

**14th Series**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**E. Haldeman-Julius**

14TH SERIES

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By E. Haldeman-Julius

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# Questions and Answers

## CLARENCE DARROW

Clarence Darrow, 80-year-old lawyer, Agnostic, liberal, defender of the "underdog" and fighter for civil rights, died on March 13, 1938. He had lived a full, useful, constructive life. As a speaker, he moved tens of thousands to an appreciation of Freethought and humanism. As a writer, especially in his numerous little volumes which I published during the past 20 years, Darrow reached even a larger audience with his messages of enlightenment and realistic evaluations of supernaturalism. For two decades Darrow was a warm friend of my establishment, pouring his writings and speeches into my presses and always refusing to accept a dollar in payment for his contributions. I offered him money numerous times, but he always declined to accept, once even returning a check I had sent him for his part in a debate on religion. He told me many times that speaking and writing for Freethought were efforts he wanted to give to humanity, without financial rewards. Darrow, the lawyer, is known to most Americans. Darrow, the Freethinker, wasn't as widely known, but the spade work he did for Agnosticism stands out as a career in itself, one that will, in time, be placed alongside that of Ingersoll and other mind-liberators. Once, when asked his attitude toward religion, Darrow replied:

"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."

At another time, Darrow said:

"I am an Agnostic because I am not afraid to think. I am not afraid of any god in the universe who would send me or any other man or woman to hell. If there were such a being, he would not be a god; he would be a devil."

Years ago, Darrow debated with several religious leaders in Kansas City. I attended this large gathering and took notes, from which I want to quote the following:

"Do you, good people, believe that Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden and that they were forbidden to eat from the tree of

knowledge? I do. The church has always been afraid of that tree. It still is afraid of knowledge. Some of you say religion makes people happy. So does laughing gas. So does whisky. I believe in the brain of man. I'm not worried about my soul."

Darrow never pulled his punches when firing away at supernaturalism. He envisaged the passing of Christianity and "all the mythology that has gripped the world so strangely through ignorance and yearning."

We have lost a brave soldier in the liberation war of humanity.

\* \* \*

The red herring is brought out at last in the Baker-Brinkley controversy. A paper published in Wichita, Kansas, called "Publicity," says in its issue of February 10, 1938:

"Haldeman-Julius, Girard, outspoken radical editor, is just a rank Socialist seeking notoriety by referring to Norman Baker, the cancer cure man, now at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and Dr. J. R. Brinkley, to whom he refers to as the notorious cancer quack."

The English is a little involved, but its meaning is clear. The next step should be to expose me as an agent of Moscow. I have long feared the possibility of having some righteous editor let the world know about the \$3,000,000 I received from Stalin a few years ago. For the sake of the record, let me state frankly that the money's all spent and that I'm hoping and praying a new parcel post shipment of Red gold will show up here in the near future, for I'm getting short of Bolshevik cash.

\* \* \*

I have been advised to buy a policy with the mutual benefit association run by John M. Minnec, of Hammond, Ind. I am enclosing fee for a personal letter. Please rush information as I am being pressed to make an early decision.

The reader who asked the above was answered by air mail special delivery letter and told to have no insurance dealings with Minnec, who has operated four insurance organizations in the past, all of which have been declared fraudulent by the post-office department. In 1934, Minnec was convicted in Chicago in connec-



tion with a swindle. He now is under indictment in Chicago on a charge of using the mails to defraud.

\* \* \*

What's the meaning of the expression "Hollywood appendicitis"?

Abortion.

\* \* \*

Has not Germany as much right to have colonies as either France or England?

As a matter of justice no country has the right to have colonies without the consent of the people living in the subjugated lands. But capitalistic imperialism isn't interested in fine questions of pure justice. It wants colonies as sources of raw materials or as markets for its goods. The motive is profit—the most sacred itch in the anatomy of imperialism. If imperialism is accepted as right and just, then Germany certainly has as much right to colonies as the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, or any other government. They usually got them by the power of the sword, and they usually keep them by violence, so at first sight I don't see why Germany's sword is much less virtuous than that of any other imperialistic power. But the circumstances happen to be a little different. When Germany put over its Brest-Litovsk treaty with Russia, it demanded vast portions of Russian territory for purposes of German colonization. Germany felt that since it had whipped Russia it was entitled to the spoils of war. But when, a few months later, the Brest-Litovsk treaty was knocked into a meaningless pulp by the Allied powers' defeat of Germany, the situation was reversed and the imperialistic victors demanded Germany's colonies as one of the terms of peace. Germany had to surrender them. That was too bad, but after all it was according to the set of rules which Germany was playing by, so I fail to get excited over Hitler's cries about the grave injustices done to the German government. Imperialism at its best is bad enough, but there are grades of this form of mass exploitation. Living in a colony belonging to England or Holland can't be described exactly as a bed of roses, but still it's paradise compared to what the people would have to endure if they were made a part of Hitler's madhouse. Such places would become centers of torture, racial persecution, and the denial of

the most fundamental human rights. As bad as England's record is in India, it happens, however, that I receive each week a newspaper published in India which expounds the principles of Socialism, and that in itself proves that British imperialism does permit certain rights to be exercised. Imagine what would happen to any form of heterodox opinion if Hitler's gangsters were to take over colonies that formerly belonged to the German empire. And, while I'm at it, let me refer to my numerous writings on the subject of Germany's colonies, which will be found in my 13 volumes of Questions and Answers. I showed, in articles supported by data, that Germany's trade with its colonies were less than 1 percent of the business it did with the world, and that only one of its smaller colonies actually paid its expenses, the rest being steady drains on German finances. If Hitler gets his colonies he'll have to quit blaming bad domestic conditions on the lack of such possessions. The German people are deluded by Hitler's propagandists into believing that all economic and financial problems at home will be solved once the imperialistic powers disgorge and let Hitler have his "share" of the loot. During the first few years of the Hitler regime of murder and persecution it was customary to blame all of Germany's troubles on the Jews. But that argument got pretty thin after all the Jews were ruined. It gradually dawned on the German people that robbing the Jews—less than 1 percent of Germany's population—wasn't helping the 99 percent. So Hitler's propagandists looked around and decided that absence of colonies could be relied on to serve as an excuse for Germany's internal troubles. Such bunk can be kept up endlessly by clever deceivers of the masses. However, if it'll make for peace—though I doubt it—it would be a good bargain to return Germany's former colonies to the Third Reich. At the same time I'd recognize Mussolini's claims to Ethiopia, though his taking of that independent country was a crime against humanity. The deed's done, so there's nothing to gain in refusing to admit Mussolini's accomplished fact. Especially should this be done if it will serve to keep the Fascist hoodlums

from new acts of aggression, though this is highly doubtful. But, then, it may work in the direction of a limited peace—for six or 12 months—and even that little respite is worth striving after.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the movement that aims to raise \$5,000,000 to pay President Roosevelt to resign.

I've seen the report many times that Wall Street figures were raising such a fund, but I've never come on anything definite to show such a project is really in the making. If it's true—and I doubt it—the enemies of President Roosevelt show amazing ignorance of the character of the man in the White House. In addition to offering F. D. R. the greatest insult that could be given the head of a great people, these boodle-boys must be determined to brand themselves as high-class morons. I'm positive that the President would reject that money even if it were offered to him on condition that he resign five minutes before his term of office expires.

\* \* \*

I heard an anti-Nazi lecturer say that Hitler erected a statue to the memory of a murderer. Is this true?

There is a monument, near Potsdam, to a murderer who killed a defenseless Jew. The statue depicts the "hero" with his knee on the neck of his Jewish victim.

\* \* \*

You have written in favor of the New Deal. In view of the present depression, increase in unemployment, and the appalling national debt of some \$38,000,000,000, are you not inclined to doubt its merits?

I have written many pieces in support of certain New Deal measures, but I never suggested they could be depended on to do away with depressions. I have given my humble support to Rooseveltian ideology along the lines of social insurance, health insurance, old age pensions, elimination of child labor, minimum wages, maximum hours, and the like. Such humanitarian measures can't do more than remedy some of the abuses of Capitalism. They can't alter the capitalistic system itself, and it's the system that causes panics. If we were to dig deeper and nationalize the banking system, socialize the large-scale industries, and have the people own the means of communica-

tion and transportation, we would be taking measurable steps in the direction of a social order devoid of panics or depressions. The New Deal is doctoring the outstanding symptoms, without even trying to get at the fundamental causes of depressions. So long as the capitalists are permitted to own the large-scale industries, the utilities, railroads, banks, etc., we will have an exploited working class that produces more than it is able to consume, because of its lack of purchasing power. Roosevelt, with all courageous fights for the underdogs, has thus far neglected to even hint that the basic premises of Capitalism are unsound. Roosevelt is doing magnificent work in educating the masses to demand social-minded reforms. Maybe that's to be the limit of his services to humanity. Maybe he is preparing the stage for a new leader who will begin where the New Deal lets off—by establishing true industrial democracy, in which the people will own the trusts.

\* \* \*

What would happen to the British Empire if Mussolini were to control the Mediterranean and Japan were to dominate the Far East?

It would be the end of the British Empire.

\* \* \*

What's the lowest form of animal life?

A cancer quack.

\* \* \*

Where is the greatest unemployment region in the world?

North of the ears.

\* \* \*

Why is it so hard to get the truth even in a country that has constitutional provisions for a free press?

The mere fact that the Constitution guarantees us the right to a free press doesn't mean we can reach that objective automatically. Even where we have the right to print the truth—as in this country—there are interests (economic and theocratic) which feel best served when the truths of history, science and Free-thought are suppressed or distorted. The minions of the Church are always ready to use the boycott in order to bulldoze an editor into suppressing the truth about the church's dogmas and lie about those who would free the human race from the shackles of the supernatural. We have seen how such boycotts are put into actual use. We know how dan-

gerous they are, even in a country that guarantees a free press. The professional patriots, like the professional theocrats, demand that editors shall not print the truth about history. Imperialism, militarism, economic exploitation and supernaturalism all hate the truth-seekers and do their worst to make their lot difficult, even in a liberal republic. They work through reader boycotts, through mass threats, and through the economic club of the advertisers. That explains why so much of the press isn't really free in this free country. The press generally lies about Russia, about Loyalist Spain, about those who would improve the material environment of the workers, about those who question and refute the dogmas of the Church, and about the advocates of real peace. The powers of a corrupt press are used to destroy the benefits of a free press. But the picture isn't entirely melancholy. The situation isn't hopeless. The future isn't dark. A growing minority is beginning to demand the truths of history, of the economic situation, of Freethought, and of organized co-operative humanitarianism. Slowly, laboriously, the enlightened supporters of the principle of truth and the advocates of genuine progress are laying the foundations of a free press. It'll take time, but the prospects for success are splendid. Organized support will make possible a really free press, a medium for the dissemination of ideas that'll be independent of the powers of reaction, of priestcraft, of Fascism, of economic exploitation. That's why our constitutional provision of a free press isn't an empty gesture. The press has been subsidized and corrupted by ulterior interests, but the principle still survives, and when properly used can be made to serve humanity and defeat reaction and Medievalism. A free people can have a free press. For the present, only a small minority of the American people sees the meaning of all this. But that minority is growing. The ideal isn't a dream. It's based on realities. We can at least say what we think. **That means** a lot. If we build an independent, unsubsidized, progressive, truth-telling press we will find ourselves protected by that same Constitution which the powers of a corrupt press

misuse today. The future of the truth-seeker carries encouragement and promise. Only a few centuries ago his fate was the torture chamber and the fires of bigotry. Today, the truth-seeker is subjected to a conspiracy of silence or his ideas are ridiculed and lied about. His lot isn't an easy one, but he can fight back, if only he has the courage and the vision. If he meets the issue courageously and honestly, the chances are he will win a glorious victory for civilized living.

\* \* \*

In spite of you, Harry Elmer Barnes says that he knows of no one better equipped to write a Story of Civilization than Will Durant as he is a technically trained scholar; whereas you pronounce him a student. Furthermore, Barnes comments on Durant's flowing pen; and I myself have just finished Durant's "Mansions of Philosophy" and grope to find another man who can equal his writing on that difficult subject. He has a beautiful, soothing, and poetic style.

Dr. Barnes is a gentleman and a scholar. I, of course, am neither. In numerous fields of learning I serve only as a reporter and commentator, which means I'm no scholar. As for being a gentleman, that's out of for all time, for it's generally agreed I'm an impolite, boorish, snappish, cantankerous, gut-griped, insulting, coarse, vulgar knocker and sour-puss. I specialize in insulting my friends every time they write or say something that somehow fails to suit my corrupt taste. Dr. Barnes, in addition to being a first-rate scholar in his chosen field of history, is so gentlemanly that he is always ready to lend his dripping, oily pen to flattering introductions, recommendations, forewords, endorsements and blurbs for the enhancement of any honest, sincere practitioner who comes within a hundred miles of his own mellow brand of liberalism. That's the gentleman in him, and I envy him his knack for making friends. Barnes, and the critic who wrote the above words of dissent, agree Durant has a flowing style. I'm willing to let it go at that, but before doing so I want to insist that I'm sticking to my own sickly idea that Durant's writings show obvious signs of heavy-footedness in almost every sentence. As for Durant's sure ability to write a history of civilization, I need only refer

my readers to Joseph McCabe's 15,000-word review of Durant's "Story of Civilization," in the 5th volume of the *Appeal to Reason*. As the book's in print I see no reason for giving my readers a digest of its contents, except to say it's the most devastating criticism ever hurled by one historian at another. How one can consider Durant an historian after seeing McCabe turn the poor fellow into mincemeat is beyond my small-calibered mentality. (If any of my readers are disposed to disagree with my statement that I'm no gentleman, let me call attention to the quick and easy way I went about making enemies of two well-known figures in this single paragraph—Durant and Barnes, both of them authors of volumes from my presses.)

\* \* \*

Can you explain what it is about life insurance that enables the companies to make such long profits?

Judd Dewey, Deputy Insurance Commissioner for the State of Massachusetts, in his testimony before a special commission, made the assertion that life insurance companies made \$1,000,000,000 in profit during 1934, 1935 and 1936, because they used obsolete mortality tables. The companies continue to use tables that were first drawn up more than 75 years ago, when life expectancy was much shorter than it is today. The mortality table, said Mr. Dewey, is the fundamental point on which life insurance is figured. "Using these obsolete tables," he testified, "insurance companies made a profit of \$348,000,000 in 1934, \$356,000,000 in 1935, and \$380,000,000 in 1936."

\* \* \*

Dr. Edward Albert Wiggam, before a gathering of teachers, recently told his listeners that birth control among the educated classes is a serious threat to the future of civilization. Very few children born of backward people become leaders, he contended. Please comment.

Dr. Wiggam is repeating his favorite thesis, one which he has pounded on for about three decades. He used to be all for heredity, but during recent years he has been making concessions to the side of the debate which insists that environmental conditions are most potent. In my own writings, during more than 25 years, I have written a great deal on this

subject of which is the more dominant—heredity or environment? I have always held to a middle position, insisting there are plausible, even conclusive, arguments on both sides, and that it's better to take the position that the future improvement of the human race depends on heredity AND environment. We must have good breeding to produce fine biological specimens. The stuff that goes into the making of a human being must be from healthy parents. But the healthiest germ plasm can be warped and distorted by a cruel, poverty-stricken, disease-laden environment. A person born with only moderate biological equipment can be made to develop and improve himself in a most constructive sense if the environmental conditions are just right. That's why I always urge that it's better to take the middle course in this vital debate.

Dr. Wiggam insists that the educated classes must breed more. He must remember, however, that if the educated classes breed too frequently—that is to say, if they bring more children into the world than they can support properly—they will defeat themselves. They will establish a poor environment to take care of their superior physical specimens. One may serve to offset the other. If Dr. Wiggam were a little more social-minded—instead of being such a rigid individualist—he would realize that the problem has the most urgent social ramifications. When considering the question of breeding more children in the educated classes we must also look into the economic side—into the system of society, in truth—and see if that social order is functioning in such a way as to enable those with the best brains to breed in sufficient numbers and at the same time assure each child the fullest opportunities for a good education, healthful surroundings, proper food, scientific physical care, and free avenues for cultural advancement. If the social system operates against a heavy increase among the educated, the numerous offspring from these socially-desirable elements will be deprived of the opportunities for advancement.

Dr. Wiggam also shows his superficial side when he stresses the rather bromidic argument that children of

backward people don't become leaders. Here it's necessary to define what we mean by "backward." Just because a person is poor, or because he gets a small salary, or can't get work at all, it doesn't follow he is backward. He may be the unwilling victim of a badly ordered social system. His germ plasm may be just as good as that which went into the finest of the educated class, and yet he may rot in a disease-infested slum and see his children grow up in an environment of squalor and deprivation. His hereditary equipment may be of the best, but the vicious environment will serve only to maim and destroy it. It doesn't take long for a vile environment to sear the bodies and minds of really fine people so that they look like so many degenerates. A true scientist would look into these factors before he advanced the argument that the children of "backward" people are bound to be backward themselves. I know laborers who are well-read, who discuss the most difficult questions intelligently, who carry around in their minds practically no bunk or superstition—and yet, they wonder where next week's grocery money will come from. They are the victims of a bad social order, and not living proofs of personal backwardness. It's the social order that's backward, because it has failed to make use of the full possibilities of scientific progress for the toilers in the fields of industry, agriculture, economics, finance, and distribution.

The sound position to take in this endless debate, it seems to me, is to insist on a social order that will guarantee each willing worker a good job, that will protect him against the ravages of preventable disease and equally preventable poverty, and that will throw open the doors of opportunity—in making a living, in getting an education, and in enjoying the fruits of one's labor—to every toiler and his children. Given a just social order, I believe that the benefits of a good environment will serve to build up the race, while heredity goes ahead with its supply of new generations endowed with the best that nature has in store for them.

\* \* \*

Please publish a list, semi-extensive at least, of outstanding crusades and accomplishments in which known skeptics

were the motivating and predominating force; skeptics' names also (along the line of social, economic and scientific progress).

The above brings again to my mind the need for a book covering the constructive achievements of Rationalists, Skeptics, Freethinkers, Agnostics and Atheists. A few months ago I wrote to Joseph McCabe suggesting that he write a book under the title, "Have Freethinkers Made Constructive Contributions to Civilization?" Such a book is now being written. I'm glad to say, and I hope to see it in print before the end of the first half of 1938. McCabe is the right man to do such a job. He has the data at his easy command. Whenever I hear some nit-wit croak the words, "Where are the orphan asylums the Atheists have erected?" I want to get down to work showing what Freethinkers have done for humanity, but I always draw back when I realize what a vast amount of historical material one must sift in order to turn out such a socially-necessary volume. So I finally decided to give up the idea—for I'm better at turning out shorter pieces—and turned to the one man capable of doing a good book on this absorbing theme.

\* \* \*

Last year I bought one of your Grab-Bags, which I liked very much, for I found the 10 pounds of literature for only \$1 a bargain. I would like to order another shipment but am afraid the package will contain duplicates of books sent last time. Please advise.

Our 1938 Grab-Bag is entirely new, special emphasis being placed on inserting an extra large number of Little Blue Books. You are perfectly safe in sending \$1 for a Grab-Bag containing 10 pounds of literature, to be shipped collect. During the year we accumulate tens of thousands of Little Blue Books which can't be sold as new because they may have been spoiled by dust, too much handling, torn in places, creased, autographed by flies, or in other ways made unfit for regular orders, so we throw them into a large packing case for use in our Grab-Bags, which are made up to be distributed at the ridiculous price of 10 pounds for a mere dollar. Of course, you don't know what the Grab-Bag will contain but you can be sure of getting 10 pounds of

live, thrilling, informative, educational, entertaining reading matter. Take my advice and order your Grab-Bag today. It's a real buy.

\* \* \*

Can you give me one of the signs by which we will know when the depression is over?

You can figure the depression will be over when you see a rabbit running across a Kansas prairie and no one's chasing it.

\* \* \*

Recently I was visited by a constable who said he had received a complaint about my dog and insisted that I kill the pet or he would do it for me. I chose to do it myself because I wanted to put the animal away with the least pain. My dog was friendly to everybody. Can I sue that constable for the loss of my dog,

I don't see what this reader can do about his dog, since he admits he did the job himself. He should have protested and insisted that if the constable killed the dog he would be held responsible. A protest, to have any value, must be made at the right time, before it's too late. I'm reminded of an incident which may throw some light on this question of registering one's protest in good time instead of waiting until it's too late. As I recall the story, a girl's father visited an eligible bachelor—a little, stocky, pugnacious fellow—and told him he would pay him \$5,000 if he would marry his daughter. "What's the matter with her?" the pint-sized prospect asked. "Oh, she's a fine girl and will make any man a wonderful wife. She is pretty, young, affectionate, a good cook, a wonderful housekeeper, and looks forward to raising a family. There's only one thing the matter—she's just a little bit pregnant." The little guy thought things over and decided it would be worth \$5,000 to him to take the girl off her old man's hands, so he married her one afternoon. The father gave the pair a swell wedding, with plenty to eat and drink, and the party was enjoyed far into the night by the wedding guests, but the groom noticed, as the hours passed, that the father was showing no sign of handing over the money he had promised. He waited and waited until far into the night, when his patience left him. In high dudgeon, the new son-in-law drew himself up to his full five feet two

inches, pointed an accusing and threatening finger into the father's face and announced: "Unless you give me the \$5,000 now not one button will I unbutton!"

\* \* \*

Please advise me which are the best Socialist daily and weekly newspapers.

The best Socialist weekly newspaper, in my opinion, is *The New Leader*, organ of the Social Democratic League. This publication is issued from the offices of the Rand School of Social Science, 7 East 15th Street, N.Y.C. I suggest that you send for a sample copy. I find its reports reliable and its articles on foreign affairs authoritative. Its editor, James Oneal, is an able commentator, clear writer, and careful student of affairs.

There's no English Socialist daily published in this country. The nearest is *The Daily Herald*, London, England, which contains excellent reviews of European developments. *The Daily Worker*, organ of the Communist Party, 50 East 18th Street, N.Y.C., is getting better right along, as I commented some months ago. Its news reports are handled with more fairness now, and its editorials frequently contain material of value. Its best department is called "World Front," by Harry Gannes, which discusses international affairs. Gannes does his job well. I have found him to be a reliable reporter in the field of foreign affairs. Mike Gold's "Change the World" is always readable, sometimes amusing, sometimes informative, and never dull. The department edited by the Medical Advisory Board, "Health Advice," is the best of its kind, barring none. I understand its sports page is good, but here my opinion is of no value because I rarely read after our sports writers, even when they're tops.

\* \* \*

Will you tell something about contact glasses?

Very able specialists in this branch of science have developed glasses that are made to fit snugly over the eyeball. There's no doubt about their success. But the work of making and fitting them requires the utmost ability, which means some time will pass before the profession generally will be able to use them properly. Meanwhile, persons who need eye-glasses but don't want to wear the usual con-

traptions, pay out the much larger fees to the doctors who are able to take care of their needs. Stage people are especially favorable to these contact glasses. The average person will have to be satisfied with the old-fashioned article for the present, at least.

\* \* \*

What do you think of osteopathic physicians?

The massage treatments they give can do no harm, and may, in fact, do some good, but such treatments usually can't begin to meet the problems raised by infectious and other diseases. Of late, osteopathic physicians gradually have been entering into the drug and surgical practices of the regular medical doctors, which means they are getting into the profession through the back door. It seems reasonable to say that anything such practitioners may attempt to do in these fields can be handled better by medical scientists who have received their training in the best-recognized institutions. It's no exaggeration to state that the educational facilities of osteopathic colleges don't stand within yelling distance of great establishments like Harvard, Johns Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, Washington University, and many others.

\* \* \*

Can you tell me where I can go, here in Chicago, for information about treatments for a venereal disease?

If you are suffering from a venereal disease and can't afford to consult your family physician I suggest that you call on the Illinois Social Hygiene League, 9 East Huron Street, Chicago, Ill. The secretary in charge is Dr. Rachele S. Yarros. This useful organization conducts an up-to-date medical clinic for treatment of venereal diseases, gives educational material on questions of sexual hygiene, and operates a social service department for persons in need of premarital, marital and parental advice. The league gives its purposes in the following words: "Established for the treatment of venereal diseases, protection of the community, the study of public health problems presented by these diseases and the dissemination of accurate knowledge concerning the relation of venereal diseases to health and welfare." (The above was sent by personal letter because

the question was accompanied by the usual fee, but as the material may be of interest to other readers in and around Chicago I am using it here.)

\* \* \*

How does Hitler's control over the German masses compare with that which prevailed in medieval times?

Bad as it was then, it's worse today. I agree with Dr. William E. Dodd, lately resigned U.S. ambassador to Nazi Germany, who said:

"At no time in the Middle Ages was such power exercised over the masses, even when the masses were slaves."

\* \* \*

I am a Frenchwoman of 59 years, now living in N.Y.C. I have been for 20 years a teacher in Russia, which I left in 1920. Since then I have tried to make my living in different ways and in different countries. Here I am a licensed masseuse and I intend to study to be a practical nurse and combine the two in hopes of having a better chance to make my living, as I have only \$1,000 saved. I come to you for advice about the Hamilton Trust Company, which offers to invest my money in what it calls the Underwriters Group of Diversified Royalty Trust Certificates, and which will give 12 percent, according to the prospectus. I am enclosing fee for a personal reply.

A woman of your age, with a nest-egg of only \$1,000, should get out of her mind any idea of investing her savings in any kind of a speculative offer. There is no business in the world that's more subject to unexpected ups and downs than the oil business. But even if you asked about any other kind of corporation, I'd still warn you against risking a dollar of your savings in such enterprises. Take my advice to heart and put your \$1,000 in the nearest postal savings bank. I know the Hamilton Trust Company, of Wilmington, Del., has stated in its prospectus you may expect as much as 12 percent on your money (though such a large return can't possibly be guaranteed, because many of the greatest oil companies in the world don't net that much), but such an "opportunity" for heavy earnings shouldn't tempt a person in your modest circumstances. You will get much less interest from Uncle Sam's postal savings bank, but at least you'll always be sure of getting it, and when you want all or part of your \$1,000 you'll get it to the last penny. I am rushing this answer by personal mail to your home address because I want



you to get my warning at the earliest possible moment, in the hope that you won't go into this project but will, instead, tuck away your life's savings where the cash will be yours from now on. If you follow my advice I feel confident you'll always feel that the dollar you sent me for this personal reply was the best investment you ever made.

\* \* \*

The Hearst press and other jingo publications frequently use the argument that "the strong man is not called upon to test his strength," by which they mean to say it is good policy to arm to protect peace. This is supposed to have a good psychological effect in discouraging war. Please discuss.

Dr. John E. Lind could tell these super-patriots some interesting things about the criminal ward patients in his charge at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C., where, it is generally agreed among persons in a position to know, that he has responsibility for "probably the most dangerous individuals that other men have ever had to keep in custody."

The first rule in Dr. Lind's department is the elimination of all guns, clubs, straight-jackets and confining sheets. The caretakers are forbidden to use any kind of a weapon in controlling their suicidal and homicidal maniacs. No guard has ever been killed, while few patients commit suicide. Also, very few have ever escaped.

Dr. Lind holds that weapons would endanger the lives of the doctors and attendants. The following comment should be called to the attention of our extreme militarists:

"The rule protects the attendants as well as the patients. No greater hazard could be introduced in a ward for criminal insane than that of a loaded gun. Wherever there is a gun, there is always the danger that it will be fired. And once the gun is fired, pandemonium may result. To protect the peace among the most dangerous of humans, the guns are strictly barred."

This doesn't mean that occasions may never arise when guns may prove of value. The Japanese maniacs in China can't be resisted with anything less than armaments. That the Japanese Fascists are insane can be judged from a small item that appeared in a recent issue of the most im-

portant and influential newspaper in Tokio, in which the statement was made that Japanese sub-lieutenants were making wagers among themselves over which would kill the most Chinese. One pair is reported to have bet a certain amount that would go to the man who first killed 100 Chinese. The report said the score stood at 57 to 26. Such people, I'm sure, can't be stopped except by force. The weapons of defense and aggression are still needed in this all-too-brutal world, but let's be sensible enough, at least, not to pretend that guns serve to keep the peace. They can be used for the very opposite. China certainly wanted no war with Japan, but had to resist because the excessively armed and belligerent Japanese insisted on fighting.

\* \* \*

I read in a Catholic paper of a fountain in France where afflicted believers could bathe and be healed. Please comment.

Joseph McCabe has written a book on the Lourdes "miracles," and he did a right nice job of debunking. I don't intend to insult my intelligent, informed readers—there are some such—with a serious dissertation on this brand of medievalism and supernaturalism. But I do want to call attention to a simple fact, and that has to do with the Pope, who, during his recent illness, didn't hurry to Lourdes or any other miracle-joint, but stayed right at home and called in the best medical brains available. These miracle-joints are for the suckers, not for the leaders. The Pope is too smart to put his trust in such foolishness. When he's sick, he wants a good doctor.

\* \* \*

Is there not a psychological similarity between the idea of "God" and that of "Santa Claus"?

There is, without a doubt. It's the impulse to get favors, to beg for gifts, to get something for nothing. It's a pleasant game. One asks God for a new car, or a new jock-strap, or even a new box of Kotex. It doesn't hurt to ask. I once got a letter from an indignant reader who told me he was sure God answers prayers, "if they're reasonable." He went on to explain that he prayed every day for weeks in the hope of getting a \$400 garage, but nothing came from the seat of Jehovah. Then he decided he may have been unrea-

sonable—that he should cut down the price a little. So he started to pray for a \$200 garage—and within 60 days he had one behind his farm house and right smack against the out-house. There was a perfect illustration of God's willingness to answer reasonable requests for favors.

\* \* \*

**Is not the logical time for business reform during a period of prosperity, rather than during a depression?**

Logically the right time to fix a leaking roof is when the sun's shining, but human nature seems to have a strong impulse against the strictly logical. We prefer to wait until the rain clouds gather. Then we keep the roof repairer waiting with his tools and material until the storm blows over. It's wasteful and inefficient, but that seems the way most of us function. Yes, it would be sensible to fix the economic machine while things are running with comparative smoothness, but during such times we prefer to nurse the notion that the machine won't or can't break down. It usually does, which means we have to tackle the problem during stormy weather.

\* \* \*

I am about to enroll as a student with the Diesel Power-United Engineering Schools, with a view to becoming an engineer in Diesel engines, air-conditioning and refrigeration. Before taking the final step I am air-mailing you for advice as I don't want to spend hundreds of dollars without knowing just where I stand. I want a personal reply as soon as possible.

The personal reply to the above was sent, as requested, but as many readers may be interested in the same subject I have decided to print the material here. An immense advertising campaign has been conducted about Diesel engineering and air-conditioning, which accounts for numerous letters of inquiry coming to my desk. In the past I have given considerable space to these schools, and I advise interested readers to refer to the material in my 13 volumes of questions and answers, where data will be found properly indexed for quick reference. Recently, action taken by the Federal Trade Commission substantiates everything I've said about these schools.

Alleging the use of misleading advertising and misrepresentations in the sale of correspondence courses in

Diesel engines, air-conditioning, refrigeration and other trade subjects, the FTC has issued a complaint against Roy Hemphill, who trades as Diesel Power-United Engineering Schools, 200 Hayes St., San Francisco, and against Diesel Power-United Engineering Schools, Inc., 5 North 15th St., Minneapolis, and Diesel Power-United Engineering Schools, 1520 McGee St., Kansas City, Mo.

The FTC bases its complaint, in part, on the following grounds:

In the advertisement and sale of their courses the respondents are alleged to have made representations to the effect that they maintain the largest and greatest schools of their kind in the United States, and conduct a nation-wide employment service; that their courses prepare men for high-salaried jobs; that their offers to enroll students for training are limited to certain ages, or to limited numbers from a community, or to persons having special qualifications; and that they have jobs to offer instead of being engaged merely in the business of giving instruction, when such are not the facts.

The respondents' use of the word "Engineering" in their trade names or as a descriptive term in advertising is misleading because the courses they offer are actually calculated only to fit students for work as mechanics or for jobs of similar grade, and are not of sufficient extent to give a basic and general training in engineering science comparable to courses in technical schools which lead to degrees.

Offering practically identical courses utilizing material furnished by Hemphill or his operating company, the respondents use virtually the same advertising matter and sales policies. Hemphill is president and directing head of the Minneapolis and Kansas City corporations.

\* \* \*

**Why do I have to take a ton of advertising in order to get a pound of news? Why can't we have newspapers that are dedicated to giving us the news and nothing else?**

The capitalistic press is based on capitalistic advertising. The great corporations spend millions of dollars weekly to advertise in the press and at the same time control the readers of that advertising. Not only does advertising money sell goods but it also helps sell a reactionary econom-

ic philosophy to the deluded masses. The capitalistic press is the most efficient weapon available to keep the masses in line so that the evils of capitalism and organized supernaturalism may continue to exercise influence. The masses are going to learn some day that it's necessary to have untainted sources of news and opinions. A part of the public already realizes that and is taking steps to organize a press that won't be beholden to the moneyed powers behind the business office. The advertisers feel confident that all they need do to destroy a free press is to withhold advertising revenue. They are wrong there. What they believe is true according to the fundamentals of capitalistic publishing. But that doesn't tell the whole story. It's possible to build a free press that will be answerable only to its enlightened readers—if the readers will see the issue clearly and work together. The readers have it in their power to establish a free press. Will they do it? I believe so. The signs show great discontent among large parts of the reading public. They are gagging. They are tired of intellectual pap. They want meat. They want truth and candor. And they can get these fine benefits of a real press by helping build a great following for those editors who show by their editorial policies that they are completely free of the influences of subsidized journalism.

\* \* \*

I wake up each morning feeling sluggish and liverish—as though I'd give a thousand dollars just for another hour in bed. What shall I do?

It's no sweat off my eye-balls, but I'd suggest you stay in bed another hour.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of the Chicago concern that offers "perfect vision without glasses"?

Perfect vision certainly can be had without glasses, but when conditions prevail that require glasses there's no treatment, however stridently advertised, that will take the place of such an aid to vision. Glasses certainly won't supply perfect vision, even under the best conditions, but they can serve as wonderful helps if fitted by competent members of the profession. I advise my reader to be completely skeptical about anyone who

claims he can treat cases of defective vision without glasses, when it happens that glasses are necessary adjuncts.

\* \* \*

Can you recommend the best device for the hard of hearing?

Inquiries having to do with hearing, deafness, devices, treatments, etc., can't be handled in these columns. As I've stated several times in the past, I don't undertake to give medical advice. If sick, see a doctor. If in legal trouble, see a lawyer. Readers who want information of any kind dealing with problems of deafness should write to one of the following reliable, non-commercial organizations: The Volta Bureau, Washington, D.C.; American Society for the Hard of Hearing, 1537 35th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.; New York League for the Hard of Hearing, 480 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C.

\* \* \*

Being a great admirer of the sexological books by William J. Fielding, I would like to know, as a matter of information, how his Little Blue Books have sold throughout the years.

William J. Fielding's works on sex always have been my most popular sellers, a fact which indicates the reading public is anxious to be informed authoritatively on this all-important subject. Fielding is a serious scientist, whose first motive always is educational. A careful examination of my records, which later were checked and re-checked, shows that by January 1, 1938, Little Blue Books by Fielding sold a total of 3,220,200, which is an amazing showing for a single author. On this basis, and taking into consideration the wide circulation of his standard-sized books, American and foreign editions, I should say Fielding is the most widely read authority on the sex question in the world today. Knowing my data are of value (I guarantee their authenticity), I print below the complete record of Fielding's little blue books, the first figure giving the number of copies sold, followed by the book's title, its number in the series, and the year when the book was first published.

278,500	Psycho-Analysis	Explained
	(190), 1921.	
190,000	Puzzle of Personality	(217),
	1922.	

- 10,000 Woman—The Warrior (401), 1928.
- 135,700 Auto-Suggestion — How It Works (447), 1923.
- 27,500 Auto-Suggestion and Health (449), 1927.
- 10,000 Woman the Criminal (529), 1928.
- 112,000 What Women Beyond 40 Should Know (536), 1925.
- 148,500 What Every Boy Should Know (653), 1924.
- 293,500 What Every Young Man Should Know (654), 1924.
- 276,500 What Every Young Woman Should Know (655), 1924.
- 312,500 What Every Married Man Should Know (656), 1924.
- 341,500 What Every Married Woman Should Know (657), 1924.
- 40,000 Teeth and Mouth Hygiene (688), 1925.
- 249,000 Woman's Sexual Life (689), 1925.
- 249,500 Man's Sexual Life (690), 1925.
- 60,000 Child's Sexual Life (691), 1925.
- 112,500 Homosexual Life (692), 1925.
- 30,000 Woman: Eternal Primitive (901), 1927.
- 72,500 Sex Symbolism (904), 1925.
- 50,000 Sexual Obsessions of Saints (907), 1925.
- 60,000 Determination of Sex (950), 1925.
- 25,000 Dual and Multiple Personality (996), 1926.
- 20,000 Cause and Nature of Genius (1051), 1926.
- 27,500 Nature of Instincts and Emotions (1052), 1926.
- 10,000 Love Elements in Psycho-Analysis (1353), 1929.
- 18,500 How Sun's Rays Give You Health and Beauty (1556), 1930.
- 12,500 Marvels and Oddities of Sunlight (1563), 1930.
- 20,500 Boccaccio—Lover of Love (1569), 1930.
- 25,500 Facts About the Art of Love (1608), 1931.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of newspaper headlines?

Writers of headlines often do good work, but frequently one must read the story in order to find out what the head means. A two-column head on the front page of *The New York Herald Tribune*, December 5, 1937, is that kind of writing. It read: "Grover Cleveland High Head for Hair Brush Home Discipline." I couldn't make sense out of it, so I read a story that I'd usually pass up in order to learn that the principal of the

Grover Cleveland High School, in a speech before a mothers' club, warned his hearers that he would use a hair-brush on children who wouldn't be good.

And that reminds me of the bright young lady who, after graduating from a school of journalism, got her first job on the news staff of a small-city newspaper. Her first assignment had to do with a woman who had had the misfortune to fall into the privy in the back yard. The young journalist rushed back to the office with a story which she headed: "Lady Interrupted, But Not Dead."

I'm also reminded of a news story about two prostitutes who had been engaged in a street fight. The piece appeared in the old *New York Sun*, in the days of its greatest sprightliness, with the headline: "Hors de Combat."

\* \* \*

I want to thank you for the neat way in which you disposed of the argument, advanced by Nelson Antrim Crawford, in his *Household Magazine*, that man has a "fighting" or "aggressive instinct." In these days when we are told again and again that war is inevitable because of our "aggressive instincts," it serves a good end to show that the so-called instinct is nothing more than a myth. I wish you would go deeper into this valuable exploration and show what our psychologists (who make the study of instincts a part of their research) think about man's alleged "fighting instincts."

I'm glad to be able to present data answering the above request. Twelve psychologists, from 11 important universities, issued an Armistice Day declaration, November 11, 1937, which deserves the widest publicity. These scholars who devote their lives to studying man's instincts, say "War is NOT inevitable and not a part of 'human nature.'" The statement, which was released in the name of the council of directors of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, is signed by the following psychologists, who are careful to say it is the expression of the *entire* council and that "90 percent of several hundred American psychologists, polled by the society, join in denying that any proof exists for the view that man's 'aggressive instincts' lead to war":

Drs. Gordon Allport, Harvard University; J. F. Brown, University of Kansas; Hadley Cantril, Princeton

University; Leonard Doob, Yale University; H. B. English, Ohio State University; Franklin Fearing, University of California (Los Angeles); George W. Hartmann, Columbia University; I. Krechetsky, Swarthmore College; Gardner Murphy, Columbia University; T. C. Schneirla, New York University; Ross Stagner, University of Akron; E. C. Tolman, University of California (Berkeley).

The statement, after calling attention to America's danger of becoming involved in another war and pointing to the undeclared wars now being conducted by Fascist gangsters in Europe and Asia, asks if "this grave set of circumstances" should cause many people to say, "War is inevitable; it is part of human nature to have wars." The text that follows is so important that I have decided to quote it in full:

"We, as psychologists, protest most emphatically against the common belief that wars are necessary results of 'human nature.' This opinion is without scientific foundation. There is no evidence to justify it. In a recent poll of several hundred American psychologists, all of whom have studied the instinct question thoroughly, over 90 percent denied that any proof existed for the view that man's instincts lead to war.

"Not only is the inevitability of war unsound psychology; it is also a handicap to peace efforts. A person who accepts this belief will ignore practical avenues for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

"To those who believe that man's 'aggressive instincts' cause a war, let us ask this question: Whose aggressive instincts? Those of the men who fight the war, or those whose acts lead into the war? There is a confusion of thinking here for many people. Only superficially is a war like two men fighting. When two men get into a personal fight, each knows why he is fighting and has the alternative of not fighting if the stakes are not worth his efforts. In case of war, on the other hand, the psychologist sees people fighting who are (for the most part) prevented from knowing the real reason for the war, and are instead artificially motivated by propaganda composed (as we now know) in many cases of utter falsehoods.

"Even if wars were like individual conflicts, the psychologist might

still ask the question: Does society tolerate the settling of individual disputes by fighting? It does not. Human beings have accepted courts of law in place of the primitive 'eye for an eye.' No one frets because his impulses to fight over property, differences of opinion, and such matters, are suppressed. Nor is any harm done to individuals by this interference. Then why should we say that because of human nature, nations must fight? Psychologists see the possibilities of adequate techniques which can and should be established to keep the world at peace.

"From any viewpoint, the damages of war are tremendous. We, as psychologists, note particularly the great increase in numbers of mental breakdowns, the ruin of many personalities through shocks and strains, the irremediable harm done to those who are mangled and disfigured, the devastation of economic depressions which follow war—these alone are sufficient, we think, to overbalance any conceivable benefits from war.

"But we must add to these the great loss of human values, the destruction of our moral standards, which are an inevitable part of war.

"We spend years teaching our children the sanctity of human life, the rights of other people to freedom of action, possession of property, etc. We punish violators severely. But, as soon as war is declared, we tell young men to kill, maim and hurt other men; to destroy homes and lay waste cities; to bomb and gas women and children. Such actions inevitably leave their marks upon the character of these men. Indeed, we know from the post-war years that such damage to personalities was done, and that it can never be completely undone.

"War is not inevitable, psychologically. It is not part of human nature. It is fought by men who often do not know why they are fighting, doing things which are repulsive to them but which they have been told they must do. It can be prevented. If we learn how to discount the propaganda of war-makers and how to insist upon the peaceable adjustment of international conflicts (as we have upon the peaceable adjustment of individual conflicts), there is no psychological reason for wars to continue.

"This statement is issued by the Council of Directors of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a national organization of psychologists formed for the pur-

pose of studying social problems and spreading psychologically correct interpretations of them. It is specifically emphasized that this is the statement of the entire Council."

\* \* \*

Please comment on the charge frequently made that the Soviet Union frequently gets confessions from prisoners and witnesses through the use of hypnosis, sweatbaths, torture and drugs from Tibet that destroy will-power.

It's rubbish. Walter Duranty, Moscow correspondent of *The New York Times*, in the February 14, 1938, issue of that newspaper denies that the authorities in the Soviet Union resort to torture or any other form of violence against the individuals in their control. This reporter, who is undoubtedly the greatest student of Russian affairs among the foreign correspondents stationed there, writes:

"The Russians know that information extracted under pressure frequently is not worth anything and their investigators nowadays are a sort of combination of psychoanalyst and father confessor. With infinite patience they draw the story from the prisoner bit by bit until the whole tale is told. Don't you remember how Karl Radek during his trial a year ago boasted he had 'tortured' an investigator by refusing to speak for three long months until he finally discovered that others had been less stoical?"

\* \* \*

Please write your opinion of sweepstakes, lotteries and contests in general.

Like Gene Autry, the singing giddyap boy, I've been serving my public heroically, but in my case they're slow in finding out about it, for the numerous pieces I've written warning the people against these get-rich-in-a-hurry schemes don't pan out—for the people who pay \$2.50 for a lottery ticket or who rush into a contest in the hopes of grabbing \$50,000.

Eric Bender has written a useful little book (published by Modern Age, N.Y.C.), entitled "Tickets to Fortune," in which he takes up all these rags-to-riches projects, and on page after page you will find him making the same points I've been stressing these many years, only he does the job in a more connected way and brings a greater volume of data to bear on his utterances. Let's hope

that Mr. Bender succeeds where I failed.

In the matter of contests, Mr. Bender says (as a child should know) that the chances are very slim indeed, even when they're run honestly, which isn't always the case. Many of these contests are run by people who arrange in advance to have insiders carry off the prizes. Only the other month I wrote a long piece in which I explained how Father Cox's prize contest in Pittsburgh, Pa., for \$25,000, ended up with a few \$50 prizes going to the innocent public, but all of the big ones being handed out to insiders or persons related to the promoters. In Father Cox's case, let me add, the law finally caught up with him, and as I write he's awaiting trial in federal court.

Even when a sweepstakes is run honestly—which is a rarity—the odds against winning even a small prize are 4,000 to one, while the chances of winning a big prize are only one in 390,000, but when they're crooked, as most of them are, the odds go easily to one in a billion. Mr. Bender, in a few words, characterizes the lottery racket, saying that to buy a lottery ticket for \$2.50 is, in terms of dollars and cents, the equivalent of "buying for \$1,000, sight unseen, a 1927 automobile at the moment in an outdoor parking lot in Peru. At the same time it must be admitted that perhaps the former owner *did* leave a million-dollar pearl necklace behind the upholstery."

Thus, having finished my heroic giddyap act, I sit back to await the financial report on the next Irish sweepstakes, which, I'm almost positive, will reach a new high. It's like spitting in the ocean.

\* \* \*

Do you subscribe to the Communist doctrine and are you working for its advancement in the U.S.?

No, I'm not a Communist, as readers who have followed my writings know. I have written many columns explaining why I reject Communism, politically and economically, but I insist at the same time that nothing but the truth shall be told about many of the wonderful things that are happening in the Soviet Union. I refuse to join in the chorus of Red-baiting and lying about the U.S.S.R. Many people have the notion that my

mere desire to tell nothing but the truth about Russia is tantamount to declaring myself a Communist. I reject Communism on two points. First, I don't believe in dictatorship, though on this point I must add that Russia is making steady, if slow, progress in the direction of Democracy. Secondly, I don't believe in the nationalization of every form of economic, industrial and business activity. As my readers know—and this can be verified in my 13 volumes of questions and answers—I always insist that the solution for our economic distress isn't the socialization of every establishment, but only the large-scale industries, the monopolies, the near-monopolies, the chain stores, the systems of communication, transportation, banking, and the like. I have always been consistent in insisting that it is foolish, inadequate, wasteful and fruitless to inaugurate a social policy of nationalization of every form of business, large and small, be it a railroad or a peanut stand. I believe Russia is making a mistake in insisting on controlling and owning every form of commerce—down to the sale of a 5c pair of shoestrings. But that doesn't alter the fact that I feel a deep sense of friendship for the Soviet Union and hope to see it let alone as it goes about the glorious task of building the foundations of a new civilization.

\* \* \*

I would like to develop into a writer of lyrics. I have received a letter from a St. Louis firm which advertises for song lyrics. I am told a fortune can be made this way. Please advise if I should pay the heavy fees. I want a personal reply for enclosed dollar.

My advice is to have nothing to do with this outfit which advertises for lyrics. Recently, a representative of the St. Louis Better Business Bureau sent the advertising firm a "lyric" which the entire office worked on in order to make sure it was rotten enough. Given the title "Little Black Sambo" the lyric was sent to the advertiser. A few days later he received a letter from the company informing him that he was gifted, that he showed genuine promise, that his lyric would be a great success if set to music—which the advertiser was ready to do for a stiff fee. He was told that his "song hit" would make him rich. That goes to show what

the company was after. It didn't want lyrics but merely the chance to jot down a few notes for some poor sucker and collect a lot of money from him. The "song" would be so much waste paper, the author of the words would be out so much money, and the company would be encouraged to look for other budding "geniuses."

\* \* \*

I was highly pleased to read James Whitcomb Riley's masterpiece "The Passing of the Out House," in an old issue of *The Freeman*. His description of the excitement that accompanied grandpa's morning calls at the venerable establishment reminds me of the story of how one blew up when attended by an old duffer. Do you happen to know the one I mean?

Smoke-house humor is almost limitless. I know some of the classics of this Chic Sale school of literature, but the only one that deals with an explosion goes this way:

It seems that a certain cautious house-wife bought a gallon of naphtha to use in her Spring house-cleaning and found about half the naphtha on hand when she finished her work. Afraid to leave the stuff in the house and risk a fire or explosion, she took it out back and poured it down a hole in the privy. Her old man had occasion to go out back a few minutes later. He settled on one of the holes, filled his pipe, lit it and prepared to enjoy himself. He lifted the lid from the next hole and dropped the match he had lit his pipe with, down the hole. Instantly there was a terrible explosion, the sides of the Johnny were blown out and the old man was blown bodily into a manure pile 50 feet away. The neighbors dug the old man out of the manure heap and examined him for broken bones or other injuries. Except for being dazed the old man seemed to be quite all right. And then some one asked him how it all happened.

"I dunno," said the old man, "it musta been somethin' I et'."

\* \* \*

Do you believe that he laughs best who laughs last?

I don't know. I can never wait that long.

\* \* \*

I want a personal reply to my question. I am nervous, self-conscious and rather unsocial. I answered an advertisement in *Physical Culture*, inserted by C. Franklin Leavitt, M.D., who gives a



treatment by mail for troubles such as mine. I hope you will give my question as to the treatment's value your serious and careful attention as it is a big problem with me.

The so-called treatments of Leavitt are of no real, scientific value. This clever mail order promoter advertises for inquiries and then sends each inquirer a "questionnaire," from which Leavitt, or his large office staff, is supposed to be able to "analyze" one's physical, mental, emotional and psychological troubles, and apply appropriate remedies. The diagnosis and cure are impossible under such conditions. A great mass of form letters are used, which are supposed to apply to the individual's mental and emotional difficulties, but the fact of the matter is the whole business is run on a mass-production basis, the "answers" being rushed out to every Tom, Dick and Harry who happens to have the substantial sums of money needed to pay for this nonsense. For \$12 per month (paid for eight months), a nice, hefty piece of money, the nervous fool accepts a nice, friendly, uplifting letter each five days, which, to my notion, makes this outfit the most expensive correspondence club in the world. If the fool can't pay \$12 per month for Leavitt's nice, friendly letters, he can come in under another plan—\$3 per month, for eight months, without the sick fool having the privilege of writing letters in reply to Leavitt's. In this case the fool keeps quiet and lets Leavitt do all the talking in his nice, friendly, weekly letter. Such an enterprise is perfectly legal, but that doesn't make it scientifically practicable. Neurotics who are in need of the services of a good psychiatrist or neurologist can't get anywhere by having someone write them a series of letters, even though the letters urge the poor victim to pep up, smile, look on the brighter side, quit feeling inferior, demand recognition from the world, and go about impressing people with one's importance and powers. It's an odd, peculiar business that works in this odd, peculiar civilization of ours. And if one warns a friend against such idiocy one is put down as a knocker and a destructionist. Well, I'll take the abuse and advise my friends against such inadequate "treatments" and high-

sounding bunk. The above question was answered by personal mail because the reader sent the usual dollar fee for such service. New readers seem to have the impression that I charge a dollar for each question answered in *The Freeman*. This is an error which I want to correct. Questions intended to be answered in the columns of *The Freeman* are handled free of charge. It's only when the reader wants a personal, confidential letter that I expect to be paid my usual fee. The identity of one who asks a personal, intimate question is always kept confidential. By the way, let me state that many new readers are asking questions which aren't being handled in *The Freeman* because they aren't of general interest. I receive more than 500 questions per month and can find room for only a hundred or thereabouts. This means I must select my material with a view to satisfying the largest possible number of readers. Of course, no answers are made by personal mail under any circumstances if the usual fee is not enclosed. If unable to answer a question accompanied by the dollar fee I make a refund in the form of trade coupons, which are good for anything issued by this plant. Persons who want personal replies must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope as well as the usual fee. Take, for example, the above question, which was accompanied by a remittance. He certainly got advice worth many times the sum expended. I pride myself on the fact that many of my answers save my readers up into the hundreds of dollars. In fact, I know of a case in which my advice saved a *Freeman* reader more than \$100,000 because he was about to sell his estate, turn everything into cash and move to New York where he wanted to play the stock market. I got him to desist and put his spare money into his farm, where he is now happily engaged. A few months after I gave him my advice to stay out of Wall Street, the stock exchange blew up with a bang and billions of dollars belonging to small and large investors went down the rat-hole. That was the best dollar he ever spent.

\* \* \*

I notice that you use the word "racket" in connection with cancer quackery. In what sense do you use it?

I use it as defined in Webster's

New International Dictionary, as follows:

**Racket:** Slang. A scheme, dodge, trick, or the like; something taking place considered as exciting, trying, unusual, or the like; also, such occurrence considered as an ordeal; as, to work a racket; to stand upon the racket.

\* \* \*

Do you agree with a lecturer's statement that what the world needs is the acquisition of more knowledge?

I don't think it's more knowledge we need so much as the fuller use of the knowledge we already have.

\* \* \*

Please advise me regarding the physical culture correspondence course advertised by Charles Atlas, Ltd., N.Y.C.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a complaint against Charles Atlas, Ltd., alleging use of unfair methods and misrepresentation in its advertising. The complaint says:

Certain advertisements of the respondent company appearing in newspapers, magazines and in its pamphlet entitled "Everlasting Strength and Health" are misleading and deceptive, in that the company falsely represents that use of its instructions and the practice of the physical exercises comprising the course will in all cases build big, powerful muscles; give vitality and strength to the system; banish constipation, poor digestion, pimples and other diseases and imperfections; build a new body and make a new man, and transform the pupil, regardless of age or condition, into a person of superb strength and physical appearance.

Use of the respondent company's course and exercise will not accomplish the results as represented in the advertisements.

The above informative paragraphs, like the data released by the FTC dealing with the Diesel Power-United Engineering Schools, deserve space in the press, but the average newspaper and magazine prefers to ignore such material. Why? Surely the facts are newsworthy. Can it be that fear of offending a heavy advertiser has something to do with the press' systematic and consistent policy of ignoring important actions reported by the FTC? Such incidents, I insist, emphasize the need for a free, unsubsidized, independent press. Every lover of truth should take this lesson

to heart and devote some time to helping build up a powerful, free-speaking press.

\* \* \*

Are you familiar with the so-called "contact glasses" and how come that they are not popular yet?

With thousands of new readers added to the subscription list of The Freeman during the past few months, a situation has arisen as a result of this influx in which new readers ask numerous questions already answered in previous issues. This creates a difficult problem, for it isn't always possible to refer an individual to the 13 volumes of my questions and answers, where all my material is reprinted, added to which is a comprehensive index. It isn't fair to my older readers to repeat questions and answers already handled in these columns, especially since the pieces are available in the volumes just mentioned. The above question, about contact glasses, was answered months ago, in a thorough article, so I don't feel justified in repeating it. The remedy is for new readers to cover the ground with us by arranging to have available a set of the reprints. It isn't that I'm trying to make a sale—though I've no prejudice against such a happy incident—but I want to work out a routine so that new readers can come in in increasing thousands (including their numerous questions) without making me give valuable space to views already elucidated.

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Please comment on Franco's decree against divorce.

General Franco, leader of the Catholic-Fascist rebels in Spain, decreed early in March, 1938, the annulment of the Republic's law, passed in 1932, permitting divorce. This is only one more proof of the tie-up between the Fascists and the Vatican in Spain. The Roman Catholic Church always supports Fascism, whenever the totalitarian State is willing to give the Church special privileges, particularly in education and censorship of thought and expression. Franco is merely repeating what the dictatorships of Italy and Poland have already done. Of course, Franco's decree can apply only to the part of Spain his armed forces are holding. The rest of Spain—which is controlled by the enlightened, liberal, pro-

gressive Loyalists—permits divorce, a policy which it may be said to have taken over from the U.S., where the Constitution insists on keeping Church and State separate, thereby refusing to write Catholic dogmas into law. Loyalist Spain, like the U.S., says the Catholic Church has a right to oppose divorce and that Catholic communicants may accept or reject such ideas, but those who are outside the authority of the Catholic Church also have rights, and if they believe in divorce, under certain conditions, they certainly have a right to the benefits of that decent, humane institution. Divorce isn't an evil in itself; it's a remedy for evil situations in marriage. When a husband and wife finally see and agree that life together is miserable and degrading, they should have the right to dissolve their union, should they want to exercise that prerogative. The Catholic Church can't assert its authority in a liberal-minded democracy, therefore most of the modern world goes its way and recognizes divorce as a necessary cure for serious physical and emotional misalliances. The Church throws its support to men of the caliber of General Franco—a Catholic-Fascist—because he, like Mussolini, stands ready to deliver to the priests the institutions of education, persecution of heterodox thinkers, and denial of the right to divorce. The thinking world sees what's going on. It knows that every advance for Catholicism means a step backward for the world in general. A step away from Catholic authority means a step in the direction of progress and humanitarianism. Loyalist Spain knows that when it's fighting the Fascists it's also compelled to meet the opposition of the priesthood. The liberalistic world is learning to appreciate the same fact. The Catholic Church is always on the side of reaction. It always strives for the return of Medievalism. It is the world's most stubborn enemy. Fascism is only one of its numerous weapons.

\* \* \*

Can you supply me with some sort of an anecdote, preferably humorous, which will show how education can be of help in a practical sense?

I'm reminded of the society lady who decided to hire a new butler.

When a presentable applicant appeared before her she decided he was pretty good, but wondered how he would look in slippers, silk stockings and knee pants. So she explained her desire for information to the young buck and asked him to pull up his pants a little so she could see his ankles. He did, and the lady decided they were quite acceptable. Then, wanting to know how he would look in silk stockings, she asked him to exhibit his calves, which the would-be butler did, and to her complete satisfaction. Then she told him he mustn't be knock-kneed, otherwise the effect of the knee pants would be terrible, so he responded to her request by showing the lady what kind of knees he had. "So far so good," said the society dame; "now please show me your testimonials." If that young man had been educated just a little more he wouldn't have done the wrong thing at that critical moment, and as a result of his lamentable ignorance he didn't land that job.

\* \* \*

Father Coughlin, in one of his broadcasts, claimed that religion is necessary in order to promote charity and that the decline of religion would mean the decline of charity. Please comment.

The argument is an aged one, and the only fault I can find with it is that it isn't true. During the past 100 years religion has been declining all over the world, and yet we find that the feeling for mutual aid, for philanthropy, humanitarianism and collective friendship is growing, except in the Fascist countries, where the Catholic Church is almost invariably in a formal alliance with the forces of reaction and Medievalism. With religious ideology gradually subsiding, what do we find in decent countries like the U.S., Mexico, England, France, Czecho-Slovakia, the Soviet Union, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and elsewhere? We find public morality growing stronger. With a gradual increase in respect for more scientific methods, modern men, less touched by religion, don't go in so much for charity as for social reconstruction. That explains why the modern spirit, with its reliance on natural instead of divine morality, turns to social insurance, old age pensions, scientific centers for the war on disease, unemployment insurance, health insurance, public schools,

public libraries, public hospitals, and the like. The church had its chance, and when it controlled most of Europe it kept humanity in ignorance, filth and disease, and attempted dishonestly and insincerely to cover these social crimes with the pennies of rotten charity. And, by the way, let me add that those pennies were taken from the people, for no one ever heard of a priest using his own money for the purposes of charity. At the most, he offers to serve as an agent—with someone else's money. During the Dark Ages, when the Church was supreme, life was so decadent that the average life-span was only 20 years. Today, with less religion and more humanity, we find that the average life-span is a little more than 60 years, in the more advanced countries. The backward countries—where religion is still a tremendous power—continue to wallow in filth and disease. Humanitarianism functions best in an atmosphere of natural morality, not religious superstition and supernaturalism. In breaking the shackles of the supernatural, man adjusts himself better to the problems of life and wins new battles year after year. The future of the race is bright because the future of religion is dark.

\* \* \*

I hope you have seen the film "Lucrezia Borgia." If not, please do, if possible. I am sure you will be agreeably surprised.

One of the penalties for living in my part of the country is the inability to connect up with foreign films. There isn't a picture house within 50 miles of my office that would dream of presenting a Russian, French or other foreign picture, no matter how fine, in place of one by Gene Autrey, the singing giddyap boy. Of course, I see all of the better American films, for they're bound to be shown somewhere around this section, and if I keep my ears cocked I can catch the announcement, though it may be necessary to drive at least 50 miles to get to the theater. I don't even ask any more about foreign pictures that are reported to have made real impressions in the larger cities, for I've been given to understand, after several futile one-man revolutions, that I might as well ask for caviar and champagne in a hamburger joint as to expect the Rivoli, Cozy, Para-

mount, Fox Midland, the Grand, or the Orpheum to even give thought to a picture that was made in a foreign tongue. During the past few years I've managed to connect up with a few British pictures, two of which were good. Both showed Charles Laughton (one of my favorite actors) in striking roles—Henry the Eighth and Rembrandt. Oh, yes, I recall a pretentious (and only meagerly satisfying) film by H. G. Wells, in which we were shown what the world would be like a century hence. I went away convinced that Wells is better in print than in pictures, despite the oft-quoted dictum of the great Chinese philosopher Dr. Who Flung Dung, to the effect that one picture is worth 10,000 words. I don't believe it.

\* \* \*

Did you enjoy "The Great Broadcast of 1938"?

The fact that W.C. Fields was in this motion picture was enough to make me want to see it. I never had more fun since the pigs ate grandpa. I'm glad he's back again after his long illness. And I hope his health will be good enough to enable him to turn out at least three pictures a year, from now on. By the way, while leaving the theater I met one of my readers—a rare treat for this scribbler, for I don't see readers often, though I hear from them—and she made much of my inaccuracy about picking lint from navels, insisting the problem was nothing more than the chore of scraping dried soap suds from that amusing place. Of course I could have put up an argument and demanded rigid laboratory tests, but I thought it better to agree politely and turn to the international situation.

\* \* \*

Please dash off a few \$4 words on "The Goldwyn Follies."

I enjoyed this picture, even though its "humor" didn't quite go over, its story was short of what one could expect from Ben Hecht, and its music (except the aria from Traviata) didn't impress me. The technicolor was magnificent. The sets were gorgeous. And (here I feel as though I could, with proper inspiration, bust into \$8 words) the dancing of Zorina was the best I've ever seen in a motion picture. She is a fine ballerina, and let me say I looked at her face

just as much as I studied her magnificent legs, for this artist is easy to watch and pleasant to listen to. She can act, too. Good dancing is rarely found in a Hollywood picture. Why, I don't know. I've seen much better dancing in recitals given by cooperative concert societies in Parsons, Chanute, and Independence, Kansas, and in Joplin, Mo. But Zorina, I'm ready to testify, does even better work than I've seen in any of these small communities. Hollywood goes in for highly complicated trick dancing, especially tapping to swing music. I like a little of this sort of thing, especially when it's done by Fred Astaire, but I've been exposed to too much of that sort of stuff and pine for real ballet dancing. This picture gives us almost enough of it, and its beauty left me breathless at times. Another thing I like about this picture's ballets was the way the director kept down the number of dancers to a dozen and a half in the longest and most beautiful ballet—the one in which Zorina comes up through the pond, a lovely fancy. Instead of seeing acres of men and women dancing like so many mechanical dolls, we are shown three or four pairs at a time. That was a happy idea, and shows the influence of the stage, which long ago learned the simple fact that a few beautiful artists are more interesting sights than regiments of men and women hopping around and merely adding to one's confusion. Zorina is on my list of "must" artists. She can get my two-bits anytime her boss shoots a picture out this way. Andrea Leeds was a luscious sight, at times, but she never could get very far because the author hadn't given her much of a bone to gnaw on. She looked quite helpless trying hard to put life into a window dummy. Poor girl, she deserves better treatment. Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen always delight me, but they, like Miss Leeds, didn't have the right kind of diaper-dust bones. All Hecht seemed able to hand them was a couple of ham-bones. Kenny Baker's singing is pleasant, if you like the thin stuff that comes out of romantic tenors, but I'm fed up on such macaroons. I like full-throated singing—the kind one rarely gets in a motion picture. The Ritz Brothers were louder, and

less funny, than ever before. They work themselves to death trying to send their audiences into spasms, but the laughs, the night I saw the picture, were quite fragile. Their bit as mermaids went over, however, bringing three or four round laughs. Helen Jepson did a piece from Traviata, an old threadbare favorite, which I listened to casually for my mind was too busy receiving impressions from my eyes, which were taking in her orb-paralyzing beauty. Now that she has broken from the Metropolitan long enough to show up in a picture let's hope the Hollywood bosses will turn her loose on some real music. I heard Miss Jepson in a recital, in Joplin, Mo., a few years ago, and found her to be an excellent singer and, in addition, a beautiful woman. But, however Mr. Goldwyn crowded his musical, he didn't get very far until he brought on Zorina (especially in the "Water Nymph" ballet), the most exciting and thrilling minutes I've ever spent in 30 years of going to movies. Come again, Zorina; come often. You are the most graceful thing Hollywood has ever filmed. And you can dance with the best.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

Personally, I should like to see your journal grow in its usefulness to mankind. I believe that this can be accomplished. The clamor by the subsidized press for more freedom is a joke. Practically entirely syndicated, definitely owned or controlled by the big interests through the medium of ownership or advertising contracts, it is today the arrogant mouthpiece of the overprivileged. It has virtually gained control over all communication systems; particularly the radio. We have two papers here in Memphis owned by Scripps-Howard. They control three systems, viz, two on the National and one on the Columbia network. The independent station here has no outside hook-up. This is just a sample of what is going on all over the country.

Memphis, Tenn.

G. H. BANKS

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Editor, The American Freeman:

A few minutes ago I read, in the January, 1938, Freeman, about your disgust in connection with wine. May I, as one who grew up near the promontories of the Transylvanian Alps where fine wine grows, give you a few pointers. By wine I mean the unsweetened, fermented juice of grapes, known in this

country as "dry wines." California Fruit Industries markets the following: Burgundy, Sauterne, Riesling, Chables, etc., all dry wines. If you chill any of these and mix them just before drinking two parts wine and one part seltzer or sparkling water, you'll have a wholesome, fine drink, that "sits" well with any meat dish. As to the cost, they are a far cry from the prices you mention. They sell here in Chicago at \$1.47 per gallon, original package. Of course, once the bottle is opened it should be kept under refrigeration. It is best to draw the gallon jug into four quart bottles. Let me know how you like it. Chicago, Ill. JOHN MARTIN

\* \* \*  
 "Thanks for the dope about screwy sandwiches. I knew of a nut in Chicago who always breakfasted on a cup of coffee and a dill pickle."—Reader.

\* \* \*  
 Editor, The American Freeman:

One thing that strikes me as odd: I have never seen one word in The Freeman regarding an economic program. Is it that you expect your readers to take you for a Socialist, and let that explain everything? Frankly, I have no use for a Socialist as such. I have become well acquainted with them as a class in this town, and every single one of them straddles.

Mayor Hoan himself in the last election said, "I don't want the Communist vote," just in order to get a few more votes from the silk-stocking element on the East side. To be sure, he knew the Communists would vote for him anyhow.

Furthermore, I think the Socialist program is fundamentally unsound. When they talk of nationalizing the banks and of a "fair profit for the farmer" they are just plain bugs.

Milwaukee, Wis. W. E. GOTT

(Editor's note: I don't know how long this reader has been following my writings, but if he's been reading after me very long and didn't get an idea of any sort of an economic program, he must be suffering from weak eyes. If he'll refer to my 13 volumes of questions and answers he'll find enough economic philosophy to keep him in sound (and crackpot) theories to last the world for at least a generation. This complaint strikes me as peculiar because it happens that I've lost, during the past few years, at least a thousand readers because they didn't agree with my views on economics. I get hit for having an economic program and then get hit for not having one. I'm reminded of the husband in this town (I don't consider him at all typical) who announced: "I'm goin' home to see if my old woman cooked my dinner, if

she didn't I'll give her hell, and if she did I won't eat a bite.")

\* \* \*  
 Editor, The American Freeman:

Because of your interest in Russia, I have decided to write you a condensed account of living conditions observed in Moscow and Leningrad during my recent Russian tour, confining my remarks to these cities.

Streets clean. Best hotels entirely comfortable; good service; poor food. Many horse-drawn vehicles; many trucks; few autos; exceedingly few bicycles. Frequent pictures of Stalin. Huge posters denouncing Trotskyists. Show windows unattractive; many empty. People in line before some food stores. Large department store full of inexpensive merchandise; many women shoppers; prices seemed high in comparison to ordinary worker's income.

No more beggars, drunks or ragged adults than in other European cities. No evidence of malnutrition. Few beards; most men clean-shaven. Many babies carried; baby carriages rare. Few peasants seen on streets; usually with unkept hair and beards, and poorly clothed, as in country. Saw young American tourist arrested for taking picture of ragged peasant. Told he was not released for two hours.

Magnificent subway, costing much more than necessary; many monumental public buildings; others going up in Moscow. But I was forced to the conclusion this extravagance was for political effect and at expense of the workers, because in Moscow at least two-thirds and in Leningrad nearly all buildings were shabby and in urgent need of many repairs; also greatly overcrowded.

No classless society yet. Government control of all business has created an enormous army of bureaucrats, who constitute a distinct, new upper class. The top-most men have handsome summer homes and private cars on trains. Below them important officials travel first-class on trains, live in the best hotels, wear good clothes, and have relatively good food and living quarters. The exceptionally skilled rapid workers, few in number, have good incomes, but the great masses of workers travel "hard" on trains, wear cheapest clothing, eat poor food, and live in over-crowded tenements that have few conveniences. If they conform they are secure in their jobs, but they cannot strike or even organize to achieve a change in the personnel of government. I saw a typical worker's funeral—coffin on one-horse wagon, with mourners walking behind. As seen in other eastern cities, prosperous-looking women were on the sidewalks while poor women swept up the

droppings of horses. I was told by an American officer attached to our embassy that the slum districts in Moscow and Leningrad are the worst he had seen, but that tourists not permitted to see them. I was unable to verify this; he may have exaggerated.

Helsingfors, Finland, is the only foreign city with which worth-while comparison can be made because it's the only city in the same latitude, has a similar physical environment, and has had to contend with similar obstacles to progress. It was Russian until 1918. Helsingfors suffered severely from a bloody civil war and complete dislocation of business due to the loss of the then vitally important Russian trade for a term of years. It was further handicapped by having to assist in the support of the Finnish standing army which is actually larger in proportion to population than the huge Russian army, sacrifices for which are claimed to be mainly responsible for the slow Russian progress. Yet Helsingfors has become the most attractive city of its size that I have seen.

It has fine, new public buildings, greater in number (in proportion to population) than in the Russian cities. I saw numerous private autos and at least 15 times as many bicycles (the luxury of the poor European) as I saw in Leningrad, for instance, although the latter city has about 10 times larger population. Down-town streets were thronged with prosperous-looking people and I was told that there was little unemployment. I was unable to verify this, but met no evidence to the contrary.

To all appearances, formerly Russian Helsingfors has made far greater progress since 1918 under an individualist economy than either Moscow or Leningrad under collectivism, although Finland is poorer in natural resources than Russia. The Finnish government is democratic except that Communist propaganda is prohibited, an aftermath of the bloody civil war.

Oak Park, Illinois B. P. HORTON

Fred Majors, Kansas City, Mo., cook in a hamburger joint, reports one of his customers once ate "16 hamburgers, a steak sandwich, a bottle of grape pop and a piece of pie."

The Contest News, February 15, 1938, devotes considerable space to the \$25,000 contest run by Father James R. Cox, of Pittsburgh. After reviewing some of the amazing features of this sensational racket, the article says:

"National Contest Headquarters did not like the contest from the

day it was announced. Our distaste for it was emphatically justified. We gave it no publicity. But E. Haldeman-Julius, in his American Freeman, published at Girard, Kans., forecast what would happen with uncanny accuracy long before the contest closed."

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Editor, The American Freeman:

The February 14, 1938, issue of the Salt Lake Telegram contains a news story which at least may be classed in some measure as Hudibrastic burlesque. Prophecies are one of the toe-holds practiced in the ring maneuvers of the L.D.S. (Lay Down Something) faith. And this Latter Day Saints' Apostle Melvin J. Ballard is one of the Big Shots who addresses his vaporings—with ex-cathedra finality—to the inspired lunk-heads who bend their ears to such mock heroic bathos. Yes, the elevated Lord Deacon is adorned with all the snangled livery of his order a la high mucky-muck and delivers his coxcomical stuff with satisfaction and personal starch! To think one would have the temerity in this age to say: "It is necessary for the countries to again become involved in another world conflict in order that the word of the Bible might come true," profoundly is true as the mythical Oedipus complex.

At Ogden, Utah, (in the very heart of Mormonism) a Jesuit missionary declared from the pulpit in sepulchral accents: "There is a Hell. The very fact that no one ever was able to prove there is no Hell, distinctly proves there is a Hell." It was published verbatim the following evening in the Ogden Standard. Why can't some uninspired non-deacon start a non-church affiliated political party to combat the organized religious minority of this country? The Freeman could win immortal lustre in such a move. It would be a means to pass laws to tax church institutions and eventually drive them from corrupt power now so firmly entrenched.

READER

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"Our Sunday Visitor," the largest Catholic periodical in America, is spreading more diaper-dust about my publications and continuing its campaign of organized pressure on publishers of prominent magazines who accept my advertising. The issue dated February 19, 1938, contains a letter from the Rev. Father William A. Kelly, St. Andrew's Church, Nelsonville, O., as follows:

After reading your comment regarding the advertisements of the Haldeman-Julius Co. in some of our leading magazines I protested to the Editor of "News-Week" in which



magazine a similar ad appeared.

It was the first time that I saw this ad in News-Week and the Business Manager in reply to my letter promises it will be the last. He remarked that in the case of this particular advertisement, the order was accepted before the present management came to the paper . . . and none in New York saw the copy for the ad it having been sent direct to the printing company at Dayton, Ohio.

Congratulations to OUR SUNDAY VISITOR for being "on its toes" and being a Leader to our people in the cause of Catholic Action.

I know for a fact that News-Week's first statement—that the advertisement was accepted before the present management came to the paper—is false. The second statement—that the copy wasn't sent to New York but to the printing company at Dayton, Ohio—is also false. No printer who merely has a contract to print a magazine would dream of assuming responsibility to the extent of inserting a page advertisement without authority from the publisher's office. The manager of News-Week, it's obvious, is lying grossly in order to toady to the Catholic hierarchy, which is ever ready to strike unfair blows at the precious institution of free press. Unable to crush my publications through legal action, the Catholic tools of Fascism would gain their medieval ends through a threatened boycott against publishers who dared defy their challenges and ran advertisements which have every right to appear in their columns. The manager of News-Week lyingly repudiates my advertising on the assumption that he has more to gain by kissing the big toes and picking lint from the belly-buttons of obese priests than in lending his support to the blood-bought, constitutional right of a press that's free of censorship.

The same issue which contained the above letter also ran a communication from an Osawatomi, Kans., reader who signed himself "A Friend," as follows:

The Chicago Tribune and other magazines you mentioned are not the only advertisers of E. Haldeman-Julius publications. Feb. issue of Harper's and Jan. 29, 1938, issue of Literary Digest offended also. Please keep up the good fight against subversive literature. Keep the pages of O.S.V. hot with denunciation and exposes of sexy, biased, un-American, anti-Catholic and adulterous so-called literature.

The above, and other utterances in "Our Sunday Visitor," prove conclusive-

ly that an organized attempt is being made to cripple or perhaps suppress my publications. I'm sure that liberty-loving, liberal, progressive, humanitarian, enlightened Freeman readers will know what to do in such a crisis. As for myself, I intend to continue fighting with my vigor, for I don't relish the idea of surrendering my constitutional rights to a band of bigots and inquisitorial suppressionists. I've been in this struggle too many years to begin thinking of quitting at this late day. I have fought many battles in the past—and always won—and I intend to stand by my colors now, secure in the knowledge that my readers will support me. I'm not alone in this struggle for free thought and free speech. Freeman readers can be counted on to give me their moral backing. And that counts for a lot. With their encouragement and endorsement I feel able to meet the remnants of the Dark Ages and whip them once more—not with violence and bigotry but with the white light of truth. "Catholic Action" means censorship and suppression. Freethought means freedom of conscience. The issue is clear.

Since writing the above I have heard from the president of the advertising agency which handles my account. His statement shows clearly that News-Week lied disgracefully when it told Father (of what?) Kelly that the order wasn't handled through his New York office. Here are the exact words which the agency head wrote:

The order authorizing insertion of your full page advertisement in the January 24th issue of News-Week was mailed to 1270 Sixth Ave., New York, and copy for the advertisement was enclosed with the order. I enclose a proof of the advertisement bearing the imprint "Proof From News-Week, 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York."

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I have just finished reading the full text of Hitler's speech of Sunday, February 20, 1938. It bears all the marks of having been written by a number of people with overlapping and even divergent views and then (without editing to reduce its unseemingly length) being hastily put into the mouth of the megalomaniac who was only too glad to exhibit himself in its deliverance. There seems to be the hope that by the application of his fanatical personality, if by no other means, the staggering German cause will be bolstered and the world impressed. The attitude toward Soviet Russia is, of course, as crazily contrary to what one might ex-

pect of any reasonable person acquainted with historic facts of the last two decades as it is possible to imagine. Consider only the appalling lack of realism of one who can say, "I believe that even the most complete victory of Japan (over China) would be infinitely less dangerous for the culture and general peace of the world than a victorious Bolshevism would be!"

However, the speech contained a lengthy and impressive citation of statistics showing steady economic advances. Conspicuous by their absence, however, were figures on production of food and other necessities for comfortable living; the advances are notably in minerals and manufactured goods indispensable to war. Also notably lacking, though plenty of other so-called cultural improvements were called to attention, were figures on the condition of the schools and universities.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

Editor, The American Freeman:

As a rule, I agree with you; and in such cases where there is disagreement, they are minor or trivial. But in the April, 1938, issue of The American Freeman, you make a statement to which I take violent exception. You speak of the Communist organizations in Western lands as "innocuous, futile, semi-conscious organizations."

At a meeting of the former American League Against War and Fascism, some individual asked the speaker, Dr. Harry F. Ward, if the league was a Communist "innocent organization." ["Innocent" means a blind for Communist activity—Editor.] Ward replied, in effect: The league is not a Communist organization, but the greatest organizers and fighters in the league are Communists; therefore, if members do not wish to have the Communists dominate the organization, or to appear to dominate it, then let every member work with the same enthusiasm.

One single Communist in any organization seems to make the members of that organization tremble in their boots. Several weeks ago, I attended a Lenin memorial meeting, where a certain Carl Hacker, an organizer of restaurant employees, and president of a restaurant union, spoke on the significance of Lenin and his teachings. For one solid week the Pittsburgh newspapers yelled about this discovery that a Communist was connected with the American Federation of Labor, with the result that Hacker was ousted from his position as president of his local union, and his place was filled by a Mr. Bookjohns, with whom I am acquainted, and know to be a member of the weak-kneed Socialist party! Do I have to tell you that

the newspapers were satisfied with the Socialist?

I got a healthy satisfaction in reading Heywood Broun's remark that if he could have his way he would see to it that one Communist was planted in every organization so that it would get pepped up and not fall asleep. Exactly! I am not a member of the Communist party, but I confess that my heart pumps a little faster when I see the enthusiasm which the members of this party can engender. I don't think I exaggerate in saying that the old radical fire which Debs, London, Haywood, Goldman, Haldeman-Julius, Upton Sinclair and others kept burning for years, is now being fanned by the Communists. Certainly these Communists have made blunders, but so have the others I have named—unless perhaps they were blessed with the infallibility of the Pope.

Well, I won't argue this question at any length with you. I'll just say that if the Communist party seems innocuous and futile to you, many of the labor leaders and Socialists strike me that way. I can get along with the Communists but William Green's puss makes me vomit. I think The Daily Worker a pretty decent job, considering the adverse circumstances under which its editors labor, whereas editions of The New Leader should be forwarded to Soviet Russia for toilet paper, the lack of which so many Socialist enemies stress.

Perhaps the Communist party of these United States could make good use of Stalin's personal assistance, but the dilapidated, distorted, jittery and bewildered Socialist party needs the Red Army to put it back on solid feet. There is not one argument that you can throw at the Communists that won't rebound.

I tell you I boil over about these attacks on the Communists. I can see all the Fascists in America smiling and waiting until the Socialists and Liberals weaken themselves by attacking and concentrating their energy on watching Communists, and then sweeping in to establish their ambition—fascist-capitalist-dictatorship.

The old, old blunder—keeping your eyes on the Communists while the Fascists stab you in the back! Well, keep it up; perhaps in the near future I'll be seeing you in Canada or Mexico cursing and plotting against the Fascist government of the good old U.S.

Neville Island, Pa. MELVILLE KRESS

(Editor's note: I certainly endorse my reader's observation that individual Communists in labor organizations and political bodies are energetic, alert, indefatigable and stimulating. But all

that is beside the point. My comment dealt with Moscow's alleged interest in foreign organizations, and it was my contention that Stalin and Co., pictured so often as international conspirators, refrain from meddling in affairs outside their own borders. I believe the obvious weakness of the Communist vote in this country, the near-starved condition of Communist periodicals like *The Daily Worker* and *The New Masses*, should convince the most skeptical that if Russian gold is being shipped into the U.S., it's being done in ounces, not in tons.)

\* \* \*

"I believe you could make a further noteworthy contribution to the wit and gayety of an otherwise morose world if you would disclose the magic formula, or potent drink or smoke, out of which you manufacture those perfectly side-splitting appellations that are scattered through *The Freeman*. For instance, the recent 'Bishop Beerbelch' and 'Cardinal Bladder dew.' And now comes that eminent Chinese authority on toast, 'Dr. Who Flung Dung'!"—Reader.

\* \* \*

"It seems to me that if Mr. Moses, of Morro Bay, Calif., finds you conservative and dogmatic he must have some very unusual meanings for those terms."—Reader.

\* \* \*

Editor, *The American Freeman*:

I notice that in almost every issue of *The Freeman*, you have featured questions and answers dealing with anti-Semitism. May I suggest that you collect all these into one booklet and make it available at a nominal price?

I need not tell you that race prejudice generally and anti-Semitism in particular is being fomented in this country by all kinds of Fascist organizations. I feel certain that a collection of your questions and answers collected in one little volume would be eagerly purchased by a great many people. I hope you will follow up this suggestion.

N.Y.C.

RABBI MICHAEL ALPER

\* \* \*

Is it true that the deification of Mussolini has gone so far that school children must use his name along with God in their prayers?

When children at school eat their lunch they are compelled to thank God and Mussolini for their grub. An underground story gives us an idea of how many people look on this move to put Il Duce right next to Jehovah. The yarn has it that a father told his little daughter she must always say, after breakfast, "Thank God and Mussolini for my nice breakfast." "Must I, daddy? And after dinner do

I say 'Thank God and Mussolini for my nice dinner?'" the little girl asked. "Yes, dear, and after supper, too." "And what do I say when Mussolini is dead, daddy?" "Oh, then, dear, you say, 'Thank God!'"

\* \* \*

"Both you and Joseph McCabe are top-heavy with intelligence. A few pounds of the Spiritual would do wonders for you. You are too damn smart."

—Chas. H. MacKay, Bridgton, Maine. (Editor's note: I'm willing to have Mr. MacKay wrap up and deliver to my office a pound of the Spiritual. This is the first time I ever heard tell that the Spiritual (which implies the absence of the material) can be weighed and measured, like a chunk of liver.)

\* \* \*

Please rush me a personal letter answering this question. What is your opinion of warehouse whiskey receipts as an investment? I am considering such an investment, but won't take any steps until I hear from you.

I advise this reader—and all others—against whiskey warehouse receipts as an investment. I understand they are now being offered to cover heavy-bodied bourbon whiskey at \$36 per barrel. The whiskey is then left to age for four years.

There is a tremendous over-production of whiskey going on right along, according to government reports, and as the large companies have the best—and practically the only—facilities for reaching the market, their whiskeys get to the consumers while the individuals who are on the outside are left to hold their warehouse receipts and wonder how the stuff will ever reach the market. Later, in order to get action, you will find (if you're lucky) that some broker will offer to move the stuff for you, but brokerage will just about wipe out the values covered in the warehouse receipt.

Try to remember that this whiskey warehouse business isn't being run to make money for outsiders. I have seen reports showing that holders of warehouse whiskey receipts lost immense sums of money. So, take my advice and buy yourself a pint of Canadian Club and take a snifter now and then for the sake of your health, but don't try to make any money out of barrels of the stuff in some warehouse that you've never seen. Besides, Canadian Club belongs to one of the great companies, so

you couldn't buy a warehouse receipt there even if you wanted to. Only the lesser known kinds of whiskey—and most of them aren't known at all—are covered in these warehouse receipts. So, lay off. If you have some money to invest, try to take my advice and put it into a postal savings bank or buy U.S. savings bonds. I've given this advice many times in the past, but I'm compelled to repeat myself when I see people like the reader who asked the above question fiddling around and actually believing they could make a profit on warehouse whiskey receipts. The buyer will be lucky to get back a dime on each dollar he puts up. In fact, I'd say the chances are overwhelmingly in favor of losing every penny "invested." I don't want to sound boastful, but it's my notion that the dollar this reader sent me for a personal reply was a splendid investment, for if he acts on my advice he won't buy any receipts—and that'll mean real money in his pocket.

\* \* \*

I am 23 years old and have decided to be a lawyer. In the first place, am I too old to begin in this profession? If not, what school or schools would you recommend me to attend? I graduated from high school in 1933, and since then have been doing odd jobs, so that I now have about \$700 saved. I would also be able to borrow a like sum from other sources. I am enclosing fee for a personal reply.

You aren't qualified to enter the foremost law schools—like Harvard Law School, etc.—but there's no reason why you shouldn't be able to gain admittance to competently run establishments like Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, or the Kansas City (Mo.) School of Law.

\* \* \*

I have been extremely happily married for over 10 years and my husband is anxious for a son. Will you please explain the ways or methods of pre-determining sex?

Science can't pre-determine sex. A great deal has been written to the effect that it's possible to pre-determine sex, but careful inquiry shows such claims can't be substantiated.

\* \* \*

Is the fundamental motive behind the Fascist anti-Communist bloc material or ideological?

The three great Fascist conspirators—Germany, Italy and Japan—

have, through their insane aggression, inflated nationalism, and rampant militarism, brought their economic structures to the verge of ruin. On the other hand, the Soviet Union, which is committed to a policy of peace, is prospering, with new highs being reached year after year in the fields of production, distribution and construction. If the Soviet Union weren't afraid of the aggressive designs of Fascist hoodlums its economic progress would have been even more impressive. At any rate, despite constant threats of attack from Fascist dictators, Russia has gone steadily ahead tending its garden. Germany, Italy and Japan look enviously at the busy factories and the bumper crops of the Soviet Union. Jealous and avaricious, aching to take by force what they can't produce peacefully because of their rotten systems, the Fascist powers say bluntly they intend to rob the Soviet Union's cabbage patch. On the other hand, the Soviet Union, while continuing its campaign of increased production and accelerated economic progress, warns the three Fascist gangsters to keep their hands off. One false step by these dictators will cause the Soviet workers to rush to the defense of their Fatherland. They know the intentions of their Fascist enemies. They are on guard. The Russian workers have something to fight for.

\* \* \*

If Stalin, Trotsky, Eden, Franco, Hitler and Mussolini were riding on the same street car, what would they be called?

Passengers.

\* \* \*

What's a gadget?

It's anything that's not a whoosit.

\* \* \*

Which industry gives the railroads the most business?

Coal comes first. Second comes oil.

\* \* \*

Please tell me how to create hash?

Hash isn't a creation; it's an accumulation.

\* \* \*

Clyde Whitson, candidate for mayor of my town, Kendalville, Ind., says he ought to get the women's vote because he stands for "soft water in every bathtub." Please comment.

This is the first time I ever saw a politician's soft soap put to good use. I still insist politicians should sup-

ply free rolls of toilet paper, the expense of which could easily be charged to campaign costs through the stratagem of printing vote-catching slogans on each sheet. However, I can warn them in advance that there's one woman in these parts who won't respond to such advances because she's so sanitary she always carries her own private roll.

\* \* \*

**What's your opinion of Pastor Niemoeller's defiance of the Nazis?**

He has what it takes to string a tennis racket—guts.

\* \* \*

German apologists say their country was betrayed by President Wilson, who proposed his reasonable 14 Points before the close of the World War, but when the treaty came to be written he agreed to drop those liberal, humanitarian ideas. Please comment.

I don't intend to defend the Wilsonian ideology, but in the present case I don't see how the Germans can squawk. It's true the 14 Points of Wilson would have made Germany's settlement of accounts much easier, but let's not fail to look at the whole picture. Shortly before the close of the war Germany drew up a separate peace treaty with Russia, which was handled at Brest-Litovsk. In it, Germany, feeling itself the victor, cracked down for all it could get. It took immense slices of Russian territory, a vast indemnity, almost limitless supplies of raw materials—all on paper, of course, for the Allies were still fighting on the Western front. In order to make its treaty hold in the East, Germany had to win in the West, but it was too late. The Allies, despite Russia's defection, were able to whip the Germans. One thing that helped the Allies rally against the Kaiser was the impressive use made of the Brest-Litovsk terms. It was such a terrible picture of what awaited the Allies, should they be defeated, that President Wilson felt compelled to put extra pressure behind America's aid. The U.S. poured millions of men into France and placed billions of dollars at the disposal of its Allies. As a result, the Allies won, and the Brest-Litovsk treaty became just another scrap of paper. It was then that German diplomacy—usually thick-headed—decided to bring up the Wilsonian 14 Points as the basis of a settlement. But the Allies—proper-

ly, it seems to me—said that Germany's behavior at Brest-Litovsk put the 14 Points out of consideration. Germany was told it couldn't grab for boodle when victorious and then cry for a mild settlement when it found itself suffering defeat.

\* \* \*

**Can you explain why the Philippines decided so suddenly to ask the U.S. to cancel independence?**

There are two reasons why President Quezon and other leaders in the Philippines turned from independence to re-inclusion in the U.S., after Congress had voted to let the islands shift for themselves. 1. Being so close to Japan, the Filipino leaders realize the fate of China is only an illustration of what awaits them once their land is cut away from the protection of Washington. 2. The economic problem is pressing, for independence would mean tariff barriers against the Philippines, mainly agricultural. The loss or curtailment of the U.S. market would hurt the islands' economic life. Cancellation of the independence act can only be achieved through our Congress, and it's not certain such a resolution would pass, for there are powerful agricultural interests in this country which want to see us get rid of the islands.

\* \* \*

**What's your stand on the international situation? Are you an isolationist? Do you believe in collective security?**

The above questions, and several others of equal importance, were asked in a questionnaire which The Freeman received from the editors of *The Nation*. Here are the questions and answers:

**Q. In the long run, which offers the better insurance against war for this country— isolation or a policy of cooperation?**

**A. I favor cooperation with other nations in order to insure peace.**

**Q. If you believe in collective action, what sort of commitments do you favor?**

**A. I favor three policies, in the following order: 1. Collaboration (through joint or parallel action), as occasion demands, with the major non-aggressive powers. 2. Join the League of Nations. 3. Act in common with other signatories to the Pact of Paris.**

**Q. What sort of collective action do**

you advocate to check aggression?

A. I favor three policies, in the following order: 1. Use the threat of collective armed resistance to aggression. 2. Use economic measures against the offending power or powers. 3. Give economic support to the victims of aggression.

Q. What is your position with regard to the present Neutrality Act?

A. I look on it as a fraud and a fake. In Spain it works out to the benefit of the Insurgents and their Catholic-Fascist backers. Franco can get all the munitions he wants through Mussolini and Hitler, while the Loyalists are being strangled for the lack of weapons. At the same time we refuse to declare Japan an aggressor in China, so we keep selling munitions to Japan, thus enabling it to slaughter hundreds of thousands of Chinese. The Neutrality Act should be repealed.

Q. Has the failure of the major democratic powers effectively to oppose the aggressions of Germany, Italy, and Japan weakened your belief in the possibility of collective action?

A. No. Collective action is still to be resorted to. Thus far only half-hearted measures have been taken, such as the insincere and limited sanctions against Italy during the Ethiopian war. Had the democratic powers closed the Suez Canal to Italian ships and put an embargo on oil, Mussolini would have been on his knees in a few months. Whole-hearted collective action is the only remedy against Fascist aggression.

Q. Has it [the failure of the major democratic powers to act against aggression] caused you to direct your hopes for such action to non-official groups in all countries—particularly to labor and liberal and pacifist elements in the populations and the parliaments?

A. No. I favor action (including private boycotts against aggressors) through non-official groups, but to be effective they must be tied up with official acts by the great democratic powers. Work among non-official groups is valuable mainly as a means of organized education, which soon could result in strong public opinion for progressive, anti-Fascist policies.

Q. Do you favor the application of voluntary popular boycotts to goods

coming from nations engaged in aggressive warfare?

A. Yes, by all means. Such boycotts may not be able to turn the Fascist imperialists from aggression, but they can, at least, keep the dictators from using money from the people in democratic countries.

Q. By what means do you believe the U.S. should join in or support efforts to reduce the economic causes of friction?

A. I favor four policies, in the following order: 1. Reciprocal trade agreements. 2. Cancellation of war debts to democratic, peaceful countries. 3. Stabilization of currencies of democratic countries. 4. Relaxation of immigration restrictions for the people of democratic countries.

\* \* \*

What would it cost us to build the Nicaraguan Canal? How much would it shorten the trip from New York to San Francisco?

The project would cost \$400,000,000 and would shorten the distance between the two ports mentioned above by 700 miles.

\* \* \*

I notice that you have taken several shots at the isolationists. Please explain why.

Isolation plays right into the hands of the dictators. Mussolini, Hitler and Japanese Fascism couldn't ask for a better break than to lay plans for aggression and be secure in the knowledge that no matter what they do anywhere in the world the U.S. can be counted on to stand aloof. Isolationism should be abandoned for a policy of mutual aid among democratic, non-aggressive powers.

\* \* \*

Should we decide to readmit the Philippines into the U.S., thus cancelling the independence resolution which is to take effect in a few years, what chances would there be of our successfully defending those islands if Japan were to attack them?

It's agreed among most military experts that it's impossible to defend the Philippines.

\* \* \*

If Japan were to attack the U.S. in the Pacific what could the European Fascist governments do to harass our country and thereby help Japanese Fascism?

The logical step for Mussolini and Hitler to take under such circumstances is to stir up trouble among a number of Latin American countries.

There are indications that such adventures are receiving consideration among the Fascist dictators.

\* \* \*

The Augusta (Kans.) Gazette, in its issue of February 22, 1938, says:

"Doc. Brinkley is quarreling with Haldeman-Julius of Girard because Doc isn't buying any more of the blue books on 'Rejuvenation.' Why don't they get together and change the title of the book to 'Lady Killer' or something?"

This was intended to be funny, but satire, to be effective, must be based on truth. The above paragraph is loaded with lies. "Doc" Brinkley isn't the author of my book on Rejuvenation. It was written by Dr. Morris Fishbein, the editor of "The Journal of the American Medical Association, and in it he makes a devastating attack on all forms of rejuvenation quackery. Brinkley would be a fool to distribute this book, and no one has ever thought of calling Brinkley a fool. The reader of the above paragraph gets the false impression that I'm mad because Brinkley isn't paying me any money.

\* \* \*

I was moved by your simple tribute to Clarence Darrow. I have already heard stories to the effect that Darrow's Free-thought ideas were ignored at his funeral, which was held in a chapel. Please comment.

I haven't the slightest doubt that our pious liars will find something in Clarence Darrow's funeral to pin their religious notions. Every Free-thinker of wide renown has been slandered and blackened by the church hypocrites who reach desperately for any straw that might be used to keep their near-drowned bodies from sinking. The lies of religious literature would fill a good-sized library. During the past 25 years I have discussed Ingersoll's supposed death-bed recantation at least two dozen times, for the story persists that Ingersoll, realizing he was to die, begged for the "comforts" of religion and expressed abject fears over the prospect of an eternity in Hell. The fact of his death gives the lie to all this, because there wasn't any death-bed scene, for Ingersoll died suddenly of a heart attack while up and about his business.

In Clarence Darrow's case the only thing they can harp on is the fact that the services were held in a chapel. The record, however, shows

that the chapel is an assembly hall on the University of Chicago's campus, close by Darrow's home. For the sake of the truth, let's report the story of Darrow's funeral, as told by an Associated Press dispatch, which appeared in hundreds of newspapers on March 16, 1938, as follows:

CHICAGO, March 15.—Clarence Darrow's funeral was as he wished. A simple nonreligious service was held today in the Joseph Bond Memorial chapel, a small Gothic structure on the campus of the University of Chicago. There, assorted mankind—young and old, rich and poor, of all creeds—paid last respects to the "attorney for the defense."

It had been agreed between Darrow and his former law associate, Judge William H. Holly, that the one who survived would speak at the other's funeral.

And so Judge Holly stood above the flower-banked bier and extolled his friend as a protagonist of love and pity and a foe of intolerance and cruelty—"even to criminals."

"Clarence Darrow was not a reformer," Judge Holly said, "but he made the way easier for many. He preached not doctrines, but love and pity, the only virtues that can make the world any better."

Darrow's wife did not attend the services. His son, Paul, and a sister, Mrs. Jennie Darrow Moore, followed the hearse to the Oakwood cemetery where the body was cremated—as Darrow wished.

\* \* \*

I notice that you always speak of Father Coughlin as being a Fascist. Does he advocate a totalitarian State in his speeches?

According to a United Press dispatch, Father Charles E. Coughlin, in a radio address delivered on March 13, 1938, came out for a "corporative State" for the U.S. The Fascist then said "all parties would be abolished and each 'class' would have its representative in Congress." Father Coughlin also proposed that "the President be chosen by the House of Representatives rather than through popular election." This is only one more proof of the radio priest's Fascism. My 13 volumes of questions and answers are crammed with data on Father Coughlin, and the evidence shows clearly that this Catholic-Fascist is made of the same stuff as Hitler and Mussolini, and would give



this country a dose of all the horrors of Fascism if he were able to take control of the government. Of course, Father Coughlin uses the word "democracy" now and then, but let's not forget that Hitler, in one of his speeches, said Germany is the greatest democracy in the world!

\* \* \*

**Are the Nazi leaders in the U.S. devoting their efforts only among Germans?**

The German-American Volksbund, the Nazi organization which is being run by Hitler's personal representative, Fritz Kuhn, is out to organize all Fascist sympathizers, regardless of nationality. This is proven by the organization's membership clause, which I quote in full below:

"Membership in this Bund is primarily to all Americans and prospective citizens of Aryan blood, of German extraction and of good reputation. Membership may also be extended to OTHER NATIONAL ELEMENTS filling the requirements of our membership application."

In addition to organizing anti-democratic forces in the U.S., the Bund has announced that its printing plant, the A.V. Publishing Company, headed by Fritz Kuhn, is getting ready to launch four weekly newspapers. These Fascist papers will be located in Boston, Seattle, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City. The evidence shows that Hitler is reaching into the U.S. with the end in view of giving this country the same treatment he accorded Austria. The U.S. isn't safe from Fascism. The danger is real and pressing. All lovers of freedom and progressive civilization must work together to crush this menace to our liberties. The first thing an anti-Fascist can do is to counter Hitler's four new American-Fascist newspapers with material and moral support for those editors who have dedicated themselves to uncompromising war on the ideology of dictatorship.

\* \* \*

**Do you recommend "The Forbidden Books of Moses"?**

This book is sold by the Keystone Service, of Philadelphia, Pa. A mere glance at its sales arguments should convince a child that the appeal is directed to the less educated portion of the population. In fact, its advertising got so rank that the Federal Trade Commission stepped in with a

complaint and compelled the concern to agree to withdraw some of its extreme statements. For example, it won't claim any more than "millions of people consult this book whenever they are considering an important step." The company also agrees to stop claiming that any of these books "provides a simple guide to character reading, makes astrology easy, and enables one to know his future by means of palmistry, and that his charms, amulets, and seals will give one victory over every earthly enemy." In the good, old days advertisers could get away with junk like the above—and even worse—but times are changing. Even when the religious appeal is used as a cloak for patent nonsense there's an inclination to crack down. However, even the FTC wouldn't dare file a complaint against the big racketeers in religion—the priests who claim that they hold the keys to heaven, that they can pray one into an eternity of happiness, and all that rot. The Christian Scientists can go right ahead taking in millions of dollars from sick suckers who believe that "right thinking" can cure a cancer. Organized deception is still pretty safe. It's the individual dispenser of intellectual hog-wash who gets called. By the way, when the Keystone Service got into trouble because of the claim that its book will serve to confound one's enemies, it didn't depend on its book when it had to make a reply to the FTC's allegations. It turned realistic and called in a lawyer.

\* \* \*

**I invite your comments on Barney Baruch's cure for the depression.**

Baruch—one of the shrewdest manipulators among Wall Street's speculators—summed up his dissertation on the economic situation with the dictum that if this country's administration were to tell the people plainly that "America has definitely chosen her traditional profit system, forces would be released that would rapidly hasten recovery and reemployment." Coming from a multimillionaire like Barney Baruch such a notion naturally makes the front pages everywhere, and his superficial words are swallowed without the least effort to examine the label and see what one is taking in. First of all, there's nothing in the policies of

the administration to indicate the slightest rejection of the profit system. The U.S., under F.D.R., is as safely capitalistic as it was in the days of Hoover. I know of no measures that are intended to deprive the economic royalists of their death-hold on our large-scale industries. At the worst, the President is determined to make them obey a few simple, reasonable, humane rules. That doesn't mean he has signed Capitalism's death warrant. Baruch surely knows that in the balmy, sweet, profit-laden days of 1925-29 the U.S. was securely tied to the philosophy of the profit system. Coolidge and Hoover stood as living symbols of the profit system. And yet the assurance that Capitalism's fundamental thesis was accepted as almost divinely sanctioned didn't prevent the country from plunging into the worst depression in its history. The recession of 1938 is only an act in the drama of 1929. The country is still in the clutches of Capitalism's greatest sickness. Doesn't Baruch, with his alleged grasp of economic realities, know that much? And doesn't he know that our recent history shows clearly that acceptance of the profit system is no insurance against panics? If Baruch dug a little deeper he'd learn that depressions are caused by the profit system.

\* \* \*

Please comment on Hitler's complaint against the head of the former Austrian State because he hanged some Nazis instead of shooting them.

The Nazis who were hanged in Austria in 1934 were murderers who had been caught red-handed. Hitler's artistic temperament rebels against such cruelty. At home, he never resorts to hanging. He prefers decapitation.

\* \* \*

Why does Hitler always keep harping on his superior race?

People who boast about their racial superiority are always just a little uneasy about that superiority.

\* \* \*

Did you notice the way Bernard Shaw closed a recent article on the Nazis in Austria with the cry: "Heil Hitler!"?

Yes, but I've come to expect anything from Shaw since he passed into his dotage. Some men (like Joseph McCabe) as they age grow stronger in their intellects and fight harder

for democracy and liberalism, while others (like Shaw) grow reactionary. Shaw, who now kow-tows to Fascism because it's so "strong," should listen to the wise words of Lao-Tse, "Govern a great nation as you would cook a small fish." Meaning, of course, don't overdo it. Shaw also admires Hitler's "energy." He should ponder Goethe's thought, "There is nothing more terrible than energetic ignorance."

\* \* \*

A press report has it that a prominent German spokesman and official, addressing a large audience of well-known American businessmen, asserted that Hitler was "compelled to absorb Austria because the country was ruled by Jews. He added that the Jews who bossed Austria mistreated the Austrians so brutally that 50,000 of them were committing suicide each month. Please comment.

Only a grossly dishonest person would make use of such terrible lies. To begin with, it happens that not a single Jew was a member of the Austrian government before Hitler stole that country and its 7,000,000 inhabitants. How less than 3 percent of the population could persecute 97 percent, especially when the 3 percent had no control over the government, is beyond my powers to comprehend. Also, the figure on suicides is so crooked that it carries the marks of idiocy. Austria's death rate, for a single year (1935), was 92,108, out of 7,000,000 people. If this Nazi propagandist is telling the truth, 600,000 gentile Austrians killed themselves in a single year because of the Jews, which was more than six times the total deaths reported. In other words, almost 10 percent of Austria's total population committed suicide each year, which, being far greater than the birth rate, would have meant the complete annihilation of the Austrian people in about a decade. It's of such stuff that Nazi liars make out their "arguments" against the helpless, persecuted, despoiled Jews. There's nothing that too low for the Brutalitarian mentality.

\* \* \*

How does "Life" compare with "Look" as a means of making mail order sales?

I've already given figures covering my January 4, 1938, page in *Look*, which cost about \$3,700. By April 8, 1938, *Look*, which seems to be a sturdy, long puller, brought in around

\$5,700. The same advertisement ran in the December 6, 1937, issue of *Life*, which cost me around \$3,000. By April 8, it brought in \$3,800. Which is good, but not as good as *Look*. By the way, *Look* didn't raise its rate in 1938, while *Life* boosted its page rate by about \$2,000, which strikes me as being out of line. I suggest that these two mediums not be used more than once or twice each year. While I was more than satisfied with my first insertion in *Look* the second and third pages were grave disappointments. I take the blame on my own shoulders, for I knew better than to run my copy so close together. Such a medium, in my opinion, is worth a page in the early Fall and a second run in late Winter. Taking insertions in *Life* and *Look* on a page for page basis, same copy, and allowing for the difference in rates, I'd say the key sheets show that *Look* is the better buy of the two.

\* \* \*

Kindly comment on the Pope's statement that "Atheism is destroying civilization."

One nice thing about being a Pope is the ease with which one can ignore realities. The Soviet Union, the godless State, for two decades, has been following a policy of peace. It's ready to sign a non-aggression pact with any power, large or small, including Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Brutalitarian Japan. Mussolini, on the other hand, is a Catholic statesman, who, with the blessings of the Catholic Church, sent his murderers into Ethiopia to murder 250,000 helpless, unarmed women, children and old men. That's preserving civilization, eh? General Franco, described by a member of the hierarchy whose name sounds a little like Archbishop Antsinthepants, as "the perfect type of Christian gentleman," uses Italian and German bombers to slaughter hundreds of women and children (most of them Catholics) in Barcelona. That also shows a great passion for civilization. Recently Mussolini, who has Catholic backing because of his concordat with the Vatican, announced that any war he takes a hand in will find his airmen using bombs to terrorize non-combatants. Mussolini, therefore, is another Christian gentleman whose one sacred aim is to preserve civilization. If con-

temporary history means anything, it's the godless ones who are working for peace while the god-worshippers are doing their best to hurl the world into the abyss of militarism.

\* \* \*

I am soon to be married. As I want to make a success of it, please advise if I should turn over to the wife every cent of my salary and let her handle it, including the spending money I'll need from day to day.

It isn't very wise to offer advice about a situation that doesn't exist. There'll be plenty of time to figure out how to handle your financial problem after you get married. Advice shouldn't be offered that's intended to be applied too far in advance of actual conditions. Meet the problem as it comes up. I'm reminded of the husband who was complaining to a friend about his wife's annoying behavior. The friend suggested that the husband meet his problem by adopting the old-fashioned method of administering a sound spanking. "Be sure to spank her good and plenty the next time she makes you mad," was the friend's parting advice. When they met again the husband was asked if the spanking had done the wife any good, to which he replied: "The last time she made me mad I took her in hand, laid her over my knee, and made ready to spank her good and plenty, but by the time I got everything ready I found out I wasn't mad any longer."

\* \* \*

Did Karl Marx ever express an opinion on the status of the colored people?

In his great work, "Capital," Karl Marx wrote:

"Labor in a white skin cannot be free as long as labor in a black skin is branded."

Marx and Engels coined the slogan: "Workers of all countries unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains." Notice that they addressed this slogan to all workers, not to those of a single race.

In a letter to Abraham Lincoln, Karl Marx, who supported the Union in the Civil War, wrote: "From the commencement of the titanic struggle in America, the workingmen of Europe felt instinctively that the Star Spangled Banner carried the destiny of their class."

The Marx-Lincoln correspondence just mentioned is of such great his-

torical importance that I'm moved to quote the letters, first giving Marx's communication, in the name of the International Workingmen's Association, better known as the First International, which then had headquarters in London. The reply from Lincoln came through our ambassador to England. The First International was founded in 1864, when the Civil War was approaching its climax, and one of the first efforts of the organization was to give moral support to the Union's cause and to warn the world's workers against the struggle of the Southern insurgents. Lincoln had just been re-elected to the Presidency when the First International, at Marx's behest, sent the following:

**The International Workingmen's Association**

To Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America  
Sir:

We congratulate the American people upon your re-election by a large majority. If resistance to the slave power was the reserved watchword of your first election, the triumphant war-cry of your re-election is death to slavery.

From the commencement of the titanic American strife, the working men of Europe felt instinctively that the star-spangled banner carried the destiny of their class. The contest of the territories which opened the dire epopee [fateful epoch—Editor], was it not to decide whether the virgin soil of immense tracts should be wedded to the labor of the emigrant or prostituted by the slave-driver?

When an oligarchy of 300,000 slaveholders dared to inscribe for the first time in the annals of the world "slavery" on the banner of armed revolt, when on the very spot where hardly a century ago, the idea of one great democratic republic first sprang up, whence the first Declaration of the Rights of Man was issued, and the first impulse given to the European revolution of the 18th Century; when on this very spot counter-revolution, with systematic thoroughness, gloried in rescinding "the ideas entertained at the time of the formation of the old constitution," and maintained "slavery to be a beneficent institution," indeed, the only solution of the great problem of the relations of capital to labor," and cynically proclaimed property in

man "the cornerstone of the new edifice"—then the working class of Europe understood at once, even before the fanatic partisanship of the upper classes for the Confederate gentry had given its dismal warning, that the slaveholders' rebellion was to sound the tocsin for a general holy crusade of property against labor, and that for the men of labor, not only their hopes for the future, but even their past conquests were at stake in that tremendous conflict on the other side of the Atlantic. Everywhere they bore, therefore, patiently, the hardships imposed on them by the cotton crisis, opposed enthusiastically the pro-slavery intervention—opportunities of their betters—and from most parts of Europe, contributed their quota of blood to the good cause.

While the working men, the true political power of the North, allowed slavery to defile their own republic, while before the Negro, mastered and sold against his will, they boasted it the highest prerogative of the white-skinned laborer to sell himself and choose his own master, they were unable to attain the true freedom of labor, or to support their European brethren in their struggle for emancipation, but this barrier to progress has been swept off by the red sea of Civil War.

The working men of Europe feel sure that, as the American War of Independence initiated a new era of ascendancy for the middle class, so the American anti-slavery war will do for the working classes. They consider it an earnest of the epoch to come that it fell to the lot of Abraham Lincoln, the single-minded son of the working class, to lead the country through the struggle for the rescue of an enchained race and the reconstruction of a social world.

The above letter was delivered to the American embassy to be forwarded to Washington at a time when the tomes of the world were voicing moral (and rendering material) support to the slave-States. On February 2, 1865, the American reply was read to the General Council of the First International. Lincoln's message, through Charles Francis Adams, follows, in full:

Legation of the United States of America.

London, Jan. 28, 1865.

Sir:

I am directed to inform you that

the address of the Central Council of your Association, which was duly transmitted through this legation to the President of the United States of America, has been received by him. So far as the sentiments expressed by it are personal, they are accepted by him with a sincere and anxious desire that he may be able to prove himself not unworthy of the confidence which has been extended to him by his fellow-citizens, and by so many friends of humanity and progress throughout the world.

The Government of the United States of America has a clear consciousness that its policy neither is, nor could be, reactionary; but at the same time it adheres to the course which it adopted at the beginning of abstaining everywhere from propagandism and unlawful intervention. It strives to do equal justice to all States and to all men, and it relies upon the beneficent results of that effort for support at home and for respect and good will throughout the world. Nations do not exist for themselves alone, but to promote the welfare and happiness of mankind by benevolent intercourse and example.

It is in this relation that the United States regard their cause in the present conflict with slavery-maintaining insurgents as the cause of human nature, and they derive new encouragement to persevere from the testimony of the working-men of Europe that the National Alliance is favored with the enlightened approval and earnest sympathies. I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient servant,  
Charles Francis Adams.

\* \* \*

Can you give me Voltaire's words in which he tells when the world may expect peace?

The sentence asked for above is one of Voltaire's most powerful, and, I might add, one of the most forceful lines in all literature. It reads:

"When the last king is hanged by the entrails of the last priest, then shall we have peace on earth."

\* \* \*

I am considering the purchase of an electric washing machine. Please advise regarding best buys. Am enclosing what it takes for a personal reply by return mail, if possible.

Consumers Union reports that it tested 10 models of electric washing machines, using each machine 500 hours, "which is equivalent to about

five years of average use." One machine, the Thor, didn't even stand up for the test, because "a gear in the driving mechanism wore out and had to be replaced twice. After the third gear failed, the machine was dropped from the durability test." The test shows that the machines "which had clutches were started and stopped 6,000 times. Spinners and wringers were operated for a total of 100 hours each. Wringers were started 9,000 times in each direction; spinners were started and stopped 8,000 times. The pumps for removing water with which the spinner-machines were equipped were all operated for at least 50 hours."

The *Easy*, *Thor* and *Maytag* "showed serious corrosion of parts," after operating only 150 hours.

The report then says that the best buys are *General Electric* 3G (General Electric Co., Bridgeport, Conn.), \$129.50; and *Hotpoint* AW-11 (Edison General Electric Appliance Co., Inc., Chicago), \$129.95. With a capacity of 16 gallons, these machines gave an all-around performance that was satisfactory, according to CU.

The report says these machines are also acceptable:

*Watermatic* Model 100 (National Metal Products Co., Waterloo, Iowa), \$99.50. Unusually simple driving mechanism and washing effectiveness excellent.

*Easy* Model 5D (Easy Washing Machine Co., Syracuse, N.Y.), \$159.50. Construction "extremely durable."

*ABC* Model 176 (Altofer Bros. Co., Peoria, Ill.), \$124.50. "Washing effectiveness average. . . It dried clothes satisfactorily, and was particularly convenient and effective for rinsing."

*Universal* Model E 1660 B (Landers, Frary and Clark, New Britain, Conn.), \$129.50. Smallest of all machines tested. Convenient for small families. Washing effectiveness average. "Machine badly worn after 500 hours; performance satisfactory otherwise."

Not acceptable: *Apex* Model 215 (Apex Electric Mfg. Co., Cleveland, Ohio), \$139.50. "Washing effectiveness very poor. . . Agitator worked loose and rubbed in bottom of tub during the durability test. Water

splashed over the sides of the tub in the washing test."

The above machines are without wringers, which is something of real advantage to the consumer, if he can afford to pay the higher prices, because of the element of safety. Persons should, if possible, "purchase a machine which removes water by some means other than a wringer." Below I give CU's estimates of machines with wringers.

Acceptable:

*Ward's DeLuxe* Cat. No. —3120 (Montgomery Ward.), \$48.95. Especially convenient for large families; capacity of tub 19 gallons. Washing effectiveness average.

*Sears-Roebuck* retail store Model (Sears, Roebuck), \$39.95. This model appears to be very similar to the one sold via mail order at \$37.85 plus carriage, except for wringer. Washing effectiveness average. This machine gave an all-around performance that was satisfactory. An excellent buy.

*Maytag* Model 30 (Maytag Co., Newton, Iowa), \$99.50. Washing ability average. Aluminum parts showed bad corrosion when tested "with solution of soda ash." Very sturdy construction generally and tests showed "very little wear of moving parts." While this machine is acceptable, consumers are advised to consider its high price.

Not acceptable:

*Thor* Model 52A (Hurley Machine Co., Chicago), \$79.50. "Capacity 14 gallons. Washing effectiveness very poor. . . . General construction rather poor. Machine showed considerable wear after durability test."

The above data were sent to the reader in a personal letter because of the receipt of the usual fee, but as the information may be of interest to other readers I am using it here.

\* \* \*

I wish you would furnish me with a list of all Communist organizations in the State of California.

The only Communist organization I know of in California is the Communist Party of the U.S., which has official recognition from the State. Branches will be found in San Francisco and Los Angeles. There are other organizations in which individual Communists participate—such as the League Against War and Fasc-

ism and the Civil Liberties Union—but that doesn't make them Communist organizations. Both of the bodies just mentioned contain Liberals, Progressives, and the like, with a scattering of Communists. Communist organizations on the Pacific Coast, as with the rest of the country, are quite small, though it's true that most individual Communists are so energetic and enthusiastic that one member sounds like a hundred. Communists themselves recognize their numerical weakness and have, sensibly I believe, decided to work more harmoniously with the progressive elements in the community. They are even supporting democracy, where only a few years ago they condemned it as a bourgeois illusion. They are more anxious to ward off Fascism than inaugurate Communism. Taking this view of them—and I believe it is a sound evaluation—Communists may be said to be veering in the direction of constructiveness, moderation and genuine patriotism. One of the most foolish activities today is rampant red-baiting by our professional patriots.

\* \* \*

I have been invited to buy a course in singing for \$145. Please advise by personal letter.

I don't feel I can advise this reader to put such a large sum of money into a stack of mimeographed "lessons." Some years ago I made a study of these correspondence school courses in singing and decided a booklet for a few pennies could cover the ordinary needs of any amateur singer. Naturally, such a low-priced pamphlet couldn't take the place of the instruction given personally by singing teachers, but most people don't plan to take up singing professionally, and it's for such men and women that I went looking for a singer-writer who could turn out a little blue book. I found such a teacher in Thelma Spear Lewisohn, the wife of the famous author, Ludwig Lewisohn, and she was glad to give the public the benefit of her knowledge, with the result that I put No. 1049 into the series, under the title, "How to Teach Yourself to Sing." I realize that I'm laying myself open to the charge of frowning on a mail-order course that sells for \$145 in order to "sell" a booklet for a few coppers,

but I beg my readers to realize that my motive isn't commercial, that if this author had written the same booklet for someone else I'd be just as enthusiastic in my endorsement of its contents. Thelma Spear Lewisohn is competent to teach the average person by means of the printed word because she studied under recognized masters in New York and Vienna and has given concerts in every music center in Europe and the U.S. She has been called a "poet in song."

\* \* \*

I am thinking of putting into my library the Modern American Encyclopedia. Please advise by personal letter.

The Modern American Encyclopedia is published by the Midwest Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill. Since the books are printed from plates cast in 1891, I fail to see how they can be of service to the inquiring student who seeks access to the latest knowledge in the various branches of science, history, etc. A few minor revisions have been made, but the volumes reflect the knowledge of a half century ago. An encyclopedia that's more than 10 years old can be of little use. In fact, I'd say it does far more harm than good.

\* \* \*

As I am ready to trade in my car for a 1938 model, please advise me by personal letter which machine will give me the greatest number of miles per gallon, for I intend to buy on the basis of economy.

The information asked above is available, as a result of the annual economy runs of the Gilmore Oil Co., but the data could never find its way into the average newspaper or magazine because of the influence of buyers of advertising space. A newspaper that dared compare, let us say, a Ford with a Plymouth, or a Chevrolet with a Willys, would soon find itself left out of all advertising schedules. Such information must be kept from the consumers, if possible, limiting the usual discussion in the motor car departments of the press to articles on general handling and features rather than specific comparisons. This is just one more reason why consumers should support publications that are independent of advertisers.

The Gilmore economy test for the current year's models was run on January 13, 1938, under the sponsor-

ship of the Gilmore Oil Co., and under the supervision of the American Automobile Association. The length of the course was 314.5 miles. Cars of all prices and classes were included, as the table below shows. Readers experienced in car weights will wonder why the motor cars used in this well-managed test were so heavy. This is explained by the fact that for the purposes of a fair test it was found necessary to include in each car four passengers, stock supply of tools, two chains, and average baggage. The report doesn't emphasize oil consumption because it was found that all of today's cars are easy on oil, the test showing that the Ford 60 used only  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of oil, the Plymouth 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint, and not much more oil in the rest of the contestants. The cars maintained average speeds between 28.85 and 33.82 miles per hour. In the case of Willys 4, the company entered three cars but I am using the figures for only one, the other two showing results close to the one reported below.

Car	Loaded Weight	Av'g	Av'g
		Miles Per Gal.	Ton Miles Per Gal.
Willys 4	3210	29.39	47.18
Ford "60" V-8	3519	28.85	50.77
Chevrolet 6	3955	21.99	43.49
Plymouth 6	3808	21.25	40.46
Hudson			
Terraplane 6	3915	25.78	50.46
Nash Lafayette 6	4379	22.31	48.84
Pontiac 6	4312	21.84	47.09
Dodge 6	3990	21.11	42.11
Pontiac 8	4460	20.97	46.76
DeSoto 6	4144	20.69	42.87
Studebaker 6	4250	24.38	51.81
Oldsmobile 6	4338	19.18	41.60
Nash 6	4530	23.65	53.56
Graham 6	4279	24.76	52.98
Hupmobile 6	4402	21.84	48.07
Packard 6	4458	20.29	45.23
Oldsmobile 8	4545	19.06	43.32
Hudson 8	4336	22.79	49.41
Nash 8	4840	19.66	47.57
Studebaker 8	4540	20.69	46.97
Graham 6	4339	25.78	55.93
Hupmobile 8	4794	20.56	49.27
Lincoln-Zephyr 12	4665	23.47	54.74
Packard 8	5742	16.21	46.54

\* \* \*

Please comment on the enclosed newspaper report of a speech by the editor of The New York Times, in which he asserted that those using the printed word fearlessly to project the truth are responsible for modern democracy.

Dr. John H. Finley, editor in chief

of *The New York Times*, in a speech before the Southwest Journalism Congress, at Waco, Texas, March 25, 1938, expressed the sentiment quoted by my correspondent above and added that it was primarily by the written word that man progressed in civilization. Dr. Finley continued:

"And without the printed word no amount of skill or other media will win a higher civilization, although it may be greatly assisted by the spoken and pictured word. The art of printing has been characterized as perhaps the greatest single step forward in the whole history of mankind, for out of the art of printing was born free government."

Honest, candid, forthright, fearless, progressive, independent use of the printed word certainly is a force for civilization's advance, so I can't help agreeing with the famous editor's generalizations. It's been one of my pet themes for years. Many of my readers know how I keep pounding on the subject of the necessity of a free, unsubsidized, free press as an instrument of social growth. But does Dr. Finley really believe the ordinary newspaper or magazine is dedicated to a fearless projection of the truth? Surely he knows better than that. The average editor's job is to print what is acceptable to the powers-that-be and not to go on a crusading spree in the interests of truth and democracy. Too much truth in a newspaper can cause serious financial problems in the counting room.

The other week I received an invitation from F. C. Kendall, editor of *Advertising and Selling*, to write an article for his publication. I was full of some notions about the advertising situation, so I settled down before my machine and pounded out about 2,000 words, under the title, "A Mail-Order Man Looks at the Newspapers." In it I told nothing but the truth about the press. Since I was an invited contributor I thought I had a right to tell what was in my mind. Was the piece accepted? No. It came back in the same mail which brought me the above inquiry about Dr. Finley's fine speech. Accompanying my rejected manuscript was this note from Mr. Kendall:

"Wish we could run this article. But it is too full of dynamite for

us. I wish sometime you would write a piece equally as exciting but in directions that would not bring us the axe."

Notice, please, that the editor didn't say my article was bad or that it told untruths. He actually wishes he could run it. Then why not? Because it "is too full of dynamite." What's dynamite? That's another way of saying my article is too full of truths. Telling the truth made my article exciting. So the editor of a famous advertising magazine asks me to be equally exciting in some other piece, which, by inference, is to be less crammed with dynamite, or truth. Otherwise he will reject the next one, because he's afraid of the axe. What's the axe? It's the economic powers of those interests which have material reasons for keeping the public from knowing the truth.

My article was written to be helpful. In it I told just what certain great newspapers actually do as media for distributing knowledge. I gave cold, real, authentic figures. I see they aren't wanted by the people who hold the axe over *Advertising and Selling*. Very well. I'll see to it that the information gets to the public, for I have ways of my own. There are some editors who really want "exciting" pieces, who aren't of the breed of Casper Milquetoast when faced with some bits of truth (dynamite), and who tell the holders of the axe (advertising patronage) to go to hell. The public, in time, will learn about such editors, and they will give them the support they deserve. I'm optimistic enough to actually believe that. A minority of the public is already backing up editors who believe in a really free press.

\* \* \*

Can you recommend a reliable book describing the real lives of nuns?

There's one by Mrs. Milo Price, Parma, Idaho, which is absolutely authentic. It's called "Forgotten Women" and may be had by sending \$1.10 to the author. This book, which is just off the press, will draw on Mrs. Price's head the wrath of the priests, and they know how to throw mud on their enemies. They're experts. As Heinrich Heine said: "He who fights with priests may make up his mind to have his poor good name torn and befouled by the most in-



famous lies and the most cutting slanders." Joseph McCabe, who spent 12 years in a monastery, has been such a target for more than three decades. McCabe, like Mrs. Price, tells nothing but the truth, but that doesn't save him from slanderous attacks.

\* \* \*

Has there ever been an unprejudiced historian?

If we are to take the dictionary's strict definition of prejudice—opposition to something without due examination or just grounds—then I'm safe in saying there have been many unprejudiced historians, including Joseph McCabe, H. G. Wells, Dr. Henry Thomas, Gustavus Myers, Andrew Dickson White, Dr. Charles A. Beard, Edward Gibbon, and others whose names don't happen to come to mind as I write this piece. And yet these very historians have been accused of being partisan, even prejudiced. Why? Because those who made the charge didn't agree with the historian's premises or inferences. The reader had his own set of prejudices and he felt outraged because some particular historian failed to support or endorse his assumptions. What was really objected to in such a case wasn't prejudice so much as an unacceptable viewpoint. Any historian who's worth his salt has to have a viewpoint. Take viewpoint out of a historical work and you get nothing but a jumble of unrelated, disconnected dates and facts. In that sense, great historians must always be great teachers, or, as their enemies would have it, expound prejudices. I've been accused many times of being prejudiced against supernaturalism. Such critics mean, of course, that they object to my interpretations which veer away from religious ideology. In such instances the objections are more against my viewpoint rather than my prejudice. If I had catered to their theological prejudices I would have ceased being prejudiced. That's the way it goes.

This subject received intelligent treatment in an interesting editorial article in James M. Cox's paper, *The Dayton Daily News*, March 22, 1938, in which the editorialist turns to Dr. Henry Thomas' valuable biographical history of civilization, entitled "The Story of the Human Race." As my

readers know, Dr. Henry Thomas is one of my discoveries, and I feel proud of the fact that during the past five or six years he has contributed additional useful works to my list of titles, including "Weavers of Words" and "Wild Women of History." His "Story of the Human Race" was done at my suggestion, and I'm pleased to be able to report that many thousands of sets—well over 100,000—have been distributed. But, let's return to the editorial just referred to. I believe it's interesting enough to quote in full, so here goes:

We hear of historians who claim to be unprejudiced. We hear of people in other walks of life who claim to be without prejudice. Can such a thing be? Or is the totally unprejudiced mind something that exists in theory only—a sublime thought always within sight but never attainable? Is it the thing most of us hope we have, but haven't; something we wish to attain but never do?

Can there be an unprejudiced historian?

A member of that profession recently answered the question with an emphatic "No." In the preface of a recent volume called "The Story of the Human Race," the author, Dr. Henry Thomas, says:

The charge will probably be made, in some quarters, that this book is written from a prejudiced point of view. To this charge I plead guilty. It is impossible to write history from a purely objective angle. The human mind is not an impersonal recording machine. It is the critical instrument of a thinking personality. It does not merely observe historical events, it measures and weighs and interprets them.

"Every historian writes with a prejudice," declares Dr. Thomas. That is perhaps the reason why some histories sound warlike—like war propaganda if you wish; while other histories sound peaceful as if the author believed in peace and justice.

Dr. Thomas admits that he wrote his "Story of the Human Race" with a very conscious bias—"a bias against oppression and in favor of justice." And in all fairness to this author one ought to add that he has written a history giving a bang and a punch to the warriors of the world. The author dislikes warriors and says so.

To Alexander, to Hannibal, to Caesar, Cromwell, Napoleon, Mussolini and Hitler the author of this very vigorous book delivers some equally vigorous

thrusts. To Buddha, Confucius, Jeremiah, Moses, Christ, Leonardo da Vinci, Spinoza and Goethe he hands bouquets profusely. Even a cursory reading will convince one that "The Story of the Human Race" is written by a prejudiced historian. But it is a book with a "kick."

Strangely enough, the reader just can't condemn this very prejudiced historian. Even though some passages make one angry, he reads on and on.

Can a reader read without prejudice?

There is a war in Spain. When we read of a victory of the loyalists forces, are we glad or sorry? Doubtless each and every one might experience one or the other emotion if he would only trouble to analyze his feelings. Whom do you want to see win the war in Spain, the loyalists or the insurrectionists? If you decide one way or the other how can you be anything but a prejudiced reader?

There is a war in China. Here the situation is simpler. Admittedly we Americans are prejudiced in favor of China. We make no pretense of being otherwise. When we read of an air raid in China we hope the bomb struck the Japanese and not the Chinese. If it is impossible to write without bias, as Dr. Thomas contends, maybe it is equally impossible to read without bias. The two seem to go hand in hand.

We have been taught to revere the name of Abraham Lincoln. Let us read a sentence or two of what Dr. Thomas says of him:

I have said that Abraham Lincoln's lack of wisdom did much to bring about the Civil War. Let me try to explain what I mean. Although Lincoln was one of the great statesmen of the world, he was first of all a politician. He was interested in the welfare of the human race, but he was even more interested in the advancement of his own ambition . . . Violence was the only weapon which he had been taught to wield against injustice. He lacked the patience—that is, the serene foresight, which marked the wisdom of such men as Buddha, Confucius and Tolstoy.

Does it disturb you to read this of Lincoln? If so, you read with a prejudice.

Prejudice seems largely a matter of training and tradition. Tradition largely determines our likes and dislikes. When we read something that goes contrary to our traditional beliefs we do not like it. The things we like to read are those that blend in well with our traditional beliefs.

The wise man will regularly read and

hear the things he does not like to read and hear. Thus he may set himself right where he was wrong. His own "prejudices" the wise man will always suspect.

\* \* \*

Recently I received a request from The New Masses for a contribution to help wipe out its deficit. Enclosed was a dime. Was that good mail-order practice?

I saw that little job and thought at the time that it was the silliest piece of publicity I'd ever come on. Let's suppose *The New Masses* mailing consisted of 10,000 pieces, probably a moderate estimate. That would mean the man who handled the publication's appeal for funds put in \$1,000 worth of dimes in order to attract donations. The first thought any sane person would get is this: If *The New Masses* had \$1,000 to risk on such foolishness then why should it be asking for gifts? Let us suppose this mailing was a knock-out—that it brought in cash presents from 10 percent of the list. That would mean \$900 wasted on the 90 percent who ignored the invitation. The 10 percent would have to cover that loss before the contributions began doing the publication any good. Whoever thought up that screwy scheme ought to be kicked out of his job.

\* \* \*

I am sending the usual fee for a personal reply giving me your evaluation of *The Popular Educator*. I would like to know if it is really an "educator" that gets to the bottom of its subjects, or if it touches these subjects superficially.

The *Popular Educator* is a weekly publication issued by the National Educational Alliance, Inc., 17 West 47th St., N.Y.C. I've seen the first few numbers and believe the project has considerable merit, though it's by no means a new step in popular education. Its 52 numbers will cover about the same ground I covered in the 40 volumes of *The Key to Culture*, which Joseph McCabe handled so competently. The *Popular Educator* contains 96 pages per issue, which are broken into chapters or sections on a great variety of subjects like history, anthropology, zoology, economics, and the like. I believe it would be much more effective if each number were devoted to a single subject instead of dishing out a huge hodge-podge of this and that. I know I had something of a dizzy spell before I got half way through the

first issue. Also, I notice a conservative bias, especially in history and economics, two subjects that are of immense importance. I may be judging the enterprise a little too early, but it's my notion no writer for the *Popular Educator* will approach history and science with the candor, directness, and forthrightness of Joseph McCabe, a popularizer of science who never kow-tows to the supernaturalists. In these days too many educators prefer to tread lightly when touching on any subject about which the Church feels the least bit finiky. Popularized knowledge, to mean anything, must make no compromises with reaction, medievalism, and the black forces that would twist learning to their own interests and prejudices.

\* \* \*

What do you charge for advertising space in *The Freeman*?

The rate is \$5.60 per column inch, with remittance accompanying copy. Medical and other questionable advertising not accepted.

\* \* \*

What do you think of William Faulkner as a writer?

I can't say much about him because I read only enough of one of his stories to learn that he wasn't for me. He's as tiresome as water that's already passed through the urethra. When I rose from reading that first Faulkner story I became afflicted with a sore fundament. Recently I told a Faulkner fan how I felt and he advised me to try again, but I replied that the steer tried again and couldn't do any good. He then hinted I'm as brash as a drum major and as unpredictable as a sufferer from chronic constipation.

Mr. Clifton Fadiman, who reviews books for *The New Yorker*, agrees with me about Faulkner, even though he doesn't know it yet. It's Mr. Fadiman's claim that Faulkner is subtly dull, that "he has made an ort out of the elaborate induction of tedium." To prove his charge, Mr. Fadiman quotes from one of Faulkner's stories in his recent collection, "The Unvanquished," in which appears a description of a horse's "steady gait which was not a walk and not a run, as if he had held it all the way from Tennessee because there was a need to encompass earth which abrogated sleep or rest and

relegated to some insulated bourne of perennial and pointless holiday so trivial a thing as galloping."

I'm ready to admit I don't know just what it was that Faulkner's horse did.

\* \* \*

The urge to write took possession of me about five years back, but it wasn't until about two years ago that I did anything about it. I enrolled in a course of short story writing. During the past two years I have written about 100,000 words into different stories but as yet I have not been able to produce anything that would sell. I have a job as a clerk. . . . Am I wasting my time trying to write? I want a reply by personal letter, for which I enclose fee.

I don't think you'll be wasting your time trying to break into authorship. Even if you fail to dispose of any of your Mss., you'll still get a lot of solid satisfaction from your efforts at writing. Keep at it. That's my sincere advice. But be sure to hold on to your job. Don't put yourself into the position where you find it necessary to depend on editorial acceptances. Why not vary your writing? I suggest that you give only part of your free time to fiction and turn to articles and short essays. Try to stir up a few lively controversies in the local press. Start off with a few letters to the editor. If you're short of ideas, try out some of the themes covered in *The Freeman*.

\* \* \*

Please give your opinion of the vacuum treatments of the scalp to prevent baldness. Please rush reply by personal letter.

A machine to give the hair so-called vacuum treatments won't do your scalp the slightest harm, but there's no evidence to show it will prevent baldness. Your pocketbook will get a bad wallop and in return you'll get a pleasant scalp massage that you can give yourself with your own two hands. The promoters of these expensive machines insist that many cases of baldness result from poor circulation, but they fail to take into consideration the obvious fact that women are just as prone to have poor blood circulation as men and yet very few women suffer from baldness. The fact is, of course, that science doesn't know what causes baldness and certainly doesn't know how to prevent that calamitous condition.

Tonics and gadgets come pouring into the market—all have their brief day of triumph and pass into limbo.

\* \* \*

I am enclosing press clipping of a Jewish boy's expression of thanks. It should be given the widest possible circulation.

I agree with my reader's comment. The author, Martin Marden, a 16-year-old Jewish boy refugee from Germany, came to this country three years ago to escape Nazi persecution. He wrote the following words as a part of his school work:

One day in the year should be reserved for prayers of thanksgiving in which we give thanks for something that has been granted us: for having been saved from some great destruction caused by nature or man.

I am thankful that I have been given an opportunity to be educated in the United States of America.

I am thankful that I live in a land where everyone may salute the same flag.

I am thankful that I live in a land where, regardless of race, everyone may take part in national ceremonies.

I am thankful that I live in a land where a person may sing the national anthem without having someone tell him that he may not because of his race.

I am thankful that I live in a country governed by democracy rather than force.

I am thankful that I live in a land where one is not persecuted.

I am thankful that I live in a land where there are people who have real sympathy for refugees from European countries who have gone through horrible experiences.

I am thankful that I have been given the opportunity to enjoy the many privileges that are unheard of in European countries.

I am thankful that I shall be able to realize my ambitions, which would have been impossible had I remained in my native land.

I am thankful that I live in a land where the future seems bright and hopeful, rather than dark and hopeless.

I am thankful that I live in a land where the youth of all races have a tomorrow, rather than in my native land where the youth of the race is without a tomorrow.

I am thankful that I have been permitted to tell you of the troubles in European lands in order that you

may develop a real sympathy for the oppressed of the earth.

I am thankful that I am happy and free.

There's a serious lesson in the above for Americans. While every word written by young Marden is true, we must realize that the same elements that elevated Hitler and his fellow-hoodlums to power in Germany are working in the U.S. to undermine democracy and freedom. Only the other day the news came out that Hitler's personal representative in this country had made arrangements to publish four newspapers as a part of a Nazi propaganda campaign against American liberty. Hitler's stooges are using our freedom of the press to establish a regime in which all other expressions of opinion will be suppressed. The answer should be known to every lover of justice. They should defend their precious Bill of Rights—especially freedom of speech and press—by supporting those editors who have dedicated themselves to the sacred cause of anti-Fascism. A powerful free press in the U.S. is quite capable of disposing of the arguments advanced by Hitler's spreaders of literary poison gas. But such organs of free opinion can't function without the moral and material backing of the upholders of free institutions. Will defenders of true Americanism heed this timely warning and hasten to do their bit in this great, progressive, humanitarian, civilized cause?

\* \* \*

I keep reading about the "genius" of Irving G. Thalberg and that no one in Hollywood seems able to carry on and do the work that he was doing. Can you inform me in what the man's genius consisted; I am curious.

The word "genius" is flexible. I've heard it applied to an expert professor of the art of shining shoes, a colored cook who could do wonders with fried chicken, a pickpocket, a cancer quack, Dale Carnegie, the keeper of a \$2 house, an advertising writer for a company that manufactures high-toned toilet paper, the manager of a string of six hot-dog stands, Shakespeare, the salesman who figured out he could sell condoms by mail if he called them sanitary rubber goods, F. D. R., Doc Brinkley, Joseph McCabe, Bernard Shaw, Mae West's presumably smutty broadcast, the copy-

writer in charge of Kotex advertising, and the creator of the slogan "Even your best friend won't tell you." So, when the late Irving G. Thalberg is called a genius I don't know what to do about it, except to suggest that most of the pictures he produced qualified as so much crap, except when he spit on his hands and got down to work on Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream." As I usually try to be careful in my choice of words, I'd say Thalberg wasn't an authentic genius, that he was a capable executive, and that he was good to his wife.

Can you give me the gist of Ingersoll's argument in favor of taxation of church property?

There is a fair-sized literature on the subject of church taxation. Robert G. Ingersoll sums it up pretty well in the following striking sentence:

"To exempt the Church from taxation is to pay a part of the priest's salary."

I notice that you have been using the *World Almanac* for many years in your mail order book advertising. Do you recommend this medium?

Speaking from experience, I'm glad to be able to report that the *World Almanac* is an excellent source of mail order sales. The space, which averages about \$200 per page, is reasonably priced and should be productive if used to sell an article that is wanted. I had five pages in the 1938 edition, two in the front and three in the back, at a total cost of about \$1,000. By April 8, the three full pages in the back of the book brought in \$289.55, the two full pages in the front brought in \$252.67. This means that the space brought in enough orders to pay for a little more than half of the total cost. As the *World Almanac* is a long puller it seems reasonable to expect between \$2,000 and \$3,000 before this book quits. I should use the word "quits" advisedly when speaking of the *World Almanac*, for it happens that here's one advertising medium that never quits. I'm still getting orders from the pages I ran 10 and 12 years ago. It seems that *World Almanacs* are never thrown away—they wear away. I expect batches of orders each day from the 1938 edition, right up to the

close of the year. When the 1939 edition appears there'll be a measurable drop in the volume of orders received from the 1938 edition, but not enough to hurt very much. I advise against small space in this book. If you can't use at least a page, better stay out. None of my small advertisements ever did much good in the *World Almanac*.

How do "Time" and "Esquire" compare as mail order pullers?

Both publications reach just about the same kind of people and both cost the same per page—\$2.500. And both are equally over-priced. My page in *Time*, for January 3, 1938, brought in \$1,617.42 by April 8, which means it's been bringing business for a little over three months. There's still a little life in the page, so I expect the key sheet to show \$1,800 before the page in *Time* flattens out for good. The same page, in the March, 1938, *Esquire*, started to pull on February 14, and by April 8, it brought in \$1,411.54, with a chance of ringing up another \$400 before passing out. That means *Time* and *Esquire* are each good for about \$1,800 worth of business. A mail order man must be ready to sacrifice his goods and about \$700 in cash each time he takes a whirl. It seems to me each publication is over-priced by about \$1,000.

Do you believe in the open mind?

It all depends what you mean by an "open mind." A mind that's open like a sieve passes everything and retains nothing. Too many boast of their "open minds" when they really mean their craniums are vacuums.

I am in constant despair over my character, my weaknesses and my lack of spirituality. What shall I do?

Try Russian mineral oil.

How long is a horse economically useful to man?

On the average about 13 years.

What is Hillculture?

Hillculture is a word used in agriculture by scientists who are working on the problem of saving hilly country from erosion.

As an inveterate coffee drinker, please tell me which brands are the best buys?

I'm not an inveterate coffee drinker, since I limit myself to two cups a

day—one at breakfast and another in the evening, with a cup of tea sneaked in at noon. At that, I simply can't start the day right without a little coffee. It's the dopehead in me, I suppose. I wake up and frequently find myself thinking: "It's another goddam day," and my mood is rather brownish until I hit the breakfast table, where I soon learn, as the poet put it, that "After the coffee things ain't so bad." Alexander Pope, another pretty good poet, in his "The Rape of the Lock," said coffee "makes the politician wise." This statement, I admit, is highly debatable. We are the greatest drinkers of coffee in the world, consuming about 1,500,000,000 pounds per year, which is about 13 pounds per capita per year, or something like 500 cups per person, so our politicians ought to be the wisest of statesmen, but this, I grant, may be questioned by those given to cautious thinking. Still another poet cried "Make my coffee strong!" which is his own good business, but I don't demand that it be strong; all I ask, in my timid way, is that my coffee be fresh, and that it give my nostrils a pleasant set of impressions. That's reasonable, but not easy of attainment, for this country has to choose from something like 5,000 different brands that are roasted and packed by thousands of companies, none of which control a heavy percentage of the whole trade.

I insist that my coffee shall be coffee and not some castrated article that goes by some monstrous, inartistic, unesthetic name like Kaffee Hag or Sanka. Imagine having the word "hag" connected with one's coffee! Or so idiotic a word as "Sanka." And, while I'm mentioning these gutless concoctions, let me call attention to a Consumers Union report on these castrated beverages, in which we are told that they both belong to General Foods Corp., that they sell at the hefty price of 39c per pound, and that "most of the caffeine is removed from these coffees by chemical treatment." We are then warned that these characterless coffees are "slightly off-flavor, and rather weak unless much more than average amounts are used." That makes it sound like coffeeless coffee to me, if you get what I mean. And, while I'm at it, let me mention the amusing fact that

the company which owns these two abortions also owns Postum, another misfit of nature, or, to put it more elegantly, the eunuch of coffee. And, to carry the amusing situation still further, the same company, General Foods, owns Maxwell House coffee, the brand which is advertised so widely in the magazines and over the radio, and which isn't so good at that. Imagine the problems of General Foods' advertising department. One advertisement has to warn the people to use Postum in order to break away from the terrible, immoral, soul-corroding habit of coffee-drinking. Then follows an advertisement which says coffee is hunkydory, except that it has bad "after-effects," which can be dodged by buying Kaffee Hag or Sanka. There's division of loyalty there, for Kaffee Hag is better than anything of its kind in one advertisement, while Sanka is just what the doctor ordered in another advertisement. And then, after all these pot-shots at coffee we are brought face to face with another General Foods ballyhoo which tells us that Maxwells' is good to the last drop. It's very confusing until we understand that all the advertisements were written in a frantic effort to land a few more dollars.

To return to Consumers Union, let me mention that this useful organization issued a report on various brands of coffee, rating them according to their intrinsic worth. We learn the valuable information that the price of coffee doesn't have much to do with its quality, that a low-priced brand can be, and often is, much better than a brand that calls for a lot of money. CU's ratings follow:

#### GOOD QUALITY

- Ben Hur (Coffee Products of America, Inc., Los Angeles). West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 28c. Good, smooth flavor.
- Edwards Dependable (Dwight Edwards Co., San Francisco). West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 26c. Good flavor, smooth body.
- Fit for a King (Hill Grocery Co., Birmingham, Ala.). South. Santos and Milds. 1-lb. bag, 23c. Flavor good.
- Hills Bros. (Hills Bros., San Francisco). West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 28c. Smooth, pleasant flavor.
- Red Star (R. H. Macy & Co., NYC). East. Milds. 1-lb. tin, 29c. Very good flavor.
- Martinson's (Martinson, NYC). East. 1-

- lb. vacuum tin, 45c. Rather heavy blend containing some excellent aged coffees. Flavor excellent, full-bodied, smooth.
- Red A (Independent Grocers Alliance, Chicago). Midwest. Santos and Milds. 1-lb. bag, 22c. Flavor light but pleasant.
- Red Circle (A&P, NYC). South and East. Santos and Milds. 1-lb. bag, 21c. Flavor good.
- Royal Jewel (Jewel Food Stores, Chicago). Midwest. Santos and Milds. 1-lb. bag, 25c. Flavor good.
- Royal Scarlet (R. C. Williams and Co., Inc., NYC). East. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 30c. Flavor good.
- S&W (Sussman, Wormser & Co., San Francisco). East, and West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 28c. Light, but smooth with good flavor.
- Santos Royale (Brothers stores, Decatur, Ala.). South. Santos. 1-lb. bag, 19c. Flavor light but pleasant.
- FAIR QUALITY**
- Berma (The Grand Union Co., NYC). East. 1-lb. tin, 25c. Flavor fair, light.
- Bokar (A&P, NYC). South and East. Milds and Santos. 1-lb. tin, 24c. Flavor variable from fair to good.
- Chase and Sanborn (Standard Brands, Inc., NYC). East, and West Coast. 1-lb. paper bag, 26c. Flavor extremely variable from good to flat and rather acid taste. Light.
- Co-op (Central Cooperative Wholesale, Superior, Wis.). Midwest. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 35c. Light flavor.
- Dinner Club (Brothers stores). South. Santos and Milds. 1-lb. paper bag, 22c. Flavor fair.
- Ehlers' Grade A (Albert Ehlers, Inc., NYC). East.  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. vacuum tin, 20c. Light flavor.
- Folger's (J. A. Folger & Co., San Francisco). West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 28c. Light flavor.
- Krasdale. (A. Krasne, Inc., NYC). East. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 25c. Very light flavor.
- Maxwell House (General Foods Corp., NYC). East, Midwest, South. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 30c. Quality extremely variable from excellent to poor.
- Hills Brothers Red Can Brand (Hills Bros., San Francisco). Midwest. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 33c. Light flavor.
- Silver Moon (Oliver-Finnie Co., Memphis Tenn.). South. Milds and Santos. 1-lb. paper bag. 28c. Flavor fair to good.
- Stanbi (Standard Brands, Inc., NYC; available at Woolworth's). East. 1-lb. paper bag, 20c. Flavor very light.
- White Rose (Seeman Bros., NYC). East. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 27c. Flavor light.
- POOR QUALITY**
- Beech Nut (Beech Nut Packing Co., Canajoharie, N.Y.). East. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 31c. Poor, muddy flavor. Some samples fair.
- Del Monte (California Packing Corp., San Francisco). East and West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 27c. Variable from fair to flat taste.
- Eight O'Clock (A&P, NYC). South, East, Midwest. Santos. 1-lb. paper bag, 19c. Quality extremely variable since, due to the very large amount sold, it is impossible to obtain an adequate supply of high-grade coffee.
- Golden Bear (Golden Bear Coffee Co., Los Angeles). West Coast. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 26c. Poor flavor.
- Hill's Royal Blend (Hill Grocery Co., Birmingham, Ala.). South. Santos. 1-lb. paper bag, 20c. Light flavor. Somewhat harsh.
- Jungle Queen (Jitney-Jungle Stores, Jackson, Miss.). South. Poor-grade. Santos. 1-lb. paper bag, 19c.
- McLaughlin's Manor House (W. F. McLaughlin and Co., Chicago). Midwest. 1-lb. vacuum jar, 32c. Flavor light, sharp.
- Old Gold (Alabama Coffee Co., Sheffield, Ala.). South. 1-lb. paper bag, 25c. Flavor poor.
- Our Breakfast (National Tea Co., Chicago). Midwest. Santos. 1-lb. paper bag, 21c. Flavor poor, sour.
- Stewart's Private Blend (Stewart and Ashby Coffee Co., Chicago). Midwest. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 39c. Flavor poor, flat.
- Yuban (The Paton Corp., NYC). East. 1-lb. vacuum tin, 33c. At one time an excellent coffee, this brand has undergone noticeable deterioration in quality since a change in management. Varied in taste from fair to poor; muddy aftertaste.
- \* \* \*
- Now that Joseph McCabe has reached his 70th birthday, I suggest that you give us a survey of his influence. By this I don't mean a review of his work as a writer—I know you have done this more than once—but a factual statement of the way his large and small volumes sell, or rather how the public accepts his writings.
- It's hard for me to believe that Joseph McCabe is only 70 years old. When one studies his vast output, it seems he must be at least 170 years old. During the past 13 years McCabe has given all his time to writing for me, and the showing is impressive. In truth, I'd say he has written more during the past 13 years than most professional writers do in a lifetime, for my records show 70 Little Blue Books, 40 volumes of The Key to Culture, 19 volumes of The A B C Li-

brary of Living Knowledge, 10 volumes of The Freethinker's Library, five volumes of The Appeal to Reason Library, six double volumes of The True Story of the Roman Catholic Church, three volumes of The Ancient Great Men's Series, three volumes of the series under the heading of Great Geniuses of the Middle Ages, 11 volumes entitled Men Who Made the Modern World, 12 volumes of The History of Human Morals, six volumes of The Rise and Fall of the Gods, eight volumes of The Key to Love and Sex, and 11 scattered titles of large-sized books. Truly a prodigious task. And these are the only ones I can write about, for I know practically nothing about the business side of the 180 clothbound volumes he did for publishers in England and the U.S. before he began working for my project.

The actual sales figures I am about to give are of great importance, for they serve as a guide to the public's interest in books on serious subjects—history, Freethought, philosophy, science, etc.—the sort of things we frequently describe as high-brow, though the term isn't accurate. McCabe is a scholar who strives to bring knowledge to the man in the street. He takes difficult fields of learning and popularizes them, without vulgarizing or distorting their values, which is a real achievement in mass education. In a recent article, devoted to the works of William J. Fielding, I said he was my most popular author, because his 28 Little Blue Books have sold to the extent of 3,220,200 copies. As my readers know, these titles all belong in the field of sexology, a subject of tremendous public appeal. McCabe's Little Blue Books number 70 titles, of which 1,800,750 copies have been sold. This is an impressive showing, by any standard of calculation, even though Fielding's much smaller list sold almost twice as many copies.

Below I report on McCabe's Little Blue Books, the first figure giving the number of copies sold, followed by the book's title, its number in the series, and the year when the book was first published.

253,250 Facts You Should Know About the Classics (109), 1928.  
111,000 Debate on Spiritualism (122), 1920.

25,000 Do We Need Religion? (297), 1927.  
20,000 Absurdities of Christian Science (354), 1927.  
10,000 Myths of Religious Statistics (365), 1927.  
20,000 Religion's Failure to Fight Crime (366), 1927.  
60,000 My 12 Years in a Monastery (439), 1927.  
10,000 Fraud of Spiritualism (445), 1927.  
20,000 Psychology of Religion (446), 1927.  
10,000 Nonsense Called Theosophy (477), 1926.  
20,000 Future of Religion (841), 1927.  
25,000 Revolt Against Religion (1007), 1926.  
36,000 Origin of Religion (1008), 1926.  
30,000 World's Great Religions (1030), 1926.  
30,000 Myth of Immortality (1059), 1926.  
30,000 Futility of Belief in God (1060), 1926.  
25,000 Human Origin of Morals (1061), 1926.  
30,000 Forgery of Old Testament (1066), 1926.  
30,000 Morals in Ancient Babylon (1076), 1926.  
30,000 Morals in Ancient Egypt (1077), 1926.  
30,000 Morals in Greece and Rome (1078), 1926.  
30,000 Phallic Elements in Religion (1079), 1926.  
42,000 Did Jesus Ever Live? (1084), 1926.  
20,000 Sources of Christian Morality (1095), 1926.  
20,000 Pagan Christs Before God (1102), 1926.  
20,000 Myth of the Resurrection (1104), 1926.  
20,000 Legends of Saints and Martyrs (1107), 1926.  
20,000 How Christianity "Triumphed" (1110), 1926.  
22,500 Evolution of Christian Doctrine (1121), 1926.  
45,000 Degradation of Woman (1122), 1926.  
20,000 Christianity and Slavery (1127), 1927.  
20,000 Church and the School (1128), 1926.  
25,000 Dark Ages (1130), 1927.  
25,000 New Light on Witchcraft (1132), 1926.  
30,000 Horrors of Inquisition (1134), 1926.  
20,000 Medieval Art and the Church (1136), 1926.  
20,000 The Moorish Civilization in Spain (1137), 1927.



- 20,000 Renaissance: European Awakening (1140), 1927.  
 20,000 Reformation and Protestant Reaction (1141), 1926.  
 20,000 Galileo and Medieval Science (1142), 1926.  
 30,000 Jesuits: Religious Rogues (1144), 1927.  
 15,000 Religion and French Revolution (1145), 1927.  
 20,000 Churches and Modern Progress (1150), 1927.  
 30,000 Seven Infidel U.S. Presidents (1203), 1927.  
 20,000 Paine's Revolt Against the Bible (1205), 1927.  
 20,000 Conflict of Science and Religion (1211), 1927.  
 20,000 Ingersoll: Great Agnostic (1215), 1927.  
 20,000 Christianity and Philanthropy (1218), 1927.  
 20,000 Religion in Great Poets (1224), 1927.  
 20,000 Triumph of Materialism (1229), 1927.  
 20,000 Beliefs of Scientists (1237), 1927.  
 20,000 Failure of Christian Missions (1243), 1927.  
 20,000 Lies of Religious Literature (1248), 1927.  
 10,000 Is Evolution True? (1262), 1928.  
 21,000 Do We Live Forever? (1450), 1929.  
 17,500 The End of the World (1455), 1929.  
 7,500 Are Atheists Dogmatic? (1486), 1929.  
 5,000 A Manual of Debunking (1487), 1929.  
 5,000 Is Einstein's Theory Atheistic? (1490), 1929.  
 25,000 Mussolini and the Pope (1501), 1929.  
 10,000 Fair Taxation of Church Property (1502), 1930.  
 20,500 Gay Chronicle of Monks and Nuns (1509), 1930.  
 10,000 Epicurean Doctrine of Happiness (1510), 1930.  
 21,000 Love Affair of Priest and Nun (1515), 1930.  
 12,500 Facing Death Fearlessly (1536), 1930.  
 7,500 A Debate with a Jesuit Priest (1539), 1930.  
 10,000 Is War Inevitable? (1543), 1930.  
 8,500 How People Lived in Middle Ages (1550), 1930.  
 12,500 Can We Change Human Nature? (1559), 1930.  
 7,500 That Horrible French Revolution (1561), 1931.

The first two items listed above demand a word of explanation, for the figures of their sales are out of

proportion to the rest of the titles. During 1929 and 1930 I advertised widely a set of 60 books which I called "The High-School Library." A lively publicity campaign—in which I used circulars, magazines and newspapers—disposed of 300,000 sets at \$2.98 each. After the campaign got started I put in McCabe's "Facts You Should Know About the Classics," which accounts for my printing 253,250 copies of a book that might have had a sale of only 20,000 if I had withheld it from that special promotion. The second title went into that High-School Library at a later date, when I found it difficult to keep the original 60 titles in print and was compelled to substitute. If I hadn't put in McCabe's Debate on Spiritualism it might have sold not more than 25,000. With this explanation you can go ahead and study and analyze the list, knowing for certain that I have gone to great pains to make the report strictly accurate. It's puzzling to see the 30th title enjoying a sale that's out of line with its neighboring titles. The only explanation I can offer for this is the snappy title—"Degradation of Woman"—for anything that suggests sex, and the average reader accepts the word "woman" as a synonym for sex, means heavier reader-acceptance. The book is about religion's influence on women, so if the title had been a little more prosaic perhaps the sales would have been 20,000 less. The seventh title, "My 12 Years in a Monastery," had special promotion, which explains its comparatively heavy sale.

During the last eight or nine years McCabe has been devoting all of his writing time to larger works, and here again I'm able to report interesting data on the public's acceptance of the so-called highbrow. First, let's look at his five volumes in the Appeal to Reason Library:

- 10,000 Appeal vol. 1, 1935.  
 7,000 Appeal vol. 2, 1935.  
 7,000 Appeal vol. 4, 1935.  
 5,500 Appeal vol. 5, 1935.  
 5,500 Appeal vol. 6, 1936.

McCabe's 10 volumes in the Free-thinkers Library sold a total of 63,000 volumes, divided as follows:

- 5,500 Are the Latest Discoveries in Science Giving Support to the God Idea, 1936.  
 5,500 Is the Position of Atheism Growing Stronger? 1936.

- 19,500 Upton Sinclair Finds God, 1936.  
 5,500 Is the Philosophy of Dialectical Materialism Out of Date? 1936.  
 6,000 A Critical Review of the Latest Claims That Are Supposed to Give Validity to the God Idea, 1936.  
 6,000 Reason or Faith—Which Shall Prevail, 1936.  
 6,000 Christianity's Social Record, 1936.  
 6,000 The Absurdities of the Christian Religion, 1936.  
 6,000 Does Atheism Rest Its Case On Logic? 1936.  
 6,000 Would a Godless World Make for Social Progress or Decline? 1936.

McCabe's 19 volumes of the A B C Library of Living Knowledge sold a total of 170,000 volumes, divided as follows:

- 8,000 The Newest Discoveries in Astronomy, 1937.  
 8,000 The Failure of Fascism, 1937.  
 8,000 Economic Gains of the Soviet Union, 1937.  
 8,000 Nazism and the State of Germany, 1937.  
 8,000 The Causes of the Civil War in Spain, 1937.  
 8,000 Imperialistic Japan and Its Aims, 1937.  
 8,000 Emancipation of Modern Life and Letters, 1937.  
 8,000 What America Could Produce and Consume, 1937.  
 8,000 Television—What It Is and How It Works, 1937.  
 8,000 Man a Million Years Ago, 1937.  
 10,000 Economics, the Science of Getting and Conserving Wealth, 1937.  
 10,000 How the Talkies Talk, 1937.  
 10,000 Your Body and Its Functions, 1937.  
 10,000 What Vitamins and Diet Will Do For You, 1937.  
 10,000 Women Who Become Men, 1937.  
 10,000 Earliest Man in America, 1937.  
 10,000 Our Wonderful Glands, 1937.  
 10,000 The Wonders of the Atom, 1937.  
 10,000 What War and Militarism Cost, 1937.

As stated before, McCabe did a number of miscellaneous volumes, in the larger format (5½ x 8½ inches), 11 volumes in all, which sold a total of 98,100 volumes, divided as follows:

- 2,000 Book of Popular Superstitions, 1932.  
 8,000 Debunking the Lourdes "Miracles" and other Articles, 1928.  
 10,000 Futility of Basic Religious Ideas, 1937.  
 10,800 Great Ideas Made Simple, 1933.  
 10,000 A History of the World Since 1918, 1936.

- 2,000 History and Meaning of the Catholic Index of Forbidden Books, 1931.

- 5,000 An Outline of Today's Knowledge, 1932.

- 25,100 The Rhythm Method of Birth Control, 1934.

- 10,000 The World's Oldest Profession, 1932.

- 6,000 The Truth About the Catholic Church, 1926.

- 10,000 Vice in German Monasteries, 1937.

We now come to McCabe's important sets of volumes. The sales reports show:

- 5,000 sets, True Story of the Roman Catholic Church, 6 double volumes, 1929.

- 3,666 sets, Ancient Great Men, 3 volumes, 1930.

- 10,000 sets, Great Geniuses of the Middle Ages, 3 volumes, 1931.

- 3,636 sets, Men Who Made the Modern World, 11 volumes, 1931.

- 10,525 sets, Key to Culture, 40 volumes, 1924.

- 3,416 sets, History of Human Morals, 12 volumes, 1930.

- 3,000 sets, The Rise and Fall of the Gods, 6 volumes, 1930.

- 13,350 sets, The Key to Love and Sex, 8 volumes, 1933.

Needless to say, my motive in passing on the above statistical data is to enlighten my readers on a most significant subject—the interest of the general readers in serious works by a scholar who never compromises with the reactionaries, the supernaturalists, and the obscurantists. I believe the above figures tell a wonderful lesson. They show that while falsehood dies hard, the truth isn't without its friends.

\* \* \*

I am looking for a printer who can turn out a series of pamphlets (the same size as your larger books), but as they are on timely subjects speed is an important consideration. What can you do there?

We don't always strive for speed above everything else, but when the customer insists we can make the fur fly. Only the other week we took a job from an Illinois client who said he was in a hurry. Well, since he had added \$15 for editing his Ms., one day was spent correcting its spelling, punctuation, construction, etc., the next day was given to setting it, the third went to proofreading and paging, and the fourth day saw the forms

go through the pressroom and, finally, the printed sheets into the bindery. On the fifth day the finished books left via rush express. Not bad at all, not bad.

\* \* \*

A Chicagoan is offering me the opportunity to have myself vocationally analyzed for \$15. He has my photograph and data, but is waiting for the money. Shall I send him the remittance?

I advise against sending the man the money he asks for, because the project can't be of scientific value. The best he can do is to draw a few obvious conclusions from your replies to his questionnaire and then throw in a screwy "character analysis" after a "study" of your photograph. All this can never be worth \$15 of anyone's money. Keep your cash and let this man go his way. He can't give you the slightest constructive help. It all adds up to BUNK.

\* \* \*

You criticize the small mediums because they don't produce the quantity of orders you feel entitled to. Please tell which of the smaller ones you used and how they paid out?

A page in *The Nation*, January 8, 1938, cost about \$150 and by the middle of March brought in \$84.25. There isn't much chance of getting more than \$5 additional business from this space. Two pages in *Harpers*, February, 1938, cost about \$650 and brought in \$166.96 by the middle of April, with small likelihood of going much beyond \$175. *The Saturday Review of Literature*, January 29, 1938, cost \$150 and, by April 7, brought in only \$41.30. *Forum*, February, 1938, cost \$165, and by April 6 the page brought in \$70.60. Personally I believe an advertiser, when he happens to feel a little flush, should give a little business now and then to the smaller publications as a matter of principle, for magazines like *The Nation* serve usefully and should be supported, if the effort isn't too painful. I have given *The Nation* at least 50 pages in the past 10 years and I can't find a single key sheet to show I ever got my money back, but I don't mind, and the next time I hand out a batch of releases it's likely I'll include this worth-while organ of opinion. My policy is to play along with the mass production media as much as possible, but not to the extent that the smaller periodical—often superior

editorially—is neglected. However, I'm willing to grant that I'm being inconsistent in advertising in publications I know can never be made to pay out. Call it sentimentality, or playing a hobby, or whatever you please, but I like to give a helping hand to a publisher who's doing a good job but is obviously having a hard time.

\* \* \*

Why does each Ford Sunday Evening Hour close with a sacred hymn?

The Rev. W. J. Cameron's dope for Fordism needs the opium of religion to help implant it in the so-called minds of his gullible hearers. Tying up the sacred God of Property with the solemn tunes of the great Jehovah helps give the economic royalists a better hold on their victims. As Karl Marx said, Religion is the opiate of the people. That sentence has been criticized mercilessly, but such attacks don't make it any less true.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to this talk that the deer botfly can travel at the rate of about 800 miles per hour?

Some careless student of bugology got that yarn started and it's hard to kill, even though authorities have shown how ridiculous the bunkette is. This insect can make about 25 miles per hour. The most thorough job of debunking the deer botfly was done by Dr. Irving Langmuir, Nobel prize winner and associate director of the General Electric Research laboratories, who tackled the problem theoretically and with laboratory tests. He showed it couldn't be done. No insect can fly twice as fast as the fastest airplane. Dr. Langmuir reports:

The fly's speed has been given as 818 miles an hour in widely circulated reports. To do that, it would have to develop five-tenths of a horsepower—a rather formidable job for an insect. In doing so, it would have to consume about one and one-half times its own weight in food every second it is in flight—and it carries no lunchbox.

But supposing it could develop such power and attain that speed. Against its practically flat head there would develop a pressure of about eight pounds per square inch, probably enough to crush it. If it struck human flesh at that velocity of 818 miles an hour (400 yards per second) it would exert a force of 310

pounds, or about four tons per square inch. That is, it would be a fairly efficient bullet, and would cause a serious wound; nothing of the kind has ever been reported.

Dr. Langmuir used a lump of solder in his laboratory tests, attaching a piece of about the size of the fly to a silk thread. He then swung it "at various velocities in a brightly-lighted, white-ceilinged room." This scientist found:

At 13 miles an hour it could be seen only as a blur; at 26 miles it was barely visible; at 43 miles it appeared only as a faint line and its direction could not be told; at 64 miles an hour it became completely invisible. Laboratory light intensity measurements bore out the experiment results: at 64 or more miles an hour an object the size of the deer botfly becomes invisible. The estimate that a speed of 25 miles an hour is a reasonable one for the insect, while 800 miles an hour is utterly impossible.

\* \* \*

Who was it first said, "Discretion is the better part of valor"?

Shakespeare expressed the above thought this way: "The better part of valour is discretion," in 1 *Henry IV*, act 5, scene 4, line 122. In *A King and No King*, act 4, scene 3 Beaumont and Fletcher said: "It shew'd discretion, the best part of valour." John Ray, in *English Proverbs*, quotes: "Valour can do little without discretion." So, turning to the Bard of Avon again, "let your own discretion be your tutor" while trying to find the source of this famous sentence.

\* \* \*

Do you believe in punishment?

We all have different ideas of what constitutes punishment. "Off with his head!" cries Hitler. Another prefers to express his disapproval by simply ignoring the offender. A third resorts to a mild reproof. This brings to mind the yarn about two hale fellows, who, after a protracted evening of tippling, began to talk of going home. The drunker of the two, who had been recently married, began then to expound on the excellencies of his wife and to importune the other to accompany him home so that he might meet that estimable lady. With some trepidation because of the lateness of the hour he agreed to go but when they arrived at the house and found

it completely dark he demurred about entering:

"I'll tell you what, Bill, I'll go home this time. Come some other time, maybe. Your wife's probably in bed anyway."

"Thash a'right Zhim. C'mon in ol' man; wife's besh li'l lady v'ever shaw. She'll be tickled to death t'shee ya."

Entering, then, they clumped about the house hunting the "besh l'le lady" and finally found her where they might have looked in the first place: in bed—and with her a rather frightened third gentleman. However, Bill's hospitality, in his present state, was not in the least daunted:

"Thash a' the same. She 'sh the finesht l'le lady in the worl'. C'mon Zhim, ol' man; we go down kitchen 'n' make us cupsh o' coffee."

Arrived at the kitchen, however, Jim was not entirely at his ease. Said he, over their coffee, "But, Bill, how about that guy upstairs in bed; what are you going to do about him?"

"Aw, thash a'right. Don't bozer about him. T' hell with him. Let 'm gesh his own cup o' coffee."

\* \* \*

"Ken" magazine mentions that the Prince of Wales (now Duke of Windsor) suffered from the same psychological malady as does Hitler now. What is that?

More than a year ago The Freeman discussed Mrs. Simpson's gentleman friend's emotional maladjustments. I showed what informed reporters in England knew but which couldn't be told in any American newspapers (until I broke the ice) that the duke, before he met Mrs. Simpson, suffered from premature ejaculations. The black-haired American beauty was the only woman ever to come into Windsor's ken who could handle him in such a way that he was able to throw off his morbid fears about sex. In truth, Wally made a man out of the nervous lad. The bewildered fellow decided such a woman was worth more to him than a throne. These are facts known to many Britishers, but whether the same condition applies to Hitler, I don't know. Hitler is sexually subnormal, but the precise forms it takes are difficult to learn. There are many correspondents who insist Hitler is completely indifferent to sex, what is scientifically called asexual. Others, equally in touch with the

scenes behind the scenes, insist that Hitler is asexual only so far as women are concerned, and that his interests are strictly homosexual. Personally, I believe the second view comes nearer the truth. During his entire public life Hitler has attracted no end of homosexuals. His nearest confrere, the late Captain Roehm, was an admitted homosexual, and even though Hitler knew the truth during many years while Roehm headed the storm troops, he preferred to do nothing about this exposure. At the time it was suggested that Hitler stood by Roehm because he and Roehm had been lovers over many years and that he murdered Roehm in 1934 because he knew too much. Today, Hitler's chief hoodlum in Czechoslovakia, Henlein, is known to be a practicing homosexual, yet Hitler stands by him. It's an old truth that when a man attracts many homosexuals to his side there must be something in his nature that is sympathetic to homosexuality, even if he doesn't actually practice the ancient esoteric arts of the sexually inverted. Years ago Hitler destroyed a world-famous sexological institute in Berlin after chasing its head—a Jewish scientist—into exile. At the time it was stated that this was done because the Jewish psychiatrist and sexologist had treated hundreds of homosexual Nazis and that his numerous records showed direct emotional alliances between Hitler and the doctor's subnormal patients. Hitler is known to be "off," given to hysterical outbursts, to breaking into tears on the slightest provocation, all of which is connected with an interest in art that expresses itself in complete rejection of woman's beauty and excessive admiration for the artistic lines of the male. I can't see much to Ken's suggestion that Hitler may be seeking emotional normality by finding a wife fitted to his peculiar needs, as did the Duke of Windsor. A man who is almost 50 years of age can't very well throw off the emotional distortions of many decades. His psychological patterns are too deeply implanted by now for any sort of an emotional transformation. It has been suggested that Hitler, since becoming the world's most conspicuous individual, has avoided love alliances with young men. This may be true, and would account for his sudden attacks

of hysteria, which easily can be the result of his suppressed emotions. Hitler certainly can't do today what he probably did so regularly in the long years while he was a minor figure in Bavaria.

\* \* \*

How many child laborers have we?

There are in the U.S. about 2,000,000 boy and girl child laborers. The proposed Child Labor Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would wipe out this shameful condition in no time, but progress is being hindered by the studied opposition of the Roman Catholic Church, which includes support for child labor as a part of its reactionary economic program.

\* \* \*

I have a daughter who will soon finish highschool. She wants to take a course in some reliable business college. I have had several schools send me their literature. Please advise me by personal letter, for which I enclose what it takes. I am not particular where she attends, so long as it is a good school. I want to get the best for the money. As you know, I live in Kansas.

Since your daughter will soon be a highschool graduate, I suggest that you send her to a State Normal School or Teachers' College, where good business courses are usually available at nominal cost. Such large public institutions are often far superior to private business schools. A good Teachers' College—and there are four or five excellent ones in Kansas—will give its students the best facilities, with motives of public service rather than private gain.

\* \* \*

I used to pass around a leaflet which contained a conversation between a farmer and his mule. It was called "Jackasses and Men." Can you bring it back to life again?

That's an old favorite, which often went the rounds of the unorthodox press. It's worth digging up again, even though the farmer's talk sounds a little too literary, so here goes:

#### JACKASSES AND MEN

Over the hill trailed a man behind a mule drawing a plow. Said the man to the mule, "Bill, you are a mule, the son of a jackass, and I am a man made in the image of God. Yet, here we work, hitched up together year in and year out. I often wonder if you work for me, or I work for you. Verily, I think it a partnership between a mule

and a fool, for surely I work as hard as you, if not harder. Plowing or cultivating we cover the same distance, but you do it on four legs and I on two. I, therefore, do twice as much work per leg as you do.

"Soon, we'll be preparing for a corn crop. When the crop is harvested I give one-third to the landlord for being so kind as to let us use this farm. One-third goes to you, and the balance is mine. You consume all of your portion with the exception of the cobs, while I divide mine among seven children, six hens, two ducks, and a banker. If we both need shoes, you get 'em. Bill, you are getting the best of me, and I ask you, is it fair for a mule, the son of a jackass, to swindle a man, a lord of creation, out of his substance?"

"Why, you only plow and help cultivate the ground, and I alone must cut, shock, and husk the corn, while you look over the pasture fence and hee-haw at me.

"And Fall and most of the Winter the whole family, from Granny to the baby, picks cotton to help raise the money to pay the taxes and buy new harness and pay the interest on the mortgage on you. And what do you care about the mortgage? Not a damn. You ornery cuss. I even have to do the worrying about the mortgage on your tough, ungrateful hide.

"About the only time I am your better is on election day, for I can vote and you can't. And after election I realize that I was fully as great a jackass as your papa. Verily, I am prone to wonder if politics was made for men, or to make jackasses of men.

"And that ain't all, Bill, when you are dead that's supposed to be the end of you. But me? The parson tells me when I die I gotta go to hell yet. That is, Bill, if I don't do just as he says. And what he says keeps me from getting any kick outa life.

"Tell me, Willum, considering these things, how can you keep a straight face and look so dumb and solemn?"

\* \* \*

What is the average mileage covered by motor car users?

According to David R. Wilson, president, Willys-Overland Motors, Inc., average mileage is steadily increasing. Today, the average is about 12,000 miles a year, he says, compared to 6,000 miles only a few years ago. Since a motor car is used more than

ever before, operating economy is an important factor in buying a car. So far as economy is concerned, there's little difference among the three low-priced motor cars—Ford, Plymouth and Chevrolet. The new Willys car, however, is making a big play in this field with a car that is reported to give 35 miles to the gallon. This means a year's driving—for the average 12,000 miles—costs only \$72. It almost sounds too good to be true, but recent public tests prove the truth of this statement.

\* \* \*

How many people are killed in this country yearly in hunting accidents?

The Red Cross reports that hunting accidents caused 2,000 deaths in 1936. James I. Feiser, vice chairman of the Red Cross, offers the following safety suggestions to hunters:

1. Don't pull a gun carelessly from an automobile; help it out as if it were your lady love.

2. Remove shells before crawling through a fence; they can cause more pain than a rip in the pants.

3. Don't use a gun to club game from brush; bringing it out with bare hands is less dangerous.

4. Don't carry your gun cocked. It is always closer to you than any game.

5. Never point a weapon at any one in fun. There is too little difference between comedy and tragedy.

6. Don't deploy ahead of inexperienced hunters. Be polite and let them go first.

7. Don't leave a gun where children can reach it. All weapons are popguns to them.

8. Don't leave a loaded gun in the house. Bears are not coming through the living room this year.

9. Don't allow the gun muzzle to clog with mud or snow. Clean it as you would your teeth; the bite is 1,000 times worse.

10. Dear hunters should wear red coats or hats because deer don't.

\* \* \*

How much gasoline does the average filling station sell annually?

This country has 400,000 retail outlets that service 29,000,000 motor cars. Figuring that 667 gallons are consumed annually by each car, the average filling station sells 50,000 gallons of gasoline per year. The gross margin of profit is \$2,000. The average filling station makes another \$500 in gross profit from oil,

which brings the average gross profit to \$2,500.

Incidentally, while on this subject, let me mention that J. S. Keller, a prominent sales manager in the petroleum field, says only 1 percent of our filling stations are equipped to give a car a good job of lubrication. The motorist pays to have his car lubricated, but can get it done on the average only once in a hundred times because the attendants at our filling stations lack proper facilities. Motorists are warned to make sure they leave their car with qualified concerns when they decide on the important matter of lubrication. Motorists should always try to remember that they are paying for good lubrication jobs, but getting them only 1 percent of the time. If motorists would show a little intelligent interest when they order their cars greased they would save money and keep their cars in better condition. Discreet, informed questions could solve the problem easily, and once the 99 percent realized that the consumers were on to their inefficiency and lack of facilities they would either put in the equipment or surrender the work to other stations better able to give the riding public what it's paying for. To quote Mr. Keller, "If a dealer won the reputation of being a lubricating expert, he could not only make handsome profits on that work alone, but would have a golden opportunity of selling each motorist other badly needed supplies during the half hour he was on hand to witness the lubricating operation."

\* \* \*

Do rats drink red ink?

Frank N. Jarvin, of the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey, says: "It's getting common for the rats in government buildings to go drinking up the red ink. Rats like red ink because it contains something known as eosin." Rats pass up black ink because it makes them sick. During the last fiscal year the U.S. government bought red ink in the following quantities: 3,516 four-ounce bottles; 2,235 pint bottles; 979 five-pint bottles. The report doesn't show how much of this was consumed by rats.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of the new magazine, "Ken"?

Ken looks swell and quite a few of its articles are worth reading.

However, it's a little too anxious to cover up its anti-Fascism by taking side-swipes at Communism. I'm no Communist, as my readers know, but I hate to see Moscow brought into the picture when one is taking a wallop at Hitler and Mussolini. Communism isn't a menace to the world. The real enemy is Fascism.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

Anent agriculture, Jews, Arabs, and Palestine in a recent Freeman, a conversation I had with an agriculturally competent man who had spent some time in Palestine recently might interest you.

He said that ever since the English had had anything to do with the Arabs, they had been trying to raise the Arabian standard of agriculture without success. The Arabs were quite content with their own ways (even as we are in many things, so we shouldn't say too much!).

Into this picture comes the influx of Jews to set up a Jewish State. Agriculture had to be THE occupation of very many of these people. From what my friend could see, these Jews, although untrained in agriculture, took to it as reasonably as any people might, some excellently, others satisfactorily and still others less well, but the crux of the whole situation is that the Jews there are doing the agriculture better than the Arabs and being willing to do it. The Arabs resent this improvement or keener competition, which they are unwilling to meet. Something will happen, it is happening—the Arabs are giving way and getting madder and madder, about it.

You can draw what inference you wish from this, but it certainly indicates that agriculture and Jews are not so incompatible as some say.

Dept. of Biology, Kansas State College  
Manhattan, Kans. F. C. GATES.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I thought you would be interested in the following:

It was a famous radio announcer who, when called on to say grace at a family dinner, bowed his head and said in his most professional voice:

"This food comes to us this evening through the courtesy of Almighty God."

The astronomy professor had shown his fair young visitor all through the observatory and explained the work in minute detail.

"I can understand how a new star

might be discovered," she remarked sweetly, "but how do you clever people ever find out its name?"

Old Lady (to librarian): "I'd like a nice book."

Librarian: "Here's one about the cardinal."

Old Lady: "I'm not interested in religion."

Librarian: "But this cardinal is a bird."

Old Lady: "I'm not interested in his private life either."

N.Y.C. CHARLES LIPKIN

Editor, The American Freeman:

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States would like very much to have you become a member of our Honorary Committee. May we hear from you by return mail that you will become a member of this Committee? ...

N.Y.C. Edgar H. Burman  
Vice Commander-in-Chief

I rejected the above invitation with the following brief note:

"Please don't use my name in connection with your organization. I'm not a Communist, being only an old-fashioned liberal, progressive believer in Americanism, so I was disappointed to see you join the professional brass hats to bring pressure on Governor Herbert Lehman to discharge a public official who had shown the courage to appoint a man to a minor office because he was competent, thus preferring to pay no attention to the individual's affiliation with the Communist party. If I have quoted the facts accurately, your outfit is nothing more than incipient Fascism, with its attendant persecution of unpopular minorities."

Editor, The American Freeman:

It might be an excellent idea to suggest to Freeman readers to take up the constructive work of writing letters to the editors of daily newspapers, even to the extent of borrowing ideas from The Freeman. I've read many of the letters written by some of the radicals and find that many of them are dry, technical, cover too many points at one sitting, and are dull in general. Radicals must develop a sense of humor, use imagination, and only endeavor to cover one or two points in a letter. Short letters are often more effective than long ones. Your publications first came to me while I was in the Army at Fort Eustis, Va. I feel that coming into contact with your various publications since 1928 has greatly enriched my life in creating a better understanding

of events and the strings that are pulled behind the scenes to create these events, and has freed me from the tentacles of bunk. In fact, I feel that your publications have brought me many old friends, such as Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Anatole France, Joseph McCabe, and a host of others. We must not overlook that old warrior in the fight on bunk, Clarence Darrow. He is gone but not forgotten.

Akron, Ohio PIERRE J. AUDIN

"In the June, 1938, issue of The Freeman a subscriber asked if any daily Socialist paper is published in this country. In answering you failed to mention The Milwaukee Leader."—Arthur Ochener, Wisc. (Another publication which should have been mentioned is the weekly Socialist Call, issued in N.Y.C.)

"Is there any similarity between God and Santa Claus," someone asks. To my notion, Santa Claus is the God of the little ones, and God is the Santa Claus of the grown-up mental infants."—A. G.

Editor, The American Freeman:

In your issue dated June, 1938, you respond to an inquiry as to "the best Socialist daily and weekly newspapers," and give fitting and proper credit to our organ, The New Leader, and its very able editor, James Oneal. However, you refer to our organization as the Social Democratic League. Our name from its inception has been the Social Democratic Federation with its National Office in the Albee Building, Washington, D.C. I am, under the circumstances, taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of our Platform and Principles for your perusal and use.

LEO MELTZER  
National Executive Secretary

[Freeman readers who are interested in the principles and program of the Social Democratic Federation are advised to address their inquiries to the address above.]

Editor, The American Freeman:

In your comments on the letter which Norman Baker wrote to the Kansas State Attorney General I noticed that you refrained from saying one word about the atrocious way in which Baker garbled the English language—doubtless to avoid anyone's charge that you were indulging in personalities. However, speaking of the Baker-Brinkley business in another article, you do hint at "involved English" in another communication dealing with the subject. But if that instance was involved then I'll eat my shirt if I know what to call Baker's letter! Now, I wonder, does he



succeed in impressing prospective "patients"? His speech undoubtedly must be cruder than his writing. One may assume that, even though most of his prospects are probably quite ignorant, there yet must be many who see through him in the course of a five-minute interview. Certainly some idea of his abysmal ignorance—and, yet, blithesome self-assurance—may be gained by pondering the exhibit which this letter affords. He hasn't even sense enough to hire a competent ghost-writer.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

\* \* \*

"My wife says to tell you that she's glad that the twisters which zig-zagged their way up out of Oklahoma the other day passed you by without doing you harm. She also added that while schools could be wrecked, church steeples set afire by lightning and the nephew of a bishop killed by a falling limb while on his way to parochial school, no great moral lessons were pointed on that account, but should one outstanding Atheist like you be harmed by nature's forces then at least a half-dozen sermons based on the occurrence would make the front pages of Monday's papers."—Reader.

\* \* \*

"It seems that even God thinks that your Freeman is good, (W. E. Gott of Milwaukee). Though I notice, in the next paragraph, that, God-like, he gives you some undeserved hell about the lack of an economic program. He's probably one of those seekers after a Messiah who, before voting for Norman Thomas, wants to be informed about how every last detail of the Socialist Program is going to work out in its application to his (Gott's) personal life. And all this in spite of the fact that every responsible Socialist ever since I can remember has told the people that if Socialism means anything it means democracy; that is that they will have to work out the details themselves."—Reader.

\* \* \*

"The new butler, of course, was not so terribly far wrong as some might suppose, etymologically speaking, when he made that awful break which cost him a job, for I have heard that 'testimonial' is only one of several words derived from the one he had in mind." C. A. Lang, Mo.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

Since reading your opinion that Eugene Lyons was not altogether fair to the Soviet regime, it interested me to see (in The Philadelphia Record, for March 17, 1938) a letter by Dr. A. R. Melnicoff, chairman of American Friends of the Soviet Union, Philadelphia

Branch, who says in part: "We wish to protest vigorously against the Record's employing Eugene Lyons for daily comments on the Moscow trial. To publish the views of this vicious Soviet Union slanderer proves undeniably your extreme partiality and unfairness. . . . Lyons's deliberate falsifications and distortions truly reflect his warped moral fiber. . . . Despite a crisis-ridden world, Russia has long abolished unemployment, has the largest trade union membership, has an ever-rising standard of living, the greatest cultural and educational movement, has promoted world peace more than any nation in history, and has destroyed forever the power of economic royalists who sap the people's life blood for their own enjoyment. . . . By his treachery and deceit, Lyons has descended to society's lowest scum." Wilmington, Del. W. MATTHEWS

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Is milk fattening?

The best authorities agree that milk isn't fattening. "Actually," says the *Journal of Home Economics*, "it is beneficial to stout persons as well as to thin persons." The article adds:

"This is not a question of simple misapprehension of the facts by the consumer but a rather common misunderstanding of how milk is to be used. First of all, milk is not a beverage to be used in replacing other beverages. It is a food, and in the diet of persons who tend to be stout it should be used as a food to replace other foods rather than as a beverage. If its food value is ignored, then people tend to drink it in addition to their regular diet, thus causing an excessive amount of calories to be stored away as fat. If used to replace its equivalent in calories for each meal, it tends to keep the user well and fit without causing stoutness. Persons who are inclined to be extremely stout may find it advisable to drink skim milk in preference to whole milk."

\* \* \*

Will you be kind enough to explain Hegel's definition of love?

The great German philosopher, Hegel, spit on his hands, rubbed some rosin on his pen, and got off this definition:

"Love is the ideality of the relativity of the reality of an infinitesimal portion of the absolute totality of the Infinite Being."

As I catch the drift, it means if you eat onions or garlic before a heavy date you throw the ideality out of whack, but if you grease your hair and squirt some fancy perfume around

your ears the relativity of the infinitesimal portion kicks back just right. Or maybe I'm wrong.

\* \* \*

I want to become a "professional listener." Please tell me how to go about it.

A "professional listener" is a member of that new profession, "professional listening." The purpose is to enable people who have something on their mind to get it out of their system by telling all about it to a sympathetic listener, who, of course, promises to keep the client's name confidential. It's nice work, if you can get it, and from reports that come to my desk I'm sure these professional listeners, when they are conscientious, do a great deal of good to those distraught, harassed, somewhat obsessed men and women who simply have to get off some steam (verbally, of course) or blow up inside. The members of this profession place small personals in the classified columns of daily newspapers, inviting the public to talk it over with a professional listener. That the profession is considered legitimate is shown by the fact that all papers, so far as I know, accept such small advertisements. The usual thing is to give only a telephone number, thus enabling the professional listener to judge whether or not he should make an appointment with the would-be talker. As for rates, I suppose one charges whatever the situation permits. One professional listener in Los Angeles, Ellis O. Jones, charges \$2 for the first half hour and \$3 for each additional half hour. He says he does this because the first half hour is usually the easiest, the client pouring out his inner troubles in a fairly interesting manner. It's the second half hour that's the hardest, for usually the customer does a lot of conversational repeating and rehashing. Such a profession can be conducted at one's home, or in a private office downtown. The client pays for only one thing—the listener's time. The listener doesn't agree to offer advice nor participate in any move to correct the client's emotional, business, personal, marital, or sexual problems. All he agrees to do is to sit there for so many minutes and listen. He doesn't even agree to listen sympathetically. He just sits.

The patient—and most customers usually are just that—is paying a fee for a human sounding board. One thing the professional listener must be careful to avoid and that's the temptation to offer medical advice. That must be avoided like poison, for it can easily be made the basis of a court case for practicing medicine without a license. If the client begins talking about his ailments, tell him or her to see a doctor, and if he's still insistent, tell him to see a couple of doctors, but never prescribe. It's considered good professional ethics to drop occasional remarks while the patient is pouring out his torrent of words, such as "Well, fancy that," or "What a bad break," or "Too bad, by Jove, too bad," or "Splendid, my friend, superb," and so on. But even that isn't necessary. The professional listener is really serving a human want, for in these hectic days nerves tighten, emotions become maladjusted, abnormal and subnormal ideas challenge confused creatures who need a chance to talk over their troubles. In fact, I, as editor of this paper, am something of a professional listener, or rather a professional reader. Some readers send me a dollar—my usual fee—but instead of asking for information by personal letter they pour out their troubles. I merely guarantee to read their outpourings, and I've heard many times that such letter-writing does my correspondents a great deal of good. I prefer, of course, to read brief letters, the kind that are less than 500 words in length. It's all very interesting.

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Every now and then I come across a person who swears by that old favorite Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for the ailments of women. I invite your comments on this preparation's value and effectiveness.

The history of "Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound" is a long record of withdrawing one claim after another. In the good old days before 1906 (when there wasn't any Pure Food and Drug Act to cramp a patent medicine owner's style) the label on the bottle blandly told suffering womanhood that the concoction was "a sure cure for prolapsus uteri or falling of the womb, leukorrhea, and inflammation and ulceration of the womb, for curing the diseases of wom-

en and for all female ailments and affections, diseases of the bladder and organic affections of the kidneys, and effective as a cure for dysmenorrhea, menorrhagia, displacement of the uterus forward, uterine tumors and diseases of the ovaries, and as a preventive of miscarriage or abortion." That, mark you, appeared on the label on every bottle, and it all was, of course, fraudulent, and intended as such. I make his charge in plain language, for the facts demand candid speech. A crook should be called a crook, especially in a case like the present.

Shortly after 1906, when the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed, the Pinkham company changed its label to show that the compound contained 18 percent alcohol. With sly humor, the next line read, "This [the alcohol] is added solely as a solvent and preservative." That, I insist, opens the door to a grand rush of humor and sarcasm. The label also dropped the words "a sure cure," merely saying the preparation was intended "for prolapsus uteri or falling of the womb and other female weaknesses," etc. It went on to list most of the ailments found on the first label, but somewhat toned down to meet new conditions.

After being arrested and fined in court, the Pinkham concern followed with a third label, in which the alcohol was cut down to 15 percent and the preparation was "recommended for the treatment of non-surgical cases of weaknesses and disorders of the female generative organs, catarrhal leucorrhea and irritations." This was quite a come-down from before 1906, but it was still "hot" because it couldn't do what the label claimed.

A fourth label appeared in 1935, and, except for the declaration of alcohol, carries words that can mean anything or nothing. Believe it or not, here's what the label actually says: "Recommended as a vegetable tonic in conditions for which this preparation is adapted. In use over 50 years." That, I insist, is just another way of saying that if you have a mentality adapted to this concoction it, in turn, is adapted to your purse.

Of course, let's not forget that our absurd, inadequate laws covering pat-

ent medicines merely control what it said on the label or in the package, not what's printed in advertisements in newspapers and magazines, or said over the radio. Here, of course, the Pinkham people avoid making any claims on the label, but whoop it up for all hell and creation when their advertising experts get busy on the copy that's to fill expensive space in publications everywhere.

"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound" now contains, as I've quoted from its label, 15 percent of alcohol by volume, which makes it something like five times as potent as legal beer in my State of Kansas. If several bottles of beer will give one a "buzz" what do you imagine this vegetable compound will do to a woman who thinks she's in need of a drink to "pick her up" but doesn't like the idea of going into a saloon? No wonder so many women go after this dope, as do many men, to my personal knowledge, for I learned from a drug store clerk that many men buy bottle after bottle of this stuff—not to help them get rid of an inflamed uterus, or a falling of the womb, or diseased ovaries, but for the good, old reason of wanting to get some liquid under their belt that (with 15 percent alcohol) certainly ought to be able to give them a kick. I venture the statement that if alcohol were to be taken out of the Pinkham article sales would drop overnight. But sales hold up amazingly well—the preparation is almost as popular as ever before, despite the repeal of Prohibition—because lots of men and women like their snifters.

\* \* \*

Recently you rejected my manuscript which I had submitted for publication. At first I was angry and cursed you out good and plenty, but after reflection I've come to the conclusion that you were right, inasmuch as the subject isn't of general interest. As I would like to have my brain-child printed, please advise if you do job printing of little and big pamphlets.

We are always ready to lend our facilities to the printing of pamphlets, which the author pays for at the rates outlined in a special circular which we issue and which may be had on request. Another valuable service rendered purchasers of pamphlet job printing is the editorial revision we are ready to give each

job, which includes correcting errors in spelling, punctuation, construction, and the like. Address inquiries to our Pamphlet Department.

\* \* \*

In the June, 1938, issue of *The Freeman* you misused the title of the university located at Chicago. The correct title is University of Chicago, not Chicago University.

One should always strive for the strictest accuracy. I'm reminded of Samuel Butler's remark, "I don't mind lying but I hate inaccuracy." I'm also reminded of the question asked of a stickler for accuracy. It happened at an exclusive club in New York City. The inquirer noticed a number of strange young men in the reading room and asked: "Are those men habitués of this club?" The other growled: "No, they're sons of habitués."

\* \* \*

1. How long could a submarine remain under water during the World War, and how long now? 2. How far down could it go then, and how far now? 3. How does a depth bomb work?

1. In 1917, a submarine could stay under water 24 hours; in 1937, 72 hours.

2. In 1917, a submarine could go down 200 feet; in 1937, it can go down 300 feet below the surface.

3. Depth bombs—called "ash cans" by sailors—look like five-gallon paint drums and carry from 300 to 400 pounds of TNT or other powerful explosive. After detectors on the surface ships spot a submarine and get its approximate position, a bomb, or series of bombs, is rolled into the water. The bombs are set to go off at any wanted depth. The device which controls this action is a naval secret, but it is assumed by some naval writers that the device is made to go off at a certain depth by water pressure. It's claimed a direct hit will always sink a submarine, while a bomb that goes off a hundred feet from the undersea craft will cripple it. Submarine chasers have made great progress since the World War, though the submarines, on the other hand, are now much faster and can duck under water more rapidly.

\* \* \*

How many times will that new 200-inch telescope now being built magnify the moon?

The 200-inch telescope now being

made at the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, Calif., will bring the moon within 25 miles of those who use the immense mirror, which will be close enough to see objects only 30 feet in size. This means the moon will be magnified 10,000 times. Instead of coating the glass with silver, very thin aluminum will be used. This will be done because an aluminum coating can be washed with ordinary soap and water, a method of cleaning that would spoil a silver covering. When finished, it will be moved to its permanent home, at the peak of Palomar Mountain, in 1940. The mirror is made of pyrex, which is better adapted than ordinary glass to withstand changes in temperature.

\* \* \*

Can you tell me who coined the word "Bible-belt"?

The honor goes to H. L. Mencken. He also fathered "booboisie."

\* \* \*

Let me call your attention to an amusing satire by George S. Kaufman, in the February 19, 1938, issue of *The Nation*, entitled "God Gets an Idea." It's short, so why not reprint it for the benefit of Freeman readers who don't happen to see *The Nation*?

I'm glad to act on my reader's excellent suggestion, for I agree that Freeman readers will find Kaufman's irony diverting and rib-tickling. Here it is:

The Lord got up one morning, brushed His teeth, and took a look at the world below.

"Things aren't very good," He said.

"No, Sir," said His secretary.

"It seems to Me," said the Lord, "that a lot of it's My fault. Maybe I haven't been trying hard enough. There must be a lot of people down there that don't even know I exist."

"But surely, Sir—"

"No, I mean it. I've been listening to the radio recently. And I'll bet you Lucky Strikes are much better known than I am."

"But, Sir—"

"But nothing. This is a new age, my boy, and we've got to use new methods. I'm going on the air. Get Me the biggest advertising man in the business."

So they got him—the biggest advertising man in the business. He heard the whole idea through, and shook his head uncertainly.

"You mean the whole talk would be religious?" he asked.

"Of course," said the Lord.

"It's pretty risky," said the advertising man. "We got in a lot of trouble with Mae West lately, on a thing something like that."

"But this would be serious," said the Lord. "In a world torn by strife and hatred, ruled by cruel and ruthless dictators—"

"Hold on," said the advertising man. "You can't say anything about the dictators, you know. Germany's sure to protest, and then we'll get in wrong with the government."

"But they're at the root of most of the world's trouble."

"Well, maybe. But we get our license from the government, don't forget. And we've got all kinds of clients, too. A lot of them don't like to hear that kind of stuff."

"Then suppose I just talk about peace? Just peace."

"That would be better. Of course it doesn't sound very exciting—it won't be easy to find a sponsor. But I'll see what I can do."

So he went after a sponsor. Jello thought it was a good idea, but finally decided that Jack Benny was a better bet. Packard turned it down cold. The Bayer people were impressed, but said that peace wouldn't sell aspirin. Now, if He would talk on another subject . . . Chase and Sanborn already had Edgar Bergen, but thought something pretty good could be worked out between God and Charlie McCarthy. And so it went. Most of them said they were sorry they couldn't use Him right then, but they would bear Him in mind, and if anything came up . . .

The best he could offer, said the advertising man, would be a sustaining program. That meant He not only wouldn't get paid for it, but would have to pay for the band Himself.

"What band?" asked the Lord.

"Why, the band that would go on with you," said the advertising man. "You didn't expect just to talk, did you?"

"Yes, I did, kind of," said the Lord. "You see, I've got a good deal to say."

"They won't listen for more than five or six minutes," said the advertising man. "They're not used to it. Now, the way I see it is this: we open with a bit of your theme music, something like 'Have You Met Miss Jones?' Then comes a snappy announcement—'JQX takes pleasure in introducing an old Favorite'—something like that. Then You do six minutes, maybe six and

a quarter. And after that the band again, with something hot."

"Maybe," said the Lord, "we had better let the whole matter drop."

"No," said the advertising man, "it sounds to me like a good idea. All You've got to do is catch on a little bit and we'll get a sponsor and make a lot of money. Now, when would You like to go on?"

"The sooner the better," said the Lord, "considering how things are. What about this Sunday night?"

"This Sunday?" said the advertising man. "Good heavens, no! Roosevelt is on!"

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

An insane man escaped from an asylum and tarried a while in a hotel lobby to listen to a radio. The following "flub-dub" flowed furiously over the ozone at frequent intervals:

"Wah! Wah! Wah! Wanna' duck, Yeah, Wanna' duck! O, how I wanna' duck . . . Smoke Horse-Shoe Plug, not a pant in a pipeful or a cough in a load of cars; leaves breath sweeter than mountain mistletoe . . . Drink oceans of Ovaltine, it will sing you to sleep . . . Poodle Bray-Bray croons: 'Your warm, tender touch, makes me shudder too much . . . My heart's all a fludder as I shudder and shudder. Encore: 'Please don't make a fuss if I am alarmingly amorous; if I am fussed to death, it is all because of your violet breath . . . Pouf! Pouf! Choo! Choo! Ding Dong! Travel on Cuckoo Line and sleep like a pussy-cat! Meow! Scat! Yes, you will sleep like a kitten and arrive as fresh as a buttercup . . . Choo! Choo! Pouf! Pouf! . . . Boys and gals, treat your gums to a trial package of Uncle Charley's portentous peanuts. Send a thin dime to your Aunt Pollie, patient people, in care of Station N.U.T.S. . . . Flash! . . . Dash! . . . Flash! Crash! Willie Windfilled will spill latest Hollywood happenin'; 'Have it on best authority that Mary Pickaxe eats Wheat-Wheats for dejeuner washed down and drenched with Bossy's Best Confidentially Cream, Lady Gossip whispers that a certain movie man (name naturally withheld) puts butter on baloney at formal dinners! . . . Flashing Out! Tanks for lis'nin', Sweet Sufferers . . . until tomorrow, Toodle-di-o and a couple of Cheerios . . . I'll continue to move the moon over the mountains unless they wear out . . . Time for station idiosyncracies . . . P.D.Q.P.D.Q. . . . Those cute Broad-

way cut-ups will now tell the time by kicking the drum. Boom! boom! and ten more booms! . . . Midnite has come . . . Introducing Ye Twinkle-Toe Comedy Lads Bud and Bozo: 'You said it. Sez you. So what? O.K. Okie-Dokie. Ain't she swell? How I yell. Well, well, well! . . . Shampoo with Snappy Soothing Suds and Satisfy Your Scalp . . . Boys and Gals, chew Cherry Chuck-chucks and acquire charm . . . Cherry Leaf chorus now chortles 'Chew Cherry Chuck-Chucks a very great deal and thereby gain charm and much sex appeal, . . . Uncle Hez will dissolve 'Take-a-Sellsir' in a tumbler. Hear the fizzle Ssh! Headaches vanish with every sizzle as the Hill Billies nasally fiddle . . . Ladies, Ivory Heads won't float the morning after, but our non-elusive soap will. Buy a cake and bathe without bother . . . The Baloney Boys now blow bubbles while Old Phil-os-opher, pinch hitting for Jane Google Eyes, Vanishing Cream Queen, will answer a few riddles of life: Pansy Pent-Up asks: 'Why am I deserted by my boy friends?' Answer: 'Dig up some dough, Pansy, and interest will be revived' . . . Program will sign off after Big Bing Boobie cautiously croaks: 'If you will only say you understand.'

As the radio was silenced, the bewildered lunatic scratched his head and muttered: "Back to the Bughouse, Joe. They are crazier on the outside these days than they ever were on the inside."

EDMUND K. GOLDSBOROUGH  
Washington, D.C.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

Your windup of the swing music discussion with a description of the act which was put on by the horse at the opera was just about as "screwball" as it could be and, I thought, most fitting. I don't know whether or not you intended thereby to subtly convey your real emotions toward the whole subject, but as for me, when I was approaching the end of the article, I caught myself mentally quoting the inelegant expression of a friend of mine: "Aw siss on it, pister."

A little swing goes a long way with me; it does seem to unhinge a primitive something in one's inners but so does the wailing chant and gourd and tom-tom of a group of Navajos, as I can assure you, having heard a little of their stuff when in Arizona nearly three years ago. And their way seems more sincere and meaningful. My musical education was grossly neglected but what little appreciation for the art I

have leans more toward the same "barbarians" that you also enjoy; we are both quite plainly "wheat-benders."

While swing may be good practice for many an instrumentalist who is already pretty good and may even inspire a few of them to do something solid in the way of original creation—something which will remind us of this chaotic, transitional age—yet it must be evident that by far the greater part of it is surely foredoomed to early oblivion. I don't think any master-composers such as the last century produced will emerge from such a background. Like all other creative effort it seems to me that the building of something enduringly beautiful in the realm of music must require solitude and time for contemplation. Majestic symphonic harmonies are surely not produced without a lot of patient, toilsome effort which has little in common with the fleeting and uncoordinated "licks," "riffs" and "send-offs" of a bunch of "chop-licking" "ride-men."

READER

\* \* \*

Kindly advise me regarding the best buys among the numerous brands of double-edge razor blades.

I use single-edge blades in a satisfactory 25-cent Gem razor, so I can't give any suggestions based on personal experience, but Consumers Union has issued a tentative report on 22 brands of double-edge blades which should be of help to users of this kind of shaving implement. CU says it conducted tests for about a year, putting many blades through the works, but finds it difficult to be specific about them because of the absence of uniformity in their manufacture, blades varying from package to package and even from blade to blade in the same package. One thing is certain, says the report, and that is the fact that razor blades aren't being made with the care that used to be put into them. For the reasons just mentioned, the classifications below have to be considered tentative, but nevertheless they should be of help to self-shavers.

**BEST BUYS**—Cadet (Woolworth's), 2c; Blue Diamond (Hearn's, N.Y.C.), 29c; Ardell (Ardell Razor Blade Corp., N.Y.C.), 2c; Ward's Supreme (Montgomery Ward, Cat. No. —3239), 1.8c, plus postage; Marlin (sold by Marlin Firearms Co., New Haven, Conn.), 1½c; 20 for 25c., somewhat variable, but low-priced.

**ALSO ACCEPTABLE**—Thin-Flex (Gen-

eral Blade Co., N.Y.C.), 5c each in small quantities, 100 for \$3.75, over-priced; Macy (Macy's, N.Y.C.), 1.8c; Ward's Super-Thin (Montgomery Ward, Cat. No.—3523), 3.5c, plus postage; Moredge (Penny stores), 1.9c; Barbasol (Barbasol Co., Indianapolis), 3c; Gillette (Gillette Safety Razor Co., Boston), 5c, over-priced; Tuxedo (Colton Razor Blade Co., Boston), 2c; Myco (Myco Razor Blade Co., Pittsburgh), 2c; Sears' S-R (Sears-Roebuck, Cat. No.—6388), 0.8c, plus postage.

NOT ACCEPTABLE—Darwin (Darwin's, Ltd.), 13c, extremely variable, but good ones found sometimes; Probak Jr. (Gillette Safety Razor Co.), 2.5c; Sears' Elite, 1.6c, plus postage; Red Cap (Woolsworth's), 1c; Dublekeen (General Blade Co.), 4c, pretty good sharpness with first shave, but durability poor; Dart (Kress stores), 1.7c, fair initial sharpness, but poor durability; Cooper (Cooper Products Corp.), 4c or 5c; Sears' Sta-Sharp De Luxe, 3.3c, plus postage.

\* \* \*

Over Station KMOX I heard recently an address on cancer quackery by a speaker representing the St. Louis Medical Society. The talk was a terrific attack on those unspeakable ghouls who exploit cancer sufferers with their fake cures, describing them as the "most depraved of all human beings." I suggest that you get a copy of this speech and quote its most valuable statements.

I am able to present excerpts from the speech referred to above, but because of medical ethics I wasn't given the name of the scientist who wrote and delivered it. The most striking passages from this blast against cancer charlatans follow:

The history of medicine, from the earliest records of 3000 B.C. to the present, exemplifies man's mystification by disease and the play of his imagination in efforts to drive disease from his body. Evil spirits which possessed the body had to be driven out by incantations; vengeful gods had to be propitiated by prayer and sacrifice. Even now, we occasionally encounter individuals who establish themselves among large groups of our civilized countrymen as possessed of the divine power to heal the sick by the "laying on of hands."

Is it, then, any cause for wonder that the medical quack is with us today, that his fabulous claims for the efficacy of his remedy are believed in and that his monetary gain is limited only by his persuasive powers?

The field of quackery in medicine

is most fertile in exploitation of individuals afflicted with incurable conditions, or for which the medical science of today, as practiced by ethical physicians, prescribes a treatment which is painful or expensive, or both.

The incurable is always hopeful he will find relief from his affliction, and the curable is always looking for an easy way out of his difficulties. And so it is inevitable that the patient afflicted with cancer, or with a condition he thinks might be cancer, falls an easy prey to that most depraved of all human beings, the cancer quack.

In a recent booklet published by the Department of Investigation of the American Medical Association, no fewer than 99 quack remedies and institutions purporting to "cure cancer" were described and exposed.

The most frequently used quack remedies for cancer are pastes or solutions which contain as their active agent a compound of zinc or of arsenic. These compounds, known as escharotics, actually destroy all living tissues, whether diseased or healthy. The danger lies in the fact that their action cannot be controlled; when used by the quack, they are applied indiscriminately to any kind of growth, whether it be cancer or not.

Other so-called cancer cures which have been extensively advertised contain perfectly innocuous ingredients, with a more or less unpleasant taste. In many country neighborhoods, there are old women or old men who possess a "secret remedy" for cancer. Certain herbs are brewed or combined with chemicals to form a paste or plaster and these "eat" the cancer away!

Superstition is born of fear and ignorance. Until everyone knows the fundamental facts, no disease is more capable of arousing credulity in a mysterious remedy than is cancer.

When radium was discovered by Prof. and Mme. Curie in 1898, the imagination of the world was set on fire by its remarkable qualities. Here was a chemical which upset all preconceived and accepted laws of physics and chemistry. When the destructive effects of radium on living tissue and its invaluable aid in the treatment of cancer became established, what could be more natural than that extravagant claims would be made for any substance which might contain radium?

The cancer quack was not slow

to seize upon this new and mysterious element as a means to dupe the unwary. Radium was known to be practically indestructible. Therefore, if one wore a belt which contained radium, one could be constantly and painlessly treated while wearing it. Radium was soluble in water, and a very little of it could make a great deal of water radioactive. Also, the emanations of radium could be absorbed by water and later given up again out of the water after it was drunk, thus flooding the system of the sufferer with this magic substance.

The waters from certain springs were found to contain infinitesimal quantities of the salts of radium, and since they were radio-active, these waters must have magical healing powers. Not only cancer, but many chronic diseases, such as rheumatism, arthritis and hardening of the arteries, were supposed to be benefited by the radio-active water, either natural or artificial.

Naturally, the cancer quack who sold his radium belt or radium water at a fabulous price did not bother about its containing radium. The presence of radium anywhere is not discoverable by ordinary means, and when it is in solution, the liquid is perfectly clear. The quack could easily evade the necessity of proving that this remedy actually contained radium.

Fortunately for the credulous public, the traffic in this radium quackery has not thrived as have some others. Radium water could not be made strong enough to affect cancer on the surface of the body. A patient with internal cancer, when treated with radium water, invariably died. So testimonials, easily obtained in the cases not cancer but treated by escharotics, were hard to get.

Radium, when properly used, is one of the most beneficial and successful methods employed in the treatment of cancer. But it is a very powerful substance and its proper use, like that of X-ray and of surgery, can be learned only after months of study and under skilled and experienced direction.

Beware of the advertising doctor. Above all, beware of all advertised cancer cures. It is inconceivable that anyone who knew of an internal remedy which would cure cancer would keep that remedy secret for the benefit of his private means.

If you have cancer, if you think

you may have cancer, consult your family physician. Be guided by his advice. Submit to a thorough examination and accept the verdict as to proper treatment as given by physicians trained in the scientific, regular school of medicine.

\* \* \*

Please comment on Mussolini's new accord with Great Britain.

I wrote a swell 2,000 piece, replete with elaborate statistics, shrewd observations and logical deductions, but threw the masterpiece away when it came to me like a flash that I could summarize the whole discussion with these pregnant words: *Can he stay bought?*

\* \* \*

What is Soviet Russia's yearly airplane production?

The Soviet Union releases no figures on its airplane industry, but a report issued by German engineers may be accepted as accurate. According to their figures, Russia is producing 8,000 airplanes per year. The airplane industry employs 220,000 workers. The same report says Russia's "most important aviation plants are out of reach of any enemy air attacks." There are 74 plants devoted to airplane building. Some military experts now say that the Soviet Union is practically immune to attack by air.

\* \* \*

How much will the Soviet Union spend on new railway lines in 1938?

More than \$1,000,000,000. The double-tracking of the trans-Siberian railroad is almost finished. Other railroads are being built in Eastern Siberia. A series of new radio centers are being erected across European and Siberian Russia. Telephone lines between Moscow and the Eastern provinces of Siberia will be finished in 1938. Most of these activities are being pushed almost frantically because of the government's fears regarding Germany and Japan. Early in April, Nicholas Voznesensky, newly appointed chief of the U.S.S.R. planning commission, said: "It is known that the Fascist countries, primarily Japan and Germany, are hastening preparations for attack on the Soviet Union." Production figures show that the Soviet Union doesn't intend to be caught napping. Its immediate objective is to make the provinces in the Far East as independent



of European Russia as conditions permit.

\* \* \*

Is it true that Norman Baker, the heroic cancer quack, is suing others besides yourself for libel?

Yes. It's hard to keep up with all of Norman Baker's libel suits. Last year the March of Time exposed Norman Baker's cancer quackery in a wonderful, educational, constructive movie, and as a result Baker has been filing \$1,000,000 libel suits right and left. I don't know exactly how many are on file, or to be filed, but according to one source Norman Baker aims to file suits in each of the 48 States. He also sued *Radio Guide* for a vast sum, filing his case in the Federal Court at Laredo, Texas. *Radio Guide's* defense is being handled by Mr. George L. Haggard, of the law firm of Kirkland, Fleming, Green, Martin and Ellis, of Chicago, Ill. On April 23, 1938, Mr. Haggard wrote me, in part, as follows:

"You will be interested to know that exactly three days before our attorneys in Texas were going to start his deposition, Norman Baker dismissed his suit against *Radio Guide* in Laredo, Texas. The order of dismissal was entered on April 22, 1938. That clearly substantiates the idea that all of these suits are for the purpose of . . . free publicity."

Thousands of Norman Baker's victims have been influenced by his publicity to the effect that he is suing many individuals, including myself, for libel. The average uneducated person thinks that Norman Baker can cure cancer because he is able to file libel suits against those who denounce his quackery and expose his claims. A victim of cancer desperately reaches for anything in sight, in the hope of being cured, and such unfortunates, naturally, are easy targets for the wiles of our cancer quacks. Meanwhile, in his libel suits against me, I'm driven to great expense to defend myself, for such cases can't be ignored, even though it's common knowledge that Norman Baker's cancer claims are nothing more than gross fakes. Even while this notorious cancer quack was serving a jail sentence in Iowa, for practicing medicine without a license, he had an attorney here in Girard pushing his libel suits against me.

When things in Iowa became so uncomfortable that it became necessary to spend precious time in jail, Norman Baker, on his release, went to Eureka Springs, Ark., where he opened one of his fake cancer hospitals. Information from that section has it that the decent-minded authorities are not favorable to the idea that their State shall be used as a haven of safety for quacks. Several measures have already been taken against quacks like Baker and "Dr." Brinkley, one being a decision to refuse to recognize their hospitals under the narcotics law.

Cancer quackery is still flourishing in this country, but the going isn't as easy as it used to be. There is a general awakening that will, in time, redound to the benefit of science and to the embarrassment of those who batten on the misery of the unthinking.

\* \* \*

1. Please compare 1913 production in Germany and Russia in important raw materials. 2. How do the countries compare today?

1. In 1913, according to information taken from authentic sources, Germany and Russia compared as follows:

	Germany	Russia
	(millions of tons)	
Production		
Coal	208.0	36.0
Iron	16.6	4.6
Steel	17.6	4.9
Petroleum	0.1	8.6

In 1937, the picture changed, with the Soviet Union making immense gains. Japan's production figures are added, for obvious reasons. The comparisons:

	Germany	U.S.S.R.	Japan
	(millions of tons)		
Production			
Coal	158.38	120.90	39.04
Iron Ore	6.65	27.06	.75
Pig Iron	15.30	14.31	2.84
Steel Ingots	19.17	16.33	4.94
Petroleum	0.44	26.34	3.79

\* \* \*

I am enclosing a clipping from the official magazine of Germany's railroad system, *Die Reichsbahn*, in which you will find facts that support your oft-repeated claim that Hitler's armament program is playing havoc with the country's economic life. Please pass the data on to your readers.

The article in *Die Reichsbahn* was intended only for the eyes of railway officials in Nazi Germany, but newspapermen spied it and decided it would

be of interest to Americans who are planning to travel in Germany. The reader who sent me the clipping referred to above included a resume from *Time*, May 2, 1938, wherein we learn that as a result of official orders new coaches and sleepers are being made of wood instead of steel in order to supply more steel for the making of tanks and cannon. Rail replacements have fallen 40 percent behind 1937 estimates. As a result of studied neglect and the use of inferior substitutes, derailments in 1937 numbered 4,513, as against only 259 in 1932, the year before Hitler took power. In 1937 there were 1,005 rail casualties and injuries, as against 392 in 1932.

\* \* \*

When President Roosevelt announced the desterilization of a certain amount of gold, just what did he mean? Of course, I know he didn't order the gold fumigated.

I'll have to explain this carefully and simply, because I'm not quite sure I know all the fine points about this sterilization and desterilization business. A combination of pure ignorance and a desire to keep my readers properly informed will compel me to touch only the high-spots, though I'm pretty sure the low-spots I miss won't have any material effect on the validity of my exploration into the mazes of gold and money. We writing gents soon learn, when we are compelled to wade beyond our depth, that intelligent ignorance isn't always a bad thing; it drives us to the useful decision to study just enough to bring out the high-lights, making certain, of course, that his facts are straight, which, need I add, is the only way an intelligent person can cover up his mortifying ignorance. A thoroughly informed expert in this field, if asked the above question, would feel compelled to write a 600-page tome, replete with statistics and graphs, plus thousands of \$4 words, and the result would be complete absence of light for the persons who are ignorant of the meaning of sterilized and desterilized gold and still want to do something about it.

First, let me tell what happened to a quantity of gold which came into the hands of the federal government before desterilization was even considered. Let's say you had \$100,000

worth of gold hidden in some tin cans in the back yard—you see, I strive tirelessly to be homely and simple when tackling so abstruse a problem as gold. You turned it over to Uncle Sam. As this transaction took place while we were off the gold standard, the gold was taken by a federal reserve bank, which, by law, is compelled to deliver it to the U.S. treasury. The federal reserve bank got \$100,000 in paper money—gold notes, if that sounds more impressive. Under the law, the federal reserve bank had the legal right to issue two and a half times the value of that \$100,000 in additional paper money. That would increase the amount of paper money by \$250,000. Under our financial system, \$250,000 of new paper money can be pyramided into about \$2,500,000 of new credit.

Such a routine wouldn't amount to anything at all if the quantities of gold were moderate, but when old gold shows up (including your \$100,000), and lots of new gold is mined, and owners of gold in foreign countries ship it into the U.S. by the ton, we have to call a halt, lest we find ourselves suffering from too much money in circulation and its resultant expansion of new credit. This situation prevailed on December 21, 1936, when the President saw the time had come to sterilize all new gold, thus keeping it from giving birth to new money. (I realize I've stepped ahead of my story a little, but be patient with me while I straighten out the kinks. You see, I'm learning as I go along.)

How can this sterilization take place? Listen, readers, for that too can be explained in simple language so that intelligent ignorance may emerge triumphant. After December 21, 1936, when new gold reached a federal reserve bank the routine suddenly changed. The gold was delivered to the U.S. treasury, as before, but at this point Uncle Sam changed the rules of the game. The treasury didn't deliver paper money (gold notes) as before—the notes, let me mention again, that were intended to serve as symbols of gold. What did the government do? If your \$100,000 worth of gold mentioned before were up at this point, the government, after taking it from the federal reserve bank, would refuse to issue gold

notes against it. Instead, the government went to other banks and borrowed \$100,000, and used that money to pay the federal reserve bank for the gold it had taken from you. That meant the federal reserve bank couldn't issue the usual two and a half times increase in new paper money. That meant the quantity of paper money in circulation didn't take a new hike. That, my readers, shows what happens when gold is sterilized.

But what happens when the government wants to desterilize some of its gold? The President merely announces that a certain quantity of gold shall be handled as in the days before December 21, 1936, which means, of course, that new money and credits will ensue. Recently the President announced that \$1,392,000,000 worth of such gold shall be de-sterilized. This will mean more money in circulation and more credit for business. This doesn't mean that the gold will be moved out of the government's vaults. No, it'll remain there, as before. The treasury will merely issue new gold notes, which it'll deposit to its own credit in the banks, thus having money for CCC camps, new roads, relief, battleships, bridges, and anything else the government cares to buy with its money. Technically, there's a certain amount of inflation here, because new money and credits are increased, but I'd suggest that the average citizen lose no sleep on this score. We'll leave the wailing to the Republicans, who have become expert denouncers.

I hope I've made my points clear. There are other phases of this question that should be covered, but I intend to pass them by because I don't understand them well enough to explain them to persons more ignorant than myself. I like to keep my ignorance in strict control. That, need I add, is one of the earmarks of intelligence.

\* \* \*

I have found your comments on Baker and Brinkley valuable and informative. Norman Baker is, as you prove, a plain, unadulterated quack, for the record shows that he served a jail sentence in Iowa for practicing medicine without a license. If our authorities were anxious to protect the ailing public, he could be disposed of easily. Brinkley, on the other hand, is a more difficult case, judging by the review of his amazing career in a recent Freeman. After all,

the record shows he pulled his way through a diploma mill and got a license to practice in Kansas, which later was revoked. I understand he appealed from the decision of the State Medical Board to the Federal Court in Kansas, where his plea was rejected and the State's stand supported. Here the narrative ends. Did Brinkley quit then and there or did he carry his case to a higher Federal court?

On January 22, 1937, John R. Brinkley's attorneys spent four hours arguing before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, in Oklahoma City, Okla., in an attempt to get that court to reverse the decision of the Federal Court in Kansas which had denied the widely known quack the right to practice medicine in Kansas. Three federal Judges heard the case and took great pains to let it be known that not only did they think the authorities in Kansas were correct but Robert E. Lewis, senior circuit judge, termed Brinkley an "out-and-out charlatan of the worst type." That Brinkley was able to escape into Arkansas and open a "hospital" there is a reflection on the medical standards of that State, a condition that should be remedied.

Brinkley's radio broadcasts came in for special criticism from the judges. Judge Lewis' strongest attack on Brinkley came as he read from a trial brief an instance in which the "surgeon," in broadcasting over his radio station, acknowledged a letter from "Code O B S, somewhere in Missouri." Brinkley commented at length on the patient's condition, then prescribed "prescription 54, 50, and 61," and told the woman, presumably listening, "you'll be surprised at the benefit you receive."

After reading the facts of this astonishing incident, Judge Lewis slammed his brief case down on the bench, and, in a stern voice cried, "a man who will do a thing like that is an out-and-out charlatan of the worst type. A claimed doctor! Prescribing like that over the radio! Utter nonsense!"

Another member of the court, Judge George T. McDermott, of Topeka, Kansas, said one of the objections was to Brinkley's charging \$750 for a seemingly complicated operation which could be done in any doctor's office under a local anesthetic for \$10, and which in any case does about

as much good as putting a piece of dough under the skin.

Despite the court's action against Brinkley, the great quack continues to broadcast to the U.S. from a station in Northern Mexico and lures his victims to Arkansas. Brinkley and Norman Baker opened their establishments during the same month in 1937, and are still going strong, though there are indications that protests are having their effect on the Governor. The tragic thing about it all is that when the law catches up with a quack in one State he is able, in many instances, to slip across the line to another State and begin all over again, even in the case of a Norman Baker who served a jail sentence in Iowa for his disgraceful cancer quackery, a system of yokel-baiting that has made this ex-varnish and cigar salesman rich. Baker rolls in wealth that he was able to get from the unfortunate victims of cancer, after Quack Baker had convinced their uneducated minds that he, a layman who had never seen the inside of a medical college, was able to do what the great scientists of the entire world claim is impossible. Yes, Baker and Brinkley are our two greatest quacks, and their continued operations are a blot on the standards of our country. Lovers of scientific truth and human justice must do their utmost to drive such quacks into oblivion. An editor who refuses to help in such a crusade is untrue to his lofty profession.

\* \* \*

How long have lead pencils been in use?

About 300 years.

\* \* \*

What is the age of the average motor car?

Four and a half years.

\* \* \*

Your praise of Roosevelt's social legislation doesn't appeal to me because you studiously avoid mentioning the mountain of debt the President is piling up for future generations to stagger under. What good does it do to advance progressive social reforms if their cost threatens to bankrupt the country? By ignoring the bad features and praising Roosevelt's humanitarianism you do your readers a great wrong.

I have given proper attention to our government's debt, as my old readers can testify. But I'm glad to discuss this subject again because it's of pressing interest, especially since

our reactionaries never cease berating our President because of the national debt. To believe the editorials by conservative, anti-New Deal editors one would have to picture our country as being headed for ruin and insolvency. The whole anti-Roosevelt campaign is loaded with insincerity, misinformation, distortion, evasion and plain bunk. I believe I can convince reasonable, unprejudiced readers of the truth of my assertions. Roosevelt, with all his faults, has been a good President, and even his financial policies come clean when investigated impartially and with strict regard for the facts.

The country isn't headed for the bow-wows. The debt isn't out of line. The country is solvent. Insolvency isn't even a distant possibility. As I showed before, if the U.S. wanted to build up a debt equal to that of Great Britain or France, on a per capita basis, we could spend up to more than \$100,000,000,000 and still be better off than those two countries. The facts support me in this statement.

The reactionaries are misusing Roosevelt's spending policy in order to advance the policies of the economic royalists. It's the privileged elements which have much to gain from the elimination of relief to our suffering, needy brothers, and from the destruction of policies for the protection of our people through old age pensions, unemployment insurance, etc. They are the ones who try to frighten the people by drawing dark pictures of our financial structure. But the masses don't seem to be worried by these calamity howlers. They know that Roosevelt is heading the country in the right direction when he tries manfully to remove many of the abuses of Capitalism, not only the social-minded laws already passed but the laws the nation needs to meet the problems of public health, minimum wages and maximum hours. The anti-Roosevelt propaganda reeks with dishonesty.

But let's hurry to the figures. And the figures, let me state, tell volumes. The record shows beyond debate that our per capita debt on April 5, 1938, was considerably lower than it was on August 31, 1919. Below I intend to give two sets of figures which will demonstrate clearly that our per cap-

ita debt, on April 5, 1938, was only \$213.04 as against a per capita debt, on August 31, 1919, of \$242.57.

The financial statements I give below are known to the editors of our conservative newspapers, but they're too dishonest to let their readers learn their meaning. Here they are:

show for this money—better roads, parks, public buildings, social insurance, old age pensions, finer schools, bridges, power sites, public housing, CCC projects, and so on, almost without end. The money thus far has been, by and large, spent con-

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A., AUGUST 31, 1919

Total indebtedness .....	\$26,596,701,648
To Offset This Indebtedness:	
Cash on Hand .....	\$1,118,109,535
Notes of the Allied Nations and foreign obligations with face value of \$12,-017,075,933.60, of which only Finland's is good .....	\$8,270,138
Plant and equipment .....	\$1
Total offsets .....	\$1,126,379,674
Net debt .....	\$25,470,321,974
Per Capita Net Debt as applied to population of 105,003,065, midyear 1919 .....	\$242.57

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A., APRIL 5, 1938

Total Indebtedness .....	\$37,556,588,558
To Offset This Indebtedness:	
Cash on Hand .....	\$1,907,993,406
Exchange Stabilization Fund .....	\$1,800,000,000
Sterilized Gold .....	\$1,182,974,522
Cash and Gold .....	\$4,890,967,928
R. F. C. and other investments, par value, \$5,493,557,930, taken at 90% .....	\$4,944,202,137
Finland's indebtedness .....	\$8,270,138
Plant and Equipment .....	\$1
Total offsets .....	\$9,843,440,204
Net debt .....	\$27,713,148,354
Per Capita Net Debt as applied to population of 130,085,000 January, 1938 .....	\$213.04

Let me make a few comments on the above. First, consider the valuation given for plant and equipment in both sets of figures—only \$1. In 1919 (after the close of the World War, we had built up a national debt of \$242.57 per capita because of our immense waste of money for munitions to fight a useless, destructive war. What is the situation today, with a lower per capita debt of \$213.04? We have a great deal to

structively. The people have something to show for the billions spent. Why, only to look around in this little town where I'm writing this piece is enough to convince one of the stupidity of those who smear the President because he has spent some money to save suffering humanity and increase the public's property. Here, in a community of only 2,500 population, I can point out, almost in sight of my office window, federal-aid pro-

jects like the following: a new fire house, a better city hall, a new high school addition, repaired public schools and library, repaired or surfaced streets, a swimming pool, a rock-crushing plant for the fixing or hard-surfacing of roads for miles around, and so on. A few miles away the federal government built a fine fair grounds, with numerous buildings, race track, grandstand, and the like. A few miles to the North something like 200 boys in the CCC camp are building a dam that will impound vast quantities of water in a large, artificial lake. Space doesn't permit me to list all the wonderful things that have been done here with federal money since Roosevelt decided to "ruin" the country. And all such needed improvements, which can be seen by merely looking around one in any part of the 48 States, are listed in the above statement as having a value of only \$1. It's patriotic to waste billions on a great war, but it's treason to spend money for serving the people. So say the reactionaries.

Roosevelt has spent the people's money intelligently and wisely—and that's why the conservatives hate him. How much better, from their viewpoint, would it have been to do nothing socially constructive but to waste gigantic sums in senseless wars. I doubt that the people are going to be fooled by such propaganda. They may not know that the President has done much for the good of the country, and still made the per capita debt 14 percent less than it was in 1919, but they feel almost impulsively that he is headed in the right direction and that his recent decision to spend more money is all to the good. If anything, the President should be told that he isn't spending enough to build up and improve the country.

The country is safe. We aren't spending ourselves into bankruptcy. We are spending billions of dollars for social-minded enterprises. Such spending signifies health, not sickness. The President's financial policies are right, and he should receive the people's full-hearted support.

\* \* \*

Can the cooperatives supplant Capitalism?

The cooperative movement isn't intended to supplant Capitalism. Its

real purpose is to enable consumers to obtain better quality and lower prices within the frame-work of the present system. Its objective isn't to destroy the private ownership of the industries, etc., but to eliminate some of the obvious abuses suffered by consumers when they are unorganized and at the direct mercy of the distributing interests. However, this doesn't mean that the cooperative movement is conservative. Labor unionists, radicals, Liberals, Socialists, and the like, usually support cooperatives not only because they save money for the consumers but because they educate the masses, or rather a part of the masses, in the intricacies of the present social order and enable some of their leaders, major and minor, to learn to become managerially efficient. In democratic countries in Europe, for generations, the Socialists, labor unionists and others have made support of cooperatives one of the foundation-stones of their structure.

\* \* \*

I have been reading some of Upton Sinclair's writings on Dr. Abrams and his *Electronic Reactions*. Can you give me an authoritative discussion on this subject?

Upton Sinclair, as I've shown many times, is as nutty as a fruit cake when he comes under the influence of any kind of quack. One must never take Sinclair seriously when he deserts his real activity, the writing of novels. Sinclair has fallen for every form of quackery—from Dr. Abrams to Christian Science, from Dr. Rhine's Extra-Sensory Perception to table-rapping, and from fake cancer cures to levitation. In one of his books he even goes so far to say that a certain master of psychical hokum caused his writing table to rise from the floor and float through the window. I suppose Sinclair keeps his furniture nailed down when he wants to get some writing done. At the time Dr. Abrams was pulling his crooked schemes in San Francisco, Sinclair spent days, perhaps weeks, with the infamous fraud, and for days I received telegrams telling me to get behind this new scientific Moses. Knowing Sinclair's innocent capacity for imbibing quack notions, I refrained from joining Dr. Abrams in his "scientific" endeavors. Upton Sinclair, let me add, didn't make a penny

out of Abrams, so far as I know. He merely let the distinguished liar and swindler use him for publicity purposes. Yes, Upton Sinclair is honest—and dumb.

Dr. Arthur J. Cramp, one of our ablest students of quackery—in fact, one who makes it his specialty to expose medical frauds—has an article entitled “Electric and Magnetic Cure-alls,” in the May, 1938, issue of *Hygeia*, from which I quote below his paragraphs touching on Dr. Abrams:

... the name of Albert Abrams (1863-1924) leads all the rest in the history of medical charlatanry in the first quarter of the present century. Abrams was American born but obtained his medical diploma from Heidelberg. He practiced reputable medicine for a time in San Francisco and then made a brief excursion into a hybrid and upstage imitation of chiropractic which he called “spondylotherapy.” This failing to bring in the shekels, Abrams then turned his unusual talent for quackery to bringing into existence his so-called “Electronic Reactions” soon abbreviated to E.R.A. He devised a number of imposing and technical-appearing pieces of apparatus which, while wholly without mechanical, electrical or therapeutic value, proved of enormous commercial merit—to Abrams! ... Abrams put his magic boxes on the market about the time the radio was coming into general use. His devices had the outward appearance of complicated radio sets.

Abrams claimed that by means of his magic boxes he could determine from a drop of blood or even from the autograph of a patient not only the disease from which the patient was suffering but also his sex, religion and racial descent! Abrams advanced the theory that all disease is a matter of vibrations. His diagnostic machine was supposed to determine the “vibratory rate” of the disease; his treatment machine, called the “Oscilloclast,” was said to cure the disease by applying to the patient the same “vibratory rate” as that of the disease diagnosed. This was the old homeopathic doctrine of *Similia similibus curantur*—like cures like!

Among the many pieces of pseudo-electrical hokum brought out by Abrams there were two of outstanding importance: One was for the alleged diagnosis of all diseases, and the other was for the treatment, also alleged, of all such diseases as

were diagnosed. His magic boxes were sealed and were never sold, only leased, and the lessees were required to sign a contract not to open the boxes. The scheme seemed fairly foolproof. Victims were first charged roundly for a diagnosis of diseases which they did not have and then were again mulcted for being subjected to the treatment machine, the Oscilloclast, to be cured of a nonexistent condition.

It was a gold mine while it lasted and, in addition to some reputable but indiscriminating physicians, many of the outstanding quacks of the country leased the Abrams devices. Many laymen in whom the will to believe was strongly developed were captivated by the Abrams hokum. Mr. Upton Sinclair, whose quixotic nature has led him to tilt his lance at many an economic and medical windmill and to defend not a few illusions, from fast-ing as a panacea to “EPIC,” was completely sold on the so-called Electronic Reactions of Abrams (E. R. A.). In a letter written to and published in “The Journal of the American Medical Association,” Mr. Sinclair declared that he was quite convinced that Abrams had “discovered the great secret of the diagnosis and cure of all major diseases.” Mr. Sinclair further stated in his letter that some of the lessees of the Abrams machines were, as a result, “enjoying incomes of from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a week”—the argument being, apparently, that anything that could bring in that amount of easy money must be good!

Abrams died in 1924 of what Mr. Sinclair would probably class as a “major disease,” leaving an estate estimated at \$2,000,000!

\* \* \*

Please give me your opinion of World Peaceways.

World Peaceways, Inc., operates on the assumption that advertisements in newspapers and magazines depicting the horrors of war will serve to end militarism. Some of these advertisements are dramatic, especially the one showing a baby on a butcher's block and headlined, “Nice Fresh Babies . . . 79c a Pound.” Such publicity will arouse sympathy for babies, but it seems to me that infants aren't in need of such propaganda. All the world loves a baby. If descriptions of the horrors of war could end the influence of the war-makers we'd have had international order genera-

tions ago. It's going to take something more than literary assaults on mass slaughter to end imperialistic, Fascistic aggression. The Mussolinis, Hitlers, Francos and the Fascist clique around the Mikado can't be moved by sentimental appeals. They rest their case on force, and only force will ever hinder or crush them. World Peaceways, as an anti-war propaganda body, strikes me as being muddle-headed, albeit well-meaning.

When we come to realistic, practical measures against war, World Peaceways supports policies that are positively dangerous. One of its points is to demand that the President apply our Neutrality Act against China and Japan. If that were done, China—which is fighting a just war against Fascist aggression—would be unable to buy defensive weapons or supplies in this country, while Japan, with its ample merchant marine and powerful navy, could go into the markets of the world and get whatever it had the money to buy. Such an action on the part of the President would play into the gory hands of the Fascists of Japan and elsewhere.

We already have seen what happens when this so-called Neutrality Act is applied. I refer, mainly, to our treatment of the Loyalist forces in Spain, another center of fighting which World Peaceways asks to be "sterilized" via the Neutrality Act. President Roosevelt applied this act to Spain—unjustly, in my opinion—with the result that the regularly elected government of republican Spain couldn't buy a ton of munitions in our country while Franco was able to get almost limitless supplies of bombers, tanks, heavy artillery, machine guns and munitions from Hitler and Mussolini. Franco couldn't have forced his way to the Mediterranean if the Loyalists had been able to go into the American market and buy war supplies. Imagine how we would have felt if, during our Civil War, England and other powers friendly to the rebels had denied us the right to bring in badly needed supplies. And yet that is exactly what we did when the President helped tie the fighting arm of heroic, democratic Spain when it resisted Catholic-Fascism. And such a policy meets the approval of World Peaceways on the muddle-headed assumption that it

makes for peace. Rather does it make for Fascist victories.

\* \* \*

Can you give me the full text of the newsy letter Max wrote to his cousin Hans?

"News Mit Der Letter" has been going the rounds for a half century. I first came on it at least 25 years ago. It's been printed on the backs of millions of business cards. I pass it on without comment or responsibility:

September the two.  
States of the United.

Mein dear Cousin Hans:

I now take my pen and ink in hand to write you mit a lead pencil. We do not lif where we used to lif, we lif where we have moved. I hate to say it, but your dear old aunt what you luffed so weel is dead. She died of new monia on New Year's day in New Orleans at fifteen minntes in front of five. Some people think she had pop ulation of the hea rt. De doctor gave up all hope when she died, her breath all leaked out. She leaves a family of two boys, two calves and two cows. Old Mrs. Offenblock is very sick, she is at deaths door and de doctor thinks he can pull her thru. She has such a nice little boy, he is chust like a human beast. I took him to the hospital to see the sick people, we had a lofly times. Your brudder Gus took our dog Fido down to the saw milss yes terday to haf a fight. He runned up against one of the circ lar saws, he only lasted one round. All de Grassenblock family ha ve de mumps and are having a sweet time. I am sending you black overcoats by express. In order to safe express charges, I cut de bot-toms off. You will find them in the insides pocket. Hans Kra tz was sick. De doctor told him to take something so he went down the street and met Cohen and took his wa tch. Cohen had him arrested and got a lawyer. De lawyer got the case and Hans got the works. We have 30 chickens and a fine dog.

De chickens are laying six eggs a day. De dog is laying behind the stove. Just heard they formed an opera tion on Mrs. Offenback between de dining room and de conser-vator but she died between eight o'clock. De people is dying aroung here vot nefer died before. Hans I wish we were closer apart, I am awful l onesome since we sepa rated together. Yor brudder Frank is getting along fine mit de small pox and



he hopes he finds you de same. Hoping you will write sooner. I remain here.

Your cousin  
MAX

P. X. if you don't get this letter, let me know and I will write you another von soon.

P. X. No. 2, Haf just received the \$10.00 vot I owe you but haf closed up de letter and won't get it in.

\* \* \*

My ambition is to become a psycho-analyst. How can I get into this kind of work?

To be an amateur psycho-analyst one need merely study the literature of this branch of psychology. The literature is comprehensive, with important contributions by Havelock Ellis, Joseph McCabe, Wm. J. Fielding, and several others. Of course, Dr. Sigmund Freud, the founder of the science, should be read carefully.

To be a professional psycho-analyst is an entirely different matter. One should take the usual two years of college work, followed by four years of medicine. Only then should one begin actual work in becoming a psycho-analyst. Many individuals, without the least attempt to build a scientific background, jump into professional psycho-analysis by merely acquainting themselves with the highlights and the lingo of the science, but such persons do psycho-analysis nothing but grave injury. Most of them are nothing more than quacks. They should be avoided like poison. Such quacks can actually practice psycho-analysis professionally because they serve their "patients" only as advisers and guides, instead of administering medicines and practicing surgery. A real psycho-analyst can be of constructive use to a mental patient, but there are, unfortunately, few such doctors outside the great cities.

\* \* \*

Is it not true that you write the great majority of the questions which appear in The Freeman so that you will have the opportunity to express your views on them?

That isn't true. Most of the questions are asked by my readers, though I told my readers months ago that sometimes, when I have a piece of information which I feel certain will interest my subscribers, I'll present the data under a self-asked question. Incidentally, let me add that most of

the questions I put to myself are covered in letters of inquiry received later from readers who happen to be attracted to the same themes. My readers ask me far more questions than I can cover in The Freeman's limited space, so it's quite unnecessary for me to ask myself more than a few each month. I answer an average of 100 questions per issue, but my readers submit far more than 500, so the problem is to select the most interesting questions instead of concocting them on my own.

\* \* \*

Can you give me an outline of Thomas Jefferson's achievements?

Milton Howard, in his survey of Jefferson's policies, says the great defender of democracy established the following achievements:

His authorship of the Declaration of Independence, the revolutionary trumpet-call of democracy, establishing the principle of rule by the popular will.

His fight for the Bill of Rights to be added to the Constitution as a condition of its adoption, thus defeating the scheme of the reactionaries to rob the people of what they had won in the battles of the War of Independence.

His organizing of the masses to defeat the reactionary usurpations of the Supreme Court and the tyrannies of the Federalist Party, headed by Hamilton, thus actually saving the democratic gains of the Revolution.

And, finally, and of burning significance today, his exposure and crushing of treason in the ranks of the Federalist reactionaries headed by Marshall and Burr who plotted with Britain and Spain to dismember the new Government and smash up the young democracy.

\* \* \*

Do you accept the old adage, "Of two evils choose the lesser"?

It all depends on circumstances. If possible, try to avoid both evils. But if you are compelled to make a choice, it's wise to stick to the adage. I'm reminded of a smutty, rotten, indecent, putrid, lascivious story, which refined readers are warned to skip. A little boy, turning a corner at top speed, bumped the belly-button of Pastor Beerbelch. Asked where he was running to, the boy cried, "Home! Ma's going to spank me." This led the astonished pulpit-pounder to gasp, "What! Are you so eager to have

your mother spank you that you run home?" To which the boy (who was something of a philosopher) shouted back, as he resumed his flight, "No, but if I don't get there before pa, he'll do it!"

\* \* \*

I am a poor woman who must make her living taking in washing. Some young men are slow paying their bills. Please give me a nice kind of letter that will make them pay up sooner.

My knowledge of the laundry business is meager, but the following collection letter may be of help:

"Dear Sir: You have owed me four dollars now for three weeks. I suggest you pay it and you do not pay it. Now, if you do not pay it next week I will put too much starch in your collars. Cordially,"

\* \* \*

What was the attitude of Thomas Jefferson towards the French Revolution?

Claude G. Bowers, the historian, answers the above question, as follows:

"Jefferson was convinced that the fate of the American experiment was bound up with the success of the French Revolution. From this opinion he was never to deviate a hair's breadth."

\* \* \*

I disapprove of your policy of not giving a hearing to the anguish of bewailing citizens, unless they pay hard cash for the privilege.

I've made at least a dozen attempts to make clear my policy with regard to answering questions, but despite my most heroic efforts the impression persists with some readers that I charge a fee for answering questions in The Freeman. Let me attempt—futilely, perhaps—to write an announcement to end all announcements. I make absolutely no charge for handling questions in the columns of The Freeman. Such questions are as free as the ozone you breathe and my motives are as pure as the breath of an angel. As some readers can't wait a month—perhaps two or three months—to get their questions answered, they avail themselves of a special personal service I render—that is to say, they pay me \$1 per question for answers by personal mail, usually by return post. Such questions must be accompanied by a return envelope, addressed and stamped. I believe it's reasonable to expect some sort of payment for such a personal

service. If some readers don't agree, they always have the right to refuse to ask for replies by letter. Those who have sent me hundreds of inquiries on personal and other subjects have, in many instances, received advice they said was worth even hundreds of times more than the small fee I got. Let me repeat: Freeman readers don't have to pay me a penny to get their questions answered in this organ of piety and righteousness. Freeman readers pay me \$1 per question for replies by letter. (If I can't answer a question I make a refund in the form of trade coupons which are good for anything published in my plant, now or at any time in the future.)

\* \* \*

Please comment on a Los Angeles doctor's claim that he has discovered a machine to remove the blood, cure it of its ills, and then put it back into the system.

There is no device in the world that can remove the blood, purify it, and return it to the body. Some years ago certain individuals advertised a machine to "wash" human blood, but competent authorities say the device was nothing more than one of Rube Goldberg's famous cartoon contraptions. Now comes a new device that's supposed to remove the blood and treat it with violet-ray before returning it to the blood stream. The idea is accepted only by eccentrics. Any treatment that's to be given the blood must, under present conditions, be limited to action in the blood stream. The day may come when it'll be possible to pump off a person's blood and work on it, but today the scheme is without scientific validity.

\* \* \*

Please let me know if the hippopotamus in the Bronx zoo is a male or a female?

I don't think I'll take the trouble to write to the keeper for accurate information because it seems to me the difference would be of interest only to another hippopotamus. And I haven't a single hippopotamus among my pious subscribers.

\* \* \*

Could you tell me about the business of collecting and selling old books? Can one make a living at it?

Collecting and selling old books is a complicated business, requiring long experience, knowledge of which titles are valuable and which are almost

worthless, connections with the sources of such books, and contacts with the people who are interested in buying. It looks easy on the surface, and yet only a few concerns throughout the country make that business pay out well. Most individuals hardly make a living. One who intends to enter such a profession should try to learn the ropes in some large, busy, successful establishment, of which there are several dozen in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, and elsewhere. After learning all the angles of this difficult business one can—provided he has sufficient working capital—go ahead on his own. I warn those who think the second-hand book business is “easy” to look to other pastures.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the enclosed clipping from Father Coughlin's magazine, dealing with the life and works of Karl Marx.

Leon Hamilton's article in *Social Justice*, April 14, 1938, entitled “Karl Marx Debunked,” is a prejudiced statement. Such pop-gun attacks can't harm that gigantic thinker.

Let's look at a few of the charges made by Father Coughlin's contributor. Mr. Hamilton, who is speaking for the Fascist priest, tells us Karl Marx was an opportunist. All living things make their compromises in order to adjust themselves to the process of living. The human mind also makes its changes with circumstances. There are a number of inconsistencies in Marx's life, but the answer is to dismiss them as unimportant. The point to bear in mind is that Karl Marx, with his brilliant, vast scholarship, could have made a fortune if he had sold his talents to the capitalists of the world; instead, he took over the thankless job of becoming the working class's philosopher, politician and economist. He never betrayed that responsibility, so we don't have to waste much time discussing his “opportunism.”

Mr. Hamilton makes much of Marx's “plagiarism.” You will find in my volumes of questions and answers several pieces on the subject of Marx's sources. As a political scientist, Marx mined the literature of his field, and, like a sensible person, took whatever he found useful. That's what all scientists and think-

ers have done since the birth of culture. Scholarship isn't a matter of individual inspiration; it's a growth; it evolves; it gathers the fruits of the labor of others. Karl Marx took the best from the greatest students who came before him, added his own interpretations and original contributions, integrated the whole, gave it meaning, and sent the intellectual structure into the world, where it has stood these many decades, and with ever-growing influence. Marx was obscure when he lived, comparatively, of course, while today he is an international force. You can disagree with his theories or dogmas, as you prefer, but you can't dismiss the man as a mere “fakir,” as does Father Coughlin's writer.

The article under discussion becomes almost hysterical when touching on Marx's collaboration with his friend, Friederich Engels. Here Mr. Hamilton pours it on thick. He paints Marx as a parasite because he permitted Engels, who was a wealthy man, to send him money from time to time, thus enabling the great economist and philosopher to continue his researches in the British Museum, where he was wont to spend many hours daily. We are asked to agree that Marx, living “parasitically” off Engels, couldn't be sincere about his concern for exploited labor. I fail to see much to that line of reasoning. The fact that Marx didn't make his living doing manual labor can't be used to establish the conclusion that Marx was incapable of studying the position and problems of manual workers. One might as well argue that a doctor first must get cancer himself in order to qualify as a physician for others who have cancer. The science of economics is a lifetime job, and Marx intelligently made use of his limited financial resources while he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the investigations that enabled him to write his immensely influential books. Mr. Hamilton also insists that Engels was a hypocrite because he planned, with Marx, labor's program of economic emancipation, while at the same time he was taking profits from textile mills in Lancashire and Manchester. The argument is a superficial one. The Marxian case against Capitalism isn't based on the individual, but on the economic forces that

make for the exploitation of the producers of wealth. The Marxian theory doesn't demand attacks on individual Capitalists; instead, it turns to the social forces that make for Capitalism and strives to change them. Capitalism isn't bad because there are bad individuals; nor is it good because there are good individuals. Capitalism is bad, from the viewpoint of the Marxists, because it deprives the workers of the full social value of the wealth their labor creates. If Engels hadn't taken profits from certain textile mills, someone else would. Engels used his money for the enlightenment of the workers; some other capitalist might have used the same profits to advance the fortunes of the conservative party and thus helped rivet the chains of wage slavery more securely on the wrists of the toilers.

Marx, let me repeat, can't be injured by such critics. For more than a half century Marxism has stood the fires of controversy and persecution. It's a tremendous world force. The tenets of Marxism should be looked into honestly and candidly, for light and truth, not dishonesty and lying in order to darken the truth.

\* \* \*

1. Which country has the world's lowest freight rate? 2. Which country has the highest? 3. Where does the U.S. stand?

1. The cost of moving one ton of freight one mile is lowest in Japan, among 12 foreign countries. The rate in Japan is seventy-seven one-hundredths of one cent. 2. The cost is highest in France, where the rate is 3.48 cents. 3. The cost in the U.S. is second lowest, the rate being ninety-four one-hundredths of one cent.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of the \$150,000 poker hand played by that Englishman and Fannie Brice's brother? I'm not interested in the controversy about the check or whether Brice will be able to collect. What I want is a scientific analysis of the strategy. Who played better stud?

The Englishman, Mr. Clifton, and Lew Brice bet a pot of \$150,000, and Brice won on three sevens against Clifton's pair of kings and pair of jacks. Let's study the play card by card. Clifton's first card, which is hidden, was a king; his second also was a king, so he started off with an

immense edge on his opponent—kings back to back. Clifton then gained an additional pair of jacks, giving him four cards and only one more to draw. Up to this point Mr. Clifton kept his bets down in order to keep his adversary in the game, for on the face of things he had Brice whipped. Brice, when Clifton got his two pairs, had four cards himself, as follows: a seven in the hole and three exposed cards—a nine, six and seven. Brice knew he was beaten on the face of it—a pair of sevens against a bigger pair showing, but he was able to give the impression that he was drawing to a straight. At that point the Englishman should have dynamited Brice out of the pot, betting his \$100,000 in the hopes of keeping Brice from drawing his fifth card. A heavy bet at that point might have frightened Brice into quitting. After all, he knew that he was beaten by what he could see—a pair of jacks—and only Jehovah and Clifton knew what that hidden card was—maybe another jack. The Englishman let Brice get what amounted to a free ride, and the fifth card didn't help Clifton any but gave Brice a third seven. Brice had to consider the possibility that Clifton had three jacks against him. It took nerve for Brice to stand by his cards, but he was right in calling, even though his three sevens must have looked mighty tiny when the money started piling up against him. But, like a good player, he stood by his cards and called Clifton—and won. Clifton's stud poker was extremely bad. He did his heavy betting at the wrong time. If he had turned on his heavy artillery a card earlier he might have driven Brice away from demanding that fatal fifth card.

\* \* \*

A New Englander visited my farm here in Iowa recently and offered to sell me a participation certificate in an oyster planting concern. Should I take it up? I'm told I can look for 500 percent increase in my investment.

You'll look, but you'll never touch. Forget the whole scheme. It's crooked. In the old days, such thieves did their dirty work through the mails, but fraud orders have succeeded in driving them to direct solicitations. Save your money and put a few dimes of it in a plate of mountain oysters,

which I can guarantee you are delicious and worth the money many times over. (What are mountain oysters? Oh, nuts.) And, speaking of nuts, let me warn readers against offers to "invest" in a few hundred "growing" pecan trees down in Texas, Louisiana, or some such place, with a promoter down there to tend the trees, collect the nuts and send you your share—maybe. Lay off, unless you want to kiss your money goodbye. If you have some spare money around the house, put it into a postal savings bank or buy U.S. savings bonds. Try to look at the world realistically. And, speaking of looking, when your eyes aren't doing as well as they should never buy your glasses by mail. And, you shut-ins, don't fall for that old racket which promises you a steady income from writing show-cards at home.

\* \* \*

Do you advise the average person to buy his own home or to rent?

Only the exceptionally placed individuals should buy their own homes, in my opinion. In the end, it's cheaper to rent. Don't let the real estate agent talk you into escaping that familiar "pile of rent receipts." They're more economical in the end, for the average person. The real estate man usually tells you it's a good proposition to invest three and a half times your annual income in a home. I say that's far out of line. Never put more than double your annual income in a home, unless you happen to be well off financially and are independently fixed. The average workingman should hesitate long before signing on the dotted line. He'll find himself bound down to a neighborhood, and his job may demand that he go elsewhere. That results in a sacrifice sale. You'll actually be out less money if you rent your home from month to month. Don't sign up for a long lease. That's as bad as buying, for the average workingman. Listen, when I speak of workers I don't mean only manual workers. I mean skilled craftsmen and white collar workers, too.

\* \* \*

I have often wondered how finances are handled in the Catholic Church. Can you enlighten me?

Being an anti-democratic organization, the hierarchy keeps its finan-

cial matters strictly behind the scenes. Laymen are never given financial reports showing what the Church does with their money. The Church handles billions of dollars each year without letting the people who put up the money know a thing about the inner workings of this vast business. Some efforts have been made to compel the churches to make financial statements to the State, the same as commercial corporations, but thus far the opposition of the Catholic Church has succeeded in suppressing such attempts to learn what the priests are doing with the money taken from their millions of dupes. The Catholic Church is a gigantic business and real estate corporation, but it's beyond the law when it comes to making an accounting. Now and then we get a glimpse behind the scenes, as in 1929, during the stock debacle, when the Vatican threw hundreds of millions worth of corporation stocks and bonds on the market in order to reduce at least a part of its tremendous losses. Good Catholics are expected to put up their money and ask no questions. The priesthood is always more effective when it works in the dark.

\* \* \*

Can you explain why Ken Magazine was denied the mails?

The May 5, 1938, issue of *Ken* contained several articles exposing the Fascist policies of the Catholic Church, especially in Spain, where the hierarchy supports the mass-murderer Franco. The articles showed beyond debate that the Catholic Church is tied up with the fortunes of Fascism. This hurt the hierarchy, but as the facts were straight and unquestioned, nothing could be done to punish the publishers. But here we see how Catholic-Fascism works. Searching the pages of this magazine, the Catholic-Fascists found an article, written by a prostitute, which gave facts and figures about the business side of prostitution. Mark you, the article was dignified and informative. But it was enough to serve the Catholic-Fascists as an excuse to crack down on the publication, so far as the mails are concerned. The department, through Catholic layman Jim Farley, decided to deny *Ken* its second class entry. Now, in order to get future issues mailed, the publishers will have

to submit a new application, accompanied by another fee. Naturally, ~~one~~ <sup>you</sup> will have to be careful, if it wants a second class entry, to show that it's walking the straight and narrow path, so far as Fascist prejudices are concerned. If it keeps hitting at Catholic-Fascism, the powers-that-be will put the entire issue under the microscope and find something or other to get offended about. In insurgent Spain, Mussoliniland and other centers of Catholic reaction, free-spoken editors are slapped into jail or shot; in democratic countries the bigots have to resort to subterfuge. The Church prefers out-and-out censorship because it's so direct and effective, and that explains why the Catholic Church in this country, and other democratic countries, works so tirelessly to bring about Fascist reaction. It's easier for the Vatican to rule its millions of dupes when the State is a party to the people's intellectual and economic slavery.

\* \* \*

Are these puzzle-subscription contests run by cheap magazines fair and honest?

I'm not able to check up on all the contests now being run by magazines, so I can't generalize, but I've just received a federal report on one of these high-pressure contests which throws light on a peculiar method of doing business. I refer to the *Chicago Blade and Ledger*, which has been made the object of an action by the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC complaint alleges that "as an essential part of its business, the respondent company (W. D. Boyce Company, Chicago, Ill., publishers of the *Blade and Ledger*) conducts purported puzzle contests which actually are not such, but which constitute a scheme whereby the publishing firm, through deception and misrepresentation, obtains a large sales force to sell subscriptions to the magazine." The FTC further alleges:

Advertisements relating to the magazine and the contests are published by the respondent company under the name of an individual, namely, its advertising manager, although his connection as such is not disclosed.

In advertisements and in correspondence with prospects the respondent company falsely represents and implies that the only re-

quirement to win a prize is prompt solution of the purported simple puzzle, and that each person to whom letters are addressed is in an advanced position over all other contestants and is practically sure to win one of the money prizes. According to the complaint, solving the puzzle does not qualify any contestant for any prize, the winning of which is dependent entirely upon obtaining subscriptions to the magazine.

The company conducts an extensive follow-up correspondence with contestants to induce them to increase their magazine sales. Although the letters appear to have been individually written, they are form letters which allegedly set forth as a certainty or near certainty that each contestant will win money or other prizes by promptly obtaining subscribers, and contain representations which lead contestants to believe they are among the few leaders as the contest nears a close. These form letters are in themselves frauds and misrepresentations in that all contestants are not in an identical favorable position as stated in the letters.

\* \* \*

Your answers to The Nation's questionnaire interested me very much. How did the general results of that inquiry agree with your views as an anti-isolationist and as a supporter of collective security?

The final results of the peace poll conducted by *The Nation* show that American liberals favor collective security and that only one balloter in six believes in isolation as the safest foreign policy. In its issue of May 7, 1938, *The Nation* printed the final results of its poll, showing only 1,493 of the total of 9,263 signed ballots received subscribing to a policy of isolation as a guarantee of peace for the United States. Collective security was the preference of 7,770, or 84 percent of the total vote.

2,447, *Nation* readers participated in the poll, and of these 87 percent rejected isolation. "But, surprisingly enough," comments that magazine, "82 percent of the 6,810 non-readers of *The Nation* concurred in this choice. . . . Sectionalism played a significantly small role in the returns. There was not a State in the Union in which the isolationist vote even approached that given to collective security. Six mid-western States—

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin—cast 83 percent of their ballots for collective action, which was almost identical with the vote in New York City."

Of the isolationists, 83 percent felt that the present Neutrality Act does not supply sufficient guarantees of security for the United States. Yet nearly 40 percent of all those voting favored American entry into the League of Nations. More than 70 percent believed it necessary to collaborate in joint or parallel action with the major non-aggressive powers.

"Of all the specific proposals suggested as a means of checking the drift toward war," continues *The Nation*, "the greatest support was given to reciprocal trade agreements and the consumer boycott. The boycott was strong among both the supporters of isolation and of collective security, and rolled up the striking majority of 4 to 1 among all those casting their ballots.

"*The Nation* poll does not presume to reflect a cross-section of American public opinion on these most vital of all questions facing the United States today. It does, however, indicate that there is a surprising unanimity in progressive opinion throughout the country on the necessity for some form of concerted action to check the drift toward war. It suggests that isolationism, if it was ever as strong as its advocates insisted, is definitely on the wane. There is also a reassuring exhibition of faith in feasibility of achieving peace through non-military means."

\* \* \*

What should I do about my jaw, which was broken in three places?

See a doctor and stay away from those places.

\* \* \*

I have been invited to put several hundred dollars into a Mexican banana farm now in process of formation. I will be charged a small commission on all bananas sold. What do you suggest?

I suggest that you stay away from the crook who's trying to put that racket over on you. Save your money and put it into a postal savings bank. Remember, there's no shortage of bananas. In fact, the market is glutted. That Mexican banana crap will take you for a cleaning if you fall for it. Why do you foolish lambs lay

yourselves open to so many silly projects? Why should anyone in Mexico try to make money for you? Why should he do anything besides pocketing your money? Put your hard-earned savings in a safe place—preferably the postal savings banks. And let the money stay there unless you actually need it for living expenses or for use in the occupation or business from which you actually make your living. It's amazing how many hundreds of millions of dollars are stolen from innocent victims each year by slick confidence men. Try very hard not to be just another sucker. And remember, my friend, that a sucker always betrays himself by trying to get something for nothing. The crook always promises just that—something for nothing, which entices the unwary. If the suckers weren't so anxious to get something for nothing the grafters would have harder times. You've made your money by hard work. That's the only way you'll ever make any more. Don't look around for schemes that will enable you to take in lots of profits without effort on your part. You'll always be disappointed, and you'll end up by losing your "investment."

\* \* \*

I'm enclosing an advertisement from a New Orleans newspaper. What's the matter with it?

The little puzzler follows:

## NOTICE!

Due to fire in our warehouse there will be no interruption in our business.

**ROSEN MATERIAL CO.**

RA. 3347-48

859 S. Front

He's saying that business is able to continue without interruption because there was a fire in the warehouse. Maybe this means Mr. Rosen had plenty of insurance covering his loss. Or, maybe he means that despite the fire he's able to keep the works going full blast.

\* \* \*

Do you believe we have a moral right to refuse to sell helium to Germany?

Helium, the non-inflammable gas, is a world monopoly of the U.S. govern-

ment. The Nazis want to buy enough helium to inflate the new dirigible that's almost ready to make its maiden flight. The U.S., through Secretary of the Interior Ickes, says it's willing to sell the gas to Germany if the Nazi government will promise not to use it for purposes of war. The Hitlerites refuse to give the U.S. this reasonable assurance. That makes the U.S. position a fair and reasonable one. No promise, no helium. Though, for the life of me, I can't see what a Nazi promise could be worth.

What's your opinion of the bosses and their stool-pigeons who yell "outside agitators" every time there's a strike for decent pay and conditions?

Invariably these scab-herders who bust loose about "outside agitators" are skunky liars. One of the best replies I ever met on this subject comes from the vigorous pen of Heywood Broun, who puts the case this way:

One way in which trade-unionists in America can fight Fascism is to root out of our own ranks all trace of racial and religious prejudice. We must furnish an example not only for America but for the world of the manner in which peoples of every strain can work together for a common goal.

Many employers have played upon human weakness and individual foibles by seeking to stir up animosity between varying racial groups. They have felt, and quite correctly, that by driving a wedge between workers they could weaken the tide of unionism.

And today in several known instances the drive of the reactionaries is centered upon able labor leaders on the ground that "these men were born abroad." Indeed if an organizer comes into a city from a spot not more than 20 miles away there will be a cry from some of the industrialists that he is "an outside agitator."

The CIO need not play second fiddle to any group in its devotion to Americanism.

In fact it supports the old-fashioned brand of American patriotism which was proud of the fact that the United States offered a refuge to the oppressed of all nations. And likewise the union is a citadel for all fellow workers whatever the place of their nativity.

A scab might possibly be able to

trace his ancestry all the way back to the American Revolution or even to the Pilgrim fathers but he would remain the outsider. In unionism we are one.

What's the total of our State and local debts?

About \$19,000,000,000.

An editorial in the great *Kansas City Star* slams the pants off President Roosevelt with a blast to the effect that the British are handling the problem of recovery better by keeping down taxes and keeping the outgo near to income. Please comment.

Arguing with the *Kansas City Star* is like arguing with God—there's a suggestion of blasphemy in the practice. Out this way it isn't considered respectable to disagree with anything that appears in the pious, righteous, pure, sacred and virginal *Star*. I have shown some recklessness in the past by showing a disputatious mood when in the presence of subjects that are considered above and beyond debate, but when it comes to disagreeing with the *Kansas City Star* my strong right hand wavers, my heart skips a beat, and I begin wondering if this vice of debunking can't carry a guy too far.

The *Kansas City Star* editorial fails to mention several important points. While it's true that our national debt is \$37,500,000,000, it's also true that Britain's is \$39,000,000,000, after deducting the few measly dollars the dignified Britishers refuse to pay back after we financed a hefty portion of their last war. These figures begin to mean something when we remind critics of Roosevelt that Britain's population is only one-third of ours. According to that, we could hike our national debt to more than \$100,000,000,000 and still be entitled to a place in the *Star's* hall of financial virtue. Another way to look at this is to make note of the simple, interesting fact that our national debt represented only 54.4 percent of our national income in 1937, while Britain's was 150 percent.

Another point that should be considered is the uses the money is being put to. In the British scheme of "stability" most of the money is going to armaments. While it's true we're spending plenty on our military and naval establishments, it's also true



that most of the money is being used constructively, on bridges, roads, buildings, schools, dams, power plants, and so on. We're spending a lot of money, but we have real things to show for the expenditures.

I don't like to gag at anything the *Star* says, but in this case I insist on grabbing my American flag and screaming: "The old U.S.A.'s putting on a better show!"

\* \* \*

Can you give me a humorous anecdote illustrating how the common people are losing their old dread of the horrors of Hell and the direful penalties of orthodox religion?

A good one will be found in "Change and Decay," a book of memoirs by Sir Arthur Underhill. His amusing story shows how the belief in Hell is declining:

The former materialistic view of the foul fiend and his methods of punishment is well illustrated by the story of an old woman who, in the streets of Glasgow, was using the most profane and horrible language. To her came a minister of the Scottish Church who reproved her thus: "Woman, woman, don't ye know that if ye use such dreadful language when ye come to die ye will certainly go to a place where there is nothing but weeping and gnashing of teeth?" "Nah, nah, meenster," she responded, "there'll be no gnashing of teeth, cause I aint got none." "Woman," he replied with emphasis, "teeth will be provided."

\* \* \*

What is your reaction when you see an incompetent, ignorant, poverty-stricken couple "raising" a family in the midst of filth and squalor?

My immediate reaction is to urge the legalization of the dissemination of birth control information through the mails, so that the millions of poor people who haven't access to the facilities of a birth control clinic can still get the simple truths about birth control technique.

\* \* \*

What do you think about Japan's informal offer of a non-aggression pact to the U.S.?

If Japan were sincere it would first offer such a pact to China, where a non-aggression treaty would do the world some good. When Japan offers the U.S. an accord and at the same time conducts an undeclared war in China, it seems plain that the mo-

tive isn't a desire for peace but rather to get an insurance policy against having one interfere while it's conducting its campaign of banditry. People who ask for non-aggression pacts should come forward with clean hands. If the U.S. and the Soviet Union were to sign up with Japan today it would mean that China would have to figure on the loss of two friends.

\* \* \*

Do you believe life annuities (purchased on the deferred payment plan, maturing at say 60 years of age, in mutual life insurance companies) to be a good investment?

I'm not against them, for they certainly have their merits, but I still insist that it's a better deal to put one's money into the postal savings banks or buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

\* \* \*

What do you think ought to be done with kidnapers?

They should, of course, be hunted down, but I don't approve of the laws which make kidnaping a capital offense. In most cases the kidnaped victim is the only evidence against the offenders, so if it's a question of life or death for the criminal he has a powerful reason for wanting to kill the evidence that can talk him to the electric chair. Kidnapers should be locked away quickly and surely, but not with undue excess, because resorting to such extremes provides the kidnaper with a motive for killing his "snatch." It's the old legal saying about celerity being superior to severity.

\* \* \*

Abraham Lincoln, shortly before he was assassinated, said some powerful things against the money power. I am enclosing the sentences. Please tell me where they are to be found in Lincoln's speeches or letters.

The alleged quotation reads:

"As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people till all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxious for the safety of my country than ever before even in the midst of the war."

The quotation is a fake. Lincoln never wrote the above words. I've

seen this spurious quotation many times during the past 25 years, and numerous attempts to brand the sentences as fraudulent are of no avail, for they continue to get into print at the hands of editors who are careless or who don't mind circulating a piece of writing which someone decided to foist on Lincoln.

\* \* \*

**Do you wear spats?**

I have never worn a pair of spats, and never will. I can't see any sense wasting time and money buying a pair, and then wasting time and effort putting them on and taking them off. This means I'll never qualify as one of the country's 10 best-dressed men.

\* \* \*

I am certain you would be doing many young, aspiring poets a needed service if you would comment on the Crown Publications and Beacon Publications of New York and other similar concerns that publish annual anthologies of poetry. Is the acceptance of one's verse for publication in these anthologies as indicative of merit as the publishers insist? Do they really render a service to the contributors, and what is their cardinal motive for issuing these books of poetry?

The cardinal motive of what is known as vanity publishing is the old itch to make an honest dollar. Vanity publishers rarely issue anything really worth while, but at that their projects are legitimate. Personally I insist on paying my authors for their manuscripts, but I can understand how many rejected authors, especially of poetry, would be willing to pay to have their works issued under my imprint. Naturally, I refuse to sell my imprint, but I'm willing to print anybody's writings if they'll pay me for my work and let me issue it under the author's own imprint. Of course, that isn't vanity publishing. It's old-fashioned job printing. These New York and Boston firms that issue anthologies of poetry don't do much harm. Each contributor—there are usually hundreds of them rounded up for a single volume—agrees to buy a certain number of copies, paying for them in advance of publication. The usual thing is to expect \$10 per poet, for which he is given five copies of the book. Some months ago I was visited by a talented young woman who got me to put up \$2 for a copy of the

book which was to contain some of her verses. She knew it was vanity publishing; I knew it when I parted with my money; so nobody was really hurt or deceived. When the book arrived, I read the young woman's lines but paid no attention to the rest of the book, after sampling a few pieces and finding them pretty sour. But I don't pose as a judge of poetry, so I don't ask my readers to accept my unfriendly evaluation. Once in a while, I've been given to understand, these vanity publications contain really good poems, but such superior expressions are usually lost in a desert of trash. A person must have an extraordinary capacity for self-deception to accept without argument the suggestion that his works are being included in an anthology because of the intrinsic merit of the pieces. I'd be skeptical about such interested praise even if I thought my own works were good. But, isn't it rather Quixotic to expect weak human nature to resist the warm caresses of lavish praise?

\* \* \*

**What do you think about vivisection?**

Vivisection on dogs and other small animals should be accepted as a scientific necessity by all humane people, because it's intended to educate the medical profession to become a better and more effective force for warfare against diseases which attack and kill human beings. No cruelty should be implied, because technicians are taught to take every precaution against unnecessary suffering. Isn't it reasonable to permit a few dogs to die in order to enable modern science to save thousands, perhaps millions, of human lives?

\* \* \*

A statement entitled "Catholic Information" appeared in a Kansas newspaper bearing the signature of the Catholic Information Society, Wichita, Kansas, in which the question is asked: "Is the Catholic Church the Church of the ignorant?" It answers this by giving a long list of writers who, in recent memory, have come into the Catholic Church in adult life with eyes wide open. Please comment.

The list of names of great Catholic figures in the literary world, as compiled by the information society mentioned above, follows:

"John Ayscough," Maurice Baring, Edwin Harrison Barker, Robert Hugh Benson, Katherine Brey, Orestes

Brownson, Dom Bede Camm, Cercil Chesterson, Isabel Clarke, Paul Claudel, John Wm. Conybeare, F. Marion Crawford, Dorothy Day, Christopher Dawson, "Richard Dehan," Sheldon P. Delanek, Mary Angela Dickens, Enid Dinnis, Owen Francis Dudley, Richard Lynn Edsal, Ethel Cook Elliot, Francis Perry Elliot, Mrs. Hugh Fraser, Sir Philip Gibbs, David Goldstein, William Hard, Joel Chandler Harris, Rose Hawthorne, Carlton J. H. Hayes, Christopher Hollis, Johannes Jorgensen, Joyce Kilmer, Frederick J. Kinsman, Ronald Knox, George Parsons Lathrop, Shane Leslie, D. B. Wynham Lewis, Robert H. Lord, Arnold Lunn, Compton Mackenzie, Lucas Malet, Horace Mann, C. C. Martindale, Jacques Maritain, Bruce Marshall, Theodore Maynard, Alice Meynell, Wilfred Meynell, John Moody, Anne Nichols, Meredith Nicholson, Alfred Noyes, Dr. William Orchard, Giovanni Papini, Coventry Patmore, John Howard Payne, Max Pemberton, Alexander Rachmanova, Ruth Reed, Daniel Sargeant, Sheila Kaye-Smith, Frank H. Spearman, Cynthia Stockley, Charles W. Stoddard, John L. Stoddard, John Swinnerton, "Guy Thorne," Ivar Tidesstrom, Sigrid Undset, Aubrey de Vere, "Artemus Ward," Evelyn Waugh, Michael Williams, Sir Bertram Windle, Norman Wise.

If the above list of "brilliant" Catholic writers was printed with the intention of impressing the public it seems to me the gesture was based on the assumption that the readers would be unfamiliar with real literary standards. This attempt to clear the Catholic Church of the charge of being the Church of the ignorant is nothing more than a clear demonstration of cultural bankruptcy. I don't claim to be a know-all in the immense field of literature; but I can say, with complete confidence, that the above list consists of nothing more than a long string of second, third, fourth, and 10th raters, with fourth-raters predominating. For example, take that popular Catholic lecturer—David Goldstein—and what have you? Nothing more than a small-time red-baiter who, some 30 years ago, wrote a bad book about the Socialist movement. If he's a writer then Joe Louis is a great philosopher. And, while I'm at it, David Goldstein, as a working Catholic lec-

turer, ought to get a new name.

Then there's Dorothy Day. She's a fourth-rate newspaper hack who once worked on the *New York Call*, turned Catholic, and is now writing belly-wash in an attempt to convert her former colleagues to the one and only faith. I heard her deliver one of her anti-Communist lectures in Parsons, Kansas, a few years ago, and I never dreamed the human mind was capable of such depths of cultural dishonesty. She's a literary master who stands three inches below Dorothy Dix.

There's Joyce Kilmer. He's supposed to be a poet. It happens that his whole reputation is based on a bad "pome" entitled "Trees," which was used to make a bad song. The whole point of "Trees" is that a fool can write a poem but only God can make a tree. I don't see much to get excited about there. In fact, the lesson puzzles me. If God went to great pains to make a beautiful tree why did he turn to the foolish exercise of making a fool? And yet that piece of poetic tripe is presented by Catholic Information Society as something to boast about. I'd be ashamed of myself if I had to rest my case on such trash.

Sir Phillip Gibb made his reputation—what there is of it—as an ordinary war correspondent, and since then he has spread out as an apologist for Fascism and all forms of social, cultural, economic and political tyranny.

"Artemus Ward" wrote his little pieces of humor during our post-Civil War days, when any sort of rib-tickling was gobbled up, for the country was in the depths of gloom, but there are hardly more than 10,000 people in the whole world today who are really acquainted with his humorous writings, while the great Mark Twain, a life-time Freethinker and heretic, wrote humor that carries all the marks of greatness. Mark Twain's audience grows larger and wider as the years pass, and he was an Agnostic who wrote scorching books about priests, theology and other forms of religious ideology. One Mark Twain is worth a hundred Artemus Wards.

I could go on like this and discuss perhaps a dozen more of the "great" writers listed above. But what would

be gained by such generous use of space? About half the names are unfamiliar to me. I'm sure they are nothing more than writers of cheap fiction, clap-trap poetry, detective yarns, adventure piffle, and the like. They are the sort of writers who fill our cheap pulp magazines, with a few writers for the slick publications thrown in to give the whole ensemble an air of importance. The compilers of the above list were careful to omit references to their works. They wanted to give the impression that they, like Shakespeare, Milton and Moliere, don't have to have their works called off by name. But the real reason, if I know the way their minds work, was that they were really ashamed of the poverty-stricken spectacle they were making of themselves when they had to extoll such a shoddy outfit and try to pass it off as being of importance in the world of letters. Not over six of the persons listed above can be called good second-raters.

Now let's take a look at some of the names of writers who, in living memory, gave valuable literature to the world and yet did NOT become Catholics. Since the Catholic list goes back 75 years—Artemus Ward wrote that long ago—I could, were I so minded, include names like Emerson, Thoreau, Dickens, Victor Hugo, Honore de Balzac, and literally scores of others, but I intend to limit myself to non-Catholic literary lights who are writing for the present generation or who, at the outside, wrote within the memory of many readers now living. I ask my unprejudiced readers to study the partial—too, too brief—list of writers below and compare them, name for name, with the "masters" boasted about in the statement of the Catholic Information Society.

George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling, Anatole France, Emile Zola, Guy de Maupassant, Mark Twain, Joseph McCabe, Maxim Gorky, Thomas Mann, Upton Sinclair, Arnold Bennett, Sinclair Lewis, Leon Trotsky, Jack London, O. Henry, Henrik Ibsen, Hermann Sudermann, Clarence Darrow, John Reed, Walt Whitman, Heywood Brown, Joseph Conrad, Dr. Sigmund Freud, Leonid Andreyev, Bertrand Russell, Aldous Huxley, John Langdon Davies,

Frank Harris, Karl Marx, James Harvey Robinson, H. L. Mencken, Isaac Goldberg, William J. Fielding, Dr. William J. Robinson, Havelock Ellis, Lion Feuchtwanger, Sir James Frazier, Max Eastman, George Moore, Hendrik Willem van Loon, George S. Kaufman, Theodore Dreiser, John Dos Passos, J. B. S. Haldane, Mike Gold, John Dewey, Franz Werfel, Stefan Zweig, William Archer, Sholom Asch, Harry Elmer Barnes, James M. Barry, Charles Baudelaire, Max Beerbohm, Ambrose Bierce, Josh Billings, Georg Brandes, Lewis Carroll, Anton Chekhov, Benedetto Croce, Lord Dunsany, John Galsworthy, Andre Gide, Willa Cather, D. H. Lawrence, Somerset Maugham, Edgar Lee Masters, Henry James, Sir Richard Burton, etc.

Many of the above writers are exceptionally good, quite a few are outstanding masters, and some are authentic geniuses. The very worst one can say for a few of the above names is that they are only second-raters. The very best one can say for the Catholic list is that only a few of the top-notchers are second-raters.

\* \* \*

I am seeking the truth about the "amorc."

I understand that these letters stand for the Ancient, Mystical, Order, Rosi, Crucians. This organization of Rosicrucians has been discussed thoroughly in my writings. Readers will find references to Amorc in my 13 volumes of questions and answers. While this outfit is legitimate (in a business, legal sense) it sells a so-called course that is full of mysticism, moonshine, bunk and empty inspirationalism. The whole effect is quite worthless from the viewpoint of science, learning, philosophy, realistic thinking and true culture. I advise against it. No one has a magic key to health, success and the "inner" life, whatever that may mean. Try to keep your feet on solid ground. Don't let these mystics (who also have a sharp eye for the mazuma) carry you off into the clouds of bunkistic mysticism. Try always to be skeptical, realistic, hardheaded, this-worldly, practical and rationalistic.

\* \* \*

Can you, in a few simple words, express the philosophy of democracy and liberty?

Abraham Lincoln, in a speech de-

livered October 1, 1858, did the job better than I could do on my own, so I'll quote from the great emancipator:

"I am for the people of the whole nation doing just as they please in all matters which concern the whole nation; for that of each part doing just as they choose in all matters which concern no other part; and for each individual doing just as he chooses in all matters which concern nobody else."

\* \* \*

A squirrel is in a cage a yard long, with openings at each end large enough for him to stick his head through. He traverses the length of the cage in one second. He becomes excited when someone approaches the cage and then covers the distance in one-half the time each successive run; how long will it be until he will have his head sticking out both ends of the cage at the same time?

That's easy—two seconds.

\* \* \*

Which State in the Union has the longest coastline?

Michigan.

\* \* \*

How can I get the maximum efficiency and benefit from a minimum of time spent in sleeping and resting?

While it's true that the time we spend in bed seems wasted, there's no way of saving much of that "wasted" time, for the human mechanism needs rest in order to destroy fatigue—a dangerous condition if allowed to go too far—and to rebuild worn-out tissue. The wise man always reconciles himself to life—he'd better, if he wants to know what's good for him. Some of us get along nicely with six hours' sleep—especially the older men and women who don't exert themselves much physically and mentally. Most of us need seven or eight hours. Some need nine hours. A person who does hard work needs plenty of sleep—perhaps eight full hours of sleep or at least that much time in bed, under conditions of complete relaxation. Each individual must work out this problem for himself, first providing himself with a good mattress, proper bedding, ventilation, temperature, and—and this is equally important—an atmosphere of peace and quiet.

\* \* \*

Have you any data dealing with the effect of alcohol on drivers of motor cars?

Professor A. R. Lauer, of Iowa State College, with the support of the American Automobile Association, made a series of tests to find out

what alcohol does to drivers. He took a dozen truck-drivers who had been recommended as men of the highest reputation for safety on the road. Several highballs or glasses of beer were served to nine drivers, while the remaining three were given only water. The report continues:

"Their trucks were equipped with a layout of scientific gadgets to test all types of driver reactions, such as muscular control, observation, alertness, judgment of distance, etc.

"When tests were completed, results proved definitely that liquor as a driving stimulant is a wash-out. The three non-drinkers gave their usual performances. The other nine lost in efficiency an average of 21 percent for all-round performance, and as much as 80 percent for individual reactions."

\* \* \*

Please give me Benjamin Franklin's Plea for Conciliation.

During the Constitutional Convention, in 1787, Benjamin Franklin appealed to two opposing sides to compromise, using the following argument:

"A joiner, when he wants to fit two boards, takes off with his plane the uneven parts from each side, and thus they fit. Let us do the same."

\* \* \*

Recently I saw an expensive advertisement in a widely circulated magazine which offered \$2,500 to the winner of a peculiar contest. The contestants were asked to pick out twins from eight drawings of babies, a thing that any low-grade moron could do in 10 seconds. What is the purpose of such advertising?

The advertisement referred to above is probably the one put out by the Super-Franklin Company, cosmetic merchandiser. Persons who answer the advertisement are informed that they are now entitled to become winners of the prizes by going out and selling plenty of cosmetics, a condition which wasn't explained in the original advertisement. The copy has been referred to the Federal Trade Commission, which certainly ought to insist that the advertisements shall plainly state that identifying the twins won't win anything but will merely qualify one to become a cosmetics salesman. The copy is intended to reach rural readers, who are told, in big type, that they can

"Win \$2,500" by identifying the twins. Below, in smaller type, the readers are advised to answer quickly and thus get the "opportunity" to win the prize. Later, when they have written the company, they are told what the word "opportunity" means. The Super-Franklin Company certainly has a right to drum up trade, and even to use contests, but it ought to tell all the conditions of the contest in the original copy.

\* \* \*

**How much food does a person consume in a lifetime?**

Roughly, about 100 tons. Dr. Morris Fishbein, in his valuable book, "Your Diet and Your Health," writes that in 70 years a human being eats 1,400 times his body weight—over 200,000 pounds of material. He continues:

The amount of food that he will take includes 6,000 loaves of bread, 3 oxen, 4 calves, 8 hogs, 4 sheep, 300 chickens, 75 geese and 100 pigeons. If he does not eat pigeons, he makes up his meat requirement with something else. The amount of fish taken will include 2,000 large fish, 3,000 sardines, flounders and herring.

He will eat about 9,000 pounds of potatoes; 12,000 pounds of other vegetables; 14,000 pounds of fruit; and 6,600 quarts of milk. If he is German, he will probably include 15,000 quarts of beer. He will take in also 12,000 quarts of coffee; 1,000 pounds of salt; 5,000 eggs; 8,000 pounds of sugar; 2,000 pounds of cheese; 10,000 quarts of water; and a lot of smaller delicacies.

What a great amount of food and nutriment! It indicates the tremendous amount of work that goes on constantly in the human body.

Our same authority tells us that food energy is measured in terms of calories, adding that a calorie is simply "the amount of heat which would raise the temperature of 1,000 grams of water 1 degree Centigrade, or about the amount of heat required to raise four pounds of water 1 degree Fahrenheit."

\* \* \*

**Editor, The American Freeman:**

Concerning cancer quacks, you will be interested to learn that the State of Florida and University of Florida radio Station WRUF at Gainesville, Fla., is doing good work in fighting cancer quacks. Between 2:15 and 2:30 P.M. Wednesday, April 20, a paper on "Can-

cer Quacks," prepared by Dr. Morris Fishbein, Editor of The Journal of the American Medical Association, was read over station WRUF. The broadcast included a description of the quackery of Norman Baker, of Muscatine, Iowa. The fact that Baker broadcasts over Mexican stations was mentioned.

In a broadcast over station WRUF Sunday afternoon, April 17, under the auspices of the Florida Medical Association, Dr. M. L. Wood, radiologist of Lake City Medical Center in a talk on "X-Rays in Medicine" stated that the medical profession recognized only three methods of curing cancer (provided the remedy is applied during the early stages), (1) surgery, (2) radium, (3) X-ray. All other remedies, Dr. M. L. Wood stated, are quackery.

Radio station WRUF is a splendid example of State or public ownership of a radio broadcasting station. It is a 5,000 watt station, operating on 830 kilocycles, 11 hours every day of the week (7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Monday to Saturday and 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Sundays). It carries very little commercial advertising. It puts on many good educational programs, including lectures by professors at the University of Florida, and programs of musical appreciation. During the farm hour (12: A. M. to 1: P.M.) talks on scientific farming are given to the farmers.

Kissimmee Park, Fla. Albert M. Warden

\* \* \*

"I have long been, and continue to be, amazed at your informational resources. Take, for instance, that terse and witty answer to my question about the origin of the well-known saying about discretion being the better part of valor: to dig up—as a mere incident in the routine of your work—four independent possible origins is, to me, plain evidence of a marvelous organization of source-material."—C. A. Lang, Mo.

\* \* \*

Being unemployed and finding my savings dwindling away, I have been given the opportunity to make a steady income by buying unpainted furniture from Fireside Industries, Inc., Adrian, Mich., and selling the chairs, etc., after I have painted them. Do you advise me to take this concern's products and correspondence course? I would gladly pay out the required money if I thought I could make a reasonable income thereafter?

I don't see how you can make a living from the above-described project. It happens that the Fireside Industries, Inc., is defending itself, at this writing, before the Federal Trade Commission, which alleges unfair

competition in the sale of unpainted and undecorated furniture, toys, lampshades and other novelties, and homestudy courses in the decoration of novelties. The FTC report says:

In promoting the sale of its products and courses of study, the respondent is alleged to have published representations to the effect that its customers, in the sale of the respondent company's products which they have decorated, have all of the resources of Fireside Industries, Inc., at their command and available for their benefit; that the respondent company has counsellors or agents in Europe; that financial failure is impossible for those engaged in the business advocated by Fireside Industries, and that the respondent's offer to refund the purchase price to customers is backed by gold bond.

Other alleged representations are that Fireside Industries' organization is a guild or association of persons engaged in kindred pursuits for mutual protection, aid or cooperation; that the respondent company purchases articles from its customers or acts as their sales agent and guarantees them success.

The respondent's representations are alleged to be exaggerated, misleading and untrue. According to the complaint, the respondent company does not purchase articles from its customers nor does it act as their sales agent but merely performs the function of an advisor on sales problems.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

Although it may seem agonizingly slow to us, progress has been made and is still being made. Take birth control. It has finally been made legal, under certain circumstances. Its social and intellectual support among thinking persons grows stronger each year. The League of Nations has approved it, and so has the American Medical Association, after a 50-year fight. Clinics are being opened throughout the country. A recent reliable poll by a well-known woman's magazine, of American women in all walks of life showed, I believe, 79 percent in favor of contraception, and 51 percent of the Catholic women in favor of it. Likewise, a majority of women were in favor of divorce, and nearly 50 percent of the Catholic women were.

Yes, despite the frantic efforts of the orthodox to halt all progress, they are being slowly driven back. Their last resort is Fascism. It is up to all

of us who love truth and decency and progress to prevent that calamity from happening here and to do our bit to aid the overthrow of Fascism throughout the world.

READER

\* \* \*

Can you give me the poem, "The Illusion of War"?

Richard Le Gallienne wrote "The Illusion of War" some 30 years ago, and since then it has been quoted an immense number of times in all kinds of publications and anthologies. Eugene V. Debs loved this piece of humanistic literature and recited it again and again. It's one of the best known peace poems ever written:

War

I do abhor;

And yet how sweet

The sound along the marching street

Of drum or fife, and I forget

Broken old mothers, and the whole

Dark butchering without a soul.

Without a soul—save this bright treat  
Of heady music, sweet as hell;  
And even my peace-abiding feet  
Go marching with the marching street,  
For yonder goes the fife.  
And what care I for human Life!  
The tears fill my astonishing eyes,  
And my full heart is like to break,  
And yet it is embannered lies,  
A dream those drummers make.

Oh, it is wickedness to clothe  
Yon hideous, grinning thing that stalks  
Hidden in music like a queen  
That in a garden of glory walks,  
Till good men love the thing they loathe;  
Art, thou hast many infamies,  
But not an infamy like this,  
O, snap the fife and still the drum,  
And show the monster as she is.

\* \* \*

"I am always exasperated by the futility of religious arguments, when such arguments are based pro- or con- upon excerpts from the Bible. Logically, no statement can be proven as correct merely on the grounds of its presence in print with the covers of any volume. In defending truth against creed why do so many overlook the fundamental point at issue, namely the principle of the Divine origin and infallibility of the Bible?"—James S. Boyer, Baltimore, Md.

\* \* \*

"I wonder if you have heard this one: Goebbels decided to send Stalin a birthday present. When the thousands of presents were unpacked for the Soviet boss, there, sure enough, was one from the little club-footed propaganda chief

of the Nazis. It was a box of manure. Whereupon Stalin sent back the following note: 'Received your present. Thank you. As humble as it was, I fully realize that everyone gives what he can. More than this which you gave no one could expect.'—Wm. E. Monaghan, Grantwood, N.J.

\* \* \*

"I have followed your fight against cancer quackery. I am sure you will ultimately succeed in your fight for the right."—Elton Mendenhall, Sidell, Ill.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

The continuing rivalries of the past and present aspirants to authoritarianism in Nazi-land still produce their amusing situations. The following clipping from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch is one:

#### RETORT EPISCOPAL

V. F. in America (Catholic Weekly).

The Bishop of Muenster in Westphalia preached in his cathedral about the influence of the church on the education of youth.

Suddenly a uniformed Nazi stood up and exclaimed: "How can anybody talk about youth if he himself has neither wife nor child?"

The Bishop answered in a thundering voice: "In this house, I will allow no offensive remarks against the Fuehrer." (As is well known, Hitler is not married.)

Then the Bishop continued to preach.

To me, however, the killing thing about this little incident—whether it actually happened or not (and I doubt that it did)—is the fact that "America," one of the mouth-pieces of Catholicism in this country, here poses a very pertinent question; a question which, no matter how wittily replied to by the Bishop, is still left unanswered. In fact, to any discerning person, the need for a real answer is made all the more pressing by such an evasive reply. As it stands it is really only the sort of hilarity offered by one ass braying at another's long ears.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

\* \* \*

"Hitler has made fish ersatz for eggs, oil ersatz for butter, charcoal ersatz for fruit, and force ersatz for decency."—Reader.

\* \* \*

Can you give me the "Pome" entitled "Rum-Soaked Men"?

This immoral, obscene, corrupt, dangerous, destructive, sinful and impious piece of decadent literature besmears my chaste and pure columns only because of my desire to satisfy

the spirit of free inquiry. Not smut, but my love of scientific truth impels me. Here it is:

The horse and mule live 30 years  
And nothing know of wines and beers;  
The goat and sheep at 20 die  
And never taste of Scotch and Rye;  
The cow drinks water by the ton  
And at 18 is mostly done;  
The dog at 15 cashes in  
Without the aid of Rum and Gin;  
The cat in milk and water soaks  
And then in 12 short years it croaks;  
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen  
Lays eggs for nogs, then dies at ten;  
ALL ANIMALS are strictly dry,  
They sinless live and swiftly die;  
But Sinful, Ginful, Rum-Soaked MEN  
Survive for three score years and ten!

\* \* \*

"For the past four years, I have been a devoted and enthusiastic reader of The Freeman. My admiration for the editorial policy and method of mass education is unbounded. Its manner of truth-telling and debunking is refreshing, stimulating, and salutary. The need for a free untrammelled press in this country is great indeed. I have always felt that you have been filling that lack honestly and candidly. May your humanitarian influence be felt in ever-widening circles."—Dr. Leonard R. Smith, N.Y.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

A short time ago The Freeman had an inquiry regarding our distinctive European brand of B.O., so offensive to the Chinese.

Well, I have found an answer. It is by T. E. Lawrence, on page 642, of "Seven Pillars of Wisdom." Lawrence, you know, lived with the Arabs until he became able to catch the smells when he first encountered several thousand English soldiers at the taking of Damascus.

Here it is:

... "the feral smell of English soldiers: that hot pissy aura of thronged men in woolen clothes: a tart pungency, breath-catching, ammoniacal; a fervent fermenting naptha-smell."

O, wad some power the Giftie gi' us,  
to smell ourselves as others smell us!  
Swearingen, Texas G. W. HARE

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

Just read your piece about William Faulkner, and I agree with you in toto. That fellow bores me to tears. I've made four or five attempts to read him, because the magazines keep singing his praises, but I finally threw up the sponge. There's comfort in the fact that



at least one other guy feels as I do.

It just occurs to me that I've stuck by you for some 20 years or so—and that includes McCabe! Pretty good for a preacher.

Corvallis, Ore. (Rev.) WM. SCHOELER

\* \* \*

You could do humanity a great service if, instead of trying to break the shackles of the supernatural, you were to help people avoid bromidic conversation-openers like "Nice (lousy) weather we've been enjoying (or suffering)," or "Have you read 'Gone With the Wind?'" or "Who do you think should play Scarlett?" or "How's the old bus working these days?"

A London magazine, *New Statesman and Nation*, offered prizes recently for conversational icebreakers. A prize went to the reader who sent in: "I wonder when beards will come into fashion again?" Another prize was given for: "You're like someone in a film I once saw." The vanity-appeal, "Have you begun to write your autobiography yet?" drew down a deserved prize.

That one about the movies is sure-fire, for I've tried it many times, without a failure. If she's small and has black hair, tell her she looks like Dolores Del Rio. If she's bony and a distinct brunette, throw out the hint she looks a lot like Katherine Hepburn. If he's dark, shiny and terrific, insist there's a resemblance to Clark Gable. I recall an effective conversation-opener years ago when a friend referred to Bishop Beerbelch and added casually, while reaching for another olive, that "he became a celebrity in his diocese when it was learned he could break wind at any time." A woman always perks up when a man looks at her through half-closed eyes and says: "You know, I've about come to the conclusion that you have a masculine mind." She always takes it as a severely realistic evaluation, even if she took enough psychology at the university to know there's no such thing as a masculine mind.

Another good gab-opener followed mention of Bishop Bulging Buttocks. The person who was anxious for interesting and stimulating talk announced the bishop had won, at Loyola University, the special, honorary degree of M.B.N. The listener naturally shot back a quick inquiry as to the exact meaning of M.B.N.,

only to be told that the much-sought letters stand for Master of Belly Noises.

The field is large. Any movement in the direction of the elimination of trite, bromidic chatter will get the unlimited support of this organ of pious righteousness. In truth, I feel so anxious to help this cause that I stand ready to give a full set of my 13 volumes of questions and answers to each reader who sends in a snappy, entertaining, original conversation-opener that's good enough to print in these chaste columns.

\* \* \*

Please tell me who wrote: "O God, if there is a God, save my soul, if I have a soul."

I've seen it credited to Voltaire again and again, but I've never been able to find it in any of the great wit's works. I doubt he wrote the thing, though it's worthy of him.

\* \* \*

My hobby is writing popular songs. I haven't had one published yet, but I don't mind. I have studied nine books on various aspects of the song-writing business, but they impressed me as being all alike, as dealing in generalities, and giving no instructions as to how to break into the profession. I believe you can give me the right dope and the information I want. I am sending the usual fee for a personal reply.

There are certain concerns, in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and a few other centers, which advertise in order to attract manuscripts from song writers, but they are known as "song sharks" and should be avoided. No important song publisher in New York advertises for composers or authors of lyrics. Tin Pan Alley, which is located in New York City, rarely buys an outsider's song. It happens now and then, of course, but the vast bulk of such material is produced right at home by subsidized professionals, by salaried employes, or by leaders in the craft who have given options to the popular song publishers. This means that the song-writing is concentrated in a few blocks in New York City, and an outsider doesn't have more than one chance in a million to get anywhere with the leaders. Of course, if you have been bitten by the bug to the extent that you are willing to make the sacrifice, and take the long gamble, of moving into the neighborhood of Tin

Pan Alley, that's a different proposition entirely. But if you did this it would be with your eyes wide open and with the clear understanding in advance that if you didn't get anywhere you wouldn't be disappointed. This tight, little business is the most elusive in the publishing world, in my opinion, and the chances of bargaining in are very slight. But, if you're a genius at writing the kind of songs the public goes wild over—for as much as 14 days at a stretch—no words from me can stop you, nor would I move a finger to discourage you. Genius has a way of getting heard. This means you must be as good as, or better than, George Gershwin or Irving Berlin, with the stubbornness of a mule, the firmness of concrete, the hardness of steel, and complete blindness to every form of insult, disparagement, and discouragement. A genius who has the knack of giving the millions the songs they like to hum and whistle may jump all these hurdles, and a good many more, after which he can buy a high-powered motor car and go careening up Broadway until he bumps into a safety zone and get rubbed out in a hurry.

\* \* \*

I heard it said that you are making a fortune from the fees you receive from readers who are willing to pay for personal answers. Please explain.

I wish it were true. But, candor compels me to report that I get from \$100 to \$125 per month from this source, and I'm positive I earn every penny of it. I give such correspondents a lot of my time, and I'm conceited enough to believe it's worth a little something.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I wonder why some publisher does not get out a cheap edition of Rousseau's "Confessions of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar" (from Emile), to ease diverting ideas into the minds of those who simply follow the gang without knowing. Therein they would find something to jar their set beliefs. I believe the ordinary so-called Sunday school is the most despicable and damnable institution ever concocted to smuggle innocent babes into the belief of hell-fire horrors. Only recently a stupid nun addressed a Sunday class with, "Of course the fires of Hell are everlasting; but the fire of Purgatory is more intense than the fire of Hell itself, but a sin-

ner may be prayed out of Purgatory in time by faithful prayers and by masses," etc. Could there be any more diabolical criminality than to throw such a scare into the child mind? Religion, to me, is similar to the restaurant where everything is cold but the butter. And those rarin' old campmeetings of old, so evangelical in their pulpit harangues like a parrot stuttering on a perch, did aid the cause of nature wherein there were more souls made than saved during the evening session! The tall trees will attest that!

READER

\* \* \*

What do pugilists mean when they describe a fighter as being "punch-drunk"?

*Hygeia*, for March, 1938, answers this question, as follows:

"Punch-drunk" is a descriptive term applied to a state in which an individual shows periods of confusion and definite mental enfeeblement as a result of repeated brain concussions of greater or less severity. This condition is most frequently found among pugilists whose vocation necessitates exposure to such injury.

Actual brain damage, consisting of minute hemorrhages and subsequent scarring, accounts for the symptoms of headaches, dizziness, fatigability, irritability, poor memory and inability to concentrate. In the well established case there may be and frequently is an unsteadiness of gait, slow hesitant speech, tremors and even frank muscular incoordination.

The term is particularly apt in that it indicates the "punch" as the causative force and implies the "drunk" effects which are similar to those of intoxication, including accompanying evidences of poor judgment and lack of moral responsibility.

\* \* \*

Which of the Suez and Panama canals is longer?

Suez is twice as long as the Panama Canal.

\* \* \*

Give the ancestry of the Presidents of the U.S.

Dutch, 3; English, 18; Welsh, 1; Scotch, 2; Scotch-Irish, 6; Swiss, 1.

\* \* \*

Where is the deepest place in the oceans? Where is the highest place in the world?

The deepest depth thus far found is near the Philippines, 35,400 feet. The highest place (above sea-level) is Mount Everest, in the Himalayas,

29,141 feet. This makes the distance between the highest and the lowest places 64,541 feet, almost 12½ miles. Now that you know, what are you going to do about it?

\* \* \*

May a justice of the peace or a preacher conduct the marriage ceremony for himself?

No.

\* \* \*

I'm to be married soon. My future husband has already selected his best man. I am puzzled why he is called that.

So am I, especially since the best man doesn't go on the honeymoon.

\* \* \*

Can one learn to get music out of an ordinary saw?

Yes, but the real masters of the musical saw insist it's better to use a specially made saw. They come in four pitches. You may take your choice of a baritone, a bass, or two tenors. I hope this piece doesn't lead too many readers to musical saws, a form of music which never appealed to me. It isn't the quality of music that counts with players of musical saws but the fact that the trick can be done. It's like seeing a dog move around on his hind legs. It isn't wonderful—for we all can do the same thing—but we're interested anyway.

\* \* \*

Define "palindrome."

"Madam, I'm Adam" is a palindrome because it reads the same backwards as forward.

\* \* \*

Do you know what good clean fun is?

No, what good is it?

\* \* \*

I have seen several chemical preparations which their producers claim will make coal burn better and reduce the volume of smoke. Have they any real value?

The U.S. Bureau of Mines reports that it has made extensive tests with chemically treated coal and finds that the claims can't be substantiated. The statement says:

"They (the tests) were applied to a wide range of bituminous coals and cokes. Treated and untreated fuels were burned under carefully controlled conditions. Factors studied were the effects of the chemicals on rates of ignition and combustion, on caking of coal in fuel beds, on tar and soot carried from the fuel beds, on soot deposited on surfaces

of furnaces and flues, on the emission of smoke, on the ash and clinker and on the reaction of the sulphur in the fuels."

Thus, after about a century of debate among coal men we have the question of chemical mixtures settled by a competent body.

\* \* \*

What do you think of the long fingernails the women are showing?

I'm furninst 'em. I believe the fad got its start from too many close-ups of Hollywood stars' fingers. A woman who lets her nails grow about an inch beyond the tips of her fingers is trying to tell the world that she never has to do any useful work. It's another way of advertising one's parasitism.

\* \* \*

The other day I received a check from your office and I saw that it was printed on ordinary paper and that it carried the amount in handwriting instead of being printed by a protectograph. How come? Aren't you afraid of forgery?

I used to use one of these protectographs—up to about 10 years ago—when I got wise to myself and put the little machine on the shelf. At about the same time I quit using so-called safety paper and went in for ordinary sheets. It's all a lot of foolishness, but it pays dividends to the makers of the devices and the owners of paper mills. That accounts for the scare-propaganda these interests use on check-writers.

Just before I stopped using the machine I recall a visit from a salesman, who was bent on getting me to trade in my old one for a new one that would cost about \$100 extra, with a \$2,000 forgery insurance policy thrown in. He assured me the machine was crime-proof, which led me to ask why it was necessary to plaster the gadget with an insurance policy? He coughed and spluttered and turned the conversation to our yearly loss of \$300,000,000 through the evil behavior of forgers. That's almost \$1,000,000 a day. I raised my eyebrows to register skepticism, so he produced a leather-covered portfolio filled with reproductions of forgery stories in the newspapers. I still insisted that this didn't prove a yearly loss of \$300,000,000 and asked that he give me the source of his data. He blew up. And right then I de-

cided to stop wasting time, money and effort protecting checks that really don't need it, granting the protection is worth anything, which I doubt. First of all, the banks are responsible if they pay out good money on a check which I didn't write or which was raised. That's the law. And if I go to the expense of paying for insurance to protect something which the banks would have to pay in case of a loss, I'm doing something foolish with my money. Besides, every bank in the country carries forgery insurance.

I know a businessman who carries \$5,000 of check insurance and he admitted to me that he never has a balance of more than \$250. He should know that the bank carries insurance on his checks and will pay for any that are raised, and he should know that if anyone raised his check beyond \$250 there isn't a chance in the world of his bank paying it. Besides, the poor boob buys expensive safety paper and runs each check through a check-writing device. These devices, which are usually costly, sell at the rate of about 1,500,000 units per year, according to U.S. reports. It's a nice racket.

Beatrice Schapper, writing in *The Nation*, February 5, 1938, says: "No user of a check-writing machine and safety paper is absolutely protected, for a clever forger can sponge out the colors—saving the signature—iron out the perforations, retint the paper and finally write in his own amount." (But don't forget, court decisions, which have never been challenged successfully by the bankers, place the responsibility on the bank and not on the depositor.)

This same writer reports that the forgery-insurance policies which the sellers of devices offer with their machines are sold to the companies at from 25c to 50c per policy, which gives the consumer an idea of how remote the chances are for a loss. My businessman friend—of whom I wrote a few paragraphs back—pays \$5 per year for \$5,000 of insurance. That means the insurance company is so sure of its position that it's willing to bet \$1,000 to \$1 it won't lose. *The Nation* writer claims the companies which write these policies refuse to give out figures on the amount of insurance they have in force, the

reason probably being they don't want consumers to find out what gigantic suckers they are. In this case, the suckers aren't ordinary citizens but top-notch business leaders, for reports say that almost every large concern in the country carries such protection. The same writer adds that one salesman, in New York City, earned \$18,000 in commissions in a single year from forgery coverage. Naturally, the insurance companies find it profitable to keep depositors, especially the large ones, scared into paying out money that protects the banks, which, as I've said before, already carry their own policies. The whole business sounds silly. *The Nation* writer closes the discussion with these informative sentences:

"Forged signatures and indorsements need be the cause of little worry to drawers of checks, but they are matters of serious concern to those who cash or in some other way honor checks. To banks this risk may be well worth insuring against. Since 1922, therefore, several insurance companies have issued a bond to thousands of banks and trust companies. This bond, called a Bankers' Blanket Forgery and Alteration Bond, indemnifies the insured bank for all losses sustained through forged commercial paper. Since in a big year America uses \$700,000,000,000 worth of checks, banks very properly insure themselves against loss on such a huge sum.

"Although the bank is responsible for losses incurred through forged checks, the rights of a depositor may be sacrificed through negligence or delay. The time within which a depositor must examine his returned check vouchers and report forgery is fixed by law in some States; in others it is required simply to be a reasonable time; in still others it is fixed by agreement between the bank and the individual depositor. A depositor should find out which arrangement affects him."

\* \* \*

How many books have been written about Napoleon?

236,126, up to 1937.

\* \* \*

During the last campaign some authorities on pronunciation criticized Alfred M. Landon's way of handling words. Can you give a few examples?

In one speech, on October 19, 1936, Landon got off:

"Failure of the President of

the United States to follow constitutional method of gov'tment—"

"Failure as an AD'ministrator" and hampering of "inDUS'try"—

"A certain small group of men attacked the problem (of revising insurance laws of New York)."

\* \* \*

Do you accept the old saying that you can prove almost anything with figures?

Figures in the hands of honest, candid thinkers and analysts can mean only one thing. It's when figures are manipulated by dishonest, evasive, prejudiced, time-serving propagandists that figures can be made to mean anything.

\* \* \*

Is it true that one never hears the bullet that hits him?

Yes. If you hear the bullet that means it has already passed you.

\* \* \*

Now that the country is in the throes of air conditioning, have you any data which shows whether air conditioned establishments are more healthful than ones without this improvement?

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has had Dr. W. J. McConnell, its assistant medical director, study this problem for some time. He observed 5,000 employes in an air conditioned plant and another group of 5,000 in a plant supplied with ordinary ventilation. He reports:

"The sickness experience of the two groups of employes was found to be practically the same for each group. There was no significant difference in the number of respiratory illnesses per clerk, nor in the number of days lost per clerk. . . . From the viewpoint of comfort, however, air conditioning has . . . a positive value, and for this reason probably enhances efficiency."

\* \* \*

I am thinking of taking a course in body building with the concern mentioned in the enclosed advertisement. Please advise.

The party whose body-building course is advertised in this reader's enclosure has been compelled to sign a stipulation with the Federal Trade Commission in which he agrees to eliminate many claims which can't be substantiated. Even before such action was taken by the FTC, even before a cease and desist order was even considered, I warned my readers against these professional body-builders. Their courses are expensive and can't do what's claimed

for them. All these body-building lessons can't improve on sensible eating, plenty of rest, recreation, relaxation, diversion, amusement, and moderate exercise, such as walking, skating, motoring, bowling, pool, swimming, and the like. Don't look at the pictures of big-muscle boys and think you can develop the same physique merely by subscribing for some promoter's course of printed instructions. Save your money and put it into rational recreation.

\* \* \*

"Only a small percentage of criminals are Atheists, yet religious leaders and teachers want to make us believe that only religion can bring mankind to a high standard, and a Freethinker is considered a sinner of the worst kind." —Mrs. M. Hermann, Montreal.

\* \* \*

The New York Herald Tribune recently published a letter from a Richard Lester, headed "Mosquito Ignores Darwin," which I wish you would comment on.

The letter, which was presented as something of a blast against Darwinism, follows:

"Last night I was awakened from my slumbers by a familiar jewsharpian sound approaching my right ear. When I felt a hairlike touch on my face I whacked, and another Jersey mosquito bit the dust.

"It occurs to me that the song of the mosquito, far from aiding said species to survive, helps them to reach mosquito heaven sooner. Why is it that in the struggle for mosquito existence the singing variety haven't long ago been selected out as less fit, and silent mosquitoes been left to inherit the earth and me? That's the way things are supposed to happen, according to the best evolutionary doctrines of Charles Darwin. Can it be that the tunes struck up by this tiny creature, as it wings its way earward, disprove Darwin's venerated doctrines?"

The January, 1938, issue of *Evolution* contains a brief comment on the above letter, which is worth quoting:

"Nay, nay, friend Lester, it can NOT be. That buzzing sound seems to be an important feature of the love-life of the mosquito, whereas whether you whack a mosquito more or less is of but little moment to the mosquito species. Dr. C. H. Curran, entomologist of the American Museum of Natural History, tells us that the buzzing sound serves to

attract the male mosquito. Of all the billions of mosquitoes that buzz, only now and then one is heard and whacked by a human being. Most of them suck juices of plants or animals not so well equipped for mosquito whacking as man."

\* \* \*

Can you supply me with a good example of the triple pun?

Triple puns are unusual. I know only one, and it happens that it's a good one, though I don't intend to encourage the vice. I resort to puns myself—favoring the double entendre, especially if it's a little hot around the edges—but I never try to give the impression that punning is a high form of humor. I lean to the view which puts it at the bottom of the humorist's bag of tricks. But, to return to the point, here's the story that can actually show three puns in one:

There was a woman who had several sons and who decided to move to a ranch in Wyoming in order to raise beef cattle. When she found that things were going well she decided to give the ranch a name that would be appropriate to the conditions—several sons raising beef cattle. So she hit on FOCUS. Asked to explain herself, the woman airily told her questioners to look up the definition of the word FOCUS. When this was done it was found that FOCUS is a place where the SUN'S RAYS MEET.

\* \* \*

Do you read your own stuff after it gets into print?

Always. I like to keep up with what intelligent people are saying.

\* \* \*

Are the numerous vaccines, claimed to cure or prevent colds, of any benefit?

Science doesn't know what causes a cold. The germ that brings on a cold hasn't been identified yet. Vaccines, therefore, can't be trusted. Vaccines, as even laymen know, are made of the dead germs of some particular disease, so naturally since no scientist has yet succeeded in obtaining specimens of cold germs (they are so small that they escape through the best filters) it is still impossible to make any vaccines for colds. The Medical Advisory Board, N.Y.C., comments on cold vaccines, as follows:

"As a matter of fact, cold vaccines, on actual test, have not ful-

filled their promise. This is true of the injected vaccines and even more so of the oral vaccines, those taken by mouth."

\* \* \*

How does our population today compare with what it was in the days of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War?

Accepting the Census Bureau's estimate of 130,000,000 population in May, 1938, we have 50 times as many people as we had when the Revolutionary War opened; four times as many as we had when the Civil War began; almost twice as many as we had during McKinley's administration.

\* \* \*

Can you tell me a little about the word "Vaseline"?

H. L. Mencken says this word was coined by Robert A. Chesebrough, about 1870, using the German word "Wasser" (water) and the Greek "Elaion" (oil). The word is a trade name and belongs to the Chesebrough Company, but it has found its way into many French, German and English dictionaries.

\* \* \*

How many ways are there in the U.S. to earn a living?

About 30,000 ways.

\* \* \*

I have been watching your magazine advertising, but I haven't seen any of your advertisements in the newspapers. Why?

Since the beginning of my advertising campaign three months ago—in which I am making use of full-page space in practically every magazine with mass circulation—I have been asked why no money is being spent in newspapers. Mail order men and representatives of the advertising departments of numerous newspapers, knowing how, in previous promotional drives, I made generous use of newspapers, are curious about my plans. As I happen to be a mail order man without the usual caginess of the practitioners of that esoteric craft—a business that's a cross between a cran game and an Irish sweepstakes—I never hesitate to put my cards on the table face up. I believe mail order men make a serious mistake when they keep their information secret. Their theory is that since Mr. A paid so many thousands of dollars to learn what to do and

what not to do, he should keep his knowledge to himself and let Mr. B find out in the same expensive way. If Mr. A were a little more cooperative he might have saved all or part of his wasted thousands. I prefer to share my knowledge and hunches with others, for it certainly doesn't help us in the long run when we see mail order men losing money down the rat-holes we plugged up after one or two bitter experiences. I rather like the old bromide which teaches us that when I have an idea and you have an idea and we exchange ideas each has two ideas. It sounds trite, but it carries a lot of sense.

Newspapers—from the viewpoint of national and mail order advertisers—are sick institutions. The publishers know there's something fundamentally wrong, but they don't know what to do about it. Their leaders are making what seems to me to be a futile attempt to remedy the problem by organizing more publishers into a dues-paying body that is intended to turn some mysterious faucet tap and get national and mail-order advertising dollars flowing again. Undoubtedly they will get the dues and the leaders will issue many hefty bulletins, illustrated with scores of impressive charts, maps and graphs, but the way I see the situation it won't change matters for the better by 5 percent.

The appalling facts are well known to the publishers. They see radio advertising growing. They also see the magazines making steady, if slow, gains. They see the amazing fact that newspaper advertising in 1937 was only a little ahead of the volume handled in 1921. The figures for 1937 show a drop of 29 percent under 1929. Circulation figures, let me add, show a record high, that for 1937 being 6 percent higher than 1929 and 42 percent higher than 1921. These facts prove a serious sickness, and I'm afraid it's almost too late to call in the doctor.

The newspaper publishers will use their pages to promote space-selling. The appeals will be the old ones that failed to work during recent years. So I don't expect much. They will merely make a louder noise saying things national and mail-order advertisers discounted many months

ago. A business magazine says that only four out of 5,700 cigar manufacturers use newspapers. Only "74 out of 4,428 insurance companies are lineage customers." Speaking as a mail order book-seller, I can say that newspaper space to sell books by mail is practically dead. Only two newspapers—*The New York Times* and *The New York News*—can sell the mail-order man's books, and these do uneven, inconsistent jobs. At one time I spent from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per month in the newspapers, but today I'd do a lot of bargaining before I'd dream of putting out \$400 or \$600 per month. I object to newspapers because they can't sell books—one of the easiest articles to sell by mail, if the titles are right and the prices inviting. And if they can't sell books by mail it's safe to say they can't sell anything else. They can pile up stacks of coupons for free samples or entries in contests, but they can't sell merchandise. The figures prove me right.

Early in February, 1938, I was talked into buying a page in the Sunday issue of a Middle Western newspaper of about 100,000 circulation, which was to cost me about \$500. I was indifferent until the representative said he would see that I got a free re-run a month later. I took the copy I'd been running successfully in the magazines and let it ride, for I find it hard to stay out of a crap game if I'm given to understand the dice are straight. The original insertion sold \$192.31 worth of books. The re-run sold \$90.24. Total: \$282.55. Loss: about \$225, not counting my books, postage, labor, cartons, and the like. Before I go into the returns from other newspapers, let me clinch my argument with a report on *Screen Guide*, which cost about \$225 and brought in \$475 worth of orders from the same copy that proved a bust in the newspaper just referred to. And I expect another \$75 or \$100 during the next few months from *Screen Guide*, while the newspaper has been dead since the third week after publication.

When my page appeared in the newspaper mentioned in the previous paragraph it put dozens of representatives into action. One of them, representing a Sunday newspaper with a circulation of 112,000 and cost-

ing around \$500 said he would give me re-runs in the national edition until the orders paid for the space. Since I couldn't lose more than my books—something I'm always willing to do since the names are valuable in many ways—I told him it was a deal. The first insertion appeared late in January. I don't know how many times the page has been repeated in the national edition—maybe at least seven times, for I've lost count—but the key sheet shows only \$399.71. That publisher is going to have to do some more work if he expects to collect the full amount agreed on. If he quits, I can, under the terms of our agreement, send him the actual money received from the public and call it square. Let's take a look at a magazine—*Radio Guide*, which cost me about \$600. I ran the same copy used in the newspapers and the key sheet shows receipts of a little more than \$1,000, with a good chance of reaching \$1,100, because the page is still pulling, though it's been out two months.

It may be argued that I went wrong in two of the smaller newspapers. True, but the big ones—with only two exceptions—are almost as bad. By the way, a newspaper publisher who competes with the one mentioned in the last paragraph high-pressed me for the business and offered a re-run in all editions, but I countered with this proposition: Run the page and I'll let you keep every penny it produces. If you're afraid to trust me, run it over your own signature. I'll be satisfied with the names of the new customers. The publisher—who had good reasons to expect hardly more than \$100 from space he expected to sell for \$500—refused. He wasn't so dumb. But let's leave these smaller publishers and take a look at the "World's Greatest Newspaper"—*The Chicago Tribune*. On Sunday, January 9, 1938, I ran the usual copy to fill an entire page, and the cost was about \$3000. Total returns: \$2743.53. That's better than the smaller newspapers, of course, but it still means cash out of pocket and the loss of my books, etc. The same copy appeared in *Look*, January 4, 1938, at a cost of \$3,700 and brought in \$5,500, with \$17.50 worth of business this morning—10 weeks after the advertisement reach-

ed the stands. That means a gross of about \$6,000, while the *Chicago Tribune*—exceptionally long-lived—has been in the graveyard for about a month.

The figures tell simple lessons. Newspapers usually spell heavy losses. The immense newspapers can merely offer one the gamble of a reduced loss—not a gain. On the other hand, the magazines, even when they fail, are better than the newspapers at their best. Magazines sell books. Newspapers don't.

At this point I'm sure the reader is wig-wagging frantically for attention because he wants to say: "Shouldn't the newspapers cut their rates in order to enable mail-order advertising to pay out?" A hearty Yes pops out impulsively, but reflection leads one to the conclusion that the solution isn't as easy as that. A 10 percent cut would mean nothing. A 20 percent cut would help, but it would continue to leave the smaller newspapers as hopelessly unprofitable mediums for the mail-order advertiser. It seems to me that rate-cutting would merely reduce the loss.

At this point the newspaper publisher horns in with his set of figures. He is able to prove that while his advertising revenue has declined, his circulation has increased, which means mounting costs, since the reader doesn't pay enough to cover the publication's expenses. The answer here is that most costs can be blamed on the publishers themselves because they have continued a steady retreat from issuing newspapers and have turned their journals into magazines, vaudeville in print, literary knick-knacks, and the rest of the jungle-stew that goes by the name of modern journalism. This morning I went through a popular evening paper in my section of the Middle West, and I found that its 12-page issue contained only 20 percent of news. The rest went to advertising (a light day) and features. It took me about 10 minutes to glance through the news—less than four pages if made up solid—and I wasted no time on the departments and features because I can get better ones in the magazines. Two pages went to comics and pictures—not counting the numerous pictures scattered throughout the paper. A solid page went to Walter



Lippmann, Dorothy Thompson, General Hugh Johnson, David Lawrence, O. O. McIntyre's successor, and a few lesser known prima donnas. Most of these features were comments on national and international affairs. I wondered why this publisher continued to run an editorial page when he had, in so many words, admitted intellectual bankruptcy to his readers and called in a lot of prize-winners to comment on the day's happenings. I won't list more than a few of the other expensive departments and features—advice to the lovelorn, hints on house-keeping, cookery, dressmaking and patterns, society clap-trap, cross-word puzzles, and so on.

My point is that all—or most—of these features are costly, yet they have nothing to do with a newspaper. They take up lots of space—more and more each year—and that means heavy increases in the costs of newsprint, ink, labor, postage, and the like. These costs, in some degree, have been passed on to the advertiser, who can't pay them and break even.

But it strikes me as being too late now to even attempt to return to the idea of a daily newspaper instead of a combined newspaper and magazine hodge-podge. The costs have mounted so that even moderate cuts can't bring the mail-order advertiser back into the newspapers on a profitable basis. The publisher can't afford heavy cuts in his rates—and so on, an endless, vicious round that seems to be beyond solution. Some genius somewhere will work out the problem, but he'll have to function outside the regular newspaper organizations. He'll hit on the seemingly revolutionary idea that a newspaper should be a newspaper and not a magazine.

\* \* \*

Joseph Lewis is president of the Free-thinkers of America, a organization of which I happen to be a member. I understand that Mr. Lewis, who is doing good work in helping rid people of the menace of supernaturalism, has written an estimate of William J. Fielding's "Shackles of the Supernatural." I am sure Freeman readers would welcome the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Mr. Lewis' introductory words. This man's writings carry weight with many thinking people.

I am more than willing to give space to Mr. Joseph Lewis' comments, as follows:

The fact that William J. Fielding

has written a new book is sufficient assurance that such a volume is the result of long study, deep thought, painstaking research and honest scholarship, vigorously expressed and altogether an admirable and valuable addition to the subject to which he has dedicated his labors. I am convinced that "The Shackles of the Supernatural" will prove another important milestone in the history of Freethought literature.

It forcibly emphasizes the untenable position of the smug-minded individual who thinks, because he has been emancipated from the trammels of religious superstition, that everyone else is free from its retarding and corrosive influence. In this book, Mr. Fielding shows that supernaturalism has been the historic enemy of human progress.

The need was never greater for an unrelenting crusade by the intellectually emancipated against entrenched theological power and all its attendant evils; and not until the stultifying influence of dogmatic religion upon human life has been completely eliminated will a rational, humane society come into being, assuring to the fullest degree the benefits of man's labors for man.

What an important message this book is to those who say that the church is without influence today; that it is merely a social ornament and that our attacks upon it are wasted effort!

Even Voltaire was told that the church was no longer the menacing power it once was and that he should refrain from exposing its duplicity and cease his attacks upon it. But wise old Voltaire knew better. He answered:

"You are in error. It is the fire that is covered, not extinguished. Those fanatics, those imposters, are mad dogs. They are muzzled, but they have not lost their teeth. It is true they bite no more; but at the first opportunity, if their teeth are not drawn, you will see if they do not bite."

Just as the church deceived many in Voltaire's time, so it is deceiving multitudes today.

As we have advanced in knowledge, the supporters of supernaturalism have utilized new methods to further their interests, and they do not hesitate to misrepresent the findings of modern science to confuse and confound the mind of man to his own detriment. Were the knowledge that man has already ac-

quired and accumulated properly taught to our children, the fallacy of Theism would cease to exist within a generation.

Again and again, as the annals of history show, the ecclesiastical powers have resorted to the despicable methods of lying, deception and fraud to gain their ends. No means were too extreme to accomplish their purpose.

There is not a single virtue in the moral realm that has not been violated by the church to gain or retain temporal power and privilege. Under the cloak of religion, the ecclesiasts have proven to be a menacing political power; in the words of Father Benavente: "While preaching of heaven they appropriated the earth."

Small wonder then that the church has incurred the enmity of the pioneers of progress and enlightenment in all ages. Invariably it has been the ally and supporter of the reactionary forces throughout history.

How much longer are we to permit this influence to hamper our educational institutions and pervert the minds of the people with the virus of superstition!

An outstanding example of the church's stagnating influence upon progress is shown in its attitude toward Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest intellects that ever graced this earth. This remarkable man, whose labors should have been enthusiastically welcomed, was forced to conceal the results of his splendid genius and disguise or disown some of the finest creations of his brain.

Why? Would they have proven harmful to the human race? On the contrary, his knowledge would have enriched mankind immeasurably. But everything that interfered with the dogma and authority of revealed religion had to be suppressed regardless of its benefits to man. This has been true throughout the ages.

Leonardo da Vinci's case must be multiplied a hundred, perhaps a thousand, times in order to get a true picture of the paralyzing effect of theocracy upon the life, progress and happiness of mankind.

The rise of Christianity caused the whole course of civilization to be held in almost complete deadlock for over 15 centuries.

Mr. Fielding's opinion of what Christianity has done is well worth repeating. In the following illum-

inating paragraph he gives us a true picture of its pernicious influence:

"Witness the Cavalcade of Christianity—beginning in its imperialistic sense at the opening of the 4th Century with the conversion of Constantine, extending through that long agonizing millenium known historically as the Dark Ages, invoking the unspeakable cruelty of the Inquisition to sustain its sanctions, and ruthlessly combating every attempt to humanize its procedure."

Naturally, Mr. Fielding takes the opposite view of the late William Jennings Bryan who said he was more interested in the "Rock of Ages" than in the age of rocks. Mr. Fielding knows, however, and his book is a vivid exemplification of the fact that man's knowledge of the natural sciences—of which the study of the age of rocks is a revealing chapter—has been of far greater service to man than his faith in a conceptual illusion such as the "Rock of Ages."

The influence of the institution of religion upon the scientific branches of man's pursuits has been comprehensively dealt with in such monumental works as Buckle's "History of Civilization in England," White's "History of the Warfare Between Science and Theology," and Draper's "Conflict Between Religion and Science," but the static and all too often perverse influence of theology in the field of morals and in the realm of ethics is still awaiting a thorough and documented treatment.

It is in this field that Mr. Fielding's book will prove of such immense value and usefulness. As shown by his careful analysis of the origin and evolution of the MORAL IDEA, supernaturalism has been and continues to be the greatest retarding factor in the development of ethics. The influence of dogmatic religion—and all revealed religion is in the nature of itself dogmatic—must be nullified if we are to formulate a code of conduct conducive to the best interests of man and that will contribute most to his welfare and happiness.

Mr. Fielding proves that ethics must be based upon a naturalistic philosophy if man is successfully to solve the problems of living in mutuality, understanding and peace with his fellowman.

So comprehensive is Mr. Fielding's grasp of this important phase of supernaturalism's baneful influence

upon ethics, and so important is his contribution to the subject in this book, that I am constrained to repeat here his valuable summation:

"It has been shown from a mass of incontrovertible evidence that the moral sense has a natural basis, that it is inherent in nature and is manifested in all the social progeny of the natural world—because it is inseparable from the social instinct.

"With the development of the intellectual faculties, the extension of the cultural life, and the increased sensitiveness of the social conscience that inevitably follows, it stands to reason that an empirical attitude toward ethics would result in a saner, fuller, richer, finer life for all.

"Religion has been described as the opiate of the people; certainly supernaturalism, with its inevitable corollaries—superstition, fear, dogmatic authority and the corrosive tradition of revealed religion—has been and continues to be the greatest retarding influence in the course of human progress."

"The Shackles of the Supernatural" is one of the most vital and essential books of our time. It should prove a clarion call to awaken in the minds of our intellectual leaders the necessity of a continuous crusade against religious superstition and ecclesiastical encroachment in whatever form they may manifest themselves. Never was it more clearly shown that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

The intelligent man and woman should read this illuminating book for the knowledge it contains and for its vitally important message. But their compensation will not be complete until they pass it on to others who are still in need of its enlightening message.

Mr. Fielding's book should prove a powerful stimulus in the great movement to emancipate mankind from the shackles of supernaturalism.

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I want to get one of those small radios, hardly larger than a cigar box. Can you tell me which is a good buy? I don't want to pay more than \$20.

Midget radios are hardly more than novelties, for even the best ones rarely give full satisfaction. No matter how well made or how high they are priced, these tiny sets are subject to much interference from nearby stations. There are at least a half doz-

en midget radios on the market which are well worth the money, if the user doesn't mind the various shortcomings of this style machine. Excellent buys, according to tests made by Consumers Union:

Montgomery Ward (Cat. No. 425) \$9.45, plus carriage; Emerson 126, \$14.95; Air King 1001, \$10 to \$14; Kadette "Jewell," International Radio Corp., Ann Arbor, Mich., \$10.50 to \$13.50; Emerson Q-157, Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corp., N.Y.C., \$14.95.

Consumers are warned against "bargain" midgets which sell at \$8 or less. They are sure to be bad buys. Instead of ordering any of the above buys (considering price, etc.) consumers should consider paying a little more for larger models, which frequently can be had second-hand from reputable dealers, at attractive prices.

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Do you think that China will eventually defeat Japan?

I haven't been pulling any prophecies for years because I failed to renew my prophet's license. However, I understand the Federal Prophet's Revenue Collector is on vacation, so maybe I can bootleg a few forecasts, though I ought to hedge with plenty of ifs, buts, maybes and perhapses. This Japanese business in China looks like a case of Japan winning the battles and China winning the war. By this I mean that Japan will overplay its hand in winning more territory than it can subjugate, will lose more than it gains through the destructiveness of trained guerrilla fighters, will bust its treasury trying to support an army in China that costs \$5,000,000 a day, and, just when it looks as though China will have to surrender, the Japanese will find themselves busted higher than a kite. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is saying little in the Far East and doing much, so that every battle won by the Japanese in China will make it just that much easier for the Russians to win battles from Japan, if ever things go that far for a showdown, which now begins to look a little remote. China is a vast country—almost half again as large as the United States—and its sources of man-power are just about limitless. Almost 90,000 new troops are being turned out monthly,

or about 3,000 a day. I doubt that China is losing that many men, so it seems to me that the longer the war lasts the stronger the Chinese will become. Despite its numerous advances, Japan has already taken some smacking defeats in the field, one of which, last March, being almost of major size. The myth of Japanese invincibility has been punctured. The Chinese are suffering heavy losses, but they manage to keep their armies intact, keep adding to their materials, keep training new divisions, and in other ways making it look as though Japan can win only by bankrupting itself, which, of course, will mean eventual defeat for Japanese militarism. The longer the war lasts, the worse it is for the invaders. What was intended to be a four weeks' picnic has turned into a first class war now going into its second year, with China stronger than ever before, despite the heavy sacrifices it must make in order to continue its resistance.

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I read some months ago that Norman Baker, the cancer quack, was suing the March of Time for \$1,000,000 because its movie on cancer referred to Baker as a quack. What's the status of that incident?

On May 26, 1938, Mr. George L. Haggard, of the law firm which handles *Time's* legal affairs in Chicago, wrote me as follows:

"You will be interested to know that the Baker suits against *Time* were all withdrawn after we had taken but a single deposition, without retraction or payment of money."

However, the two suits filed by Norman Baker against the editor of *The American Freeman* are pending and must be fought. At this writing my attorney is working on demurrers, which are too complicated for discussion in these columns. In fact, I don't understand many of these legal questions well enough to discuss them intelligently. But that doesn't alter the fact that *The Freeman* is compelled to carry the expense and trouble of libel suits because this paper had the temerity to deny that Norman Baker could substantiate his claims regarding his fake cancer cure. *The Freeman* is being punished for having served its readers con-

structively and usefully. Regardless of what happens, *The Freeman*, with the loyal support of its readers, will continue to expose all forms of quackery, with special emphasis on the most degrading form of charlatanism in existence today—cancer quackery. *The Freeman* has a duty to perform and doesn't intend to shirk, evade or retract. I'd rather see *The Freeman* go down in ruin than see it compromise with a man who grows rich through the promotion of a cancer racket.

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I agree with your statement that F.D.R. is a good President, even though he isn't perfect—as though we have a right to look for perfection anywhere. I notice that the bankers everywhere are bawling out our President. They should be the last ones to squawk. As I know you specialize in figures, please compile a table showing how many banks blew up under the Republicans, before F. D. R. went in, and then show how many banks failed under Roosevelt. In the days when the banks died like flies the reactionaries had everything their own way. Now they say that everything would be hunky-dory if the government would let them have their own way again. I can't fall for that argument.

The records show that 14,820 banks failed during 13 years of Republican rule, as follows:

1921, 505; 1922, 367; 1923, 646;  
1924, 775; 1925, 618; 1926, 976;  
1927, 669; 1928, 499; 1929, 659;  
1930, 1,362; 1931, 2,294; 1932, 1,456;  
1933, 4,004.

Under Roosevelt's administration bank failures were:

1934, 54; 1935, 34; 1936, 44; 1937, 71. Total 203.

Another important point to consider is that the depositors had no protection when almost 15,000 banks failed under Republican rule, while the depositors, since Lord Herbert Hoover went out of office, received every penny back, up to \$5,000 per depositor.

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What is the opinion of medical science with regard to the use of serums and pastes in the treatment of cancer?

Dr. Logan Clendening, who is an authority in the field of medical science, discusses the question above and concludes with the following forceful, and informative, sentence:

"It should be very widely known,

and the knowledge should be very widely disseminated, that no paste, nor serum, nor internal drug, nor venous injection has any place in the treatment of cancer except to help out the psychology of the dying patient."

As is generally known, the notorious quack, Norman Baker, uses a paste in his fake cancer cure. The above tells what honest science thinks about applications of pastes in cancer cases. But quacks like Baker go right ahead advertising their "cure," because the world is full of suffering, miserable suckers who can bring together enough dollars to satisfy the money hunger of ghouls who grow rich on the sufferings of the dying. We Americans must hang our heads in shame when shown the spectacle of a Norman Baker, who never spent a day in a medical college, using the radio and the printing presses to spread the unspeakable lie that he can cure cancer. We can't consider ourselves completely civilized until the last of our States, especially in the South, decide to fight those who pretend to be able to cure cancer, and deny them the right to lure ailing yokels into their establishments. Norman Baker, as my readers know, practiced his cancer "cure" in Iowa for some years, but the law finally caught up with him, because last Summer he had to put aside quackery long enough to serve a sentence in the county jail at Muscatine, Iowa, for practicing medicine without a license. But, that experience left him undismayed, for he was able to move his activities to new pastures—this time in Arkansas. How long will the authorities in Arkansas tolerate such quackery, fakery and the exploitation of the sick and dying? If the people of Arkansas have any decency left—and I'm sure they have—they'll turn on their elected officials and demand that they drive from the State every quack like Norman Baker and "Doc" Brinkley. Brinkley, by the way, was kicked out of medicine in Kansas because science finally caught up with him and branded him a quack. But, as I said before, quacks are hard to keep down because there are 48 States in which they can dodge in and out of. These tricks of our quacks should convince the most skeptical that what this country needs is

a federal medical practice law, especially in the form of socialized medicine. Under such control, fakes like Norman Baker would have to scurry back to their old occupations, like selling cigars, lime and cement, paints and varnishes, and other useful articles. I don't doubt that Norman Baker was a very useful citizen when he followed those old callings, but, unfortunately, they never paid the dividends that a fake cancer cure can be expected to produce under State laws that tolerate such menaces to health and life. Baker doesn't want to go back to his old habits of salesmanship because they never paid more than a bare living, while cancer quackery is able to keep him rolling in wealth.

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I am a Catholic layman, and yet I insist I am as strong a supporter of democracy and as firm a hater of Fascism as the editor of *The American Freeman*. I know that many of my coreligionists feel the same way.

In all my attacks on Catholic-Fascism I have been careful to refrain from even intimating that the Catholic masses are enemies of democracy. I agree freely—and gladly—that the average Catholic layman—like the writer of the above—believes in democracy and hopes to see it maintained in this country. But that doesn't alter the obvious fact that Catholic-Fascism is a real menace—to the Catholic masses as well as non-Catholic supporters of democracy. The real criminal is the Catholic hierarchy—as I've gone to great pains to explain over and over—and its alliance with Fascism is one of the most dangerous phenomena in the world today. The Catholic Church is an authoritarian institution, ruled from the top. The laity has nothing to say about the inside running of the Church, its policies, its aims, its financial methods, and the like. The religious authoritarianism of Catholicism has allied itself with the political and economic authoritarianism of Fascism, and a schoolboy ought to see the handwriting on the wall. Catholic-Fascism works hand-in-glove with Mussolini. Catholic-Fascism blessed Mussolini's banners when he sent his black shirts into Ethiopia to gas and bomb a peace-loving people, with the result that at least 250,000 men, women and children were mur-

dered in order to make Mussolini a "new Caesar." The Catholic Church must take its share of the odium. Catholic-Fascism bestowed its benediction on the mass-murderer, General Franco, as that leader of Catholic-Fascism went about the gory job of murdering thousands of Catholic women and children because of the hierarchy's hatred of progress in politics, education, and economics. Catholicism made its bargain with Hitler, himself a born Catholic, when that gangster stole power in Germany, but because Hitler double-crossed the Church and insisted on controlling all organizations, including Catholic societies and associations, the pope turned against him. Mark you, the Vatican's anti-Nazism isn't the result of a love for democracy and freedom. It's because Hitler is determined to coordinate all institutions in Germany, including the Church. The complaint of the Vatican, in short, is that Hitler, who was supposed to establish a totalitarian State over Germany's political, economic, and financial spheres, went beyond his original agreement and decided to establish his authoritarianism over the cultural, intellectual, educational and religious life of Germany. Had Hitler stuck to his original bargain and permitted the Church to rule its millions "spiritually," the Catholic Church today would be as warm a friend of Hitlerism as it is of Mussolini's brand of Fascism, or of Franco's in Insurgent Spain. In Eastern Canada, today, the Catholic Church is promoting Fascism with all its powers. In Poland, another Fascist country, the Catholic Church is written into the country's constitution, and as such is an arm of the Fascist State. In the U.S., the Catholic hierarchy uses the "menace" of Communism—a false issue, if ever there was one—to cover up its attacks on democratic processes and freedom. The Catholic Church, in the U.S., is using its powers to make propaganda for General Franco, Mussolini, and the other collaborators of Catholic-Fascism, with a view to spreading that ideology to democratic America. This doesn't mean that the Catholic masses are against democracy. Millions of them believe in the traditions of Americanism. But oth-

er millions are being propagandized by the Catholic-Fascist hierarchy, with the result that anti-democratic ideas are finding wider acceptance in this country. The fault doesn't rest with the Catholic masses—most of whom are nothing more than the dupes of the priests. The blame belongs with the leaders of this subtle, implacable, relentless war on democratic ideals. At that, I'm convinced that if ever this country reaches the point where a show-down becomes inevitable—a final test between democracy and Fascism—millions of Catholic laymen will reject the pleas of the priests and join forces with the legions that are pledged to maintain America's position as a free, liberal, democratic country. These masses aren't convinced that the "menace" of Communism warrants a move in the direction of Fascism. When driven to a choice, they will see with clear eyes that Communism is nothing more than a bogey brought up by the Catholic-Fascists of Europe and America to stampede the world into reaction, medievalism, superstition, racial hatreds, mass slavery, censorship, control of education, and the other "blessings" of Catholic Fascism. In all my writings on these subjects—and I've written a great deal—I have always been careful to avoid even letting out a hint that the followers of Catholicism are in any sort of a conspiracy to destroy traditional Americanism. I have always pointed the blame exactly where it belongs—with the hierarchy, the authoritarian rulers of the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic Church knows that the "menace" of Communism is a fake issue; the real objective, let me repeat, is Fascism. A free press can be used in such a crisis to warn the Catholic masses of the conspiracies of their church superiors. A free press that's unafraid to tell the truth about Catholic-Fascism can do much in these perilous times to cut away from the hierarchy the millions of dupes who are supposed to do the Church's bidding in the ruthless war now being conducted against democracy and civilization. Every lover of democracy and hater of Fascism must consider himself a soldier in this war against the return of the Dark Ages. The fight is real. The issues are

simple and clear. The dangers are immense. The possibilities of Catholic-Fascism are ominous. The glorious goal of democracy is worth fighting for. All must take sides. And those of us who believe in democracy must be ready and willing to make sacrifices to support those editors who are risking everything in order to save the country from falling into the clutches of tyranny and dictatorship.

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Do you believe war between the Fascist powers and the Soviet Union is inevitable?

The Fascist powers will make war on Russia if they are convinced they can smash the Red Army, but if the military establishment of the Soviet Union continues to grow in numbers, equipment and efficiency, it seems reasonable to assume that the Fascist militarists would hesitate before taking on a job which may result in their own defeat. At present, Japan is engaged in China, and even if hostilities were to stop today, Japan would need several years before it could take on a tough customer like the Russian bear. Mussolini and Hitler would gladly crush the Soviet Union (in order to steal its wealth) but there are limits to what these dictators can do. Mussolini certainly can't do much more against Russia than to chase its ships out of the Mediterranean. Hitler must know that he isn't dealing with the corrupt, inefficient, incompetent military leaders of Czarist times. Hitler, despite his fanaticism, must know that the Russians—with their immense air force, tanks, heavy artillery, and endless sources of raw materials—aren't going to be pushovers. The leaders of the Soviet Union aren't resting, however. They are increasing the country's military forces from month to month. Time is Russia's best friend. And, if enough time elapses, the Russian people will become so secure in their position that no Fascist dictator, or combination of Fascist powers, will be able to do serious damage to their armed might.

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I wish you would follow the pieces you've written on the way businessmen hate President Roosevelt with a few sentences explaining the causes of this interesting situation. Wherever I go, I find that most of the common people are

for the President, but I can't say the same thing about our men of business.

It all simmers down to *laissez-faire*, the famous economic philosophy of England's political philosophers of a century ago, when it was held that Capitalism should be LET ALONE by the government, that since Capitalism functions best under free competition, the government should refrain from "meddling." More than two decades ago the British ruling class realized that this "let alone" philosophy wouldn't work in a social order as delicate and complicated as modern Capitalism, so steps were taken to protect the workers in their right to organize into unions, and social insurance was inaugurated, including old-age benefits, unemployment compensation, and health insurance. Our business class has been getting away with murder all these years, and now that President Roosevelt is calling them to account and making reasonable and moderate attempts to get our social institutions into line with the times, the business interests are cursing the President without restraint and bemoaning developments which compel them to do things they should have been made to comply with a generation ago. Our Capitalists can't forgive Roosevelt because he has told them the bad news—that they must fit into a new set of rules, included among which are such items as the right of the workers to promote and run their own unions, and the general manifestations of social security. We have only made a meager beginning. Roosevelt, in his policies, is showing Capitalism the best way to save itself from violence and revolution—through progressive, but by no means radical reforms, which will, in time, include health insurance. The fact that our Capitalists are cursing the President as no previous President ever got it from the country's economic rulers is merely one more proof of their immense stupidity. They think that because they were able to get along without unemployment insurance, for example, such a reform should never have been proposed by the leader of the American people. These same employers, when they decide to shut down, are very careful to cover up and protect their machines, but the industry's most im-

portant asset—human labor—is treated like so much garbage when once its services aren't wanted. The workers are thrown into the street to starve, while the machines are nursed and petted. Social security demands that the worker shall receive the same care that is given to the corporations' giant machines, that the industry that employed those workers is responsible for them even when their services can't be used. As it's financially impossible for any single employer to carry such a load by himself, an outside agency simply has to step in and take care of the job of seeing that unemployed workers are given reasonable protection while in involuntary idleness. What agency is better suited for such a task than the government? President Roosevelt is merely trying to do the sane and decent thing, and when the business class abuses him it shows its blindness and ignorance. But, howling for a return of the good old days won't get them to first base. The government has no right to let business alone, for it to do as it pleases. The people, through their government, want the economic masters of the country to obey some obvious, decent rules. And cursing Roosevelt won't stop the humanitarian advance. *Laissez-faire* is dead, for all time, and the sooner the businessmen learn this the better it'll be for them. Roosevelt's shoulders are broad and can stand the abuse.

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Jay Franklin, in his column of May 12, 1938, said: "The (Roman Catholic) Church is the mother of democracy, by preaching the doctrine of the equality of souls in the sight of God. . . . This is a doctrine of universality, which is directly challenged by the Hitler-Goebbels doctrine of an Aryan chosen people which by virtue of blood and blood alone can harry, torture, imprison or exterminate other breeds. There can be no compromise between these two ideas. . . . All over the world Catholics and Jews are making common cause against the Nazi doctrine." Please comment.

Our newspaper commentators, anxious to toady to the powerful Catholic Church, are given to the worst kind of historical recklessness when writing on subjects which touch on the Church's ideology. Even anti-Fascists, who struggle for democratic ideals, often refuse to face the music

and attack the world's most insidious source of Fascism—the Vatican and its world-wide hierarchy. When newspaper writers ignore tremendously important developments that are taking place right under the noses, why wonder that they distort the facts of the Catholic Church's long, bloody, unprogressive, tyranny-breeding history? The reason isn't hard to find. The Church has control of great economic powers and is able to punish those publishers who base their methods on the current publishing practice of looking to the moneyed few to pay their major costs. In addition to terrorizing editors through the power to crush a commercial publishing establishment through the pressure of organized advertisers, we find that the Church doesn't hesitate to organize its followers into campaigns intended to throw the fear of God into any one who dares tell the truth about the Roman Catholic Church in newspapers, magazines, books, motion pictures, and radio broadcasts. The bigger the publication the easier it is to make the publisher get into line. It's only the smaller publishers and editors who can tell the truth, because they look to their readers to pay the costs of publication and rarely have enough advertising to pay a substantial part of the periodical's expenses. That explains why we have commentators like Dorothy Thompson, Walter Lippmann, Jay Franklin, and a half dozen others, writing about the passing show and telling flattering untruths about the mighty Catholic Church. They daren't expose themselves to the wrath of the priesthood for the "mere" satisfaction of telling the ungagged truth about a Black International that is in an open conspiracy to crush democracy and advance Fascism.

Think how superficial Mr. Jay Franklin shows himself to be when he lets loose with a sentence like this: "The Church is the mother of democracy, by preaching the doctrine of the equality of souls in the sight of God." This means that General Franco, in Insurgent Spain, is fighting for democracy. This means that Mussolini crushed Ethiopia and murdered a quarter of a million helpless, unarmed men, women and children, in order to advance democracy. This



means that Poland, another Fascist country, is persecuting its 3,500,000 Jews with the fervor of a Hitler, but is doing it for democracy because, forsooth, Poland's constitution recognizes the Catholic Church as the State's own religious institution. As for Germany, I have shown, in numerous pieces, that the fight there between Hitler, a nominal Catholic, and the Church isn't based on Nazism's undemocratic program and racial persecution. They are at odds because the German dictator seeks to coordinate the Church into his totalitarian State, a step the Church opposes because it means the end of ecclesiastical control over education and culture in general.

Mr. Franklin insists the Church is the mother of democracy. Why? Because it preaches the doctrine of the equality of souls in the sight of God. On such silly notions do writers of wide influence build their deceptions. It's true, of course, that the Church claims that all souls, in heaven, are equal in the sight of God. But that, mark you, is about the social order in heaven, and not on this ball of mud. A Negro Catholic's soul is just as good as the white Pope's—when that black Catholic wings his way to the abode of the angels. But let him dare, while still breathing the air of this earth, enter St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Fifth avenue, New York City, next Easter morning and take his place with the white Catholics. Let him try to see how far the Church will go along with him in his attempt to test the Church's love for democracy. I grant just two minutes before that black Catholic lands on the sidewalk. The souls are equal in the eyes of God—in heaven—but the bodies aren't equal in the eyes of the priests.

Wherever Catholicism is accepted by the majority, there political and economic tyranny rule. Wherever the Church is still in the minority—as in the U.S. and England—it insists on its friendliness for democracy and tolerance. Being in the minority, its own existence rests on tolerance, so it goes along with the believers in democracy, but let that Church get its hold on a country—like Eastern Canada, Ireland, Insurgent Spain, Poland, and Italy—and the situation is changed immediately, for then we are

made to realize that a dominant Church means tyranny, censorship, suppression, racial persecution, totalitarianism, a gagged press, medievalism, corruption of education, and all the other evils of authoritarianism and Catholic-Fascism.

So far as the Jews are concerned, let's not forget that anti-Semitism didn't begin with Hitler. It came into Europe before the time of the Crusades—those forays of bandits and thieves for the wealth of others—and every act that was intended to persecute and rob the Jews had its beginnings in the ranks of the Catholic Church. The ghetto of the Middle Ages was demanded and enforced by the Catholic Church, and it wasn't until the 1870's that Rome, the fountainhead of Catholicism, battered down the walls or its beastly ghetto. This act of liberation wasn't done by priests and cardinals but by the revolutionist, Garibaldi, or those who were moved by his humanitarian impulses. Racial persecution has always been used as a weapon by the Catholic Church. Poland's Jews know of no acts of kindness from Poland's Catholic statesmen. The Catholic Church's position in Poland is strong—as strong as in Italy or Insurgent Spain—and yet we find that the Church's immense powers aren't used to lead the ignorant masses and their designing leaders away from racial persecution. Instead, we find the Catholic Church engaged as a living part of the army of race-baiters. These are simple facts which should be known to a writer like Jay Franklin. Why doesn't he tell them to his tens of thousands of readers? Because he's afraid of the power of the "democratic" Catholic Church. Catholicism and Fascism are brothers in murder, anti-liberalism, slavery, tyranny, Jew-baiting, militarism and mass exploitation. Both evils must be destroyed. Civilization isn't safe so long as they stalk the earth. Crush the infamous thing.

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The head of the Chase National Bank, Winthrop W. Aldrich, rejects the Marxian theory of depressions. Please comment.

Mr. Aldrich objects to the Rooseveltian (and Marxian) "theory that the failure of aggregate consumer

purchasing power to keep pace with aggregate production causes crises and depressions." He also claims that economists generally refuse to accept this theory. The Marxian theory (and it's held by lots of people who aren't even Socialists) has it that depressions are caused by the failure of the producing workers to receive enough wages to buy back all or a large share of what their labor produces. Unable to act as consumers as well as producers, inventories pile up, which result in unemployment. Without a job or wages, the worker is worse off than ever, as a consumer, so the depression drags on and on, waiting for the unemployed worker to get wages enough to buy what industry can create. I'm sorry so brainy a man as Banker Aldrich doesn't see this simple set of facts, but that doesn't make the facts less true.

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Why doesn't Hitler make himself king?  
He's afraid the world will call him  
Ye Fairy Queen.

\* \* \*

An anti-New Dealer says the President is coddling the workingmen. He predicts that before long employes will be insisting that mines be equipped with bathrooms. Please comment.

I don't think that would be a bad idea. By the way, more than half the mines in England are equipped with bathrooms.

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"The Shackles of the Supernatural," by Wm. J. Fielding, is one of the best books I have ever read. I am sending \$2 for the Defense-Deficit Fund. I hope all Freeman readers will help."—Andrew J. Sante, Nebr.

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I know that the capitalistic press and the supporters of Capitalism in general have numerous objections to Rooseveltian policies, but it seems to me that the greatest wrath is aroused by the activities of the National Labor Relations Board. Can you give some data about the work being done by this body?

Edwin S. Smith, of the National Labor Relations Board, delivered an address before the convention of the United Office and Professional Workers, Washington, D.C., May 21, 1938, in which he gave his hearers a valuable set of facts dealing with the operations of the NLRB, as follows:

"I make no claim for perfection of administration by the National

Labor Relations Board. Its members are human beings and so are its agents. I do claim that every external criterion indicates that it has functioned creditably. Its record of favorable decisions from the courts has been good. In every case before it the Supreme Court has reversed the decisions of the Circuit Courts which were unfavorable to the board. In a period of 31 months the board has issued 684 decisions, unquestionably the greatest volume of work ever turned out in a similar period of time by any quasi-judicial agency. In the first 30 months of its existence it had avoided the expense and time of formal hearings by achieving settlements "out of court" of 5,404 cases, or 51.4 percent of the cases disposed of in that period. As a most constructive contribution to industrial peace it has held elections in more than a thousand situations in which one or more labor organizations were seeking to represent workers in collective bargaining. Over 400,000 workers participated in these elections. A study made some little time ago showed that in the vast majority of cases after an election had been held the employer entered into contractual relations with the winning union. The board has brought about the reinstatement of nearly 9,255 men alleged to have been discriminatorily discharged. By its action 178,693 workers have been reinstated after a strike or lockout. It has settled 1,147 strikes involving 185,871 workers and averted 543 threatened strikes involving nearly 150,000 workers."

In the face of the above, it seems to this observer that the NLRB is hated by the country's economic masters because of its unquestioned successes. Our economic royalists are nining—futilely, of course—for a return of the dear, old days when the workers in many industries were deprived of the right to join a labor organization of their own choosing. And because the federal body doesn't support that hope, the employers remain in a state verging on hysteria. If the NLRB would betray the purposes of the law and help the great corporations put over company unions everything would be in good order, from the viewpoint of the reactionaries, but because this federal organization carries out the letter and spirit of the law we are compelled to listen to frenzied attacks from the in-

terests that hold to the notion that the workers should be satisfied with industrial conditions as outlined and maintained by the bosses without a word of protest from the employees.

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"Congratulations on your fight on quacks like Norman Baker, the Rev. Winrod, and Brinkley."—Theodore Mahaffey, Calif.

\* \* \*

Which textile fiber is the strongest?  
Pure silk.

\* \* \*

How would you describe your political orientation? Socialist? Liberal? etc.

There isn't any single word that'll do the job. As a social scientist I hope for the day of socialized industry added to industrial democracy—which means I'm a Socialist. In the world of ideas I prefer liberalism—that's to say, the free play of the mind, freedom of utterance, free press, free assembly, the right to petition the government, protection of minorities in their right to express themselves even when they're wrong. In religion I'm a Materialist, an Atheist, for I reject all theocratic notions, Theism, or, if you prefer, the spiritual. When I see the horrors of Fascism I become a conservative democrat—that's to say, I want to do my share of the work of conserving democracy. I don't accept Communism because I believe in freedom and genuine democracy, but at the same time I consider myself an ardent friend of the Soviet Union, anxious to have the truth about it known to the world and desirous of seeing that great constructive force permitted to advance toward real emancipation.

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Judging from the titles of your own books, is it fair to say that you have written mainly to espouse certain ideas in which you believe strongly?

Yes, always. I've never subscribed to the familiar slogan "Art for art's sake." I prefer, "Art for the people's sake." I prefer to use my artistry—craftsmanship would be a more accurate word—to advance ideas that strike me as being important. This means that the pen is used as a weapon rather than a toy. I prefer to write about man in the mass rather than individuals, which accounts for my continued dissertations on international problems, social wrongs, anti-Semitism, racial prejudice in

general, religious obscurantism, Fascism, democracy, liberalism, Free-thought, mass education, and the like. I don't know how to put such things aside for prose poems on violets, a sunset, and romantic prettiness. I've always been that way, so I don't see how I can change at this late day. My feet are always on solid ground. I admire the clouds, but I've no yen to float around in them, even in imagination. My simple words must always deal with this workaday world. My worst enemy is the same old one I've been crossing lances with these decades—human stupidity.

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Please give me your opinion of *Science News Letter*.

I am glad to give my highest endorsement to *Science News Letter*, a magazine that's edited by Watson Davis at 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. This magazine contains short, authoritative articles on every branch of science, which are treated with a view to making them comprehensible to the average layman.

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Can you recommend Paul Downing's cure for baldness?

It's all the bunk. Paul Downing, of Portland, Ore., has made claims that he can't substantiate. Commenting on this notorious fraud, the American Medical Association says:

"While there are fashions in quackery, there are also good old staple frauds that can always be counted on to deplete the sucker. Cures for baldness rank high among the staples—and Mr. Downing's cure was one of them."

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What is a German concentration camp like?

Usually political prisoners who are considered anti-Nazi in one form or another are kept in concentration camps throughout Hitler's Brutalitarian State. At one time as many as 200,000 men and women unfriendly to Fascism were confined in the camps. Today, estimates vary, some placing them at the old figure, while others move the total down to 100,000 prisoners. I suppose some figure around 150,000 would cover the situation pretty well. Men and women who committed no crime against the German people, but who happened to be democrats, labor union leaders,

pacifists, Jews, Communists, Socialists, republicans, liberals, and other kinds of anti-Fascists, are herded into these closely guarded camps, where they are subjected to great torture, hard labor, and the worst kind of mental cruelty in order to break their spirits. Attempts are made to get them to betray their anti-Fascist friends. Many are kept in hand until they confess where their property is hidden, if any, so that it may be stolen by the Hitlerites. Jews, in particular, are put into concentration camps and kept there until they agree to "sell" their businesses at perhaps 5 percent on the mark, or, if they have money, compel them to surrender it on penalty of being kept in the camp indefinitely. The whole institution is based on sadism, persecution, terror and blackmail. The conditions in them are terrible. The food is bad, sanitation is lacking, and physical torture is applied regularly. Many men and women, unable to endure the murderous treatment, kill themselves. Others are murdered by Hitler's hoodlums, but in such cases the reports usually state they were "killed while trying to escape." A few are "rehabilitated"—which means they are turned into spies and informers for the Nazis and thus given their freedom so they can prey on their former colleagues. Many of Hitler's subordinates are sexual degenerates who get emotional satisfaction from sadistic attacks on helpless men and women. Even so prominent a "man" as Julius Streicher, the infamous Jew-baiter, visits concentration camps regularly, where, with a long whip, he assaults naked young men—his favorite source of sexual pleasure—until his orgy of sadism (causing pain to others for purposes of sexual experience) brings him to a climax. Practically all known homosexuals in Germany are ardent Nazis. Hitler himself is known to be subnormal and has always attracted to his side all kinds of sexual degenerates. His concentration camps are convenient places for those who enjoy practicing sadism.

\* \* \*

Did the Nazis destroy the library of the great German poet, Schiller?

At Weimer, Germany, stands the Schiller House, where the immortal poet lived and wrote. After his death

it was decided to leave his books stand just where he had left them. For 130 years—through war and peace, through revolution and reconstruction, through monarchy and republic—certain books, which Schiller had used shortly before his death, remained on his desk, as though the poet had just stepped away from his precious library. But when the Nazis took power they decided that even the Schiller House had to be "coordinated." In December, 1936, one of the books on Schiller's desk—by Mendelssohn, the Jew—was removed and destroyed.

\* \* \*

The Readers Digest, for May, 1938, contains an article, entitled "On Franco's Side in Spain," by Ellery Sedgwick, editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Please comment on it.

This article appeared originally in *The New York Times*, where I read it carefully and was impressed with its dignified dishonesty. Since then I have learned that the august editor of *The Atlantic Monthly* (for which I did some writing about 15 years ago) went to Spain as Franco's personal guest, with all expenses paid by that mass-murderer. After spending three weeks in Insurgent Spain—where he was shown exactly what Franco wanted him to see—Sedgwick was asked if he intended to cross over into Loyalist territory for a look-see, to which he replied: "I shouldn't think of such an idea, because it would be in extremely bad taste. I shouldn't dream of offending my host." When a man approaches Spain in that Back Bay spirit one doesn't expect the truth about conditions. This Bostonian wouldn't dream of writing a word that might offend his host. And it's from such a solemn and yawn-provoking prostitute that editors of influential journals turn for a true picture of the world of today!

\* \* \*

Please comment on the favorite argument of the Nazis, to the effect that Communism is led by the Jews in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

I have gone into this favorite lie of the anti-Semites many times, as my 14 volumes of questions and answers show, giving proof after proof that the facts don't substantiate the allegation, but men of the stripe of Hitler and our own Gerald B. Winrod

go right ahead with their unspeakable lies. The truth means nothing to such race-baiters. An Englishman, Neville Laski, adds a comment that fits the occasion and deserves to be quoted:

"The power of a lie is truly terrible. The principle on which the world is told that Bolshevism is Jewish is the technique laid down by Hitler in his book, *Mein Kampf*, for which so many apologies exist today, but which has never been withdrawn by him and is still the Bible of Nazi Germany. In that book he says: 'The very extremity of a lie contributes to its success. The masses of the people easily succumb to it, because they cannot believe it possible that anyone should have shamelessly decided to invent such things. Even if proof of its falsehood is forthcoming, something of the lie still sticks.' That is the reason for much of the anti-Semitism today and the reason why even well-meaning people shake their heads and say there must be something in it."

\* \* \*

A letter to the Public Mind Department of a Chicago newspaper says Professor Einstein attended a congress of the Communist International in Moscow before coming to live in the U.S. Is this a fact?

The charge is false. Einstein has never been in Russia in all his life. Einstein has said, again and again, that he isn't a Communist. Being a man of honor, he should be believed. Nothing would suit the Jew-baiters better than to be able to say that so prominent a Jew as Einstein is a Communist leader. Einstein is a liberal, a democrat, a progressive, a republican and a supporter of old-fashioned Americanism. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

\* \* \*

I have heard here in Wichita, Kansas, that we workers are being robbed by the Roosevelt administration because the federal government is keeping our unemployment insurance money instead of paying it out to those entitled to the money. I have heard the same charge over the radio and read it in newspapers. Please give me the straight dope on this important question.

You mustn't believe everything these anti-New Dealers say against the President, for they hate Roosevelt so fanatically that they are ready to resort to any form of misrepresentation. As you happen to live in

the State of Kansas it's true that you can't collect unemployment insurance at this time, but after January 1, 1939, you will be entitled to this form of social insurance, for the State law goes into effect on that date. Meanwhile, 25 States are already paying benefits.

I'm writing this late in May, so I can't give any figures for that month, but official figures for the first four months of 1938 show that the Social Security Board paid out \$105,000,000 in unemployment benefits. Almost 11,000,000 benefit checks were issued by the board to 2,600,000 persons eligible for benefits. The facts, therefore, show that unemployment insurance is working efficiently and is doing everything its proponents claimed.

R. Gordon Wagenet, director, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, says:

"The unemployment insurance funds are flowing back into the local communities and are being spent for food, rent, clothing and services.

"They sustain to an appreciable extent the purchasing power of workers whose normal means of livelihood have been temporarily shut off, and thereby act as a brake on the downward trend of business and employment:

"Moreover, unemployment insurance means earned benefits to the workers, not a handout; a fact which has a very great effect on morale."

\* \* \*

A piece of Fascist propaganda (from Rome) has fallen into my hands. The article claims Italy is a model of law and order while democratic America is in chaos, with violence everywhere. Please comment.

A few facts ought to be of some service to reasonable people. The others aren't interested in facts, so we won't try to please them. A good way to test that Fascist circular is to find out exactly how many policemen are employed in Rome to keep the Italian people at the proper pitch of enthusiasm for Mussolini and Fascism. Then we should see how many policemen are on the force in New York City. If the Fascists have the right dope, then Rome's police establishment should be smaller than New York's, in proportion to population, of course. What do we find? The City of Rome, with a population of a

million-plus, employs 40,000 policemen. New York City, with 7,000,000-plus, employs 19,000 policemen. If New York City had Rome's police force, on the basis of population, Father Knickerbocker would have 280,000 policemen. Or, to put it the other way, if Rome had New York's population and its present proportion of cops, it's policemen would number 280,000, as against New York's mere 19,000. Facts are disgustingly stubborn things. No wonder all Fascist propagandists hate them.

\* \* \*

When I was a boy, 50 years ago, I used to hear a story about a deacon who ran a store like a crook but was pious, for a' that. Can you give me the yarn?

There are many stories dealing with pious hypocrites, but one that was popular a half century ago—and is still good, for that matter—goes like this:

The deacon is calling from his living quarters to the clerk in his store, asking:

"John, have you dampened the tobacco?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you watered the rum?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you sanded the sugar?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you swept together all the dead flies and put them among the raisins?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then come in to prayers."

\* \* \*

I recently saw the Soviet-made film, "Lenin in October," upon its release in this country. In one scene, a spy of the Provisional Government asks an official, "Is he (Lenin) a Jew?" and receives a negative reply. I was always under the impression he was. If so, does the Stalin regime wish to delude the Russian masses concerning Lenin's Semitic origin?

There's no truth in the claim that Lenin was a Jew. Nazi propagandists, including the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, of Wichita, Kans., try to arouse prejudice against the Jews by lyingly giving the impression that Communism is a Jewish-inspired and led movement, when the facts show that both Lenin and Stalin aren't Jews at all and that the number of Jews in important positions in the Soviet Union is very small indeed. It was Hitler's theory—explained carefully in his famous book, "Mein Kampf"—that Fascists should never

hesitate to tell great lies. Hitler warned his followers against small lies, for such things can be exposed easily, but a vast lie confuses even those who ought to know better, and if the whole lie doesn't stick at least it's possible to have enough of it stand up and thus help the propagandists gain their objectives. Our own cockroach Nazi, the Rev. Winrod, keeps on lying about the Jews in every issue of his vile, loathsome, lying sheet, *The Defender*. People like Hitler, Julius Streicher and the Rev. Winrod will resort to any brand of lying in order to buttress their false and brutal cause. When greater lies are told, the Winrods will tell them.

\* \* \*

Having followed your work for about 20 years, I know what you did to get Dr. Will Durant started on his career. I am wondering if he ever acknowledged his indebtedness to you?

My readers undoubtedly know that Will Durant wrote "The Story of Philosophy" at my suggestion about 15 years ago. But I doubt if persons other than my old-time readers know this, for I don't recall ever having seen any words of public acknowledgment from Durant. However, when he sent me a copy of his book, "The Mansions of Philosophy," in 1929, he inscribed it to me, as follows:

For Emanuel Haldeman-Julius  
from  
Will Durant

May 17, 1929.

With cordial appreciation of your  
courageous midwifery in  
getting me born into  
the literary  
world.

\* \* \*

Do you recommend the commercial cleansers for artificial teeth advertised in newspapers and magazines?

No. They are very expensive and often contain harmful substances, such as alkaline detergents or abrasives. They can injure the material in the artificial teeth. The best cleanser is ordinary soap and a common brush. Chalk or baking soda may be used in place of soap. A few pennies should be enough to pay the cost of keeping a set of artificial teeth in clean condition for a year. Just because a thing is advertised widely doesn't mean it's the best. Commercial interests have much to gain by leading the public to believe that ex-

pensive cleansers are superior to simple soap and water. And publications, because they get large sums yearly from the advertisers, refrain from letting their readers know the facts.

\* \* \*

I enclose a press clipping, which says that Toronto banks "lose \$25,000 a year in ink filched by persons filling their fountain pens." Please comment.

The statement is silly. We are actually expected to believe that the banks in Toronto put out about 75,000 gallons of ink per year for fountain pen users. When we stop to consider that hardly more than 3,000,000 of Canada's 10,000,000-plus population have fountain pens, and that only a small percentage of them are in Toronto, and only a small percentage of those Toronto pen owners slip into banks to swipe a few drops of ink for their pens—well, when we get that far we have to say that at the very wildest estimate 25,000 people sponge on the banks' inkpots. That would mean three gallons per person per year.

\* \* \*

Before the introduction of machinery, how many workers out of each 100 raised farm crops? What is the proportion today?

About 100 years ago, in the U.S., 83 workers out of 100 worked in agriculture; today, aided by man's mechanical genius, only 17 are needed out of each 100 workers.

\* \* \*

How much money does the Irish Sweepstakes take out of the U.S.? How much does it give back? Are all sweepstakes tickets genuine? What are the chances of winning?

The Irish sweepstakes racket takes about \$100,000,000 out of the U.S. each year, of which hardly more than 25 percent comes back. It's difficult to give the exact chances of winning because so many of the tickets sold in this country are counterfeits. If the racket were straight, the chances would be 1,000,000 to 1. Two thirds of all sweepstakes tickets sold in this country are counterfeits. The fake tickets are hard to detect because they imitate even the watermark. However, it's possible to distinguish between the real tickets and the counterfeits by making the boiling test, which is done in a solution of one-part baking soda and three parts

water. The real watermark will stand this test, while the fake mark won't. The Irish sweepstakes is run by crooks in order to take money from suckers who'd probably throw it away anyway—at least that's what the racketeers say. Publicity against the Irish sweepstakes is futile, because the corny boobs are moved by their blind emotions, not by reason.

\* \* \*

I am an alien who believes in democracy and respects the U.S. Constitution, but I can't afford the high fees that must be paid by one who would be naturalized. It isn't fair.

I agree with this complaint. An alien should be able to become an American citizen without having to pay such heavy fees. Since 1929, fees have ranged from \$7.50 to \$10, with an additional \$10 fee in case the naturalized person has to produce a certificate of registration. Prior to 1929, in the days of prosperity, the fee was only \$5. Congressman Emanuel Celler, of New York, is supporting a bill to reduce the fee to \$2, a measure that should be made into law. No alien should be deprived of the blessings of American citizenship merely because he can't raise the high fees. The 4,000,000 immigrants in this country want to become loyal American citizens, but how can they raise \$7.50, or \$10, or even more, in these times when every penny must go for necessities?

\* \* \*

You'll never get anywhere so long as you print such a little paper. The American people want a lot for their money—like The Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, Liberty, etc. Wake up and turn out a hefty magazine.

The Freeman will never be like the big 5c magazines because its editorial policy never can command the support of the great advertising interests. The big 5c magazines take their pay from the mighty corporations, but that's at the sacrifice of editorial integrity and freedom. The Freeman prefers to remain modest in aspect and small in size because it has regard for something precious in the world of comment and controversy—and that's the fight to call things by their right names. The way I'm running The Freeman, we can go on for years without passing the hat among the advertisers, and that means the

editorial medium will remain free and unsubsidized—free to tell the truth about Fascism, Nazism, Liberty Leaguers, anti-Semitism, reactionary economics, flim-flam commercialism, and the like. How long would *The Saturday Evening Post* remain a big magazine if it dared tell the truth from the viewpoint of the consumers, as *The Freeman* does issue after issue when readers ask questions about commodities and services that are widely advertised? *The Freeman* will remain as an ungagged voice of the American people because its readers realize the purposes of their paper and are willing to make sacrifices when the paper suffers a deficit because of its unwillingness to kowtow to the advertising interests. For some time, *The Freeman* has been running at a deficit of \$500 per month, which isn't so very much. That means only \$6,000 per year, which could be wiped out easily if only 15 percent of *The Freeman's* subscribers would give an extra dollar now and then to the Deficit-Defense Fund. It's my hope to see enough *Freeman* readers take an interest in their paper so that the deficit will cease to be a drag on the editor, who can't continue carrying the load. Less than a year ago, *The Freeman* had a circulation of 25,000. Today, the circulation is nearing the 50,000-mark, which proves that the paper's editorial policy pleases readers. I aim to educate many of these new readers to become financial backers of their paper—that is, contributors to the fund that's being operated to dispose of the journal's modest deficit. I have no selfish motive in making this proposal to *The Freeman's* readers because it's a fact that I don't draw a penny of salary for the vast amount of editorial work I do for each issue. I'm a professional writer and should be paid for my work, but I go ahead, month after month, writing the entire paper and getting nothing for my efforts. I have no complaint on this score, because I happen to be able to make my living in other ways, but I don't feel right about having the deficit left on my hands. That properly is the responsibility of my readers who are against Fascism, who hate anti-Semitism, and who want to see democracy become a powerful and posi-

tive force in the world. *The Freeman* will remain a modest-looking sheet, but for a little fellow it certainly has a lot of loyal friends. And that's what cheers me up when I plug away writing reams of copy and getting no financial return for my onerous labors. I'll be glad to continue serving my readers without salary if only they'll assume the obligation of wiping out the small deficit. That's a reasonable position to take and I'm sure many readers who've never contributed to the Deficit-Defense Fund will change their ways and begin shooting a flood of dollars in this direction.

\* \* \*

What's the value of the gold in the teeth of the American people?

\$480,000,000, according to a paper read to the Chicago Dental Society.

\* \* \*

What does gasoline cost in Germany?

60c per gallon.

\* \* \*

Please give information regarding "chemical insanity" connected with the rayon industry.

When rayon is made by the viscose process there is generated enough carbon disulfide to cause poisoning, which results in chemical insanity. Scores of rayon workers are now in insane asylums, with no chance of a cure, while thousands of unhospitalized workers suffer from hysteria and temporary blindness. This industry is found in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. The main company engaged in this manufacturing business is the American Viscose Company, a subsidiary of the DuPont interests. The corporation refuses to take measures to protect its employees, and when Governor Earle, of Pennsylvania, tried recently to compel the industry to protect its men the corporation retaliated by moving into the South, where governmental control is lax when questions arise dealing with safety installations. Drs. Max Trumper and Samuel F. Gordy, who have expert knowledge regarding this industrial disease, have published an article warning the workers against the serious dangers facing them when they take jobs in rayon plants using the viscose process. The Federal Department of Labor, moved by the Trumper-Gordy article, is investi-



gating the situation, but it looks as though the DuPont workers will be exposed to the disease for a long time to come unless something is done to hurry up official action.

\* \* \*

We frequently hear that Russian Communism and Nazism are just about the same thing. What do the supporters of Communism say when faced with this argument?

The above question was put up to Earl Browder, secretary, Communist Party of the U.S., who answered, as follows:

"The Socialist State in the Soviet Union is based on and arises out of the organization of the toiling masses. The Fascist State in Germany and elsewhere is forced upon the masses from above through the destruction of the organizations of the masses formed by themselves. It should be added that the Socialist State has for its purpose the placing of the national economy in the hands of the people and the fullest possible development of that economy for the benefit of the people. The Fascist State has as its object the preservation of a monopoly of the national economy in the hands of a constantly smaller group of big capitalists."

\* \* \*

I would appreciate some advice from you, which I want by private letter. I have two lots located in a middle class section of Detroit and \$12,000 cash in the bank. I was intending to build a \$6,000 house on each lot and rent it. I would like to know if that is a good investment.

If I were in your place I'd hesitate a long time before putting \$12,000 into two houses. I suggest that you put that money into a Postal Savings Bank (the limit is \$2,500) and put most of the balance into U.S. Baby Bonds, which you can buy at any postoffice. If you put that money into two houses you'll be lucky if you break even. If you happen to make a little, you'll inherit no end of headaches. (The above was sent by personal letter, as requested, but as the advice may be of interest to others I'm using it here.)

\* \* \*

Please comment on the claim made during Robert G. Ingersoll's lifetime, that the great Agnostic's only son had spent years reading indecent literature, that this practice caused the young man's mental collapse, that he spent years in

an insane asylum, where he finally died.

This story was very popular during Ingersoll's life, especially among pious, holy sectarians. Once, a clergyman wrote to Ingersoll asking whether or not the story was true, to which Ingersoll replied that it was false his son had read obscenities, that he had never gone insane, that he hadn't died, and, finally, that he had no son.

\* \* \*

Dr. Bodag Beck, in his book, "Honey and Health," says honey is great for one's health. He claims that the eating of honey accounted for the long lives of Anacreon (115 years), Pythagoras (90), and Thomas Parr (150). What's your opinion?

I think it's a lot of bunk. First of all, I don't believe that Parr lived 150 years, as claimed. Nor do I believe that Anacreon lived 115 years. Insurance companies, during the past 150 years, have written hundreds of millions of policies throughout the world, and they ought to know a little about longevity. Insurance actuaries claim 106 years is the longest known life span. Claims have been made for much more than 106 years, but they couldn't be established according to rigid standards. Old persons, especially those living in backward sections where vital statistics aren't kept with any real regard for accuracy, are given to adding extra years to their age as they grow older. Whenever you read about someone dying at 110 or 120 years of age, notice where the report comes from. Usually it's from some place like Ecuador or Albania, or, if the report is from some place in the U.S., it's out in the sticks somewhere where a liar can talk without danger of being exposed by official records.

But, to return to the honey, let me say that honey was the only food sweetener mankind knew before sugar was discovered. If honey is such a wonderful health food, how does it happen that when, in the old days, man ate nothing but honey for a sweetener, and as an important part of his diet, the life span was hardly more than 20 years. One would have the right to expect the span to be greater than ours, and yet we, who eat honey sparingly, have the greatest life span in the history of the race, and it continues to grow longer from generation to generation, so that scientists of

genuine authority now claim it won't be long before the average life span will be about 80 years. And, let me repeat, we aren't extra heavy honey eaters; in truth, we eat surprisingly little of that excellent spread. I like honey as much as Dr. Beck, but I dislike bunk. And when he says honey will cure rheumatism, diabetes, and several other ailments, I reject the claim, even though I'm only a layman. Several scientific men, in their reviews of Dr. Beck's book, disagreed heartily with his assertions. Incidentally, Dr. Logan Clendening, one of the reviewers whose piece came to my attention, calls attention to one argument used by Dr. Beck that can't be convincing. I refer to Dr. Beck's claim that honey must be wonderful because "the indefatigable German Fuehrer (Adolf "Velvetlips" Hitler) is a liberal consumer of honey, in which he indulges daily at breakfast." Many people will grow extra suspicious about honey when they read such an endorsement. They might blame honey for Hitler's fanaticism and hoodlumism.

\* \* \*

Doesn't American history show that no third party has ever won? Aren't our people conditioned permanently to a policy of working out their political problems through the two-party system?

Prof. Charles A. Beard, our foremost authority on American history, comments on third parties, as follows:

Three things seem established facts of American history:

1. Third parties have been in politics since about 1840.

2. Their platforms have set issues with which the major parties have reckoned and dealt.

3. No third party has ever won power at the ballot box. The apparent exception, the Republicans, took the name of an old major party—the Jeffersonian Republicans.

Will the future be different? I have no way of knowing.

\* \* \*

What must happen or what must be done to make *The Freeman* a weekly or at least a bi-weekly publication?

It's a question of money. I can't double or quadruple the paper's expenses without first seeing the monthly deficit wiped out. As I've said before, *The Freeman* is losing about \$500 per month—not a large amount, but too heavy for me to carry. If Free-

man readers would see to it that the paper's revenue increased by about \$6,000 per year (in the form of contributions to the Deficit Fund) the road would be clear for expansion, but so long as *Freeman* readers fail to carry the full load of the deficit themselves I certainly don't intend to make things worse by committing the paper to 24 or 52 issues per year. I want to see *The Freeman* grow in circulation and influence, but the problem of its finances, in the end, must rest with the paper's friends. I'm working without salary, and intend to continue without accepting pay for my editorial work so a bigger and better *Freeman* isn't out of the question—if only the paper's friends would barge in with some money.

\* \* \*

Is it true that d'Annunzio was a cannibal?

Gabriele d'Annunzio, the Italian poet, novelist, and dramatist, often claimed he doted on the tender flesh of newly born infants, but this was done just to spoof the good, respectable, conventional citizens. He got a kick out of outraging the bourgeoisie, but I grant you his method was a little on the screwy side. However, I know exactly how much kick he got out of his kidding for I once felt the same emotion after dropping the remark to a pious acquaintance that I had some doubts about Gawd having carved Eve from one of Adam's ribs. The look I got from that right-thinking Fundamentalist burned me down to my panty ruffles.

\* \* \*

Have you any data showing how much soot the chimneys in an industrial section deposit?

The only information I have on this subject is a report from Oldham, England, a large manufacturing community, where it was found that chimneys, in a single year, deposited 960 tons of soot per square mile.

\* \* \*

Why does the hen always make the rooster chase after her?

She doesn't want him to think she's a pushover.

\* \* \*

What is needed most to unite Jews and Christians?

Our first need is to thoroughly expose the demagogues who thrive on

race prejudice. I refer mainly, of course, to the type of the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, the Wichita, Kans., preacher who is trying to capitalize on race hatred in order to force his way into the U.S. Senate, where he will be able to advance Fascism along national lines. As I stated recently, the Rev. Winrod's campaign is of national concern, and not merely a local phenomenon. A U.S. Senator exercises national authority—he is able to vote for measures that concern New York, California and Florida as well as his own State. If a Jew-baiter like Winrod makes the Senate the country will have many occasions for alarm, for this Fascist and anti-Semite carries all the earmarks of a Nazi propagandist. Freeman readers must join in the fight to keep such a disseminator of prejudice and reaction from using the immense powers that belong to a member of the powerful Senate. A victory for a man like Winrod would mean further dissension and hatred among the unthinking and uneducated. Unity between the races—and here I include the Negroes as well as the Jews—would be more distant than ever before in the history of the country, for Winrod is that type of anti-Jewish propagandist who even goes so far as to make use of the often exposed forgeries that go by the name of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a collection of disgraceful lies that are intended to bring new floods of hatred down on the heads of a small minority of our population. Unity, between Jews and oppressed minorities in general on the one hand and Christians on the other, depends on education, the exposure of hate-breeding lies, the desire to be fair, the urge to respect our democratic traditions, and the complete repudiation of those elements who would use Jew-baiting as a smoke-screen for depriving the Jews of their opportunity to earn a living, thereby giving unfair advantage to competitors in business and the professions. Position in the economic and professional worlds should depend on personal ability—the power to serve the community—and not on the mere conditions of race. Jews, on the other hand, must learn to meet the issue squarely and courageously. They have nothing

to gain by hiding their heads. They must look facts in the face, and when attacked they must fight back. Furthermore, all Jews must learn, once for all, that their destiny is tied up with democracy and liberalism. Let the country lose its democratic traditions, let old-fashioned Americanism be crushed, and the Jews will be among the first to feel the oppressive acts of their Fascist enemies. Every minority that is made to suffer for racial, religious or cultural reasons should be able, at all times, to rely on the deathless, generous friendship of the Jews. The Jews can fight for themselves best by fighting for all victims of oppression. Oppression begets oppression. Liberalism begets liberalism. Those who stand on the liberal side must be ready to make extreme sacrifices for workers who want the right to organize into unions, for Negroes who want the right to equal opportunities, for teachers who want the right to tell the truth, and for leaders who want the right to speak their minds by word of mouth or by way of the printing press. In short, supporters of democratic liberalism must always be consistent. They can't expect justice for their minority while other minorities are tortured or discriminated against. Tolerate discrimination against one group today and you lay yourself open to oppression tomorrow. You never know who'll be next when the reactionaries of the K.K.K. type are on the loose. The problem of unity between the races resolves itself into this simple proposition: Stand by every victim of prejudice and injustice, be on guard to protect the Bill of Rights, help those individuals and groups which are making real sacrifices to fight the forces of Fascism and race prejudice, do your share of the work of bringing the truth to the masses. This isn't a fight that can be fought out in your own conscience alone. It's essential to join with others. This doesn't mean that each friend of fair play and tolerance must march with thousands of like-minded people, though such demonstrations can do much good. It means that we, as individuals, must reach out to those with whom we come in contact with in order to introduce them to the

liberal, enlightening ideas of those leaders, speakers, writers and editors who are fighting against American Fascism while there's still time and opportunity to meet and rout the enemy.

\* \* \*

In a speech down here in Texas, Mayor La Guardia, of New York City, warned us against agitating for industrial expansion, because, he said, New York might get even by going in for raising potatoes instead of getting them from Texas. Please comment.

Poor little La Guardia, his heart is always in the right place, but sometimes he exposes his ignorance, like so many of us. The amusing thing about that statement is his obliviousness to the fact that New York State is a great potato-raising State and that Texas, which doesn't go in for potatoes in a big way, actually imports great quantities from La Guardia's own bailiwick. For La Guardia's information let me explain to him that New York State is not only great industrially but is up high in agriculture. But, ribbing aside, La Guardia is a good mayor, so we won't hold this bull against him.

\* \* \*

What is the greatest water power known to man?

Woman's tears.

\* \* \*

I notice that some writers speak of the 11th Commandment. What is it?

Thou shalt not be found out.

\* \* \*

Have you any opinion on why Hitler—himself considered a homosexual by many competent investigators of the German scene—permitted Baron Gottfried von Cramm to be sent to prison for homosexuality?

Baron Gottfried von Cramm, one of the best tennis players in the world, was slapped into jail soon after he returned to Germany, on the pretext of homosexuality. His real offense was anti-Nazism. Wherever he went the athlete spoke frankly about the horrors of Hitlerism, and when German spies reported his utterances to the authorities in Berlin they decided to lay in wait for him and make him pay for his free utterances. Had this tennis ace praised Hitler's regime while attending tournaments in many foreign countries, he would have received nothing but honors on his return. International

Fascism keeps a sharp eye on its enemies and when it gets its chance it strikes back with all possible brutality.

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As I live in the goiter belt I am subject to a goiter. Can I avoid such a calamity by partaking of iodized salt? Also, please recommend best brands.

Iodized salt has a tendency to supply the deficiency in the usual diet available in the "goiter belts," so the use of such salt is recommended, but persons subject to thyroid gland trouble should see a good doctor before dosing themselves. Persons who live in sections where there is an inadequate supply of iodine in food should use one of the following excellent brands:

Diamond Crystal, Diamond Crystal Salt Co., St. Clair, Mich.; 18K, Winston and Newell Co., Minneapolis, Minn.; Right and Ready, Ruggles and Rademaker, Manistee, Mich.; Red and White, Red and White Corp., Chicago, Ill.; Morton's, Morton Salt Co., Chicago, Ill.

The above recommendations were made by the North Dakota Regulatory Department, Bismarck, N.D., in a bulletin entitled "Iodized Table Salt," issued in February, 1938. The same report withheld recommendation from the following brands because they contained less than the required 0.2 percent to 0.23 percent of potassium iodide:

Worcester, Worcester Salt Co.; E-Z Flow, E-Z Flow Salt Co.; Manistee, Manistee Salt Works; Our Family, Nash Finch Co.

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Recently I heard a lecturer say: "Before we take anything out of life we have to put something into life first, for life is a balance of realities and not a vacuum. The secret of successful living is putting in first and taking out afterwards instead of trying to take out first and putting in later, which can't be done." What did he mean?

Search me. I'm not good at turning generalities into simple concepts. Only the other day I heard a speaker of the kind referred to above, and he talked for 25 minutes to a luncheon club without saying one sentence that meant something. I'm convinced that such speakers run to a type. The one I heard looked and sounded profound, but after it was over I didn't have the least idea what he was try-

ing to put over. I can't quote the exact words of his dissertation, which he called "Keeping up with the Joneses," but here's part of his speech as I recall it, with each sentence in the mood of the original:

"It's always this, that and the other thing coming on us at the most unexpected times to lead us here, there and everywhere. If we are weak we succumb to these invisible essences that tug at us, whether it's business responsibilities, or family relationships, or a senseless scramble for keeping up with the Joneses. After all, what are the Joneses, and who are they? Did you ever stop to think? We ought to think about these questions from time to time, not in the remote future but in the here and now.

"We go about certain things as though we thought they were important, but they really aren't important if we use the best instead of the worst standards. Always chasing butterflies, or wool-gathering. We ought to stop this mad hurly-burly and think these things out clearly, without trying to beat around the bush and get nowhere, while precious hours, days, months and years pass by us never to return. Remember, when you're trying to keep up with the Joneses you are being moved by something vague but actual outside yourself when the real person that's within—the real YOU—isn't a Jones at all, unless you happen to be one of the Joneses in real life, which is a fact that still has to be established before the validity of my argument falls down so far as your character is concerned. We must learn to look below the surface, for the surface only covers life—it isn't life in itself—for life in itself is something that's under the surface, that's deep even though we never see it or feel it, though we can if only we will put aside our blinders and look carefully and think our problems through.

"What we all need—and I'm speaking of our real selves, not the side that we show to the world—is a true sense of direction—a compass, as it were—so we can head northeast when we want to go there instead of some other direction that only serves to get us in the wrong place when we get there. That's something worth thinking about and I'm only throwing out the general suggestion for you to study out for yourself when you look within

yourself and forget that there are any people like the Joneses with whom you have to keep up with in matters of this and that as we go on our journey through life.

"The whole point of my discussion—please don't accuse me of sermonizing—is that we must keep our feet on the ground—and by our feet I don't mean these two things that we stand on but all the essences of our lives—our real lives—which always make for true values instead of false standards. And by the ground I don't mean the dirt under your feet but the tools or instruments that you can use constructively and usefully in the here and now instead of a remote future that may never come, or, if it comes, may arrive too late to be of any worldly, practical good. Such problems go into the realities and ought to be studied reverently.

"I'm not throwing out these hints in order to make converts to this or that way of life or viewpoint, however valid they may be when looked at in the right light. If anything, I'm just asking you to convert yourself from somebody else you don't really know to yourself, someone you can know very well in all phases of character, if only you put aside your blinders and look at things steadily and without rose-colored glasses. After all, I can't live your life for you, and if I have any experiences or conclusions about life that can be of any real help to you I can only throw them out as hints, while you yourselves have to translate them into something recognizable and applicable in order to serve any useful end. That's why my message is very simple and clear—that you think these suggestions out and see if you can't get somewhere while you still have the power to steer a course, instead of drifting and getting nowhere in a hurry. In short, it's up to you. Either you do or you don't. No one else can decide for you. It's your own mind that rules the fate of it all in the end, regardless of what I or anyone else may say or do. The facts speak for themselves, and not just a lot of words. And when words don't jibe with the facts it's just too bad for the words."

And so on, for 25 minutes. After it was over, the speaker had his arm pumped by listeners who agreed it was the most inspirational talk they had ever heard. As for myself, I had to admit—to myself, of course, for there's no sense in arguing with the

satisfied—that I didn't have the least notion what he was talking about, and, I suspect, the speaker himself didn't know.

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I am a young man of 23, employed as a clerk in a freight office. Recently I was approached by a representative of the Mantle Club and invited to join. Please advise by personal letter.

The promoter of the Mantle Club is Hugo B. Monjar, who, in 1924, was working as a clerk for a California oil company. Impressed by the way Americans fall over one another to join every kind of an organization, this clerk put aside his low-paying job and decided to connect up with some easy money. So he organized the Decimo club, the big idea being to collect \$20 in initiation fees from the suckers and then take in \$2 per month in dues. Monjar and his representatives muttered mysteriously about the secret things Decimo clubs will do for members, the suggestion being that the heavy initiation fee and dues will come back many times over. It was a success from the start, except that some State officials didn't like the looks of the outfit. Several States threw the organization out bodily, including Missouri. In Massachusetts, an attorney general was tried on the charge of taking a \$25,000 bribe from the Decimo club, and found guilty. Since it was clear that Monjar had nothing substantial to offer his members and that he was engaged in a racket to get \$20 at the start and \$2 per month thereafter, the Decimo clubs met opposition in so many quarters that the organization blew up. But Hugo B. Monjar merely waited for the excitement to blow over so he could bust loose again and collect the sure money he knew was waiting for him. He's back in action again—and in a big way. The Mantle Club is the new name Monjar decided to adopt, and the racket is working in a number of large cities, particularly Cleveland, where thousands of young men have joined up (at the same initiation fee and dues as before) and are waiting for their membership to bring them fortune and success. A Cleveland newspaper reporter joined the Mantle Club and wrote about his experiences for a Cleveland newspaper, showing that Monjar was taking in immense sums

of money and not even promising anything in return, preferring to let the grapevine carry the glad tidings that membership would pay off eventually in a great, big way. Of course, the suckers never get to first base. They are kidded along so that the dues will continue coming in, but even if they quit paying, the Mantle Club is still far ahead of the game, for the initiation fee is a hefty one and it takes months before the simpletons get wise to themselves. Most of the money goes to that smart guy—Monjar. Barnum was right. A sucker is born every minute. Sometimes they're twins.

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Mr. Haldeman-Julius, do you honestly believe a personality of your abilities, character and reasoning capacity is a purposeless result of accident? Don't you believe there is much truth in the argument that nature, man, and mind are the products of a universal mind? How can one explain the presence of matter without this assumption? I know of nothing that has come into life without being created. You may call that creator a mind, a law, a force, or a God. It is not clear to me how inorganic, sterile matter can assume the function of life without a seed or the capacity of life being instituted by some outside force or mind.

We can approach discussions of the Creationist Theory, and the like, in two ways. We can, if so disposed, turn to supernaturalism, to unfounded assumptions, to theistic inferences, to the "authority" of a divine book, or to the dogmatist's appeals to faith and mental servility. That is the theologian's way, and, naturally, as a Materialist, I'll have none of it. I prefer the realistic methods of Materialism, philosophy, and logic. A belief has value only when there are convincing incontrovertible reasons to support it. A belief that is maintained by the assertion of so-called divine word or ecclesiastical authority is worth nothing more than any other dogmatic assertion. If a theory or set of ideas can't stand scrutiny, let it be kicked out. Also, I refuse to accept a theory merely because it's based on gaps in our knowledge. The pursuit of knowledge is a growth, and the evolutionary process hasn't stopped yet. There are many intellectual gaps, but we must guard against those who would use steadily nar-

rowing gaps as receptacles for notions that are considered too "sacred" to be discarded. The Freethinker denies that any theory or set of assumptions shall be considered "sacred," beyond debate. The Freethinker insists that man's intellectual life shall be free, that inquiry shall be unhindered, and that the full blaze of inquiry shall be turned on every explanation of life, real or attempted. Man, as a thinking animal, is, comparatively, a recent phenomenon, and while most of his thinking has been shot through with error and superstition, a growing minority has preferred truth to supernaturalism, and fact to fancy.

Let's examine a few of the claims of our supernaturalists. First, that matter had to be created by a mind, a law, a force, or a God. Here the Creationist Theory meets an enormous difficulty, for it's impossible to prove that anything ever was created, that something was made out of nothing, that an outside mind decreed the universe and its laws, that an outside force decided to operate on nothing in order to produce matter and then make it behave according to its dictates. The Creationist must admit, if he's the least bit logical, that his assumption isn't subject to verification. He can't produce evidence to support his thesis. And, finally, he comes to the logical absurdity of admitting that "something" created matter out of nothing without explaining how that "something" created itself.

I have used, in the previous paragraph, some of the favorite words of our Creationists—force, mind, law, and the like. I suggest that we look at these words, for an examination of their uses will show how immature and infantile are our Creationists. Let's take, first, the word mind. We are asked to believe a Universal Mind produced the universe. This must be so, we are told, because man has a mind, and man's mind is a part of the universe in which he lives; so, ergo, there must be a Universal Mind, a mind capable of creating matter out of a vacuum. A beginner in logic should see the emptiness of this explanation. First of all, what is mind? Is it an organ? No. It's a function of the brain. The brain is

a physical, material organ, and when it functions, for good or ill, we have what is called a mind. Notice, at this point, that our Creationists refuse to speak of a Universal Brain, because that would mean they were resting their spiritual philosophy on a material organ—a logical absurdity that's apparent even to our Theists. So they chuck out the brain as something beneath contempt and glorify the processes that follow when the brain goes into action. The brain is an organ of thought, and when it's functioning we have mind. In the same way, we speak of the stomach, but when the stomach is in action we speak of digestion—or, if things go amiss, indigestion. We have lungs, but when they function we speak of respiration. Thus, we might as well speak of a Universal Stomach, or a Universal Lung, or a Universal Kidney, or a Universal Brain, merely because biological man happens to contain such organs. If we are to accept the assumption of a Universal Mind we must assume that somewhere a material, physical brain—countless billions times larger or more powerful than man's—is functioning. Such a suggestion reduces the argument to an absurdity, because the Creationist is unable to produce a whiff of evidence to buttress such an assumption.

The same proponents of Creationism ask us to believe in a Force that operated on nothing to produce something. Here again we get a glimpse into the primitiveness of the theistic mind. As we are now in the world of physics, we must look at force from the viewpoint of the physicist. Taking that view, what is force? It's nothing more than the result of the action of matter, whether mechanical, thermal, chemical, electrical or magnetic. In other words, force, in the view of the physicist, is matter in action. It isn't a reality in itself, any more than the mind is anything more than the function of the brain. We speak of the force of gravity, the cohesive force, the centrifugal force—but all aren't realities in themselves, for they are nothing more than matter in motion. Remove the matter and the force becomes nonexistent. When we study scientifically this question of force we realize

how shallow are the claims of Creationists. They make the fundamental mistake of separating force from matter, when force is never anything more than a manifestation resulting from matter in motion. It follows, therefore, that force cannot exist without matter. Where there isn't any force there isn't any matter, and, the other way around, where there's no matter there can be no force. In short, force and matter are the same thing. Therefore, the Creationist is illogical when he says a force (which results from matter) is capable of creating matter.

The same illogical view draws inferences from what it calls law—Universal Law. What is a law of nature? It's merely a description of how nature, or matter, acts. When matter acts uniformly under certain circumstances, we speak of that behavior as a law. The thing acts according to its nature—like an apple dropping off a tree—and when it does certain things, like falling to the ground, we say that such-and-such behavior is a law of nature.

The Creationist can do only one thing when confronted with the demand for evidence for his assumptions. He points to the earth and the heavens and says, with finality, that someone had to put them there, be it a law, a force, a mind, or a God. That's a case of oversimplifying a difficult problem. He assumes that because the earth is here someone or something put it here. He can't point to a single fact or process to prove that position. His claim that it had to be made is nothing more than theistic dogmatism. So far as we know, the materials of the universe may have been in existence always. There are gaps in our knowledge here, for science is still to conquer every secret of nature, but this doesn't mean we shall always be ignorant. We don't know nature's secrets now, but since knowledge is growing from day to day, there's more than an even chance that the time may come when man will be able to say that he has learned every secret of nature. I don't know when that time will come. It may be many centuries, but since we're growing mightier intellectually, from generation to generation, this inference of complete knowledge

may not be an idle dream. In the present state of our knowledge we don't know how the universe's materials "came" into existence, or whether it ever "came," for it's probable the materials of nature always were in existence. That gap can't be used intelligently by our Creationists to put over a theory that reeks with intellectual infantilism. We certainly don't know many facts about nature—therein we stand as Agnostics, of course—but that gap in our knowledge shouldn't be used as an excuse to foist on us a set of notions that aren't far above the imaginings of primitive man, when he, in his ignorance, imagined that special spirits made the leaves rustle, that other spirits made the river flow, and so on. The animism of the primitive thinker isn't far beneath the illogical assumptions of today's Creationists.

The Materialist is on strong ground when he rejects Creationism because of lack of evidence, empty assumption, illogicality, and crass dogmatism. He stands on equally firm ground when he says the so-called spiritual qualities—like mind, force, law, etc.—are nothing more than functions of matter. Once we understand the basic ideas of the Materialist we see how easy it is to comprehend the tenets of the evolutionary philosophy, which explains biological life as being the result of physical, electrical and chemical actions and reactions. If there are certain combinations, life is possible. If those combinations don't exist, life is impossible. The Materialist then sees how it's possible for higher forms of life to develop through evolutionary processes. Nature goes through countless accidental combinations of atoms—with ultimate results that are complicated and baffling. The organ that is thinking these thoughts and pounding them out on a writing machine is a brain that took millions of years to develop—and the facts, so far as we know them, indicate, as the ancient philosopher, Lucretius, wrote, that life is the result of a fortuitous concourse of atoms. These combinations of atoms worked in certain directions by the elements of chance, for nature is given to making many mistakes, taking many missteps, building a set



of animal organisms, only to destroy them and make way for other combinations. That process is what we call life. Chance and accident, it seems to me, are dominant factors. The Materialist's case grows stronger as knowledge grows, while the Creationist's case grows weaker.

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I live in Wichita, Kans., where I have opportunities to watch the activities of the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, the Fascist anti-Semite and admirer of Hitler, who is running for the U.S. Senate. Really, I'm not exaggerating when I say he is spending immense sums of money. His headquarters alone cost a fortune. Where does the money come from?

W. G. Clugston, Kansas correspondent of the *Kansas City Journal-Post*, one of the best-informed newspapermen in Kansas, asks the same question, as follows:

"No one seems to know where the Wichita divine gets his money for the extensive campaign activities he has begun—how he finances his weekly radio broadcasts over a Kansas chain of stations; who is providing the money for the bales of literature he sends through the mails; where the money comes from to pay the high-powered workers he has in the field. (Among his workers is a former state commander of the American Legion who is said to be receiving a handsome salary for working among the political leaders of the various counties.)"

About two years ago, I showed, in *The Freeman*, that the Rev. Winrod was a poor man until after he visited Hitler and Julius Streicher in Germany. Where before he lived on less than \$75 per month, when he returned to Wichita from Berlin he connected with a large printing establishment, with commodious offices well staffed by numerous clerks and stenographers, with a house furnished with the best that the local department stores could supply, and with a bank account that showed thousands of dollars. L. M. Birkhead, of Kansas City, Mo., who studied Winrod's career carefully, at that time said Winrod not only got immense sums of money to organize a Fascist, anti-Semitic movement in the Middle West, but also obtained substantial financial support from an Oklahoma oil millionaire. Now, in addition, reports from accurate sources say that he is also getting money from large

banks in Wichita and the East, and that many anti-New Dealers are financing this cockroach Hitler because of the "line" of poison gas he is exuding during his attacks on President Roosevelt. The Rev. Winrod, who is capable of stooping to any form of lying and misrepresentation, keeps pounding on the "fact" that Roosevelt is a Jew (Rosenfelt) and that he is "packing" the government with Jews. This is the sort of contemptible propaganda that put Hitler into power, and Winrod believes he can force his way into the U.S. Senate by using the same strategy. Needless to say, once Winrod becomes a member of the U.S. Senate he will be a position to advance Hitlerism, Fascism, anti-Semitism, and all the other hate-planks in his program.

A group, calling themselves Kansas Friends of Democracy, in Kansas City, Kansas, have compiled a circular from my anti-Winrod material, from which I repeat a few points:

The Rev. Winrod is the most active anti-Semite and Jew-baiter in the U.S. and will use the U.S. Senate as a sounding-board for his pleas for racial persecution.

The Rev. Winrod has particular hatred for free, scientific education. Like the Hitlerites in Germany, Winrod would gag every opinion that failed to jibe with his own. For years, Winrod has cried for anti-evolution legislation and suppressive measures against education.

*The Defender*, for July, 1937, called Jews "Christ Killers" and demanded repressive measures against all Jews in business or the professions. In the issue dated September, 1937, Winrod repeated a favorite argument of Julius Streicher and Adolf Hitler to the effect that Jesus wasn't a Jew.

Winrod keeps repeating, month after month, the Nazi lie that Communism is a Jewish movement.

Winrod publishes and distributes "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," an anti-Semitic forgery that was first concocted by Czarist officials. The purpose of these forgeries is to convince the uneducated that the Jews are in a conspiracy to steal control of the world. Here again Winrod is repeating the tactics of Hitler, for the Nazis always found these forgeries of the greatest effectiveness in

winning the unthinking to their side.

Winrod shows in his paper, *The Defender*, that he is in constant communication and is personally friendly to America's most vicious anti-Semites, including E. N. Sanctuary, Harry Jung, and James True.

Now that he's running for the Senate, Winrod claims he's opposed to Nazism and Fascism, but such denials mean nothing in view of his record. During the past five years, the Rev. Winrod has printed a stream of articles and editorials praising Hitler and his prize Jew-baiter, Julius Streicher. In the issue of his publication dated September, 1937, he lauded Germany because "that country stands alone in her attempt to break Jewish control." The article added: "The Czar failed and the Jews destroyed him."

His colleagues, including James True, anti-Semitic head of "James True Associates," refer to Winrod as "the Jayhawk Nazi." The December, 1936, issue of *The Defender* gave space to material favoring both Nazism and Fascism.

Winrod's attacks on Catholicism are of the K.K.K. brand, which are aimed at arousing prejudice and boycotts against the Catholic masses. This is considered effective political strategy in a State like Kansas where Catholics, like Jews, are in a small minority. The Fascist policies of the Vatican are ignored because Winrod is himself a Fascist. He caters to the most bigoted elements in Protestantism, while the liberal Federal Council of Churches and other progressive religious bodies in America are attacked with the same venom he shows towards Jews and the Catholic masses. Those who want authority for these statements are referred to Winrod's pamphlet, "The Protestant Papacy."

During his campaign, Winrod is denying his Fascism, though he admits his hatred for Jews and the Catholic masses. But his denials will fool no true friends of democracy. Winrod's record of praise and support for Hitlerism can't be wiped out by lip-service to republicanism. Winrod is undermining democracy with the technique of Nazism. Fascism is at last open and vocal in the U.S. It aspires to seats of authority in the

Senate. It conspires to capture the government—and that means the end of government as we know it, for American Fascism, like Nazism, will destroy democracy, liberalism, freedom, free press, and the Constitution in general.

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What is the average weight of trainloads on U.S. railroads?

In 1937, it was 796 tons, the second highest year on record.

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What's the best way to drive a nail without hitting one's fingers?

Hold the hammer with both hands.

\* \* \*

I noticed, with surprise, that Joseph McCabe and Haldeman-Julius, in their books, refer to Buddha as a Rationalist or Freethinker. I always thought Buddha was a source of religious superstition, having founded Buddhism, a religion filled with supernaturalism. Can you give me a quotation supporting the claim?

Gautama, the Buddha, in his original teachings was a Rationalist. His philosophy was corrupted by the priests, but such misuse can't be blamed on the teacher. I recall vividly when I debated with the Rev. Burris A. Jenkins, of Kansas City, Mo., on the question, "Is Theism a Logical Philosophy?" how my opponent expressed great surprise and doubt over my sentences dealing with the Rationalism of Buddha. Unfortunately, I didn't have at hand the exact quotation in mind when I uttered the words that shocked my clerical opponent, but when I returned to my library I hunted them up and am glad to print them again below. Gautama, the Buddha, is giving advice to his pupil Kesa, and says ("Anguthara Nikaya") things which can come only from a Rationalist, as follows:

It is in the nature of things that doubt shall arise. Do not believe anything on mere hearsay. Do not believe in traditions merely because they are old, and have been handed down for many generations and in many places. Do not believe anything on account of rumors or because people talk a great deal about it. Do not believe because the written testimony of some ancient sage is shown to thee. Do not believe in what you have fancied, thinking that, because it is extraordinary, it must have been inspired by a god, or angel, or other wonderful being.

Do not believe anything merely because presumption is in its favor, or because the custom of many years inclines you to take it is true. Do not believe anything merely on the authority of your teachers and priests. But, whatsoever, after thor-

ough investigation and reflection, is found to agree with reason and experience, as conducive to the good and benefit of mankind, and of the world at large; only that accept as true, and shape your life in accordance therewith.

## A VICTIM OF CANCER QUACKERY

Harold Collister, R.R. 2, Galva, Ill., in a letter to The Freeman, tells how his father, suffering from cancer, was treated by Norman Baker, the cancer quack who served a jail sentence in Iowa last Summer for practicing medicine without a license. His letter is printed below exactly as he wrote it, except for minor changes in spelling, punctuation, etc. The letter:

"I am writing you this letter in response to a letter received from Norman Baker, of Laredo, Texas. It was addressed in my father's name, who passed away on July 9, 1937. Mr. Baker doesn't know this, but he ought to know. Mr. Baker wanted father to be of help to him in telling of the services he received at the Baker Hospital. He said he would send his attorney here to question dad and it would be used in his case at Girard, Kansas.

"I'll tell you how it is. Dad took treatment at the Baker Hospital, at Muscatine, Iowa, for a cancer on his lip, probably caused by his pipe. It wasn't any larger than a cold sore when he started taking treatment. He stayed up there at a rooming house and took treatments at the hospital. Every other week-end he would come home, and every time I saw him I could see the cancer was getting worse. The last time he went back they sent us a wire to inform us to come and get him. They gave him up when they took his money and used their salve on him until his mouth was eaten down to the point of his chin and back in his cheek almost to the ear.

"After he was home four days I took him 150 miles in a car to Chicago, to the Research Hospital. It took us five hours to go from one doctor to the other, and they all said it was a crime. One said, 'Why didn't you take your father up here eight months ago? We could have sent him home cured.' They said such an institution should be put out of business. Father stayed at the Chicago hospital nine days. Then we went up on the train and took him home to die."

The above heart-rending letter tells a tragic story. It exposes cancer quackery in all its ghoulishness. For eight months Mr. Collister's father let cancer quackery tinker with his disease, thus losing precious time that should have been spent receiving scientific treatment from men qualified to practice medicine. When it was too late, when the cancer had spread beyond relief, he was taken to a scientific institution, where nothing could be done for him. That's why The Freeman keeps pounding on the evil of cancer quackery. The Freeman hopes to help educate the public into an understanding of the appalling fact that cancer quackery batters on ignorance. Harold Collister's father won't testify against E. Haldeman-Julius in the Norman Baker libel suits because he lies in his grave—a sacrifice to cancer quackery.

Since writing the above I communicated with the law firm of Kirkland, Fleming, Green, Martin and Ellis, Chicago, Ill., and learned that "Harold Collister is listed by Baker as having been cured." Collister, according to his son, is in his grave, but Norman (Cancer Quack) Baker advertised him as one of his "cured" patients!

## CATHOLIC-FASCISM HITS AT FREE-SPOKEN EDITORS

"Our Sunday Visitor," the most widely circulated Catholic newspaper in this country, is continuing to whip its readers into a frenzy in order to compel publishers of magazines and daily papers to boycott the advertising of my Little Blue Books. The excuse, as usual, is because I issue books on sexology, but the real reason is because my list includes Freethought books by writers like Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Anatole France, Joseph McCabe, Robert G. Ingersoll, William J. Fielding, and others. My sex books are written by recognized scientific authorities like Havelock Ellis, Margaret Sanger, Dr. Sigmund Freud, and others, who handle the subject with such dignity that it's impossible to look on their volumes

as being anything but educational works. But the Catholic bigots shut their eyes to science and cry "filth," the maneuver, however, being intended not only to suppress enlightening books on sexology but recognized classics of Freethought. The latest broadside of "Our Sunday Visitor" is a letter written by a California woman, a Marie E. Holz, who says, in the April 24, 1938, issue:

I notice that you are mentioning the magazines that publish Haldeman-Julius advertisements. That was in a recent copy of Parents' Magazine. It seems strange to see such an ad in a magazine that is supposed to be helpful to parents in training their little ones.

If you had not noticed it in that magazine, I thought you would be interested, as surely many letters from your readers would influence them to discontinue that ad.

Under the leadership of the well-known Jesuit magazine, "America," Catholics are being egged on to terrorize all publishers who dare print anything unacceptable to the hierarchy. The magazine is offering cash prizes to Catholic laymen who participate in a Bias Contest, the purpose being to root out statements offensive to the Catholic Church and then line up thousands of laymen and priests to deluge recalcitrant publishers with letters of protest and threats. The first publication to be attacked in this new campaign of Catholic Action is the "Bergen Evening Record," published at Hackensack, N.J., because the editor of that journal admitted to his letter column a reader's communication which contained statements unacceptable to the Catholic Church. It happens that the offending letter was written by a Freeman reader, Wm. E. Monaghan, Grantwood, N.J., who writes me as follows:

Several weeks ago I had a letter of mine published in the "Bergen Evening Record." This paper, liberal in some respects, reactionary in others, has an excellent letter column in which letters of all shades of opinion are printed up to 1,200 words or more. I have had many long contributions in it during the past year, including a series on Fascism.

This particular letter was on religion. In it I casually remarked that an alleged statement by a N.Y. modernist minister to the effect that Jesus was an illegitimate child was quite plausible, and that I had held to this theory as one explanation of Jesus' origin. I mentioned that it occurred in the Sepher Toldoth Jeschua as a direct historical statement (and also in one of the apocryphal gospels), which might or might not be true. My letter was free of invective or ranting anti-religious sentiments.

Now I find that the Catholic publication, "America," after a contest to find the most "blasphemous and anti-Catholic" expression in recent months in an American publication, has chosen my mild statement and letter for first prize. I am, of course, flattered at this high honor, you may be sure! Since I haven't a copy of "America" here (I intend to send for a back number) I can only quote from the flood of indignant letters which the Record got from outraged Catholics. Here are a few samples of the way an objective attitude towards history is looked upon by our pious fanatics.

One Lucille Graf writes that the "positively indecent teachings of that New York minister" make him really "an absolute hypocrite, for he is teaching something which he in reality does not believe himself." She has taken the 'record' for 12 years, but "if you continue to have material such as this make up a part of your paper, our family is seriously considering canceling our subscription," etc.

One Elinore Tauffer writes: "It has been most surprising, to say the least, that a letter of such blasphemous contents should have found its way into your columns. It is deplorable that such a paper as the 'Bergen Evening Record' should have a hand in insulting the intelligence of thinking people (oh, oh!). If you do not intend to do something about it, we Catholics will . . . I shall advise my friends not to subscribe to your paper. I hope that you will take steps to prevent such an occurrence again."

One Frances E. Durkin writes: "My family has subscribed to your paper for many years . . . (but) now, as tolerant (!) Americans we can no longer patronize a paper where prejudice appears in print."

One Marie Leitcherfield writes of the "vile and blasphemous" articles of mine, "one about Mary's son Jesus being illegitimate and another on birth control. If you are going to allow such articles to be printed, I am afraid I will be bound . . . to discontinue buying your paper and will ask my friends to do so also."

One Rooney, of the Knights of Columbus, writes that he will not buy "your vile communistic paper" again, nor will any of the Knights. One good

woman, Mary McLaughlin, of New York City, can hardly believe that such blasphemy could ever have been printed at all. A Mr. Herbert says I would make Mary a prostitute (which I never intimated).

I must say that the "Record" has up to now stood fast for the right of contributors to have their letters published, except for libelous, personally abusive or irrelevant material, and in two notes to the boycott letters it has indicated its disapproval of the intolerant hysteria of its Catholic critics. That's a fine sign. I hope the pressure will not become too great for the editors to stand. (Only one letter has so far been received commending the paper for its policy.)

One Catholic red-baiter in particular has disgraced the letter column in recent months, a certain Livio Vagnina. In one of his epistles he terms a letter of mine on the God question one of the most illiterate that has ever appeared in the Record, whereas his own arguments in the reply are the stalest crap any Theist ever offered. In another masterpiece he calls my serious and factual articles on Fascism—in which I cited dozens of statistics and many indisputable facts—"filth," and shrieks that "Communists"—I am an independent radical—call everything they don't like Fascist, and then brings in the Red Menace as an answer to attacks on Fascism. In his latest wonder-piece he answers an article of mine on Fascism and Woman with such howling absurdities as the Nationalization of Soviet Women and the Taking Away of Soviet Children from their Parents by the State, and claims woman is degraded in the USSR but not in Catholic countries.

I have just sent in a reply to the venomous Catholic ravings and boycottings, which I hope—and believe—the "Record" will publish. After which we shall probably see some further examples of Catholic intelligence, wisdom, logic, and tolerance, not to mention objectivity!

Most of these people simply do not know things. They have never heard of Joseph McCabe, for instance, and the points which he has been making for years—and other freethinkers as well—are so new to them that they are shocked and bowled over when they first come across them. Things which you and I consider old stuff and so indisputable as to be a waste of time arguing about, are still considered the very opposite of the truth by most people.

Since writing the above, Reader Monaghan reports the "Bergen Evening Record" has a headline stating the Bergen County Federation of Holy Name Societies will send a representative to confer with the paper's publisher, threatening a boycott by the 80,000 Catholics in the county.

Another publisher who is being attacked by "America" is the one who issues the "Ladies' Home Journal," because a recent number contained an article supporting birth control, a practice which, according to a recent poll, is supported by 51 percent of Catholic women and 79 percent of non-Catholic women. "The New York Times" is also being criticized because it "dared" print correspondence from Barcelona, written by Herbert L. Matthews, a reputable journalist who sends accurate, fair, objective reports from the Loyalists' side. The Catholic Church can't stand the truth about Fascism's record in unhappy Spain.

Another publication that is being attacked by "America" is the distinguished quarterly, "Foreign Affairs," one of the finest magazines in the world devoted to reporting international news. "America's" current attack is based on an article in the last issue of "Foreign Affairs," written by a Canadian journalist, who tells what's happening in Eastern Canada, where Fascism and Catholicism are in an unholy alliance against labor, democracy, freedom of speech and press, and any policies that encourage liberalism and freedom. The article under fire is strictly factual, but that doesn't deter the bigots. In truth, the more factual a publication is the more intense and fanatical is the reaction of the Catholic-Fascists, because the truths of the record are too terrible to stand the light of publicity.

Catholic-Fascism is bringing together its packs of bigots, who are now in full chase after every editor who prints anything critical of Catholic-Fascism. Of course, they can't shoot free-spoken editors, as they do in European Fascist cesspools, but they can organize bands of boycotters to terrorize and bulldoze honest editors into silence. The menace of Catholic-Fascism is pressing and immediate. All supporters of freedom, progress and social justice must stand on guard lest their blood-bought rights be taken from them by the hordes of Fascism. It CAN happen here, unless all anti-Fascists do their part in the necessary work of giving whole-hearted support to editors who have the courage to attack the disease of Catholic-Fascism.

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