

Understandable Anxiety

The Japanese are unlikely to get very far in their efforts to persuade the British Government to cancel impending atomic tests on Christmas Island in the Pacific. For, of course, as long as no international agreement in these matters can be reached—and there is no sign of it at the present time—there is nothing the British can do except try and hold their own in atomic development. It is, nevertheless, an unfortunate situation, and it is impossible not to sympathize with the Japanese people in their terror of these fiendish devices; for that is what they are and will remain until such time as all the nations see fit to direct them to peaceful purposes exclusively; and that day, from all accounts, is far in the distance. Even then, on the basis of what is known now, there will be no guarantee that the newly discovered power will not make the human race helpless before it. This is clear from the interim report of an international group of scientists which says that "all man-made radiation has to be regarded as harmful to men from the genetic point of view."

Of all these peoples of the world only the Japanese have suffered directly from atomic assault. The fact that that assault was of a relatively trivial strength compared with what would happen if atomic war were to break out in the future does not lessen their anxiety over the tests which are now impending. Notwithstanding all that science has been able to do to ease their sufferings in the intervening period, thousands of Japanese who were in the areas hit by atomic bombs in 1945 still carry in their bodies and in their minds the harsh marks of unspeakable terror.

No doubt, the British will see to it that the hazards in the forthcoming tests are kept to the lowest possible level. But that is of little comfort to the Japanese, especially in view of accumulating evidence that all such tests spread a certain amount of destructive radiation, no matter what safeguards are established in the process.

Spring's Battalions

More like a flood of life than a season, spring is building up to transform the Northern Hemisphere. It will pour north at an average of 15 miles a day, running first through the valleys, rising to cover hills and mountains. With it come the birds. Insects are called out of their wintering places. Some impatient plants thrust themselves through still-frozen soil to greet it. The National Geographic Society reports that spring officially begins this year at 4:17 p.m., March 20—the vernal equinox. The noontime sun passes directly above the equator; day and night are equal the world over. Then, as the tilted earth continues its swing around the sun, the light will fall more and more on the northern areas, giving longer and warmer days. But nature's resurrection does not wait for any given signal. It can vary as much as a month from year to year.

Spring calls up a rising tide in the plant world. Sap, the trees' blood, is pushed to the topmost twig. Engineers have found that the tomato plant, as a low-growing example, can generate a pressure of 100 pounds per square inch in its sap veins. Certain plants migrate as the birds do, finding warmer homes in winter, coming back in the spring. The duckweed, bits of green that dangle tiny rootlets in ponds, each autumn takes on a form known as "winter buds." These are heavily laden with starch grains, and they slowly sink, taking aboard water ballast like a submarine.

While ice kills other floating plants, the buds lie on the bottom, or hang suspended close to it. As the ponds warm in the spring, the buds produce inter-cellular spaces filled with gas. Buoyancy increases, and they rise in the water. Soon after the ice is gone, the first of the

duckweeds arrives on the surface. As the plants grow, and leaves and flowers burst their buds, insects hatch and emerge from their hiding places. Earthworms come from below the frost line and begin their tireless burrowing through the topsoil. Hibernating animals such as the groundhog make their reappearance, and even eels in the distant sea respond.

Hatched in mid-ocean, baby eels will soon begin their assault on the streams of the East Coast. Countless thousands, running the gamut of water birds, fish and adult eels, will work their way up rivers, creeks and brooks, to find fresh-water homes. After eight years or so, the survivors of this horde will return to the ocean to lay eggs. And two years later their descendants will again swim upstream in spring.

Re-Seeding Depleted Beds

As announced recently at Ottawa, 1,000 barrels of disease-free Prince Edward Island oysters will be transplanted to the Shippigan area of New Brunswick, and 500 barrels to the Malagash-Wallace area in Nova Scotia, as an experiment in rehabilitation of the oyster industry in the neighboring provinces. This is quite a tribute to the quality of our Island mollusks, and there will be widespread interest in the result. The Dominion Department of Fisheries, which has undertaken the project, is planning a three-year rehabilitation program. The need for re-seeding the heavily depleted areas in the Northumberland Strait waters as well as in Miramichi and Chaleur bays has been stressed for some time, because the harvests from these waters had slumped greatly in the past two years. In fact the experts have estimated that 90 per cent of the oyster stocks in the affected waters have been destroyed by natural mortalities over that comparatively short period of 1955 and 1956.

The biologists found the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia oyster grounds had been swept by a disease similar to that which all but ruined the long-famed beds in Prince Edward Island between 35 and 40 years ago. So it is from the Island's now prolific producing waters that disease-resistant bivalves will be transplanted to bring about the rehabilitation of the depleted oyster fishing grounds of the mainland provinces.

"There seems no doubt," says the Moncton Transcript, "but that the method of rehabilitation will prove equally as successful in the present instances as was the case in restoring the Prince Edward Island beds some years ago. It will, of course, take several years before the process shall have completely eradicated the disease which has been depleting the oysters." In all, the plan will see 10,000 barrels of P.E.I. disease-resistant bivalves planted in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia fishing grounds, over the ensuing three years, with the 1957 transplant totalling 1,500 barrels to be made in May and June.

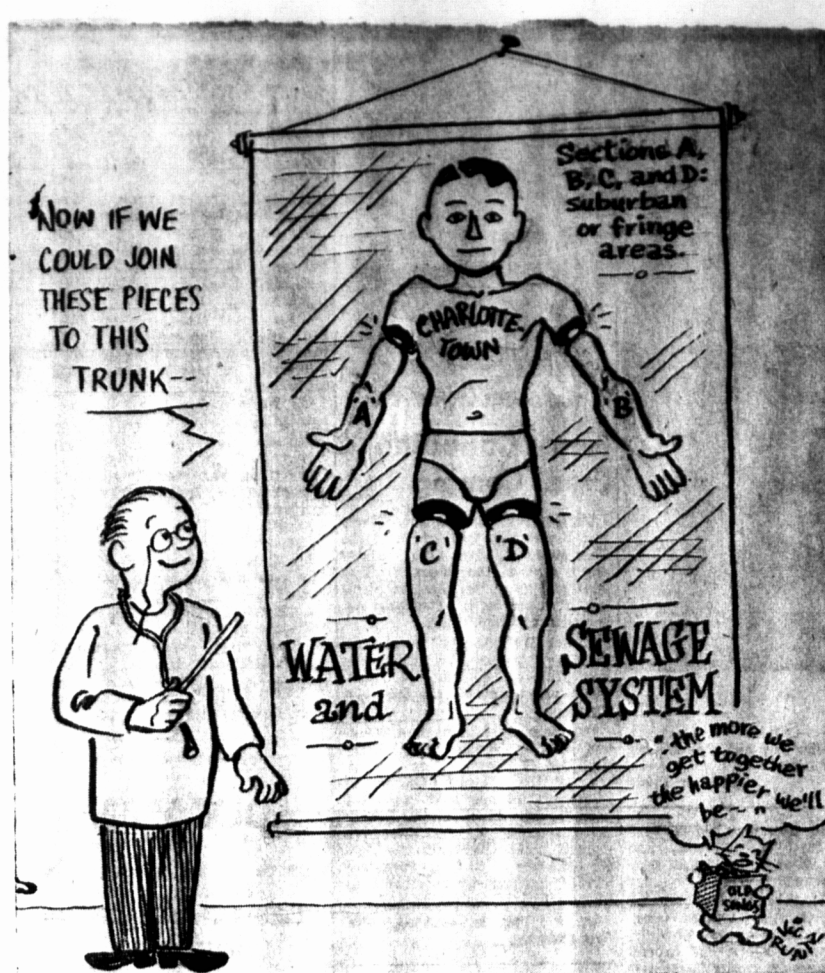
EDITORIAL NOTES

It has been revealed that there are six times as many Scotsmen abroad as there are in Scotland. Yes, and most of them would say that it is to that little statistical fact that the world owes whatever sanity it possesses in these strife-ridden days.

Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia is an honest, straightforward man. When asked by Vice-President Nixon what he wanted from the United States, he replied: "aid, both military and economic—and soon." No beating about the bush for the Lion of Judah.

Egyptian officials are reported to have told Dr. Bunche, the Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N., that occupation of Gaza will not be a "big show" at first. They had better watch their step, or the Israelis will put a stop to the show however little it may be.

"The Burmese Government has told United States' officials "we are willing to accept aid but we prefer to pay for it." That shouldn't be any great obstacle to doing business. The only little hitch, according to reports from Washington, is that first of all Burma will have to get a loan from the United States in order to pay for the goods. This, no doubt, can be worked out.



TOWARDS IMPROVING THE CIRCULATION

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS

Sir, — I read with interest the letter of the Kensington school teachers in Saturday's Guardian, and was impressed by their professional qualifications, which I have since learned are possessed by many of the teachers in the rural high schools as well. This letter poses two interesting queries:—

1. What are the educational qualifications of each of the members of the Select Standing Committee on Education, including the chairman?
2. Can this Committee act objectively?

Inasmuch as a Royal Commission on Education would normally be composed of persons of high educational attainment and experience, and inasmuch as it has been stated that this Committee on Education is equally competent to pass upon the subject matter, then, the qualifications of each of the members should be given to the public at the opening of its public sittings.

I am, Sir, etc.,
DIOGENES,
Charlottetown.

THE AIM OF "LIBERAL" EDUCATION

Sir, — I believe that nearly all of us both as parents and as citizens are naturally concerned with the important matter of moulding individual character and of shaping the pattern for the whole life of a society.

But, do we as parents and citizens know what we mean when we speak of education? Is it something we really want? And have we a special responsibility for giving a lead in education?

In the field of education we must first of all realize man's true nature and the end for which man was created. By keeping this all important goal continually in mind, we shall educate our children to be men and women of Christian character. It is often said that people get the kind of government they want. Perhaps, the same is true of education. It is always a responsibility of the parents to get an education for their children get an education. The state, too, has important responsibilities in assisting its citizens to promote the education of their children.

Throughout the Graeco-Roman eras, the liberal arts constituted the greater part of education. During the Christian era Theology was added. In addition, vocational training was carried on by the various craft guilds under the apprenticeship system.

Yet, it is important to make a distinction between education and "training on the job". It is possible and often advisable for those trained in certain manual or other crafts to avail themselves of the opportunity of getting certain elements in the liberal arts. In this regard, it is of interest to observe that the results of courses in History and Economics for carpenters and plumbers at Oxford University, England, some years ago showed conclusive evidence of high attainments. In fact, a sizeable number of these students obtained Honor Standing in a class of regular university students.

In the modern era, a "Liberal" education consists of training in the higher arts (philosophy, literature, history, science, economics, etc.) and of understanding the leading ideas that have animated mankind throughout the ages. It aims to help the human being to learn to think for himself, and so develop his highest human powers. Originally, liberal education was the education of the few, that is, of "rulers," of those who had leisure. Democracy, and industry now make liberal education indispensable and possible for all the people. To-day, democracy makes every man a ruler, for the heart of democracy is universal suffrage. Every man should be

UNITED KINGDOM OPINION

By-Election Repercussions

From London, England Bureau of Thomson Newspapers

We are having a little general election here at the moment — at least, that is how the main parties are regarding the hustings of the past few weeks. Most jubilant observer is the Opposition Leader.

able to use intelligently the leisure time made available to-day by industry, as industry in our day makes a liberal education possible for everybody. Thus liberal education makes up for the deficiencies in the formal education of the individual. But when formal education is vocational, adult education is vocational, too. However, where schooling is liberal, adult education is likewise liberal.

Education should be unending. The man who stops learning is as good as dead. A man cannot develop his higher powers once and for all in his youth. He has to keep on using them. But it is important that for all the people all their lives. It was once the education of the few.

In this letter, it is not suggested that all the people must become great philosophers, historians, scientists, or artists. But it is important that they should know how to read, write, and figure and should try to understand the great philosophers, historians, scientists and artists of all ages.

If this is unattainable, then we should abandon general suffrage. People cannot solve problems unless they can learn to think for themselves about the fundamental issues of life in organized society. The alternatives, therefore, are democracy with liberal education for all, or aristocracy with education for the few.

Politics teaches us that we are heading for unification of the world—, but, will this unification be achieved by conquest or by consent?

One must remember that the liberal arts are the arts of communication, that is, that these great productions of the human mind are the common heritage of all mankind. Hence, we need a type of education that will bring out our common humanity rather than one in which to indulge our individuality.

Thus, in a modern industrial and scientific democracy every parent and citizen has the responsibility of a ruler and has the leisure to make the most of himself. In a word, the aim of a liberal education is wisdom. Each individual has the duty and every individual must have the chance to become as wise as he can. As parents and citizens of Prince Edward Island, let each one of us accept our full responsibility in providing the children of our Province with the best in education within our means. Let us all cooperate fully with the Legislative Committee on Education in their attempts to garner information pertinent to our educational problems in this province. We, as parents and citizens, owe it to our greatest asset, our children.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J.F. MACMILLAN
Prince of Wales College.

AGAINST SALE IN HOTELS

Sir, — In Friday's paper, under large headlines was a speech given by Mr. A.A. MacIsaac, Liberal member for Fifth Queens, advocating the sale of beer and wine in the hotels of the Province. He said the social use of alcohol as a beverage has been accepted in all parts of Canada, and he felt it would be greatly appreciated by tourists who visit here in summer.

Now, when the people of Prince Edward Island elect a man to represent their district, they expect him to do everything in his power for the good of their district and for the Island as a whole. Can Mr. MacIsaac tell us of any community in our world that has morally improved by the sale of liquor in hotels without the sale of liquor in hotels? He reads our papers or listens to the radio, he must understand what a curse it has been all over our country in broken homes and blighted lives and loss of time. If hotels and inns sold liquor to tourists, would they not soon

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundeses, M.D.

HEART HABITS MAY CAUSE HYPERTENSION

We've made great strides in developing drugs to treat hypertension or high blood pressure. Yet, as is the case with so many diseases, we don't know exactly what causes it.

One theory is that high blood pressure actually may be the result of the heart adopting a "bad habit." Recent research appears to indicate that there may be a great deal of truth in this theory.

ANGER AND FEAR

We know, of course, that emotions such as anger and fear can cause the heart to beat faster. You probably can feel your own heart beating at a faster pace after a fright.

After years of study, Dr. W. Horsely Gantt, and his associates at John Hopkins University, have found that the heart actually can "learn" to beat continually at a quickened tempo as the result of previous experiences.

Like any other muscle, the heart can learn and it can be conditioned. Dr. Gantt believes it forms habits more quickly than many other muscles and drops these habits with more difficulty.

In other words, past emotional memories prepare the heart for an act such as a fight or flight that is no longer required.

The John Hopkins investigators found evidence indicating that high blood pressure as well as alterations in the heartbeat can be obtained this way.

Moreover, Dr. James W. McCubbin of the Cleveland Clinic Research Division has found that certain nerve endings in the great artery above the heart, and in two neck arteries, can learn to accept a new high blood pressure level as normal and act to maintain it at high level.

ORIGINAL CAUSE

Thus, the heart itself might be responsible for continuing high blood pressure even after the original cause has ceased.

Studies are currently underway to determine whether certain drugs can prevent the heart from forming bad cardiac habits.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

W. D.: Should a baby, just home from the hospital, have his crib mattress raised at the head?

Answer: Usually the Baby's bed should be level. However, when he has a cold, it is advantageous to lower the head of the bed in order that infected secretions can drain out of the nose and throat easily.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET

In childhood at the shore with shrieks of glee
I leaped the leaping waves; each rising crest
Smothered my breath, beat down increasingly,
Until subdued I quenched my laughing zest
And saw the sea I sported with at length.
In larger pattern, dashing at my joy,
Not bound by shore nor tempered to my strength
But homorously roaring to destroy.
So now I sport with life and see entranced
Life means no sport in dealing with my frame.
My gleaming gifts where light of gladness glances
Blind force does strive incredibly to maim.
What though my dearest offer fragile be
Life takes no care; its waves wash over me.

—Rose Port,
in the New York Times.

The Age Old Story

Looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(March 18, 1932)
Mr. J. W. Boulter, secretary of the Potato Growers Association, said last night that the frost and cold weather in the South has somewhat affected the market here, as some replanting will be necessary. The Association is presently gathering a shipment to be sent to Halifax for transportation next week.

The full facts in connection with the replacing of additional insurance on Falconwood Hospital and Prince of Wales College were given in the Legislature last evening by Hon. Dr. MacMillan, Minister of Health and Education. He stated that although additional insurance had not been out on Falconwood on time, the difference had been offset by the increased amount which had been put on Prince of Wales College.

TEN YEARS AGO

(March 18, 1947)

Preliminary plans for a province-wide program of education regarding pasteurization of milk were discussed last night in the Charlottetown Hotel at a meeting sponsored by the Health League of Canada. Mr. H. C. Rhodes, representing the National Office of the League, described the program which is being conducted across Canada.

The Law Society of the Province are making plans for a dinner meeting of the Bench and Bar of this Province to welcome Chief Justice McRuer, the Dominion President of the Canadian Bar Association. Not for many years has the president of the Canadian Association visited this Province, and elaborate plans are being made for his welcome.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JEREMIAH SIMPSON
Cavendish P.E.I.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Alcoholism is said to be increasing among the upper classes. They are the only consumers who can afford it.—St. Thomas Times-Journal

Like her great grandmother, today's girl is fond of spinning wheels. The only difference is that today she wants four of them.—Brandon Sun

A government inquiry into the United States coffee business is suggested. It might reveal who imported and promoted the coffee break.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle

About 15 years ago the late Harry Mulligan of North Bay used homing pigeons to set up a communication system between outlying tourist camps and his North Bay supply store. A Chapleau outfitting has just purchased homers for the same purpose. They'll fly messages from outposts 10 to 25 miles away. Arriving at the main camp, the pigeon alights on a platform at the entrance to its dove-cote and the contact rings a bell in the owner's home announcing the messenger's arrival.—Ontario Lands and Forests

It is a break for the birds that they can overtake insects on the wing, otherwise such feathered creatures as swallows which do their food hunting aloft would be in a bad way indeed. According to Dr. Brian Hocking of the University of Alberta no living insect is capable of an air speed greater than 27 miles an hour in level, continuous flight, although some can manage 35 m.p.h. in a short burst. One of the most efficient of travellers is the monarch butterfly. A long-range migrant, it can carry fuel for a flight of about 620 miles.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record

It isn't always safe to say what you please, except when you're at home, and it wouldn't be safe there if anybody paid any attention to what you said.—Stratford Beacon-Herald

Philadelphia pedestrians and motorists have formed a Stay-Alive Club, thus assuring, at least in the City of Brotherly Love, capacity attendance at future funerals.—Windsor Star

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