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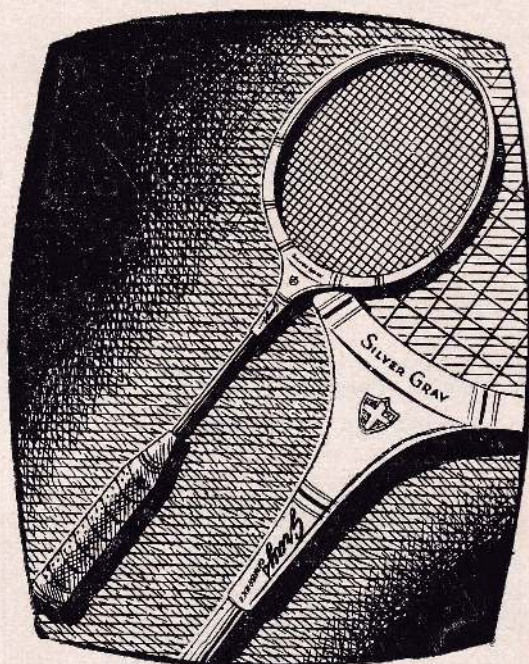
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BALLET DANCERS HAVE FUN WITH ELEPHANTS



—“Times”

THE San Francisco Ballet, one of the most celebrated of America's ballet companies, gave a series of performances to crowded houses at the Lionel Wendt Theatre in Colombo last month in the course of a tour of the East.

Members of the company not only displayed high artistic accomplishment on the stage but won the hearts of everybody with whom they came into contact outside their formal engagements.

Here two of the ballerinas are seen at the Dehiwela zoological gardens, where apparently even the elephants were so captivated by their charm as to allow liberties being taken with them.

The dancers are in the costumes of their circus number.

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THE WRITING ON THE WALL

FOR obviously political reasons the Government is determined to go through with its idea of nationalising the omnibus companies. Whether the effect will be to improve the service to the traveller is problematical. Probably not, considering the difficulties that are bound to be encountered in converting deteriorated services into a state of reasonable efficiency. But the Government will be able to proclaim to the country that it has honoured another of the pledges given by the M.E.P. in its election manifesto. That is all that it seems to be concerned about.

* * * *

FORTUNATELY for the country, there is disagreement within the Cabinet on the question of the nationalisation of foreign-owned tea estates that is advocated by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Fortunately, because there cannot be any manner of doubt that the result will be a fall in revenue from this source, which is admittedly the mainstay of the State. The differences among the ministers are said to be so marked that it has even been proposed that the subject of Agriculture should be taken away from the Minister and entrusted to the Minister of Lands.

* * * *

WHAT the intelligent citizen is worried about in viewing the Government's policy of nationalisation is that there would be, in every instance, heavy expenditure by way of payment of compensation with little likelihood of increase of income. Indeed the probabilities are that State management of the bus services would necessitate a rise in fares if loss is to be avoided. In the case of tea, there is the problem of fluctuation of prices caused by influences beyond the control of the Government. How will a falling market be dealt with—by additional taxation?

* * * *

IT is not yet too late for the Government to heed the advice of economists that the vital need at the moment is to increase the national wealth. What it is doing, however, is adding to its commitments by widening the scope of social services. On the other hand, production is, if not falling, stagnant. For example, rice cultivation has received a set-back owing to repeated spells of drought, and export crops are meeting growing competition. The Government will ignore the writing on the wall at its peril.

THE EDITOR.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

A NEW development in the tea industry is envisaged by a scheme of the Minister of Lands (Mr. C. P. de Silva) for the establishment of State-owned plantations, apparently as an alternative to nationalisation of existing estates. The Government has decided to appoint a committee, including representatives of tea interests, to report on it.

According to the Minister there are about 50,000 acres of land available in the hinterland of the western, southern and Sabaragamuwa provinces suitable for tea and rubber. He, however, proposes making an experiment with a thousand acres, involving an outlay of Rs. 7 million and giving employment to about 750 families, with a possible return of Rs. 2 million annually.

The Committee (the Chairman of which will be Senator C. Wijesinghe, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance) is to be asked to go into the following matters: the areas where plantations should be established; detailed costs; a suitable organisation for efficient management; and the economic possibilities of the project. A matter for subsequent decision is whether the land should be worked as peasant and middle class settlement or as Government-managed estates.

* * *

PUBLIC auction of copra was resumed on March 1, after the interruption caused by the war, when a sales centre was opened in Colombo on March 1, in Duke Street, Fort, by Mrs. Senanayake, wife of Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Commerce and Trade. Mr. Senanayake inaugurated the sale for the day by offering the first lot.

"The sale of copra in open competition will not only enable Ceylon to obtain the best price for its copra and coconut but also serve as a price index to all coconut-producing countries," Mr. Senanayake said. He foreshadowed the Colombo centre becoming the premier marketing institution in the world and a model for not only South-East Asia but all the 26 countries interested in growing coconut.

Mr. C. T. Van Geyzel, Chairman of the Coconut Board, which will operate the auctions, thanked Mr. Senanayake for his interest in having the auctions resumed.

* * *

VISCOUNT Soulbury, Ceylon's former Governor-General, paid a high tribute to Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Ceylon's first Prime Minister, in a recent BBC broadcast. "D. S. was not an eloquent speaker," Lord Soulbury said. "He was not a master of words, and he never deluded himself into thinking that a phrase could take the place of per-



Viscount Soulbury
— "Times"

formance . . . I shall always treasure the recollection of that broad-shouldered, burly Prime Minister striding into my room with a hearty chuckle. Nothing ever seemed to rattle him. He could not make up his mind quickly, but he had the knack of correct timing in his decisions . . ."

He concluded: "I came to rely implicitly on his judgment. The more I reflect on his character and his career the more clearly do I realise how fortunate it was for Ceylon that during the first years of her independence it should have had at its helm Don Stephen Senanayake."

* * *

PROFESSOR Scott Nearing, formerly of Pennsylvania University, whose late Mr. Philip Gune-

wardena, Minister of Agriculture and Food, was a student there, and Mrs. Nearing are on a visit to Ceylon.

As an economist, it is Prof. Nearing's view that if Ceylon became truly socialist in a hundred years that would be fast enough. However, it depends on events in Asia, he holds. Prof. Nearing is also of the view that nationalisation should be preceded by the production of competent personnel to run the nationalised enterprises.

Where a government should start a socialist programme is a tricky question, he said in an interview, because the people had to be satisfied, and they invariably expected miracles. And there were forces in capitalist states organised to foil the plans of countries striving towards socialism.

* * *

AN intriguing development in the language controversy is the defeat, in the Colombo Municipal Council on February 25th, of a resolution advocating the use of Sinhalese only in the administration of the Council. All but three of the UNP members of the Council who were present voted against the resolution, which was moved by an MEP member. The chief spokesman of the UNP members, who are in a majority in the Council, took the stand that the resolution was incapable of implementation at the present time and was calculated further to disrupt communal harmony. He pointed out that there were several Moor and a few Tamil members in the Council and therefore the proceedings should be conducted in a language which everybody understood.

An LSSP member said it was absurd to suggest that the City's problems remained unsolved because the business of the Council was not done in Sinhalese. If English was to be replaced it should be by both Sinhalese and Tamil.

The two Communist party members were not present at the division.

* * *

TWO renowned British economists who have been giving a series of lectures in Ceylon at the invitation of the Central Bank of Ceylon are Prof. J. R. Hicks, Drummond Professor of Political Economy, Oxford, and his wife, Ursula K. Hicks (nee Webb), Lecturer in Public Finance, Oxford.



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MATTERS OF MOMENT

In a lecture in Colombo, on budgeting for development, Mrs. Hicks emphasised the need for power supplies, technically trained personnel and increased productivity of land for economic development. Although Ceylon had a higher standard of living than many other Asian peoples, she warned that no more than a start had been made in harnessing power resources. In planning for production of goods, she said, care should be taken to ensure among other things, that only goods what were wanted were produced. The mere existence of factories was not a criterion of progress.

* * *

THE Government finds itself in a quandary in giving effect to its policy of nationalisation of the bus services. There are two schools—one in favour of phased nationalisation and the other demanding complete nationalisation at once. Expert advice—of the British Transport authority, Mr. Cyril Hawkins—is that nationalisation of the entire system on a chosen date is impracticable. He recommends the taking over of the services covering Greater Colombo first and the rest in stages. The latest proposal is that the Government should, by law, nationalise the entire transport system, but physically take over the city services for a beginning.

In the meantime, the Bus Owners' Association has suggested, as an alternative to nationalisation, the conversion of the present companies into about thirty-five public corporations, in which the Government would hold 50 per cent. of the shares and be represented by its own directors.

The Federation of Travellers' Associations' suggestion is that the Government take over the efficient services first, but in any case only as the route licences expire, or are cancelled for violation of the conditions of the stage carriage permits, in which event no compensation would be payable. Another suggestion of the Federation is that debentures in a state corporation running the bus service be available to the public.

THE possibility is envisaged by the Prime Minister of Anuradhapura being once again made the national capital of Ceylon, with Colombo and other sea-port towns functioning as commercial cities as in the U.S.A., Australia, and India.

He gave expression to the idea at a community centres rally at Anuradhapura on February 24 on his first official visit to the North-Central Province and to the new town that has been built outside the ancient city limits in order to preserve the character of the sacred city. As Minister of Local Administration in the State Council, Mr. Bandaranaike was the architect of the sacred city



Mr. Philip Gunawardena

—"Times"

preservation and the new town schemes. These were inaugurated twelve years ago. On his visit Mr. Bandaranaike gave the public the assurance that they would be completed before the end of the Buddha Jayanthi year, i.e. May, 1957.

* * *

ACCORDING to a report published in the Press, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Philip Gunawardena, has put before the Cabinet a scheme for rehabilitation of tea estates and small holdings at a cost of Rs. 18 million a year.

A cess of 3½ cents per lb. of tea exported is to be levied to finance the scheme. The replanting subsidy contemplated is Rs. 2,500 an acre in the case of estates. A condition attached to it would be that high

yielding clones should be used. It is disclosed that the Tea Research Institute has developed clones capable of yielding as much as 2,000 lb. an acre by vegetative propagation.

Where small holdings are concerned, assistance would be for several purposes, including improvement of agricultural conditions.

* * *

FOUR stamps—of 4-cent, 10-cent, 35-cent and 85-cent—will be issued on April 1st to commemorate the centenary of the postage stamp in Ceylon. The 4-cent stamp will be green in colour and the 10-cent blue. They will both carry a picture of the mail-runner of the early days of the post and, to contrast with it, pictures of modern methods of transport—by road, rail, sea and air.

The design of the 35-cent and 85-cent stamps, which will be respectively blue and green, will consist of the six-penny purple brown Queen Victoria issued on April 1, 1857, prominently featured, with the crest of Ceylon above it.

* * *

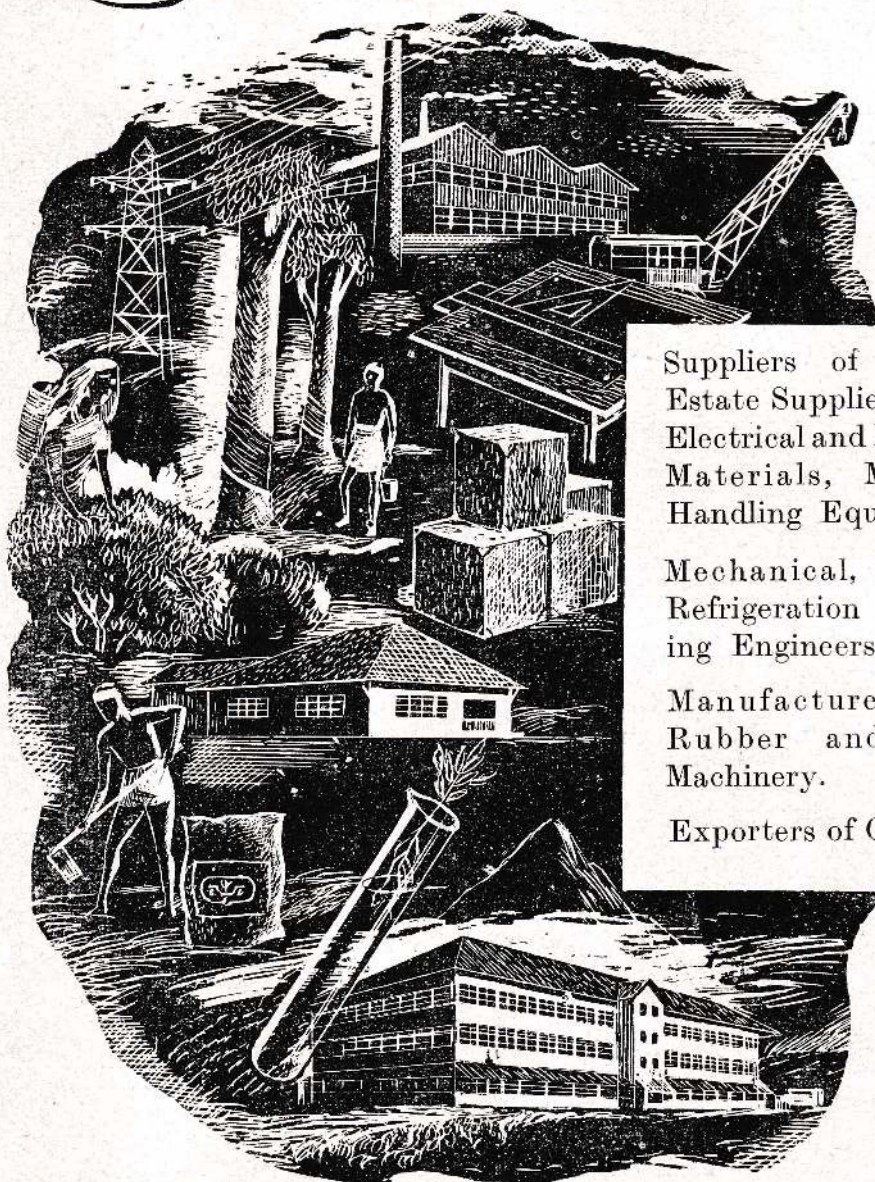
IN pursuance of its child safety campaign the Society for the Prevention of Accidents has organised safety groups in selected schools, it was reported at the annual meeting of the Society by the retiring President, Mr. Sharkor Mohideen.

The annual report also disclosed that at a conference to which the Society was invited its representative supported the Police suggestion that the new series of number plates of motor vehicles should have a dash or hyphen between two sets of figures. "It would seem a pity that the idea was not adopted," the report adds, the comment being an allusion to the Tamil protest at the use of the Sinhalese symbol "sri."

* * *

A TELEPHONE link between Ceylon and Canada was inaugurated on February 21. The occasion was marked by an exchange of greetings between Mr. C. D. Howe, deputy Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. C. A. S. Marikkar, Minister of Posts, Broadcasting and Information, who was introduced by Mr. J. J. Hurley, Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

ALTHOUGH the U.K. naval and air bases in the Island are to be transferred to Ceylon, the defence agreement with Britain will remain, it is reported.

The defence agreement dates from the inauguration of the Soulbury Constitution, before Ceylon attained complete independence, and provides for mutual assistance, but the details were never worked out. In Government quarters the view is said to be held that the taking over of the bases need not affect the general terms of the agreement.

A British team is due in Ceylon next month to negotiate the details of the handing over of the Trincomalee naval base and the Negombo R.A.F. station. As to the future use of Trincomalee, a suggestion made by the Minister of Commerce, Mr. R. G. Senanayake, is that it be made a free port in the sense that imports of material for purposes of manufacture within an area of one mile from the harbour would be free of duty.

* * *

ASIX-MEMBER trade union mission from People's China, of whom three are women, was accorded a rousing reception on its arrival at the Ratmalana airport on February 24th. The leader is Mr. Tung Hsin.

Among those at the airport to greet them were Dr. N. M. Perera, representing the Ceylon Federation of Labour, Mr. Pieter Keuneman (Ceylon Trade Union Federation) and Mr. A. Aziz (Ceylon Workers' Democratic Congress). The visitors are from the all-China Federation of Trade Unions.

In a statement at the airport the leader of the mission said: "As the fraternal relations between the peoples of Asia and Africa grow day by day, as the economic construction in our countries marches ahead, the Chinese workers have a growing desire to learn from and establish understanding and contact with the workers of Asia and Africa."

* * *

MR. Paul Deraniyagala has been appointed Acting Archaeological Commissioner, in addition to his own duties as Director, National Museums. He has, perhaps, done more for the Island's Prehistoric Archaeology than anyone else. His researches in this direction have

been recognized all over the world by writers on Prehistory, and the latest in the field—the Palaeontological Society of India, in its Inaugural Journal which has just been published—has paid high tribute to his work.

On the Bronze Age Archaeology, his Monographs on *The Sinhala Weapons and Armor*, and *The Sinhala Combative Sports*, are too well-known.

In the field of Ceylon Art, his stock stands high. He is also the Honorary Secretary of the International Association of Plastic Arts founded by the U.N.E.S.C.O., to safeguard the interests of the Painters and Sculptors of the Island.

* * *

IT is officially announced that the first Soviet Ambassador to Ceylon will be Mr. Vladimir Georgevitch Yakovlev, first deputy-Chairman of the executive for social and cultural relations with foreign countries.

Mr. Yakovlev, who is 49, is a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Steel and has served in Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Ceylon's Ambassador to the U.S. S.R., as already announced, is Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, Professor of Pali and Dean of Oriental Studies of the University of Ceylon.

MAJOR W. W. A. Phillips, noted authority on wild life in Ceylon who is leaving on March 31st after 45 years here, last week made a final appeal on behalf of the dwindling wild elephants. Now is the time to act, he said, if the wild elephant was not to be wiped out. There is only one solution to the wild elephant outside a sanctuary—trap or tame it, but keep it alive.

Mr. Phillips recently spent two months in the Maldives studying bird life and collected specimens for the British Museum of Natural History. What is likely to be an important addition to ornithological records is his "find" of the Maldivian "shearwater," which is believed to be new to science. It is a sea-bird of the petrel and albatross family and comes to land only to nest. About the size of a crow, its upper plumage is black and it has pure white "underparts." He also collected some eggs and a fledgling while in the Maldives.

Major Phillips' "Manual of the Mammals of Ceylon," now out of print, is the standard work of reference on the subject. He is also the author of the series "Birds of Ceylon" which he will complete with the writing of two books in England in his retirement.



The Minister of Posts, Broadcasting and Information, Mr. C. A. S. Marikkar, inaugurating the telephone link with Canada. On the right is Mr. J. J. Hurley, High Commissioner for Canada in Colombo.

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WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Special to the Fortnightly Review)

BELIEVERS in signs and portents should note that Britain's perambulator wheels are being made in larger sizes. This is said to be a good sign.

The only reason, I would have thought, is that a higher elevation from the sidewalk encourages in the coming generation a sense of superiority likely to pay dividends in later life. But the "pram" manufacturers, who held their Fair recently in Manchester, England, insist that there is more in it than that.

* * *

Symbolic of Leadership

THE size of pram wheels, they say, has always been a barometer of national prosperity. In the slump of the 1930s the cult was for tiny wheels—so tiny that babies saw life at dog's eye level. Now diameters are rising, and I have to admit that this coincides uncannily with the news, just released, that in 1956 the United Kingdom broke all export records by selling £1,173,000,000 worth of goods overseas—9 per cent. more than in 1955, the previous record year.

The Bigger Wheel has another powerful adherent in Mr. Donald Campbell, Britain's world water speed record holder, who has just told us he now means to attack the land speed record of 394.196 miles per hour set up for Britain by the late John Cobb. His Bluebird car, with a Bristol Proteus jet engine as used in the new Britannia airliner, will employ wheels of extra large diameter, so as to cut down the rate of rotation. Even so, if Campbell fulfils his hope of exceeding 500 miles per hour, the tops of the wheels—with a velocity double that of the car itself—will be travelling well beyond the sound barrier.

Not until we in Britain lose our passion for speed shall I even begin to suspect we are surrendering our place in the world. Speed in itself may not be all-important, but its attainment has always been symbolic of leadership.

It will be a sad day, for instance, when we do not thrill to the name

of Cutty Sark, the famous old sailing clipper which beat all comers in the London to Australia run in the 1870s. Cutty Sark has now been restored and berthed beside Britain's National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, near London. Soon Queen Elizabeth II, with the Duke of Edinburgh, is to open her for permanent exhibition to the public.

Golden Miller is another name synonymous with speed. Not only the race going public have been mourning the death, at 30, of this most brilliant of steeple-chasers—a horse that won the Cheltenham Gold Cup five years in succession, and also that most punishing of races, the Grand National. Though Golden Miller had no pedigree worth talking about, he won 29 races in all, and, as a sire, added nobly to Britain's world-renowned blood-stock.

* * *

Geography Without Tears

SPEED-WORSHIPPERS in the West of England will soon have a mobile shrine in the shape of the locomotive, City of Truro. The other day I was privileged to handle the controls of this veteran of the railroad as she stood, glistening in gold and green livery, in the York Railway Museum. At the request of railroad enthusiasts, the Museum is now releasing her for chartered trips. City of Truro had her hour of triumph on May 9, 1904, when she attained the world record for steam traction at 102.3 miles per hour—a record which stood for nearly quarter of a century until beaten by another bigger British steam locomotive, Mallard, at 126 miles per hour in 1938.

Despite widespread electrification and "dieselisation" on British Railways, the steam locomotive still has a fascinated following, though I fancy the airliner is stealing the affections of the younger generation. An Aerodrome Adoption Society is being formed by 24 schools in Britain on the same lines as the scheme linking 900 schools with Britain's Merchant Navy ships. The idea is that each school should be associated with a particular airport

somewhere in the British Commonwealth, following its fortunes and those of the airliners that use it.

If, as is hoped, schoolchildren in other Commonwealth countries can join in, we shall have the makings of a vast aerial fraternity, with interchange of flights to different airports for club rallies. What a splendid way, too, to teach geography without tears!

* * *

MANY amateurs, of course, are already jaded with earth-bound aeronautics. Sighing for other worlds to conquer, some are being catered for by Manchester University, one of the most outer-space-conscious of all our seats of learning. Its Jodrell Bank radio telescope is already world-famous. Now the University has embarked on a course of public space-travel lectures, with all seats sold out. Experts, reviewing science fiction, are relating it to proven facts, discussing the genuine possibilities of flight throughout space, and explaining the physical handicaps that human beings would have to overcome.

How are women shaping as helpers in this scientific age? To find the answer is the object of a "pilot" scheme started with the co-operation of girls' schools all over the United Kingdom. Four companies in the English Electric Group, makers of the famous Canberra jet aircraft, are opening centres where girls between 16 and 18 will be tested for their response to scientific training. Subjects include not only the civilian uses of atomic power, but work on turbo-prop, ram-jet and rocket aircraft engines.

If the girls can help us to keep our lead in all these fields, I see no limit to the diameter of those infallible "barometers"—the perambulator wheels.

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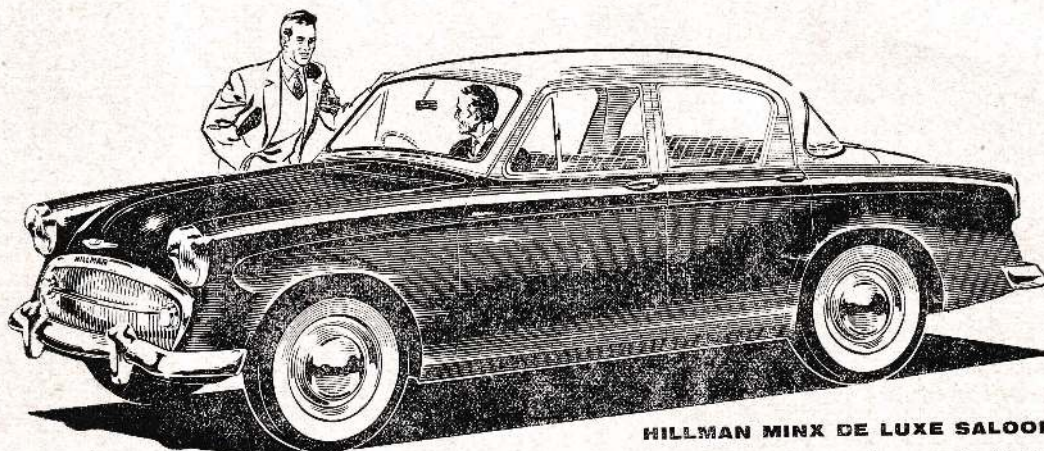
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PROFILE

SIR GRAEME TYRRELL

—By "OLD HAND"—

IN October, 1900, a typical young Englishman, destined for the Ceylon Civil Service, arrived in Colombo. Little did he think then, perhaps, that his career in that Service, which he joined as a very junior cadet, would eventually take him to the very top of the ladder; that he would act for H.E. the Governor himself, and retire as one of Ceylon's most popular Chief Secretaries.

There were several missionary ladies teaching in our schools during those years, and it seemed the most natural thing in the world that this young cadet, stationed a few years later in Kandy, should pay his respects to the Principal of one of the leading Girls' Schools in his area. Amongst the teachers he met were two sisters, the Misses Brutton, and friendships developed rapidly much to the delight of the senior pupils, who conjectured, as schoolgirls will, on his choice, for one of the sisters was very pretty. Much to their surprise (they have no hesitation in admitting it now) it was between the not so pretty sister and the handsome young cadet that a romance *did* develop. Church bells pealed merrily, and the school went into a flutter of excitement over the wedding, which was the beginning of a life-time of happiness.

* * *

BOTH Mr. and Mrs. Brutton-Tyrrell took a keen interest in affairs around them. They were always ready to help any worthwhile causes, not only by lending their names and support but by taking an active and a knowledgeable part in such activities. The Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Girl Guide Association, Sports Clubs, and educational projects could always rely on their sympathy and practical assistance. Sports, cricket, and particularly rowing, claimed any of Mr. Tyrrell's spare time that was available. Shortly after his arrival in Ceylon he rowed for Colombo in contests which took place in Colombo and in Madras. A number of cups and mugs for rowing, many of them won at Pembroke, his College at Oxford, are amongst his prized possessions.

LIKE other civil servants Mr. Tyrrell had to serve in many and varied capacities, though his sphere of work seems to have centred in and around the Kandyan Provinces, with Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Kandy, Badulla and Kurunegala as centres, first as Assistant Government Agent and then as Government Agent. He also held appointments as Superintendent of Police in Kandy, and as District Judge of Badulla. He always understood, and was understood in the Kandyan Provinces, as his official reports of his work in these areas prove, and it was in these areas that Mr. and Mrs. Tyrrell worked and moved freely amongst people whom they both loved. Subsequently he returned to



Sir Graeme Tyrrell

—"Times"

Colombo as Deputy Collector of Customs, and shortly afterwards proceeded on leave to England.

* * *

THEN came the first World War. Still on home leave, Mr. Tyrrell (whose father had been a General in the Indian Army) joined up immediately and did not return to Ceylon for nearly six years. As Captain Tyrrell he served in Gallipoli, Egypt, France and Northern Russia, in the 6th Yorkshire Regiment, was mentioned in despatches, and somehow escaped any serious injury in the course of a long campaign, from 1915 to 1919. When the war ended he returned to Ceylon and was appointed Government Agent of

Anuradhapura. "Tyrrell Road," named after him by an appreciative public, still survives in a country of changing place names.

* * *

MR. Tyrrell returned to Colombo again as Principal Collector of Customs. His next appointment was as Controller of Revenue in 1927. In 1928 he received the well-deserved honour of Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, news of an award which was received locally with much pleasure and satisfaction.

He acted as Governor from 1932 to 1933, and was knighted in 1934—three years before he retired from the Service in 1937.

* * *

JUST two years ago came the news of Lady Tyrrell's death—an announcement which saddened so many of her friends in Ceylon. In 1956 Sir Graeme returned on a holiday to the Island he loves and had served so well. There were fewer familiar faces to greet him, but his time was spent in re-visiting old scenes, meeting as many old friends as he could, and in making new ones, before he returned to Sussex.

Now in his 80th year, Sir Graeme belongs to a rapidly diminishing generation, imbued with a sense of values which placed service first in an era when stability mattered more than the petty disagreements and minor upheavals which seem to point to a chaotic future for the rising generations.

THE PASSING OF HERBERT FRYER

MANY in Ceylon will learn with regret of the passing of Mr. Herbert Fryer, who visited the Island on three occasions to conduct the annual examinations of the Royal Schools of Music. His first visit here was in 1921, when in addition to his work as Examiner he gave recitals in Colombo and other centres and established his class as a brilliant concert performer. On his next two visits too, the last in 1942, he treated Colombo and outstation audiences to pianoforte recitals of a very high order.

A delightful personality, he had many hobbies and one of them was philately. The writer has never known a keener devotee of bridge.

Herbert Fryer, who was 79 years of age, died in his home in Dorking, England.

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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS - BENCHER

THE annual session of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party held at Galle last week-end was significant for the announcement by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, leader of the Party, which is the dominant section of the M.E.P. coalition, that a commission would be appointed to consider whether the Senate should be abolished "or reformed so as to be of use to the country." There is no doubt about it, he said, that as at present constituted the Senate is of no use to the country.

The comment occurred during the discussion on a resolution directing that steps be taken to amend the Constitution to provide for the establishment of a republic, fundamental rights, etc. Amendment of the Constitution of far-reaching effect is bound to be held up in the Senate because the Government is at present in a minority in it. Hence the failure of the Suspension of the Death Penalty Bill to go through.

* * *

ANOTHER Bill that is likely to be rejected by the Upper House is that whereby it is sought to make the Tea, Rubber and Coconut Research Institutes subject to the general and special directions of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Philip Gunewardena. The Planters' Association of Ceylon is seeking to have at least the word "special" deleted from the Bill, which has just been presented in the Lower House. According to the Chairman of the P.A., Mr. Thomas Amarasinghe, himself a member of the Senate, the Association's views have received less sympathetic reception from Mr. Gunewardena than from the Prime Minister.

The research institutes claim autonomy on the grounds that they are financed by the industries themselves in the sense that their funds are

derived from a cess on the exports of the three products. The Minister's desire to be able to interfere in the administration of the institutes is believed to refer to appointments to the staff. A commentary on the effect of his intentions is the disclosure by Mr. Amarasinghe that already two officers of the Tea Research Institute have resigned.

* * *

THE S.L.F.P. conference was notable for Mr. Bandaranaike's review of the growth of the Party in the public favour since its formation five years ago on his resignation from the U.N.P. Claiming for the occasion a sense of pride and fulfilment, he pointed out that although they had not had time to organise themselves at the "snap election" of 1952, the Party was second to the U.N.P. and polled 400,000 votes. The period between 1952 and 1956 may well be considered, he said, as "the dark age in the recent political history of our country."

The U.N.P., he said, though it had a very large majority in Parliament, signally failed to solve any major problem; it rather aggravated existing problems and created new ones.

Commenting on the premiership of Sir John Kotelawala, Mr. Bandaranaike said that Sir John set out on a course of action that made confusion worse confounded. "His autocratic attitude increased the dissatisfaction of labour, his lack of wisdom aggravated the Indian problem by the hasty conclusion of an unsatisfactory pact, and his ignorance of the true feelings of the people made him mishandle completely the language issue."

* * *

MR. Bandaranaike did not fail to deal with the shortcomings of his own Government. He did well to deprecate, though in the mildest way possible, members of the Government making open complaints against Government servants, which, he said, "may produce some sense of grievance." He also acknowledged that many members of Parliament and Ministers were new to their jobs and some time has to elapse

before they become familiarised with the tasks of Government. Inevitably he referred to the opposition "from certain vested interests of the Right and also certain elements of the Left." Nevertheless he reiterated the claim that in spite of difficulties the Government had done a number of things and fulfilled such of the election promises as were possible within the period it had been in office.

* * *

DECLARING that "we are today on the right road to true freedom and progress, although the ultimate goal may still be distant," Mr. Bandaranaike called upon the Government Party both inside and outside Parliament to stand together.

He added: "we must avoid creating any misunderstanding that we are divided against each other and are speaking in different voices. Anything that may create such an impression will only tend to dishearten the people and create confusion in their minds." The allusion is no doubt to the criticism of the Government by some ministers, a few of whom have gone so far as to threaten to resign if the Government did not do certain things! It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister's lecture will have a salutary effect in the quarters to which it was directed.

* * *

INTEREST is now focussed on the annual session two days hence of the U.N.P., at which clarification of the Party's policy on language is expected, especially in view of the division among its members which resulted in a motion for the administration being carried on in Sinhalese being defeated in the Colombo Municipal Council.

A recent warning of the Prime Minister threatening inciters of subversive activities with dire penalties has provoked the working committee of the U.N.P. to pass a resolution daring him to take action against the humblest member of the party or any other citizen and warning, melodramatically, "hundreds of thousands of party members will then rise to defend democratic liberties and to shatter to bits this anti-democratic and corrupt government."

The rejoinder of the party to the Prime Minister's condemnation of the last U.N.P. Government is being looked forward to by the public.

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SEEING CEYLON—XVII

RIDIYAGAMA AND HAMBANTOTA

By R. L. BROHIER

A GREAT deal of old-world history and romance is interwoven with the Ridiyagama Tank, which draws its waters from the Walawe Ganga, and lies a mile off the river on the right bank. The tank is easily reached by taking the motorable road which turns inland from the main road at Ambalantota.

In the pages of the *Rajavaliya*, a book which chronicles happenings in the stirring past, we read that when King Gajabahu invaded South India, he was championed by his foster-brother Nila, to whom he largely owed his victory. Nila, as the story goes, was the son of the palace laundress, and when yet a child is said to have surprised one and all, by moving a heavy iron club lying under the royal bed, which could only be lifted by ten men. Nila Maha-Yodhaya! everybody exclaimed, and true to this sobriquet, it was this lad, grown into a giant, who terrified the South Indian king into submission by squeezing water from an iron bar and oil out of sand!

* * *

IN recognition of his services, Nila Maha-Yodhaya was on his return granted a large tract of land in the Walawe basin—then known as Ruhuna, which he peopled with a host of the captives he brought over. One of the villages named Ridiyagama, which was established in this manner, was until recently occupied by a clan of washermen who bore the ge-name: Ramhotisabhapati gamage, Meaning: "Landlords sprung from the chief of the War Council."

The village lies today buried beneath the waters of the tank to which it has passed down its name. The descendants of the champion who possessed the lands which their great ancestor received for his services nearly twenty centuries ago—said to have been a stalwart and unruly race—have sold most of their heritage cheaply to land speculators who were alert enough to foresee the popularity which will accrue to the region with the building of the tank. Their grants, they alleged, were washed away by one of the periodical inundations of the river, but their ge name coupled with the traditional tale I have

unfolded, were sufficient to confirm the truth of their claim.

The bund of the Ridiyagama Tank which is over a mile and a half in length, testifies to the labour of the Irrigation Department spread over a period of six years. Its waters offered the prospect of irrigating 7,000 acres of hostile land covered by a stunted jungle which had tried



Gathering salt from the "Lewayas" as it was done three decades ago. Today hand trolleys on rails are used.

vainly to bind itself to a dry sandy earth against the thrust and drag of the wind. From the few huts which stood there not two decades ago to fix the position of Ridiyagama Village, there has grown to be a thriving colony which has converted this land into a granary and garden of south Ceylon.

* * *

BEFORE we pass from this interesting region, it justifies a few more moments to examine a living tradition of how another clan living in

this region acquired a ge-name of curious origin. It connotes an unbroken descent compared with whose antiquity the most renowned peerages of Europe are but the creations of yesterday.

The story goes that during one of his royal progresses, Sri Parakrama Bahu VI had his rest disturbed by the croaking of a frog, night after night, as he lay in one of his encampments in the woods of the Hambantota District. None in the royal train could destroy the reptile, which lay concealed in a pool. A countryman, however, undertook to shoot the animal, and guiding his arrow only by sound transfixed the frog. The Sinhalese Locksley was rewarded with the significant title: *Sabba-vidda Ambagaha-pokuna Rajapaksa Mudali-ge*, which means, "Chief Rajapakse, who shot by sound in the mango-tree pool." The name was borne by his descendants, who enjoyed the large grants of land, which went with the name.

* * *

HAMBANTOTA—the one remaining town in the District, is heralded by stretches of horse-shoe sand dunes, and, from April to August, by broad reaches of baked clay marked here and there by the arched bones of dead buffalo and neat cattle. The saints forbid that the legend should come true which declares that these walking dunes of Hambantota, built by sand waves, will roll on inland until they merge with the sacred hills of Kataragama.

At the south west end of the town, the sand has indeed very steadily moved forward and in the course of a few years covered up several streets and houses. Many attempts were made to arrest its progress, but with feeble success—until an Assistant Agent of the Government, named King, introduced a thorny shrub which did some service. Subsequently, C. A. Murray, another resident Agent, conceived the idea of stopping the menace by planting palmyrah palms. They came up very well in the dry sand with little tendering, and this grove has decidedly stopped the advance of the dunes which threatened to bury the town.

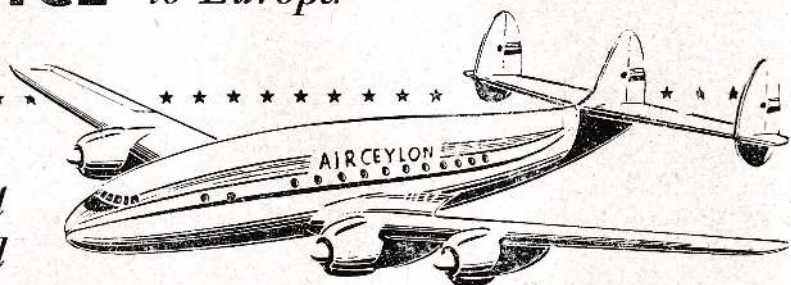
* * *

AT that time, about 40 years ago, the dunes were the one source of wholesome drinking water available to the town; and it was very usual then to see a string of maidens,

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SEEING CEYLON

chaperoned by mothers and aunts, in procession every morning and evening to get a supply of water for domestic needs. The proceeding included digging holes about 3 to 4 feet deep, and as the clear stream of water trickled into the hole, to collect the precious supply into a brass or earthen pot.

Who could gainsay that while engaged in this pursuit the news of the town was discussed threadbare. Doubtless, the gossips told their tales, and the penned-up Muslim maidens took every opportunity to look about them to catch a glimpse of some dandy admirer who kept following at a distance.

The palmyrah palms, they soon found, absorbed all the fresh water which the dunes had from time immemorial conserved for the people living in this arid town. Three or four wells were sunk to remedy this—but the water was brackish, and no longer was one reminded of biblical scenes of other days and other climes: as for instance that of the beautiful Rebekah giving drink to Eleazer of Damascus! But happily today, for the peace of mind of the tourist, it is good to know that the town draws on the bounty of the Walawe Ganga for its domestic water.

* * *

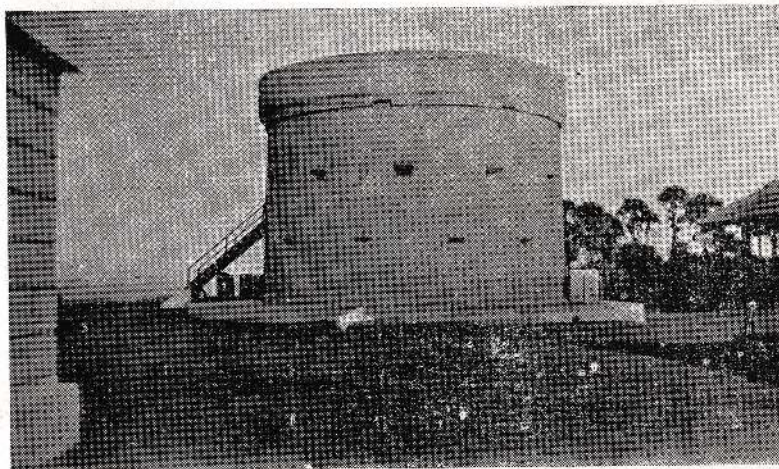
TODAY, as it was even so in the long past, the importance of Hambantota reposes in its natural salt-pans, or *Lewayas*. Around the town and in the district there are a number of these natural, shallow depressions where an abundance of salt of the finest quality is naturally formed and procured without any outlay other than the cost of the organisation for garnering the annual harvest.

Sea-water finds its way along narrow creeks into these shallow basins. The fierce sun blazes down. The water rapidly evaporates and a beautiful white sheet of salt is seen where once was water. When the salt has reached a certain stage of

maturity it is collected and stacked in godowns, and eventually transported to various parts of the island.

Since, as it so happens, excellent salt is readily to be had everywhere in Ceylon, people scarcely realise how important the nearness of the salt-lagoons must have been considered in ancient and mediaeval days. The Dutch used their possession of the salt-leeways of Hambantota as a diplomatic weapon against the Kandyan. When relations got strained, they cut off the supply: as for instance in 1791.

In the earlier part of the last century, when the last Kandyan king



The Martello Tower at Hambantota, erected in 1806 by the British.

was at war with England, and, traffic being at an end, only such salt as could be smuggled across the frontier found its way to his dominions, the sufferings undergone for want of it were extreme.

*

THOMAS Steele, another Assistant Government Agent of the District, who took a praiseworthy interest in local antiquities and Sinhalese literature, and whose reports make wonderfully interesting reading, illustrates how high a value is set upon salt by the village populace by what occurred in the Southern Province within his recollection in the eighteen-fifties. It would appear that an absurd and utterly groundless rumour was spread that a foreign man-of-war was about to bombard Galle and do unheard-of havoc in the southern sea-board. Upon this several town and village folk aban-

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doned their homes and, taking with them an ample supply of salt and little else, fled into the jungles. They duly emerged a few days later and were much laughed at for their pains!

On the summit of the wind-swept mound behind the Hambantota rest-house, and overlooking the bay where league-long breakers roll, there stands a "Martello Tower," the origin of which has given rise to much speculation. This tower is vaguely and popularly believed to be a relic of Portuguese occupation which later served both the Dutch and the British. It is all the more interesting therefore to read of its origin in a diary of a journey from Trincomalee to Hambantota along the coast, made in 1806, by Sir Alexander Johnston, who at the time was acting as Chief Justice.

* * *

THE diary reads: "Hambantota was reached at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 17th (November, 1806). The entire journey from Batticaloa, 158 miles, had taken six days. Went to look at Mr. Smythe's house the Collector built

at his own expense... went over the tower built by Captain Goper of the Engineers. Saw a brig about two miles off at 4 p.m. with no colours."

Two interesting facts are disclosed: first, that the early Collectors, or Government Agents, appointed in British times were obliged to put up houses in their respective stations at their own expense; and secondly, definite proof that the "Martello Tower" dates to early British times.

That many battles were waged on these desert plains of Hambantota remains undisputed. The last of many a stirring encounter carries back to the month of August in the year 1803. The Kandyan forces had made a descent on the station. On some rising ground near the town they erected a battery, with five

(Continued on page 37)

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THE little buses climb the mountain roads, from Bandarawela, from Diyatalawa, from Haldumulla and Koslande, disgorging their loads of suffering humanity in Haputale, with faces set towards the Hospital. These come in larger or smaller crowds to wait patiently, droopingly, in the Outpatients' Department, or to queue for their medicines outside the dispenser's window. Except for the occasional whimper of a child there is little sound. On an "auspicious" day as many as a hundred patients will be treated in a morning.

Circumstances taking me to the hospital for several days in succession, I have watched this stream of humanity in its various patterns coming humbly and hopefully for healing or panacea, and for the most part being swiftly dealt with by two young men—one a sympathetic Tamil, the other Sinhalese. The difference, I hasten to add, lies not in their race but in their status, the former being an apothecary, the latter a fully qualified doctor.

Each of these, one realises, is doing his duty according to his individual conception of it. Around the neck of each hangs a stethoscope, the badge of office recognised and respected by the suffering hordes. It is odd to watch those stethoscopes in action and to note the varying reactions of the patients to the magic touch of the metal discs. Some march out visibly strengthened by the contact, others appear to regard it as the beginning of the end . . . O, doctors, apothecaries, dispensers, what goes on in your minds while your fingers busy themselves in scrawling or dispensing prescriptions from the familiar assortment of drugs and palliatives?

* * *

FEW of those who thus present themselves find their way to the inner sanctum of the "Big" Doctor, or gain access to the hospital wards. There are but eighty-five beds in all. What happens, one wonders, in an epidemic? The hospital "cases" arrive for the most part by hiring car, tenderly fussed over by accompanying friends or relatives. It is often misty and can be very cold at Haputale, and the hospital climbs up

the hill by a daunting series of stone steps. One hopes the cold is not added to other bodily miseries when the long dark nights set in.

Many of the inmates are labourers, both Tamil and Sinhalese, from surrounding estates. And this reminds me that, as I travel up by car from Diyatalawa, I pass a three-armed direction-post at a certain junction, on which the names of three towns are normally set forth in English, Sinhalese and Tamil. And for many days past the Sinhalese characters have been defaced and smudged with clay, leaving only the English and Tamil—a small but significant pointer to the way communal feeling runs in this area.

If ignorance and fear are allowed to run their course unchecked, the Hospital will have casualties of a new and disturbing nature to deal with. The Prime Minister has rightly warned the country of the rising tide, but measures devised to cope with an emergency directly brought about by government policies threaten to strike at our most cherished freedoms. We can only trust good sense and tolerance may yet prevail.

* * *

THE unhappy cause of my own visits to the hospital was my little beagle, Sally, who according to the local "vet" had fallen a victim to dumb rabies—although I fail to see how an animal who never left my side and went out invariably on a lead could have contracted the dread complaint. The Municipal inoculation certificate she had brought with her from Colombo was admittedly no protection.

On the coldest day in January, when seeing her shiver I stooped to put on her gay red and blue flannel coat, she gave me a protesting nip which drew blood; and as one week later she was dead (which the vet appeared to consider "a sure sign") I was bullied into taking Pasteur treatment, her pretty brown head having been despatched meanwhile to Colombo, for examination and report. Twenty-one days are now past: my tummy is all colours of the rainbow and no report is so far forthcoming.

"But," confided one of the Hospital attendants, "they always give a 'positive' report if your dog has been shot for rabies." Sally, however, was not shot. She took herself off with becoming dignity, like the dog in the old-fashioned Caldecott Picture Book of my youth, of which in the midst of my distress I was absurdly, irresistibly reminded. That story, of a like casualty and fatality graphically portrayed, concluded:

"The man recovered of his hurt.

The dog it was that died."

I was treating her in fact for pneumonia and flattered myself I had got her past the crisis, when the vet rudely descended on her and had her out from her hot water bottles to totter feebly about the compound in the chilly hour after sunset. And the following morning, when I had ventured to go out shopping, leaving her snugly tucked up again and well fed upon hot milk and glucose, he returned and repeated the treatment, finishing up with a big bowl of cold water, as much as she could be induced to drink. Within the hour, she had gone beyond such indignities.

She had been with us little more than five months, just long enough to create a painful vacuum by her going. I have not so far brought myself to put on again the shabby crepe-soled shoes that always set her dancing with delighted anticipation.

There shall be no more pets, except for the battle-scarred old Tom cat who is so necessary to keep rats and squirrels away. I fear neither dog nor virus, but the Psalmist was brave indeed (or fool-hardy?) when he sang: "I will not fear what man can do unto me!"

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ART, MUSIC AND DRAMA

THE San Francisco Ballet, which so delighted Colombo audiences during the last fortnight, is the very first American company of this type to visit Ceylon. Its popularity was proved by the crowded houses which greeted every performance; repeated requests for an extension of their programme resulted in a stay of a further three days. Profits from nearly all these performances were in aid of the National Council for Youth and Child Welfare.

A very much appreciated programme was the special show put on for school children in the course of which the dancers demonstrated the basic movements of classical ballet to an enthralled audience. It would have been an added thrill to the children had they known that five of the performers were school-girls themselves, teen-agers who, when they return home, will go back to school and try to settle down to their books after a tour which has taken them almost half way round the world.

The San Francisco Ballet Company was founded in 1933, and is the oldest performing Ballet organisation in the U.S. It began as an auxiliary to the San Francisco Opera, its main purpose being to keep that organisation supplied with dancers for opera performances. It was then known as the San Francisco Opera Ballet, but is now a completely independent company, though it still provides dancers for opera performances. During the last quarter century it developed and progressed to its present standard, and is now described as "the company which had once been a source of regional pride and has now developed into a national asset."

Much has been written on their programmes in Ceylon, but perhaps the items which most delighted local audiences were the selection of variations from Tchaikovsky's ballets, The Nutcracker Suite and The Black Swan.

* * *

EXPONENTS of the now almost world-famous Rock 'n' Roll, the newest dance craze amongst a section of Ceylon's dancing public, captivated Colombo audiences when they performed in the open air stadium especially built on the

grounds of the "Three Clubs" Carnival to accommodate over 1,000 people. Dell Graham, pianist, and her four American Ding Dongs provided the music. The rest of the cast includes four Philipinos, one of them a singer, who are on their way to Tokyo to take part in a Rock 'n' Roll film for Columbia Pictures, a dance team, and an Australian woman singer.

* * *

A PROMENADE Concert for lovers of good music will be held at the Galle Face Hotel on the 31st March, in aid of the National Council for Youth and Child Welfare, under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. the Governor-General. Guest artistes will be Irene Vander-Wall and Collette Lee. A 14 piece band will play selections from Bitter Sweet, and variation symphonique by Caesar Franck. The organiser is Mrs. D. C. Gill.

* * *

AN ambitious venture is the production by the Aquinas Dramatic Society, of "The Teahouse of the August Moon," the John Patrick play based on the novel by Verne Sneider. It goes on the boards at the Lionel Wendt Theatre, Colombo, tonight.

The producer is Mr. Denis Bartholomeusz. The right to perform the play has been given free as the production is in aid of the Aquinas Building Fund.

The spirit of the play is considered as suited to the Ceylonese temperament by reason of the light-hearted fatalism and suspicion of things foreign that pervades it.

In the film version of the play, which was made in Tokyo, Marlon Brando played the leading role.

* * *

AHMED Ben Driss El Yacoubi, the Moroccan artist, already well-known in Ceylon, and Mr. Paul Bowles, the American author and composer, are back visiting Ceylon once again. As on their previous visit an exhibition of Mr. Yacoubi's paintings was held at the U.S. Information Centre in Colombo. He uses oil, ink, gouache and pastel media.

Since Mr. Yacoubi last visited Ceylon he has held exhibitions in Rabat, Hong Kong, Tangier and Casablanca. After Colombo he will exhibit in Bombay and the Hanover Gallery in London.

FAMOUS CUEIST TO VISIT CEYLON

By JOHN LOUGHLIN

Melbourne, Australia.

WALTER Lindrum, the old master of billiards, looks on his coming exhibition tour South-East Asia as a private goodwill mission. He has toured the world seven times but this time it will be different. He will pay his own and his wife's expenses and he wants all the proceeds from his exhibitions to be used to help more young Asians to study in Australia.

Lindrum, who has often performed before kings and queens and has been the friend of prime ministers, will display his wizardry to audiences in seven countries. He will open at the Badminton Hall, Singapore, on March 2. His exhibitions will be staged in conjunction with the Walter Lindrum Invitation Championship, and will extend over a fortnight. He will then go to Hong Kong for a fortnight or three weeks before playing in Formosa for 10 days.

Returning to Singapore for four or five days, he will then tour Malaya, Burma and Ceylon, and will visit Bangkok.

Always a perfectionist, Lindrum is practising for up to eight hours a day for his tour.

He revealed this in his private billiard room at his Melbourne home surrounded by the mementoes of a dazzling career as the "Mr. Billiards" of the world. "I don't care if I play billiards around the clock on the tour so long as I am able to give pleasure to a lot of people," he said.

"I've made hundreds of friends among Asian visitors to Melbourne in recent years. I've entertained them all in this room.

"Quite a lot of Asian students visit me too. As a result I have received many invitations from private people and Government officials in South and South-East Asia to visit their countries and these inspired the forthcoming tour."

Lindrum said that the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, and the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, were interested in the tour, but he emphasized that it was an entirely private project.

Lindrum's 45 years in billiards have crammed the record books with astonishing feats. In a single year he established 57 world records,

PEOPLE

MR. E. T. Galpin, Second Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, accompanied by Mrs. Galpin and their infant son, Albert-Jan, left Ceylon by K.L.M. on 21st February, from Ratmalana Airport. After a holiday in Europe and Canada, Mr. Galpin will resume duty with the Canadian Department of External Affairs in Ottawa.

Mr. Galpin joined the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in September, 1954. During his tour of duty in Ceylon, Mr. Galpin was particularly active in the Colombo Plan and Information work of the Mission. He was a member of the Royal Colombo Golf Club, the Havelock Golf Club, the Otters Swimming Club and the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Empire Society.

Mr. Galpin will be succeeded by Mr. John R. Sharpe, as Third Secretary of the Mission. Mr. Sharpe, accompanied by Mrs. Sharpe, arrived in Colombo on 27th February by B.O.A.C. plane. Prior to his posting to Ceylon, Mr. Sharpe was on duty with the Canadian Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, which he joined in July, 1955.

* * *

DR. Herbert Schokman, who retired from the Ceylon Medical Services nearly ten years ago and has been in residence with his family in Malvern, Worcestershire, passed through Colombo last week and visited his aged mother, Mrs. W. H. Schokman in Matara. Dr. Schokman has been a ship's doctor for many years and is now with the Ellerman Line.

MR. M. Rajanayagam, Commissioner of Labour, has left the Island on an assignment with the United Nations as Welfare Officer for a year. An international authority on labour legislation and a member of Radio Ceylon "brains trust" panel, he was feted by a number of organisations before his departure.

At a staff function in his honour Mr. Rajanayagam described the Ceylon Labour Department as the most efficient in Asia.

* * *

MR. L. L. Hunter, M.P., accompanied by Mrs. Hunter, left Ceylon for good by air, for Australia on March 4th. They were to spend a fortnight in Singapore, where Mr. Hunter's brothers, Roy and Neil, have been living for many years. Neil Hunter used to be on the staff of the *Times of Ceylon* before he proceeded to the Federated Malay States after World War I. Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hunter will stay with their daughter, Mrs. (Dr.) de Zilva, who resides in Sydney.

* * *

MRS. Thelma Jansze, formerly Principal of St. Paul's Girls' School, Milagriya, and more recently Vice-Principal of Bishop's College, Polwatte, left for the U.K. on February 23rd by Air Ceylon 'plane. She was accompanied by her daughter Carmen, who has been selected for training at the Froebel Educational Institute at Roehampton. They were seen off at the Ratmalana Airport by a number of their relations and friends.

* * *

MRS. T. L. F. Mack, accompanied by her daughter, also travelled in the Air Ceylon 'planer of England on the 23rd February.

A **NOTHER** link with the past has been severed by the death in Colombo a fortnight ago of Miss Ella de Vos at the ripe old age of ninety-one. She was well-known as a teacher at the Wolvendaal Girls' High School in the early years of this century during the time that Miss Clara Alvis was Principal. Those were the days when a large percentage of the Burgher community lived in the Wolvendaal area and the historic Dutch Reformed Church at the crest of the hill used to be filled to capacity with Burghers resident in Hill Street, Chetty Street, Barber Street and Hulftsdorp. "Miss Ella," as she was affectionately known to all her pupils, numbering many hundreds, was an institution in Wolvendaal and until a few years ago was as active and energetic as ever. It should be mentioned that she was an aunt of the late Mr. C. E. de Vos, the Galle advocate and former Burgher Member in the Legislative Council.

* * *

A **MONG** those who left for Australia by cargo ship on January 27th, were Mr. and Mrs. Cyprian Wright, well-known residents of Havelock Town. Mr. Wright, who was employed in the Mechanical Engineering Department, C.G.R., at Ratmalana, for nearly 25 years and retired a few months ago, was a popular figure in sporting circles, being a regular member of the B.R.C. Hockey team for many years. He did good work for the Club as a forward (extreme left) and had the distinction of playing for the B.R.C. in several Andriesz and Pioneer Shield tournaments when his side annexed these trophies. Cyprian Wright was one of a family of sportsmen, and a son of the late Dr. V. O. Wright, well-known in his day as a member of the Nondescripts Cricket Club.

Mrs. Wright (Dorothy Bartholomeusz) was prominently identified with the B.R.C. Ladies' Hockey section for several years, being repeatedly selected for inclusion in representative games. In her day she had few equals as a centre forward who was not only speedy and resourceful but quick in seizing every opportunity for finding the net. At lawn tennis too she excelled and won many prizes both at the annual meets at Bandarawela and in more recent times at the Colombo Lawn Club.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wright will be much missed in Colombo sporting circles.

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PEOPLE

MR. George Fellowes, the well-known former Ceylon planter and sportsman, who has been visiting the Island on his annual tour of inspection of estates owned by the London Company of which he is a Director, left for England yesterday by plane.

* * *

A PLEASANT function was held at the Kelani Valley Club, Taldua, on the 25th February, when at a special meeting of the Club the honour of Life Membership was conferred on two of its members, Mr. J. D. Falconer of Erracht Estate, Dehiowita, and Col. V. C. Kelaart, O.B.E., E.D. Mr. Falconer, who retires shortly from planting, has a fine record of service, counting over twenty-five years stay in the K. V. He was President of the K.V. Club in 1954

Col. Kelaart held the office of President in 1950 and 1951. He has also been the President of the Ceylon Rugby Union and of the C.R. & F.C., of which Club he is a Life Member.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Club entertained Mr. and Mrs. Falconer to a farewell party at which Mr. Brian Jonklaas, President, made a presentation to them on behalf of the members.

* * *

THE death occurred recently in Havelock Town of Elsie Fretsz, wife of Mr. A. L. Fretsz, retired District Engineer, P.W.D. She was a daughter of the late Julian Heyzer, Proctor, who used to practice his profession in the nineties and early years of this century at the Pasyala Courts.

Mrs. Fretsz who was one of a family of eleven, six sons and five daughters, counted a wide circle of friends. She leaves, beside her husband, three daughters and several grand-children. The funeral at the General Cemetery, Kanatte, on Tuesday evening, 26th February, was largely attended.

* * *

THE death occurred on the 27th February, at the residence of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bel VanCuylenburg, in Kensington Gardens, Bambalapitiya, of Mrs. Evadne Van-

Cuylenburg, who attained her hundredth birthday on March 10th last year. She was the widow of pioneer planter W. L. VanCuylenburg, and her early life was spent in the backwoods of Siam, Java, Sumatra and Borneo.

Mrs. Evadne VanCuylenburg had two sons, the late Mr. Eric VanCuylenburg of the Survey Department and the late Mr. F. C. VanCuylenburg, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court. Her husband was the brother of the late Sir Hector VanCuylenburg, proprietor of the "Ceylon Independent," lawyer and former Burgher member in the Ceylon Legislative Council.

* * *

MRS. Henry T. Smith, wife of the Charge d'Affaires of the American Embassy, left Ceylon by air recently for a brief visit in the United States. She is expected to return to Colombo in April.

THE older generation will be glad of news of Mr. J. C. Willis, Sc.D., M.A., F.L.S., a former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, and organising Vice-President of the Ceylon Agricultural Society, now living in Switzerland.

Mr. Willis, who is now in his 90th year came to Ceylon in 1896 and left 15 years later, in 1911, to take up the post of Director of the Botanic Gardens at Rio de Janeiro.

In 1904, he went on special duty to the F.M.S. to advise on the appointment of a Director of Agriculture, and from there to Java.

Mr. Willis was responsible for many publications; these included a revised catalogue of the Indigenous Flowering Plants and Ferns of Ceylon; Agriculture in the Tropics; and with M. K. Bamber and E. B. Denham, Rubber in the East. In 1907, he edited a handbook on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon.

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PLANT LORE

By "TRIMON"

THE Oak, to judge by its development wherever it is to be found, is not very much at home in Ceylon. MacMillan refers to the plantation formed at Hakgala in 1883 as "not quite flourishing." The largest specimen, he says, was in the Colonial Secretary's residence, but *mirabile dictu*, it has been cut down on somebody's orders. The species introduced into Ceylon is *Quercus sessiliflora*. The Himalayan oak is *Q. spicata*. Cork is the outer bark of a South European and Mediterranean species. Gallic acid, used in the making of ink, and tannic acid are obtained from the galls (due to the puncture of insects) developed on the scrubby Oaks of Asia Minor.

* * *

OAKS are known to attain to a great age. Lord Leigh not long ago wrote to the *Times* about a conversation between his father and Mr. Gladstone with reference to the age of some of the Oaks in Stoneleigh Deer Park.

Among them was one known as the "Gospel Oak," which it was calculated must have been not less than 1,500 years old, presuming that under it the gospel was preached on the introduction of Christianity into England. (It thus runs the Sacred Bo Tree of Ceylon—said to be 2,200 years old—pretty close). But the evidence on which this conclusion was based can hardly be accepted as quite satisfactory.

* * *

IN this country we have two indigenous "Oaks." One is known as the Ceylon Oak, whose foliage resembles that of the English Oak. It is more familiarly known as "Kon" and is a handsome, imposing-looking tree which bears a hard wood timber. The seeds of the sour fruits, which are edible, yield a bland, liquid oil, which is the base of macassar and other better-class hair oils. The "Patana Oak" is *Careys arborea* and is so called owing to its being invariably found growing on bare Up-country patanas. Its vernacular name is "Kahata" (anglice, tan), and the bark is used in tanning. The *Casuarina* (or "whip tree") is also known as the "She Oak," and the *Grevillea* as the "Silky Oak."

THE Mountain Papaw, compared with the Papaw of the plains, is a poor sort of fruit. The former is *Carica cadamarcensis*, the latter *C. papaya*. I have no patience with people who call the fruit "popaw" or "poppy," instead of "papaw" or "papaya"—no more than I do with those who say "joggery" instead of "jaggery." The fruit of the Mountain Papaw is said to be quite good when stewed. The Low-country Papaw is often found quite seedless. I once had a letter from a man who must have been of Iberian origin—asking me for a few seeds of the seedless papaw!

* * *

AN authority on coconuts has been explaining to me his new method of manuring the palm. He calls it the "Radial System." It consists of cutting two trenches on opposite sides of the tree, beginning $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. away from the stem. The trenches are made 6 ft. long, 2 ft. wide at the end near the palm, and about double the width at the further end. Every year a fresh pair of trenches is dug, in which the fertiliser is placed. The new system has proved infinitely better—judged by the results—than the old method of manuring in circles.

* * *

THERE is a curious legend attaching to the origin of the Greek word for leaves—"Phylla." Phyllis, a Thracian maiden, loved Demaphoon, who deserted her. The forlorn lady mourned for her lover so long and so intently that she became changed into an Almond tree. When, eventually, the lover returned, and rushed to embrace his transformed sweetheart, the tree, bare and leafless, became instantly covered with foliage, which the Greeks called "Phylla."

* * *

THE common Globe Artichoke is the unexpanded flower-head of *Cynara scolymus*, which belongs to the Thistle family (Compositae). The scaly inflorescence, before expanding, resembles a cone. A popular derivation of the name Artichoke makes it out to mean "the plant that chokes the garden (hortus)," but it is more probably derived from the Italian "Artichocco." The Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) is closely allied to the Sun-flower. Jerusalem does not refer to the place

of that name, but is a corruption of the Italian "Girasole." The edible part is the tuber. The genus *Helianthus* is also called from the fact that plants belonging to it are attracted by the sun (Greek "Helios")—compare Tom Moore's "As the sun-flower turns on her God."

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT has asked me to say something about the sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*). The leaf movements of this plant, which is sensitive to touch, are due to changes taking place in the enlarged bases or cushions ("pulvini") on which the leaves and leaflets stand.

Under normal conditions these pulvini hold the leaves erect, but when touched they become more turgid or tense on one side than the other, owing to a sudden transference of sap, resulting in the leaves bending downwards. Some of the Leguminosae (the order to which the Sensitive Plant belongs), such as the Rain Tree, are sensitive to light, and "go to sleep" when the sun goes down. *Mimosa pudica* is sensitive to both touch and light.

* * *

A CONVENIENT and easy way of propagating plants that never, or rarely, set seed, is by the method known as gootee-layering, or, to use an old English word, marcottage. The beautiful flowering tree called *Amherstia nobilis* (a native of Burma, which commemorates Lady Amherst, the wife of a former Viceroy of India) is usually propagated by this means. Macmillan calls *Amherstia* the queen of flowering trees, and thus refers to it: "Its large graceful sprays of vermilion and yellow flowers, drooping from every branch, and interspersed with the handsome foliage, present an appearance of astonishing elegance and loveliness." It belongs to the order Leguminosae.

* * *

HERE is a description of the method of gootee-layering:—Select a healthy branch, with well-ripened wood, and immediately below a leaf-bud or node, cut out a ring of bark about half an inch wide. Round the cut apply a ball of adhesive soil, and bind round with coir fibre, bandaging firmly with coir rope. Keep the gootee constantly moist. In three or four months roots should be seen protruding from the soil, and the layer can then be severed from the parent tree and planted out.

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SOUTH AFRICANS WIN FOURTH TEST

HUGH TAYFIELD'S MATCH

By W. T. GRESWELL

(Fortnightly Review Special)

AT Johannesburg in the Fourth Test match a full share of fortune crowned by a magnificent spell of sustained and accurate bowling by Tayfield in the second innings gave South Africa a most exciting but well deserved win by the narrow margin of only 17 runs. This was their first defeat of England in South Africa for 26 years and their first ever there on a turf wicket. And England is now left with the last Test at Port Elizabeth to win the series outright instead of halving it. But there will be many who would not grudge South Africa another win so that honours may be shared, for these South Africans are a fine fighting side and above all have the hall-mark of greatness in the brilliance of their fielding. Tayfield, with his 9 wickets for 113 runs in a second innings all day spell of 37 overs, must have said a big "Thank you" to his team mates who moved to catches like cats to mice and held them in hands which, to the English batsmen, must have appeared as large as baskets.

Surely no cricket enthusiast will deny that a team which shows consistent and brilliant fielding stands firmly planted in the rock of victory and is always a joy to watch. Good fielding which is also good team work, is a sign of a right spirit on the side. Each member of it watches his captain for the slightest move he thinks fit and all the while supports the bowler with the highest concentration and with skilled anticipation of the batsman's stroke as each ball is delivered. And what a joy and satisfaction it is to a bowler to be backed by a side like this! He may even forget the weariness of bowling a long spell, that tired and frustrated feeling which is likely to be his if catches went abegging and the ground fielding was slovenly.

* * *

IN this Test match South Africa's luck turned in the matter of the toss, which was won for the first

time in this series. Fortune then smiled still further on the home side, whose batsmen on a perfect wicket were frequently beaten by the English attack and especially by Loader. It is sometimes said that a bowler is bowling too well to get a wicket. That may well be claimed for the luckless Loader on that first day of play. His bowling is steadily improving and has now reached a very high standard.

* * *

ENGLAND'S poor batting in the first innings, which gave South Africa a lead of 89 runs, set the seal



Hugh Tayfield

on her fate. Such a lead is substantial enough when it must be wiped out in the fourth innings in addition to an opponent's second innings score. Up till "half-time" the wicket had been dull and the batting of both sides unenterprising and productive of yawns of boredom. How increasingly is this becoming true of the first innings of all big matches as each side spars for position and, regardless of the flight of time or the entertainment value of their efforts, play for safety first. But after this dull proceeding at Johannesburg things leapt to life and spectators forgot and forgave those hours of waiting. All that is best in cricket was freely offered and gratefully received. And what a contrast!

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account of what ensued with allusions to lion and springbok, but the simile would be a poor one, for the lion relies on strength whereas the springbok's main armament when faced by the king of beasts must surely be nimble ability in evasive action, a charge which cannot be made against these South Africans!

* * *

FIRSTLY the English bowlers took the matter in hand and dismissed South Africa for 142, thereby possibly giving proof that their opponents' score of 350 in the first innings was not altogether devoid of luck in the making of it. M.C.C. could now have "put the shutters up" and played for a draw, thereby making sure of winning the series. But May must have given orders to his batsmen to go for the runs, an affair more worthy. And let it be noted, 232 runs in the fourth innings of a Test or any other match take some making. England at one moment, at the tea interval on that last day, with Cowdrey and Wardle well set, had few runs to make and ample time for it. Then Tayfield struck his final blow, and England, having won praise for a gallant effort, lost the match, a match which will long be remembered in South Africa.

It will be known as Tayfield's match. His was a great performance, since when attempts have been made to compare the bowling of this great "off-spinner" with that of England's Laker of the same brand. Laker is not being successful on this tour, possibly because South African wickets are covered during the match and Laker is deprived of his ally, the weather, which in England can play such an important part. The natural deduction is that Tayfield appears to be more capable than Laker of dislodging batsmen on good batting wickets probably by virtue of his deadly accurate length and wonderful control of flight. The question may be asked, how would Tayfield have fared at Manchester last year if, instead of Laker, he had bowled against the Australians on that great occasion when the Surrey bowler stunned the world with a record bag of Test wickets? It is a hypothetical question and nobody can answer it, probably not even Tayfield or Laker, but if you had to choose one of these bowlers in your World XI which would you have?

(Continued on page 31)

Oil is our way of life

The Rev. Sydney Smith confessed that his idea of heaven was eating *pâté de foie gras* to the sound of trumpets. You yourself may be a vegetarian, and not like music with your meals. You will have your own conception of a pinnacle of happiness, a flashpoint of Better Living.

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CRICKETANA

By W. T. GRESWELL

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE other evening I was watching a panel game on Television in which the amazing "memory man" Leslie Walsh was featured. He had the following entertaining question fired at him:—"When did a father and his son play for a county and find themselves batting in partnership against the bowling of another father and son bowling one at each end for another county?" This was "chicken feed" to Walsh, who at once replied: "In 1912 (I think) W. G. Quaife and his son batted for Warwickshire against Derbyshire and faced the bowling of Bill Bestwick and his son." How the spectators must have rejoiced in this astonishing occurrence! I was at home on my first leave from Ceylon in that year but can remember nothing of this incident. Willie Quaife was a diminutive little man, one of the smallest ever to play first-class cricket, whereas Bestwick, a coal miner by profession, was a mountain of brawn and muscle and Derbyshire's fast bowler. I cannot now remember if the respective sons took after their fathers in appearance; they did not do so in cricketing ability.

* * *

A TENDENCY is now noticeable on the part of those who use their pens in the interest of cricket to try and suggest cures for its increasing dullness, a malady which is rapidly stifling interest in the game at its first class level. Even Test cricket matches threaten to come under this depressing influence, for it is reported that the "gate" at Durban in the third Test did not average 8,000 daily. If the public now fails to be interested in Test cricket, we have indeed come to the final stage of this sad epidemic, though it must be admitted that in England the county game seems to be supported by reason perhaps of their distinctive importance and glamour, and the fact that there are not more than five in a season.

* * *

A COMMITTEE under the chairmanship of the President M.C.C. has been appointed to go into the matter of County Cricket. It will be most interesting to see if its deliberations will result in suggestions acceptable to the M.C.C. Executive. It will not be an easy

matter—M.C.C. will not countenance any drastic tampering with the rules of Cricket.

Limitation of the leg side field, favoured by Sir Donald Bradman, has again been suggested and for two very praiseworthy reasons. Firstly, it will penalize the "in-slant" bowlers with their negative tactics of bowling across the batsman's body to a packed legside "in-field," and, secondly, it should revive the long lost beauty of "legside" batsmanship and particularly the leg glance line of the wicket, such as the great "Ranji" used to indulge in to perfection fifty or more years ago.

* * *

ANOTHER suggestion is to alter the present L.B.W. rule to admit the clause concerning the batsman's leg being in line between wicket and wicket and thus to encourage the bowler to pitch the ball more often outside the off stump. Some suggest various schemes for setting a time limit to an innings, but this might well prove to be its own undoing by inciting bowlers to tie down a batsman instead of trying to get him out. There is general agreement that really fast (not dangerous) wickets would produce livelier cricket. This may well be so, but such wickets are few and far between nowadays; despite the efforts of Committees and experiments of groundsmen. Behind it all arises a fear that the drift to total professionalism in top grade cricket is the root of its present troubles.

The gay and sporting approach of the amateur, who at one time all but outnumbered the professional, has gone forever. The modern professional now plays more with his eye on the balance sheet than on the result of the match, and small blame to him. It is his life's work. Some comfort may be derived in the coming season from the knowledge that eight of this year's county Captains are old blues and should lead their counties in the right spirit. From Oxford are Cowdrey (Kent), Eagar (Hants), Carr (Derby) and Smith (Warwick), and from Cambridge May (Surrey), Insole (Essex), Marlar (Sussex) and Wooller (Glamorgan). Leicester-shire, now that C. H. Palmer has retired, is advertising for a Captain and may well find another amateur.

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SOUTH AFRICANS WIN FOURTH TEST

(Continued from page 29)

ENGLAND should be grateful to Insole for doing so much to fill the gap in the side resulting from Peter May's unaccountable loss of form in the Test matches. Poor Peter must have thought he was back in his old shape when he was top scorer with 61 in England's first innings, but the penalty for this was a "0" in the second! Now only the last Test match at Port Elizabeth remains for May to recover his true self.

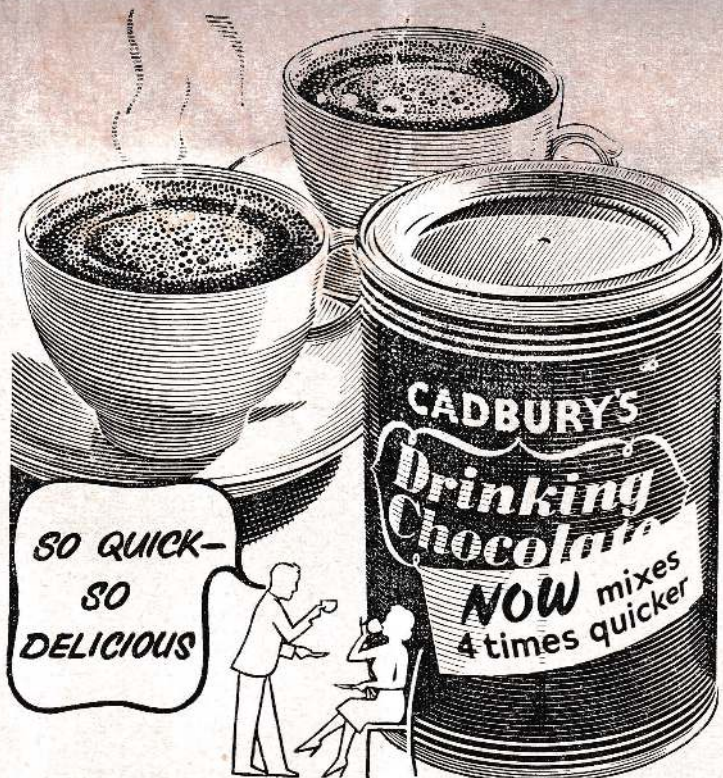
* * *

CRITICS here in England are beginning to bid farewell to Dennis Compton and this can be understood. Apart from being very much the father of the side his knee has been a great handicap, more so perhaps than he expected it to be. Some say that as soon as he is chosen for the side the opponents score 30 runs before play starts in each innings.

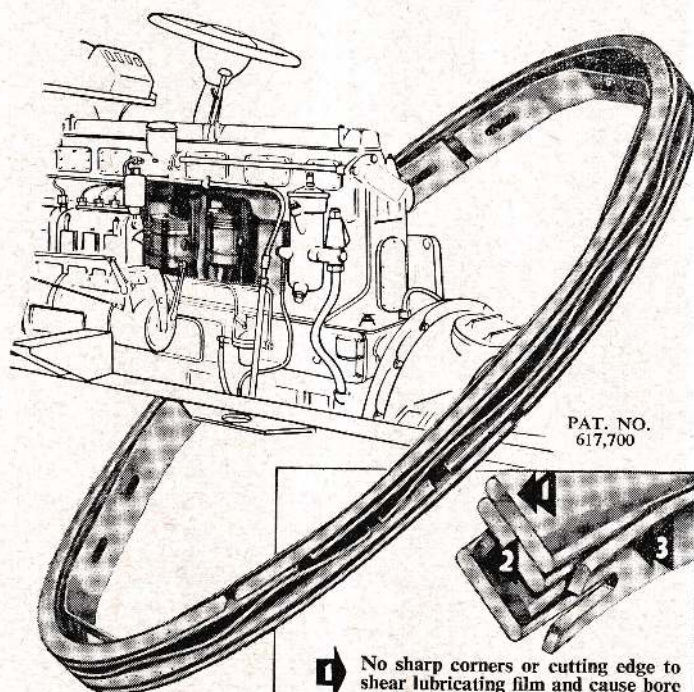
He seems to have lost the genius and impertinence which he made his own speciality when batting and is now pitifully on the defensive and making heavy weather of it. It is sad that a batsman with such a great history and one who was such a public idol should outstay his ability, to be finally nudged off the stage. Keith Miller arranged it very differently and left the scene with his halo of success undimmed and the plaudits of the crowd still ringing in his ears.

As I close this letter the select committee appointed by M.C.C. to make suggestions for making first class cricket more entertaining has published its advice to this end. This matter must remain over till my next letter except for that suggestion of limiting the legside field! Why was not this done ten years ago at least? It is such an obvious remedy and quite the most important one.

NOTE by Editor.—The fifth Test ended in victory for the South Africans by 58 runs with a day to go. Tayfield took 6 wickets for 78 in England's second innings.



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ASIAN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

TRIPLE CROWN FOR JAROSLAV DROBNY

— By ITINERANT —

FOR three hectic weeks Colombo hobnobbed with bold knights and fair ladies of the court of King Tennis during the 6th Asian Championships, which culminated in the triple crowning of that best-loved warrior, Jaroslav Drobny. To American Althea Gibson went the women's singles and mixed doubles titles; to Britain's Pat Ward and India's Kannan Singh the women's doubles award; Austrian Alfred Huber shared Drobny's doubles triumph; and there was "honourable mention" for all.

The championships had a little of everything, and a lot of the best. A few wet afternoons sowed the seeds of perseverance and versatility; gloriously sunny days brought them to full flower. There were taut nerves, as in the men's doubles marathon semi-final between the Philippines pair and Britain's; there were tears from and for Althea Gibson when her bid for the women's doubles title just failed; there was gusty laughter whenever Huber clowning his way through a match; there was the quiet persistence of the Chinese and young Japanese; admiration for the impeccable manners of the Indians, Australians and British; and a unanimous devotion to Drobny, a little slower, perhaps, than when he won Wimbledon's crown in 1954, but more courtwise and courtly.

AFTER two days of cautious "sparring" during which Mei Eu-chi beat dynamic Indian Sat Sayal, and Ceylon's F. J. de Saram was vanquished by Sung Lein-ken, things started popping when Ceylon's No. 1, R. Ferdinands put China's No. 1 out in 4 sets; Indian glamour girl Uma Vasudev defeated Mrs. C. R. Warren; Aussie N. Gibson went under to Chu Chen-hua; and fellow-Chinese Sung Lien-ken was trounced by B. Pinto. Miss Vasudev went next, beaten by Christobel Fonseka.

Next highlight was the heroic fight put up by diminutive Filipino F. Ampon, who won the first set 9-7 vs. Drobny and stretched the

latter to five before conceding defeat. Meanwhile those clean-cut and very likeable Aussies Woodcock and Gibson out-manoeuvred their less-experienced Chinese opponents, and the equally popular British Davies and Knight went their way,



Althea Gibson

— "Times" —

elegantly and forcibly respectively, towards the top. The crowd played a sort of sympathetic accompaniment to young giant-killer Chu Chen-hua's solo against the wily Jack Arkinstall, but experience told and Chu lost in straight sets.

Meanwhile Huber, the "court jester," whose clowning had as much distracted his opponents as amused the crowd, came up against much sterner stuff in Warren Woodcock and was beaten decisively. As a doubles player, though, Huber had no superior: agile, ambidexterous and acrobatic, he was the perfect partner for Drobny in deadly accuracy

and the pair fairly romped into the final trouncing Pinto and Ferdinands and then out-lasting the Australian duo en route. Partnered by Mrs. K. Singh in the "mixed," however, Huber found Britain's Michael Davies and Miss Pat Ward impervious to whatever novelty he introduced into his attack.

And now Filipinos Deyro and Ampon sprang into the limelight, Deyro toppling Britain's No. 1, Davies, by means of superior baseline play, and then the pair of them vanquishing Davies and Knight after a bitter, tense, 4-hour battle in which patience triumphed over power-play. Enter Deyro and Ampon into the finals.

BUT I neglect the ladies, and really they deserve better. While Althea Gibson seemed a "cert" for the singles, she was also strongly fancied to take the doubles crown as well, partnered by Ceylon's Miss C. Fonseka. But Pat Ward and Mrs. Singh stood in Althea's way in the singles, and together they threatened in the doubles.

Mrs. Singh was the first to "fade" and it was a furiously attacking Althea Gibson who won six games in a row off Pat Ward in the singles final. In the next set was Ward who struck back, running into an enormous lead before the Gibson girl finally recovered. Then, point for point they battled on, sharing 22 games before Miss Gibson's punch-packed service and raking drives won the day.

Poor Pat Ward. This charming young woman was again at the losing end when, partnered by Davies in the final of the mixed doubles, she put up a terrific performance of courage and skill against Drobny and Miss Gibson. The latter had just too many guns in their armament.

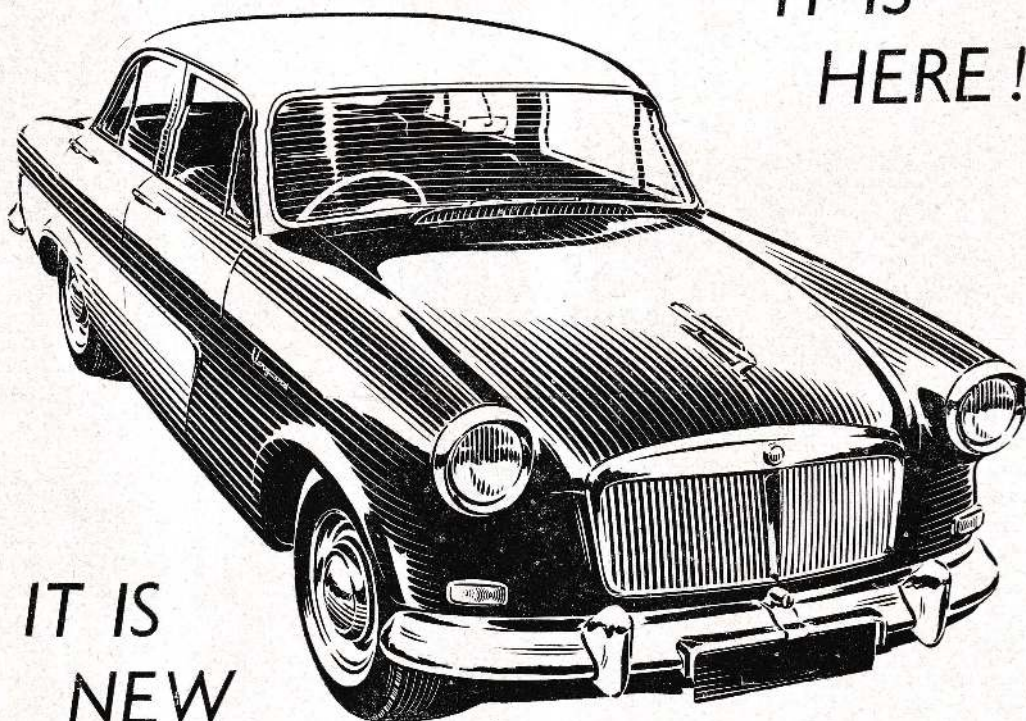
But the consolation prize was to come—in the women's doubles final. Splendid support by hard-hitting Mrs. Singh plus Pat Ward's accurate placements were too much for C. Fonseka to cope with despite all Althea Gibson's endeavours.

SO to the men's doubles which looked to be a foregone conclusion and turned out to be touch and go for Drobny and Huber, who won the first two sets against Deyro and Ampon, were flung back in the next two, and triumphed thinly in the final round.

Continued on page 35)

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Sportsman

COMFORT — PERFORMANCE — ECONOMY

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FOR THE MOTORIST

By COXON

DURING the past few weeks I have met a number of people busy licking wounds inflicted upon them in some court or another as a result of having transgressed the rules of the road. One or two had taken their medicine in passive resignation or even in good humour, a lot of others had a grievance.

"Why do the Police waste their time on petty offences like mine was," wailed one of the latter, "when they should instead concentrate on the more dangerous types like taxi drivers and other speeding road hogs?"

What he does not realise, however, is that while one swallow may not make a summer, every swallow does, and the Police can hardly be justified in turning a blind eye on the minnows just because they're too busy spotting whales. After which spate of mixed metaphors let's get to the problem of pedestrians . . .

Do you know, the day traffic accidents are brought under control will be the day after the Highway Code becomes a best-seller? Because there is something in it for everyone on four wheels, two wheels or walking shoes, and it would do us all a power of good to read this manual not once but at regular intervals throughout each year. Pedestrians, for instance, would be reminded that meeting a friend does not entitle them to linger talking on the road—even if it is a pedestrian crossing. Also, that one should never stand at or near a blind corner or other place where one may not be seen by approaching traffic. Furthermore, if there is a pavement or footpath, please do use it.

This business about loitering on pedestrian crossings had also better be cleared up. Most pedestrians, I notice, feel it is either infra dig to hurry across, or that it boosts their ego to amble ever so slowly past waiting traffic, glaring daggers at each driver in turn. States the Highway Code on this matter: "It is an offence to loiter and thereby hold up traffic at a pedestrian crossing unnecessarily."

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By ITINERANT

Cricket Climax

A WEEK from now we'll know whether N.C.C. can beat the Moors on the latter's matting wicket and thereby wrest leadership from the S.S.C. who now, having completed their tourney programme, are at the top of the table. Only two points behind, the N.C.C. need a win on the 1st innings against Moors to become cricket champions.

Both top teams overcame strong clubs to reach their present position. Skipper F. C. de Saram, with a typically majestic 155 not out, spearheaded the S.S.C. attack, against



F. C. de Saram

— "Times"

which the Tamils were always on the retreat, so to speak. On the B.R.C. mat, meanwhile, N.C.C. spinner Crozier and Francke quickly got among the wickets, then Prins (47) and Clive Inman (91) made light of the B.R.C. bowling, which encouraged the middle batting and tail to "have a go." They did, then sent the B.R.C. in again, but failed by 5 wickets to collect full points.

* * *

Tour Abroad

INVITED by the Ceylonese in Malaya, a team of Ceylon cricketers will play matches in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in August. It will be a young side that makes this trip, at least three schoolboys' bloodstream expected to be picked.

Tour at Home

INDIA'S Cricket Board of Control may send a strong side to Ceylon late this year on a five-match tour. Led by the Raja of Jath, the team is expected to include two Princes (the Maharajas of Baroda and Dewas), and Test players Hazare, Gaikwad, Chorpade and Borde.

* * *

4-Nation Regatta

THE best crews from India, Pakistan and Singapore will do battle with Ceylon from March 12th to 16th on the Beira Lake in what is already being called the "Henley of the East." The occasion is the annual regatta of the Rowing Association of the East, and this time the Colombo Rowing Club will play host. Ten crews will participate—two more than when it was last held here, in 1952.

Main event will be the Fours race for the Willingdon Trophy. Other coveted awards are the Venables Bowl to the winners of the Pairs race and the Macklin Sculls.

* * *

Table Topic

AN even bigger international event to take place in Colombo will be the Asian table tennis championships, also in March. And that is not all: in June some of the best players in the world are to be invited to participate in a special meet to be held in connexion with the Y.M.C.A. table tennis section's silver jubilee. Finally, towards the end of this year Colombo will again be the Mecca of Asian players when the All-India championships are staged here.

Meanwhile Chrys Gunaratne has been ranked No. 1 in Ceylon for the first time. K. Chandraraj is No. 2 and C. R. (Dick) Schoorman No. 3. His brother, Sam, shares 4th ranking with teenager B. G. Reid.

ASIAN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

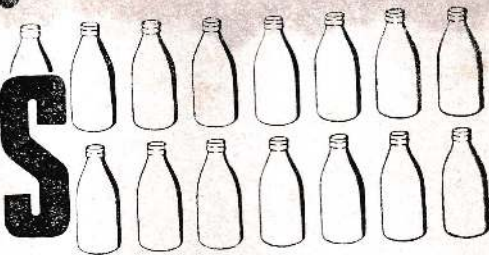
(Continued from page 33)

With the weight of two titles behind him Drobny's momentum was more than Woodcock could resist in the singles final. The bespectacled Wimbledon champ of 1954 toyed with his young opponent in the first set, tired him out in the second, and, though the third set was tougher, he won that, too and the homage that went with three crowns.

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No. 7/52

A WOMAN'S DIARY

THE pressing need for public libraries for children is now being pointed out in the daily press, a need which was emphasised in these pages several months ago. Good books and magazines such as their parents were accustomed to are growing scarce, and are becoming less available to children as the months go by: nor are many of them able to read or to appreciate the books which a previous generation revelled in. Folk tales, fairy stories, tales of adventure and other books of this type have given place to comic strip cartoons (Picture writing being easier to read) film star favourites (again in pictures) and the cheaper type of undesirable publications which now go as "literature!" Insufficient books in the national languages, and a growing inability to grasp the knowledge provided by even text books in English on certain subjects is making progress increasingly difficult.

A library stocked with well-illustrated books on handicrafts, carpentry, photography, needle-work, will at least guide active minds to some form of creative work. Collections of books in the national languages, books in English which can compete with cow-boy cartoons and comic strips, books on nature and of animal stories, encyclopaedias of general knowledge, and up-to-date magazines should find a place on library shelves which are easily accessible to juniors of all ages, if any standard of education, in the proper sense of the word, is to be maintained in the Island. The lack of general knowledge on the background of current affairs, on subjects historical (even of Ceylon!) literary, scientific or geographical, has only to be checked up on to be believed. The fault lies not in the children but in the unbelievable lack of information which should be made available to them. Is it also a lack of interest or initiative on the part of the parents who may not realise the necessity of good reading matter? Something which has always been available to them but which they cannot afford to take for granted now?

* * *

CEYLON formed a link in the international chain of guiding and scouting throughout the world on Thinking Day, February the 22nd, 1957, the Centenary anniversary

of the birthday of the Founder of their Movements, Lord Baden Powell, and is also the birthday of his wife, Lady Baden Powell, now the World Chief Guide.

Special services of Thanksgiving were held for Christian guides in Catholic and in Protestant Churches, and for Buddhist guides in temples and in schools. In Colombo a very well attended Thanksgiving Service was held at Christ Church, Galle Face. The inspiring address given by the Rt. Rev. A. R. Graham Campbell, Bishop of Colombo, the presence of the Governor-General, the procession of the choirs up the aisle, the solemn renewal of the Scout and Guide Promises led by the Chief Scout and Guide Commissioners, and the familiar hymns, all combined to make the Service an impressive and a memorable one. Later a candle-lighting ceremony, followed by a camp-fire, organised by Miss Blacker, Divisional Commissioner for Colombo, was held on the lawn outside Guide headquarters, where an extraordinarily large gathering of guides, "old" guides and friends of the movement made use of the opportunity to renew their contacts with guiding on this very special occasion.

On the Sunday following over 300 scouts and guides were present at the Vajirarama temple, where addresses were given by the Ven'ble Narada Maha Thero, by Professor G. P. Malalasekera, and by H.E. the Burmese Ambassador, himself an old scout. Mr. E. W. Kannangara, Chief Scout Commissioner was also present. Mrs. Sita Rajasuriya and Mrs. Grace Gooneratne represented Guide Headquarters.

A treat was given by these guides to the children at the Vishnu Maha Devi orphanage at Biyagama, for "service to others" will be the key-note of guide activities in the Centenary year.

A much appreciated feature of the celebrations was the radio half hour devoted to scouting and guiding, in the course of which Miss Edna Alvis, Ceylon's Chief Commissioner, spoke on the Guide Movement.

EVELYN.

SEEING CEYLON

(Continued from page 19)

smaller ones along the beach. The small garrison defending the station was placed in an entire state of blockade.

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noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

Pendergrast who was in charge, is but an incident crowded out of the pages of history. The enemy were compelled to evacuate and retreat to the interior.

* * *

THE scenery around Hambantota is not without interest, but is certainly not attractive. The Government Agent's House, the Courts, the *Kachcherie*, and the Resthouse with its unique view of endless land and sea, stand on the hot bare cliff near the "Martello Tower"—looking on the one hand to the ridge of palmyrah-covered, drifting red sand-dunes, and on the other to the heavy breakers thundering on the white crescent of shore.

But, in reality, one never sees Hambantota—one feels it. Maybe, you yourself have sensed this when lolling one late evening on the verandah of the Resthouse under a sky of blazing stars; or when a moon, dark yellow, was rising in the east. Some have traced this mystery to its harsh night-smells of cooling earth mingling with the tang of the sea. Yet others to its daytime odours of sweat, dried-fish, and dust.

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LIGHTER INTERLUDES

By TWEEDLEDUM

ONE of the bridge four was unable to keep his engagement; so the host suggested that his man-servant, who was a useful player, might be called upon. "My only stipulation," said the host, "is that I play against the beggar so that I have a chance of winning next month's wages from him."

COUNSEL: "Answer me a plain question. Were you or were you not bitten on the premises?"

Witness: "Anatomy ain't my strong point, Gov'nor, but I know I couldn't sit down for a week!"

NEW Lodger (a flatterer): "You look like an educated woman."

Landlady: "I am, if you pay regularly; but if not, I can be very uneducated."

It was a flag day, and the Aberdonian's springs of generosity were opened because one of the collectors was an exceedingly pretty nurse. He put a shilling in the box, at the same time remarking "Well, my Lassie, I only hope if ever I'm ill they'll send me to your ward." "Well," said the girl doubtfully, "I don't know about that. You see it's a maternity hospital."

"THE man who gives in when he is wrong," said the orator, "is a wise man. But he who gives in when he is right is . . ."

"Married," said a weak voice from the gallery.

THERE was a pawky humour—or was it ready wit?—in the remark of a boy who, coming home one Sunday afternoon with a string of trout, was suddenly confronted by the minister.

There was no way of escape; but the boy rose to the occasion.

"Minister," he exclaimed, "D'ye see what the troots got for nabbin' worms on a Sunday?"

THE best of orators will sometimes make a faux pas without being conscious of it. In a recent speech a prominent public man said: "Since the Interpretation Act of 1889, the male has embraced the female;" whereupon a rag in the audience called out, "Come, come, he surely did so long before that year." Many words carry very awkward alternate interpretations, and must therefore be employed with the greatest caution.

ONE reads some quaint epitaphs on tombstones, which some people consider an excellent place for displaying their wit and sometimes venom; but more often their utter ignorance of correct diction and good taste. Here is one I read long ago, referring to the death of twins:—

"Here lie two babes dead as two nits,

Who shook to death with ague fits,
They were too good to live with me.

So God he took 'em to live with he.

THE following appears in J. G. Coolidge's "Letters," where, he says, he found it in a country churchyard:

"Who loveth me, love I full welle,
Who hayteth me, may goe to helle."

"HAVE you ever been in a railway accident?"

"By Jove rather! I remember one day when I went through a tunnel and kissed the father instead of the daughter!"

TEACHER: "The Mississippi is called the 'Father of Waters'."

Little Boy: "If it's the 'Father of Waters,' why do they call it 'Mrs. Sippi'?"

"WHEN you were abroad, I suppose you saw the great tracts of barren waste?"

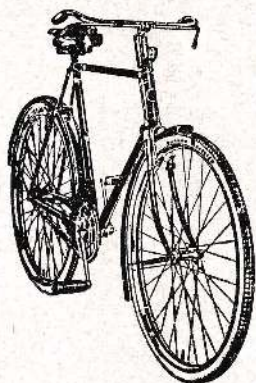
Yes, he has a wonderful estate."

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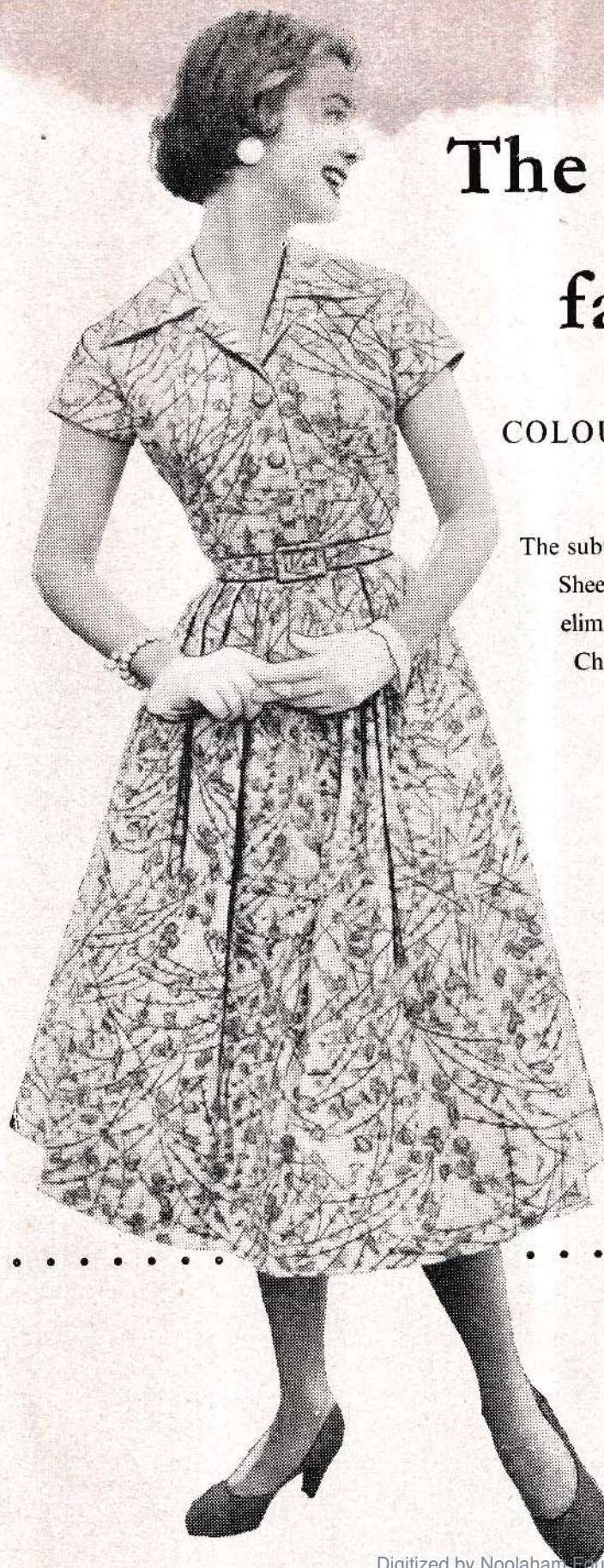
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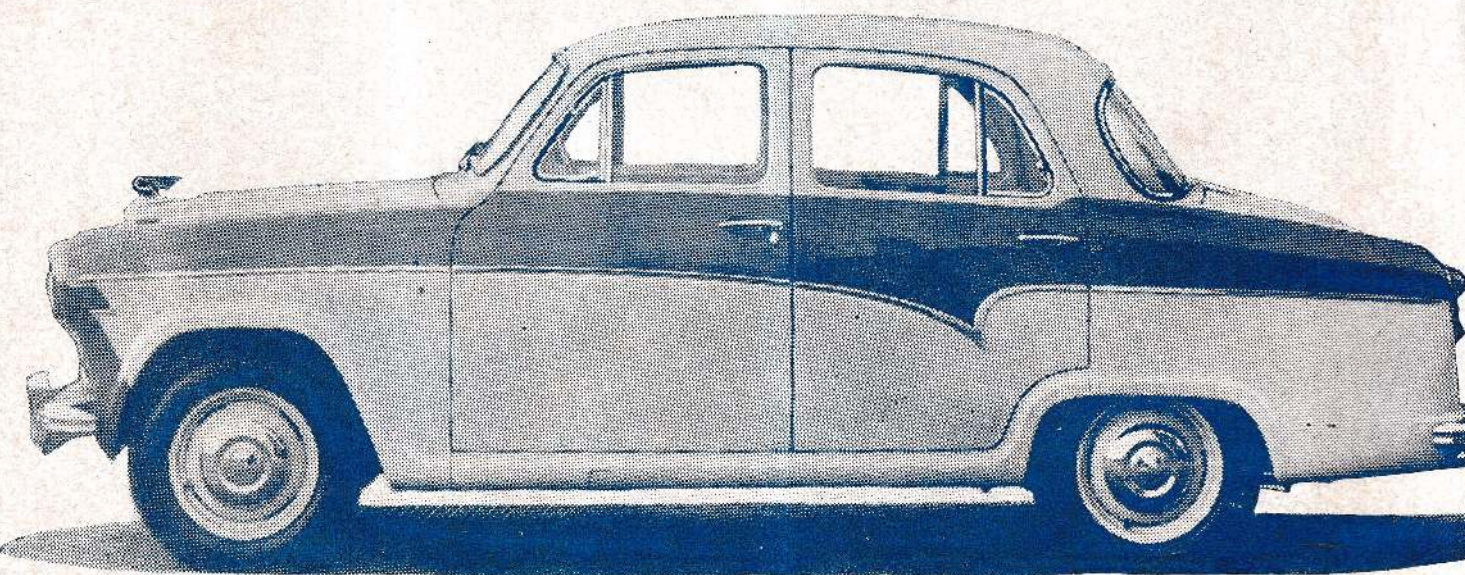
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