radio time was purchased, and preachers were subsidized. The State was flooded with slander and falsehood. After an unprecedented campaign of villainy, they won by a small majority.

In 1936 these same Tories made use of the same tactics in the presidential campaign to defeat Roosevelt. The methods used—the slogans, libel, bribery, lies, slander, coercion of labor, and frightfulness—should be made a matter of record for future study, that the people may not forget the nature of



the plutocratic elements in this country.

The conduct of Hearst, "The Chicago Tribune," "The Los Angeles Times," the Liberty League, the National Economy League, the formation of fake societies, clubs and associations should be described. The use of such slogans as "Save the Constitution," "Regimentation," "Communist," "Red Flag over the White House," "Agents of Moscow," "un-American," "Subversive Activities," etc., should be explained. Then we had our vigilantes and other "patriotic" groups.

And let's remember the Democratic slogans:

"On the Rocks with Landon and Knox." "Vote for Landon and Elect Hearst." "See the Worst with Landon and Hearst."

The history of this thing should be kept on file that posterity may never forget the wolfish character of the predatory reactionaries in this country. LOS ANGELES, CALIF. S.V.B.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of the Crosley Xervac?

Xervac (pronounced Ex-ervac) is an electrical machine (selling at \$174.50) which is supposed to stimulate hair growth. Xervac is advertised in order to make sales to men who are growing bald or are already bald. It has long been known in the business world that baldness is one condition that men all hate. The threat of a polished dome will cause them to make any financial sacrifice if they think they can avoid that undesirable, unattractive condition. It happens, however, that science hasn't yet discovered a cure for baldness. In fact, science doesn't even know what causes baldness, let alone present a cure. Therefore, all "cures"—machines, drugs, chemicals, etc.—should be avoided, for they are bound to disappoint. The hair tonics on the druggists' shelves are no more effective than so much dishwater. The same goes for the expensive treatments advertised in the metropolitan dailies and the electrical machines which are supposed to work some kind of a miracle. If your hair is falling out, get busy with a series of massages and shampoos, using ordinary 5c soap. If cleanliness and frequent shampoo-masages don't help you—always administer them to yourself—then settle down to the inevitable, for there's nothing you can do, regardless of how much money you are willing and ready to spend. This

Crosley machine will cost a lot (I've already quoted the steep price), but it can't do as much as a dozen shampoos given to yourself about once or twice each week. A few pennies' worth of soap and plenty of elbow-grease will do your scalp a lot of good, even though they don't save your flowing locks. If they don't keep your hair for you where nature intended, you at least haven't gone to immense expense. Ex-ervac can be guaranteed to do only one thing—extract your dollars.

\* \* \*

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of grappling with your problems every month, as you have had occasion to see. Unfortunately, much as I should like to do so, I have not the time to work them all out as I did several times in the past. Therefore, in view of the fact that some readers seem to think that the space needed for this feature could be put to better use, and of your declared intention to either continue or discontinue it according to the signified wishes of your readers, I, for one, shall not vote. Let these others, to whom it is of greater moment, settle the matter."—C. A. L., Mo.

\* \* \*

What became of The Millitant Athelst?

This publication is no longer being issued. A complete file will be found in the latest \$1 Grab-bag, which contains 10 pounds of miscellaneous literature.

\* \* \*

I live in a little town, where there are few opportunities for social life that is mentally stimulating. I simply can't indulge in the usual Main Street activities—small talk about the weather, the new baby, the way the old car is working, and confabs about juicy sex scandals. Many times I wish I could go to the great centers.

I know the type of community my reader described above, but since we all can't go to the "great centers," we must learn to make the best use of what we have. I don't think it's necessary to indulge in "Main Street activities," though one should never try to cut himself away from his community. After all, a little time spent, now and then, on the weather, the new baby, the way the motor car is hitting on all six—and juicy sex scandals—can be amusing, if not elevating. A little of that should be welcomed by the most lofty minded esthete or profound intellectual. But one doesn't have to be bound down to such tank-town ca-

vortings. There are many means of escape—good reading, a few interesting friends, and—but let me give the floor to a poet, Edgar Frank, who expresses what I have in mind, in a poem called "Goshen." It goes this way:

"How can you live in Goshen?"  
Said a friend from afar.

"This is a wretched little place  
Where people talk about tawdry things  
And plant cabbages in the moonlight. . ."  
"But I do not live in Goshen," I answered.

"I live in Greece  
Where Plato taught and Phidias carved.  
I live in Rome  
Where Cicero penned immortal lines  
And Michelangelo dreamed things of beauty.

Do not think my world is small  
Because you find me in a little village.  
I have my books, my pictures, my dreams,  
Enchantments that transcend Time and Space.

I do not live in Goshen at all—  
I live in an unbounded universe  
With the great souls of all the ages  
For my companions."

\* \* \*

A speaker, quoted gleefully in the *Topeka State Journal*, Henry J. Allen's reactionary newspaper, says Russia is rotten with disease, especially venereal ailments. Please comment.

There are numerous proofs available for the statement that the Russians are an exceptionally healthy people. The latest to come to my desk shows that Russia has the healthiest army in the world, one of the surest signs of national health. The official records of the Soviet Union show that 90 percent of those called to the colors each year "satisfy all health requirements for service, compared with 75 percent in France and 66 percent in Poland." The same government statement insists that "by comparison with the Russian army of 1913 (during czarist times, of course) disease in the Red Army has been reduced two and one-half times, typhus cases by 13 and venereal diseases by eight times."

\* \* \*

Is there any way of controlling the color of an egg's yolk?

The British Ministry of Agriculture has issued a bulletin on this subject, in which it's claimed that diet can control the color of the yolk, which should prove of interest to all poultry raisers who have acted on the assumption that the hen was the only

one able to decide such a delicate and personal matter. Research now shows:

"The richly yellow yolk (which many housewives seem to prefer) can be produced by appropriate foodstuffs for the poultry; clover will yield a medium orange-red yolk, cabbage a bright orange-red, and beet-root a darker shade still."

If this data ever gets to Germany, it's likely some of Hitler's Aryan scientists will continue the research with a view to making the hen prove her racial purity by arranging the yolk in the form of a swastika. We've read about non-Germanic pigs and racially-tainted bulls, but the hen, thus far, has been permitted to run wild in the barnyard, to the utter embarrassment of those who would have all forms of life fit into the theories of the Nazis.

\* \* \*

If I lose my Social Security account number, what should I do?

The Social Security Board answers:

Inquire at your local postoffice for another application blank and return it, after it has been filled out, to the local postmaster. Write your original account number on Line 14 of the application and the statement "Account Number Lost." If you do not remember the original account number, the postmaster will get it for you.

\* \* \*

When I change my address, after receiving a Social Security account number, is it necessary to report the fact?

The Social Security Board answers:

No. Your account number is not duplicated anywhere in the U.S. and stands as your main record. Your new address will be adjusted automatically when the account number is reported from another address.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the value of taking a law course from La Salle Extension University.

While the knowledge one acquired from reading the books included in the La Salle course could be of some value, I doubt that it could bring about one's entrance into the legal profession, for requirements in practically all of our States are very strict. If one merely wants to know something about law, it won't do any harm to take this course, though this will be found extremely expensive. A few law books from any good library ought to satisfy that kind of would-

be student. But if one wants to become a lawyer, I advise nothing short of enrolling in a regular law college. Incidentally, I don't see why the La Salle owners (a private corporation) call their concern a "university." It's nothing more than a correspondence school and ought to call itself that. The word "university" means definite things and the La Salle project certainly doesn't fit into them. When we speak of a university, we mean, of course, establishments like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and the like—places that cover practically every branch of learning, where students gather to receive direct instruction from professors, and so on. Of course, the La Salle owners also use the word "extension," but we always use the word to describe the extramural instruction of a regular university. Columbia, for example, gives thousands of non-resident students instruction by mail, and because of that activity it can properly refer to its correspondence school as an "extension university," but by what stretch of the imagination does La Salle put itself into that classification? (Incidentally, this question was asked by a reader who wanted a personal reply, for which he sent me a dollar for my time and labor, but as I found the paragraph to be of general interest I decided to print it here.)

\* \* \*

How much is the man-in-the-street influenced by science?

L. M. Birkhead, director of The Liberal Center of Kansas City, Mo., found a helpful answer to the foregoing question in James Harvey Robinson's book, *The Human Comedy*, as follows:

While our information in regard to man and the world is incalculably greater than that available 100, even 50 years ago, we must frankly admit that the knowledge is still so novel, so imperfectly assimilated, so inadequately coordinated, and so feebly and ineffectively presented to the great mass of men, that its direct effects upon human impulses and reasoning and outlook are as yet inconsiderable and disappointing.

We might think in terms of molecules and atoms, but we rarely do. Few have any more knowledge of their own bodily operations than had their grandparents.

The farmer's confidence in the

phases of the moon gives way but slowly before recent discoveries in regard to the bacteria of the soil.

Few who use the telephone, ride on electric cars, and carry a camera have even the mildest curiosity in regard to how these things work.

It is only indirectly, through invention, that scientific knowledge touches our lives on every hand, modifying our environment, altering our daily habits, dislocating the anciently established order, and imposing the burden of constant adaptation on even the most ignorant and lethargic.

Unlike a great part of man's earlier thought, modern scientific knowledge and theory have not remained a matter merely for academic discourse and learned books, but have provoked the invention of innumerable practical devices which surround us on every hand and from which we can now scarce escape by land or sea.

Thus while scientific knowledge has not greatly affected the thoughts of most of us, its influence in the promotion of modern invention has served to place us in a new setting or environment, the novel features of which it would be no small task to explain to one's great-great-grandfather, should he unexpectedly apply for up-to-date information.

So even if modern scientific knowledge is as yet so imperfect and ill understood as to make it impossible for us to apply much of it directly and personally in our daily conduct, we nevertheless cannot neglect the urgent effect of scientific inventions, for they are constantly posing new problems of adjustment to us, and sometimes disposing of old ones.

\* \* \*

It's too early to report on the poll of Freeman readers on the question of continuing the department devoted to brain teasers, but the indications are that a majority is opposed to giving space to such material. We'll all know for sure in the next issue. If the readers say they want the puzzles thrown out, they'll be eliminated.

\* \* \*

"You can cut out the puzzles for my part; life's a big enough puzzle for me."—D. W. Scott, Savannah, Ga.

\* \* \*

Can you give us the quotation in which Van Leen shows what small space the human race would fill if it were packed in one place?

The oft-quoted passage will be found on the first page of Hendrik

Van Loon's book, entitled *Van Loon's Geography*. It makes fascinating reading, to my notion, and is worth printing again:

"It sounds incredible, but nevertheless it is true. If everybody in this world of ours were six feet tall and a foot and a half wide and a foot thick (and that is making people a little bigger than they usually are), then the whole of the human race (and according to the latest available statistics there are now nearly 2,000,000,000 descendants of the original Homo Sapiens and his wife) would be packed into a box measuring half a mile in each direction. That, as I just said, sounds incredible, but if you don't believe me, figure it out for yourself and you will find it to be correct.

"If we transported that box to the Grand Canyon of Arizona and balanced it neatly on the low stone wall that keeps people from breaking their necks when stunned by the incredible beauty of that silent witness of the forces of Eternity, and then called little Noodle, the dachshund and told him (the tiny beast is very intelligent and loves to oblige) to give the unwieldy contraption a slight push with his soft brown nose, there would be a moment of crunching and ripping as the wooden planks loosened stones and shrubs and trees on their downward path, and then a low and even softer bumpity-bumpity-bump and a sudden splash when the outer edges struck the banks of the Colorado River.

"Then silence and oblivion!"

\* \* \*

What is the weight of the human heart? How many times does it beat in a lifetime of 70 years?

The heart weighs from 8 to 12 ounces and beats about 2,500,000,000 times in 70 years.

\* \* \*

Is it all right to eat crow?

Eating crow has long suggested humiliation, like eating one's words, apologizing, crawfishing, etc. But this correspondent, I'm sure, has in mind crow as an item on our menus. For persons who are interested in adding a new dish to the table, let me say that crow can be good eating, once we get rid of our prejudice. Colonel H. P. Sheldon, of the U.S. Biological Survey, says young rooks are a delicacy in England. "Crow dinners," he adds, "are popular now in western States. The bird may soon become a table delicacy throughout the

nation." Colonel Sheldon's bulletin says "crow can be cooked like squab or pigeon."

\* \* \*

We have all over the country plenty of doctors who specialize in the treatment of the eyes—and they are honest, able men—but where can one find a good, reliable doctor for the deaf? Is the Cicero Products Co., 2404 S. 52nd Ave., Cicero, Ill., reliable? There are more people in the country hard of hearing or partially deaf than is generally realized. Many of us are anxious to do something for our trouble but don't know where to go for a remedy that can be depended on. Your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My readers know by now that it's my general practice to advise them to avoid advertised "remedies." I have warned them again and again that it's unwise to resort to mail-order advertisers who look to their customers to self-diagnose their ailments, which, of course, can't be done by a layman. A person who is having trouble with his ears should go to a regular medical doctor who specializes in eye, ear and nose cases. Such practitioners may be found even in the smaller communities. If such a doctor can't do you any good, it stands to reason that some advertising gadget-sellers won't be able to help you.

\* \* \*

How much energy is there in talking?

F. Sherwood Taylor, in his recent book, *The World of Science*, asserts that "if all the people in Europe talked at once the energy generated would just run a motor cycle."

\* \* \*

Please comment on the way most people run from the strain of thinking as though they were trying to escape a plague.

My friend, L. M. Birkhead, of The Liberal Center, Kansas City, Mo., passes on a quotation from the works of Bertrand Russell, entitled *The Fear of Thinking*, which answers the foregoing request, as follows:

"Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth... more than ruin, more even than death. Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible; thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habits; thought is anarchic and lawless, indifferent to authority, careless of the well tried wisdom of the ages.

"Thought looks into the pit of hell and is not afraid. It sees man,

a feeble speck, surrounded by unfathomable depths of silence; yet it bears itself proudly, as unmoved as if it were the lord of the universe. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man."

\* \* \*

I dislike becoming personal, Mr. Halde-man-Julius, but some of the answers in *The Freeman* almost compel me to ask if you entirely deny the existence of a Heavenly Father or merely fight the bad features of certain religious denominations.

I dislike to disappoint my reader, but it happens there's some foundation to his suspicions. While I don't go around denying the existence of a Heavenly Father or a Celestial Mama, I do hint, now and then, that I believe those who support such theistic notions aren't able to buttress their opinions with the slightest show of evidence. I thought it would be better to let this reader have the cold, bitter truth now, instead of waiting until the terrible truth about me creeps on him like a cancer and strikes him down in life's young morning. And, while I'm exposing my intellectual sins and cultural diseases, let me correct my reader's suggestion that I "merely fight the bad features of certain religious denominations." That's too mealy-mouth to suit my robust nature. To begin with, I don't go after "certain bad features" at all, because it's my measured opinion—after 35 years of study—that religion is all bad, without a single good feature. And, of course, that means I don't go gunning after "certain religious denominations" but send my gas bombs into the whole kit and kaboodle. It's part of my philosophy that the world would be a better place for all of us if we managed to get rid of the mental disease called religion.

\* \* \*

"I feel that my new discovery, *The American Freeman*, completely eclipses my expectations—a perfect and interesting presentation of actual, unprejudiced facts."—Carlisle Hays, Louisville, Ky.

\* \* \*

What do you think of Jack Benny, Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Phil Baker and Jack Pearl as comedians?

Comedians who hold to straight characters—like Benny and Baker—don't amuse me very often, though once in a while they get off a line

that gives me a laugh. I seem to feel that a comedian should look funny as well as act that way. That explains why Cantor amuses me. I'll never forget a sketch Eddie Cantor did in a Ziegfeld show about 15 years ago. It was about a tailor (Eddie) trying to sell a string of customers coats and pants that should better have been sent to the Salvation Army pile of rags. A little of Jack Pearl goes a long way with me, though I'll admit there's a laugh there. Al Jolson never impressed me as a comedian. He was, in the old days, an excellent singer who knew how to squeeze the last drop of emotional juice out of his songs, but beyond that I couldn't see him at all.

\* \* \*

Did Jack London commit suicide?

There's some mystery attached to Jack London's death, but the facts seem to indicate the famous author contracted leprosy while visiting one of the South Pacific islands, and, after his return home, hit the bottle hard and fast, which led to his decision to pass out for good. I spent many hours with Jack London while he was visiting in Los Angeles in 1913. The impressions of my conversations with him went into an article that was widely reprinted. At that time the old Jack London—who wrote forcefully and honestly about life—was dead. He told me, in plain language, that he was interested in only one thing—to make a lot of money so he could buy more land for his ranch and more stallions for his stables. He pictured himself as an intellectual prostitute, and I believe the Jack London of the last decade of his life was hardly more than that. The artistic spirit of London died first. Then went the body, shot through with disease and soaked in alcohol. Jack London's life was a great tragedy.

\* \* \*

What are your favorite dance bands?

I haven't any. I don't care for the modern hot, swing bands, and I'm sure I'll never learn. I may be missing something, but I'm in doubt. I never get too much of classical music, while five minutes of jazz gives me a feeling of discomfort. I liked a few things that Paul Whiteman did about a decade ago, when he introduced Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and a piece for the brass in-

struments, the name of which I've forgotten. They didn't strike me as being great, but they were worth listening to, while the popular stuff these swing bands blow and scratch out is just so much musical gibberish to me. But then, maybe I'm wrong and completely out of touch with my musical generation.

\* \* \*

Was Eugene V. Debs a whisky drinker?

I knew Debs well, over a period of many years, and I can say in all sincerity that I never knew Debs to be drunk, or even lit up. He would take a drink, like most other men, but he wasn't a drunkard. I've heard some stories about Debs as a drinking man, but I'm in a position to dismiss them as a pack of lies.

\* \* \*

Will Bleachodent remove the stain from teeth and make them white?

Bleachodent, Taxi, Ex-Tartar, E-Kay, Stain Remover, Tartaroff, Wetherill's Prophylaxis Stain Remover, Snowy-White, and other "stain removers" contain hydrochloric acid, which is dangerous to use. No dentist would think of using any of these "patented" concoctions because of the irreparable damage they do to the enamel of the teeth. The Research Council of the New York Academy of Dentistry and the Council of Dental Therapeutics have both warned the public again and again that so-called stain removers must never be used, because in removing concretions (substances) on the teeth they also attack the teeth with disastrous results. My readers should remember that acids should never be used as teeth cleansers. If your teeth are dirty, go to a good dentist and let him get to work on them. Even the dentist can't make dark teeth white. Teeth vary from shining white to a dull gray even in healthy sets, and such conditions can't be changed by any chemical.

\* \* \*

"I think The Freeman is one of the most inspiring contributions to readers of our time. I am only sorry I have missed so many issues filled with important facts."—Gladys Stewart, Rox, Mass. (There's no reason why this reader should be without the facts that appeared in previous issues of The Freeman, because all the questions and answers have been gathered into 10 large volumes, containing in all about 1,000,000 words. These 10 volumes are care-

fully indexed, which makes it possible to find articles almost at a glance. If you want ALL 10 volumes of Questions and Answers, subscribe for only four years of The American Freeman for \$3.25, plus \$1 for packing, handling, and carriage, and you will receive, as a premium, this encyclopedic set of works on current problems in national and international affairs, science, industry, philosophy, history, literature, education, etc. (Remit by cash, postal money order, or "small" U.S. stamps. Add 10c to check for exchange.) Address: The American Freeman, Girard, Kansas.

\* \* \*

Please reprint Carl Sandburg's "Grass."

I consider "Grass" the best I've ever read among Carl Sandburg's poems. It was written during the World War. The poem:

File the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo.

Shovel them under and let me work.

I am the grass. I cover all.

And pile them high at Gettysburg

And pile them high at Ypres and Verdun.

Shovel them under and let me work.

Two years, ten years, and people on passenger trains ask the conductor:

What place is this?

Where are we now?

I am the grass. Let me work.

\* \* \*

Do you think there's much chance of our ever getting rid of mosquitoes?

Dr. L. L. Williams, senior malaria surgeon of the U.S. Public Health Service, in a speech before the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association, said this country will always have some mosquitoes. Leaders in the work of eradicating the pests don't expect to kill them all, he said, "but only those will survive which can jump faster and fly farther." He added:

"You must hunt mosquitoes as you do birds. Each requires a different technique. Some can fly a quarter of a mile; some fly five and six miles; some breed in fresh water, some in sewage and some on salt flats."

\* \* \*

I recently came across a piece by Christopher Morley, in which he wrote "they were neat but not Goudy." At first I thought he was the victim of a typographical error, but realized soon he meant just what he said, but I couldn't make out what he meant. Please explain.

It's a neat pun, almost worthy of a pundit. I don't care for puns, usually, but when you get a good one—and mighty few of them are good—I put

my prejudice in mothballs. In this case, Morley was speaking of type faces and comparing them to the work of that great designer of type, Fred-eric W. Goudy. This prolific craftsman has given the modern graphic arts about a hundred faces, his two most popular being Kennerley and Goudy Old Style. Modern printers know what that means. He has done much to break down the hold of the old-style type of the second half of the 19th Century, when type had to look something like gingerbread to satisfy printers. Goudy got away from that over-ornateness and struck out for rugged, honest, clear simplicity.

\* \* \*

Is it true that the farther North the colder the weather?

In his charming, fascinating book, *Adventures in Error*, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the famous scientist and explorer, explodes this old piece of bunk. He does his little job of debunking this way:

"Atlanta, Richmond, New York, and Montreal are, and have been for a century, large and well known cities that are by observation about equally hot in July. Yet there is even today practically unanimous adherence in all these cities to the Greek definition ('The farther North the colder at any time of the year') and each city believes that those farther South to be hotter and those farther North to be colder, though thousands of travelers for a hundred years have found it to be uniformly otherwise. North America is in language and civilization a homogeneous country. One might think knowledge would therefore spread rapidly."

Our author also has fun with the idea that the North Pole is the coldest place on the globe. He asserts "we now know that the coldest place is more than a thousand miles from it."

Stefansson also sails into the belief that "in the Arctic there are six months of daylight and six months of darkness." He insists many persons must hold to this idea, considering the frequency with which it's repeated in school text-books, serious newspapers, and in general conversation. He quotes some text-books as saying: "Among the Eskimos there is continuous darkness for three months." Our author replies: "There are, of course, no Eskimo settlements

that have continuous darkness for even three days, or one day."

Stefansson next tackles this, which he found in a school geography: "Mosquitoes are found all over the North American continent except in the extreme North." He replies: "Anyone who has been there will tell you that the contrary is the fact. Until you approach the Arctic you do not know how bad mosquitoes can be!"

Our good-natured, laughing debunker then pounces on the oft-repeated assertion that Eskimo children eat soap. This, he says, is ridiculous on the face of it. He also denies Eskimos eat candles, for he never met with a case, nor did he ever even hear of an instance of candle-eating among Eskimos. "But if they did eat tallow candles," he says, "it would be no stranger than the eating of tallow in any other form. Tallow is only suet, and many a well-ordered meal in our country still includes suet pudding."

Another idea that persists is to the effect that "there are no books in that land and the Eskimos could not read them if there were." As a matter of fact, writes Stefansson, "more than half of the total Eskimo population of Greenland, Labrador, Canada and Alaska can read and write some language, generally their own. They publish some of their own books and have (in Greenland) a magazine that has appeared regularly since 1867. Which, by the way, is more interesting, the fiction that 'the Eskimo does not know what a book is,' or the fact that one of the older journals in the western hemisphere is in Eskimo?"

That's the trouble with these terrible debunkers—they just raise Cain with popular notions. Most of us have read somewhere that "the Eskimo has an environment which forces him into constant conflict with Nature. He is in continual danger of freezing and starving to death." What's the truth? Listen to our author:

"Against this picture stands in my mind my own experience of living more than 10 years as an Eskimo among Eskimos. The winters, so frightful in textbooks, are their holiday season, spent in carrying out elaborate festivities. Entire communities spend weeks singing and dancing and listening to story-tellers spinning out long tales of

adventure with spirits and with men."

Ah, but the text-books say that "Eskimos live in snow or ice-houses in winter." What's the truth? Stefansson says:

"This is geographical hodgepodge. No Eskimos live in ice houses, or at least I have never heard of it. Some of them live in snow houses, but more than half the Eskimos in the world have never seen them. In the text-books all snow houses are called 'igloos' but the word 'iglu' simply means house in general, or dwelling."

Here's another popular idea that keeps cropping up: "When the Eskimo is thirsty, he drinks oil." Here's what Stefansson says about this:

"Before my recent study of Canadian lower school texts, I had heard that Eskimos drank oil for two other reasons—one that they liked it, and the other to keep warm. It remained for a Toronto textbook to advance the new explanation that they do it to quench the thirst. But to have this true, the laws of both physiology and chemistry would have to be changed. Physiology teaches that thirst is quenched only by water, and chemistry that there is in oil no water which the human stomach is capable of extracting. The Eskimo stomach is similar to your stomach. If you think he drinks oil for any reason, I would suggest you take about a water tumbler of whatever oil you prefer. If you have a strong will you may be able to get it down, but the chances are you will not be able to keep it down. The truth is that Eskimos use oil with their food, as we do with salad oil or gravy."

Stefansson, who has spent many years in the Far North, denies that wolves travel in packs, *a la* movies and thriller fiction. The picture of hundreds of wolves following a traveler who is throwing his children to them one by one, to rescue at least part of his human cargo, is all solid, unqualified bunk. Wolves usually travel in twos or threes, occasionally a family of eight, 10 or a dozen will go together for a while, but beyond that is imagination, not fact.

But let's return to our original question, from which I seem to have drifted. I hope my readers will forgive me for dipping into Stefansson's book so liberally, for it happens that his attacks on error keep calling this writer to more and more quota-

tions. Stefansson tells of studying some geographies that are used as text-books in Canadian public schools, where he found that practically "all of them were still holding to the ancient Greek philosophical view that the farther North you go the colder it is, no matter what time of the year." Stefansson argues the subject this way:

"What are the facts about Canadian winter? One is that children in certain wheat-raising sections of Alberta, who probably shudder with sympathy for the poor Eskimos, are themselves living in a region that has minimum winter periods, colder than any Eskimo is known to have lived through. Few Eskimos have ever seen 60 below zero. The probable lowest temperature for the North Pole itself is 20 degrees warmer. As to blizzards and snowfalls: excluding the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the line of heaviest snowfall in Canada is approximately at the Canada-United States border. Storms are, on the average, fewer and milder in the Arctic than in any other equally large area on earth, as the great explorer, Nansen, pointed out more than 30 years ago."

And so, we now leave our debunker's book with a feeling of gratitude, for it's always good to have one's intellectual garbage thrown out by a writer who knows what he's talking about.

\* \* \*

Does a crap-shooter stand much chance to win?

Not much. He can win a pot now and then, and even end up winner over a limited number of plays, but in the end percentage will get him. The game is loaded even when the dice are straight. Professor John Von Neumann, a mathematician with the Institute for Advanced Study, at Princeton, says it's impossible to win at dice over long periods. He points out that the much-sought seven-eleven combinations come up most frequently, but if they aren't made at the first throw the chance of winning is harder, for with the first appearance of seven (the easy number) the player loses his money. If the player doesn't win with his first throw, "that leaves a .490 winning average, which makes the game unfair." Dr. Neumann argues that since 7 can be thrown in six ways and 11 in two, while 2, 3, and 12 result from only



one or two combinations, the conditions are favorable to win on the first throw. "But," he warns, "if seven-eleven is missed, repetition of the first throw is unlikely, and the 7 is now working against the player. The net effect is then against the player." But the sucker will continue to throw the bones, for there never was a player who didn't believe he could make the odds work in his favor—for a while, at least. He stands to lose in the end because he believes in luck. The man who runs the game lets the players trust to luck while he banks on percentage.

\* \* \*

I heard a Catholic Hour broadcast recently, in which the statement was made by a Jesuit priest that the Catholic Church is America's greatest cultural mainstay and that Catholic scholarship leads in virtually every field. Please comment.

Such blatant nonsense can't stand serious scrutiny, for the facts show the exact opposite to be the truth. One of the best records of cultural, educational, scientific and literary achievement is our *Who's Who*, which is published every two years and which contains biographical facts and other data about 30,000 persons who have made measurable contributions to the higher forms of life in this country. I'm not saying this because it happens that I've been in *Who's Who* for 12 years but because the names and facts speak authoritatively. And how do we find Catholics represented in *Who's Who*? Let's look at the cold, ruthless, bitter facts.

Two leaders in our academic world analyzed the religious beliefs of the 30,000 Americans who were distinguished enough to be entitled to inclusion in this book, and they report that the Unitarians—who are ultra-liberal about religion, many of them going so far as to embrace a form of non-theistic humanism completely devoid of supernaturalism and theology—head the list. On the basis of *Who's Who* the Unitarians produced 1,185 distinguished persons per 100,000. The Catholics landed in *Who's Who* at the rate of only 7 per 100,000 American Catholics, which, in all conscience, is an appalling record and positive proof of the cultural poverty of the Catholic Church. It's important to bear in mind that many of these 7 per 100,000 Cath-

olics who earned the right to a place in *Who's Who* got listed automatically because of their official positions in the Church or because of political offices they happened to be holding. In other words, Catholic scholarship and culture are about on a par with the Seventh Day Adventists, the Latter Day Saints and the yokel religionists of the more backward sections of our country.

It's in crime, rather than culture, that Catholics shine. As I showed several years ago, when quoting a Catholic chaplain's article in a Catholic publication, *The Commonwealth* (December 14, 1932), 855 convicts in Sing Sing declared themselves Catholics, out of a total of 1,581 criminals interviewed. When I first reprinted this damning fact I received several letters from readers who suggested that these 855 convicts—or many of them, at any rate—may have just called themselves Catholics in order to get the help that a religious tag will give them. It stands to reason that non-religious prisoners in a community that contains more Protestants than Catholics wouldn't choose the Catholic label for expected favors. The sensible thing to do is to accept them as Catholics because they call themselves Catholics.

\* \* \*

Is Mercurochrome a better germ-killer than iodine?

Dr. A. J. Salle, of the University of California, has worked out a new method of "rating the efficiency of disinfectants as germ-killers" and reports that iodine is the best of nine commonly used disinfectants, while Mercurochrome is given ninth place. According to Dr. Salle, the germ-killers are rated in this order: iodine, iodine trichloride, bichloride of mercury, Hexylresorcinol, Metaphen, carbolic acid, potassium mercuric iodide, Merthiolate, and Mercurochrome. Dr. Salle reports that his method of rating is based on "the effect of the germicides on the growth of living embryo tissue as well as their ability to kill germs."

\* \* \*

Which worker—waitress, nurse, letter carrier or housewife—walks the most in an ordinary eight-hour shift.

A reporter for a Rochester, N.Y., newspaper conducted a shoe-leather derby and found that the letter carrier does the most walking. The re-

porter applied a pedometer to the leg of a number of workers engaged in different kinds of activities, with the final score, after an eight-hour shift, as follows:

Letter carrier, 15¼ miles; waitress, 6¼ miles; housewife, 4¼ miles; nurse, 2½ miles.

I am enclosing a copy of Joseph H. Lackey's "A Short History of America," which will amuse your readers. Please reprint it.

Thanks for the piece, which is a right clever bagatelle. Lackey's unique dish of literary and historical hash follows:

The Cabots first scrutinized it.  
Sir Walter Raleigh pioneered it.  
Captain John Smith surveyized it.  
The Pilgrims and Puritans religionized it.

The Cavaliers civilized it.  
Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams revolutionized it.

Washington organized it.

Hamilton idealized it.

Jefferson democratized it.

Madison constitutionalized it.

Monroe pan-Americanized it.

Marshall nationalized it.

Jackson re-democratized it.

Clay compromised it.

Polk Pacific-oceanized it.

Jefferson Davis divisionized it.

Lincoln reunitionized it.

John Sherman de-silverized it.

McKinley protectionized it.

Mark Hanna gold-standardized it.

Pierpont Morgan trustified it.

John D. Rockefeller monopolized it.

Bryan humanized it.

Theodore Roosevelt progressivized it.

Taft standpat-ized it.

Wilson world-ized it.

Coolidge and Mellon Wall-street-ized it.

Hoover deflationized it.

F. D. regimentized it.

We all idolize it.

My daughter is a high school student. In her home economics class she finds a wealth of free booklets from commercial firms. Other departments also have supplies of free booklets, but this particular class gets the most. Have these booklets any value?

M. Elizabeth Winkelhake made a study of hundreds of free booklets that are distributed in schools and reported, in *The Journal of Home Economics*, as follows:

"Booklets which are provided by commercial firms for use in the classroom also contain unsubstantiated, false, and misleading material. In the previously mentioned analysis of 300 booklets, 75 percent con-

tained questionable statements. In other words, only one-fourth of the booklets analyzed were free from undesirable material. Thirty-seven percent contained false statements, 43 percent contained unsubstantiated statements, and 59 percent contained misleading statements."

What effect does exercise have on the muscles? Does it make them tough?

Professor Sleeter Bull, according to an Associated Press report—which I didn't see when first printed but which appeared later in Albert Edward Wiggam's "Exploring Your Mind"—asserts his tests show that exercise softens the muscles and makes them tender. This scientist took two groups of cattle and for three months had the first group loaf and the other group exercise daily on a tread mill. Both groups were given the same rations. After slaughtering, it was found that the stock which exercised had the tenderest, juiciest meat. Wiggam adds the comment that "the athlete whose muscles are 'hard as nails' is really in a fine, soft, juicy condition."

A poll of 250 Columbia University seniors, taken by Thomas Merton, managing editor of "The Columbian," and reported in the issue released on March 30, 1937, showed that 21 "indicated in the poll that they practice some form of religion." This is only one additional proof of the oft-demonstrated fact that the growth of education tends to lessen the hold of religion. As the intellect grows, the capacity for belief in supernaturalism declines almost precipitously.

What is the meaning of "Ersatz"?

I wrote about Ersatz several years ago, when the word first came into circulation in foreign countries after the Hitlerites put it in a prominent place in their vocabulary. The word describes the attempt of the Nazis to make the German industrial system independent of foreign raw materials through the development of substitutes. The idea sounds convincing in print—it appears logical and easy for chemists and others to make substitutes for rubber, wool, copper, etc.—but in practice the Ersatz campaign strikes endless difficulties. The basic reason for the weakness of Ersatz is that the substitutes cost more than the materials they would supplant or they are so inferior in quality as to

be so much waste of money and effort. Rubber Ersatz, for example, costs about 400 percent more than raw rubber bought in the world market, and the substitute isn't a bit better than nature's article, if as good, which I doubt. A Paris publication, *L'Avant-Garde*, recently published a story about Ersatz, which is good enough to pass on:

"Tired of life under Hitler, he bought a box of rat poison and, returning home, swallowed the contents. He lay down to die . . . nothing happened: The rat poison was Ersatz.

"Still determined, he bought a rope, tied it to a post, kicked away a chair and jumped. He landed safely—the rope broke: it was Ersatz.

"Deciding that he was not to die, he grew cheerful and made up his mind to celebrate the recovery of his spirits. He went to a restaurant, had a good meal—and died as a result of it: the meal was Ersatz."

\* \* \*

What is the plural of mongoose?

Mongoosees. And that reminds me of the old story of the fellow who was writing a dealer for two mongooses. First he wrote: "Please send me two mongeese," but as that didn't sound just right he next put it this way: "Please send me two mongooses." Still in doubt, he tore up the sheet and started anew on a fresh one, as follows: "Please send me a mongoose and—by the way—send me another."

\* \* \*

Would it be a good, soft investment to collect coins and stamps? I want to find out about the business.

I'd advise the average person to look on stamp and coin collecting as pleasant hobbies instead of sources of substantial income. While it's true that certain people can make a good living from stamps and coins—a small minority—this doesn't mean the average amateur is able to graduate into professionalism on his mere desire to become active in that field. There are many conditions and circumstances to consider—capital, aptitude, contacts, mailing lists, sources of information, salesmanship, and the like. So, I'd tell the ordinary person to stay out of the coin and stamp business except as a diversion-seeker. (This answer was sent to a Minnesota reader who sent me a dollar to pay for the time necessary to write

him a personal reply, but as I feel the information is of more general interest, I'm giving it space in these columns. I'm always happy to answer personal questions by mail, on payment of the small fee just mentioned, and if it happens that I can't give the reader the information he seeks I make a refund in the form of trade coupons which are good for anything issued by this institution.)

\* \* \*

How does billiards compare to golf for exercise?

A sports authority in England did some elaborate figuring and found that a man "walks as far playing a game of billiards as he does shooting 18 holes of golf."

\* \* \*

A newspaper editorial asks its readers the following question: "If you had \$15,000,000, would you bet it against \$1 that you could throw a ball three feet in the air and catch it?" How would you answer that?

I would refuse to take the bet, even though the chances were overwhelmingly in my favor. I feel confident I could throw a ball into the air and catch it, but there's always the chance of a slip-up of some sort. The odds are too disparate to even call it a bet. A person who would risk \$15,000,000 in order to win \$1 is foolish, even though he were given a wager that looked like a cinch. And while I'm at it, let me say I wouldn't take that bet on any terms without changing its conditions. The thrower, according to the terms of the contest, is to throw the ball three feet in the air. That means exactly what it says—neither more nor less—which makes the difficulty not one of catching the ball but having it go up in the air precisely 36 inches, which is practically impossible.

\* \* \*

"I think the A B C Library of Living Knowledge is one of the most worth while projects I have heard of. Millions should know about it."—Wm. Rohn, Ann Arbor, Mich.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to the report that a Japanese scientist has found that parasitic grubs can be compelled to commit suicide?

Dr. Yoshimasa Yagi, Japanese parasitologist, says he discovered that parasitic grubs can't stand noise, particularly jazz played on a phonograph. Parasitic larvae, known as "kyochu,"

afflict silkworms in Japan, and Dr. Yagi was assigned to the problem. He put infested silkworms in a can, to which he attached an old-fashioned phonograph, and then gave them the works with the loudest jazz records obtainable. After such inhuman treatment, he found the parasites had disappeared. Here's what happened: the parasites were so annoyed by the noise that they forced their way into the bodies of the silkworms, with the result that they met death by suffocation.

\* \* \*

**Did Edward VIII write his famous farewell speech?**

Gossip has it that the writing was done by Winston Churchill, who is not only an experienced author but is also a friend of the ex-king. It was a good job of ghosting, because the piece is strictly in character. It's amusing to notice how many writers now ring in the king's three opening words—"at long last"—which, by the way, is bad writing, because "at last" tells it better, while the word "long" only serves as literary gingerbread.

\* \* \*

**Do the cosmetics sold by Helena Rubinstein, Inc., of New York, do what is claimed for them?**

The advertising of Helena Rubinstein, Inc., has been under fire by the Federal Trade Commission for some time, the result being a formal order to cease and desist advertising that its cosmetics, facial creams and toilet preparations will serve as a food for, or nourish, the skin, muscles, or tissues; will prevent crow's feet and wrinkles, strengthen eye nerves, rebuild worn-out cells and dissolve fatty tissues or act as effective weight reducers. In other words, the cosmetics of this large concern will have to be sold strictly as cosmetics and not as cure-alls.

\* \* \*

**How many classes of gamblers are there?**

Psychologists say there are three kinds of gamblers—professionals, thrill-seekers, and "religious" gamblers.

A professional is one who lives—or at least tries to live—off games of chance. He is of the underworld, or very close to it, and his greatest problem is keeping ahead of the law, or, if the law catches up with him, to square it, which means plain graft.

If a professional pays, he can usually keep from taking the rap, which is underworld lingo for going to jail. He never considers a mere fine as punishment. A fine, like police and other forms of graft, is merely another item of "overhead." A decent gambler will usually pay the fines of his patrons if his joint is raided and his customers ("tourists") are taken to the hoosegow. A professional is honest—if he has to be. That is to say, if he's playing with fellows who are wise to him, he'll go straight, but let him come to grips with a "tourist" and he immediately surrenders to professionalism, which means the sucker is going to be trimmed for all he can stand. A professional will even tell a wise player to wait a minute until he takes in the crooked dice or cards and puts out honest stuff. The wise guy is supposed to respect the professional's confidence and never set a sucker wise. This is considered reasonable, because there's no telling when a wise guy may decide to turn professional. Then, again, professionals, when they are away from their own games, like to play in other joints, and they expect fair treatment, which they usually get, unless they happen to drink too much booze, in which case it's considered ethical to trim even a wise guy.

A thrill-seeker plays for the kick he gets out of the wheel, the throw of the dice or the cards he draws. He usually has plenty of money and likes to be known as a good loser. And he usually loses.

The "religious" gambler believes in the God of Luck. He has a "hunch" the dice are going to be good to him tonight, or that his horse will come in, or that his sweep ticket will win. He's the type of player who believes in walking around his chair, who changes positions, who uses certain favorite words, who talks to his dice and tries to tell them what to do, who follows a certain ritual every time he gambles. He believes the God of Luck will stand by him at times. This type of player is usually easy pickings for the professional, for he nearly always loses.

Dice games are considered the oldest form of gambling, and here the "religious" gambler has his richest store of ceremonials to woo Lady

Luck. And dice have always been loaded. Archeologists have found dice that were used in ancient society, thousands of years ago, and many of them have been found to be loaded. They may be inspected by would-be gamblers in many museums.

But no matter what kind of game the "hunch" gambler plays, the chances are always against him. Professional gamblers aren't giving anything away. In previous articles I have given the chances to win at poker and dice, so here I'll limit myself to sweepstakes. When 4,000,000 tickets are sold in an Irish sweepstake, the chances of winning are about as follows: grand prize of \$150,000, \$75,000 or \$50,000, 1 in 133,333; secondary prize of \$3,500, 1 in 6,667; small prize of \$500, 1 in 4,000.

\* \* \*

"I think Joseph McCabe is the greatest scholar in the world. He has done more to free men's minds from superstition than any other man in modern times."—Capt. E. A. Davis, San Francisco, Calif.

\* \* \*

#### What is Humanism?

The Humanists are the most liberal wing of the most emancipated "religionists." I put the word "religionists" in quotation marks because these rationalistic, realistic men avoid theological ideology even though many of them are connected with modernistic church groups, particularly the Unitarian. It seems to me that these Humanists have hit on the word "Humanism" because they want to avoid the so-called unpopularity of words like Agnosticism, Rationalism, Freethought, and the like. Their philosophy is strictly rationalistic, without the slightest suggestion of supernaturalism, and I fail to see anything wrong or harmful about their preference for the name "Humanists." One of the most prominent Humanists is our old friend, L. M. Birkhead, of the Liberal Center of Kansas City, Mo., a teacher and guide who never leads his followers in the direction of obscurantism or Theism. Recently, Birkhead drew up a statement which he entitled "Why I Am a Humanist," and which I consider so valuable and constructive that I want to pass it on to my readers for study and criticism. Personally, the philosophy of Humanism, as expressed by Birkhead, should satisfy the

most hard-boiled, realistic Freethinker. It follows:

#### WHY I AM A HUMANIST

1. Because humanism puts man at the center of its thought. The needs and problems of man are emphasized—not the inscrutable purposes of the gods.

Humanism insists that man is an end and not a means. It believes that man can be improved and that he must be his own savior.

2. Because humanism is committed to the guidance of science rather than of revelation.

It seeks direction through facts and creative intelligence rather than through doubtful and ambiguous revelations.

3. Because humanism creates a real set of values—human values, not mythical, divine values.

Humanism is loyal to those values which give nobility and significance to life here and now.

4. Because humanism is frankly agnostic with respect to the unknown. It professes no esoteric knowledge of absolute realities.

Humanism declares that the good life is not dependent on beliefs as to the ultimate nature of things.

5. Because humanism is in accord with the best thinking of our day.

Humanism makes no apology for its exploitation of the physical and social sciences. It seeks an intellectual formulation of its philosophy in terms of all the knowledge available.

6. Because humanism seeks a sincere and straightforward answer to life's problems. It avoids ambiguity and duplicity.

The philosophy of humanism is not an escape philosophy but an attempt to confront life realistically.

\* \* \*

Are all these contests conducted on the radio on the level?

I haven't any means of checking up on these contests that fill the air and the press, but frankly I'm suspicious of 99 percent of them.

\* \* \*

Please give us Woodrow Wilson's favorite limerick, which he usually quoted when referring to his own lack of beauty.

Woodrow Wilson, when he often described himself as being the owner of a horsey face, would bust into this: For beauty I am not a star There are others more handsome by far.

But my face—I don't mind it,  
For I am behind it.

It's the people in front that I jar.

I must be a poor judge of manly

beauty, for I recall vividly the two times I saw Woodrow Wilson, and on neither occasion did I go away with the feeling he was the owner of a face that would jar one of esthetic sensibilities. I saw him the first time in the Chicago Democratic headquarters during the national campaign, when he was running against Theodore Roosevelt and Taft. He struck me as distinguished looking, and a swell dresser. He was meticulous about his clothes and looked to me like a fashion plate.

I'll never forget how he turned on me—like a benign, kindly, but slightly annoyed college professor—when I asked him to express his opinion of Theodore Roosevelt, his aggressive opponent. I was one among about 20 reporters, and I wanted to start the interview in a hurry, for we were to have only three minutes and the other boys seemed vocally paralyzed.

Shaking his head slowly, Wilson lectured me as follows: "Young man, if you will ask me about Mr. Roosevelt's policies, I'll be happy to answer, but I must refuse to discuss Roosevelt's personal life or personality." Of course, I took the rebuke quietly, for I knew history would understand that this was just a case of a bewildered reporter trying to get a few paragraphs for a newspaper that catered to a bunch of readers who didn't care a damn anyway. Besides, it should have been taken for granted that, since this was a political campaign, my question about one of his opponents must have referred to the other candidate's policies and not his personal life, if it can be said that an American politician ever has a personal life that he can call his own.

Had I known then what I know now, I would have switched the interview to the large horse chestnut he always carried with him for "good luck." I would have asked, in mock seriousness, if he had polished it that morning, and did he prefer to blow on it or rub it when in need of its beneficent magic. Then I would have insisted on a candid cameraman taking a picture of that horse chestnut so that the public might see whether it was dull or glossy, with a few sly hints—in the true debunking spirit—that superstition will probably remain in the world for a long time because even great university presi-

dents and future Presidents of the United States carry horse chestnuts for good luck.

Since I have already gone far afield—as is my wont—let me continue my journey into new realms of the inconsequential by relating a story that my wife's aunt—Jane Addams—used to tell on herself not long before she died. She was on a train one day, busy with her correspondence, when she was approached by an important-looking woman who took for granted that she was known to Miss Addams. But she didn't know her. Instead of asking for her name, Miss Addams maneuvered around a bit in order to learn the woman's identity by indirect methods. When the stranger mentioned something about her brother in Washington, Miss Addams picked her up quickly with this informal, intimate question: "And what is your brother doing these days?" To which the other replied: "Oh, he's still President of the United States." Yes, she was Lord Herbert Hoover's sister.

And that reminds me of another story Jane Addams used to tell on herself. While spending a vacation down in New Mexico—or was it Arizona?—she learned that one of the guests at her hotel was John Galsworthy, the English novelist. She would have to go out of her way to meet him, she decided, especially since she had learned that he had called at Hull House, in Chicago, during her absence. At breakfast, she saw a man at a nearby table who looked exactly like Mr. Galsworthy, so she hurried over to his side and opened the conversation with: "Oh, Mr. Galsworthy, it was so nice of you to drop in at Hull House." The man looked up and politely answered: "Sorry, Miss Addams, but I'm Mr. Brown, not Mr. Galsworthy." Embarrassed, Miss Addams returned to her table, after making proper apologies. The next morning, eating breakfast again, Miss Addams was directed, by her efficient and never-failing secretary, to greet the real John Galsworthy, who was eating at another table. "There's no chance of an error this time, for he's really John Galsworthy. You had better go over now and pay your respects." Miss Addams, also sure that this was the real John Galsworthy, ambled over and exclaimed: "Oh, Mr. Galsworthy, it was so nice

of you to drop in at Hull House," to which the man replied, patiently and politely, "Sorry, Miss Addams, but I'm still Mr. Brown."

\* \* \*

If another world war were to break out, would it be possible for the U.S. to remain neutral?

As Bruce Bliven, one of the editors of *The New Republic*, said in a speech in New York City on April 12, 1937, the political difficulties of neutrality would be "terrific," but he suggested a set of measures which, in his opinion, would serve to keep us out of the conflict. Briefly, Mr. Bliven's program, as outlined in his discussion, covers:

1. No loans to European nations after the beginning of hostilities.
2. No exports of arms or munitions, and limitation of export of copper, steel and cotton according to the President's judgment.
3. Goods bought in the U.S. are to be shipped in bottoms owned by belligerents rather than by Americans.
4. Purchase by the U.S. in advance of hostilities of a reserve stock of rubber, coffee, manganese and other products not grown or produced here.

\* \* \*

I consider religion the worst enemy mankind ever had and I have often gone far out of my way to debate the subject. One of my most effective arguments runs like this: "The human mind, so far, is incapable of even imagining or conceiving of such a thing as the beginning or end of time, or the beginning or end of space, implying the beginning or end of time or creation. If the human mind cannot even imagine creation of something out of nothing, how is it logically possible for anyone to have faith in a Bible which is based on the assumption that the world is the result of creation?" Please comment on this type of argument.

There are many authorities in philosophy—including Herbert Spencer—who used this argument in some form or other. The idea is that it's impossible to create time out of timelessness; space out of spacelessness; matter out of a void; something out of nothing. The religionist who counters with the suggestion that a Creator (God) could do this because he is all-powerful and omniscient posits the argument that there was something eternal to begin with—the God-spirit or whatever it is he prefers to call the great manufacturer. But,

to be strictly logical, if matter was created by the will of God, we are left to hug a sweet contradiction—part of the universe created out of nothing and another part (God) never created. The religionist is compelled to take this position because he couldn't permit himself to admit that ALL things have a beginning, for that would mean that someone or something had to create God, and that would be most embarrassing. So he gives us a God who created indestructible matter out of nothing except his desire to go into the business of manufacturing some universes. The whole business is just about one notch above the mental powers of a primitive Bushman two steps from cannibalism. His proposition must be accepted on faith, nothing else, and that is a complete denial of the scientific spirit, which, naturally, insists that a proposition has value only inasmuch as it is supported by evidence. To say "I believe such and such just because" is to resort to the shoddiest kind of thinking. If you have no evidence, then you have no real reason for believing. Thus far, after thousands of years of attempts to establish the creationist theory, there hasn't been a single atom of evidence offered to prove that matter was ever created. The burden of proof rests on the religionist, not on the skeptic. To argue that "the world had to be made because it's here and someone had to put it here" is to present a set of ideas based on an assumption, and that could never go as evidence among hard-headed realists. Because the universe is here doesn't mean anything more than that it's here. So far as we know, it may have been in existence always. The problem is a difficult one, but it's only made worse when we arbitrarily assume a creator. Then the question arises: Who and what made the Creator? Or, was the Creator self-creative?

My correspondent who asked for the foregoing comment suggests that proponents of theology and Atheists are both forced to commit themselves in the following manner:

"The Atheists are definitely committed to the proposition, 'There is no God.' The religionists are definitely committed to the proposition, 'There is a God.' However one's sympathies may be with the Athe-

ists when it comes to the convincing and persuasive argument against religion, isn't the position of the Agnostic (who says he doesn't know) better?"

There's no evidence that the Atheist is committed to the proposition, "There is no God." I know of no Atheist of standing in the world of thought who goes around saying that. He merely says that the arguments of the Theists (believers in the God-idea) are without logic and reason. He examines the assumptions of the believer in God and finds them to be invalid, and therefore rejects the belief. That's Atheism. In other words, the Atheist devotes himself to a critical examination of the arguments in support of the God-idea, which means that if the Theist didn't have any arguments to offer in support of the God-idea the Atheist wouldn't be able to function, for his philosophical position is purely negative—the application of reason to a set of theistic assumptions. From that viewpoint, the name Atheist loses its terror. The Agnostic is supposed to shrug his shoulders and say, in a most airy and friendly way, "Maybe there's a God; maybe there isn't. I don't know." But it's been my observation that Agnostics are really Atheists when nailed down, because they'll always confess there isn't a single argument in the entire philosophy of Theism which impresses them as possessing the slightest validity. Since they reject every theistic argument, isn't it more accurate to say that the Agnostic likes to call himself that because the word sounds a little more respectable than Atheist, but that he is really an Atheist, so far as his reasoning capacities are concerned? The Agnostic denies emphatically that the Theist has demonstrated the existence of a God—and that's the position of the Atheist. Thus, the Agnostic and the Atheist are brothers under the skin.

\* \* \*

Recently I was approached by a personal friend to join a Detroit organization known as the Mantle Club. He seemed to be pretty secretive about the whole matter, giving as his explanation that open soliciting and advertising would bring a deluge of applications from undesirable. I am enclosing a dollar bill for your personal advice.

I wrote this reader a personal letter covering his question, but as I

feel the topic is of general interest I am printing my comment below.

The Detroit reader was asked a number of formal questions in the club's application blank, some of which were as follows: 1. Do you believe in a supreme being? 2. Are you an American citizen? 3. Do you believe in the U.S. Constitution? 4. Do you believe that a group of people working toward a common objective can accomplish more than one individual working alone? (That last question is a peach, for it brings out the highly original discovery that many people can get more done than a single individual. Ain't the spirit of inquiry wonderful?)

The biggest question of all was, however, the one dealing with the initiation fee. The prospective customer was asked if he had \$20 to pay for the privilege of joining this gang. And that, my friends, is the crux of the situation—the \$20 today and the dues to follow.

If my Detroit reader wants to be a sucker, he will hand over \$20 to the Mantle Club. That outfit is after his money, for the whole business is a rank racket. There's a mixture of piety, patriotism and red-baiting in the club's "principles," but the big itch is concerned with spondulix rather than ideals. The country is suffering from a rash of these "letter-head organizations," and more of the same kind may be expected as long as the supply of suckers holds out. Americans are great "jiners," and racketeers have caught on—to their profit. If this Detroit reader will take my advice, he will stay out. He'll save time, money, effort—and, of course, his self-respect. The country isn't in any danger of being overcome by Communists—who, by the way, are hardly more than a handful—but these splinter clubs find there's gold in them thar yelps about the dangers to our blessed, beloved Constitution. On one hand we have thousands of these small racketeers, and on the other we have the big ones, *a la* Rev. Winrod, Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith and Father Coughlin. Fight shy of both sets of scoundrels.

\* \* \*

Newell Martin, Huntington, Long Island, N.Y., writes he has ordered a little white tombstone, to be set up in his garden, as a memento mori, to be



ready when needed. It is to bear this inscription:

SACRED  
to the memory of  
NEWELL MARTIN.  
His last hours were cheered by kind  
words from  
HALDEMAN-JULIUS.  
The urn that holds his ashes has been  
wrapped in back numbers of  
THE AMERICAN FREEMAN,  
so that, when the last trump awakens  
the dead, there may be no mistake about  
HIS THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS.

\* \* \*

If you were appointed adviser to the President of the U.S., with the knowledge that what you advised would be done, what would you advise to be done which, if done, would result in allowing the present and future people of the U.S. the greatest amount of lasting happiness, health, and intelligence possible and would make the U.S. the most lasting, perfect, civilized country possible?

Realizing that our troubles are of an economic nature, fundamentally, I would naturally center my attack on the great social problems that beset our people—poverty, unemployment, insecurity, etc. A committee of experts would be empowered to decide which socially necessary industries and utilities should be taken from private, capitalistic hands and put into the control and ownership of the people. By this I mean that the large-scale industries would be socialized, or nationalized. That program would embrace the railroads, telephone and telegraph companies, mines, great elevators, mass production factories, electric power, natural resources such as coal, oil and gas, the vast meat-packing corporations, and, of course, the entire banking system and insurance companies. Such a program of socialization would open to the masses the doors to economic prosperity, eliminate mass unemployment, and establish purchasing power on such a scale that no one need be in want for the necessities of existence. The great, socialized industries and utilities, etc., which would thus be socialized would be operated with a view to serving our people instead of piling up dividends for their present owners. The motive, therefore, would be use, not gain. Small businesses, family-sized farms, ordinary channels of trade, etc., I would leave untouched, centering the government's efforts only on those facilities of produc-

tion, distribution and exchange which have reached, or are approaching, monopoly dimensions. There are other planks in my economic, social, industrial, cultural and political platform, but for the time being I would concentrate on the economic measures outlined in this paragraph, knowing that their successful establishment would lay the foundation for a healthy civilization that would be able to boast, for the first time in human history, that poverty was met in battle and defeated.

\* \* \*

If, instead of you, 25 persons were appointed advisers to the President of the U.S., which would you pick? I am assuming that each person will be a specialist in a certain branch, of which branch he or she would be the main adviser, and that what they advised would be done, and when done would result in the conditions expressed in the preceding question.

I don't believe it's quite reasonable to expect a tailor to make a suit that will fit a person still to be born, nor do I believe it's possible to usefully indulge in utopian guesses that would be expected to fit social conditions still to be established. Great social reforms can, at best, be only approximations in regard to methods, procedure, etc. We can't do more than outline general principles, leaving it to the beneficiaries of the new social order to work out a system of management, method, and the like. For instance, the great patriots who led the colonies from tyranny to political freedom—Washington, Paine, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and others—fought to destroy British control and exploitation, but they didn't sit down and work out in advance a precise machine that was to fit a future government. They worked along general lines, and when their efforts were crowned with victory they prepared the way for the next step—the establishment of an orderly government that was intended to effectuate their ideals. That's the sensible way. Only the fanatic draws up blue-prints in advance for another generation to live by. But, as I said, there are general principles involved, and, taking that view in its strictest sense, I'd establish a "board" or "commission" of 25 persons, as requested by my reader, along the following general lines:

#### 1. The President of the United States.

2. A liberal justice of the type of Brandeis or Cardozo.

3. A liberal senator of the type of Norris or La Follette.

4. A liberal congressman of the type of Maverick.

5. A popular political leader of the type of No'man Thomas.

6. A person of the type of the head of the General Electric Company's Research Department.

7. A person of the type of the head of the Du Pont Research Department.

8. A person of the type of the head of General Motors' Research Department.

9. A person of the type of the head of the Henry Ford Research Department.

10. A social-minded scientific leader of the type of Dr. Morris Fishbein, of the American Medical Association, except that he is to be in favor of a strong policy of socialized medicine.

11. A great educator, of the type of Joseph McCabe, who will strive sincerely to popularize knowledge and education.

12. An expert in entertainment, who will give new life to the best showmanship, concerts, operas, movies, radio, television, orchestras, lectures, stage shows, circuses, carnivals, pageants, etc.

13. A public-spirited merchant, of the general type of Filene, whose job it will be to educate the public in the principles of intelligent consumption.

14. A candid, fearless enemy of bunk, whose job it will be to help the masses escape the slavery of organized superstition, obscurantism, theology, etc.

15. A naturalistic, scientific-minded leader of thought, whose task it will be to inculcate constructive, sound, factual, realistic thinking along verifiable, logical lines.

16. A great industrialist who is progressive enough to hold no resentment over the country's acceptance of the principle of socialized industry and will use his talents to help make the great industries produce efficiently for humanity instead of for the monopolists.

17. An extreme conservative, of the type of the editor of The New York Herald Tribune, whose duty it will be to "conserve" the best in the institutions he once helped control.

18. An extreme radical, of the type of the editor of The Daily Worker or The New Masses, whose duty it will be to show, by comparison, that the new order of socialization really isn't so outlandish.

19. A liberal, of the type of Oswald Garrison Villard or one of the editors of The New Republic, whose duty it will be to stand between the extreme radical and conservative, as a sort of balancing wheel.

20. A Freethinker, of the type of Joseph Lewis, president of The Freethinkers of America, whose duty it will be to keep the government strictly free of all theological influences, always to insist on unquestioned separation of Church and state, and to keep religion as a private matter that is never to have the right to meddle in political affairs or force itself on secular institutions.

21. An anti-Fascist, of the type of Dr. Isaac Goldberg, whose duty it will be to protect and nurture democratic processes and eradicate all forms of intellectual tyranny, religious bigotry, and shirt-tearing nationalism.

22. A fighter for civil rights, of the type of Arthur Garfield Hays or Roger Baldwin, whose duty it will be to see to it that the individual citizen's constitutional rights aren't invaded or violated, especially in the fields of printing, speaking, research, behavior, criticizing, etc.

23. An incorrigible wag, of the type of Groucho Marx, W. C. Fields, or Charlie Chaplin, whose duty it will be to use the weapons of humor, satire and ridicule to puncture egotistical, humorless bombast and flag-waving.

24. A sexologist, of the type of the late Dr. William J. Robinson, whose duty it will be to help maladjusted men and women live healthy lives, teach the latest and most scientific methods of birth control, and show how we may avoid all venereal infections.

25. A labor leader, of the type of John L. Lewis, whose duty it will be to see that the workers receive the full benefits of increased production and new labor-saving inventions, who will strive endlessly to raise labor's standards of living, and who will seek the producer's fullest protection in matters of working hours, shop conditions, health insurance, unemployment compensation, pensions for the aged, free hospitalization, etc.

\* \* \*

Is the book of Hezekiah to be found in the New Testament or the Old?

That's an old catch question. There's no such book.

\* \* \*

Do large snakes crush an animal's bones before swallowing it?

It's a popular notion, and, like so many other ideas held by *hoi polloi*, it just isn't so. G. D. Barrett, of Chicago, Ill., has worked with large reptiles for many years and, in a letter to *Life*, says pythons don't squeeze "their prey with such power that they break the bones of the victim. . . . Only enough power is used to prevent the victim from breathing,

and death of course comes quickly." The same authority says that Dr. Ditmars, of the New York Zoological Park, a few years ago, "tied a rope to a pig, which was then fed to a python. After the snake had coiled about the pig, killed it, and swallowed it, Dr. Ditmars pulled the rope and recovered the pig. Examination showed that no bones had been broken." So, there goes another piece of bunk to the boneyard.

\* \* \*

Have you any figures dealing with the sex lives of college students?

The May, 1937, issue of *Redbook Magazine* contained an article entitled "A Compromise with Chastity," by Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, editor of the women's page of *The New York World-Telegram*, and Florence Haxton Britten, author and critic, in which the sexual habits of 285 students in 14 colleges were reported on after individual interviews and 5,000 students in 46 colleges and universities had been given questionnaires by mail. The questions sent by mail were answered anonymously by 713 women and 603 men, the majority of them being juniors and seniors. The replies were tabulated as follows:

Occupation	MALE		FEMALE	
	Non-Virgin	Virgin	Non-Virgin	Virgin
Profession	43%	57%	22%	78%
Big Business	58	42	21	79
Small Business	59	41	38	62
Trade	58	42	79	21
Farming	0	0	23	77
Other	53	47	25	75
Unspecified	39	61	33	67

	MALE		FEMALE	
	Non-Virgin	Virgin	Non-Virgin	Virgin
Religious Background	58%	42%	19%	81%
Catholic	58%	42%	19%	81%
Ethical Culture, etc.	20	80	15	85
Jewish	26	74	33	67
Protestant				
Strict	51	49	21	79
Liberal	62	38	23	77
Unspecified	66	34	30	70

	MALE		FEMALE	
	Non-Virgin	Virgin	Non-Virgin	Virgin
Parental Attitude	55%	45%	25%	75%
Watchful	55%	45%	25%	75%
Not Watchful	64	36	35	65
Unspecified	68	32	27	73

Of the religious groups, Ethical Culturists would appear to be the most chaste, and since most of these

men and women are non-religious and Jewish, some way should have been found to incorporate the information with the returns from the Jewish students. Incidentally, it also appears that Jewish men are the most puritanical, while the women of Jewish background go in more for "that sort of thing."

The report shows, in addition, that fear of pregnancy is the most restraining influence in the lives of college students, with moral and religious considerations coming second and regard for parental opinion third.

\* \* \*

What kind of a government has New Zealand and what are its policies?

New Zealand, for 40 years, has been one of the world's leaders in social experimentation that aims at protecting and serving the masses. During the past year, it has had a Socialist administration, and to indicate the ways in which it has been, and is, a boon to the working class, let me call attention to a resume of its achievements during 1936, according to a review prepared by a correspondent of the Federated Press, as follows:

The government has nationalized the central bank. It has set up a marketing department, so far mainly concerned with dairy products. It has set up a fair rents board. It has established the 40-hour week in most occupations. It has raised wages and salaries of civil servants, railway employees, teachers and office employees and all manual workers, regardless of arbitration court awards or union contracts (on the ground that depression contracts were made under duress and not valid).

The government has established price control over bread, flour, wheat, gasoline, fertilizer, and some other essential commodities. It has taken special power to prevent profiteering in all commodities.

The marketing board guarantees a price to the primary producer. Such measures, along with a "conscious monetary policy directed by the state" seem merely transitional to the average New Zealander.

\* \* \*

Is there any important difference between shaving soap and cream? What is the purpose of lathering the face?

Jerome Ephraim's book, *Take Care of Yourself*, has some valuable paragraphs on shaving. This writer

asserts there is hardly any difference between soaps and creams. Also, most soaps are about the same, as are most creams. A shaving cream bought in a five-and-ten-cent store is as good as the highest-priced article that's sold in the swankiest store.

The purpose of lathering the face, according to Mr. Ephraim, is "to soften the hairs so that they can be cut more easily, to soften the skin so that it will give before the razor, to provide a matrix to support the hairs so that the razor can cut them at an angle, and to lubricate the razor so that it will glide more easily over the skin."

I'd add there's an "esthetic" side to face-lathering, for it's undeniable that the process gives the shaver a "lift," a feeling of super-cleanliness, a freshness that is invariably pleasing, like a scalp shampoo on a hot, sultry day.

\* \* \*

Your article criticizing electric shavers, because of their mechanical deficiencies, leads me to ask your opinion of razors—old-fashioned and safety.

I have already quoted from Jerome Ephraim's book, *Take Care of Yourself*, which, as I explained, discusses the art of shaving. His comments on shaving—which, by the way, he insists is still the best and most efficient way of getting rid of superfluous stubble—are helpful and informed. Our author insists this applies to women as well as men, thus giving a well-deserved rebuke to those concerns which advertise chemical hair removers.

After insisting that "the most important element in a comfortable and successful shave is a good razor," Mr. Ephraim holds that nothing has yet been invented to take the place of the old-fashioned, hollow-ground open razor, which, he says, is "the most efficient shaving instrument ever devised by man." I've never used one of these old-fashioned razors, for the safety razor came into wide popularity several years before my face lost its pre-adolescent hairlessness. But I have, many times in the past, let barbers give me the works, and I could feel instantly that the implement they used was superior to the safety I worked at home. It was smoother, lighter of touch, and more efficient, by far. But there are compensating gains, so I always go back

to my safety razor, which gives me a slightly inferior shave but saves me many hours during a single year. I can shave in two minutes—doing a job that's acceptable for at least 24 hours—while it would take me more than two minutes just to reach a barber shop.

Dr. Logan Clendening, in one of his articles, agrees with Ephraim's sentences dealing with razors, and adds his own comments that bring out shrewd observations that are worth quoting, as follows:

"I have no doubt that is true, but it is also true that it [the old-fashioned razor] is as temperamental as a prima donna, and only an expert can keep it in good condition. Of the modern safety razors, some of them are of the hollow-ground type, and they are just as difficult to keep in condition as the old-fashioned open razor. The double-edged wafer blade safety razor, as compared with the open razor, is an inefficient shaving instrument, but it is safe, easy to use, and its cheapness makes it possible to get a good shave every day.

"It is quite as true that there is a wide variation in sharpness and durability not only among the blades of a single brand, but also among blades in a single package, and even between the two edges of an identical blade. This is due to the method of mass production. These wafer blades used to be individually sharpened at home, but today they usually are made in reels of thousands. In this form they are carried through the name-stamping, sharpening and honing processes, and broken up into individual blades only when they are packed. The sharpening is uneven, which accounts for the rough blades that cut the face so badly. For this reason a safety razor blade always should be honed, or stropped at least, before using.

"The form of the usual safety razor makes it necessary for the blade to flex in its holder, and this requires a soft steel that cannot be sharpened and does not hold its edge as well as harder metal. Still, it seems to me that the safety razor blade is a great advantage over the old-fashioned hollow-ground razor, for it took too much artistry to keep the latter in shape."

I'm rather inclined to agree with Dr. Clendening. The safety razor, at best, is a make-shift, but its inadequacies are more than balanced when

one considers its numerous advantages, not the least of which is the element of time-saving. I admit he's right when he insists that a safety blade should be sharpened or honed each time it's used, but here I prefer to let the job be a little less efficient than to give the article the time and energy it demands. I find that my cheap Gem blades can serve me from three to perhaps 10 times—depending on the individual blade—without honing or sharpening. I merely dry the blade on a towel after each shave and put it back in its holder for use the next morning. I keep using that blade until it simply refuses to cut, when I throw it away. I should say the net cost is less than 1c per shave, in the matter of blades, and that is getting it down pretty cheap.

I used to use shaving creams, but during the past few years I've gone over to soaps in good-sized wooden bowls. I started out with an expensive soap bowl that cost \$1 and lasted six months, but I tried out the same article—under another name—sold by Montgomery Ward at about 29c, which I found just as good and lasts as long. Now I'm sold on soap bowls and intend to stick to them. In this matter, let me mention that an extra-fine shaving brush is important. I used to buy the cheaper kind that cost about \$1, but a few years ago I turned to badger-haired brushes that cost \$3, and they are a joy—as soft as a feather and perfect instruments to work up and spread a quick lather.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to the published statement that more than half of the hospitals in this country are run by the Catholic Church?

No. The actual figure is 8.5 percent.

\* \* \*

A sports writer claims that the Bible is full of references to baseball. This sounds screwy to me. Please comment.

Yes, the Bible is a handbook of baseball—if you appreciate a little joking. Here's how the argument (which was compiled by Charles Francis Potter, the well-known Humanist preacher) runs:

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning . . ." (in the big inning).

Genesis 3:6: "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired

to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." This is interpreted as when Eve "stole first" and Adam "stole second."

Genesis 22:1—18, the account of Abraham preparing to slay his son Isaac and being prevented, is quoted as when Abraham tried to make a "sacrifice" hit.

Genesis 24:15—16: "... behold Rebekah came out, . . . and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up." This is known as when Rebekah went to the well with a "pitcher."

Luke 15:11—32, the well-known account of the return of the prodigal, is called when the prodigal son made a "home-run."

Luke 17:17: "... but where are the nine?"

Genesis 4:8: "... when they [Cain and Abel] were in the field, . . ."

Genesis 43:26: "And when Joseph came home, . . ."

Exodus 4:4: "... And he put forth his hand, and caught it, . . ."

Numbers 11:32: "ten homers."

Second Kings 16:17: "And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases. . ."

Second Kings 25:16: "... and the bases which Solomon had made . . ."

Psalms 19:12: "Who can understand his errors? . . ."

Psalms 26:1: "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide."

Proverbs 18:10: "... the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

Isaiah 41:16: "Thou shalt fan them, . . ."

Jeremiah 15:7: "And I will fan them. . ."

Ezekiel 36:12: "Yea, I will cause men to walk. . ."

Acts 14:14: "... Barnabas and Paul . . . ran in . . ."

Galatians 5:7: "Ye did run well; . . ."

\* \* \*

Please give the exact quotation from Abraham Lincoln on what it takes to be a good liar.

"No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar."

\* \* \*

How much steel goes into a bayonet?

About one pound.

\* \* \*

"You will please remove my name from your list of subscribers to The Freeman. Your opposition to the brave and patriotic Americans who are trying to prevent the momentary President's ef-

forts to impair the integrity, power and independence of our American Supreme Court has forever destroyed my confidence in you."—John Jeffries, Box 746, Santa Barbara, Calif.

\* \* \*

How many loaves of bread do our bakeries make?

Each month our 30,000 bakeries make 1,000,000,000 loaves of bread. The daily consumption of bread by the average adult in the U.S. is about five slices.

\* \* \*

I enclose a clipping which reports that an organization is out to get a "mile of pennies." How many will that be?

84,480.

\* \* \*

What is the world's jump record?

Jesse Owens, Negro athlete, made a world's record with a jump of 26 feet 2 1-8 inches. No one asked, but this brings to mind the fact that a horse is a better jumper than a man. On March 22, 1847, a horse at Warwick, England, jumped 37 feet.

\* \* \*

At what rate of speed can a baseball pitcher toss a ball?

Look magazine says that Bob Feller, baseball's new 18-year-old wonder pitcher from Iowa, who is now with the Cleveland Indians, sends fast ones up to the plate at an estimated speed of 120 miles per hour.

\* \* \*

What is the velocity of artillery shells?

Canadian scientists connected with the National Research Laboratories, Ottawa, Canada, measured the velocity of artillery shells by firing them through curtains of light. They used light beams, mirrors, photo-electric cells and recording instruments. It was found that shells travel from 1,585 to 1,600 feet per second.

\* \* \*

"I take all my copies of the Freeman to the Unemployed Reading Room and leave them. The men flock around them like blue flies around a gut wagon."—Harry Fulton, Michel, B.C., Canada.

\* \* \*

A red-baiter, lecturing in my city, claimed that The Daily Worker, daily newspaper published by the Communist party in this country, has a circulation of 500,000. Is this true?

That's about as true as the rest of the bunk these harem-scarem racketeers spout in order to frighten propertied people out of some easy money by bringing up the red bogey. In November, 1936, The Daily Work-

er had a circulation of 38,000 per day; in April, 1937, it dropped to 17,000.

In August, 1936, Secretary Earl Browder claimed that the Communist party had a membership of 40,000, but it now seems that he exaggerated by about 12,000, according to James Casey, who was managing editor of The Daily Worker at that time. Today, the Communist party is giving out no figures, but it's safe to estimate its membership at not more than 15,000.

I have shown before that Communism in the U.S. is one big belly-laugh. There isn't enough to the party to warrant a single cry of alarm, but red-baiters looking for easy pickings inflate the American Communist movement in order to inflate their pocketbooks, and no one seems to catch on to the racket.

\* \* \*

To what do you attribute our sudden wave of prosperity?

There are numerous reasons for our sudden increases in employment, production, profits, prices, and the like, but the dominant one, it seems to me, is the constant threat of another world war. The European nations are in the throes of a rearmament drive, because of the war threats of Hitler and Mussolini, and, as a part of their preparedness campaigns, they are deluging our markets with orders, especially for steel, copper, cotton, scrap iron and certain kinds of foods. If the war scares were to be dissipated by a peace pact, the effects on our economic life would be immediate and disastrous. If foreign governments were to stop buying in our markets we would have another depression, which would be set off by another Wall Street debacle, but it's possible that such a panic might not last long, for the country's normal rate of recovery is continuing, slowly but steadily.

\* \* \*

How many pores does the human body contain?

About 2,000,000.

\* \* \*

I was amused by the way you debunked Woodrow Wilson's flair for superstition. Was his capacity for bunk limited to number 13?

In the book, The Woodrow Wilsons, by Eleanor Wilson McAdoo, youngest of Wilson's three daughters, we learn

that in addition to looking on the number 13 as a key to good luck, he was always "polishing the horse-chestnut good-luck piece which he carried in his pocket through all his years at Princeton, Trenton and Washington."

What is your opinion of the statement made by the scientist quoted in the enclosed clipping, to the effect that "man spends five hours a week taking care of his beauty, compared to eight hours woman consumes"?

Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, the psychologist, is the person credited with this view. It's hard to prove or disprove his figures, for there is such a difference in individuals in the matter of primping, some dashing through the chore in breath-taking time and others dawdling along and getting nowhere. However, one person in Kansas City, Mo., checked Thorndike's figures by his own experience and observation, with the following result, which strikes me as being a little closer to the truth:

#### MAN

Bath, five to seven minutes.  
Shave, five minutes.  
Hair, one minute.  
Dress, 10 minutes.  
Change pocket articles, three minutes.  
Don coat, reach motor car, two minutes.  
Total, at most—28 minutes.

#### WOMAN

Bath, 20 to 30 minutes.  
Face—cold cream, five minutes; rouge, powder, lipstick, 10 minutes; eyes, five minutes.  
Hair, 20 minutes.  
Switching articles from one purse to another, 10 minutes.  
Don coat, reach car, 20 minutes, counting return trip for another gander in the mirror.  
Total, at least one hour and 30 minutes.

This makes man's primping consume three hours and 16 minutes per week, while woman's efforts at beauty consume about 10½ hours per week. This particular researcher's checking and double-checking showed that Thorndike gave too much time to his men and too little time to his women. but, as I said, it's practically impossible to set hard and fast figures in a situation as variable as this one.

What was the name of the first labor paper published in the U.S. and what were its policies?

*The Man*, published at Ithaca, N.Y., about 1822, and edited by George H. Evans, was the first American labor

paper. It advocated free homesteads, equal rights for women and abolition of imprisonment for debt.

What's the meaning of the word "prad"?

"Prad" means "Please read and destroy." This new word is still unrecognized by lexicographers, but it seems to be a good one and may be admitted into the language if time shows that the people consider it useful. That's the way coined words barge their way into respectability.

How much air do we inhale and exhale at each breath in ordinary breathing?

About two-thirds of a pint.

The press has been giving a great deal of space to Clarence Darrow's 80th birthday. I didn't come across any statement by Darrow on his religious views. Please discuss.

Clarence Darrow is still the grand Freethinker he has always been. On his 80th birthday, April 18, 1937, Darrow, in answer to a reporter's question regarding his attitude toward religion, said:

"I feel as I always have, that the earth is the home, and the only home, of man, and I am convinced that whatever he is to get out of his existence he must get while he is here."

Have you any statistics on the toll taken by the main diseases that afflict man?

Dr. Halbert L. Dunn, chief statistician for vital statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, prepared the following table, which gives comparative death rates for 1933, 1934 and 1935:

Disease	1933	1934	1935
Heart disease	312,333	303,724	286,360
Cancer	144,065	140,771	134,539
Nephritis	103,516	106,584	100,264
Pneumonia	100,279	96,717	82,949
Lobar	57,658	54,794	45,740
Bronchial	42,621	41,923	37,209
Accidents	99,967	101,139	91,087
Cerebral hemorrhage	96,938	97,148	94,573
Tuberculosis	70,080	71,609	74,842
Premature births	33,147	35,102	32,953
Diabetes	28,364	28,000	26,835
Diseases of the arteries	26,448	27,673	25,831

The foregoing figures, which are complete and official, show that heart disease is not only the main cause of death in the U.S. but is growing worse from year to year. Cancer holds second place. Tuberculo-

sis, which was looked on only a few decades ago as the world's scourge, is steadily retreating.

While on this subject, let me call attention to a report on heart disease, given by Dr. Harry L. Smith, of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. His conclusions, based on the clinical records of 1,831 Mayo patients, point out that "it is four times harder on the heart to be a physician than a laborer or farmer." His study covered the incidence of coronary sclerosis—a disease characterized by hardening of the nerves, ligaments and blood vessels in and around the heart—among physicians, bankers, clergymen, laborers and farmers. He reports:

"Of 309 physicians' records, 10.7 percent revealed incidence of coronary sclerosis; of 300 bankers, 5.3 percent; of 304 lawyers, 4.6 percent; of 306 clergymen, 4.6 percent; of 306 laborers, 2.6 percent, and of 308 farmers, 2.5 percent.

"The incidence is lowest among those who do manual labor and highest among those who do mental work."

\* \* \*

What is the strength of the air fleets of the great governments, and at what rate are they growing?

It's difficult to get even good estimates of the size of the various air fleets, because the various governments prefer to keep such information secret. I consider Howard Mingos, editor of the *Aircraft Year Book*, for 1937, as good an authority as can be found, and his estimates should be given serious consideration. His book, published by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, says that Germany has made the most progress in the past two years, increasing its air fleet by 500 percent, which places Hitler's government in fifth place among the world's seven major powers. Mr. Mingos' table follows:

Estimated Combat Airplane Strength			
	1935	1936	1937
British Empire ...	2,800	3,600	4,000
France .....	3,600	3,400	3,600
Russia .....	3,000	3,300	3,400
Italy .....	2,300	2,800	3,200
Germany .....	600	1,600	3,000
United States ....	2,060	1,900	2,200
Japan .....	1,850	1,800	2,000

Mr. Mingos says that while Germany has expanded its air fleet to an amazing extent, this policy has had the effect of stimulating other nations

into increased activity, in order to offset Hitler's new strength in the air. This applies particularly to Russia, England and France, which are frankly alarmed but which are seeing that something is done here and now. Russia, for example, aims to build an air fleet larger than the combined German and Japanese fleets, which means, in the words of Mingos, that the Soviet Union is planning in tens of thousands of military aircraft and hundreds of thousands of men and women trained for air force duty. Another important fact to bear in mind about Germany, according to Mr. Mingos, is that government's serious shortage of raw materials "necessary to continued and prolonged production and operation of aircraft after a declaration of war." He adds:

"While it is true that German chemists and metallurgists have been rather successful in producing synthetic materials as substitutes for many important materials, there is no evidence at present that the substitutes are practical in the construction of military flying machines."

Turning to the U.S. Army, Mr. Mingos writes that its combat plane strength is about 1,200, "only half of which would be useful in action against a first-class power." He says the U.S. Army Air Corps aims to reach a "peace-time goal of 2,500 fighting planes, maintained by the acquisition of 800 new ships each year." The U.S. Navy, says Mr. Mingos, now has 1,000 combat planes, with the intention of acquiring 910 more machines of all types by 1942. He comments:

"Both branches of the service have been devoting considerable attention to training pilots and other personnel for aviation duty. Much progress has been made in blind flying. Hundreds of cadets have been qualified as pilots during the last 12 months. These services are not lagging behind either in efficiency or the scope of their training programs."

\* \* \*

I have a son and daughter who are graduating from high school this year. They have been active in the school's dramatic club, and now they want to leave this Iowa farm and head for Hollywood, where they have an opportunity to enroll in a movie dramatic school. They will be trained for movie careers and



given opportunities to show their aptitude for the work to Hollywood's talent scouts who are looking for new faces. What would you suggest?

I suggest that you keep that son and daughter on the farm, or, if they're determined to leave, see to it that they aren't made the victims of a bunch of heartless racketeers. Hollywood is crowded with movie "dramatic schools," which, for fees ranging from \$25 to \$50 per month, will "train" youngsters who will bowl over "talent scouts" frantically searching for "new faces" to supplant the faces belonging to Robert Taylor, Clark Gable, Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo and Shirley Temple. These movie "dramatic schools" are crude and crass fakes, which will milk your children dry and throw them out when they stop bringing in their monthly fees. An investigation showed that one of these many "schools" took in a gross of \$7,500 monthly from these movie-struck suckers, and not in the entire history of the "school" did it land one of its "new faces" in any of the large studios, nor could it get a single talent scout to even give these gawky, ill-trained, misguided youngsters so much as a passing glance. It's a settled policy of the studios to avoid these fake schools. Scouts will go to legitimate amateur companies in and around Los Angeles to find new talent—and they often find excellent players that way—but they have learned from experience that it's just a waste of time and effort to pay any attention to these many "schools" which advertise flamboyantly what wonderful careers await the "graduates" of their racketeering outfits. The movie industry and the Los Angeles Better Business Bureau have joined in a campaign to warn the public against enrolling in these fake projects.

\* \* \*

I thank you for the medical report of Washington's death. Can you give me similar report on the death of Lincoln?

Dr. Charles S. Taft, an army surgeon, who attended Ford's Theater the night Lincoln was shot, kept notes, the originals of which will be found in the collection of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, the distinguished Philadelphia collector.

In his notebook, Dr. Taft tells of seeing Lincoln and his party arrive

at the theater at about 8:30 p.m., April 14, 1865, to see *Our American Cousin*, with Laura Keane in the cast. He continues:

"At about 10:30, my attention was directed toward the President's box by the report of a pistol, and I saw a man drop from the State box, shouting as he did so, 'Sic semper tyrannis.'"

"I was endeavoring to pacify my wife, who wished to leave the place, when I heard several shouts for a surgeon; this was the first intimation I had that any one had been wounded; I sprang upon the stage, calling out that I was a surgeon, when I was seized by several men and lifted up to the State box; when I entered the President was lying upon the floor, surrounded by a number of men who were about lifting him to remove him; some were advising his removal home. This measure I opposed, stating that I was an army surgeon and wished him to be removed to the nearest home."

After telling of the President's removal to a house across the street from the theater and the measures taken to help the patient, Dr. Taft writes:

"The pulse of the President fluctuated between 40 and 60 during the night and varied in volume and force, sometimes being quite full and strong and then threadlike and feeble; after 5 A.M. the pulse remained at about 60 but became gradually weaker and thinner from that time until his death."

"The wound ceased to bleed or discharge about 5:30 A.M. and from that time the breathing was stertorous, but gradually increased in frequency and decreased in strength up to the last breath, which was drawn at 21 minutes and 55 seconds after 7; the heart did not cease to beat until 22 minutes 10 seconds past 7; my hand was upon the President's heart and my eye upon the watch of the surgeon general who was standing by my side."

\* \* \*

Is it true, as the enclosed clipping says, that many unpleasant words begin with "sn"?

Maurice H. Esser, general secretary of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, noticed this fact, and while I'm not ready to say he's entirely right, there are enough nasty "sn" words to warrant the assertion. Here are a few: *sneak, sneer, snore,*

snoop, snipe, snide, snarl, snap, snub, snicker, sneeze, snob, snare, snake, and snatch.

\* \* \*

An Associated Press report from Washington, D. C., says the national defense chairman of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Vinton E. Sisson, suggested to the annual convention of that organization that a law be passed declaring the Communist party an illegal body, "with no right of protection under our constitutional form of government." Please comment.

One grows to expect nonsense and stupidity from that aggregation which prates about the Constitution but seems unaware of the document's simplest and most fundamental principles. The D.A.R. should have invited Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes to repeat a paragraph from an opinion he wrote in January, 1937, invalidating Oregon's criminal syndicalism law under which a Communist was convicted because he was a member of the Communist party, a legally recognized organization. Maybe a little light would have barged its way into their skulls if Hughes had read these sensible words to the hysterical women who make up this peculiarly astigmatic society:

"The greater the importance of safeguarding the community from incitements to the overthrow of our institutions by force and violence, the more imperative is the need to preserve inviolate the constitutional rights of free speech, free press and free assembly in order to maintain the opportunity for free political discussion, to the end that government may be responsible to the will of the people, and that changes, if desired, may be obtained by peaceful means. Therein lies the security of the republic, the very foundation of constitutional government."

Or, should I add that the D.A.R. wouldn't have permitted Chief Justice Hughes to repeat his perfect answer to their official torism? Can it be that Hughes, when he wrote the foregoing opinion, had first seen to it that his pockets were lined with Moscow gold? Perhaps the authorities should ask that Hughes be deported to Red Russia, where he belongs, along with the rest of the bewhiskered Bolsheviks.

\* \* \*

I understand that the present premier of France, Leon Blum, once wrote a dar-

ing book on love and marriage. Can you tell me what the gist of it is?

A quarter of a century ago, Leon Blum, now premier and Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, wrote a book, entitled *Of Marriage*, in which he urged that "marriages for love are usually unhappy." At that time, Blum was a poet, a Beau Brummell, and all-round sport—or, if you prefer, gay boulevardier, who imagined he would spend his life loving women and being loved by them, little imagining the day would come when the serious problems of state would rest on his broad, and willing, shoulders. He may have been a great success as a Parisian lover—and that, we understand, takes something of genius—but his achievements in the difficult world of politics have been even more phenomenal, for his administration, thus far, has been an amazing combination of courage, shrewdness, caution, discretion, creativeness and common horse sense. The book, *Of Marriage*, didn't burn up Paris, because that sophisticated public has long learned to take such things calmly, but, becoming premier, Blum's public position became so important that everything he did in his long, dim past assumed new significance, with the result that the book has been returned for new printings no fewer than 23 times. In this book, Blum, with delightful frankness, tells about his own amorous adventures, the following being a typical one:

"I used to enjoy following women in the streets—it provided me with a goal for my solitary walks.

"One day, struck by a youthful, almost childlike blonde girl, I followed her for miles, trying to make up my mind how to get into conversation with her. I was tired out, ready to give up the chase, when she turned and said, 'Monsieur, you have been following me a long time.'

"The ice once broken, she told me she had been married six months, was just on her way home, but had two hours to wait for her train.

"I asked her where we should spend it. Calmly she motioned to a nearby hotel. Afterwards I saw her off, promised to write. I never did—for that evening I learned that her husband was an old school friend of mine.

"I can only explain her mixture of innocence and cynicism as a result of frustration due to our false conceptions of marriage which com-

pel girls to remain ignorant until they are legally wed."

The gist of Blum's argument is to the effect that there will be fewer unhappy marriages if young people who fall in love just love each other without living together or marrying. "Marry later," Blum suggests, "when you know yourself and the world and you have sufficient experience to select your mate."

It speaks volumes for the French that they can gobble up edition after edition of this unconventional book and still refrain from holding it against the man who now is the head of their government, the most powerful and important figure in a great country. I wonder what would happen to a politician in a more puritanical country—our own, for example, but even here the bars are beginning to waver—if we were to find out he had been an advocate of freer ideas about sex in the days when he was busier with problems of love than with the weightier problems of state. Our attitude is something like this: "Go ahead and do it all you please, but for Christ's sake keep your mouth shut about it. And don't, above all, write a book about your love affairs and your ideas on sex." In other words, we do it as much as anybody, if not more, but we still hold there's something obscene about an honest and intelligent discussion of some of its aspects. The Frenchman's attitude strikes me as being more intelligent, more civilized, more candid—and conducive to a better time.

\* \* \*  
Do you believe that "nothing is impossible"?

That's silly. There's no end of impossibilities. I'm reminded of the college student, who, after hearing his professor say that nothing is impossible, offered this challenge: "Well, I'd like to see you run this umbrella down your throat and open it."

\* \* \*  
What is your opinion of the men's shirts sold by the New Process Co., Warren, Pa.?

I've bought shirts from this concern for about 10 years, and can say in all sincerity that I always got good value for my money. Their "Longwear" brand, which now sells at five shirts for \$5.95, is well made, looks good and is an excellent buy. Of course,

I wear shirts made by other companies, particularly custom-made articles that cost a great deal more than "Longwear," but which strike me as being worth the extra money.

Montgomery Ward's 98c shirt (plus carriage), known as "Sanforized," is one of the best low-priced shirts on the market. The same goes for the \$1.79 (carriage extra) shirts sold by Sears, Roebuck.

Consumers Union reports that two unacceptable shirts are \$2.50 "Manhattans" and 89c "Stetsons." The former was declared to have the "lowest tensile strength of all shirts tested," while the latter is "carelessly and skimpily tailored," with sleeves of uneven lengths. The same source describes as acceptable the following: R. H. Macy's "Supre-Macy No. 2," at \$2.77; Cluett, Peabody and Company's "Arrow Mitoga," at \$3.50; Phillips-Jones Corporation's "Van Heusen," at \$2.50; Manhattan Shirt Company's "Manhattan," at \$3.50.

\* \* \*  
How many baseballs do the major leagues use each season, and how much do they cost?

It takes an average of 105,000 baseballs to see the major leagues through a season, at \$1.22 per ball.

\* \* \*  
Is there any truth in the statement that tobacco poisoning causes some type of cancer, and if so has this information been deliberately withheld from the public by the big tobacco companies?

I know of no sound, scientific source that substantiates such a charge. Medical scientists frequently have warned that irritations caused by pipe stems, cigar butts, etc., have caused mouth cancers, but none, so far as I can learn, have ever said that any particular "poison" given off by tobacco "causes some type of cancer."

\* \* \*  
I am enclosing a copy of Richard Hovey's "Spring," which I would like to see you reprint for the benefit of Freeman readers, who will, I am sure, appreciate this beautiful, ecstatic masterpiece.

The poem, which certainly is an excellent piece of literature, follows: I said in my heart, "I am sick of four walls and a ceiling  
I have need of the sky,  
I have business with the grass.  
I will up and get me away where the hawk is wheeling,  
Lone and high,  
And the slow clouds go by.

I will get me away to the waters that  
glass

The clouds as they pass,

To the waters that lie

Like the heart of a maiden, aware of a  
doom drawing nigh

And dumb for sorcery of impending joy,

I will get me away to the woods.

Spring, like a huntsman's boy,

Halloos along the hillsides and unhoods

The falcon in my will.

The dogwood calls me, and the sudden  
thrill

That breaks in apple blooms down  
country roads

Plucks me by the sleeve and nudges me  
away.

The sap is in the boles today,

And in my veins a pulse that yearns  
and goads."

\* \* \*

Are American Indians polygamous or  
monogamous?

A little of both, though in recent years the tendency has been in the direction of monogamy as an exclusive diet. My wife's aunt, Jane Addams, used to tell a story about President Theodore Roosevelt, who loved the old West, and Quanah Parker, the last great chief of the Comanche nation. Quanah, let us whisper it in shame and humiliation, had seven wives—fat ones, lean ones, long ones and short ones. The Colonel, who always was something of a tedious moralist, took occasion to advise Quanah to set an example of respectability among his tribesmen by getting rid of six of his females. Quanah listened glumly and then asked how Roosevelt would go about disposing of six of his gals, to which the President, who was sure he was equal to any domestic problem, answered he would pick out the one he wanted to keep and get rid of the rest of them. "How you goin' to get rid of um?" the chief asked. "Well, just tell them to go," said the Chief Executive. Whereupon the great Indian turned a beady eye on the President and said: "You tell um."

\* \* \*

Does New York State, with the most population, lead the U.S. in railroad mileage?

No. Texas comes first, with 16,651 miles of trackage.

\* \* \*

Is News-Week magazine accurate when it says the phrase "flaming youth" was born 15 years ago?

You'll find it in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, which means the words are

more than three centuries old. Hamlet, speaking to his mother, says that if rebellious hell could mutiny in a matron's bones, "to flaming youth let virtue be as wax."

\* \* \*

Can sulphur and molasses cure anyone of spring fever?

Dr. William W. Brace, University of Michigan, says this old concoction "never cured anyone of spring fever and definitely is not beneficial." (Is nothing sacred to these obstreperous debunkers?)

\* \* \*

Recently I saw a trained horse put on an act that puzzled me. Advertised as "the mathematical horse," it actually tapped its forefoot on a tub exactly the number of times persons in the audience asked. How is that done? Is it possible for a horse to learn figures?

No, the horse knows nothing about arithmetic. The animal is trained to begin tapping at a certain signal, and keep tapping until the trainer signals a stop by a movement of his body.

\* \* \*

Please quote prices circus men are paying for animals.

The 1937 market: lions, \$600-\$1,500; tigers, \$8,000 per pair; polar bears, \$600-\$750; elephants, \$4,000-\$4,500; rhinoceri, \$10,000-\$12,000; sea elephants, \$10,000; zebras, \$4,000 per pair; giraffes, \$4,500; camels, \$1,500-\$2,000 per pair; kangaroos, \$280; cobras, \$400-\$500.

\* \* \*

How much food does the personnel of a large circus consume?

*Fortune* ran an article on Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, the "greatest show on earth," which says its 1,600 people, 735 horses and 1,000 other animals consume in a day:

300 pounds of butter, 300 gallons of milk, 200 pounds of coffee, 35 bags of table salt, 2,500 pounds of fresh meat, 2,000 loaves of bread, 250 dozen eggs, 1,500 pounds of vegetables, 2 barrels of sugar, 50 pounds of lard, 100 dozen oranges, 50 tons of hay, 20 tons of straw, 350 bushels of oats, 4 cords of wood, all bought in local markets. Nearly 5,000 meals are served every day in the cook-house. (When pancakes are on the breakfast menu, more than 10,000 are eaten.)

The same article reports that this wonderful organization gives 400 performances per season, before about 4,000,000 people. Each customer pays

an average of \$1.50 (\$6,000,000 gross for the season), which includes side shows and concessions. Its daily expense account runs to \$18,500, most of which is spent in local markets. A new top must be made each season, using \$125,000 worth of material and covering 20 acres. The tent is always about 25 feet shorter at the end of the season than it was at the beginning, so much does it shrink because of rains. It won't blow down and it won't leak.

\* \* \*

Do you have any dope on the radios sold by Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck?

On account of the low prices charged by these two concerns, many people assert their radios are junk but that shows nothing more than a foolish prejudice. The facts indicate clearly that the radios sold by these companies are of high quality and good buys.

\* \* \*

Why is it that for hundreds of years the British king's messenger hasn't been permitted to enter the House of Commons without being asked first whether he has any soldiers with him?

That custom is kept alive for a very serious purpose. It's intended to remind the king that the people shed their blood for the powers given to parliament and that those powers won't be surrendered without a struggle.

\* \* \*

In his column, Walter Winchell asks why a letter carrier is required to keep his mail pouch in front of him when he's in an elevator. Can you tell the reason?

The postoffice department insists on this because it has found that letters can be stolen easily when a letter carrier rides an elevator with his bag behind him.

\* \* \*

Is Fritz Kreisler a Jew?

No.

\* \* \*

How much water does cow's milk contain?

87.3 percent.

\* \* \*

I am convinced there is logic and reason in your numerous arguments to the effect that America's enemy is Fascism instead of Communism. Senator Borah discussed this same subject in a speech, which you will find quoted in the enclosed clipping.

Speaking before the Senate, on

May 5, 1937, Senator Borah said Fascism was a more dangerous threat to American democracy than Communism, as follows:

"I doubt very much if we are fully aware of the insidious, subtle efforts being constantly put forth in this country by the advocates of that theory of government called Fascism.

"It has far more supporters in this country than Communism and they are much more active and much more adroit in the manner in which they are accomplishing their end. They work in wholly different ways and by widely different methods from Communists."

The Senator from Idaho then painted a sordid, but true, picture of Fascism in action, in Spain and Ethiopia. He was particularly graphic when discussing the senseless, needless, brutal bombing of Guernica, in which 800 women, children and aged men were slaughtered by Hitler's flying machine gunners.

"No language can describe the scene at Guernica, and Guernica was not a single instance; it was simply a culmination of a long line of unspeakable atrocities.

"It was not a military maneuver. The city was a long distance from the battle line. The attack had no legitimate military objective. An unarmed, noncombatant city was singled out for the most revolting instance of mass massacre of modern times. It was Fascist strategy."

The Senator then read press dispatches reporting the massacre of thousands of Ethiopians in Addis Ababa in retaliation for the assault on Marshal Graziani, Italian viceroy of Ethiopia, the latter being an act of violence by a few conspirators. Mussolini's terrible revenge drew the following remarks from Borah:

"This is the logic of Fascism. This is the logic of a system which is founded upon force. This is not courage, but cowardice; not government, but brute savagery; not war, but butchery."

Fascists like Mussolini and Hitler boast to the world that they build men of courage, that they make real men of their adherents, and that Fascism takes the young and makes heroes of them. Borah commented on this empty claim with these words:

"And, as evidence of the fulfillment of its creed, it points to the subjugation of the wholly weak and

disarmed Ethiopia and now doubtless will take pride in the successful slaughter of women and children throughout Spain."

Fascism is the world's greatest curse. Civilization won't be safe until this horrible thing is crushed for all time.

\* \* \*

I have received a circular from the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, who asserts that L. M. Birkhead, the anti-Fascist you quote so frequently, spoke falsely when he described Winrod as a "Jayhawk Nazi." Winrod also says that he compelled the Salina (Kansas) Journal to retract its report of Birkhead's speech in Salina that said Winrod is a Nazified Fascist. Please comment.

I sent the circular described above to L. M. Birkhead, at the office of The Liberal Forum, 3425 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, Mo., with the request for a statement, which I offered to print in *The Freeman*. Birkhead responded with an OPEN LETTER TO WINROD, Founder and Leader of "The Defenders of the Christian Faith," which I'm glad to quote in full:

In your various letters to me and public statements about me, you are constantly asserting that you are not a Nazi, not a Fascist, and that you have never had political connections with any such groups.

Well, let us have a look at the record, your record. I refer to your pamphlets, your periodicals, "The Revealer" and "The Defender." Also, let us have a glance at your friends and associates.

Naturally I do not expect you to stand on the housetop and shout "I am a Nazi." That is not the way the John the Baptists of dictatorship carry on.

How did the Nazis come to power in Germany? Mainly by exploiting the Jews as the scapegoat for all of Germany's ills. This is about the oldest political stratagem known to mankind—selecting a popular scapegoat for mass discontent.

There is just here a strong similarity between you and the Nazis. In your pamphlets and magazines you are blaming all of America's ills on the Jews. Your magazines are filled with hatred for this minority group. Every slander against the Jews circulated by the Nazis in Germany you exploit here in America.

Moreover, your magazines have contained frequent praise of Hitler and the Nazi party. For example,

on page 17 to 20 of the December, 1936, issue of "The Defender" you publish an address by one of your associates, Dr. Oswald J. Smith. Here are a few sentences from Dr. Smith: "In Germany and Italy the home is revered. The children belong to the parents. In Germany and Italy the church is revered. Hence, of the three forms of government, Nazism and Fascism are as far in advance of Bolshevism as the 20th Century is from the Dark Ages."

You have repeated the ridiculous Nazi charge that "Communism is a Jewish conspiracy." You seem to believe such absurd Nazi suggestions as that Communists and international Jewish bankers have been brought together in a conspiracy.

Throughout your journals you refer to the Protocols, which you advertise and sell, as "authentic." And yet the Protocols are now recognized by all reputable scholars, Jewish and Gentile alike, as forgeries. And worst of all, forgeries of the brutal and sadistic police of the late Czar.

Moreover, you have quoted the forged Franklin prophecy concerning the Jews as though it were authentic.

You use the Nazi political trick of hurling such epithets as "Red," "Communist," "Jew" and "Jew-controlled" at all who oppose you. The Nazis say: "Hurl these epithets, a little mud will stick." And so you besmirch the character of every American whom you oppose, from President Roosevelt on down. It is to laugh when you denounce Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, John D. Rockefeller's pastor, as a "Red" and a "Communist."

And who are your friends and associates? Harry Jung, Robert Edward Edmondson, James True, Col. E. N. Sanctuary, Maj. Frank Pease and numerous other preachers of hate, of anti-Semitism, and exploiters of "Red-baiting." These gentlemen are on friendly terms with Nazi Germany and Nazi representatives in America.

Furthermore, why should your publications be found in Julius Streicher's office in Nuremberg? I have seen your pamphlets and publications in Streicher's world Jew-baiting clearing house in Germany. Why does Streicher obtain so much comfort from what you say? The answer is easy. He recognizes you as a friend and fellow—Jew-baiter. It is interesting to note that on the front page of the September 15,

1936, issue of "The Revealer, you imitated Stericher's "Der Stuermer" by publishing a caricature of the Jew.

Your charges that I am linked with subversive organizations in America are ridiculous. Please name one such subversive group. You say that since my return from Moscow, I have, by writing and lecturing, advanced Communism in America. The fact is that the opposite is true. My friends who have heard me will testify that I have denounced all forms of dictatorship in my lectures.

You send letters to publications which contain reports of my addresses threatening suit and demanding retraction. And yet you continue preaching hate and hurling epithets at your critics, and misrepresenting them. But I am pointing to your record. I challenge any fair-minded person to read your publications. There will be only one conclusion. Here, in Winrod's published statements, is disclosed the temper of modern Fascism.

James True, one of your friends, was the first one I heard characterize you as "The Jayhawk Nazi." I never read "The Daily Worker," as you charge. I get my information about you from your own periodicals and publications.

Now, Rev. Winrod, let us proclaim our real Americanism. Let us say, openly and publicly, that the rights of minority groups must be respected in America. Let us join in denouncing all those who preach racial hatred and religious bigotry. Let us defend the right of all minority groups, radical and conservative alike, to proclaim their ideas. Let us denounce dictatorship of any and every brand as the enemy of American democracy. How about it?—L. M. Birkhead.

Birkhead, of course, knows that Winrod will continue to slander and libel the helpless Jews, will continue to extol Hitlerism, will continue to describe every effort at social reform under the aegis of the New Deal as a Communist-Jewish conspiracy, will continue to peddle the oft-exposed Protocols of the Elders of Zion, will continue to whip his followers into new frenzies of bigotry—all in the name of the gentle Jesus. Why? Because he has found a growing audience for his lies and malicious distortions, because he has found that the hate side of the fence fits his temperament better as a speaker and

editor, and because the financial support he receives from elements that thrive on racial prejudice will more than balance the books in his growing business office. Facist-minded Winrod has found his niche in the pest-house of bigotry and his dearest ambition is to make it grow as a power for hate-mongering.

\* \* \*

Would a rebel victory in Spain be of any benefit to the British?

A strong, vocal minority in British public life makes no effort to conceal its support of the rebel side, but the masses of the citizenry, the Labor party, the Liberals, and many of the Conservatives, know that success for the insurgents would be a menace to Britain's "life-line of the Empire."

Captain B. H. Liddell Hart, well-known English expert on military affairs, said, in an article in the *Manchester Guardian*, April 15, 1937, that full cognizance must be taken by London of the part played in the Fascist rebellion by Mussolini, who, as the world knows, is determined to make the Mediterranean an Italian lake. If Mussolini, through a victory in Spain, were to be able to control the Mediterranean, British ships could be kept from reaching the Suez Canal. Captain Hart adds:

"The danger is so obvious that it is hard to understand the eagerness with which some of the most vocally patriotic sections of the British public desire the rebels' success. A military-minded Spain allied with the Fascist Powers might make Gibraltar untenable and even threaten our route round the Cape by an air base in the Canaries. The danger would be even worse if a hostile air and submarine base were established in the Balearics."

The same arguments carry great weight in France, where it is recognized by Leon Blum that a victory for the Fascists in Spain would cut France away from its immense African colonies, on which France depends for a part of its man-power in case of war.

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Recently Father Coughlin's sheet denounced Mayor La Guardia by asserting that while he assailed Hitler on the one hand, he praised Mussolini on the other. Was the denunciation justified?

It's amusing to see Father Coughlin demanding consistency in others, when the mountebank's whole record

is crammed with the rankest kinds of inconsistencies. His attack on the mayor of New York City is unjustified, for that stout, little warrior has been consistent in fighting all forms of dictatorship. I defy Father Coughlin to reprint a single sentence from *La Guardia* containing praise for the Italian mass-murderer. *La Guardia* is unpopular in Mussolini's regimented press because he has never shown, by word or deed, the slightest enthusiasm for Il Duce's Fascism. I imagine Father Coughlin's story is based on an incident which happened some years ago, when *La Guardia* attended a public meeting at which one of Mussolini's henchmen spoke. *La Guardia*, of course, wasn't responsible for the fact that one of his fellow speakers was a Fascist, and he made no bones about telling that same audience that he believed in democracy, liberalism, full civil rights, and free play to the modern spirit of free inquiry. I'm sure we can always depend on *La Guardia* to be an anti-Fascist and that his anti-Fascism will invariably include plenty of Bronx cheers for Rome's tin-pot Caesar.

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Some Italian newspapers which are published in the U.S. insist "there is no incompatibility in believing in Italian Fascism and being a loyal American citizen." Please comment.

This same argument was advanced in numerous American organs of Italian Fascism when Senator Borah made his vigorous attack on Mussolini and Hitler, which I have already quoted for *Freeman* readers. When Borah was faced with this point in a letter from Ettore Patrizi, editor and publisher of *L'Italia*, an Italian newspaper in San Francisco, Borah wrote in reply:

"Do you believe in free speech?  
... Do you believe in suffrage?  
... Do you believe in a free press  
... and the right to labor to organize?"

"Fascism in Italy has denounced all forms of Parliamentary government, all forms of free government, all right of the people to govern, all right to vote, and Fascism has made good its declarations, as the highest authority has declared, 'by sending those in opposition to island prisons.'"

Senator Borah's letter then quoted a statement by Patrizi, to the effect

that "it is a pity that in this country Italian Fascism is so thoroughly misunderstood and ill-interpreted, which is due to the fact that no one ever took the trouble to make a serious and serene study of Fascism as practiced in Italy." Borah replied:

"I confess my study of Fascism 'as practiced in Italy' has not at all times been serene, but it has been both serious and persistent. . . . From the march on Rome and the inspired, if not directed, murder of Matteotti to the frightful carnage of Guernica, where helpless men and women were slaughtered, the practice has been true to the theory of Fascism. . . .

"You, and other leaders of the Italian people in this country, can render no greater service to these people and to our country than to expose Fascism and what it is, and that is, the enemy of all free government.

"And I may say to you that I feel very certain that those who are advocating Fascism in this country and at the same time professing to be good Americans will not be permitted indefinitely to sail under two flags."

Both Hitler and Mussolini spend millions of dollars each year propagandizing the American people, especially those who are of German or Italian extraction. The miseducation of these people is made possible by an endless volley of lies and distortions, the prime purposes being to create good-will for the dictators so they will be able to have access to good American dollars. The economics of Fascism is lamentably imperfect, making it essential to beg or blackmail loans, but it's hoped that the machinery of enlightenment and truth will function properly in this country so that our people will be warned and refuse to give aid and comfort to mass-murderers like Hitler and Mussolini, two of the worst gangsters ever to achieve power in the realm of high politics.

It happens that here, in my own county, there are several thousand Italians, most of them engaged in the coal mining industry. I have observed that those Italians who are intelligent and well-read invariably are anti-Fascists, while the mine-run of yokels and ignoramuses keep parroting the same balderdash about their "wonderful" Mussolini. They always



say: "Mussolini he always for the poor people." And that's the end of their "discussion." They have, of course, been propagandized to the limit of their ignorance—enough to be able to repeat those few words. They know absolutely nothing about the condition of the poor people in Italy, the standards of living, the prices of necessities, the war-mongering, the triumph of militarism, the persecution of all forms of independent thinking. But the paid propagandists of Mussolini have been in this country often enough, and long enough, to get a fair percentage of our Italians to keep repeating, like so many ninnies, "Mussolini he always for the poor people." And the tragic thing about it all is that it's just so much waste of breath to even argue with such intellectual riff-raff. They are ideal targets for Mussolini's propaganda machine, and if they were living in Italy they could be depended on to go to Ethiopia in the name of Il Duce and the Pope, or to join with German robots in slaughtering the great, heroic Spanish people who are trying so courageously to shake off the shackles of Fascist slavery. "Mussolini he always for the poor people." The very sound of the words makes me sick.

\* \* \*

The press reports that Mary Pickford, on her return from Germany, said: "Hitler seems to be a great fellow for the Germans. Things certainly are marvelous now in Germany." Please comment.

Miss Pickford has shown, several times in the past, that her sympathies are all Fascist. A few years ago, when she returned from Italy, she exclaimed "Viva Fascismo!" The mass-murderer in Rome was her little Napoleon. Now she comes back from Germany and tells us what a "great fellow" Hitler is—for Germany. The Hollywood Fascist should have been a little more explicit. She should have explained just who considers Hitler a "great fellow." Did she mean Julius Streicher, with his inhuman, disgusting, savage attacks on a helpless racial minority? Did she mean the militarists, who have been put in the saddle by Germany's famous pansy? Did she mean the great industrialists, who have been enabled, by Nazism, to outlaw all

free labor unions? Did she mean the henchmen of Hitler, who are black-mailing the German people? Did she mean Dr. Goebbels, who suppressed everything that's fine in German culture and science? Did she mean the tin-pot Nazis who have been put in positions of power in the universities, newspapers, theaters, and the like? Or did she mean the hundreds of thousands of liberals, democrats, anti-Fascists who have rotted in concentration camps because they believe in a civilized order? Or did she mean the survivors of thousands of fine men and women who have been slaughtered because they accepted the noble ideals of democracy, liberalism, freethought, social justice, peace and international good-will? Or did she mean the half million Jews who have been driven to despair and ruin because power was stolen by a maniac? Or did she mean the millions of women who have been ordered to breed like so many sows in order to supply Hitler's military machine with its needed human fodder? Miss Pickford should tell us more about this "great fellow."

\* \* \*

I am fond of olive oil but know it's difficult to get the pure article. Can you recommend a few brands?

Pompeian Olive Oil, sold by the Pompeian Corporation, Baltimore, Md., and Heinz, sold by H. J. Heinz Co., Pittsburgh, Pa, are dependable and pure. Equally good are Barcelona, sold by Castile Toiletries, Inc., 36 West 24th St., N.Y.C., and Pride of Lucca, the distributor of which I am unable to identify. Encore, sold by Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., and Lucca, sold by James Butler, Inc., are almost as good.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of mouth washes?

I warn you against any of the proprietary mouth washes advertised so generously and offered in all drug stores at outlandish prices. I refer to such brands as Lavaris, Listerine, Pepsodent Antiseptic, etc. All mouth washes are worthless. If you have a bad mouth condition, find out from your doctor what the trouble is, but don't keep soaking the tender tissues of your mouth with these advertised mouth washes, which, it is known, can do great harm. If you feel the need of a mouth wash after brush-

ing your teeth, use ordinary warm water mixed with common salt, about a tablespoonful to a pint of water. A healthy mouth never needs any of these antiseptics. I advise you to leave them alone. A proprietary antiseptic can be effective for only a minute or two, after which the bad condition will return, for these washes never go to the cause of the trouble.

\* \* \*

I notice that many foreign physicians endorse yeast in magazines, newspapers and in announcements over the radio. What does that mean?

Foreign doctors are used this way because they are beyond the control of the American Medical Association, which forbids its members to commercialize their names. Manufacturers of yeast make extravagant curative claims for their product, none of which can receive endorsement at the hands of the A.M.A. or any other reputable body of scientists. I consider it unwise for individuals to diagnose their own ailments and then outline for themselves a series of treatments that include regular eating of yeast. Yeast is a wonderful thing in bread, but as a layman I'd prefer to keep it there. I wouldn't dream of taking any of the stuff for the benefits I'm told about in advertisements and radio ballyhoo.

\* \* \*

Are the advertised remedies for scalp conditions of any worth?

Such articles as Van Ess Liquid Soap Massage, Newbro's Herpicide, Lucky Tiger, Wildroot Dandruff Remedy, Listerine, Hair-o-gain, etc., are worthless. If you have a bad scalp, wash frequently, brush often and massage the scalp with your finger tips. Avoid all advertised treatments for the hair and scalp. They have no real value.

\* \* \*

What's your impression of Princess Kropotkin in Liberty magazine?

To tell you the strict truth, I never pay any attention to her because she writes about people and subjects that don't interest me. I soon found that she doesn't pack an idea to a carload of magazines, so why waste time when there's so much worth while material that cries to be read and digested? One soon learns to spot the unimportant and superficial writers. This particular woman is much

at home, because the publication she writes for isn't worth more than two minutes of any busy person's time. It's quite distressing to have the daughter of a wonderful father stoop to such trash. Kropotkin was a scientist who pioneered in several important fields, explored numerous social questions and ventured far into the realms of thought, while his offspring diddles around with claptrap, cream puffs and eskimo pies. Another indication of this woman's innate cheapness is the way she exploits that "princess" business in a periodical that is supposed to appeal to a republican audience—a "princess" of a house that no longer exists since the Russians so sensibly booted Russian royalty into the sewer, where it belongs along with the rest of the sewer-rats.

\* \* \*

Can you recommend a good butter substitute,

Nucoa Nut Butter, sold by Best Foods Products, Inc., 88 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C., and Jelke's Oleomargarine, sold by J. F. Jelke Co., Washtenaw Ave. and Polk, Chicago, Ill., are excellent.

\* \* \*

Please suggest a good brand of vinegar.

Heinz's and White House, the latter made by National Fruit Product Co., Woodward Bldg., Washington, D.C., are both very fine.

\* \* \*

I've heard it said that a running horse never has all four legs off the ground at one time. Is this true?

Edward Muybridge, acting under the sponsorship of Leland Stanford, founder of the university that bears his name, conducted experiments 60 years ago to find out, among other things, if a running horse ever has all four legs off the ground. His experiments proved they do. He demonstrated this fact by using a row of 24 cameras. The shutters of the cameras were tripped as the horse broke strings in running, and the resulting pictures proved horses do have all their legs in the air at one time.

\* \* \*

Is it not a fact that the economic royalists have always supported great church-building programs as a part of their campaign to keep the people in economic and mental enslavement?

There's no end of evidence to support the assertion that economic re-

action and strong church support go hand in hand. J. L. and Barbara Hammond, in their book, *The Town Laborer*, give an instance of this out of English history, and it would be easy to back up this quotation with scores equally convincing. Their comment follows:

"IN 1818 [after the upper-class scare over the French Revolution] ONE ENGLISHMAN OUT OF SEVEN BEING AT THAT TIME A PAUPER, PARLIAMENT VOTED A MILLION [pounds] OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHURCHES TO PREACH SUBMISSION TO THE HIGHER POWERS. In the debates in the House of Lords, Lord Liverpool took occasion to lay stress on the social importance of guiding by this means the opinions of the masses who were for the first time beginning to receive education."

Today, our economic rulers are as strong for the Church as ever in the past, though it's noticed now and then that they don't even attempt to keep the old appearance of piety for themselves. Many of these rich supporters of the Church are too intelligent to believe in the traditional nonsense, yet they pour their money and good will into these mechanisms for keeping the masses saturated with the exploded superstitions of a pre-scientific age. For themselves, they prefer the benefits of a scientific world, but for the masses in general they believe religion is a wonderful thing because it teaches the lowly workers their place in the social order, makes them easy to handle, and wards off markedly the dangers of social change. This idea I'm discussing is well handled in a passage I found in J. A. Hobson's book, *God and Mammon*, which I want to pass on to my readers. It follows:

"Indeed, there is a modern tendency for the public to expect of a successful business man large contributions to charitable causes. This expectation easily fuses with a recognition that liberal donations act as a protective covering for high-handed and unscrupulous business methods. RELIGION STILL HAS A CONSIDERABLE SHARE IN THESE BENEFACCTIONS, AND THE SOCIAL ETHICS OF THE PULPIT ARE SELDOM DEVOTED TO CLOSE SCRUTINY OF MONEY-MAKING PROCESSES, OR TO DENUNCIATION OF THE DECEITFULNESS OF

RICHES.... So if you are a Church or a college, it is highly inconvenient that your clergy or your professors should poke their noses into the works, stores, banks, and markets from which emerge in some mysterious and intricate fashion the endowments and salaries which come to you from munificent donors. THEREFORE, YOU TAKE CARE TO DISCOURAGE THE NOSE-POKING PROCESS. You also take care not to be conscious of these prohibitions, so that you may feel genuinely indignant when the charge is brought against you of discouraging freedom of economic thought and teaching. This is not hypocrisy, it is 'rationalization' in the psychological sense of that word—i.e., finding a 'good' reason for what you want to believe. THE DEPENDENCE OF THE CHURCHES UPON THE SUPERFLUOUS INCOMES OF THE RICH DISABLES THEM FROM EFFECTIVE CRITICISM OF THE SOURCES OF THESE INCOMES AND FROM ANY SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO PROBE INTO THE CAUSES OF THE POVERTY WHICH THEY PROFESS TO DEPLORE."

When we study the facts of the record we see how hollow is the claim that the Church is the keeper of the world's conscience. I could draw on many Agnostics, Rationalists, Atheists, Skeptics, Freethinkers and Materialists for apt quotations to expose this popular delusion, but prefer to turn to a famous minister, the Rev. R. J. Campbell, who, speaking at City Temple, London, July 25, 1909, said:

"Most moral gains are made in the teeth of religion, or at least in the teeth of religion as popularly understood; and very often the pioneers of the advance are men who are not specially religious. That has been conspicuously the case with regard to the awakening social consciousness of today. AMONG ITS FOREMOST EXPONENTS HAVE BEEN MEN WHO ARE COMMONLY DUBBED MATERIALISTS, AND AMONG ITS FIERCEST OPPONENTS HAVE BEEN THE CHAMPIONS OF RELIGIOUS ORTHODOXY.... NO CAUSE IN MODERN TIMES THAT HAS MEANT THE UPLIFTING OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED HAS BEEN INITIATED AND CHAMPIONED BY ORGANIZED CHRISTIANITY. Individual Christians acting in the name of Christ have struggled for them, but always against

the bulk of ecclesiastical opinion."

No, the Church is a business institution that is financed for a definite purpose—to talk sweetly about guiding the conscience of the world but to function to keep that conscience from interrupting the rule of the masters. Dr. James H. Leuba, whom I have referred to many times in the past, comes forward at this time with a paragraph ("God or Man?") that speaks volumes and which I'm happy to be able to pass on to my readers, as follows:

"WHOEVER WISHES TO HOLD IN CHECK THE PROPENSITY OF HUMAN NATURE TO FREEDOM AND SELF-EXPRESSION SHOULD BE A SUPPORTER OF OUR TRADITIONAL RELIGION. IT IS THIS ASPECT OF CHRISTIAN TEACHING WHICH WON FOR THE GERMAN CLERGY THE NAME OF 'BLACK SOLDIERS OF THE STATE,' AND IT IS THE SAME ASPECT WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN TODAY TO THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION BY THE VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF POLITICAL AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS WHO HAVE NO PERSONAL USE FOR IT. The French intelligentsia and politicians who champion the Church of Rome do not usually do so because that religion is precious to their private inner life. They value the sedative and unifying influence of that Church upon the people. THE INDUSTRIAL MAGNATES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE, WHO GIVE FREELY OF THEIR WEALTH TO THE CHURCHES AND URGE RELIGION UPON THEIR WORKMEN, APPRECIATE THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL VALUE OF THE PREACHING OF HUMILITY, OBEDIENCE AND RENOUNCEMENT OF WORLDLY GOODS FOR THE SAKE OF REWARDS IN HEAVEN. . . . So long as it continues in its traditional position, the Christian religion will, on the whole, remain a hindrance to the economic and political reorganization of the world which is necessary to the advent of universal peace and brotherhood."

A quotation entirely germane to this discussion will be found in Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes' *The Twilight of Christianity*, which shows what a keen student of history knows about this all-important subject. It impressed me deeply when I first read it, and I marked it carefully, in the

hope that opportunity would present itself some day for me to use it in my editorial work. At long last the chance arrived, so here it is:

"YET, IN MANY INDUSTRIAL AREAS WHERE THERE IS DANGER OF PROLETARIAN DISCONTENT THE CLERGY ARE ACTIVELY AND ALERTLY ALIGNED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL BARONS AND PREACH THE GOSPEL OF RESPECT FOR AND OBEDIENCE TO CAPITALISM AND ITS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES. In North Carolina textile centers it is customary for mill owners to pay half or more of the salary of the parsons. Liberal and independent ministers find it well-nigh impossible to maintain their positions in such regions. Some of our most popular contemporary evangelists are subsidized to inveigh against the dangers of Bolshevism, which, to most of them, means anything more radical than shop unions. . . . THE CHRISTIANS WERE WILLING TO CONCEDE SOME EQUALITY AMONG THE SAVED IN HEAVEN, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER WORKED AS A UNIT FOR EARTHLY EQUALITY. The Church in the Middle Ages became an integral part of the feudal order and no more arrogant and oppressive nobles existed in the medieval age than the great feudal bishops and abbots. Luther fiercely opposed the democratic movements in his own day. The early Protestant divines were the most docile servants of the kings and were the mouthpiece for the doctrine of passive obedience. When they espoused revolution, as they did in the age of Cromwell, they fought for the middle class and not for the underman. DEMOCRACY WAS PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF THE AGITATION OF THE WORKING-CLASSES AFTER THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, AND MR. PAGE AND OTHERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT, IN THE STRUGGLES BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND THE EMPLOYED SINCE 1750, THE FORCE OF ORGANIZED CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN THROWN OVERWHELMINGLY ON THE SIDE OF THE EMPLOYERS AND OF INDUSTRIAL FEUDALISM."

The record thunders. It can't be denied, though the press prefers to ignore the facts and prate about the Church's great service to humanity. Fortunately, those of us who want the truth can still get it, though not in newspapers, magazines or the ra-

dio. We must turn to the great stores of knowledge that are to be found in good, reliable books. Take, for example, the informative lines I'll quote below from John H. Dietrich, late minister of the First Unitarian Church, Minneapolis, Minn. Read them and ask yourself if such thoughts will be found in your daily paper. Of course, they won't. And yet, they tell nothing but the truth about the corrupt behavior of the Church. Dr. Dietrich speaking:

**"IT [the old Russian Orthodox Church] WAS THE HANDMAID BY WHICH THE STATE WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE PEOPLE IN POVERTY AND IN IGNORANCE AND IN SUBJECTION. IT TAUGHT THE PEOPLE THAT THEY MUST OBEY ABSOLUTELY AND WITHOUT QUESTION THE DICTATES OF THE CZAR; THAT THE HIGHEST VIRTUES WERE OBEDIENCE, CONTENTMENT, SUBMISSION. It glorified poverty and encouraged the people to endure it, promising compensation in heaven. It made secular education a sin, and was responsible for the overwhelming illiteracy of the Russian people. It opposed scientific effort of every kind, teaching the people that progress and success in every venture depended, not upon effort, but upon magic. It was responsible for the outrages perpetrated on Jews, and for the consignment of everyone who questioned its authority or methods to the frozen plains of Siberia."**

Ah, you say, those words are aimed at Russia. Get closer to home! Very well, let's listen to Carlos Martyn, who writes, in his book, *Wendell Phillips: Agitator*, as follows:

**"AS ORGANIZED BODIES, THE CHURCHES ADMITTED SLAVEHOLDERS TO THEIR COMMUNION, INSTALLED THEM IN THEIR PULPITS, AND SCREENED THEIR SIN WITH PALLIATIVE RESOLUTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THEY BRANDED THE ABOLITIONISTS AS FANATICS, MEDDLING WITH WHAT DID NOT CONCERN THEM, AND ANATHEMATIZED THEM AS INFIDELS ASSAULTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROVIDENCE."**

The foregoing quotation doesn't look or sound good, but, alas, it happens to be true. James Russell Lowell, another famous Abolitionist, said, in a letter written in 1858:

**"IF THE PIOUS MEN WHO**

**FOUNDED THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT WITHIN 40 YEARS THEY WOULD BE WATCHFUL OF THEIR PUBLICATIONS, LEST, BY INADVERTENCE, ANYTHING DISRESPECTFUL MIGHT BE SPOKEN OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE . . . if these excellent men had been told this, they would have shrunk in horror, and exclaimed: 'Are thy servants dogs, that they should do these things?' YET THIS IS PRECISELY THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE SOCIETY."**

So much for Lowell. There's still another anti-slavery agitator to be heard from, William Lloyd Garrison, who is quoted by his children in the book, *William Lloyd Garrison*, as follows:

**"It is a fact, alike indisputable and shameful, that the Christianity of the 19th Century is preached and professed by those who hold their brethren in bondage as brute beasts! AND SO ENTIRELY POLLUTED HAS THE CHURCH BECOME, THAT IT HAS NOT MORAL POWER ENOUGH TO EXCOMMUNICATE A MEMBER WHO IS GUILTY OF MAN-STEALING. WHETHER IT BE UNITARIAN OR ORTHODOX, BAPTIST OR METHODIST, UNIVERSALIST OR EPISCOPAL, ROMAN CATHOLIC OR CHRISTIAN, IT IS FULL OF INNOCENT BLOOD."**

Is that enough on the slavery question? No, let's give Garrison our attention once more, this time from his *Liberty Bell*, as follows:

**"IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND ESPECIALLY, EXTRAORDINARY PAINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE TO HOLD UP THE AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY AS UNWORTHY OF ALL COUNTENANCE IN ANY DEGREE, ON ACCOUNT OF ITS INFIDEL CHARACTER."**

Let's not quit this slavery question too soon. There's more to be said about the Church's function as the moral leader of the world. Let's examine the following words, taken from Archibald Grimké's book, *William Lloyd Garrison*:

**"The Abolitionists were grieved and indignant at the pro-slavery spirit which churches and pulpits displayed. But what happened was, as we now look back at those proceedings, an inevitable occurrence, a foregone conclusion. THE PULPITS WERE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE**

OF THE RELIGION OF THE PEWS, AND THE PEWS WERE OCCUPIED BY THE SAME SORT OF HUMANITY THAT TOIL AND SPIN AND HAGGLE OVER DOLLARS AND CENTS SIX OUT OF EVERY SEVEN DAYS. THEY HAVE THEIR SELFISH AND VESTED INTERESTS, FIXED SOCIAL NOTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND PREJUDICES, WHICH AN EPISODE LIKE SUNDAY, CHURCHES, AND SERMONS DOES NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECT. INDEED, SUNDAY, CHURCHES, AND SERMONS CONSTITUTE AN INSTITUTION OF MODERN CIVILIZATION HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE OF VESTED INTERESTS, FIXED SOCIAL NOTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND PREJUDICES. Who advances a new idea, a reformatory movement, disturbs the status quo, stirs up the human bees in that great hive called society, and that lesser one called the church, and he must need expect to have the swarm about his head. This is precisely what happened in the case of the anti-slavery movement. . . . AND WHEN THE NEW FANATICISM THREATENED THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE PEWS, THE PULPITS, INSTEAD OF EXERTING THEMSELVES IN BEHALF OF THE SUFFERING AND DUMB SLAVES, EXERTED THEMSELVES TO PRESERVE THE PROSPERITY OF THE PEWS BY FROWNING DOWN THE FRIENDS OF THE SLAVES. They were among the first to stone the new idea and its fiery prophets. 'Away with them!' shouted in chorus pulpits and pews. . . . NOWHERE IN THE CHURCHES WAS THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT MORE PERSISTENT AND ILLIBERAL THAN IN THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES, whence the pulpits drew their supply of preachers. . . . Ah! the Abolitionists had undertaken to achieve the impossible, when they undertook to enlist the pulpit in the cause of the slaves, and to purify the churches from all participation in the guilt of slavery. For the average man, whether within or without the church, is not controlled in his conduct toward his brother man by the principles and precepts of Jesus, but by the laws of social and individual selfishness. . . . This clerical opposition to the idea of women's rights [by the Massachusetts Congregational clergy] found expression in the celebrated 'Pastoral Letter,' issued by the General Association of Ministers of that denomination to the

churches of the same in the summer of 1837. THIS ECCLESIASTICAL BULL HAD TWO DISTINCT PURPOSES TO ACCOMPLISH; FIRST, TO DISCOURAGE THE AGITATION OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION BY EXCLUDING ANTI-SLAVERY AGENTS FROM LECTURING UPON THAT SUBJECT IN THE CHURCHES; AND, SECOND, TO SUPPRESS THE AGITATION OF THE WOMAN'S QUESTION BY SETTING THE SEAL OF THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE CLERGY TO THE APPEARANCE OF WOMEN IN THEIR NEW AND REVOLUTIONARY ROLE OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND TEACHERS ON THE BURNING SUBJECTS OF THE TIMES. . . ."

Moral leader of the world? Wouldn't it be more accurate to describe the Church as the IMMORAL LEADER OF THE WORLD? I think so.

\* \* \*

Which English word can be spelled the most ways?

The word "scissors" probably tops the list. According to lexicographers connected with Funk and Wagnall's dictionary department, this word can be spelled 58,365,440 ways, taking into consideration the various sounds of letters and diphthongs in our language. Of six elementary sounds in "scissors," says *The Literary Digest*, the first can be indicated by 17 combinations, the second by 36, the third by 17, the fourth by 33, the fifth by 10 and the sixth by 17. This makes the result  $17 \times 36 \times 17 \times 33 \times 10 \times 17$ , or 58,365,440.

\* \* \*

Is the owl a "wise, old bird"?

Scientists have been telling us for a long time that the owl is really one of the dumbest of birds. It never does anything to earn its reputation for wisdom. *Science Service* tells us that the owl is useful, in that he "feeds mostly on mice and other small rodents, and helps to keep their numbers below the proportions of an absolute pest."

\* \* \*

How many Americans now living can be expected to suffer mental breakdowns before they die?

Dr. Walter Bromberg, senior psychiatrist at N.Y. University, and director of the Psychiatric Clinic in the New York criminal courts, says, in his new book, *The Mind of Man: The Story of Man's Conquest of Men-*

*tal Illness*, that we can expect one in 22 persons now living in the U.S. to become insane before death.

\* \* \*

**How were mental patients treated before the advent of modern science?**

According to Dr. Walter Bromberg, whose book I have already referred to, in the Dark Ages, when the Church ruled supreme, "madmen were hitched to plows in the place of oxen and made to plow fields as a means of exorcising the devils in their minds; they were bled white to drive the evil spirits out; they were chained so long that the chains bit into their bones—all under the name of 'treatment.'"

\* \* \*

**Does the hand receive orders from the brain faster than the foot?**

At a convention of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, it was shown that the hand received orders from the brain six thousandths of a second quicker than the foot. It was pointed out that that period of time is important in an emergency stop of a motor car going at a fast clip. It's claimed that push button brakes pressed by the hand instead of a foot would result in fewer accidents. The studies described above were made by Wade H. Marshall and Philip Bard, of Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Md. These two scientists found that "from brain to face the nerve impulse takes eight thousandths of a second; from brain to hand, 13 thousandths; and brain to foot, 19 thousandths." The timing was on monkeys, but their nerve speeds showed the same rate as human beings. They also reported something new to biologists, "that every spot on the skin has a place in the brain not much larger than the point of a pin which gives an electrical 'jump' when that particular spot on the skin is touched. The terminals were discovered by electrical currents of a few millionths of one volt which they gave off whenever the right spot on the skin was touched."

\* \* \*

I live in New York State, and have a yearly income of \$5,000. I enjoy an exemption of \$2,500 because I am married, and another \$400 because we have a child. This leaves me with a taxable income of \$2,100, on which I paid a Federal income tax of \$84, a State income tax of \$84, and a State emergency income tax of \$21, making a total of

\$189. What would my tax be were I living in England?

Under the new British law your income tax would amount to 25 percent on a taxable income of \$3,800, the difference between that figure and \$5,000 (\$1,200) being exempted. The total tax would be \$950, as against your \$189 Federal and State tax.

\* \* \*

**Who makes the best baseball bats?**

Hillerich and Bradsby Company, Louisville, Ky., makes the best bats, supplying the major leagues with 90 percent of those they use. Since 1890, when this concern started turning out its famous "Louisville Sluggers," 45,000,000 have been sold—enough to circle the globe at the equator. Three hundred employees are kept busy turning out the sticks in a plant that covers an entire city block. The best grade sells at \$2.75 and will, if held properly, last a long time. It's important to hold a bat with the label facing upward or downward, but never with the label turned toward the pitcher. When one hits the ball with the side that has the label, the blow is delivered against the grain and may split it after only a few contacts.

\* \* \*

**What is your opinion of Christian Science? Does it cure disease as stated in testimonials contained in their publications?**

I have written dozens of columns about Christian Science and printed several volumes—all aimed at exposing Christian Science as a fraud and its practitioners as a lot of money-grubbing religious swindlers and racketeers. I can't spare the necessary space to summarize my arguments and those presented through my auspices by Joseph McCabe and Clement Wood. But the exposures are based on accurate analysis and sound logic. Christian Science is worse than the usual run of religious obscurantism because it not only befuddles the minds of its victims with supernaturalism and mysticism but also misleads its unhappy, unfortunate fools into neglecting the benefits of medical science while resorting to the "curative" powers of a set of notions presented by a woman who belonged in an asylum for the insane, whose mind and body were befuddled with dope, and whose mentality showed every sign of incompetence and de-

cadence. She made millions from her religious graft, and passed on the system to an oily, smooth, cunning set of religious rascals who soon showed they could teach the old gal a lesson or two in separating thousands of ailing gullibles from their much-sought kale. Christian Science is a combination of stupidity and criminality—stupidity, in that it tries to tear down the wonderful gifts to humanity that have come as the result of enlightened, scientific medical research, and criminality, because it traffics in death and suffering. Of course, these charlatans parade endless reams of “testimonials” from victims who are sure they were “cured” of bunions, warts, cancer, T.B., rheumatism, clap, syph, chancre, piles, stinking breath, constipation, flatulence, heart burn, gas on the stomach, boils, leprosy, gall stones, swollen testicles, clouded urine, and a thousand other troubles, by the cute trick of repeating some of Mrs. Eddy’s mumbo-jumbo—after paying the practitioners their fees, which are always a necessary preliminary to health and eternal happiness. Such “testimonials” aren’t worth the paper they’re printed on and the best use one could make of them is to apply them to sanitary purposes. The idiots are crazy to begin with, and the Christian Scientists add to their lunacy as they go along, with the result that some poor fool who has got him a nice, fresh dose of clap actually believes he can chase it away by denying he has it, that it’s all an error, that there’s no germ there causing that miserable discharge. He can write a million “testimonials” claiming Christian Science has chased his dose away, but I say that if he started out with a dose, he still has it unless he resorted to the benefits of medical science.

\* \* \*

I live out here in the tornado country, and, boy, if there’s one thing I don’t care for at all, it’s a live, moving tornado. When I’m on the farm I run for the cellar, but what is one to do when he’s out on the road somewhere away from a handy cellar?

Dr. J. L. Cline, of the U.S. weather bureau, says “the best way to beat a tornado is to run from it—and the best way to run is South or Southwest, North or Northwest. That is because the usual path of a tornado is from Southwest to Northeast.” This,

it seems to me, is good advice, but I think it imperative to warn my readers that tornadoes are as temperamental as opera singers and can’t always be relied on to travel “from Southwest to Northeast.” Of course, Dr. Cline plainly says that’s only the usual path, which it would be well to bear in mind. Dr. Cline adds two other suggestions, which are worth passing on, as follows: “It might help, if you are in a house, to get under a feather bed to keep rafters from falling on your head. Stay out of culverts—a heavy rain may drown you.”

\* \* \*

What is the largest number?

This is an old favorite. The answer: There is no such thing, for however large a number may be mentioned, by adding 1 to it a larger number is found.

\* \* \*

I am a high school graduate with better-than-average ability, graduating second in a class of 25. I am considering enlisting for a course with a service which agrees to prepare its students for civil service jobs. Would you advise me to buy such a course?

The Civil Service Commission has warned the public many times against these various “schools” which are supposed to “prepare” the public for civil service jobs. These institutions can do hardly anything for those who enroll except to tell the job-seekers what positions are open with the Civil Service Commission, and that information can be obtained free of charge by writing direct to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C. The courses offered by these so-called preparatory schools can’t cover the questions to be asked in forthcoming examinations, because such information is kept confidential by the Commission until the time of actual examination. All the “school” can do is to refer to questions asked in previous examinations, and these also can be obtained free from the government. I therefore advise against taking this alleged service, which, by the way, costs a whale of money. (The foregoing answer was sent direct to a reader who sent a dollar for a personal answer, but as I considered the subject to be of general public interest, I decided to repeat the question and answer here. I am always glad to answer personal inquiries on re-



ceipt of a dollar, and should I be unable to give the desired information, I invariably make a refund in the form of trade coupons which are good for anything sold by this concern, now or at any time in the future.)

\* \* \*

Manikin Tea has been recommended as a harmless weight reducer. What do you say?

This article is sold by Manikin Products, Inc., with advertising copy that is deceptive and misleading. The public should be warned that this concern is lying when it claims its "tea" will give fat women a slim figure. This "tea" can have absolutely no effect on the weight of the sucker who takes it as a reducer. Since the concoction contains senna, it can do great harm if taken in sufficient quantities for a long enough time.

\* \* \*

When a bill is presented to the legislature, how many things can happen to it?

Plenty, but the most frequent ones follow: 1. killed in committee; 2. fails to come up on calendar; 3. strangled by amendments; 4. enacting clause is stricken out; 5. declared unconstitutional; 6. vetoed by Governor; 7. voted favorably by a majority of both houses (or in one house of a unicameral legislature), in which case it is passed and becomes a law.

\* \* \*

Is Lysol a good antiseptic?

Lysol, manufactured and sold by Lehn and Fink, Inc., has been criticized by *Health and Hygiene*, as follows:

"We recommend this product for cleaning floors and toilets—but we most strongly warn against its use on or in the human body. Even in very diluted solutions it is potentially and actually harmful."

\* \* \*

What is your opinion of the cancer clinic of W. W. Cooper, Altoona, Kans.?

This man isn't a doctor, never spent even an hour in any kind of a medical school and yet he operates as a cancer "expert." At Cooper's home there's a sign which reads:

"We guarantee to kill and remove cancers or no pay, without knife, radium, X-ray or electricity."

That sign tells volumes about Cooper, and it's to be wondered why the authorities of the State tolerate such

an imposition on the public's credulity. Cooper doesn't even have a medical license, and yet he has been promoting his cancer "cure" for years. Clarence V. Beck, Attorney General, Topeka, Kans., should be compelled to do his duty.

\* \* \*

Do rats thrive more in city, town or country environment? What is our rat population?

The Department of Agriculture has issued a history, census and general discussion of the rat problem, in a bulletin entitled *The House Rat*. According to this authority on ratology (pardon my humble verbal coinage), the rat population is going down. Twenty years ago there was, in the cities, a rat per person; now there is only one rat for each two persons.

Rats have gone in for country life on a big scale, say government experts. In small towns the rat population is larger than in the big cities, but on the farms they "outnumber the human population by a wide range." There are 123,000,000 rats in the U.S., "but at least half of them like country living, or, at any rate, find it healthier. They are estimated to cost each farmer \$10 a year, and they damage the whole nation to the extent of \$189,000,000 per year."

The city rat population has been declining because of the following conditions: 1. improved sanitary conditions; 2. modern rat-proof construction; 3. fewer horses; 4. improved packages; 5. fewer waste food products.

\* \* \*

What percentage of girls smoke? What is their reason, or reasons, for smoking?

In a speech before the American Physical Education Association, Mary M. Yost, graduate student, said that a survey at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., showed that in 1930, 53 percent of the girls smoked; in 1937, the smokers increased to 70 percent. The speaker said questionnaires were sent to the entire student body in an attempt to learn why they began smoking. The answers showed the reasons were "curiosity," "friends did," "social reasons," and "wanted to." Seven years before, "pleasure" was the reason which ranked highest, but the 1937 girls put "pleasure" down near the bottom of the list.

Miss Yost said that the smokers were "about evenly divided on the question whether smoking was a social asset."

\* \* \*

I notice that many advertised contests—over the radio and through newspapers—demand that contestants send a certain number of wrappers or containers "or a reasonable facsimile thereof." What is the meaning of that facsimile business?

That little group of words is intended to get around the lottery laws, especially of the postoffice department. It looks to me like the thinnest kind of an excuse and that an investigation will show that no contestant has ever won a prize who sent in only a facsimile of a container. There's going to be a big scandal busting loose one of these days, and a good many of these immense contests (which are run on a national scale) will have to undergo severe inquisitions, the result being that the public will get a chance to look in on gigantic schemes to get around the lottery laws. As I've said before, about 99 percent of these contests look phoney to me, and I feel confident an honest investigation will show I'm right.

\* \* \*

Do nutty inventors still believe they can discover perpetual motion?

The notion of perpetual motion refuses to die. According to J. A. Brearly, chief clerk of the Patent Office, almost 400 drawings and descriptions of perpetual motion are received yearly. The patent office, back in 1813, issued a circular explaining patents couldn't be granted for perpetual appliances. The circular closed with the following comment: "Perpetual motion is therefore considered a perpetual notion, and ought never to be attempted until the sun rises in the West."

\* \* \*

Does Mexico enjoy a free press?

There isn't a press in the world that's freer than the Mexican press. The Cardenas administration puts no gags on journalists, domestic or foreign. Mexican newspapers represent every shade of political opinion—from conservative to liberal and radical—and all are permitted to speak their minds without fear of governmental interference. The same applies to correspondents of foreign newspapers

and services. President Cardenas has made it clear to all foreign correspondents in Mexico that they may send out anything they please, so long as they write truthful reports. Article 33 of the Mexican Constitution permits the President to order the deportation of any alien whose presence is considered undesirable, but Cardenas has thus far refused to exercise this right, though it's a fact that under the dictatorship of General Plutarco Elias Calles journalists who wrote dispatches unacceptable to the administration were ordered out of the country.

\* \* \*

How old is the Odd Fellows organization?

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized by five men in April, 1819, and since then more than 11,000,000 men have been admitted to membership.

\* \* \*

Do you believe the average motor car is adapted to towing a trailer?

James H. Booth, of the Buick Motor Company, in a speech before the Society of Automobile Engineers, condemned the use of motor cars with trailers on the score that the extra weight of a trailer produced a strain on the engine, clutch, transmission, drive shaft and axels equal to that of a 20-passenger bus. He added:

"It is obvious that the average car cannot perform as well or as long under such excess loads as usual without costly repair bills, or, in extreme cases, the purchase of a new car."

The frames of today's motor cars weren't made for such heavy work. Such makeshift hitches are dangerous alike to the car, its passengers and other drivers. It's obvious that the industry will, before long, have to design and construct a car intended for trailer work.

\* \* \*

Please say a few words about the Landsteiner case.

Dr. Karl Landsteiner, Nobel Prize winner in medicine, is Jewish-born. When he heard that a sketch of his life would appear in *Who's Who in American Jewry*, he asked for an injunction to restrain the publisher from including his biography on the score that "it will be detrimental to me to emphasize publicly the religion of my ancestors; first, as a matter of

convenience; and, secondly, I want nothing that may in the slightest degree cause any mental anguish, pain or suffering to any members of my family, because any suffering on their part would be my suffering."

This case has caused a great deal of discussion, the best comment, so far as I can see, coming from another Nobel Prize winner (in physics), Dr. Albert Einstein. I quote his words in full:

"Dr. Landsteiner's attitude unquestionably is deplorable—indeed, pitiable. It proves that technical ability is by no means always associated with character and dignity. For us Jews, however, such occurrences are, in a way, somewhat edifying. The external pressure that has weighed on our community for many centuries has brought about, from time to time, the self-exclusion of weak-charactered individuals from our group. As such spiritual traits usually are hereditary, our community has come to represent a group selected in the Darwinian sense, a group selected for inner strength and stability. This thought has always gladdened and reassured me."

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to the belief that a criminal can be recognized by his physical appearance?

Dr. Amos O. Squire, who was, for years, chief physician of Sing Sing prison, says this widely accepted theory is untrue, and adds:

"I have examined fully 20,000 criminals and have been unable to find a single physical characteristic that is a certain indication of criminality."

Dr. Squire adds:

"If you were to take a batch of rogues' gallery photographs and compare them side by side with photographs of law-abiding citizens taken from commutation tickets and passports, you wouldn't be able to tell which is which except for the serial numbers on the convicts' chests."

\* \* \*

Can you explain why it is that the dictators—Mussolini and Hitler—can't increase the birth rate? They resort to every conceivable threat or bribe—heavy taxes on bachelors, bonuses to parents, marriage loans to young couples, extra inheritance taxes on those who die childless . . . and yet, the birth rates go down. During the first year after Mussolini demanded more, and still more, babies, the Italian birth rate

dropped by 50,000. What's the explanation?

Dr. Ira S. Wile ventures a few explanations which seem to cover the ground very well. He argues that:

People cannot be bribed or coerced into having more children. They resent government interference in what they feel should be a private matter. Most of all they resent the idea of raising boys as cannon fodder. Recently *Il Duce's* official journal said that Italy has "lost, between 1924 and today, through a lower birth rate, sufficient effectives to have formed 15 divisions."

Parenthood is built on devotion, sacrifice and the hope that our children will know a better world. Raising boys to fill the ranks of armies is a contradiction of everything that is finest in parenthood.

\* \* \*

"The Religious Beliefs of Our Presidents," by Franklin Steiner, is a great work of scholarship. I can readily believe that the man must have spent a considerable part of his life sifting as he did, so large a mass of material, scattered in so many different places, and then reducing it all to sizable proportions for his readers.—C. A. L., Mo.

\* \* \*

Please give Bible words which describe Atheists as fools.

You will find this little masterpiece of logical argument in Psalm 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Those gentle souls who hurl this at persons who look with skepticism on their so-called arguments for the God-idea ought to give thought to the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:22, "... but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

\* \* \*

How do the Boston codfish aristocrats pronounce Harvard?

Hahvuhd.

\* \* \*

Did Hitler, in his book, lay down the dictum that great lies are to be used without shame?

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler described as a "very correct principle," that "the broad masses of a nation . . . become the victim of a big lie much more easily than of a small one because they themselves occasionally lie in small matters but would be too ashamed to tell big lies." The editor of *The Nation*, in commenting on this typical piece of Hitleristic technique, says one needs "an expert lie-

coordinator like Goebbels" to "carry out such a rule." Well, Hitler has his Goebbels, so Germany has its guaranteed volume of big lies.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the charges of Communism in the United Auto Workers.

John L. Lewis made the perfect retort when he said:

"If there are any Communists in that union, it's because the automobile companies hire them. . . . We merely organize the employees we find there."

\* \* \*

What does "Sholom Alechem" mean?

"Peace be with you."

\* \* \*

What are "Malapropisms"?

A Malapropism is a humorous misuse of a word. For example: "*My brother had new writers once.*" This is a common, and popular, form of humor. The following jokes (some good, others not so good) are based on comical mishandling of words:

Charley was sent to the bakery for some hot cross buns.

"What will you have, my little man?" asked the baker.

"I want fifteen cents worth of cross-eved buns," replied the boy.

Mistress: "So your husband is an army officer, Clara? What rank?"

Clara: "Well, he's only a corporal now, but he's been incited twice for bravery and next week he goes into the hospital for a major operation."

"I suppose Mildred has changed very much since she's been to college?"

"Yes, indeed! She's become a carnivorous reader and quite clever at impoverishing music on the piano."

Four-year-old Marian was sitting on the floor with a paper in her lap. While thus engaged, a neighbor came in and asked her what she was doing.

With a look of great importance, Marian answered, "I'm doing a cuss-word puzzle."

Farmer: "Yes, sir, that hired man of mine is one of the greatest inventors of the century."

City Boarder: "You don't say! What did he invent?"

Farmer: "Petrified motion."

Mrs. Newrich was fond of flowers and especially liked the salvia, but was not very reliable in getting the names right. She was giving direc-

tions to her gardener. "On this side of the walk," she said, "I want you to put out some salivas. Now what would you suggest for the other side?"

"Well, madam," answered the gardener solemnly, "maybe it would be a good idea to put some spittoonias there."

"Why don't you go to our church?" asked one small boy of another.

"Because we belong to a different abomination," was the answer.

Village postmistress: "Old-age pensions, Mrs. Brown? Why, you don't look a day over 60."

Old Lady: "Ah, time was when I'd have been pleased with the compliment, but now I'm glad enough to own up to being a septic geranium."

Mose: "What's all dis talk about anothah moratorium? What is a moratorium?"

Eph: "Ah dunno exactly, but Ah believes it am one o' dese places whar dey buries people when day's dead."

The Hollywood magnate told an assistant that in his opinion a certain writer was the only man for a film they had under consideration. The assistant was tactfully doubtful. "Don't you think, perhaps, he's a bit too caustic?" he suggested.

"I don't care how much he costs," demanded the producer. "Get him!"

Guest: "Been long in the service of the family, Jenkins?"

Butler: "Indeed, sir, I am now serving the third degeneration."

"It's terrible the way that woman has been talking about you. She ought to be prosecuted."

"If she don't watch out I'll have 'er up for definition of character."

Employer: "How did your brother clear himself of the charge?"

Nora: "Sure, I think it's a lullaby they do call it, he proved."

"Your daughter has considerable natural talent for reciting, Mrs. Sm'th."

"Yes, all she needs now is a course in electrocution to finish her off."

A young man walked up to one of the clerks at the Employment Exchange. "Is this where you pay out

eternity benefit?" he asked.

"My good fellow, I presume you mean maternity benefit, do you not?"

"No, I mean eternity benefit."

"Do you know that eternity means the hereafter?"

"That's right. I'm here after it, ain't I?"

\* \* \*

The Nazis are distributing a circular in the U.S. which holds that the Jews are nothing more than a lot of money-grubbers, without regard for the higher, cultural aspects of life. I know this is bunk, of course, for the record of Jewry in culture, education and learning in general can't be gainsaid. But I would like to have any facts you may be able to advance. I know you can name a list of great Jewish geniuses in science, medicine, physics, chemistry, music, poetry, literature, art, sculpture, Liberalism, Rationalism, Freethought, and the like, but that wouldn't cover the situation, for the Nazi charge is aimed at the general mass of Jews, not their outstanding individuals.

The best answer I can think of, at the moment, is the report of a survey conducted by Rabbi Lee J. Levinger, under the auspices of B'nai B'rith. He found that "nearly one out of every 10 college and university students in the U.S. and Canada is a Jew." The study shows:

"On the basis of a painstaking investigation of 1,150,000 students in 1,319 colleges and universities it was found that there are 105,000 Jewish students enrolled in these institutions of higher learning, which are 91 percent of all those in existence in these two countries.

"One out of every 42 Jews in America is a college student, as compared with one out of every 110 in the general population . . . the Jewish student population is proportionally two and a half times as big as the percentage of the Jewish population. . . . Jewish women students number but one third of the Jewish student population, although women students as a whole are half of all the college students."

These facts, it seems to me, clearly contradict the oft-quoted charge that the general Jewish population is inferior culturally. By a strange quirk, these illogical, confused, muddle-headed anti-Semites charge the Jews with ignorance in one piece of literature and in another diatribe demand that something be done to keep "excessive numbers of Jews from

crowding our educational institutions." They can't have it both ways.

\* \* \*

A horse and small animal doctor living in my community has been converted to Christian Science and now says he's going to try to apply Mrs. Eddy's ideas to sick animals. Please comment.

I don't know just what comment I can make on your damned fool horse doctor, except to say that he is probably that part of a horse's anatomy which is referred to in a derogatory manner by persons who aren't given to polite speech. Being a practicing debunker, I come on such flabbergasting nonsense with sickening regularity, which leads me to believe it's going to take me at least 10 more years before I convert the American public to sound, realistic thinking. Let me give my readers a choice piece of bunk from the *Christian Science Sentinel*, as follows:

I have found Christian Science as effective with animals as with people. While aboard ship a cat appeared to have what would generally be called a fit. It acted as if blind, and ran around crying and bumping into things. I took it into my quarters and read from "Science and Health," just as if I were reading to some individual, and in a few minutes it quieted down and went to sleep. In a couple of hours it awakened and was all right. After that it kept close to me whenever possible.

The next time my dog complains about fleas and my cat gets a belly ache from eating too many little brothers of Mickey Mouse, I'll try to snap them out of it with doses of Mrs. Eddy's tripe.

Let us leave the bunkistic realm of fantastic religion and enter the equally bunk-ridden sphere of Nazism. I have, more than once in the past, shown how the Hitlerites carry their insane "Aryanism" into the lives of bulls, cows, insects, germs, sows and stallions. Now comes a United Press dispatch from Berlin (published in *The New York Post*) which tells about the application of this idiocy to the barnyard, as follows:

"We request that every hen lay between 130 and 140 eggs a year," announced the Nazi Party News Agency today. Present production is 90 eggs a hen.

In making its "request," the news

agency advised farmers to get hens of the Aryan sort.

"The increase cannot be achieved by the bastard hens which now populate German farm yards," said the agency.

Which is funnier and stupider—reading Mrs. Eddy's hogwash to a sick cat or looking into the Aryan ancestry of hens—I'm unable to say.

\* \* \*

I was interested in the vigorous manner you debunked Mystics and believers in Mysticism. Would you put Swamis in the same category?

A Swami is nothing more than a bunk-shooter, who capitalizes on the people's dense ignorance. A Swami may be smart, but it's based on the public's stupidity, for no Swami could ever get away with his hodgepodge of Supernaturalism and Mysticism if he had to deal with realistic-minded, intelligent, logical people. To give my readers an idea of what awful junk these Swamis get off—and seemingly to the tune of real, hard cash—let me quote from a California publication, *Mind Magazine*, which offers its readers the following piece of slop concocted by Swami Baird T. Spalding:

Among the Sioux Indians, one who is to become a medicine man . . . must walk slowly before the three best marksmen of the tribe, who shoot at him with .44 caliber rifles. I have seen Colonel Newell load these rifles myself, and have one of the bullets that flattened against a medicine man's body.

\* \* \*

I notice that you don't have a very high opinion of the kind of journalism perpetrated by your fellow Kansans. I wish you would express your opinions about the newspapers of my home State, Iowa.

I hardly ever see an Iowa newspaper, large or small, so I can't very well discuss them. Now and then some reader sends me a clipping from the editorial page of the *Des Moines Register*, which strikes me as metropolitan in viewpoint and intelligent, but I don't see the paper often enough to warrant an extended review. An Iowan, Carroll Norling, who knows the press of his State, offers the following comment on the newspapers issued in Iowa, which is based obviously on long familiarity and study:

Iowa, happily, has no Hearst newspapers. It is probable, too, that the phenomenal growth in circulation of

the Des Moines "Register" has caused that other organ of reaction, the Chicago "Tribune," to have far less influence in the State than it had 10 years ago. Of the "Register" itself, it can be said that it is far better than any Chicago newspaper, but it is not up to the standard of a paper like the St. Louis "Post-Dispatch." The "Register" deserves credit as one of the few American newspapers that are not afraid to be international in outlook at a time when internationalism is unpopular. There is no chauvinism on its editorial page. The Sioux City "Tribune" is liberal on most issues, but is extremely sectional in its point of view. It is strongly pro-New Deal. The Cedar Rapids "Gazette" is reactionary but well written. It is strongly flavored by the personality and beliefs of its owner, Mr. Verne Marshall, who is something of a lone wolf in both journalism and politics.

Outside a few of the larger cities, however, Iowa newspapers sink to a level about as low as can be found anywhere in the world except Hitler's Third Reich, or the Fascist homeland of Mussolini. To read the editorial page of the Jefferson "Bee," or the Creston "News-Advertiser," or the Council Bluffs "Nonpareil" is to leave the 20th Century and fly backward through time into the Dark Ages. I almost included the Atlantic "News-Telegraph," the editor of which, Mr. E. P. Chase, once won a Pulitzer prize. Mr. Chase's paper is on the whole, however, probably no more reactionary than the New York "Herald-Tribune." That is flaming liberalism as compared to the kind of journals I am thinking about. They are published by the kind of men who think that Herbert Hoover and Ogden Mills are probably secret radicals, since they hold college degrees.

For years former Senator Smith Brookhart was the bete noire of these small-town Hearsts and McCormicks. Their latest bogeyman is John L. Lewis. During the recent strike of General Motors employees they filled their papers with shrill cries for the armed extermination of the automobile workers. A few of them suggested the execution of Mr. Lewis and Mr. Homer Martin, after appropriate sadistic torture. When the American Hitler appears on the scene, Iowa journalism will be ready to furnish the Goebbels.

There are of course a few progressive papers published in the small towns. I think of the Merville

"Mail," for one. Doubtless there are many others, but the general tone is that of a bitter and vindictive crusade against enlightenment and progress.

\* \* \*

What does liberty mean to an American?

Our literature is crowded with odes to liberty and freedom, many of them good, but it struck me that the words of an obscure Austrian youth gave expression to the spirit of liberty in such a way as to enable one to understand how such an abstract idea can be made to mean something tangible in real life. Just arrived in this country and barely able to speak our language, he talked, according to the famous journalist, Dorothy Thompson, as follows:

"Why did you come here?" I asked.

"They would have called me up next month for military service," he said.

"You don't want to fight?" I asked.

"For what?" he said. "No, I don't want to fight. Not for what I had there. I couldn't make a living. Not what you'd call a living. I want a chance."

"A chance for what?" I asked.

"A chance to work," he said—"to make some money and keep it and get a home and do as I please. I want to get what I'm worth and I want to keep it. Back there you don't get enough ever to save anything, and what you've got they tax away from you. They take care of you when you're sick, according to their own ideas and they'll give you bread if you're out of a job, but there's no future. There's never anything to look forward to. They think they know what's good for you."

"Who do you mean by they?" I asked.

"The government, the bureaucrats, the soldiers, the bosses. They don't give you a chance. They don't let you alone."

"What is freedom?" I asked.

He looked amazed at the question. "It's where you can breathe," he said, "and be a man."

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How much moisture does the average person give off through the skin?

Professor Axel Marin, University of Michigan College of Engineering, says that "normally the average adult evaporates off about a tenth of a pound of moisture an hour, but un-

der the influence of a torrid romance or gangster movie, the amount may increase by 50 percent." He puts the matter in this dramatic way:

"On a summer day, if 1,000 persons are viewing a dull to medium picture, the ventilating system must take care of about 100 pounds of moisture per hour. But let G-men surround some crooks and start a convincing machine gun battle and the air-conditioning apparatus will have to handle 150 pounds of moisture."

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I see the George Baker, alias Father Devine, alias Gawd bubble blew up recently when the police finally caught up with the wily fox in a cellar in Connecticut after a riot in one of his heavens. Meanwhile, Aimee S. Mapple McPherson is having a hell of a time maintaining her prestige at her end of the land. Truly, the cruder forms of god-mongering are not in a particularly flourishing state just at present.—A Reader, Mo.

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Is it true that George R. Kirkpatrick is dead?

Yes, I'm sorry to say this grand old fighter for economic and social justice died in Los Angeles early in 1937, in his 70th year. He was one of the greatest platform propagandists the American Socialist movement ever had, and his truly great book, *War, What For?* is one of the most powerful pamphlets ever penned—a classic of anti-militaristic, anti-capitalistic literature. Kirkpatrick, as speaker and writer, used a style that was perfectly adapted to its purposes—keen, witty, pointed, lucid, logical, mind-awakening, constructive and ever hopeful. He used words to awaken the sleeping giant of labor, and his words always suggested action. Kirkpatrick, in his own field, was a genius of the first order. I recall, vividly, Kirkpatrick's numerous lectures in various sections of Philadelphia, about 30 years ago. I was his most ardent listener, swallowing his words with an insatiable appetite that always cried for more. To me, in those distant days, when I was still in my 'teens, Kirkpatrick expressed everything that was worthwhile in the philosophy of Socialism, and I make no bones about saying that he was one of my earliest and most lasting intellectual influences. I must have heard his then-famous lec-

ture—"The Hypnotism of the Working Class"—at least 50 times, so that I came to know it by heart, but I never tired of it, and when he left for other fields I felt a keen, personal loss that still comes to memory after all these years. He was a great, noble, beautiful character, and his loss long will be felt. Kirkpatrick stands with Eugene V. Debs and the other great soldiers in the liberation war of mankind.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of the Benton murals about Missouri?

I haven't seen Thomas Hart Benton's murals in the State capitol at Jefferson City, Mo., but reproductions impressed me deeply and led me to believe that this distinguished artist told the truth about his State. This fine artist—a Missourian from 'way back—painted a group of murals that kicked up an immense controversy, most of it conducted by sputtering, hysterical "patriots" who thought it would be safer for Old Glory and true Americanism if Benton had prettified his State instead of scattering a lot of mules, houn' dogs, scrawny cows, bandits, booze-peddling pioneers and razorback hogs on the walls of the legislature. Benton wanted to picture his State's social history, while the pillars of the community wanted him to make their ancestors look like so many steel engravings of George Washington.

L. M. Birkhead, in one of his Liberal Center lectures, Kansas City, Mo., spoke about these Benton murals after the heated debate had subsided somewhat, venturing the opinion that "if the Missouri legislature would deal as creatively and realistically with the political and economic problems of the State as Benton has with the social history of Missouri, then we might expect Utopia to show up from around the corner." Backing up for a new start, spitting on his hands and grappling with his subject, Birkhead, who spent two days in Jefferson City studying the murals, busted into this peroration:

"Benton has portrayed in a vital and realistic manner the social history of this houn' dog State. It is objected that Missouri is not a houn' dog State and that mules are too prominent in the Benton murals. As a third generation Missourian, let me say that Missouri wouldn't

be Missouri without its houn' dogs and its mules.

"As a Missourian whose earliest memory is that of being rocked to sleep on his father's knee to the tune of an old ballad about 'Jesse James was a thief, but he was kind to the poor.' I can testify to the importance of the Jesse James legend in Missouri's social history. Mr. Benton was justified in putting the Jesse James panel into his murals.

"If we object to Missouri history as it has been, the thing to do is not to complain to Benton and about his realistic murals, but to improve Missouri and make her social history more beautiful."

\* \* \*

You did a good act when you brought to the attention of your readers the debunking capabilities of Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Recently I read Sir Wilfred Grenfell's "Romance of Labrador" and I can say that Stefansson's reports check pretty well with those of Sir Wilfred. Sir Wilfred's book is very interesting and informative.—C. A. Lang, Mo.

\* \* \*

Please comment on Goebbels' statement that Nazi Germany has more "people of talent" than at any previous time in the history of the country.

Hitler's Minister for Propaganda, Paul Joseph Goebbels, has to put out a lot of screwy ideas, but here, it strikes me, he reached a new high—or low—in nonsense. In a speech in Danzig, Goebbels boasted that never before has there been "so much poetry written, music composed, pictures painted and edifices built."

It happens that this statement from Goebbels comes at the same time that the Rockefeller Foundation released its German directory of 1,500 scholars and scientists who have been driven into exile since the advent of Hitlerism. Yes, Germany must indeed be rich in "persons of talent" if it can throw out 1,500 university professors and scientists and still have the wheels of culture grinding as never before.

Dr. Goebbels preferred to offer no lists of names, no titles of great books, movies, operas, plays, poems, and the like. We are left to guess who turned out this great flood of works of art and yet managed to keep every item a secret from the people of culture and discrimination in lands beyond Germany's borders. The facts show, rather, that Nazi Germany is culturally bankrupt and that its out-



put of superior works in the higher realms of art never was meaner. Four years of Hitlerism have failed to give the world a single work of art, music or literature that was considered important enough for critics throughout the world to give a passing thought.

\* \* \*

Don't recent incidents in Russia indicate that the regime rests on an insecure foundation and that a great war could easily bring the masses into rebellion against the government?

It's one of Hitler's pet beliefs that when his army marches into the Soviet Union (if it ever does) the millions of Russians who are opposed to Bolshevism will join with the Germans in order to overthrow Stalin and his colleagues. Of course, Stalin and other Russians are equally convinced that when the Russians march into Germany (if they ever do) they will be joined by millions of anti-Fascist Germans who are aching for a chance to pay their respects to Hitlerism. The two schools present many plausible arguments, which I can't go into at this time, but I can quote a closing sentence from the May 2, 1937, issue of *The Observer*, of London, one of the most bitter anti-Soviet newspapers in the world and one of the most open friends of the brands of Fascism that are functioning in Central Europe. *The Observer* says:

"Despite recent revelations of sabotage by groups of malcontents, one cannot escape the conclusion that if war comes to Russia the vast bulk of the population will stand by the Soviet regime."

\* \* \*

"If people would read *The American Freeman*, *Consumers' Union Reports*, and other such publications that aren't muzzled by big advertisers, they wouldn't be wasting their money on a lot of trash."—*The Record*, Bridgeton, N.J.

\* \* \*

How much of our national income is eaten up by our motor cars?

At this writing, we are still to learn from the Department of Commerce what our national income was in 1936, but it's a fairly safe guess to put it at \$60,000,000,000, which is what it was in 1935. The people of the U.S., during 1936, paid more than one-sixth of their national income for motor cars, servicing, gas, oil, parts, accessories, and the like.

According to a recent issue of *Automotive Industries*, the American public, in 1936, paid a motor car bill that totaled \$10,020,000,000, which included the amounts expended for taxes on gasoline, tires, parts and motor vehicles themselves. The same authority adds:

"More than \$2,630,000,000 was spent for the purchase of more than 3,500,000 passenger cars. In excess of \$3,400,000,000 went for the purchase of 17,500,000,000 gallons of gasoline to operate the more than 28,000,000 vehicles now on American roads."

One-sixth of our national income in order to be able to stay on wheels!

\* \* \*

Please comment on the Hindenburg disaster.

The German dirigible *Hindenburg*—the largest airship in the world—would be in service today if Hitleristic policies hadn't prevailed. The word "ersatz"—which means substituting materials in order to avoid spending money for what is usually imported from foreign countries—explains much of what happened on that tragic evening when the great lighter-than-air ship exploded and killed almost two score passengers and members of the crew. "Ersatz"—and that's a form of Hitlerism—is the real murderer.

Dr. Hugo Eckener, designer and first pilot of the *Hindenburg*, was deprived of his important command—even though he had the admiration and respect of the world of science—because he was "politically unreliable," which means, of course, that he wasn't a good Nazi. Dr. Eckener was guilty of several serious offenses. First, he had refused to permit his ship to be used for political propaganda purposes. Second, he had refused to christen the ship "Hitler," preferring to call it "Hindenburg," a name which wouldn't cause antagonism in democratic, liberal countries. Third, he had insisted on using helium—a non-explosive, non-inflammable gas—instead of hydrogen, a highly explosive, inflammable gas.

But, "ersatz" asserted itself again. Hydrogen could be had in Germany, so why produce good foreign exchange to buy helium in the U.S.? How much better would it be to save \$70,000 in foreign exchange and use

the money to send "volunteers" to murder women, children and old men in war-ridden Spain? The Nazi butchers know what things are more important. So hydrogen was used, even though it was known that our government, which has a monopoly on helium, authorized the sale of the gas for scientific, commercial, non-military purposes, at the same price paid by our navy—\$10 per 1,000 cubic feet, or \$70,000 for a supply sufficient to take care of the needs of a ship like the *Hindenburg* for an entire year.

The destruction of the *Hindenburg* and the loss of 33 persons are the results of Hitler's insane policy of "ersatz." Hitler is the criminal in the *Hindenburg* tragedy.

\* \* \*

In the Philadelphia Record a correspondent declared when "Alfred E. Smith, a prominent member of the Liberty League, and 300 members of the clergy sponsor and address an enthusiastic meeting of a group of aroused people to 'wipe out Communism' in this country in the name of democracy, I am afraid that Fascism has gained its first public stronghold in America. . . . When such a statement as 'If they want what they are getting in Spain, we'll give it to them' is made by a man of the cloth, I say it is time for all men that claim the title 'Christian' to protest their spiritual leaders' advocacy of a Fascist revolution to overthrow democracy—for that is what is happening in Spain." Will you please comment?

I've written many articles to show that all this to-do over Communism is just a blind for Catholic-Fascism to organize its real fight on liberalism, democracy, free press, free assembly, freethought, social progress, and the other implements of civilized existence. Al Smith, American Catholicism's most famous layman, is now in Europe, where he is to see the Pope about this "Communist menace," a menace which doesn't exist, for the records show clearly that American Communism isn't strong enough to carry a fair-sized county let alone capture the country. The Catholic Church's record, in Italy, Austria, Poland, and other centers of Fascism, shows a cunning maneuver to cover its attacks on democracy with impassioned calls for action against the dread menace of Communism. Our dictators have learned that lesson and they are applying it every day

of their vicious careers. It was Catholic-Fascism which started the civil war in Spain—not to crush Communism, because Spain and its people aren't inclined in the direction of Communism, but rather to undo the progressive aims of the democratic, liberal, parliamentarian, republican regime that started on the socially necessary road to economic, educational, political and industrial reform.

Al Smith and his Catholic-Fascist cohorts plainly say they will give America a dose of what they handed Spain during the past year, and that can mean only one thing—the tactic of yelling about Communism but organizing to crush labor unionism, the right to strike, democracy and the liberal principles of our Constitution. Catholic-Fascism blessed Mussolini's banners when he sent his mass-murderers into Ethiopia. Catholic-Fascism blessed the guns of Austria's dictator when he murdered 1,500 Vienna Socialists who tried to defend their apartment houses from destruction by the hordes of Catholic Dollfuss. Catholic-Fascism's hands are red with the blood of martyred, unhappy Spain. Catholic-Fascism stands behind Hitler's attack on freedom and social justice, but gags at it's protegee's policy of insisting on the state's control of education, a prerogative that the Church insists should belong to the priests. Catholic-Fascism in the U.S. is ready to use violence, persecution and unjust, reactionary legislation to achieve its ends, but as a direct attack on democracy and liberalism would be unpopular with large sections of our population the campaign is covered with hysterical cries about Communism.

A few minutes before I began writing this piece I happened to read in the *New York Herald Tribune*, May 17, 1937, a report of a mass meeting of the Holy Name Society of St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, Woodside, Queens, New York City. The report says Borough President George U. Harvey, of Queens, told his Catholic hearers that if he could be in charge of New York's Police Department "for about two weeks," there wouldn't be a Communist left in New York. Referring to the fact that he had been criticized even by the conservative press, particularly

*The New York Times*, for his earlier statement that he stood ready to greet every Communist with a length of rubber hose, he announced, on May 16, that he was ready to revise this and rely on nightsticks and ax handles. If we are to judge Catholic-Fascism by its record in Italy, Spain and other unhappy countries in which Fascists are strong enough to rule or threaten to rule, our American Catholic-Fascists, led by men of the type of Harvey and Al Smith, would see to it that every Communist got whatever good could be squeezed out of a length of rubber hose, and would then feel free to go forward to the real objective—the destruction of the liberal ideas and institutions that make Catholicism untenable in the minds of a person of modern tendencies and sympathies. These Catholic-Fascists have a way of picking out the “Reds” while they are organizing their mobs, but when they are ready to send their mobs into the streets they lump all kinds of radicals, democrats, republicans, liberals, progressives, upholders of civil rights, defenders of free institutions, etc., into one bloc and conveniently label them “Communist” for the sake of quick, bloody, mass destruction. The trick is old, but it usually works. If it's to be countered in the U.S., it'll be necessary for all friends of truth, enlightenment and social progress to stand together and struggle manfully for the preservation of their precious, sacred, blood-bought rights.

The same issue of *The New York Herald Tribune*, from which I've just quoted, contains a news story about the 35th annual communion breakfast of the Vera Cruz Council, 647, Knights of Columbus, held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor, New York City. Speaking before 700 members of the organization, the Rev. Peter Duffy, of the Franciscan Order, went into an orgy of sensationalism—which is typical of Fascists everywhere—charging “there are 12 international financiers in America, some from our own Wall Street, who are giving monetary support to worldwide Communism.” Father Duffy didn't name the 12 men, nor did he present the least bit of evidence to support his absurd claim. But Fascists aren't given to bothering about proofs for their assertions. They

throw their mud, safe in the knowledge that some of it, at least, will stick. This “international financiers” propaganda is always the forerunner of anti-Semitism, a trick which I've exposed many times during the past five years. Father Coughlin has been using that tactic right along. Now Henry Ford is harping on the same subject, his insane, insipid point being that “international financiers” are behind the strikes in the motor car industry. This is just the old anti-Jewish smoke-screen. It's always handy when there's need for a goat on which to blame one's troubles or shortcomings.

The pack is running full tilt. The red-baiters are in action. The sly, indirect attempts at anti-Semitism are in the air. Fascism is on the march.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of Miss Dorothy Thompson?

Miss Thompson, who is the wife of the distinguished novelist, Sinclair Lewis, strikes me as an able writer and an excellent reporter, but an inadequate social philosopher. Before she accepted *The New York Herald Tribune's* invitation to editorialize several times each week for that paper and several dozen other journals, she devoted herself to first-rate, objective, conscientious, capable reporting. In those days her articles had to be read by those who would know what was happening in Europe. But the *Herald Tribune* decided she was too good a bet for “mere” reporting and put her under a generous contract to serve as a sort of female Walter Lippmann.

When she attacks European Fascism she is on the right track, but that seems to be the limit of her usefulness. The rest of her work is hardly more than a shrewd, cunning attempt to serve the cause of American reaction, under the guise of liberal phrases. I have watched her cavortings in the *Herald Tribune* since the day she signed up with that bunch of Tories, and now it seems obvious to me that she is being built up for some great political office. Just what her objective is I don't know, but judging by the way she is appearing before every sort of organization of financiers, politicians, industrialists, and the like, I'd say—without the slightest inside knowledge—that she

is being prepared to give the reactionary side of politics a more respectable face—an attempt at face-lifting, it seems to me, to take the curse of Liberty League disreputableness from the faltering heart of the G.O.P. I wouldn't be surprised to see her name pushed forward for some office of importance during the next few years.

Recently, in a speech before the august, conservative, reactionary, tory, old guard, hide-bound Union League Club of New York City, she created something of a sensation with her political philosophy, which was presented, and accepted, with all the airs of one about to enter the U.S. Senate, or maybe the office of Vice President. Said she:

"I am speaking as a liberal conservative. A liberal, because I believe in human freedom, in a society of free men, in the widest extension of civil liberties and in the recognition that freedom can exist only in organized society. Otherwise, liberty becomes synonymous with barbarism. A conservative, because I believe in continuity, in experience, in the lessons of history, in standards. . . . I have never believed in the divine right of the underprivileged to rule the state. . . . I do believe in the responsibility for government of those who are gifted with superior brains and have had a better break from society. I believe in parliamentary government, in capitalist production and in the profit motive."

The foregoing paragraph is a masterpiece of political realism, pragmatism and opportunism and shows what I've been saying about her. A shrewd, designing, ambitious woman, she knows that the Republican party—which still has access to the money bags of the country's richest men and women, though it can't get enough votes to assert its policies—offers her the quickest route to fame and political fortune should the position of Roosevelt and his New Deal be weakened between now and the next national election. The Old Guard knows that Landonism is dead. The old appeal to reaction, the old red-baiting and the old insistence on the absolute right to exploit the masses without serious restrictions from the state, are all as dead as Upton Sinclair's

EPIC and Dr. Townsend's nit-witted platform.

The political side of Capitalism, from now on, must try a new set of tactics. The old guff won't work. The doddering reactionaries must be rejuvenated with a shot of liberalism, and what's better designed to fill that need than the liberalism of a brilliant woman journalist who says she believes in the Capitalist system, in monopoly, in mass production for the benefit of the great industrialists, in the economic dictatorship of a small class, in the denial to the underprivileged of the right to rule the state? Mark you, she muses that last one up a little. She speaks about the "divine right" of the underprivileged to rule the state. No progressive, liberal-minded person ever said the underprivileged had a "divine right" to anything. That divine right business went out with the French Revolution, so far as the masses in republican countries are concerned. Progressives insist that the underprivileged have a HUMAN right to participate in the political and economic realms of society with a view to removing the conditions that cause them to be underprivileged. Are we to assume that Miss Thompson means that she believes in the "divine right" of the overprivileged to rule the state? If she does, she told her story to the right people.

When Miss Thompson tells us about Fascism in Germany and Italy, she sticks to the truth, but she becomes thoroughly dishonest when she tells American audiences about the germs of Fascism in the U.S., for here she aims her darts not at the real forces for Fascism such as the Catholic hierarchy and laity—but at the most democratic-minded man in the country today—Franklin D. Roosevelt. She gives aid and comfort to the torities by her attacks on the President, especially on his simple, intelligent, socially necessary campaign to deprive the Supreme Court of its usurped power to declare unconstitutional measures passed by the people's representatives for the good of the people in general. When Fascism comes to the U.S.—if it ever does curse our land—it won't come in the names of Hitler and Mussolini but in the names of Americanism, the

Constitution and Old Glory. Fascism will be foisted on us by shrewd leaders of the stripe of the editors and owners of *The New York Herald Tribune*, in the name of anti-Fascism. If that sounds paradoxical, then I'm afraid I haven't been able to make clear a very simple, obvious idea. In the same way that the Catholic-Fascists strive to cover up their attacks on democracy and liberalism with smoke screens of the "Communist menace," so our American Fascists strive to establish an anti-labor authoritarian state under guise of preserving true Americanism. It takes clever people to put over such ideas, though Catholic-Fascism has pretty well succeeded in making its motives obvious, but conservatives who harp on their liberalism—of the order of Miss Thompson—are far more clever, adroit and dangerous.

I don't know how far Miss Thompson is going to go, but it seems clear to this humble commentator that she has taken on herself the gigantic task of giving the old face of reactionary Capitalism a new and more pleasing countenance. The woman is gifted, and possessed of a wonderful presence. She certainly will bear the closest watching.

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Do prunes act as a laxative?

Yes.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

The best I have here is home brew. Any time you are up this way, stop in and have a sample, which I guarantee you will have plenty of kick. There are three white men in this Alaskan village, and they all get a look at your Freeman. Then some of the Eskimos get hold of it—that is, those who can read a little. And they read it to other Eskimos. Some come to me and tell me that you "Sabby about everything." They want you to publish in your paper when old Christ is coming back on earth again. So it's up to you. All the Eskimos here and along the coast are very religious, as these missionary fakers have been peddling all kinds of dope to the Eskimos for a long time. That is their last recourse. As Eskimos will believe most anything when it comes to religion, I told them that I would ask you about old Christ coming. Amen.

Wainwright, Alaska.

B. S. HALL

[Editor's note: Reader Hall may tell his pious Eskimos that I am able to state definitely that Christ will make his re-

turn appearance at 2.35 P.M., a week from next Thursday, E.S.T. He will make a tour of the world in a Ford V-8. in which he will use nothing but Texaco gas, because the engagement is to be sponsored by the Texaco Corporation.]

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I notice that you speak of tomato juice as a source of Vitamin C. Will you recommend a few brands?

Most brands are good. The leaders are College Inn, Red and White, Kemp's Sun-Rayed, Richelieu and Lily White. Excellent quality will be found in these brands: Heinz, Butler, Welch, Iona, Ritter, Ann Page, Van Camp, Campbell's, and Beech Nut. I have seen some bad reports on White Rose, Del Monte, Libby's and Phillips. Readers will notice that I have listed Heinz again. It seems that every food listing which Heinz caters to includes the name of that firm. Let me say that I give Heinz its frequent free ads because I am convinced that the output of this concern is of a uniformly high standard. And remember, please, that I run no paid advertisements from this company, nor do I receive any kind of compensation for my numerous boosts. I endorse this company's foods because they deserve every compliment they get.

\* \* \*

Do you favor the use of castile soap?

Castile soap, when it's pure, is a wonderful thing, but where is one to get the real article? Castile soap, made of pure olive oil, is almost impossible to obtain, even though there are a number of soaps sold as genuine castile. The question of castile soap is so involved that it's practically beyond the powers of a non-expert individual to know when his money is getting him what he wants. There may be real castile soap available, but finding one is like taking a shot in the dark. I have long given up even trying to get the unadulterated product of olive oil, preferring to play safe with ordinary Ivory Soap, which is an honest article that may be had at a really low cost.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

Your remark, incidental to your statement about the relations of the Vatican with Fascist states, that "the Pope would establish diplomatic relations with Satan himself," in the July, 1937, issue of *The American Freeman*, contains the germ of a splendid idea for a comedy

or fantasy. In it the Pope does succeed in exchanging ambassadors with the realm of Hell, and there are great possibilities for the play of the imagination in working out the sequences, as they evolve, of such a relation. For instance, Satan could soon repent of this relation as he views the fate of his fellow-realm, Heaven, which has long since become a province of the Vatican, and of the Almighty, who is but the vassal and servant of the Pope, and lost long ago His Omnipotence. Or, the emissary to Hell could find that this relation is not at all new, that there has all the while been a secret understanding between Hell and the Vatican, that their interdependence has become so close that neither could exist without the other. Thinking that perhaps Satan has duped him, he returns to Rome to report to his Chief the deception of Satan. The climatic point is where he recognizes that the Pope is but Satan himself in disguise, and that his own master has sent him on a false mission. The greatest variegation of ideas is possible.

Can you supply me with further information? Is there a representative of the Vatican in Moscow? Is there one in Washington? Is there one in Mexico?

The idea is a fascinating one, and I would like to try my hand at writing such a play. But as to its marketability, regardless of how good it might be technically . . . ? But Moliere succeeded in putting his plays across.

BROOKLYN, N.Y. MAX BERMAN

(The U.S., Mexico and the U.S.S.R. haven't established diplomatic relations with the Vatican. There's a papal legate in Washington who handles the Vatican's affairs in connection with the U.S. government, but the U.S. has no ambassador in Vatican City, though strong efforts have, and are, being made to get our government to give official recognition to the Catholic Church. . . Mr. Berman's idea for a play sounds promising, though all of its value would depend on how the theme was treated. Moliere, too, was pretty good.)

\* \* \*

I was impressed by your various articles describing the Soviet Union's great progress in health work, which I understand are from official sources. Have you any reports or comments on this phase of Soviet life from an unattached, disinterested source?

Dr. Elliott G. Brackett, of Boston, one of the best-known surgeons in his section, spent five weeks in the Soviet Union doing nothing but studying Russian health work, hospitals, the

workings of state medicine, the treatment of emergency cases, the teaching of hygiene, and sanitation work in general. His report makes interesting and valuable reading, especially when we consider that this man has no interest whatever in political questions. A graduate of Harvard medical school in 1886, Dr. Brackett was of sufficient importance to be placed in charge of all orthopedic surgery of the U.S. during the World War. At present, Dr. Brackett is editor of *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* and head of a department in the Massachusetts General Hospital. Bearing these facts in mind, let's listen to what the doctor has to say:

"I was in Russia five weeks and I came and went as I pleased. I spent practically all my time in my own field. I saw the hospitals and their work, not as a casual tourist, but as a specialist who had every facility for careful observation.

"One institution I visited was a hospital of 2,000 beds outside Lenin-grad. It was built on the pavilion plan with 32 pavilions, a department for every specialty in medicine and surgery, and completely equipped for each specialty.

"The orthopedic department had 180 beds. The staff men are well educated. The laboratories, like the hospitals, are owned by the state, and the research workers, like the staff doctors and interns, are paid by the state.

"I was particularly interested in the system of conducting one large hospital in Moscow that handles all accident and emergency cases of the entire city. There is a central hospital and six district units. The district units are so closely connected with the central institution that any accident received in any one of them is instantly reported to the central hospital. Their ambulance service is complete.

"In one minute and a half after an accident is reported they get an ambulance and a nurse out on the street. If it is a minor case it goes to the nearest district unit. If it is a major case it goes to the greater facilities of the central hospital. For the safety of the other patients every new arrival is kept in a detention ward for the first 48 hours. The injured person stays in the hospital until able to go home. Then, if further care is needed, he visits the local unit for treatment, or if

unable to do so, he is visited at his home until able to resume his work.

"This is all without any expense to the patient. Doctors all work for the government and are paid by the government."

"The public hygiene of their cities is excellent. The cleanest cities I ever saw are Moscow and Leningrad. They wash their streets twice a day. The cities are very well taken care of. In the country places they aren't so far along and in some areas they have a long way to go to establish modern hygiene. But they are sending people out to teach hygiene and sanitation through the country."

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The conservative press always seems to score a point when it warns the public against our Reds who advocate violence. Please comment.

I read every brand of radical literature—Liberal, Progressive, Communist, Anarchist, and whatnot. The Anarchist press—I know only one, published in Italian, in N.Y.C.—is more concerned mainly with the actions of Spain's Catholic-Fascists. The Liberal and Progressive press scrupulously rests its case on legal, orderly, political, economic and cooperative programs. The Communist press—I read both *The Daily Worker* and *The New Masses*—is too busy supporting democratic reform measures along social security lines and fighting Fascism to bother making appeals for violence. Frequently the Communist press sounds tamer than *The Nation* and *The New Republic*.

On the other hand, look into the words of our economic royalists and Fascists. There you will find plenty of appeals to violence. The great industrialists employ private armies—armed with gas bombs, guns, clubs, and the like—to keep the workers from enjoying the rights of unionism—a right, by the way, which is guaranteed them under Federal law and which the industrialists—many of them, at least—insist on defying. Catholic-Fascists like Harvey and Al Smith, in New York City, scream about Communism and even urge they be granted the privilege of dispatching Communists by violent means—the former insisting on the effectiveness of lengths of rubber hose, nightsticks and ax handles, while others shout that they stand ready to give our radicals what they—the Catholic-

Fascists—gave the Spanish Republic. The violent mood, it seems to me, is all on the side of the supporters of toryism, reaction, Fascism, etc.

This brings me to a confidential news report issued by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate, on May 12, 1937, for the information of its subscribers. It described the amazing scene wherein the head of a great corporation, at a dinner of economic royalists who hate the very sound of our President's name, told how he hoped to see Roosevelt assassinated. The matter is important enough to warrant my quoting the full text of the McClure article, as follows:

"At a recent private dinner in New York an official of the American Cyanamid expressed in extreme form the bitterness towards the administration which is typical of the personal reactions of many right wing leaders in business and finance.

"The gentleman in question asserted in so many words that 'the paranoiac in the White House' is destroying the nation, that a couple of well-placed bullets would be the best thing for the country, and that he for one would buy a bottle of champagne as quick as he could get it to celebrate such news.

"This intemperate outburst drew no rebuke from his fellow diners, virtually all of whom worked and voted to beat Roosevelt last Fall. While they did not endorse the almost insane venom with which he spoke, they appeared to share the belief that it would be mightily beneficial to the country to change White House occupants by almost any means. This reaction is by no means rare among real and would-be economic royalists."

Needless to say, the conservative press writes no editorials on such an incident, preferring to continue the fiction that its side is dedicated to all the blessings of peace and order. It wouldn't do to offend the head of American Cyanamid, W. B. Bell, who served the Republican party as chairman of its Finance Committee during the recent national election. Our Catholic-Fascists, industrialists and economic royalists never tire of charging the radicals with aiming at violence while they proceed with their policy of committing acts of violence, or breeding violence, or proposing acts of violence. It's reached a serious stage when the head of one

of our great corporations comes right out at a dinner of members of his class and proposes that the President of the United States be assassinated. Why? Because Roosevelt, in a moderate, cautious way, is proposing certain essential social reforms that should have been enacted into law decades ago. Each Rooseveltian proposal is necessary not only for the welfare of the victims of our capitalistic system, but is also necessary if the social order is to prevail. Roosevelt isn't a "Red." He believes in the system of capitalistic production, but he also believes that the government should be used to control our great industrialists, and that they should be compelled to make certain necessary concessions to the toilers. Such policies are for the ultimate good of the great Capitalists, but they're too dumb to see the simple fact, so their leaders rage and resist, some even going so far as to suggest violence on the person of the President.

\* \* \*

I am a young woman, about 25 pounds overweight, and want to reduce. A friend tells me to drink some vinegar and eat an increasing quantity of Ex-Lax daily until I consume about a box each day. What is your opinion?

If you want to die a slow, lingering, painful death, carry out that program. Ignorant women throughout the country seem to be getting on to this perfectly insane combination, and the results are tragic. I happen to know of a young Italian woman in my county who went in for this outlandish measure. She drank from a half glass to a full tumbler of vinegar each day, and finally worked up to the point where she consumed a box of Ex-Lax daily—all in an effort to reduce. When she started, she weighed about 125 pounds. As I write this piece, she weighs about 75 pounds, but I'm positive she'll be dead by the time this gets into print. She has been in a hospital for something like three months, suffering terrible pain. Her system is rotten with poison, and her insides are scorched and seared. Doctors say there's no hope. The beautiful, but foolish, girl is doomed. This makes the third case I've heard of, which would indicate that the vinegar-Ex-Lax combination is receiving wide endorsement. I

don't know where such a crazy, idiotic notion started, but it's going the rounds, and, if it isn't stopped in a hurry by quick, effective publicity, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of women will die in the near future from this unbelievable "remedy" for overweight.

\* \* \*

Of the numerous surveys now being made of public opinion, has any considered the question of whether religion's influence is growing or diminishing?

Early in 1937, Dr. Henry C. Link, director, Psychological Service Center, 522 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C., made a survey which showed that "there is a widespread belief in this country that religion is losing its influence." Dr. Link reported:

"Of 5,000 persons questioned in 65 communities, 44 percent said that the prestige of religion was waning. Thirteen percent said religion was static, and 34 percent said it was strengthening its influence."

\* \* \*

Admiral Stirling, in an article in The New York Herald Tribune, May 16, 1937, writes: "A well-prepared military nation with a sea power could bring to America a modern, mechanized army of 500,000 men in time to make opposition almost hopeless." Please comment.

One has a right to expect an admiral in the U.S. Navy to write sensibly when discussing a subject within his ken, and yet here is a full-fledged admiral attempting to alarm the American people with a cock-and-bull story that couldn't stand the scrutiny of an intelligent high-school boy.

Admiral Stirling doesn't deign to tell us which military nation he has in mind, so we are compelled to guess his meaning—England. With appalling indifference to plain economic facts, the admiral would have us go on a spree of military and naval preparedness—as though we were only dealing in dimes and quarters now—to repel an invasion that could have been developed only in the cracked brain of a moron. To begin with, there isn't a nation in the world that has enough ships to engage in such an enterprise as Admiral Stirling would have us believe lies in store for the U.S. A student of this subject, Mauritz A. Hallgren, of the editorial staff of *The Baltimore Sun*, gives us a set of facts that should



convince even the scribbling admiral that he should do a little studying before indulging in such sensationalism. Mr. Hallgren says:

"From a study of the report of Colonel Ayres, 'The War With Germany: A Statistical Summary,' it is seen that 6,000,000 tons of shipping would be needed to move such an army. The enemy force would have to be moved in a single expedition, since, if the enemy tried to move in several units, the defending army could easily pick them off one by one. Moreover, this expedition would have to be moved as secretly as possible.

"Now, the first thing to be noted is that no nation on earth—save England—has as much ocean-going shipping in the whole of its merchant fleet. No mercantile marine even approaches this total, except England—and if England were to divert as much shipping from its indispensable raw materials and food services it would be faced with hunger and economic collapse within a few weeks.

"The second and no less important point is that the expedition would be monstrous in size. The average ship in the British merchant marine displaces 6,200 tons. That means that an expedition of 6,000,000 tons would consist of about 968 ships, not counting the naval escort. It would be madness itself to send such an armada across the open sea on a hostile mission. To imagine such a ponderous and slow-moving giant launching a surprise attack upon the American coast is to give way to sheer fantasy.

"Studies by Hector Bywater and other technical (and far from pacifists) experts have shown that no attempt of this sort can possibly succeed. Indeed, it is beyond the realm of human probability that an army of even 50,000 men can be brought across either ocean for the purpose of attacking or invading the United States.

"In discussing national defense, which certainly needs far more discussion than it has had to date, the admirals and generals ought not to go out beyond their depth."

\* \* \*

Are mechanical exercisers of any help?

Mechanical exercisers may not do any harm but they surely don't do a person any good. And that goes for vibrators, too. If you need exercise, take it in its active form—walking, tennis, swimming, golf, or the like. I doubt that anyone ever received the

slightest benefit from mechanical exercisers.

\* \* \*

What is the attitude of Upton Sinclair towards the Soviet Union?

In a forthcoming book, *The Writers of the World on the Soviet Union*, Upton Sinclair contributes an article, from which I quote:

"I have been following with close attention the course of events in the Soviet Union for the past 20 years. It seems to me that never in the history of humanity have the masses of people achieved such great cultural, political and economic progress."

\* \* \*

Is the position of the Jew easing up any?

No. In Germany, Hitler's despicable work of crushing and ruining a helpless minority—less than 1 percent of the population—is about finished. There's hardly anything more he can do. In Poland, more than 3,000,000 Jews—about 10 percent of the population—have been ruined economically, and the finishing touches—including mass murders—are now being applied by Catholic-Fascism. As for the U.S., the problem of anti-Semitism—led by such characters as the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, Henry Ford, and dozens of secret and open Fascist organizations, including sections supported by Hitler's Nazi party—is only beginning to take shape. On this subject, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, of the Supreme Court of the United States, said recently, in an interview given to Pierre Van Paasen:

"American Jews don't know what is in store for them. They will suffer as they have never suffered before in 1940 to 1942."

Mr. Paasen added this comment:

"Some well-informed Jews in America, especially in the East, feel less safe than Germany's Jews did in 1929. An anti-Semitic policy is a fine stepping-stone to dictatorship.

"Fascism is the enemy of the Jews, whose situation today is more tragic than at any time in the past 2,000 years. In Poland, there is destitution beyond imagination. In Germany, Jews are doomed as untouchables. In Italy, there are few Jews, but Mussolini is introducing an anti-Semitic campaign.

"Even here, in America, there is discrimination against Jews; for instance, in Eastern universities."

It would be the worst kind of folly to shut one's eyes to situations that

are developing before our eyes. Henry Ford, who once stopped a fast-going campaign of anti-Semitism by suppressing his own newspaper—*The Dearborn Independent*—and withdrawing his lie-packed book, *The International Jew*, from circulation, has permitted the volume to be reissued in Germany, where more than a score of editions have been run off the presses, in various languages, including English. These books are being shipped everywhere, even to the U.S. and Palestine. In the latter country the Nazi aim is to use Ford's libels in order to arouse the Arabs to commit atrocities against the Jewish population. This time, Ford will move quietly behind the scenes, letting others do the open work of provoking acts of persecution and discrimination. At the same time, the Rev. Winrod conducts an immense, expensive propaganda against the Jews, which includes widespread circulation of the oft-exposed Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

The propaganda is being conducted on many fronts, but it's all faced in the same direction—towards Fascism. One of American Fascism's greatest obstacles is President Roosevelt, who refuses to join any movement that aims to establish racial prejudice in this country. But the Fascists aren't working to effectuate their policies while Roosevelt is in the White House. They are looking forward, as Brandeis warns, to the next national campaign and the uncertain times to follow. This is the right time for anti-Fascists to face the cold, bitter facts and begin to outline lines of action intended to counter these medieval, anti-social forces.

\* \* \*

Do you look on the Soviet-French alliance as a permanent arrangement?

There are some signs that indicate the Soviet Union isn't very happy over its pact with France. Marshal Tukhachevsky, who until recently was second only to Marshal Voroshiloff, the latter one of the most powerful men in Russia, was removed from his important office and given a minor command because, according to certain sources, he is strongly in favor of a pro-French policy. His place was given to Marshal Yegeroff, the Chief of Staff, because, some say, he is more inclined to the establishment

of some sort of a peace accord with Germany. Russia has three policies to choose from:

1. Stick to France.
2. Drop France and patch up some kind of an agreement with the German government.
3. Throw away all military alliances and assume a policy of strict isolation.

The Soviet Union's growing strength, and that government's keen realization of its vast defensive powers, leads me to believe the third possibility may be adhered to.

\* \* \*

How 'd Germany's war equipment stand up in Spain?

I have read numerous reports on how Hitler's aircraft and tanks behaved in Spain, and all agree that the showing was very poor. Here again the fault is "Ersatz"—substitutes. Manufacturers were compelled to use cheap alloys in making steel, and the results have been very bad indeed, which, of course, is good news for people everywhere who hope to see the ultimate triumph of Democracy over Fascism. The German staff is telling Hitler some plain, bitter truths these days, and the outcome may be good for peace, perhaps for a few years. Germany's tanks and aircraft—especially the latter—don't stand up when pitted against Russia's superior, well-made machines. The Soviet Union is beginning to feel that an attack by Hitler won't be as calamitous as it figured only a few months ago.

It's safe to say that Hitler's poor war equipment and Mussolini's terrific defeats near Madrid have changed the European situation for the better, at least temporarily. These two mass-murderers aren't as cocky as they were only recently, especially the bully in Rome. He thought his gangsters could be sent through Spain the way they went through unarmed, unprepared, miserable Ethiopia, but history wrote a different story. Both great dictators have lost a whole lot of face in Spain, and, as I write, they are looking for a good "out" that will enable them to withdraw without inviting the world's Bronx cheers.

Germany has been so sobered by its poor showing in Spain that it is beginning to give serious consideration

—that means, of course, that Hitler is giving thought to—the suggestion made by a faction in the general staff, which holds to the policy of an accord with the Soviet Union. Hitler doesn't have any faith in Mussolini, who, like himself, is busted, and, in addition, is thoroughly unreliable. Such an alliance can result in nothing more constructive than an endless headache. But the Soviet Union is different—it has an immense gold reserve, it owes practically nothing, it is a great customer, it is an immense source of raw materials, it sticks to its promises, it is building a powerful navy, its army is the greatest in the world, its aircraft is the best fighting force in the air, its tanks are efficient, its reserve of trained man-power is prodigious, it has no territorial ambitions, it is ceasing to quake at the mention of Japan—in all, a power worth catering to. But certain informed French journalists write openly that such an alliance is most unlikely, not because Hitler would be unwilling to swallow his own anti-Russian poison, but rather because of Stalin's reluctance to tie up with such a scoundrel and rogue. The Soviet Union knows it can afford to be pretty uppety about its choice of allies. It prefers to cast its lot with the great democratic powers, like France.

\* \* \*

Henry Ford says "Any good workman can talk to his boss any time about grievances." His point is that workmen should kick out outsiders. What say you?

All haters of organized labor keep complaining about the terrible "outsiders" who want to "mislead" labor into joining unions. In Kansas City, full-page advertisements blazon the cry of the employers that they are being "persecuted" by "outsiders." Almost 1,100 employees of the Firth Carpet Company, Firthcliffe, near Newburgh, N.Y., are on strike, and their boss, who happens to be Lord Ackroyd, took time out of the coronation to send a cable to the press in the city where his mill is located, and the gist of his complaint was that his men are all satisfied but misled by "outsiders." In Canada, when General Motors employees struck for the same conditions the great corporation gave its U.S. employees, the cry

went up that "outside agitators" were ruining General Motors' Canadian business. In Kansas City, ex-Senator Jim Reed, whose wife owns a garment factory that employs 1,500 men and women, cried to high heaven that his wife's workers would be satisfied with their fine, humanitarian company union if only an outsider like Dubinsky would go back to Russia. The song about "outsiders" fools very few workers, and even the employers don't believe a tenth of what they say. They know quite well that the average worker isn't qualified to negotiate a contract with an employer. It takes special skill and training. Workers, through their national unions, delegate bargaining to experienced spokesmen, which is a sensible thing to do. Federal law plainly says it's a crime for an employer to refuse to deal with any committee duly elected by his employees, but these anti-union Capitalists stubbornly refuse to obey the law, covering up their lawlessness with a smoke-screen about "trouble-making outsiders." The bosses will continue to shout this nonsense, but in the end they'll get tired of doing that senseless thing, because it won't get them anywhere.

\* \* \*

What is your opinion of devices like No-Moth, Expello, etc.—made to be hung in closets to kill moths?

There are numerous devices, put up in fancy cans, that are intended to be hung in clothes closets, but not one of them will do the job. I refer to such articles as the two mentioned above, Expellometer, Germ-ax Moth Tabs, Exo-Nox, Odora Mothalator, and many others whose names aren't available at the moment. They are expensive, are sold under extravagant claims in advertising that is questionable—some of it severely condemned by the federal government—and they invariably disappoint the consumer.

The old-fashioned moth ball is still the best weapon with which to fight moths. They are cheap—a recent Montgomery Ward catalogue offers them at only 23c per two-pound package—and if handled properly will give satisfaction. It is important to use plenty of moth balls when going after these destructive pests. And, equally important, be sure the place you put your clothes for storage is

sealed tight. Moth balls will do no good if they are placed where there is any amount of ventilation. The bad aroma of moth balls isn't enough to kill the creatures. They must "vaporize," and the vapor must soak into the garments—and stay there. Such treatment causes the fabrics to become bad-ordered, but a reasonable airing, before they are put into use again, will remedy that condition.

Before putting up your clothes, be sure to have them cleaned carefully and sunned. Brush the garments thoroughly in order to dispose of any eggs put there by the moths. Remember, it isn't the moth that does the damage—it's the eggs (larvae) which feed on the fabric immediately after being hatched. Another way to fight moths is to wear the garments as much as possible, for moths rarely attach their larvae to garments that are in use.

The cheap straw-board boxes that may be bought for about 95c, and which will hold something like a half-dozen suits of men's clothes, are very good—if they are kept sealed and supplied with plenty of moth balls. The more expensive chests, fixed up with all sorts of fancy, expensive preparations, aren't a bit better—in fact, not as good—as the cheap, straw-board, collapsible "closets" that can be had at the low price just mentioned.

A valuable report, issued by Consumers Union, recommends, in addition to moth balls, the following: Paradichlorobenzene flakes (about 50c per pound, but certainly no better than cheap moth balls), gum camphor (also expensive; about 75c per pound), sprays like Flit and Flytox, Rinsing Larvex (which requires immersion), Konate (also requires immersion or thorough spraying), fumigation by experts, and cold storage, the last named being effective, but expensive. Such preparations as Flit and Flytox must actually come in contact with the moths. They may, according to the report just mentioned, stain some materials.

The report issued by Consumers Union lists as "not acceptable" not only the devices intended for hanging in closets, but the following preparations as well, which my readers should pass up:

Moth Wool, Tanglefoot Difusor

Method, Aroma Moth Vaporizer (consisting of 98 percent common salt), Termox Moth Proofing Crystals (60 percent common salt), Flori Moth-proofing Method (condemned by the Federal Trade Commission because of false claims), arsenic preparations, Odora Moth Cakes, Methex Cedarized Tablets, Germ-ax Moth Crystals, Banol, Resistal Concentrated Moth Proofing Solution, carbon disulfide and carbon tetrachloride (both poisonous), Ideal Moth Block, and Moth-Pruf Cabinets. Also branded as worthless are tobacco powder, lavender flowers, pyrethrum stems, borax, cedar needles or chips, cayenne pepper, allspice, angelica root, lime, powdered sulphur, baking soda, salt, white hellebore, and formaldehyde sprays.

The market is full of "moth killers," but none—including moth balls—can be said to be 100 percent reliable. Even moth balls will disappoint, but they are still the best, and cheapest, moth-fighters.

\* \* \*

Does bad weather increase motor car accidents?

Reports generally show that most motor car accidents happen during pleasant weather. Dr. H. R. Ross, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health, reported that statistics in his office show that 84.1 percent of the fatal accidents, during 1936, in Kansas, happened during good weather. Dr. Ross added:

"Accidents are not numerous on the days when it is rainy and the roads are slippery. Only 3.3 percent of the fatal accidents last year in which 542 persons were killed during the year occurred on rainy days. Only 5.9 percent occurred on cloudy days; only 1.5 percent on days when snow and sleet were on the highways, and only 1.3 percent on days when dust storms were occurring."

\* \* \*

Isn't it true that many intelligent, educated people often do the same stupid things ignorant people do?

You're right. I've noticed it many times. A man like Woodrow Wilson—who was president of a great university, Governor of New Jersey and President of the United States—actually carried a horse chestnut around with him to invite good luck, and believed 13 was his lucky number. The

Duke of Windsor and his precious Wally—both of them educated, presumably intelligent, persons—study devoutly the charts of astrologers.

The distinguished novelist, Arnold Bennett, is a case in point. In one of his diaries, Bennett told about buying some fat-reducers in an Italian drug store, and later records that they injured his heart, which compelled him to spend a great deal of money with physicians, one of whom warned him against dosing himself with such trash. Bennett comments:

"Of course he is right. It is perfectly staggering the idiotic things even a wise man will do."

That's why debunkers have to be patient and forgiving, not only with others but with themselves, for even the most doughty debunker sometimes falls from grace and swallows gobs of bunk.

\* \* \*

Kansas' new sales tax is giving me an acute attack of constipation. If I buy bran flakes for myself, I have to pay 2 percent, but if I buy bran for my cow the sale is tax exempt. So what?

The solution is for you to buy bran for your cow and then change your mind, eating it yourself. Remember, if you feed that tax-exempt bran to the cow, you'll have to pay 2 percent on the milk produced from the tax exempt bran.

\* \* \*

Which of our States seceded during the Civil War?

Virginia, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of Leonard Ear Oil and Invisible Antiseptic Ear Drum for the hard of hearing? Also Morley Ear-Phone and George P. Wat Ear-Drum?

None of these articles can do the hard of hearing any real good. Go see a good doctor.

\* \* \*

Do you recommend proprietary cleansers for artificial teeth?

These advertised cleansers aren't as good as ordinary Ivory Soap applied with a common brush, and they cost many times more.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

Our attention has been called to your comments on the La Salle Law Course as given on page 4 of the June, 1937,

Issue of The American Freeman.

We are fully aware of the problems you face in furnishing information on so many subjects of inquiry and we recognize also that the personal views of the person writing these articles may color a report.

I assume also that you are interested in presenting fair reports and in receiving information that may correct any erroneous impression left by such an article.

Your informant states: "I doubt it could bring about one's entrance into the legal profession," etc. As a matter of fact it does. In several States our graduates qualify directly for the examination, assuming that they have the requisite pre-legal qualifications. In most of the States of the Union our graduates qualify through study of our course under the supervision of a lawyer in the State.

Our students not only do qualify for the examinations, but they make many fine records. They have on numerous occasions stood first and second in the examinations in States where the rating is given. Your information, therefore, is misleading.

Also, your writer questions the use of the word "University." Our Institution was chartered by the laws of Illinois 29 years ago as a university. We have not only our home study work of university grade, which has on numerous occasions been accepted for advanced credit by our leading colleges and universities, but we also have a resident school in Chicago with approximately 800 students. We own buildings which represent an investment of more than half a million dollars, and in addition rent approximately 50,000 square feet of floor space. We have, therefore, a resident school from which extension activities might be conducted; we have physical resources greater than that of a number of resident institutions known by the name of "university"; we give instruction in several different departments. There is, therefore, justification for the use of the term.

In view of some of the justifiable criticism of home study institutions, I can understand how your editor so easily made the statements which he did. I am sure he was without the facts which I have given.

WILLIAM BETHKE

Secretary and Educational Director,  
La Salle Extension University, Chicago,  
Ill.

Mr. Bethke's insistence on calling his institution a "university" makes it necessary for me to quote Webster's New International, as follows: "An institution organized for teaching and study in the higher branches of learn-

ing, and empowered to confer degrees in special departments, as theology, law, medicine, and the arts." Under this definition I don't see how Mr. Bethke can assert that La Salle is a university, even though it conducts a law school and a few departments devoted to accounting, salesmanship, advertising, business management, and the like. When we speak of a university, we think of places like Harvard, Columbia, Princeton, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, and similar establishments, which, of course, excludes a plant like the one run in Chicago by La Salle.

I made a copy of the foregoing La Salle letter, which I sent, accompanied by my original article, to the American Bar Association (Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar), asking for comment from its executive, Mr. Will Shafroth, an authority on the subjects touched on in my piece and the La Salle letter. On May 22, 1937, I received the following reply:

Editor, The American Freeman:

In reply to your letter of May 13, there are a very small number of States, not over four or five at most, where study of law at a correspondence school is recognized as qualifying for admission to the bar unless the applicant is studying in a law office at the same time. There are four States, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi, where it is unnecessary for the applicant to show that he has studied law at all in any manner if he can pass the bar examinations.

What statistics we have received in reference to the success of correspondence school students in the bar examinations indicate that as a general rule their percentage of success is very much smaller than that of students attending a resident law school even of the poorest type.

Our standards do not recognize correspondence school study as we feel that the law is so complicated that the minimum requirement should be graduation from a good resident law school.

I agree with what you say, that it is deceptive to call a correspondence school a university, although this is commonly done and I assume is perfectly legal.

WILL SHAFROTH, Adviser

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I enclose a clipping from The Chicago Daily News, quoting a Salvation Army leader, on which I wish you would comment.

General Edward T. Higgins, veteran Salvation Army leader and international commander from 1929 to 1934, is quoted as follows:

"Religion alone can light the way to world peace. The darkness

of war will continue to engulf the nations as long as selfishness and exploitation are the rule of action. When they come to realize that international amity and justice are possible only when the principles of fraternalism and good-will enunciated and demonstrated by Jesus Christ are practiced, then and then only will they be on the high road to warlessness."

These are pretty words, but realists will be pardoned if they insist that poetical sentiments shall be made to pass the tests of reality. This, after all, is a practical world. Pretty sentiments look nice on wall signs in church edifices, but the sane thing is to ask how those sentiments are translated into action. Deeds are always more important than words.

If the Churches hold the key to world peace, according to General Higgins, he should be asked to take a look at history and interpret for us the peculiar phenomenon that prevailed when the Churches were in supreme control of Europe during the Dark and Middle Ages. If I recall my history lessons, those were the glorious, sacred days of endless religious wars, in which tens of millions were killed for the greater glory of God. Those were the rosy days of persecution, massacres, loot-hungry crusaders, mass murder of Jews, heretics, witches, dissenters and apostates, and papal bulls acclaiming endless slaughters in the name of the gentle Jesus.

As for the World War, let's not forget that the Czar was the head of the vast Church in bloody Russia, the Kaiser was the most pious Fundamentalist in Protestant Europe, the Italian House of Savoy unfurled its banners with the blessings of the Church, the Austrian monarchy was the prize jewel in the Vatican's crown, the King of England was the righteous head of the Church of England. Cardinal Mercier upheld the flags of Belgium and coined its slogans when that little country was over-run by "Huns," Woodrow Wilson was, as the Kaiser described him, a blue-nosed Presbyterian, and the rest of the standbys of Jesus Christ prayed one minute and threw gas bombs the next. There must be something wrong with a religion that converts its statesmen to the pretty theories of peace and then lets them

demonstrate their warlessness by putting on a right snappy tiff that ended with 10,000,000 dead and 20,000,000 wounded. Skeptics may be excused their indulging in Bronx cheers when they are made to view the spectacle of every brand of religion fighting it out on a grand scale—all with the full approval and blessings of Christ's representatives on earth.

If that's going back too far, let's not forget that only two years ago Mussolini was sending his gangsters into Ethiopia—the oldest Christian land in the world—to teach the Negroes down there the blessings of Christian civilization by destroying their cities, bombing their Christian churches, gassing their women and children, and ending up by stealing the country—all, as I've said a hundred times in the past, to the chants of approval delivered by Pope, cardinals, bishops and priests.

If two years is going back too far, take a look at Spain today. As I write, Italian Fascists, blessed by the Pope, are taking part in an immense assault on Bilbao, where the Basques—about 90 percent Catholic—are defending their provinces from invasion. That's a fine demonstration of Christian warlessness.

But why pile it on? Godless Russia, without the blessings of religion, struggles manfully to keep the peace. The Freethinker who is France's premier strives endlessly and tirelessly to keep Christians from tearing one another to pieces.

There's something screwy about the whole picture. General Higgins should be recalled to explain some of these appalling facts.

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The press reported, on May 28, 1937, that a certain newspaper writer was expelled from a press club and denied the right to attend future press conferences by the President in the White House. What are the facts?

Richard H. Waldo, head of a syndicate which supplies confidential bulletins to subscribers, sent out a report which contained lies about the President's health, one alleging that Roosevelt was taken hurriedly to his recent trip to the Gulf of Mexico because he had collapsed, having been found on the floor of his study in a coma. There wasn't a word of truth in the "news" about the President's health, for it's known that the Chief

Executive is in good condition. News reels of Roosevelt in the act of catching big fish showed him to be in exceptionally fine shape. Steps were taken to expel the culprit from the National Press Club and deny him the right to join regular correspondents when they interview the President in the White House. It is urged that writers who publish only confidential circulars aren't entitled to the same privileges as are enjoyed by regular, accredited correspondents who send their dispatches to publications of general circulation. Thus, the action isn't being taken by the White House but by newspapermen who are offended by the unethical tactics of a queer breed of Washington writers who have developed, of late, a lucrative business sending out sensational—frequently false—reports about the President and his policies. *Freeman* readers will recall that during the recent national campaign there was a vast whispering campaign that functioned with the end in view of giving the country to understand that the President was mentally incompetent, that his private funds are controlled by a board of three guardians, and similar falsehoods, all of which *The Freeman* helped expose.

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What is the theory behind our immense army appropriations?

The theory has it that we must prepare against invasion, but it's hard to get any of these militarists to identify the power—or powers—aiming at our territory. With the U.S. Army lobby crying for \$416,413,382 for this year, an increase of \$25,000,000 over the previous year, the President of the United States should listen to the sensible words uttered by Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in 1916, said our country could be invaded only by a power "twice as strong as we are on the seas and 50 times as strong as we are on the land." If Roosevelt was right then—and I believe he was—these prodigious appropriations aren't intended for defense but to make possible imperialistic adventures in Europe and Asia. If it's our intention to keep our boys in the U. S., then we could get along very well with a much smaller army and use the money now being wasted on the military establishment to take care

of the needy. Mauritz A. Hallgren, of the *Baltimore Sun*, in his book, *The Tragic Fallacy: A Study of America's War Policies*, says that geography has worked to the benefit of the people of the U.S., giving them two full-sized oceans that "are worth 10,000,000 soldiers."

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George E. Sokolsky, in a *Herald Tribune* article, takes a crack at labor leaders because they compel men to "bargain away the rights of men to work without paying tribute for the job." Please comment.

Sokolsky is so well recognized as a cheap mouthpiece of the economic royalists that one hesitates to cross lances with him. The man usually is certain to condemn himself by the crassness with which he serves labor's exploiters. One of his favorite arguments—and all labor haters repeat the same claim—has it that the poor, helpless workers are compelled to sacrifice the humanitarian benevolence of the big-hearted employers when they pay initiation fees and dues—tribute, they call it—for the right to hold a job. The whole thing reeks with insincerity and is dripping wet with crocodile tears. What do the labor unions do with the few dimes they collect each month from a member? The money goes to pay office expenses, clerk hire, supplies, legitimate miscellaneous items, strike benefits, relief to members who are superannuated or unemployed, office rentals, and the footing of the costs of organizing the millions of workers who are still without the benefits of unionism. The employers everywhere are members of their own associations—and they can be called unions—in order to protect their own interests. They have unions of manufacturers, bankers, executives, commercial leaders, and the like, and the writers of the type of Sokolsky never say they are being compelled to pay tribute in order to maintain their positions in their various fields of activity. Only the other day I was approached by a representative—in a labor union he would be called an organizer—who asked me to join an association of publishers and employing printers. Knowing their reactionary policies, I refused, but the thought came to me at the time that such groups are considered quite right by employers but

are looked upon as "racketeering" when indulged in by the wage workers. I'm positive the workers are rarely fooled by such silly propaganda.

Recently, John L. Lewis—for whom my admiration grows stronger day by day—discussed this issue in a speech before an audience of textile workers in Lawrence, Mass. The great leader of the CIO took up the question of the utter helplessness of the unorganized worker. The great employers—from Henry Ford to the owners of southern cotton mills—all keep pounding on the worker's abject loss of "independence" when he combines with his fellow workers to have something to say about hours, wages and general conditions. The industrialists issue statements—which are quoted in expensive full-page newspaper advertisements and other forms of propaganda—saying that any worker who has a grievance can always depend on being heard. Only the other day Henry Ford made that argument in his list of "Fordisms." John L. Lewis paid his respects to this piece of clap-trap, as follows:

"It is absurd to think a worker, dissatisfied with his work, his hours or pay, can go to his foreman, to the superintendent and then to the manager of his mill with his wrongs. Imagine an unorganized worker in General Motors, at Detroit, journeying to New York to have a conference with Alfred Sloan about his dissatisfaction. That would be impossible. It has to be done collectively."

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I am enclosing a clipping which I wish you would pass on to Freeman readers. It tells volumes.

The clipping referred to above is from the May 22, 1937, issue of *The New Leader*, which quotes the editors of a Czechoslovakian newspaper, the *Neuer Vorwärts*. We are told that the Nazi authorities actually take sound movies of all beheadings in Hitler Germany. The report continues:

"The films are not hidden away in court archives. Neither are they exhibited to the general public.

"They have their special use. They are shown at private gatherings of the high-placed Nazis, who get a great thrill out of them.

"If, as sometimes happens, the victim's nervous system has been



worn out by misery and abuse and he breaks down at the last moment, begs for mercy or weeps or becomes hysterical, the scene is greeted with hyena laughter."

This is only one more proof of Nazi Sadism. The evidence piles up and compels the conclusion that the present rulers of Germany are a gang of blood-thirsty murderers who delight in the experiences that psychiatrists describe as abnormal. What a regime! Its head is a homosexual, who murdered his man-lover, Captain Roehm, a confessed homosexual. Its second in command is a "reformed" dope fiend. Its official Jew-baiter, Julius Streicher, carries a whip and visits male prisoners who are youthful and handsome, has them stripped naked, and beats them until he (Streicher) gets the kind of sexual satisfaction that accompanies Sadism. The whole thing is too horrible to believe, but the facts are insistent and demand credence.

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I agree with you when you call attention to the serious implications of the wild words of the Catholic President of the Borough of Queens, George U. Harvey, who joined in the Red-baiting campaign of the Catholic Church—at a Communion breakfast, if I'm not mistaken—by calling for the authority to distribute "three feet of rubber hose" to the police force of New York City, thereby guaranteeing to "rid the city of Communists in two weeks." Such Fascist talk is common among our demagogues, but why don't you give space to Mayor La Guardia's brilliant, intelligent, spirited reply?

I couldn't quote from the New York mayor's reply to Harvey because, at the time I wrote my article, La Guardia hadn't yet made his speech. My private, high-salaried astrologer was sick with the mumps at the time I penned my piece, which prevented me from using the stars in divining what was to happen at a later date.

I agree with my correspondent's description of La Guardia's answer to Harvey, and the other hysterical advocates of the destruction of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. The mayor's words follow:

"Economic issues cannot be settled with the policeman's nightstick. Any philosophy of government under our Constitution can be decided only through the mediums and channels provided in the Constitution,

and cannot be suppressed by the use of force. The force of the State cannot be properly used to suppress freedom of speech. \* \* \*

"If at any time force is attempted in this city while I am Mayor to exact any demands, I shall use a greater force to suppress that. But I will not use the Police Department to beat and abuse people who are acting within their rights and remaining within the limits of the law. That is not your job, men of the Police Department.

"We have courts; we have the expression of opinion; we have universal suffrage, and, thank God, we have a Constitution.

"We are a government of free men and women and it is our duty to protect those rights. So long as I am Mayor of New York I shall protect the constitutional rights of every citizen, whether I agree with him or not, and whether I like him or not. Let me make that very clear."

That's the kind of talk we need in these days when there is a world-wide conspiracy by the forces of Catholic-Fascism, and other reactionaries, to undermine and destroy every semblance of democracy and freedom. Spunky, doughty, candid La Guardia is an ever-reliable defender of civil liberties.

\* \* \*

Al Smith, after interviewing Mussolini recently, described the dictator as a "swell fellow." Please comment.

Al Smith should have interviewed the widows and orphans of thousands of murdered anti-Fascists and asked them if they thought Mussolini was a "swell fellow." Then he should have looked up the thousands of intellectuals, professors, journalists, poets, democrats, republicans, liberals and other anti-Fascists who are in exile on many islands in the Adriatic and asked them to cheer for the "swell fellow." Then he should have gone down to Ethiopia and told the survivors of Mussolini's massacre—a quarter of a million Negroes were slaughtered—that their conqueror is really a "swell fellow." Then a trip to Spain would help a little, where he could assure the Loyalists, their wives and children, that Mussolini's bombers are only the messengers of sweetness and light, the love-tokens of a "swell fellow." The spirits of justice, decency, freedom, progress and civilized institu-

tions could, if they were able to talk, tell Al Smith a thing or two about his "swell fellow."

Incidentally, if Al Smith were living in Italy and said about Mussolini what he has thundered about Roosevelt, the "swell fellow" would either shoot him on the spot or ship him to a life of misery with thousands of other anti-Fascists on remote islands. But the Al Smith of the Liberty League and the big-shots of Wall Street isn't looking for the things anti-Fascists know to exist in Italy, for the "swell fellow" is carrying out the Fascist ideas that are now so dear to the heart of this erstwhile progressive.

Intelligent Americans know that our future would be dark indeed if this "swell fellow" were to take power in this country, but the Al Smith-Liberty Leaguers would hail the egotistical mass-murderer as their long-lost savior. Al Smith's demonstration of affection for Fascism's "swell fellow" is just one more proof of the moral and intellectual degeneration of a once-promising son of Fulton Fish Market.

\* \* \*

A Catholic priest, who hates Loyalist Spain, claims "Franco is fighting a mob of filthy, immoral, corrupt, sinful wretches." Please comment.

I didn't see the report of the speech referred to above, so I can't give the Fascist priest's name, which impels me to warn my readers to send the clippings when asking comment so I may keep the record clear. It isn't easy to answer our priest's malicious tirade, because words like "filthy," "immoral," and "corrupt" mean so many things to different people. However, if the Loyalists are one-tenth as bad as this priest charges, it should be obvious that these "sinful wretches" should be reeking with syphilis. Now, what are the facts?

Dr. Norman Bethune, distinguished Canadian surgeon, spent seven months in Loyalist Spain, where he headed the Spanish-Canadian Institute for Blood Transfusion. When he returned for a short visit to his home, he was interviewed in New York City. Giving a report of his activities, Dr. Bethune told how he organized volunteers who signed up to donate blood to wounded soldiers and civilian victims of Fascist bombers. After his

announcement appeared in Madrid newspapers, he says, 1,204 volunteers responded, only 33 of whom had to be turned down because of blood disease. Let our Catholic priest call in 1,204 of his most pious fish-eaters and see if only 33 have syphilis.

Incidentally Dr. Bethune, in the same interview, paid a tribute to the morale of the Spanish people in their war to crush the forces of Catholic-Fascism. He asserts, from observation, that "more than three-fourths of the population of Spain is in Loyalist territory, because the people will not stay in the areas occupied by the rebels if they can find any way of escape. General Franco is occupying almost deserted territory."

Dr. Bethune paid his respects to Fascist propaganda, which keeps harping on the hackneyed theme of "Communism in Spain," with the following well-directed words:

"I hope people in the United States and Canada will not be fooled by the cry of Communism, raised by Italy and Germany to excuse their interference in Spain. Actually, Communism is no more of a factor in Spain than it is in America. The ruling majority in the government are Republicans, Socialists and Social Democrats. Italy and Germany want Spain for military strategic reasons.

"Germany has sent airplanes, artillery, guns and technicians, but Italy has sent at least 100,000 soldiers, in regular uniform and equipment, with their own officers, general staff, transport and commissary. Why, after their rout at Guadalajara we ate spaghetti and drank Italian wine for weeks. And an entire Loyalist brigade equipped itself with first-class Italian boots, machine guns and supply trucks! Mussolini is getting away with murder. He's sitting in a big poker game, bluffing. And the nations that hold all the high cards haven't dared to call him—yet."

\* \* \*

Since you specialize in exposing the idiocies of the Nazi lunatics, let me present you with a copy of a letter Sidney Howard and Sinclair Lewis sent to Germany.

Sinclair Lewis, who never misses a chance for some good, clean fun, did Hitler's crazy racial notions to a turn when he was asked by a Berlin theatrical manager to send proof of his "Aryanism" before his play,

*Dodsworth*, could be presented to German audiences. Sidney Howard wrote the dramatic version of Sinclair Lewis' novel, so he also was asked to prove that not even a grandparent was Jewish. After studying the German's letter carefully, Lewis and Howard spit on their hands and settled down to hard work, with the result that the following piece of amusing spoofing went back by return mail:

Dear Mr. Bartsch:

I am afraid that with deep regret we shall be unable to give you certificates guaranteeing that we are Aryan. Who knows what ancestors we may have had in the last few hundred years? We really are as ignorant of them as even Hitler of his.

In answering, please use our proper legal names: Sidney Horowitz, Sinclair Levy. Yours sincerely,  
SIDNEY HOWARD.  
SINCLAIR LEWIS.

\* \* \*

What is the weight of the gold owned by the U.S.? How much is it worth?

Gold held by the U.S. weighs 11,888 tons, has a volume of 19,820 cubic feet, and is worth \$12,143,000,000.

According to a report carried by the Associated Press, officials of the U.S. Navy figured Uncle Sam's gold is almost enough to sink a battleship. If all this gold were placed on the battleship *West Virginia*, which weighs 32,000 tons, the ship's waterline would be raised nine feet. While this wouldn't be enough to sink the battleship, it would make it unseaworthy.

\* \* \*

The distinguished New York publisher who asked me to list 20 books that could form a basic home library writes interestingly to suggest several changes. His letter:

"I've now had a chance to study the list of books you recommend for a basic home library to cost not more than \$1. There are some excellent and indispensable titles in it, but, in my humble opinion, it is not nearly comprehensive enough. Why don't you include a Bible, for example? Regardless of your attitude toward the theology of that noble literature, it is still one of the world's most enduring and indispensable books. Whitman Publishing Company, of Racine, Wis., issues a good copy of the King James Version at 20c. Why don't you include a World Almanac or some equivalent

little reference book? Perhaps **EVERYBODY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA**, also issued by Whitman at 20c, should be included. Also, there ought to be a cheap dictionary.

"My feeling about your 20 books is that if you had those books and no others, you would not have the nucleus of a home library, but this may be a personal obsession and prejudice of mine. Thanks anyway for giving circularization to my views on this perennially fascinating subject."

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I have seen several news dispatches telling how the Methodist Federation for Social Service commended John L. Lewis and the C.I.O. Also, the report of a lecture in which it was stated that the Bible contains numerous quotations favorable to the cause of labor. Please comment.

A small minority of church leaders are seeing the handwriting on the wall. They realize that the old game of using the Church to serve the exploiters is becoming known to greater bodies of workers every day. The main organizations of the Church still follow the old policy of trying to keep the toilers doped with religion and steadfastly refuse to listen to more progressive elements—especially the Methodist Federation for Social Service—which would make the Church an instrument for more liberal policies in labor problems. If such minority groups are sincere—and that is a question which can best be determined by time—they will undoubtedly render useful, though minor, services to the nation's producers. Unfortunately, the experience of labor with church organizations in Europe has been discouraging. Whenever the Churches organized to lead the workers—even going so far as to advance church unions—they have gone over to Fascism when put to the test. In Austria, for example, the Christian Socialist party, founded to counter the more constructive and militant Socialist union movement, became out-and-out Fascist when the Catholic-Fascists succeeded in destroying the Social Democratic movement, suppressing the Socialist and liberal press, outlawing free unions of workers, and even going so far as to massacre 1,500 Socialist men, women and children in their Vienna apartment houses when they resisted the attempts of the Catholic-Fascist

forces to impose an authoritarian state on poor Austria.

Labor must learn to be ever on guard. It won't reject sincere help offered by honest men—in or out of the Church—but it won't surrender its own organizations and thereby put itself in jeopardy. The workers have heard no end of quotations from the Bible, which are offered as proof that the Christian religion is really pro-labor, but that same Bible can be drawn on for quotations supporting almost any viewpoint. The problems of this every-day world can't be made to fit into the dictums of a book crammed with inconsistencies and contradictions. Labor plans to go its own secular way, leaving the Church to its own devices. It knows too well that the main bodies of the theocrats—especially the Catholic Church—will never take a real stand for the cause of labor. The Catholic Church's alliance with Fascism in Italy, Poland, Austria and Spain tells too plain a story to deceive intelligent producers.

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How many doctors are there in the U.S.?

We have 150,000 doctors, which means one for every 800 persons.

\* \* \*

1. How many men were in the Union Army in 1865? 2. How many Civil War veterans are receiving pensions today?

1. There were 2,213,365 men in the Union Army 72 years ago. 2. Today 7,424 veterans draw pensions. In addition, pensions are being paid to widows, children, brothers and sisters of 77,870 Civil War veterans now dead. On July 1, 1936, these numbered 87,543. Of the actual veterans now drawing pensions, 3,973 receive \$75 per month. A monthly pension of \$100 per month is being paid to 3,355 who require the regular aid of another person. Only 10 get \$85; seven get \$110; 79 receive varying amounts set under special congressional acts. Total Civil War disbursements, from June 30, 1936, to March 31, 1937, amounted to \$7,016,480, but this sum doesn't include the money paid to the pensioners of the 77,870 Civil War veterans now dead.

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The Federal Trade Commission, on May 24, 1937, ordered the La Salle Extension University of Chicago to stop representing "that it is or conducts a university or extension university. Findings are that the respondent company, selling its courses to approximate-

ly 25,000 persons on the average annually, is not a university, nor does it conduct a university extension course, according to the accepted understanding of those terms." Freeman readers will recall that during the past three months we presented facts to show that La Salle had no right to call itself a university, even going so far as to analyze and dispose of various counter arguments presented by the secretary of the school, whose letter of protest appeared in our last issue. The Freeman's answer was accompanied by a letter from the American Bar Association, in which the complaints of The Freeman editor were sustained. The Federal Trade Commission took exactly the position outlined in the columns of The Freeman. We can state flatly, and without fear of contradiction, that The Freeman was the only paper ever to raise objections to the methods of this advertising school. Most periodicals of large circulation keep away from such views because they look to La Salle for a part of its immense advertising appropriation, thereby becoming parties to the public's deception. The case presented by The Freeman was made the subject of a number of letters to the Federal Trade Commission, in which Freeman readers demanded action, with the result that the institution was compelled to accept a "cease and desist" order. This is only one more proof of the obvious fact that a really free press can serve the public usefully and constructively, once it frees itself from the strangle-hold of remunerative advertising. Such victories for a free press can't be had without sacrifice. Sometimes, the targets of attack—as in the case of the notorious cancer quack, Norman Baker—institute immense libel suits, thus putting the publication to serious financial loss because it must defend itself in court. There are many interests—including medical quackery—which refuse to tolerate attacks on their products or methods, for they can't stand being hit in their most sensitive spot—their pocket-book. But any editor who is worth his salt must always be ready to take such risks as he goes about the necessary task of keeping his readers abreast of the facts. The truth is always necessary, but it can, on occasion, be expensive.

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Is it true that behind the Spanish battle-fronts the Loyalists are constructively working out a system of cooperative agriculture?

To read the Capitalist press—influenced as it is by the powers of Catholic-Fascism—one would imagine that the Spanish democratic government consisted only of terrible "Reds"

out only to destroy and terrorize. The facts indicate the opposite. The Valencia (Loyalist) government is interested not only in winning the Civil War initiated by Catholic-Fascism but is conducting far-reaching programs of education, public health, industrialization and cooperative agriculture. In the sphere of agriculture it's difficult to get all the facts, but a revealing picture of what's going on a stone's throw from the front will be found in a letter written to the Spanish Information Bureau, May 26, 1937. Mr. Bates, who is an able English author, writes, after firsthand observation, as follows:

"At Villanueva de Cordoba, very near the front, I have just visited a most impressive example of the cooperative tilling of the land.

"The former absentee landlord, Antonio Erriso, was enormously wealthy. He owned over 40 estates, averaging 1,500 acres each. Last July, when the Fascist insurrection broke out, the civil guards there rose with the rebels, and the people fled from the fields. Later a party armed with shotguns, under the leadership of Julian Caballero, local head of the agricultural workers' union, recaptured the town.

"The first measure taken was to organize a peasant and field workers' militia, which gained a tremendous military reputation. Julian Caballero is now mayor of the town, and the great estates of the rebel landlords and absentees are exploited collectively by the agricultural union. Livestock is also cooperatively held.

"The union includes nearly all the workers in its membership, and studies their day-by-day problems. Not all workers are in the union, however, and there is no compulsion to join. Small proprietors cultivate their holdings individually and have formed an Independent Farmers' Society. Many farmers who owned yokes of mules or oxen entered this society because they received a portion of land to work, and this in turn proved a quick way of raising production.

"Despite the proximity of the town to the front, all the olive crops were gathered, and at this moment the collective extraction of olive oil is taking place as well as the dressing and pruning of trees. The work has been so carefully done that the condition of the estates is actually improved.

"Due to natural difficulties, Vil-

lanueva lacked wheat and had an excess of meat and olive oil. These difficulties were overcome by collective exchange with other towns. Special difficulties arose with the influx of refugees from Fascist terror. The town's former population is apt to double itself in a single day. Thus stocks of wheat are exhausted, but nevertheless the difficulty is overcome by working with committees from neighboring villages.

"A few workers not in the agricultural union include sheepshearers, and so on. This seasonal labor is performed by shoemakers, carpenters and other craftsmen organized into their respective unions. A majority of these workers have not asked for land.

"It must be emphasized that there have been no extremist experiments or coercion. For example, within the agricultural union there is a group advocating decollectivization and parceling of the land, and they are allowed full and free discussion. Small farmers, moreover, are not interfered with. One comes away greatly impressed with the popularity of Mayor Caballero."

Other aspects of Spanish life in these war-ridden days are to be found in an informative and fascinating statement made by John dos Passos, distinguished American novelist, who visited Paris late in May, 1937, after a prolonged tour of Loyalist territory in Spain. After writing that the morale of the Madrid population and the population of the numerous towns he visited is better than it's possible to believe, and adding the opinion that the destruction of Fascism in Spain will prevent a World War, he continued:

"The Spanish people do not understand, nor do I understand myself, why so little awareness exists in foreign countries of the importance of the struggle being waged by the Republican Government against the rebels and against German and Italian Fascism.

"A victory for Franco is unthinkable. I do not believe it possible, and I am convinced that the Republic will be victorious even should the war be very long. But a Rebel victory, if it should come about, would constitute an immediate danger to France.

"Franco has sold out completely to Germany and Italy. His sole support in Spain are the big landowners, representatives of a system of

agricultural exploitation which is entirely obsolete. It would be Germany and Italy, therefore, who would almost completely encircle France.

"I have made a special study in Spain of the life of the Spanish towns, the life of the 'pueblo' which possesses such great importance on the Iberian peninsula. To study it, I stayed in three villages, one in the province of Madrid, one in Valencia and the third in Catalonia. Everywhere I observed extraordinary activity. Fifty kilometers from the front, the peasants are busy setting up new irrigation systems, experimenting with new pumps, trying new methods of sowing seed, alternating wheat and rice in the same fields during the same season. I have observed that, in these villages, where the large landowners have gone over to the enemy, the small farmers are firmly established. The people are earning more than they did in the past, thanks to an ingenious system of mutual cooperation. Everyone has confidence in the future of the Republic, and long-range works are undertaken with confidence and enthusiasm.

"I was also deeply impressed by the new Spanish army. This army of new recruits, whose corps-commanders are carpenters and whose brigade-leaders are musicians, all reveal indisputable military talent. In this respect, it is necessary to point out the role of General Miaja, who has actually created a first class army. His modesty, and what may be called his pedagogic genius, have made it possible to develop the ability of men who at the beginning had no more to offer than their good-will.

"I stayed a long time in Madrid. If the provisioning of the Republican army is excellent, it must be said that the provisioning of the capital is not so meager as it is believed to be abroad. The population does not appear to be undernourished. The strictly supervised distribution of foodstuffs makes it necessary for everyone to eat the same things. Even with money, it is impossible in Madrid to make a glutton of yourself. The very appearance of the city is normal, despite the incessant shelling of Madrid, which you would think would be terribly nerve-wracking."

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Editor, The American Freeman:

I am a medico—retired—investigating at the moment the prevalence and pathology of colitis in and amongst married people. If you know of any publi-

cation on such a subject—and you appear to know nearly everything—I would be grateful if you would name it. (Note by E. H-J.: This correspondent should get in touch with his near-neighbor, Joseph McCabe, 22 St. George's Road, Golders Green, London, England, who will, I'm positive, be glad to supply him with a bibliography on this subject.)

I am a member of the World League for Sexual Reform, one of whose objects is to get better justice for the genuine homosexualist—about one person in 200 is so born—with whom I sympathize, though I am not one myself, and though I have nothing but contempt for the pseudo one.

I have recently spent some time in the South of Europe, where pederasty is common and sodomy too between the sexes. At Marseilles, in a pornographic cinema, I saw a reel entitled "Love Without Danger," wherein a widow is instructing an engaged couple in this method.

There is more than an average amount of sickness on the Mediterranean littoral, some of it due, in my opinion, to these sexual malpractices. I regret to have to admit that, from inquiry, they are not so uncommon in England as one might suppose.

A patient of mine wrote to the health columnist of a popular weekly asking his advice as to whether she ought to submit to her husband in hac re, stating that it was distasteful and painful. The reply was "Yes, and after a time the pain would disappear."

Proposing the same question to a woman's journal, she was advised to see a doctor as "there may be something wrong with you." I am old-fashioned enough to think that both these journalists are entirely in the wrong. London, Eng. A J. MAINWARING

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I have a very personal matter about which I would like to write you for advice, but am afraid my letter might fall into the hands of someone other than yourself. How can I make sure that you, and no one else, can read what I want to write about myself, a matter which has to be kept in the greatest confidence?

Letters addressed to the plant are opened in the front office and put in a basket for my attention. However, letters sent to my own postoffice box are opened only by myself. Such letters should be addressed as follows: E. Haldeman-Julius, Box 168, Girard, Kansas.

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"At the last dinner of Scripta Mathematica your name was prominently

mentioned by Professor Eric Temple Bell, who was one of the guests of honor at the dinner. Professor Bell expressed his belief that you have done more than anybody else to make science and philosophy known to great masses of people in this country."—Jekuthiel Ginsburg, editor, *Scripta Mathematica*, Yeshiva College, N.Y.C. (Note: Dr. Ginsburg's quarterly journal is devoted to the philosophy, history, and expository treatment of mathematics. His publication office is at Amsterdam Avenue and 186th Street, N.Y.C.)

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Is there any difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance?

Officials connected with the Department of Internal Revenue say there is a difference. Evasion means "the use of illegal means to escape taxes through violations of tax laws or regulations." Tax avoidance means "the use of some device to get around the tax laws, for which it is difficult or impossible to impose punishment."

\* \* \*

What's the best way of getting rid of flies?

There's no better weapon than an ordinary, old-fashioned fly-swatter. Be sure it's made of a piece of wire screening instead of those swanky cotton-cord or rubber contraptions. They look nicer, but they don't carry the wallop of the swatters made of woven wire. Flit and fly-paper have their advantages—especially if you haven't time to go on a hunting expedition yourself—but the surest implement of destruction is a right-handed swatter.

\* \* \*

I am desirous of obtaining a civil service appointment of some kind, but lack proper preparation. Would you advise me to enroll in the Franklin Institute for such training? The required fee of a dollar, for a personal answer, is enclosed.

I sent this reader the personal answer he asked for, but as I believe the question is of general interest I'm giving my answer below. If one lacks the required training to enable one to pass a competitive examination of the Civil Service Commission, I doubt that he will get much good from the Franklin Institute or any other outfit that offers to grease the way into a nice government job. The federal authorities have repeatedly warned the public against these so-called schools which accept large fees on the assur-

ance that they can make it possible for a registrant to obtain a civil service job. They are able, according to statements issued by the Civil Service Commission, only to tell "students" what jobs are open—and that information may be had free of charge by addressing a letter of inquiry to the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C. They can't tell the student what questions will be asked in any forthcoming examination. They merely have access to previous sets of questions, which also may be had free of charge from the Commission.

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Recently, in a discussion with a Christian Scientist, I made the statement—which he challenged—to the effect that the Christian Science Committee on Publications even went so far as to compel publishers to discharge editors of secular newspapers for their temerity in writing critically about the Church or its policies. Can you give me an instance?

There are no end of cases to prove your point. In my own experience, as writer and editor, I have been threatened again and again by hoodlums—dressed immaculately in cutaways—for my own writings, and books written by my authors, on various aspects of Christian Science. In one of my books, written by Clement Wood, several pages were devoted to Mrs. Eddy, all of the wordage being highly unflattering. The representative of the Christian Science Church—a Mr Rhodes, with headquarters in Topeka, Kans.—actually went to a U.S. District Attorney and to the county attorney here in my own county—in an attempt to have me arrested on the ridiculous charge of "maliciously defaming the dead." Nothing ever came of that piece of mad, would-be censorship. I could go on like this for columns, and still hardly scratch the surface. Mark Twain's devastating book on Mrs. Eddy caused a mild earthquake in the offices of Harper's when the Christian Scientists got their heavy artillery aimed on the helpless, bewildered publisher.

The latest instance of Christian Science strong-arm attacks on editors and writers will be found in Burton Rascoe's *Before I Forget*, which is this famous literary critic's autobiography. In this book, which is just off the press, Mr. Rascoe tells how he was fired from the editorial staff of

*The Chicago Tribune* for writing an unflattering sentence about Mrs. Eddy. Any editor can tell you that the Christian Science organization watches the press at all times and resorts to any method to silence critics. The technique is so successful that one no longer sees even the mildest adverse comments on the Church that Mrs. Eddy founded. In this work they are even more effective than the Catholic Church, which is also famous for its bulldozing of the press.

The Christian Science Committee on Publications starts off on the editor—in a nice, friendly, cordial spirit—and, if this doesn't work, the next point of attack is the owner, and if he thinks there can be such a thing as an independent press the Eddyites bring out their two companies of shock troops. First, they line up readers—dozens of them, sometimes even hundreds of them—to hound the publisher and editor in order to make them feel they are about to become the targets of the wrath of God. And then comes the second, and final, blow—the advertisers. It's easy for the Eddy outfit to bring a half dozen or more advertisers together to tell the publisher where he's to head in. The result? Silence from then on, so far as criticism is concerned, and space, free or paid, for the Church's publicity.

We talk about a free press in this country—and we have just that, theoretically—but in practice we too frequently find that organized minorities and advertisers are able to dictate to a press that inclines to being free in its utterances. In my own experience, as a publisher, I have felt the brunt of their attacks—and they have cost me plenty—but I would be ashamed to look myself in a mirror if I let them bulldoze me to the point where I would surrender my editorial integrity. That's one reason why I don't seek advertisers. I don't want their dictation, though I'd accept honest advertising at any time if it were submitted without strings attached.

I choose to run a smaller paper, because I prefer honest journalism to subservency to theocrats and public exploiters. I don't look on journalism as a "business," but as a quasi-public service, and that, of course, is

anathema in the eyes of our obscurantists. It's no easy job running a free press, as I can show from long experience. Quacks have a way of fighting back with gigantic libel suits. Offended organizations try to turn to the law. Excuse after excuse is found to attempt to gag, suppress, or threaten a free-spirited editor. It's easier—and more profitable—to travel along with the crowd, to be a good fellow, and to placate powerful interests. But that isn't honest journalism.

The reading public is learning to identify the editors who seek to tell the truth—too slowly, it seems—and they are beginning to stand by editors who fight the battles of truth, sincerity and plain speech. The audience is still far too small, but it's growing. May the future swell the ranks, for honest editors are rare enough as it is without their being deprived of the raw material of public-spirited journalism—an alert, appreciative body of readers who not only read after the editor but support him in his struggles.

\* \* \*

In the last issue of *The Freeman* I paid my respects to W. W. Cooper, Attoona, Kans., who runs a cancer "clinic" even though he has never attended a medical college and therefore has no license to practice medicine. As I reported in my article, Cooper poses as an "expert" who "guarantees" to "cure" cancer "without knife, radium, X-ray or electricity." I closed my piece with the opinion that the State's Attorney General "should be compelled to do his duty." I happen to know that a number of *Freeman* readers took the hint and wrote letters of complaint, in which they demanded action against Cooper. I have just seen a newspaper story from Topeka, which says that Clarence V. Beck, Attorney General of Kansas, has asked for an injunction against Cooper in the district court of the county where he operates his "hospital." That marks up another victory for *Freeman* readers out to swat quacks, for there's little doubt that the injunction will be granted. Of course, Cooper is just a tiny quack. The big one—Norman Baker—operates in Iowa and Texas, drawing victims through the medium of a radio station in Mexico. A quack like Baker, who has taken in tens of thousands of dollars each month for year after year, is sensitive about having his activities described as quackery, which accounts for his immense libel suit against the



editor of this paper. But, the readers who helped shake the Hon. Beck into action will stand by me in my costly fight against Baker's flagrant, brazen quackery.

\* \* \*

I'm not a Prohibitionist, but I have conscientious scruples against liquor. I live up to my ideas and I can say in all sincerity that I never even try to urge others to follow my practices. But at the same time I dislike having to buy my luncheon guests cocktails or highballs. How would you suggest I handle this problem?

I once knew of a man who was a total abstainer and who paid his guests' liquor bill, adding the remark: "I'm advancing the money for this drink but I consider you indebted to me for such-and-such a sum of money. However, if you refuse to pay me, I won't sue." When that man died, a friend of his wrote a beautiful obituary, crammed with emotion and admiration, but what impressed me most was the way he permitted an innocent typographical error to creep into the word "spotless" in a quotation he lifted from Shakespeare. It seemed to me that the man gave the whole show away by revealing his subconscious feelings about his friend, for whom he felt the deepest admiration, but at the same time looking on him as just a little bit fanatical. The saying he quoted, in order to tell the world that his recently deceased friend merited Shakespeare's praise, appeared this way:

"The purest treasure mortal times afford, is spotless reputation."

You see, the truth came popping out unconsciously. He admired his friend's many good qualities, but he couldn't conceal, at a most solemn moment, the fact that he felt he was something of a blue-nosed kill-joy.

A man has a perfect right to be a total abstainer without having to apologize for his way of living. But a man should remember he lives in a world filled with people who insist on their right to go to Hell in their own way, provided they injure no one else while they travel the crimson road. My correspondent can refuse to buy drinks for an intoxicated friend, but if his guest is sober and wants to take a drink or two he should overlook his own ideas and pay for the drinks cheerfully without dropping a remark that can only serve to take

the joy out of the drink or two the guest has just guzzled. We can't all be run through the same casting-box. And if a guest asks the waiter for a cocktail or a highball, his host should take the request with an indulgent smile, lest he write himself down as one possessed of a "sportless reputation."

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I wonder if you ever listen to the blatting of Edwin C. Hill, who is, I think, the most nauseating of the various nauseating Tories now giving us the "news" via radio. For several days he has been lamenting the fate of the Russian Czarists. I have never heard him lament the fate of share-croppers, sweat-shop workers, or such contemptible folk. They are beneath his notice. Today (June 1, 1937) he gave us light on the Spanish conflict. Says he, the Communist-Socialist government is doing its best to embroil the Great Powers in a European war! I assume Hitler and Mussolini haven't any such intentions. And what a saint that Franco is! According to Oracle Hill, he is a "very quiet, unassuming gentleman." Franco promised that no "Protestant Church in Spain" would ever be molested. So what? Is that any reason why Protestants should condone the slaughtering and torturing of other groups?

Wilmington, Del. W. MATTHEWS

\* \* \*

Did Betsy Ross design and make the first flag of the U.S.?

*The New International Encyclopedia* says flatly that Betsy Ross was the "maker of the first American flag," but is careful to avoid giving any valid historical authority for the statement. It even goes so far as to describe an incident which historians can't establish. I refer to a supposed meeting between Betsy Ross and a "committee comprising George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross," who are supposed to have "called upon Mrs. Ross and requested her to undertake the sewing of it." We are then told that "she accepted, and offered the suggestion, adopted, that five-pointed stars be used in the design instead of six-pointed ones."

It's interesting to note that there is absolutely no contemporary evidence for the Betsy Ross story. In fact, it wasn't until 93 years later—in 1870—that it was first announced to the world. The report was made by Betsy Ross's grandson, before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

How strange that not a word could be found giving Betsy Ross the credit for this work from 1777 to 1870. The Betsy Ross Memorial Association, which in 1905 turned the little, old Ross home in Arch Street, Philadelphia, into what is now known as the American Flag House, wasn't founded until 1898. I remember how, when I was a schoolboy in Philadelphia, we dismissed school one day for the express purpose of seeing this house, along with Independence Hall. The Betsy Ross house, I recall, was only a few blocks from the little house in which I was born, and which has been torn down to make room for the great bridge that spans the Delaware, from Philadelphia to Camden.

The latest edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* is more historical-minded in its treatment of the Betsy Ross affair, calling her the "heroine of one of the most picturesque legends which has grown up around the origin of the American flag." The same article says the legend is based only on the verbal versions of Betsy Ross's descendants, who had almost a century in which to build up the yarn so that it would be strong enough to impress an historical society. For all we know, she may have made the flag, for there was such a person in revolutionary times and she was engaged in running an upholstery shop and as a flag-maker, but the evidence, I insist, is conspicuously lacking.

\* \* \*

**How much do our fishermen spend?**

The U.S. Fisheries Bureau estimates that during 1936 our anglers spent about \$500,000,000, more than \$1,000,000 per day, for equipment, licenses, travel, etc. Frank T. Bell, Commissioner of Fisheries, reports:

"The anglers are traveling more and spending more than in 1933, when it was estimated fishermen put out about \$115,295,307. They are buying more and better equipment. The sea craft of anglers has improved. There has been greater interest in salt-water and deep-sea fishing."

There are, according to the bureau, around 5,000,000 licensed anglers in the U.S., and about that many who are unlicensed. The bureau estimates that an angler spends about \$50 per year on his sport, which is considered conservative. California anglers

averaged \$116.80 last year. Three percent of the \$500,000,000 was spent for licenses, leaving the balance for the following items: transportation, gasoline, oil and motor supplies, guides, boat captains, fishing tackle, hotels, camps and inns. The average fishing license, in 1934-35, cost \$1.36.

Angling has become a big business.

\* \* \*

**Do you think there is any possibility of the French Canadians gaining control of Canada?**

The eastern half of Canada is controlled almost completely by French Canadians, who, as is generally known, are enjoying a large birth rate that can, in time, spread their influence. But it seems obvious to me that the people living in the western half of Canada won't tolerate such expansion, even resorting to secession rather than submitting to French Canadian dominance. They, like the rest of the world, appreciate many of the sterling qualities of the French Canadians, but they are well aware of the calamitous shortcomings of the majority of the people of that vast section. The debit side of the ledger must be considered.

While it's true that a growing minority of French Canadians are given to independent thinking and genuine liberalism, the vast bulk of these people prefer a form of mental isolation that is stifling to persons of modernistic ideas. This, of course, is the result of hundreds of years of Catholic propaganda. French Canadians are, intellectually, about 300 years behind the times.

It would be a mistake to infer that these people prefer to maintain ties with the old country, for the opposite is true. Except for the bond of language, the average Frenchman is a complete stranger to the average French Canadian. They don't think alike, and they don't see the world and its problems from the same viewpoint.

French Canadians are an isolated, priest-ridden, superstitious, illiberal people who look on the Catholic Church as the most important institution in the world, even going so far as to give the priests control of education, making the state a pawn of the Church, in many vital aspects, particularly in the realm of schools. With their high birth rate

—a condition always encouraged by the priests—they are growing from year to year, spreading out steadily.

In the West, we find an entirely different atmosphere. Western Canadians belong to the modern world—in thought, politics, social ideals, liberalism, tolerance, separation of Church and state, and the like. I have long been impressed with the fact that from my own observation and experience, as a publisher of liberal literature, I've noticed that western Canadians, despite the fact that they are far less numerous than those who belong to the eastern half, out-buy their French Canadian neighbors about five to one, especially in the fields of science, history, sociology, economics, libertarianism, etc. One reason for this is the interesting circumstance that they have freed themselves completely from the thralldom of the unprogressive, authoritarian, Fascistic priesthood.

I doubt that the French Canadians would ever vote to merge with the U.S., because they insist on accepting the official view of the Catholic Church in matters of priest-dominated schools, censorship, bigotry, drawing on the state's treasury for the support of parochial schools, and what not. On the other hand, the more liberal, modern people of the western half are in great sympathy with the better aspects of American life, so that secession could result in a strong movement to come into the U.S. They could come into the Union without changing any of their ideas, ideals or habits. In fact, they would, in many ways, make constructive contributions to American life. All this may belong to the remote future, but it's worth thinking about.

\* \* \*

Can you explain why the legal mind enjoys putting its ideas in the most complicated language?

It has always seemed apparent to my lay mind that the leading lights of the legal profession prefer complicated speech because it offers so many loopholes for twisted inferences and conclusions. Nothing seems to please a great judge more than to have some pompous, verbose lawyer slap a profound document before him. He then retires to his chamber to study what no person of simple training can understand. He

pours over it long and arduously, emerging in good time with an interpretation of it, said interpretation being what the judge would like to believe. A psychologist would call that wishful thinking.

The *London Economist* comments on this knack of deliberately making things complicated when simple, clear words are at hand. It quotes a sentence which it found in a summing-up delivered by one of the King's judges to a jury of sober Britishers, as follows:

"Quite plainly, in my view as a lawyer, I cannot find it very difficult to see how you can fail to find that this woman is not guilty of manslaughter."

Just what, asks the *Economist*, was the judge talking about? Was he saying the woman was guilty, or not guilty?

I tackled the sentence with characteristic thoroughness, breaking down the four negatives scientifically and realistically, with proper applications of logic and mathematics. His Honor seems to say in his first two negatives that he cannot find it very difficult, which means that the two negatives cancel each other, creating a positive. Therefore, his honor begins with a round-about way of saying he finds a certain proposition very plain indeed. I now pause for breath, spit on my hands and dig into the remaining two negatives, which, my old teacher, about three decades ago, taught me, should make a positive. Keeping that lesson in mind, I find the judge told the jury that it's plain to him it will have an easy time finding the woman prisoner guilty of manslaughter. At any rate, that's my story and I intend to stick to it, though I don't offer to back my side with any bets.

\* \* \*

I was interested in your recent article on Xervac, the newest "cure" for baldness. Knowing that your readers understand and appreciate real, unadulterated debunking, I am enclosing a clipping on Xervac, which I feel certain you will want to reprint.

The reader encloses a clipping from the April, 1937, issue of *Health and Hygiene*, which deals with this much-advertised machine. The article says:

"The ever-hopeful bald public is now offered a new gadget. It looks very impressive. A helmet is placed

over the head. This helmet is connected to an electric machine in which there are a motor-driven pump and air reservoirs. Thus suction and pressure are alternately applied to the scalp. . . . The Crosley Corporation, makers of the device, urge barbers and beauticians to take advantage of its money-making possibilities. . . .

"According to the advertisements, the Xervac machine was developed by a Dr. Andre Cueto, of Cincinnati, who is supposed to have 'worked with leading men in the professions in both the General and Holmes Hospitals in Cincinnati.' At the present time, Dr. Cueto is not a member of any of the medical organizations of his city, county or State, and so it is impossible to judge his standing in the medical profession.

"Physicians have used a machine called Pavaex which supplies alternate pressure and suction to the hands, forearms, legs and feet of patients with poor blood circulation in these parts. In some of these patients it was noticed that the hair on the affected extremities fell out and in some of these the hair grew back on the extremities after the circulation was improved. Note that the hair did not fall out of the extremities in all the cases of imperfect circulation. Thus, the theory that Xervac will restore hair growth on the scalp rests on very insufficient evidence. Neither Dr. Cueto, nor anyone else, has proved that baldness is due to abnormality of the blood vessels of the scalp.

"Though we are inclined to call Xervac a fake, we shall refrain from doing so and simply state that the principle of passive vascular (blood vessels) exercise as applied to the scalp should be investigated by competent and honest investigators. The manner in which this machine is being exploited leads us to doubt the reliability of the investigations. We advise our readers not to pay for the privilege of being experimented on by a radio manufacturer whose ethical ideals do not appear to be too high."

In order to learn what the American Medical Association thinks about Xervac, I sent a letter of inquiry to Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, who sent me the following reply (June 7, 1937):

"There is no good evidence to indicate that the use of the Xervac

machine is an established method in the treatment of baldness."

\* \* \*

As you perhaps know, Fundamentalists of the more fanatical kind are making use of a story about the great evolutionist, Charles Darwin, which has it that a Dr. Chesser claims to know that Mrs. Huxley saw her husband, the famous Professor Huxley, holding a baby while Darwin pricked it with pins in order that both evolutionists might be able to record its reactions. Please comment.

All sorts of stories are told about Darwin, by enemies who would like to picture the great scientist as being subnormal in his emotional impulses. All, of course, are myths, dictated mainly by bigots who are out to smear the character of one of the greatest men who ever lived. Two letters regarding these yarns about Darwin appeared in a recent issue of *The London Times*, which I feel certain *Freeman* readers would like to see reprinted. They follow:

Sir—As I grow older my faith in the veracity of mankind gets steadily less and less, and now in my 85th year it is small indeed. Nothing has added more to this decay than the anecdotes which I have heard from time to time about my father, Charles Darwin.

For example, a lady who knew the family well published a statement soon after his death that his little dog Polly had died of grief at that event, when as a fact she had been mercifully put out of her bodily pain at my mother's request. Some years later on, an eminent man of science said to me that he knew my "father well; good fellow; smoked a pipe"—which he never did. A doctor in good practice abroad told me that he had attended a course of lectures "given by Darwin" at Edinburgh: another pure invention. And a certain lady sent to the press a long and purely fictitious account of the scene at his death-bed.

And now Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser adds another to this list when she repeats the fable that Mrs. Huxley "found Professor Huxley holding the baby and Darwin pricking it with a pin and recording its reactions to pain on a piece of paper": an anecdote on the inaccuracy of which anyone who knew these two men well would willingly stake their all.

Yours faithfully, Leonard Darwin.

Sir—The injurious story of Darwin told by Dr. Sloan Chesser is

perfectly incredible to all those familiar with the great man's character. He hated cruelty, and was sickened by the flogging of slaves in Brazil when visiting that country on board H.M.S. Beagle. He was unusually kind and gentle. All suffering, even necessary suffering, was abhorrent to him, and this sensitiveness influenced his whole life and prevented him from completing his education as a medical man. Dogs and children loved him, and he loved them.

His constant companion, in and out of the house, was a dog. So great was his influence over dogs that their masters might easily have been jealous if Darwin had not been as conscientious as he was kind. One story told of him, which is not a myth, is that he felt compelled to dismiss a coachman because after a long drive the man left the horses sweating in their harness and went to his dinner.

Yours, etc., Buckston Browne

These denials, from authoritative sources, influence open-minded, honest people, but the religious racketeers who live by exploiting the ignorance and superstition of the near-illiterate masses can be relied on to continue spreading their falsehoods, especially those which tend to paint Darwin, Huxley, and other Freethinkers and Agnostics as beasts possessed of sadistic feelings. Those who resort to such low tactics in their fight on intellectual freedom and cultural progress seem to be guided by the dictum of some grand old cynic—was it Mark Twain?—who said words to the effect that a lie can travel around the world while the truth is getting its pants on.

\* \* \*

Please give all available information on Quaker State motor oil and Pyroil. I would greatly appreciate a list of motor oils found best by the U.S. government.

I have no government reports on motor oil standards, but am able to refer to a valuable survey made by Consumers Union, a thoroughly reliable, public-spirited organization that has no commercial, selfish motive for making any of its statements.

Quaker State is an acceptable motor oil, but it's by no means the best, even though it happens to be among the most expensive. Thirty-five cents a quart is an outrageous price, especially when we consider the interesting fact that several other oils

that cost about 50 percent less are much better buys. Sears Cross Country, sold at the retail stores of Sears, Roebuck, may be had at only 15c per quart and up. The 15c grade is a better bargain, by every standard, than the 35c Quaker State, according to Consumers Union. Another good buy is Ward's 100% Pure Pennsylvania, sold by Montgomery Ward, at 17.8c in 5-quart lots. Two other good articles are Travelene, sold by Strauss Stores Corporation, N.Y.C., at 16c in 2-gal. lots, and Penn-Coop, distributed from Eastern Cooperative Wholesale, Inc., N.Y.C.

Other good oils, but not quite as fine as the four listed above, are: Paratex, Paragon Oil Co., 12.5c; Demand, Continental Oil Co., 13.5c in 2-gal. lots; Unique, Phillips, 16c; Motorine, Continental, 20c; Polarine, Standard Oil of Indiana, 21c; Derby, Derby Oil Co., 25c in 5-quart lots; Lubrite, Sacony-Vacuum Oil Co., 25c; Essolube, Colonial Deacon Oil Co., 25c; Tydol, Tide Water Oil Co., 25c; Amoco, American Oil Co., 25c; Iso Vis "D," Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, 25c.

Consumers Union lists oils that sell from 30c to 35c per quart, which are described as "also acceptable" except for their extremely high price, as follows:

Veedol, Tide Water Oil Co., 30c; Shell-Penn, Shell Oil Co., 30c; Mobil-oil, Sacony-Vacuum Oil Corp., 30c; Phillips 66, Phillips, 30c; Conoco Germ Process, Continental, 32c; Kendall, 35c; Valvoline, 35c; Wolf's Head, Wolverine-Empire Refining Co., 35c; Esso, Colonial Beacon Oil Co., 35c; Quaker State, 35c.

Classified as "not acceptable" are: Belmont, Strauss Stores Corporation, 9.3c in 2-gal. lots; Commander, Montgomery Ward, 8c in 2-gal. lots; Actol, Colonial Beacon Oil Co., 12.3c in 2-gal. lots; Shell, Shell Oil Co., 25c; Texaco, 25c; Tidex, 15c; Sunoco, Sun Oil Co., 25c.

All the foregoing oils are for SUMMER use.

Among WINTER oils, we find the best buys as follows: Sears Cross Country, sold only in Sears, Roebuck retail stores, 17c to 21c; Unique, Phillips, 16c; Shell Regulator, 25c; Ward's 100% Pure Pennsylvania, 17.8c, plus postage, in 5-quart lots.

Listed as "also acceptable" among

WINTER oils are: Havoline, 30c; Mobiloil, 30c; Sinclair-Penn, 30c; Kendall, 35c; Quaker State, 35c; Polarine, 21c; Derby, 25c; Texaco, 25c; Koolmotor, 30c; Richlube, 30c; Esso Uniflow, 35c; Valvoline, 35c; Wolf's Head, 35c.

Definitely "not acceptable" are: Macy's Iso Vis "D," which is found diluted with kerosene; Conoco Germ Process; Motorine; Penn-Road; Phillips 66; Cyclo; Golden Shell; Triton. I have no report on Pyroil.

Motorists are advised to buy their motor oils in large quantities of two to five gallons in order to enjoy economies. Don't change oil every so many miles, as the oil companies advise, but keep it in the crankcase until the season changes, merely adding new oil to the old as the gauge shows the need for more oil. Changes for summer and winter are the only ones that should be practiced, except when one is given to driving on very dusty roads, in which case it is wise to change about every 2,000 miles, unless the motor is supplied with a filter that is in good order.

As in so many other things, don't judge a motor oil by its price. The foregoing summary shows that several oils are better buys than highly touted articles which sell at twice the price.

I have superfluous hair which I would like to have removed. Would you recommend Croxon Cream?

Croxon Cream sells at \$5 per jar. I can state definitely that the stuff that goes into it is worth 5c, which would indicate that the company that promotes this article is willing to take its own sweet time getting rich. Croxon is a combination of zinc oxide, zinc peroxide, sodium perborate and petrolatum. This won't remove hair, but merely bleaches it, which makes the hair less noticeable. Save your money by leaving Croxon Cream on the druggists' shelves. The only sure and safe way to have hair removed is by electrolysis, which must be done by a good doctor.

Is it true that the human brain reaches its full physical growth at 15 years of age? Does the brain grow smaller in old age?

As a general thing, the human brain reaches full growth between 15 and 18 years of age, though there

are many exceptions. The brain grows smaller in size after one reaches 60 years of age. At 80, the brain loses about 6 percent of its weight.

Will vibrators or rollers help one remove fat?

No, they have no value. A person suffering from overweight should see a good doctor, who will try to find out if the condition is caused by disease. If the patient is normal, he will study the question of diet, and how much to consume. A careful doctor will control the situation, showing the patient how to take in just enough food to keep the body in good shape and at the same time draw on the body's fat in order to remove as much of that stored tissue as is possible without endangering the patient. A good doctor will be careful to warn the patient against excessive reductions in diet.

What does our 5c piece contain?

The Copper and Brass Research Association says our 5c coin contains "three times as much copper as nickel." U.S. mints use nearly 3,000,000 pounds of copper in making our coins, including gold and silver money.

I have a friend who is considering a correspondence course with the De Forest Training School, Inc., of Chicago, Ill., to prepare himself for a position in the field of television, radio, etc. Would you advise taking such a course?

Since this person actually is looking forward to a position in television and radio, I would advise him to consider something more likely to help him in the work he hopes to do. Instead of paying the extremely high fees demanded by correspondence schools in this field, he should take advantage of the public institutions which charge much lower rates (considering the extensive facilities they offer) because they are operated for non-profit service to ambitious students. Many of our technical schools and the engineering departments of our great universities, including most universities run by our States, can give valuable and practical courses that are accepted as authoritative by the industry. Keen, creative, alert, trained, thoroughly informed graduates of our great public institutions are frequently picked up by the large

corporations for the good they can do in their laboratories, research departments, etc. But I've never heard of a single "graduate" of a television-radio mail order school being accepted by the important companies. These concerns don't look for new blood from such an uncertain source. If this young man can't go to a public institution because of financial reasons, then he should try to forget this particular ambition, for I doubt very much that he could satisfy that desire through a mail order outfit that gets its students by the usual advertising methods. (This correspondent sent me a dollar for a personal answer to the foregoing question, which I sent in a private letter, but it seems to me that the subject touched on is of sufficient importance to warrant my printing it in these columns.)

\* \* \*

1. How much money did our government spend on Boulder Dam? 2. Will it ever get the money back again?

1. It cost the U.S. \$114,000,000 for the Boulder Dam project, according to the Reclamation Bureau. 2. As the dam's electric generators are now at work, and will never be idle, the government figures the receipts from electricity will enable the U.S. to get every penny back, plus 4 percent interest, in 50 years. The government is charging only 1.63 mills a kilowatt hour for the power produced at the dam.

\* \* \*

Do you recommend a rubber corset for reducing?

A rubber corset, worn next to the skin, does two things—it irritates the skin and it prevents evaporation of sweat by keeping it away from the air. Neither can have the slightest effect on one's weight. Don't be a sucker.

\* \* \*

A neighbor woman of mine insists that while pregnant she was frightened by a snake. She put her hand to her breast in alarm. When the baby was born it had a mark on its breast, and it was shaped like a snake. Doesn't this prove that mothers can mark their babies?

This is an ancient superstition which is dying a slow death, like all forms of bunk. The mark on the child's breast wasn't put there by the mother's experience with a snake. Frequently, people with strong imaginations make marks take on the

form of animals or objects that alarmed the mother. But even if such a thing did happen, it couldn't be looked on as anything more than a coincidence.

\* \* \*

Are "White Argon" lamp bulbs the same as those much-publicized bulbs which give so much more brightness at no extra expense?

No. Salesmen are reported to be offering innocent consumers "White Argon" bulbs with the remark, "Here's the new lamp you've been hearing so much about in the newspapers," when, as a matter of fact, the new lights aren't ready for general distribution and won't be for some little time. These salesmen try to dispose of several cartons to each prospect, who, to their chagrin, learn, when it's too late, that "White Argon" lamps aren't filled with argon as falsely advertised, burn twice as much juice as the label would indicate, and burn out in no time.

\* \* \*

I am beginning to hear a great deal about "Cisca" here in Chicago, but know nothing for sure about the tenets of this new Catholic organization. Can you give me a few facts?

"Cisca" stands for Chicago International Schools Catholic Association, organized in Chicago. Its aim is to further the Fascist-Catholic policy of undermining all forms of liberalism, democracy, libertarianism and radicalism under the guise of an anti-Red campaign. "Cisca" devotes itself chiefly to the public schools, which it watches carefully in order to suppress all forms of progressiveness and gag any teachers known to advocate honest inquiries into the great social and economic problems of the world. Of course, anything said or done to advance the fortunes of reaction, obscurantism, authoritarianism, Catholicism, and the like, will be tolerated by "Cisca" and, in fact, encouraged.

To show how the cloak of "Communism" can be used to hide attacks on progressive ideas in democracy, the reader is asked to direct his attention to the following incident:

Recently, teachers of civics in Chicago's high schools attempted to hold a contest in which students were to get some sort of a prize for the best report on the city-manager form of city government, but were compelled to abandon the project when the

Catholic-Fascists in "Cisca" got wind of the terrible fall from political and economic orthodoxy.

This is just an illustration of "Cisca's" methods. But when the public school buildings are used by "Cisca" to enable priests to indoctrinate children into acceptance of formal Catholic-Fascist ideology, no obstacles are put in the way of these enemies of social progressivism.

Superintendent Johnson and the school board—with only a few exceptions—are Catholics, and members of "Cisca," including Mayor Kelley, another pious Catholic.

Catholic-Fascism aims to give the U.S. a dose of what it already has handed out in Italy, Austria, Poland, Spain, and, until recently, Mexico. Will the American people stand by and let organizations like "Cisca" openly strike at the various institutions on which democracy rests? Catholic-Fascism is everywhere in revolt against the spirit of liberalism and social progress. It strives, in its ruthless way, to return the world to the horrors of the Dark Ages, when the priests ruled the world, and the world, to its sorrow, wallowed in filth, ignorance, disease, misery and cruelty.

\* \* \*

Did President Grant send a message to Congress asking that no public money be used for religious schools?

On December 7, 1875, President Ulysses S. Grant sent a message to Congress which read, in part, as follows:

"Resolve that not one dollar of public money shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian school. Keep the Church and state forever separate. . . . I most earnestly recommend that a constitutional amendment be submitted prohibiting the granting of any school funds or school taxes for the benefit, or in aid, directly or indirectly, of any religious sect or denomination."

\* \* \*

Recently, Buffalo, N.Y., had what the newspapers called "the Babcock murder case," which the police cleared up. Police Commissioner James W. Higgins thereupon gave a statement to the *Courier Express*, in which he gave credit for the solution of this case to "an act of God." He added: "Buffalo was always a law-abiding city and a good place to live in. I think He resented all that has happened and step-

ped in and cleaned it up. It was an act of Providence." What do you say about that?

If God stepped in and helped the Buffalo police commissioner solve the Babcock case, it seems to my crude mind that the great Jehovah could have served more constructively if he had come to the rescue a little sooner, preventing the loss of the victim's life. I'm sure that the victim, who may now be thrumming a harp in Heaven or shoveling coal in Hell (for all I know) feels that God let him down by *hibbitzing* the police after the crime was committed, when a little friendly cooperation would have postponed funeral services for the unwilling victim of the murder. It seems that every time God butts into our affairs he does the wrong thing. An amateur could improve on many of his stunts.

\* \* \*

Church propagandists interested in increasing church attendance are using a story which has appeared in many newspapers. I enclose a clipping for your comment.

The newspaper clipping says:

An old lady coming out of the Church of the Miracles at Naples slipped on the steps and sat there for a while in a dazed condition.

Other people coming out of the church mistook her for a beggar, and several threw her alms.

When the old lady recovered, she found she had received 10 lire. She used the money to buy a lottery ticket. Now she has won a prize of \$30,000.

Comment is difficult without resorting to blasphemy and thereby offending my family of pious readers. The moral of this story, it seems to me, is that God is somehow interested in the lottery business, at least to the extent of picking out a winner once in a while. What about the countless millions of devout souls who put out their good money for lottery tickets that never win? Is God punishing them for their alleged shortcomings? But here, let's remember, is a business which is looked on—in the U.S., at least—as a racket that pays handsome dividends to the gangster type of criminal, *a la* Al Capone. Has God formed an alliance with organized criminals, including the wise guys who run the numbers racket in Harlem? If God is out to give measur-



able aid to those who would increase church attendance, it seems to me that he should hit on a racket that permits a higher percentage of winning tickets than will be found in lotteries, where, I showed recently, the chances for winning the big stakes are something like one in so many millions. If that's the best our church promoters have to offer us, they are desperately inadequate. However, just to play safe, I plan to go to church this coming Sunday, faint on the front steps and see what happens. That, my friends, is the experimental method so popular in the world of science. If the trick works so that I win the next Irish Sweepstakes, I'll report back to *Freeman* readers, who will then feel free to indulge in the same method of bribing God into distributing some of his largess, which until now has been managed on a most uneven basis.

... What follows is intended for the personal attention of God himself. *Freeman* readers are requested to skip the words below:

"Sir: Just a word of advice. If you intend to pull any of your lottery miracles in the good old U.S.A., please bear in mind that it is a serious offense to do any promoting of lotteries through the U.S. mails. The Federal lottery laws are strict on this point. Our Postmaster General, Jim Farley, is a good fish-eater, but even he won't be able to help you when his Department moves to have you and your racket thrown out of the mails. I suggest you can get around this difficulty by using your angels to make personal deliveries. Dress them up in snappy uniforms, with badges bearing the words "Lottery Dept.," and all you'll have to do is sit by and watch the kale pour in and church attendance increase by leaps and bounces. My personal reward for this valuable letter of advice should be at least one winning ticket."

\* \* \*

If you, with your experience, made it possible for Norman Baker to bring suit, you deserve to go broke. Such an experience is exactly what you need.

My correspondent, Stanley B. Huber, Mill Valley, Calif., is telling me, in so many words, to make my editorial work consist exclusively of "safe" material—that is to say, writings guaranteed to offend no one, including quacks. I'm sure we have more than enough of that kind of journal-

ism in this country. There is room, I believe, for an editor who isn't afraid to tackle different forms of public behavior that are dangerous, or deceptive, or unfair. Such an editor must, of necessity, bring down on his head the anger of those who find their quackeries exposed in his columns, but such attacks—even if they take the form of a libel suit—must be met in a manly spirit, devoid of compromise or surrender. It's my notion that my readers prefer to see this editor tell the truth as he sees it. Many have shown this attitude by the manner in which they sprang to his defense. Others will follow. Thus far, Mr. Huber's letter is the only one I've received in which I found lack of sympathy with my position.

\* \* \*

What did you think of Robert Montgomery in "Night Must Fall"?

It was a fine job. Long one of Montgomery's admirers, now I'm convinced I've seen him grow several sizes right before my eyes. Everything was good about the picture—the story, the direction, the sets, and Montgomery's fellow-actors. The two English women who played the old woman and the kitchen servant were capable, especially the former in that thrilling scene when she became hysterical. *Night Must Fall* is as good a movie as I've seen in months.

\* \* \*

Isn't it a fact that our tallness or shortness is determined by heredity?

While heredity has something to do with our size, there's evidence to show that diet can have an immediate effect on height. Dr. Ira S. Wile discusses this question with helpful clarity in the following paragraphs:

"College boys and girls today are heavier and taller than their parents were at the same age. This has been proven by several surveys, notably one made by Professor Lawrence B. Chenowith, of the University of Cincinnati. In measuring college freshmen of 1936 he found that the boys were, on an average, two inches taller and 11 pounds heavier than freshmen of the same college 20 years ago. For girls the increase was one and a half inches and two and a half pounds.

"It's all because we are eating more sensibly. We used to think that height was wholly hereditary, and that if a child gave promise of

growing into a short man, there was nothing much we could do about it. Now we know that healthy habits of living and a carefully planned diet, including the right proportions of meat, milk, fruit juice and vegetables, may help Johnny become a taller man than his father.

"A dramatic proof of this is the fact that Japanese born in this country are, on an average, two inches taller than their relatives of the same age who grow up in Japan, where the poorer classes have a very limited diet and frequently not enough of that.

"We may in time develop a race of giants in the United States."

\* \* \*

For more than a year I have been noticing a large advertising campaign—centered in the better magazines—of a bureau which offers to trace one's family tree. Have you any information about this concern?

The June, 1937, issue of *The Reader's Digest* contains a neat job of debunking, under the heading "Up Your Family Tree," in which the public is given some interesting facts about this so-called bureau. The editor of this popular magazine ordered 25 different families traced, studied the replies, and then gave away the works, as follows:

In full-page ads listing over 1,000 common names, the Media Research Bureau, of Washington, D.C., offers to send (for \$2) a genealogical manuscript describing the origins of your family, its part in the founding of America, and its achievements in this country. "Each history," runs the ad, "is a separate and distinct work painstakingly compiled from the most authentic sources."

Being of a suspicious nature, we sent for a number of these "separate and distinct works," and uncovered striking similarities. For instance, in each of 25 manuscripts there occurs a paragraph which flatteringly summarizes the traits and characteristics of ancestors in that particular family. This paragraph, with only the slightest modification of a word or two, reads: "The descendants of these and probably of other branches of the family in America have spread to practically every State of the Union, and have aided as much in the growth of the country as their ancestors aided in the founding of the nation. They have been noted for their INTEGRITY, INDUSTRY, ENERGY, COURAGE, PIETY. AM-

BITION, INITIATIVE, RESOURCEFULNESS and PERSEVERANCE."

Occasionally, to add a nice touch of distinction to the family history, the order of the words was shifted around. But in 21 of the 25 "separate and distinct works" these [capitalized] virtues were identical.

It's proper to call attention to the fact that this exposure comes from a magazine which accepts no advertising. The scores of magazines which have shared in the bureau's large advertising appropriation haven't moved a finger to warn their readers of the methods of this outfit, thus helping to demonstrate the simple fact that many publishers don't care a rap about the public's interests so long as the concerns that exploit credulity are willing to put up a good share of their "take" for expensive space.

\* \* \*

Is red hair a sign of hot temper?

Dr. D. B. Klein, Professor of Psychology, University of Texas, says there's nothing to the popular notion that red-heads are apt to have bad tempers, adding:

"No relation has been worked out yet between a certain characteristic and a given bodily trait.

"The average person may remember only the outstanding examples when he forms an opinion. The belief that a person with red hair has a bad temper is a popular one. No doubt every person can think of an example among people he has known. We tend to forget the ones with mild tempers and remember only the hot-headed ones."

\* \* \*

What do you think of Funk's list of 10 most overworked words?

Wilfred J. Funk, of the firm of Funk and Wagnalls, publishers of dictionaries and *The Literary Digest*, says "your education, charm and related qualities can be measured inversely with the frequency with which you use those words." His list not only contains the hackneyed words but their main users. (Mr. Funk, it will be remembered, gave us, about a year ago, the 10 most beautiful words in the English language, as follows: dawn, hush, lullaby, murmuring, tranquil, mist, luminous, chimes, golden and melody.) Now come the 10 most overworked words:

1. Okay—children and shopgirls.
2. Terrific—all persons "exposed"

to Hollywood for 24 hours or more.

3. Lousy—ditto.

4. Contact (both verb and noun)—advertising workers.

5. Definitely—society.

6. Gal—Broadwayites.

7. Racket—tradesmen.

8. Swell—interior decorators.

9. Impact—columnists and commentators.

10. Honey—stock brokers.

Mr. Funk should have extended his list to include "cute," a word which grates on me every time I hear it, and I hardly pass a day without meeting it two or three times. But to return to Mr. Funk's list, Okay, I grant you, sounds overworked, but doesn't the word do something that no other word can equal? In business, I find an Okay, said sharply, saves dozens of words, for frequently a simple "Yes" won't fill the bill. There's a definiteness about Okay that sounds swell, requiring only one impact, which is a terrific substitute for a mess of lousy verbal contacts. In other words, you can tell the old gal I said it's a honey. This language racket is Okay as far as it goes, but some words seem to fill the bill long after they've worn holes in their seats.

On the other hand, many of the words we consider to be rather recent in origin are old. W. C. Beymer, a technical adviser for a Hollywood studio, looked up some of the words used in a forthcoming movie about our Civil War and warned film fans who look for boners to bear in mind that many of the words we look on as recent additions to our vocabularies are of more or less ancient vintage. He insists that our boys who fought at Gettysburg really used "rat" and "chiseler." He also found:

Lousy (inferior) first appeared in 1690; nuts (enthusiastic), was used in 1850 by Richard Henry Dana; sap (fool), was current in 1815; cheese it (flee), 1785; jug (prison), 1834; skirt (girl), 1850.

Mr. Beymer also insists that men in the Union and Confederate armies used the following synonyms for intoxication: cock-eyed, woozy, canned, ossified, fried, oiled, plastered, stewed, tanked, pifficated and snozzled. What, no "tight"?

So, one of the troubles with words like "racket" and "honey" may be they haven't been used quite long

enough. And, by the way, what would a full-fledged debunker do if he were deprived of a cute word like "racket"?

\* \* \*

Do seamen on American ships have to make out federal income tax forms or are they tax exempt?

Seamen on U.S. ships have to pay an income tax like anybody else. (This question was asked by a reader who sent me a dollar for a personal reply, but as it seemed the subject might interest several hundred other seamen who happen to be subscribers, I decided to print the matter here. I am always glad to send personal letters in reply to my correspondents, and should I be unable to answer a question I return the dollar in the form of trade coupons good for anything published in this plant. This service has been a quiet success for many months, but in one case I lost a subscriber by sending an answer that was too honest. It happened that an Eastern woman sent me a dollar and a letter in which she outlined her real and imaginary troubles, most of them belonging to the latter. She was sure the Catholic Church was opening her mail, that the large house she lived in was crowded with people who were conspiring against her, and so on without end. It was a perfect case of persecution complex, it seemed to me, so I wrote her a friendly letter in which I suggested that she get in touch with a good psychiatrist in nearby Philadelphia. My motive was to help her, but, alas, she took umbrage, canceled her subscription, and sent me a registered letter in which she bawled me out good and plenty, charged me with being one of her persecutors, and in all behaved in a manner that gave me additional proof that my original advice was pretty sound. Thus, my candid pen cost me another customer, but it's better that I should continue my policy of telling the truth, even when it hurts. And that reminds me that my pieces on Christian Science (Circular Insanity) cost me two subscribers, both women. However, the same pieces pleased a good many more hard-boiled readers, judging by the letters of approval that came to my desk. The list of subscribers has been growing of late, with the result that many

persons unfamiliar with my own style of "rudeness" become seriously offended after the first or second dose and kick me out the back door. I'm sorry to disappoint them, but the rough work must go on. I don't intend to trim just because a batch of new readers have tender sensibilities about their pet forms of bunk.)

\* \* \*

What would happen to our press if the U.S. were to be taken over by the Fascists?

A victory for Fascism in this country would result in the immediate suppression of every radical, liberal, unorthodox, critical newspaper, magazine, and book. Those that remained would be "coordinated," which means they would become carbon copies of the kind of publications issued in Germany and Italy.

To give my readers a realistic, factual picture of how Fascism rules the press, let me describe briefly a set of documents printed by *La Stampa Libera*, an anti-Fascist daily published in New York City. In its issue of June 8, 1937, this Italian newspaper, which is edited ably by Girolamo Valenti, quoted a number of orders issued to Italy's newspapers by Minister of Press and Propaganda Alfieri, the official who is in charge of carrying out Mussolini's ideas of what the Italian people should know, how they should be lied to, and what they shouldn't be permitted to know at all. The documents, which are authentic, were obtained from employees of the Fascist regime, who supplied the papers at considerable risk to themselves, but succeeded in their efforts to get out to the world the story of how Mussolini and his henchmen enslave the popular mind through censorship. Mr. Valenti published the data with the comment that "they are an example of what could happen to the American press if Fascism ever succeeded in destroying democracy in America. It is a fearful warning."

The excerpts from the official orders to Italian newspaper editors run from January 5 to May 6, 1937, and are as follows:

January 5—Don't criticize Turkey, even if she lets Russian and Spanish ships, loaded with provisions for the Spanish rulers, pass.

January 7—Don't pay attention to the attitude of Germany regarding the mid-Mediterranean naval movements.

Give much space, with comments at free will, to the Italian answer on non-intervention. Don't mention the news of an alleged step by the Charge d'Affaires of Belgium regarding a radio speech by Degrelle.

January 8—Give no space to the commercial negotiations now going on between Italy and Argentina.

January 11—Don't reproduce the correspondence from Rome to "The Christian Science Monitor" on the popularity of Minister Ciano.

January 12—Don't ever attack Switzerland and never publish any news that may annoy her government.

January 18—Don't publish any news of bombardments of inhabited centers by the nationalists in Spain and, above all, refrain from mentioning Italian or German aviators.

January 19—Don't reproduce the dispatch by The United Press about an Italian merchant ship having been stopped by the Reds in Spanish waters.

January 25—Completely ignore the visit of the Hungarian Army chief of staff in Milan.

January 29—Don't reproduce telegrams that His Excellency Starace has sent on several occasions about simple sport affairs.

February 2—Speaking of the Pope's illness, just say, without making it appear a real denial, that the news about the expected arrival of an English physician is false.

February 3—Don't refer to the English physician Harpanor regarding the Pope's illness.

February 9—Don't picture the military situation of the Spanish Reds as disastrous. Be less optimistic.

February 17—Don't give any news of (1) the arrival of Chancellor Schuschnigg in Italy; (2) of his coming marriage with a worldly woman; (3) of the disbanding of the Fascist party in Austria. Moderation is recommended as regards Spain and Russia.

February 20—Absolute silence on the expiration of the terms for the sending of volunteers to Spain.

February 26—Insist on the eventuality that Eden may leave the Foreign Office post. See that the dispatches on Eden's resignation come from London.

March 5—Don't publish data regarding the gold reserve of the Bank of Italy, published by the French papers. Absolutely suppress any news of the arrival in Naples of wounded volunteers from Spain on our hospital ships. You must do away, once and for all, with the publication of news of children leaving their home and coming to Rome to see the Duce.

March 7—Don't publish anything about the Rex having met a terrible storm between Azores and Gibraltar, and having suffered damages, with one dead and several injured. Don't publish, not even a resume, of the Duce's interview which will appear Tuesday in "Popolo d'Italia."

March 12—Don't criticize the Rexist movement of Degrelle: put into relief the services of Belgium in a sense favorable to the Rexist movement, and, moreover deal with the chimney-doctor figure of Van Zeeland.

March 17—Make every effort not to give the impression that there is a lull in the military operations in Spain. Use particulars about the attempt against Chambrun, who in the past frequented some Roman circles.

March 18—Don't reproduce the interview which the Duce gave to a Ward Price.

March 31—Praise the new Rumanian Minister in opposition to Titulescu, that gentleman of the "savage." Watch with keen and ironic hostility the news published by some English newspapers on the plan of mutual-assistance about the Little Entente. Consider Yugoslavia as already out of the Little Entente.

April 3—Strike hard against the anti-Italian campaign conducted by the British papers. Don't reproduce the speeches of Queipo de Llano, which are too dull and far from reality.

April 7—Develop largely the episode of Jacodo in the framework of Soviet Russia; however, do not fail to bring into relief the super-power and the immorality of the adventurer Stalin.

April 14—Don't publish news about the work of the committee on the Littorio Palace. Reproduce and enlarge the news-dispatch by "Stefani" from London about the invoking of a big fire that would destroy the filthy popular section of London, unworthy of a civilized epoch. Add that had Edward VIII remained on the throne, he would have remedied the situation. Absolutely do not take from foreign press any news regarding the new tasks of General Franco and the changes in the High Command of Spanish generals. Don't publish any more stories about the intimate life of the Prince of Piedmont's family.

April 18—In the controversy between the Church and Germany, overlook and be neutral. Should it be necessary to take a stand, be rather favorable to Germany, but never publish any news of trials for immorality of ecclesiastics, of which German papers are full.

April 28—Don't publish the news of the alleged visit of Van Zeeland in Rome

by May. Don't reproduce the false news dealing with the alleged betrothal of a girl of the Italian aristocracy and King Zogu of Albania. You may put into relief the absolute mediocrity of Delbos, the straw man of Herriot.

May 6—Express deep sympathy to Germany for the loss of Hindenburg. There must not be published any article or reference to the English coronation. Confine yourself to the "Stefani" service.

A whole generation is growing up in the Fascist world that is being indoctrinated so thoroughly that it will hardly be able to think for itself should it ever come in contact with a really free press. A generation is coming along that is told nothing but what the dictators would have it believe. Our own press isn't perfect, by any means, but the worst that we have is far better than the best that's to be found in a Fascist country, in the same sense that Democracy at its worst is superior to Fascism at its best.

The next time you hear some ignorant, pompous, self-important Babbitt say that "what this country needs is a Mussolini"—a remark, by the way, which isn't heard as much of late as was the case only a few years ago—just let him see what happens to the press of a country when a mass-murderer and gangster like Mussolini enslaves a people. And, while you're looking for the Babbitt who bewails our failure to have our own edition of Mussolini, let's all do something on the constructive side, by which I mean that we should strive to the utmost to bring anti-Fascist ideas and arguments to the attention of open-minded Americans. Editors who fight the battle for freedom, who oppose Fascist ideology, who use their columns tirelessly to advance liberal, humane policies should get the unstinted support—financial and moral—that they deserve. It's too late to support a liberal, free press when the Fascist dictator has already taken his position of power. The time to support such mediums of free inquiry and discussion is now—today—and not in the remote future. Usually, the more outspoken an editor is, the greater effort he must put into the fight to keep his publication going. You, as intelligent, free-minded readers, have a duty to perform in such

a condition—to stand behind such an editor in every possible way, which includes getting him a larger audience and making available additional funds which he must have if he is to continue the fight. Usually, the subservient press can go on its way with quiet “dignity” and “poise,” because it’s able to draw on the treasuries (mainly through advertising) of the great interests that thrive on the public’s credulity. The forces of bunk and deception have the money-bags, and they are willing to give a share of that swag to those publishers who are ready and willing to “play the game.” It’s the debunker who has the hard time financially, and it’s that kind of editor who is entitled to every bit of support his readers can drum up. That, my dear readers, is the lesson we can learn from the orders issued by Mussolini’s press department in Rome. It isn’t enough to criticize the horrors of Fascism in a foreign land; we must, by all means, assume positive, constructive duties at home, where liberal, truth-seeking editors are languishing for support. It’s your duty to help shoulder the load.

\* \* \*

I am enclosing a recipe from D. Taylor’s *Own Cook Book*, which tells “How to Make a Dizzy Blonde,” for the amusement of your less pious readers, if there be any.

I pass on the specifications and mechanics of this dish only as a warning to my devout parishoners who may be growing lax in their battles to swat sin. The piece goes this way:

“Take a fresh green flapper. First mash, then dress well. Later remove outside wrapping, roll gently in butter (cups), then place on ice chest to cool. Take out, melt slowly before an open grate-fire. When red-hot, serve under cover. (Excellent dish for midnight supper.)”

\* \* \*

Is it truth or bunk that goats eat tin cans?

It’s bunk. Earl Thelen, a Schenectady, N.Y., goat farmer, says goats’ dietary tastes don’t include tin cans. He adds:

“It’s the label they’re after, because that’s made of wood pulp. Sometimes it is the glue, because it has a sweet taste.”

According to Thelen, goats are fastidious diners who are given to rather

finicky likes and dislikes. Goats, he insists, follow the eating habits of the deer more closely than any other animal. A goat enjoys tree bark and the tender sprouts of small trees and bushes, rather than grass. This is also true of the deer.

\* \* \*

I am troubled with indigestion. Please advise if Tums can help me.

An analysis of Tums, by the American Medical Association, showed they contained chalk and sugar, flavored with peppermint. Such a concoction can’t do much harm, but it certainly can’t carry out its advertised promises, such as “Tums contain ingredients that quickly drive away heartburn, acid indigestion, sour stomach and gas.” Of course, there is an aspect that does threaten serious danger to ailing persons given to relying on Tums—I refer, of course, to the evil of self-medication and the fool’s paradise one can walk into by relying on a mixture that is as inefficacious as dishwater. And the time one spends taking Tums may be the very period in which a good doctor can save a dyspeptic’s life. One sees Tums advertised everywhere, which accounts for the interesting fact that our great publications studiously avoid exposing such a rich source of income. The consumer is always looked on, by commercial publishers, as legitimate prey.

\* \* \*

How is one to know when canned foods are fit to eat?

The Medical Advisory Board, of New York City, answered this question in an article which appeared in *The Daily Worker*, as follows:

“Canned goods, properly processed, will keep indefinitely without spoilage as long as nothing happens to the can to make it leak. Storage of canned goods should be in a moderately cool place, away from stoves, steam pipes and radiators. A damp storage space may cause cans to rust and should, therefore, be avoided, though rust does no harm unless it has eaten through so that the can leaks. Freezing does not affect the wholesomeness of canned goods, but it does injure the flavor and appearance of the contents.

“Never use cans of food if the ends bulge or if one end springs out when the other is pressed. Never use the food if there is an abnormal outrush of gas or liquid when the

can is opened. The odor should be normal and no mold should be present. A dented can is not damaged if it does not leak. Food that is suspected of being spoiled should never be used or served. Ask your grocer to replace such cans."

\* \* \*

How many slaves were there in the South before the Civil War? How was their ownership distributed?

There were 3,200,000 Negro slaves in the South in 1850. A table for 1850, which has appeared in at least four authoritative books, including Hinton Rowan Helper's *The Impending Crisis*, p. 146, follows:

Holders of 1 slave .....	68,820
Holders of 1 and under 5 .....	105,683
Holders of 5 and under 10 .....	80,765
Holders of 10 and under 20 ..	54,595
Holders of 20 and under 50 ...	29,733
Holders of 50 and under 100 ..	6,196
Holders of 100 and under 200 ..	1,479
Holders of 200 and under 300 ..	187
Holders of 300 and under 500 ..	56
Holders of 500 and under 1000 ..	9
Holders of 1000 and over .....	2

Aggregate number of slave-holders in the U.S. .... 347,525

\* \* \*

To what reliable person or company could one submit the words to a song, or rather to have the words put to music on a percentage basis, if they have any merit?

I know of no *reliable* company that invites writers to submit words intended for songs. A number of firms have, for many years, advertised in the cheaper publications in order to get thousands of would-be writers of lyrics to join in a venture that is described in such a way that the sender imagines he is headed straight into the capacious lap of Dame Fortune. Disappointment is the result. Your words are examined with a view to having you pay for their editing and revision, to pay for the music that is written to them by inferior hacks, to pay for the orchestration, etc., which means that in the end you have financed a project (at excessive rates) and are left holding the sack. It is well to bear in mind that Tin Pan Alley is practically closed to outsiders. Only a few hundred professionals can make any money in that crowded field, and the rest are treated like so many innocent sheep. Stay away and you'll save money. Reliable companies in the song business will

gladly endorse every word I've said about the chances an amateur writer has to get back even the cost of his postage. (This question was accompanied by a dollar for a personal answer, which I sent, but as I'm sure there are other readers who are interested in this subject I'm giving space to reply. I'm positive the reader's investment in the information I was able to pass on to him will pay him dividends many times over. In fact, that single dollar may save him as much as several hundred dollars, for I know of cases in which suckers parted with lots of money in the hope they were being introduced into a profession that would make them rich and famous.)

\* \* \*

How many of the old Model T Fords are still on the road?

Statisticians who know the automotive field say there were, on June 1, 1937, 1,250,000 Model T cars in use, of which 900,000 were passenger cars and 350,000 were trucks. During the 19 years in which they were made, Henry Ford turned out 15,456,469 Model T cars. To have more than a million of them still running around is proof—as though it were needed—that the old Model T was a wonderful piece of machinery, even though it rattled like a concrete mixer and looked like a mechanical monstrosity. This printing plant has been using a Model T truck for about 14 years, and the darn thing still goes fine. When anything goes wrong, its chief engineer, Dr. Mike De France, visits a junk yard and takes his pick of parts at prices that range from 10c to \$1. During the cold days of winter, my 1937 coupe, which I use for myself, acts up, so the truck's chief engineer comes chugging out to the farm every morning, a little before 8 A.M., to give one of Henry Ford's latest creations a gentle, but essential, push. What I would do if the old Model T itself needed a push is too complicated a problem for my non-mechanical mind. Eight years ago I was offered \$100 for that truck if I'd put it in for a new one, but I properly insisted there was life in the old girl and that she could be depended on to haul mail and paper for many years to come. History has proven the soundness of my position. She goes,

and will probably continue doing her numerous chores for many years to come. I suppose I'd be allowed about \$10 if I traded her in today, but I wouldn't dream of parting with this ancient, but by no means senile, pal. I doubt that any of these big, husky, shiny, swanky, intricate trucks could give as good a performance. I've seen many a new truck stuck in the snow while Mike's Model T went sailing around it, as though to tell the world that being old doesn't mean one's to be shelved.

\* \* \*

I have been told that blue blades for safety razors are better than the kind that have the ordinary color of steel. Please comment.

The so-called blue blades aren't made from different steel. They get that color by being coated with an iron oxide. Incidentally, the companies that manufacture these blue blades turn them out at about \$1 less per 1,000 than they pay for making the usual kind. Put that in your razor and scratch away. Isn't it funny how one comes on pieces of hunk in the most unexpected places?

\* \* \*

I cut myself frequently while shaving. Do you recommend styptic pencils?

Styptic pencils usually stop the bleeding, but they frequently cause infection. Apply a hot towel to the cut and you will get the same result without risk. Apply the towel with considerable pressure.

\* \* \*

Which is the country where women are not so plentiful and where men are morally and financially able to marry? I am still young but am not able to mix with people who have nothing in their head but business and jazz. It seems to me almost that these friends, one after the other, are as unworthy to listen to as the radio—90 percent time lost. I tried to find some sort of a Freethinkers' Club, as I belonged to in other parts of the world, but people here have no time for deeper thinking, it seems to me, even if they wanted to. The struggle for life is too severe today on the one hand, and on the other there is still too much of the lazy beast in us. Can you give me a hint of how to find an acquaintance not having to use amusement places? I am German and not very long in this country. Your advice will be appreciated. Your work must give you a whole world of satisfaction, bringing thousands of people mental health and happiness. I am en-

closing a dollar for a personal answer.

Countries like Australia and New Zealand—or our own territory of Alaska—have the conditions described in the foregoing letter, but there are some States near her own State of California—Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, etc.—which are about on the same plane. But really, if I were in her place, I'd stay right in San Francisco. The fault may be her own, in ever so slight a degree, but enough to put up some sort of a psychological barrier. I'd advise her—and others like her—to try a little harder to mix, and for a good, long time try the least bit not to be too critical of the people she meets. Some very fine people like to find relaxation in things like entertainment and jazz, and perhaps a little of both would do our introverts a great deal of good, enabling them to take off at least part of the weight of what appears to be an inferiority complex. I can see from my correspondent's letter that she is a fine person, so I'd just hand out the hint that it might be profitable to step out into the world with a little more assurance. (This reader's letter was answered by personal letter, for which the usual fee was received, but as I thought the situation might interest *Freeman* readers generally, I'm passing the material on to them.)

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I regret you saw fit to give so much space to what Mary Pickford had to say about Hitler in the last issue of *The Freeman*. Of what possible importance can her ideas of the grave political situation in Europe or here be to anyone, provided she even has ideas on them? She would be puzzled to answer even one of the questions you put to her, let alone so many—as puzzled as a "Bossie" let loose in her beautiful drawing-room. It has happened too often that when an ordinary (and sometimes very ordinary) person has gone beyond the million-dollar mark in this section of the country, particularly those in the limelight, he has been set up to be a public speaker and lectures his betters. He immediately becomes a connoisseur of art, an author, a pundit, a sage, a philosopher, a paragon of taste, and an arbiter of nations. True, Mary Pickford had beautiful curls when she was young and the motion picture industry was in its infancy with her, and so she cashed in. Today, she couldn't hold a Saturday matinee



children's audience. She should be good for breaking a bottle in launching a ship or plane, as could any 12-year-old. But she hardly belongs in your sheet along with Borah or Bankhead. What say?

Hollywood, Calif.

MRS. H. W. R.

(Editor's note: I've never been guilty of taking Mary Pickford with any degree of seriousness. America's erstwhile sweetheart has received considerable space in these chaste columns because the little kindergarten-philosopher always puts on an amusing show. Her "book" on Theism—"Why Not Try God?"—I reviewed to the extent of something like a column, not because Miss Pickford is a competent logician and philosopher but because she repeats a certain set of idiocies that ought to be debunked, if only with tongue in cheek. When I asked Miss Pickford a dozen or more questions about Hitler's Germany—after she told the American public about her palpitant admiration for the illustrious fairy—I wasn't looking to the Hollywood Hypatia for a reply, for I'm not foolish enough to expect a sensible, orderly discussion from that infantile source. My questions—with adroit, but devastating, subtlety—were aimed at the wide, wide world, which, alas, too often repeats the same sort of flatus emitted by the former queen of the kleigs.)

\* \* \*

B. P. Johnson, Canada, who sends \$1 for the Defense Fund, makes the following suggestion:

"In giving a year's subscription to The American Freeman with a purchase of literature, why not let the subscribers have the choice of letting some friend have the subscription? For instance, we have our subscription paid up for a few years now and I would gladly name a couple of friends who would be delighted with your valuable paper. That would bring others in shortly."

It is acceptable for Freeman readers to put the names of their friends on our subscription list instead of having their own subscriptions extended. We have readers who are paid up many years in advance. They may, when they buy literature that entitles them to additional time on The Freeman list, allow such time to be given to a friend. Or, Freeman readers may send us lists at only 50c a year, if they send in clubs of four or more subscriptions at one time. Thus, for only \$2, four friends can get The Freeman for 12 months.

\* \* \*

I agree with your statement that American Capitalists show no hesitancy about provoking violence. Look what Henry

Allen does in the enclosed editorial.

In the June 10, 1937, issue of *The Topeka State Journal*, Henry J. Allen, one of our incipient Fascists, quotes approvingly a statement made by "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, ex-Governor of Oklahoma, who, according to Allen's editorial, goes around advising American audiences opposed to the New Deal and the labor movement in general to "go out right away and learn how to shoot." If a Communist were to talk that way, he'd land in the hoosegow so fast he'd turn dizzy. But a famous American politician can talk in favor of a general lynching-bee, and a man like Henry J. Allen can endorse the sentiment, without fear. The fact of the matter is that these elements have always believed in violence, but they have been clever enough to camouflage it by charging almost non-existent Communists with being the ones who are ready to give our country a blood-bath.

\* \* \*

Church propagandists make a big point of the argument that the Bible sells in this country by the millions annually—some even claiming it's the greatest of all sellers. Have you any figures?

Director William L. Austin of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, has released a preliminary report for 1935, in which he shows that 591,173 Bibles and testaments were printed during that year, the latest to be reported on. In 1933, production aggregated 666,448. If "countless" millions of Bibles are being printed and sold each year, how strange that the experts whose job it is to check such matters can find only a little more than a half million? It's the old story of cold, stubborn facts being ignored by enthusiastic church "statisticians," who, needless to say, have been proved again and again to be among the world's most dignified and charming liars. During 1935, according to Director Austin, the total book production of the U.S. (not including pamphlets) totaled 140,651,953, which would make the country's Bible and testament output less than 1 percent of the grand total. When the government's experts break down book production into 18 classifications (like agriculture, biography, history, science, fine arts, juvenile, law, medicine, poetry and drama, travel and

geography, textbooks, etc.), we find that Bibles and testaments are third from the bottom, being ahead of only the fine arts and agriculture. Even books on poetry and drama, which are always on the "unpopular" lists of publishers, were issued during 1935 to the tune of 2,267,990, while biography, another "high-brow" subject, rolled off the presses during that same year to the pleasant figure of 2,575,172. As an indication of how the public prefers to deal with the every-day problems of this life, let's look at the 1935 production of books devoted to sociology and economics. Here we find 1,013,272 volumes, which is almost twice as much as the Bibles and testaments. And when we come to fiction (which is almost invariably "worldly"), we find the immense total of 15,239,575. The public's mind, it seems clear, is turned in the direction of life as it's lived on this little ball of iron and mud, rather than to the rare realms of superstition, supernaturalism and mysticism.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of Westbrook Pegler's campaign in the press to make federal, State and local government employees pay income taxes on their salaries?

I don't see why public employees should be tax exempt, and therefore wish Mr. Pegler the best luck in the world in his fight to make them join the rest of us in filling out those pesky blanks. But I'm afraid Mr. Pegler exposes himself as a poor economist when he hints day after day that such a reform will mean a great deal. Let's not fool ourselves by shutting our eyes to the facts. If Mr. Pegler doesn't know the facts, it's his duty as a practicing journalist to get them right away before he proceeds with his crusade.

State and local governments employ 2,400,000 persons, who draw an average annual salary of \$1,464, and the federal government employs 1,100,000 persons, whose average annual pay is \$1,505. If income tax exemptions were withdrawn from these employees, it stands to reason that personal exemptions allowed all of us under the law would bring comparatively few under the brackets that would mean real money for our federal or State governments. Of course, there

are a few public employes who draw large salaries—and their contributions to the government would help somewhat—but that doesn't alter the fact that the overwhelming majority would remain untouched, like the rest of our small-salaried workers.

But I'm sure Mr. Pegler's crusade will continue without halt, for he, like the rest of us, has found a subject on which he has permitted himself to get hipped. He has plenty of company, for getting hipped is a pretty common ailment. Upton Sinclair got in a rash over EPIC, Huey Long went haywire over dividing up, Dr. Townsend advanced his \$200-a-month brain-storm, Father (of what?) Coughlin saw salvation for all by tinkering with the Federal Reserve System, the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod is certain the world will be a new paradise if only we join with the Nazis in persecuting the Jews, when all along you and I know that the world won't be a decent place to live in until it adopts our own pet bunk.

\* \* \*

One reads now and then of books being bound in leather made from human skin. Is such a process difficult?

August C. Orthman, president of the American Leather Chemists' Association, writes that "human skin is just as easy to tan as calf." He adds several other interesting facts about leather, as follows:

"Many white leathers produced commercially are tanned by the same process as that used to embalm King Tut-anhh-amcn.

"Gold-plated kid is the most expensive of leathers, while shark-skin is the toughest leather made.

"When Indians mixed up brains and liver of a deer to tan the hide they did a good job chemically. The result was a soft leather, but it was one that served for moc-casins as well as anything the leather chemists turn out today."

\* \* \*

I am enclosing a clipping from The New York Post which shows, in deadly parallel, how The New York Times doctors news about the Civil War in Spain. Please let your readers have the facts.

The New York Post, whose publisher, J. David Stern, also owns The Philadelphia Record, started out by favoring the Loyalists, then got scared because of the threats of the Catholic Church, but finally screwed up its courage again and returned to

its original policy of supporting the Spanish anti-Fascists. *The New York Post* calls attention to the way *The New York Times* took a dispatch, sent on May 19, 1937, by G. L. Steer, Spanish correspondent of *The London Times*, reprinted it, but doctored it in such a way as to take out its guts. The dispatches follow:

**New York Times  
Reprint**

This afternoon the insurgents also bombed Galdacano, which lies well within the inner fortifications of Bilbao. A heavy bomb fell on a refuge and penetrated the roof, killing ten civilians and wounding many others.

**London Times  
Original**

This afternoon the insurgents bombed Galdacano, which lies well within the inner fortifications of Bilbao. A refuge in the middle of an empty field was destroyed by three Heinkel III bombers, which dropped six bombs in a line on it. It was crowded with women and children. Fifteen dead bodies have been taken out and many others are still buried. The historic church of Galdacano was also destroyed.

Note several interesting facts about *The New York Times's* treatment of Mr. Steer's cable from Bilbao. First, it cuts the number of deaths from 15 to 10. Second, it mentions nothing about the Fascists' destruction of Galdacano's historic church. Third, it protects German Fascism by failing to let its readers know that the bombers were Hitler's. Fourth, it omits the important information that this attack was planned and executed as a deliberate act of mass-murder.

New York City has a powerful and vocal Catholic organization, and I am compelled to assume that it was *The New York Times's* intention to give the Catholic-Fascists at St. Patrick's cathedral the least possible cause for complaint. *The New York Post* is made of more candid stuff, with all its faults, so it offered its readers a deadly parallel which the editors of the *Times* still prefer to ignore, despite the fact that Mr. Stern has offered to print any explanation of its amazingly dishonest editing of a news article that had been sent to a

London paper that is known to be conservative to the core, yet forthright enough to print the news as it gets it, regardless of its own sympathies.

Mr. Stern's other daily paper, *The Philadelphia Record*, is now being made the target of a vigorous boycott at the hands of the Catholic Church of the city, as shown, in a letter written (May 28, 1937) by Joseph M. Thompson, Upper Darby, Pa., to *The Nation*, which properly gives space to his protest. Catholic-Fascism is in action, as my readers can see from Mr. Thompson's letter, below:

"*The Philadelphia Record* has fallen under the ban of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philadelphia diocese because of the paper's alleged pro-Loyalist attitude toward the Spanish war. First came letters of protest from the Church and then stronger action in the form of a small pamphlet entitled 'The Philadelphia Record Weeps for Catholic Martyrs.' This was distributed at masses on Sunday, May 16, and is still being circulated in the diocese. Charging that the *Record* gives only the side of 'the red government of Valencia,' the pamphlet suggests that the recipients show it to the advertising managers of the stores where they shop and make a personal complaint at the same time to the proprietors. The parishioner is also urged to see that his neighbor gets one of the pamphlets and to spread them among members of parish societies. The booklet also recommends that *Record* circulation agents should have the door slammed in their faces.

"The Catholic protest is issued under the auspices of an organization calling itself the League of American Democracy. Two of the leading lights of the society are the Reverend Joseph S. Hogan, S.J., professor of philosophy at St. Joseph's College and High School; and the Reverend Richard McKeon, dean of the school, which is conducted by the Jesuit fathers. The school is the central distributing point of the pamphlets. Thus far 14,000 of them have been given out. Father Hogan, who is understood to be the author of the pamphlets, has been conducting a one-man crusade against Communism here by way of the lecture platform, radio, and correspondence columns of the newspapers. His brother is the president of Fordham University.

To date the Record has made no reply to the protest or to editorials criticizing its stand which are appearing regularly in the Catholic Standard and Times, official publication of the Church in the Philadelphia diocese.

"I thought the present incident might interest you since, to my knowledge, it is the first overt action taken by the Catholic Church in this country to strike at a newspaper on the issue of the Spanish war."

We see, from the foregoing paragraphs, how implacable the Catholic Church is when it crosses lances with any publisher who is "indiscreet" enough to flaunt his independence. All forms of political, economic, financial and religious quackery can be depended on to fight back when an editor dares assume his columns should be used to keep his readers informed. In some cases—as in Philadelphia—the quacks resort to the boycott; in others, suits of libel. Or, failing in these two methods, they line up their followers to quit reading the offending organ or to bulldoze advertisers. A free press is a precious asset, and we must do our utmost to protect it, for once we lose our free press we will find ourselves headed right into the ranks of Fascism. As I've said again and again, readers of free journals must be ready to make sacrifices to support their periodicals, for unless such journals get the backing they deserve they will find themselves flat on their backs. I repeat: an editor can't do the whole job himself—he must feel that his readers are always with him, even to the extent of financial, as well as moral, encouragement. During my many years as a writer and editor I've seen many a worthwhile organ of free-expression gagged and killed—not by the conspiracies of the reactionaries but by the indifference of readers who should, by all means, have helped the editor keep his medium in the arena of opinion. Let's avoid such mistakes in the future, by all means. Readers should feel themselves to be actual partners in any publishing project that throws off the shackles of fear and time-serving. They shouldn't permit themselves to stand aside and let the editor sink or swim, without moving a finger to help him when he is giving

his all—his time, energy and money—to fight for the enlightenment of the masses. You, as an individual, can't do much, but you can do your little part, and if enough of you respond to an editor who believes in a really free press, his work will be lightened and his future will assume brighter aspects. I beg my readers to study these suggestions carefully and be guided by them in the future.

\* \* \*

John J. W. Stonborough, in a letter to The New York Times, writes: "Let us cease saying that the German people cannot be judged by the actions of their government. . . . If ever a government was entitled to speak and act for the entirety of its subjects, it is the present German government." Please comment.

In my 10 most recent books, which were written between the time Hitler usurped power and the close of 1936, I have traced the development of Hitlerism, showing that step by step Hitler built his dictatorship through mass terror, persecution and tyranny, but I don't intend to restate my arguments. Instead, I prefer to draw on the words of Gerhart H. Seger, editor of the *Neue Volkszeitung*, published in New York City.

Before the advent of Hitlerism, Mr. Seger was a member of the German Reichstag (parliament), as a representative of the Social Democratic (Socialist) party. When Hitler became dictator, Seger was arrested and imprisoned without charge for having fought Nazism, but he succeeded in escaping after serving several months in a concentration camp.

About two years ago I heard this fine German citizen (Hitler, of course, deprived him of his citizenship, but I consider him a better qualified German citizen than Hitler, by far) lecture at a Kansas educational institution, where he impressed me with his knowledge, culture and civilized feelings. I remember thinking, at the time, that Hitlerism is most unfortunate in having such men as Seger as enemies, but that Hitler's misfortune is humanity's gain. I felt, too, that so long as such men are devoting their energies to fighting Hitler's regime (both in and out of Germany), it's only a question of time before Germany is won back to decent, humane standards.

Seger, of course, disagrees with Stonborough, claiming that the opin-

ion that Hitler represents the German masses isn't true. He adds:

"The very same Anglo-Saxon idea of government on which Mr. Stonborough bases his distinction between Germany today and the United States furnishes the first proof. The British and the United States governments can be regarded as reflecting the will and opinion of their respective peoples, brought into office by democratic means and continuously controlled by public opinion, while the German people, because of Hitler's dictatorship, are deprived of the slightest opportunity to utter a dissenting opinion.

"Does Mr. Stonborough honestly believe that Hitler needs to maintain the huge organization of secret political police—the whole apparatus of a supernatural system of terror—if he really has nine-tenths of the German people behind him? Do I have to remind Mr. Stonborough that Hitler never got a majority as long as Germany had free elections and that the so-called majorities after 1933 have been brought about by terrorization inconceivable to any one living in a free country?

"Having lived in Germany all my life, and having been active politically from 1911 till 1933, I wish to testify that the vast majority of my nation is not in favor of Hitler, his methods and aims. When Hitler took his oath on the Weimar Constitution, Jan. 30, 1933, he promised solemnly to give the German people the opportunity to judge him and his government after four years of his rule. But that promise was not kept.

"Without being able to commit myself to any prophecy so far as time is concerned, I have no doubt that a free Germany will reappear. I know that a Germany where books are burned instead of read is not the real Germany. The real Germany is the one where the printing art was invented, the real Germany is the one which inaugurated after the World War a foreign policy of international understanding and reconciliation which was met in many cases by an attitude of the former Entente Cordiale, unintentionally but effectively paving the way for Hitler."

\* \* \*

I am writing a play in which I need several dizzy names of newspapers. Can you supply some?

There are many to pick from, but I can offer only a few. At Linn, Mo., you will find Ell M. Zevely, who is

editor of *The Unterrified Democrat*. At Larned, Kans., lives Leslie E. Wallace, who is editor and publisher of *The Tiller and Toller*. And last, but by no means least, take a look at Weldon J. Hornsey, who publishes, at Linden, Tex., a newspaper called *The Long-Handled Shovel*. It seems to me that the last one takes the prize for supreme dizziness. And note, please, that the names of the cities all begin with the letter "L," as in "looney." (This budding playwright, who is showing a commendable passion for realism, sent the usual buck for a personal answer, but I insist—and defy contradiction—that the paragraph is entitled to space in this consecrated organ.)

\* \* \*

Why do you always go to such great—and, to me, excessive—pains to give full dates. For example, you write a piece about the Hindenburg's blowing up—an item of news fresh in our minds—and you give the day, month and year. Wouldn't "recent" do as well?

I have a very good reason for giving exact dates, including the year. If my material appeared only in *The Freeman*, I could say "recently" or "the other day," etc., and get by nicely, though even then the method would be sloppy, to say the least. But my writings never stop with any particular issue of *The Freeman*. All these articles are collected into book form about three times each year—and matter in book form should always be precise about dates. Thus far I have issued 10 volumes—the 11th is now on the press—and they will circulate for some years to come. How would it look to a reader in 1940, let us say, who comes on my *Hindenburg* comment and learns the catastrophe took place "recently"?

\* \* \*

What did you think of "The Green Light"?

This movie is one of those deep, ery deep, spiritual, philosophical masterpieces that go to the heart of the world's great emotional spasms. Think of its central theme, as expressed by the club-footed clergyman (played by Cedric Hardwicke), whose job it was to explain the Facts of Life to erring humans. Our author—his name doesn't come to mind, but that may be for the author's own good—teaches us this gigantic, overwhelming, spirit-shaking lesson—Life

is a Journey, a Parade, and in order to get Somewhere we must obey Traffic Laws. When the light shines Red (sin, perhaps), we must slow down and stop, for to do otherwise is to invite spiritual decay or a copper's ticket. But the Red light doesn't always rule the Road of Life. There comes a time—even though the wait seems too long—when the Green light shows up, and then we can all move Forward and Upward and Onward. Pretty, ain't it? How can a mere human mind think up such a pearl of uplifting wisdom? Its serene vastness leaves me breathless. What touched me down to the lower depths of my sinful gizzard was the way in which the women spectators—they looked like so many Christian Scientists, or was it just a general air of constipation?—sighed and sniffled and were inspired by this spiritual-minded teacher. Jehovah save me from having to see more of such diaper-dust!

\* \* \*

Are potatoes fattening?

Diet experts connected with the U.S. Department of Agriculture say the potato isn't fattening. "Actually," they say, "one medium-sized potato has no more calories than a large apple or orange. The weight-conscious should cut out sugars, fats and oils before potatoes, in order to get the latter's minerals and vitamins."

\* \* \*

Is it true that polls of university students show a heavy majority as being opposed to war in all its forms?

Usually, the polls show a majority against a war of aggression and a heavy majority in favor of a defensive war. At Princeton, for example, a poll showed 63 percent voted against any kind of a war in which they would be called on to fight in a foreign country, while only 20 percent voted against participating in a defensive war.

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"I wish to commend you on the number of good books you publish."—Jennings Otts, U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

\* \* \*

Does medical science recognize the tremendous importance of diet in matters of health?

Of course, the answer is that medical science appreciates the good work done by dieticians, though this doesn't

mean it permits itself to accept the delusions of our food faddists. Faddists like Upton Sinclair, who have absolutely no scientific knowledge, are without standing in the medical world. In this, needless to say, our scientists are on solid ground, for eccentric faddists of the type of Sinclair do nothing but harm.

Only recently, Dr. Charles Gordon Heyd, Professor of Surgery at Columbia University and president of the American Medical Association, warned the public that because of wrong food habits "many Americans shorten their life span and eat themselves into an early grave." Dietetics, Dr. Heyd was careful to explain, is a science of the greatest importance, which gives aid and support to medicine. He added that "proper knowledge of food and scientific nutrition are potent tools for prolonging life, warding off disease, and building a stronger, more intelligent and more handsome race."

Dr. Heyd also asserted that "the knowledge of nutrition gained in recent years already is showing valuable practical results not only in promoting health but in the kind of children that are being born.... Under proper standards of diet a race of people are being produced that are taller and stronger. Babies are being better born, with more graceful symmetry and more inherent beauty, and the quality of life is being improved and the average length of life is being increased."

Dr. Heyd then told about recent tests, which indicated that the average person consumes about 50 tons of food during a lifetime. According to this authority, the daily food intakes must contain "at least 37 chemicals to maintain proper health. The absence of one or more of these essential chemicals will lead to a serious deficiency disease." Experiments on animals, Dr. Heyd asserts, showed that "when manganese is absent from the diet the maternal instinct becomes dormant."

\* \* \*

Where does the most rain fall?

The latest report shows Cherrapunji, a village in the Khasi hills, Assam, to be the rainiest spot on earth, so far as official reports can show. Its average yearly rainfall is 428 inches. Another report, also official, says the

gauge in another part of the town showed 450 inches per year. This is about 10 times the average rainfall in New York City and about 1,000 times the average for the northern coast of Chile, which is supposed to be the driest spot in the world, where the figure for one town, Iquique, showed only a half inch of rain for a year over a period of 25 years. Another town in Chile, Arica, studied for 17 years, showed only two-tenths of an inch per year, which is probably a record for the world.

\* \* \*

1. What is the average rainfall for the earth? 2. Is the average rainfall over the ocean the same as over the land? 3. How much moisture drops from the sky each second? 4. After moisture is drawn from the earth, how long, on the average, does it remain in the air? 5. How much does an inch of rain weigh, covering an acre of land?

1. The earth's average rainfall, according to one meteorologist, is about 39½ inches per year. More water falls over oceans than over land, as follows: oceans, 45 inches per year; land, 26½ inches per year. 3. On the average, water falls on the earth, in the form of rain, snow or hail, at an average rate of 16,000,000 tons per second. 4. On the average, moisture drawn from the earth remains in the air about nine days. 5. An inch of rain over an acre of land weighs 113 tons; over a square mile, 72,320 tons.

\* \* \*

Have you any data dealing with the smallest land area covered by a heavy rain?

A weather report from England tells of a heavy rain, between Chatham and Cobham, covering a strip of land only three miles long and 30 feet wide.

\* \* \*

Is it possible for rain or snow to fall when the moon and stars are shining? I've heard this reported as a fact but want verification.

A report from Fort Erie, Ontario, tells of a rain that lasted a full hour, during which the moon and stars shone brightly, with no clouds visible. Other records galore tell the same story, some reporting the precipitation to be snow while others tell of rain. A meteorologist comments on this phenomenon, as follows:

"The fall of both usually is very light; a mere drizzle in the case of

rain. Small raindrops and snow-flakes fall slowly, so that it is quite possible, with a strong wind blowing at the cloud level, for the clouds from which the precipitation comes to drift beyond the horizon before the rain or snow reaches the ground, and the precipitation may sometimes drift far in the opposite direction on its way down. In other cases the cloud may dissolve through evaporation before the droplets or snow crystals get to the ground. In still other cases, a veil of cloud may be so thin that it is not perceptible.

"Lastly, some reports of such occurrences have doubtless been either exaggerated or made out of whole cloth. A Chicago newspaper on July 14, 1883, reported a remarkable experience said to have befallen vessel masters on Lake Michigan a couple of days before. Heavy thunder and lightning were alleged to have come from a clear sky while he'd fell for half an hour, some of the hailstones being as big as goose eggs and one as big as a brick! Journalistic imagination is the simplest explanation of this tale.

"Clear-weather showers localized under trees do not come from the sky. They consist of honeydew ejected by swarms of insects on the branches—aphids, scale-insects or leaf-hoppers."

\* \* \*

Can "et cetera" be applied to persons?

"*Et Cetera*" is Latin for "and other things." Being neuter, it should never be applied to persons. The abbreviated form, "*etc.*," is more acceptable.

\* \* \*

Should "et al." be followed by a period?

Since *et al.* is an abbreviation of *et alii*, there should be a period after "*al.*"

\* \* \*

I have seen many advertisements offering preparations to put in one's bath and which are guaranteed to act as weight reducers. Have they any value?

All such concoctions are pure bunk. There isn't anything that can be put into one's bath that will have the slightest effect on excess weight. Pass up the trash and you'll save money, including sales tax.

\* \* \*

What's good for a hangover?

Try to avoid getting drunk. However, if you fall from grace, try to make sure you're drinking decent liquor. Avoid "young" stuff and reject any kind of whisky that doesn't

have a pleasant aroma. Then, when you get up in the morning with a hangover, you can chase it away with some chance of regaining your usual physical well-being. Put a teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce in a tumbler of tomato juice. Or, if you prefer, put a few drops of tabasco in milk. Then a cup of coffee. Then, if you feel like it, a light breakfast. Then—and here pray long and loud—put your mind to a pleasant, healthy, undisturbed, unhurried, uncompromising evacuation.

What was the population of the world three centuries ago?

In 1630, the world's population was 500,000,000, compared to over 2,000,000,000 today.

Is it true that Jews are immune to cancer?

That's bunk. Jews get cancer like anybody else.

What is the average life expectancy of a building?

Insurance actuaries who are experts in this special field say the average life of a building is 40 years.

How much does it cost the government to put a man through four years of the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Md.?

\$14,000, which includes a salary of \$780 per year during the man's four years in the academy.

How many trained soldiers are there in the world?

According to U.S. military experts, there are 55,000,000 trained soldiers in the world today.

I seem to get cuts every time I turn around. Would you recommend a safe antiseptic?

For minor cuts, use ordinary soap and water. Don't depend on those fancy, high-priced antiseptics. If the injury is serious, see a doctor.

It has been asserted repeatedly that John L. Lewis is a Russian agitator whose real name cannot even be pronounced, so please let me know if it is so or not.

The leader of the CIO is going by his real name—John Llewellyn Lewis. He was born in Iowa, 57 years ago, the son of a Welsh miner.

"I am much pleased with your singularly enlightening paper and with the

books I ordered from your establishment. Your labor strikes me as being exceedingly important, aiming as it does towards the promotion of human progress. It is unfortunate that the clouds of obscurantism, blind tradition, and ignorance are still so thick and that the best dispeller of them—your paper—is not being read by most of the reading public."—L. Carballosa, Oakland, Calif.

When we spend \$1 for bread, how much of that money goes to the farmer?

According to a report issued by the Federal Trade Commission, the farmer, in 1935, received 13c of each dollar spent for bread by the consumers.

Are nose shapers and ear straighteners, offered in advertisements, of any value?

These devices are worthless.

Is there any truth to Norman Baker's assertion that the American Medical Association offered to pay him \$1,000,000 if he would sell his secret cancer cure to the A.M.A.?

Norman Baker is not only a notorious cancer quack, but, when he made this charge again and again in his publications and over his radio station, he branded himself as an unspeakable liar. *Hygeia, the Health Magazine*, published by the American Medical Association, answered Baker's absurd charge, as follows:

"In Iowa, at Muscatine, over station KTNT, [this was before the U.S. government drove Quack Baker's Muscatine station off the air] broadcasts a businessman named Baker who is selling a cancer cure, with cigars and a cheap magazine as side lines. His cancer cure includes the old Hoxsey fake, originally promoted in Illinois, and apparently now resident also in Iowa. This nostrum for cancer is boomed by Mr. Baker almost anywhere after 11 P.M. This is exceedingly proper since it is the time of night when many devious and doubtful ventures are promoted. Over his privately controlled station Baker indulges in a repetition of much of the scandalous insinuation that proprietary manufacturers used back in 1905 when they first attempted to hinder the battle of the American Medical Association against medical fraud.

"Baker has even claimed that the American Medical Association offered him one million dollars for his cancer cure with the intent of



forcing it from the market so that patients might be compelled to resort to surgery for the saving of their lives. The lie is so obviously false to any person with intelligence above that of a moron that it needs little thought to convince his hearers of its fallacy. Even if the American Medical Association had a loose million dollars lying around ready to be spent, it is quite certain that a number of better ways for spending it would occur to the trustees who are responsible for the funds of the Association. The income and expenditures of the American Medical Association, which is a corporation not for profit, are regularly recorded and testified to by a competent firm of auditors. What is Mr. Baker doing with the money that he is snaring from the pockets of sufferers with cancer and wheedling from the funds of chiropractors, naturopaths, nostrum promoters and other medical malcontents?

"The viciousness of Mr. Baker's broadcasting lies not in what he says about the American Medical Association but in the fact that he induces sufferers from cancer who might have some chance for their lives, if seen early and properly treated, to resort to his nostrum. The method can result in Muscatine, Iowa, as it did in Taylorville, Illinois—merely in death certificates signed by the physicians who have been so poor in finances and in morals as to sell their birthrights to Mr. Baker for his mess of garbage."

The foregoing article was quoted in full by Norman Baker in his \$500,000 libel suit against the A.M.A., which was tried in Federal Court (Davenport, Iowa, Division), and the outcome was the jury decided that the A.M.A. had printed no libel when it branded this notorious quack for the charlatan that he is. Baker lost his suit for libel because the charges in the foregoing editorial were accepted as true by a jury in Federal Court.

\* \* \*

Your statement that the Journal of the American Medical Association printed an editorial which caused Norman Baker to sue for \$500,000 (the same amount he is trying to get from The American Freeman) is very interesting. You should let Freeman readers see the Journal editorial which caused Baker to sue.

I haven't the original issue of *The*

*Journal of the American Medical Association* which contained the article that is supposed to have libeled Norman Baker, but I came upon the text of the article in the petition filed by Baker's attorneys in the Iowa libel suit against the A.M.A. Baker described the *Journal* article as "false, libelous and defamatory," but the jury thought otherwise. Here's the *Journal* article which got under the skin of America's most notorious quack:

"Norman Baker's cancer cure quackery at Muscatine, Iowa, has been dealt with by the Des Moines Register. Not only did this paper reprint the statement of the *Journal* relative to Baker and KTNT but also it made an investigation of its own which established the utter falsehood of the claims made by him in his radio talks. The medical profession, of course, needed no evidence, but a credulous public must be convinced by personal study. The investigation made by the Register revealed many deaths from cancer among the Baker clientele; it revealed the menace of Bakerism to be his vicious influence against modern scientific diagnosis and treatment and modern public health work; it brought to light a Baker who trims his claims to the winds that blow; finally, it provides a list of associates of Baker, including one J. L. Statler and one Charles H. Gearing, who have prostituted the words physician and healer. To all of this what does Baker answer? Merely that he is being persecuted by the 'Medical Trust'; that he is benefiting 25 percent of cancers, and that the Des Moines Register is 'cowardly, contemptible and dirty.' Does this sad old world after all afford any spectacle so terribly pusillanimous or so completely ignominious as an exposed cancer quack?

"The State licensing boards, the State prosecuting officials and the other constituted authorities of Kansas and of Iowa owe it to the people of those States to rid their communities as soon as possible of these blatant quacks. The Federal Radio Commission must be depended on by people in other States to spare them the possibility of hearing the obscene mouthings and pernicious promotions that are broadcast by the stations that these quacks dominate. If these authoritative bodies do not function for the good of the people, our gov-

ernment must find some system that will."

The foregoing article, like the one I quoted from another A.M.A. publication, *Hygeia*, is stronger, if anything, than what I wrote about Baker in the May, 1937, issue of *The Freeman* and which brought down on my head a neat, little libel suit for \$500,000. Baker, it seems, is very sensitive about candid, blunt criticism, but it seems that U.S. juries know what to do with him when they are asked to pass on his activities. The U.S. will never be a truly civilized country until it rids itself of all its quacks, charlatans and rabble-rousers.

\* \* \*

What was Norman Baker's line of activity before he burst forth as an expert on cancer?

This was brought out in the answer filed by the attorneys of the American Medical Association, when they replied to Norman Baker's \$500,000 libel suit. It was shown that "at the time stated in the plaintiff's (Baker's) petition and prior to the publication of the alleged libels, Norman G. Baker was uneducated and untrained in matters pertaining to the healing art and in matters pertaining to public health and was not licensed in Iowa or elsewhere to practice said healing art; that said Baker was and had been for some time the owner, operator and announcer of a radio station designated as 'KTNT,' which designation the said Baker interpreted to stand for the words 'Know the Naked Truth'; that said plaintiff was at said time and prior thereto also the owner and operator of mercantile establishments, doing business under various names, in the City of Muscatine, Iowa, in which HE KEPT FOR SALE AND SOLD AN ASSORTMENT OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE CONSISTING OF AUTO TIRES, GROCERIES, CIGARS, TOBACCOS, WEARING APPAREL, CANNED GOODS, PAINTS, VARNISHES, ETC. . . ."

In other words, an ex-paint and varnish salesman considers himself libeled when great scientific bodies agree to a man in rejecting his cancer quackery!

\* \* \*

How warm does it get in the Arctic Circle?

Vilhjalmar Stefansson, the distinguished Arctic explorer quotes re-

ports of the U.S. Weather Bureau showing that temperature went as high as 100 degrees (Fahrenheit) in the shade in the Arctic Circle.

\* \* \*

Do you believe that all advertising represents social waste?

Certain forms of advertising—especially the promotional publicity that abounds in a capitalistic civilization—represents a great measure of social waste. Other forms of advertising perform a social service.

First, there is a school of advertising that is destructive, yet accepted as necessary in a capitalistic economy. For example, we find subtle, but malicious, attempts of one industry to cripple or hamper another industry. We take for granted industrial warfare, but reflection should make obvious the simple fact that progress by one industry to the hurt of another serves no constructive end. A few illustrations: gas versus coal; imitations, such as of rubber, leather and fabrics, to injure the standing of the real articles; wars among metal interests; immense drives to compel the cigarette smokers who enjoy *Blands* to switch over to *Duds*; the increased sex appeal of a kisser who smokes *Owl* cigars as contrasted with the sexual incapacity of the poor stinker who goes in for *Roi Tans* or some other cigar of the same grade and price; and so on down the line.

On the other hand, even under a capitalistic order, certain forms of advertising are socially desirable. First come to mind advertisements that constitute announcements—lectures, shows, circuses, pageants, movies, conventions, etc. They contain information the public needs and wants, but as they include commercial aspects and concern the private finances of individuals or groups, they must, quite properly, pay for the service, whether it be in the form of newspaper and magazine advertisements, posters, billboards, circulars, sky writing, and the like.

To get a better view of the problem of advertising, let's take a look at Russia, where there is no such thing as a capitalistic interest, where the industries belong to the state, where private profit from the exploitation of labor is outlawed, and where production is based on use rather than private gain. Under such a social

order one would, at first glance, conclude that advertising would be the first form of activity to disappear for all time. Here, we find to the surprise of some, advertising underwent certain necessary changes, but what was left constituted advertising nevertheless. Let me give a few illustrations.

One industry can't make war on another through the medium of advertising. Thus buses can't knock railroads, and railroads can't attempt to pull down the aircraft industry. This is because of the simple fact that state-owned industries can't serve the people if they waste part of their substance in attacking other forms of state property. A railroad can print its time-tables and describe its various services, but it can't waste public money on tearing down some other branch of the transportation system.

Or, let's take a look at such a simple thing as canned corn. For many generations Russia has been growing plenty of sweet corn—the kind we can buy by the millions of cases each year. But no Russian ever gave thought to sweet corn as an article of food for human beings. Sweet corn was supposed to be fed to horses or cows, not people. During recent years, the food trust—that means the Soviet Union's department that deals with the food industry—went in for canning sweet corn, but when the cans were displayed in stores throughout the country they met with a cool reception. No one imagined—or rather, only few persons imagined—that putting horse or cow food into cans made it acceptable to people. So the canning of sweet corn languished—and almost died—because the Russians, unlike Americans, refused to accept a simple, plain fact.

Then, one fine day, a group of "decorators"—in Russia advertising is called the Decoration Trust, probably to take the curse off that commercial, capitalistic word "advertising"—got their heads together and worked out what we poor economic heathens in America would call an advertising campaign. They got 200,000 rubles (\$40,000) from the food trust, with the understanding that the money was to be used for one end—to make the Russian people

sweet corn conscious, if I may be permitted to use good advertising lingo.

Space was bought in newspapers, magazines, billboards, posters, etc.—and all to the single end of getting Russians to include canned sweet corn in their diet. The public was told, without ballyhoo, that the old diets were too restricted. They must, for their own good, stop thinking of only cabbage soup, black bread, potatoes and boiled meats. The food trust was handling the items just listed, but it wanted to bring about health-giving variety and at the same time enable the activities of the workers in the food trust to enjoy expansion. As a result, the department handling canned sweet corn broke the "depression," so that today three canneries are working night and day on this one article. That's a perfect illustration of the socially valuable use of advertising, not as a means of exploiting the people but as an instrument to bring new commodities into circulation.

If Russia were to give up all forms of advertising, its industrial activities would become restricted. For instance, early surveys showed that the Russian people knew nothing about toothpaste—they had been buying only tooth powders—only 50 percent of the population had ever heard of cheese, cornflakes were things from another planet, and so on. Advertising was the mechanism that removed the public's apathy.

Advertising, in its proper sense—which means to teach the masses facts for their own good about articles and commodities—will always be necessary. But bad, bunk-ridden, false, deceptive, destructive advertising—the kind we see too much of in this country—can't go on its crooked journey forever. It must make way for the sort of advertising that aims to inform rather than to exploit the people.

\* \* \*

What do you think of "tenderized" prunes?

The process of "tenderizing" means merely this: just before packing, the prunes are exposed to steaming water, thus adding considerably to their weight. The same water could be added by the housewife when she puts the prunes into her pot for the morning meal, but that would re-

sult in her getting more prunes for her money. If the advertising on the label, and elsewhere, had gone to great pains to explain that "tenderizing" means watering the prunes so that the housewife's purse can be "tenderized," the game would be given away. That single word "tenderizing" is a masterpiece of capitalistic sales psychology, worth millions of dollars yearly to the prune interests. This is just another illustration of the way bunk is used to separate the consumers from their money. No wonder the profiteers hate debunkers.

\* \* \*

How do Japanese flashlight bulbs compare with those of American make?

Japanese bulbs, says Consumers Union, are uniformly bad, being "without exception short-lived, and showed great variation in current consumption, on which brightness of light primarily depends." Mazda bulbs, made in the U.S., are much better articles, but there's no evidence to show that the 10c bulbs will last twice as long as the 5c kind. Flashlights should be equipped with General Electric or Westinghouse Mazdas, with the 5c GE bulbs the best buy of all.

\* \* \*

The press is making much of the alleged fact that the Soviet Union's record of industrial output has practically collapsed. Is this true?

While quotas laid down by Russia's industrial planners weren't carried out, in some instances, the facts prove that production for 1936 showed heavy increases over 1932, as follows:

	Annual Output	
	1932	1936
Automobiles .....	23,900	134,000
Tractors .....	51,600	173,700
Electric Power (billions kw.-hr.) .....	13.39	33.0
Coal (000 tons) .....	64,330	126,200
Oil (000 tons) .....	22,270	29,200
Pig Iron (000 tons) ..	6,206	14,500
Steel (000 tons) .....	5,920	16,300
Copper (000 tons) .....	46	89

\* \* \*

What's the best buy in flashlight batteries?

Consumers Union, which has made a thorough study of flashlights on the U.S. market, says the best-advertised flashlight battery, the 10c *Eveready*, is among the poorest buys, despite its high price. Tests showed "its life was shorter, in fact, than that of

many 5c brands." The report continues:

"In general, the low-priced cells were found to give more service per dollar than those higher in price, and this should usually be the basis of selection. For camping trips and other uses where new batteries are not readily available, it may be worth while to pay extra for cells which will be long-lived. 'Burgess' and General' are recommended for such use, although their cost per hour of service was somewhat higher than that of the lower-priced, 'Best Buy' brands.

"Dry cells deteriorate with age even when not in use. Therefore, purchase them from the store which has the most rapid turnover in stock. The growing practice of marking cells with a date indicating the manufacturer's estimate of how soon they should be sold offers consumers some protection against cells which have grown too old.

"The prices given are those at which the cells are regularly sold.

"Tests were made on type D cells, those having about the diameter of a 50c-piece."

The report then lists the actual "Best Buys," as follows:

Montgomery Ward's Standard Quality, No. 86-4732, at 5c each, at retail stores; by mail order, 4c, plus postage. Dated. Those bought in the retail stores of Montgomery Ward will cost 0.9c per hour to operate; those bought by mail order, 0.7c per hour.

The Woolworth and Kresge dime stores handle an excellent battery called the Banner No. U2, made by the Burgess Battery Co., Freeport, Ill. It sells at 5c, costs 0.9c per hour to operate, and is dated.

Sears Roebuck's Shurlite, catalogue No. 1401, at 5c in retail stores and 4c through mail order, postage additional, is an exceptionally good buy.

The United States Electric Mfg. Corp., N.Y.C., makes two flashlight batteries ("Best" and "Merit") which sell at 5c and are good buys.

Consumers Union then lists the "Also Acceptable" batteries, as follows: Burgess Uni-Cel No. 2, at 10c, a long-lived brand, for it gave service for about 18 hours under test conditions; General, made by General Dry Batteries, Inc., Cleveland, at 10c; lasted 17 hours while being tested; Sears' Powermaster, Sears Roebuck,

9c at retail stores and 6c at mail order, plus postage; Ward's Supreme Quality, by Montgomery Ward, at 8c in retail stores and at 6c by mail order, postage extra, dated.

Listed as "Not Acceptable" are: Arrow No. 302, at Woolworth's dime stores, 5c each, lasted only seven hours; Royal No. 402, sold at Kresge's dime stores, at 5c, and gave less than seven hours of service; Ray-O-Vac No. 2, at 10c; Usalite No. 55, at 10c; Eveready No. 950, at 10c, but didn't last as long as 5c cells among the "Best Buys"; Bond Mona-Cell No. 102, at 10c, also shorter-lived than 5c cells.

\* \* \*

There are a number of foreign patents in the U.S. Patent Office which I must have for my files. Is there any way I can get them copied without having to make the long, expensive trip to Washington? You see, I live in Montana. Is there some firm I can hire to give me this service? I am enclosing a well-known American dollar which you may apply to the expense of getting me this needed bit of information.

The U.S. Patent Office will make a photostatic copy of any foreign patent at only 20c each, cash (not stamps) with order. I understand this service doesn't apply to Canadian patents, in which case it's better to write direct to the Canadian Patent Office, Ottawa. (I am using this question and answer in this column because there may be a number of *Freeman* readers who could use the same information. I sent my Montana reader a personal reply, for which he enclosed the usual fee. If I do say so myself, I think he got a lot of service for a single buck, considering the long and expensive trip he thought he might have to make. If this self-congratulation annoys my readers, I beg their pardon in my most contrite manner.)

\* \* \*

What is the difference between a sharecropper, share-tenant, and renter?

This question came up at Commonwealth College, Mena, Ark., where all phases of the labor problem are studied from the viewpoint of the workers. The answer appeared in the college's *Fortnightly*, for June 15, 1937 as follows:

"There is an essential economic difference distinguishing sharecropper, share-tenant, and renter.

Like the wage worker, the sharecropper owns no means of production and sells only his and his family's labor power—but he gets paid only once a year in the form of a 'settlement' with the landlord. A share-tenant owns tools but not the land. He pays rent with a third or quarter share of the crop. The usual renter leases land for cash rent and has more independence in working the land."

\* \* \*

How much chewing gum do we produce?

In 1935, \$48,470,448, according to the Department of Commerce. This includes the wad I heard smacking around in a woman's mouth last night while in a movie, where, in the row behind me, she tortured her chicle for two solid hours, with terrible effects on my nervous organism. I hate gum-chewers on principle, even when they don't make smacking noises.

\* \* \*

What is the most expensive form of illumination?

Flashlights are about the most expensive users of electrical energy. A kilowatt hour from a flashlight cell will cost about \$10. However, flashlights are used only a few seconds at a time, and they are worth the expense.

\* \* \*

How fast does air travel through an ordinary wind instrument?

John Samuels, N.Y.C., reports that "a recent physiological study of flute playing shows that the velocity of the air as it leaves the flutist's mouth, even for low tones, is equivalent to that of a hurricane, or at a rate of more than 75 miles an hour."

\* \* \*

What is your opinion of the propaganda now circulated demanding that unions be compelled to incorporate?

The employers want to make unions incorporate so that it will be easier to control them, from the viewpoint of the employers, of course. The workingman's answer is very simple indeed. He points out, with complete justice, that the employer has the right to choose how he shall operate—as a corporation, partnership or individual. Why should labor be compelled to incorporate, when the employers are given free choice for themselves? The argument is unanswerable. By the way, the em-

ployer's argument that an incorporated union would be more responsible because it could be sued in court, isn't convincing, because anyone knows, or ought to know, that free unions can be sued as they are today, or each individual member can be sued on the grounds that he is answerable for the acts of the society he joined.

\* \* \*

I smoke a pack of cigarettes each day. What do I pay the government in taxes per year?

About \$30. It figures this way: federal tax, 6c; state tax, 2c. In 365 days you will pay \$29.20.

\* \* \*

Do you recommend the use of solid tops to replace the open grids on gas stoves?

There are such attachments on the market, which are sold with the sales argument that they cut fuel costs and give more concentrated heat. The U.S. Bureau of Standards (quoted by Consumers Union) denies this. Government tests show that the solid tops on gas stoves can't do what is claimed for them. "Most of the devices," says the report, "interfere with proper operation; and some may cause the formation of carbon monoxide."

\* \* \*

What, on the average, does an acre of ground produce in corn, potatoes, and wheat?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that we produce, on the average, 25.5 bushels of corn to an acre; 114.9 bushels of potatoes an acre; 14.4 bushels of wheat an acre. Under the very best conditions, says the report, an acre has produced as follows: potatoes, 1,156 bushels; corn, 225 bushels; wheat, 122.5 bushels.

\* \* \*

What do you think of Heywood Broun's article, in *The Nation*, praising *The Daily Worker*?

For several years (until about two years ago) I wrote critically of *The Daily Worker*, the central organ of the Communist party, U.S.A. I asserted, with perhaps too brutal frankness, that this daily paper was a disgrace to journalism, and that it was crammed with more lies to the square inch than could be found in the worst labor-baiting organs of the economic tories. These charges

aroused no protests among informed readers, for they knew that what I said was the cold truth. During the past two years I've written several pieces in which I expressed the opinion that the paper was improving, that it was throwing off its sectarianism, and that its editorial utterances could be given more trust. So when I read Heywood Broun's generous article, I felt somewhat justified in my previously expressed notions. We all like to see our opinions (or prejudices) verified.

Today, *The Daily Worker* shows hardly any trace of the old-time falsifications, venom, distortions and bigotry. That's all to the good, and I'm happy to endorse Broun's unconscious endorsement of my articles, which anticipated his by months. I find *The Daily Worker* of 1937 helpful in my editorial work, where previously it was nothing more than a source of annoyance and irritation. Its labor and strike coverages are fairly thorough. Its foreign dispatches are informative. Harry Gannes, who writes a *Daily Worker* column under the heading, "World Front," gives his readers the best comments on foreign affairs. The editorials are no longer hysterical. The cartoons are effective. Mike Gold's column—especially the series of letters he sent from Mexico during May and June, 1937—is as good as any regular column appearing anywhere, to my idea. A health department—which I have quoted several times—is far above anything that appears in any newspaper I know of. I congratulate the editors on their hard work and the visible proofs of their numerous talents.

\* \* \*

I recently heard a radio speaker brand sit-down strikes as illegal because they infringe on the employer's property rights. Please comment.

Sit-down strikes appear to be illegal merely because we aren't used to them. With time, we'll learn to see these sit-downs as objectively as we look on ordinary strikes or picketing. After all, an ordinary strike or picketing certainly interferes with the employer's right to make profits—thereby encroaching on his property—and yet such demonstrations are legal.

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