
87th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

BEHAR HERALD

ESTD. 1874.

Chief Editor
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SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1961

★ New Colours to the Kumaon Regiment ★



The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, presenting the New Battalion Colours to the 4th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment at Ranikhet recently. The Colours were being received by Captain D.P.S. Raghuvanshi on behalf of the 4th Battalion of the Kumaon Regiment. On the left is Gen. K. S. Thimayya, the then Chief of the Army Staff and also Colonel of the Kumaon Regiment.

on to **METRIC**
CAPACITY
MEASURES



From APRIL 1, 1961, the use of Metric Capacity Measures is compulsory in the Union Territory of Delhi.

In selected areas in the rest of the country, Metric Capacity Measures have been introduced with option to use old measures for one year.

The unit of capacity is
LITRE

- 1 LITRE**
= 1.1 Seers approx.
- = 3 Nazhis approx.
(Kerala)
- = 4.5 Ollocks approx.
(Madras)

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New Series by M. C. Samaddar in 1938

Behar Herald

ESTD. 1874

VOL. LXXXVII | PATNA, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1961 | NO. 31

CACHAR ATROCITIES

None can help contrasting the Assam Government's dalliance during the last July Goreswar riots with its present firmness in Cachar bordering on inhumanity. Inquiries or judicial probes into such firings are quite useless because any adverse reports are invariably suppressed as in the case of the Goreswar inquiry. They only serve to drug the none too active conscience of the Assam Government.

The Centre certainly needs to tell the Assam Government that its linguistic intolerance will not be tolerated. But as usual it is hesitating or trying to find a compromise formula which will neither maintain the Congress prestige nor satisfy the reasonable requests of the minorities. In spite of failures, it is fantastic how compromises are persisted with. There is no hope that Mr. Nehru will see clearly that in this case there can be no compromise. Either Bengali and the Hill languages are included as additional official languages

or it is better that both Cachar and the hill areas are separated from Assam.—But then the prestige of a Gandhian Ministry “wedded” to non-violence must be maintained, by the Mahatma's political successor. So, buttering parsnips with some sweet words and a little tut-tuting he left Assam. The heart-changing Mahatma is now in Assam. But for his presence emanating non-violence, many hundreds would have been killed by the Assam patriots.

The firing by armed Assam police on an unarmed band of peaceful satyagrahis at Silchar whose only demand was recognition of their mother-tongue, Bengali, as an alternative official language in Cachar and such places in Assam as are predominantly Bengali-speaking is an index of the intolerance of the Assam Government so far as its Bengali population is concerned. Only in July last nearly sixty thousand Bengalis of the Brahmaputra valley were driven out of their hearths and homes and large-scale loot, arson,

murder and rape were committed by Assamese hooligans, and the Assam Government with their police stood by the on plea that the holocaust was so sudden and spread so rapidly that they could not cope with it. The plea was false on the face of it if one cares to look into the pages of local Assamese papers and utterances of responsible political leaders of Assam in public meetings in May and June last. Any impartial judge would be convinced that the whole affair was premeditated and well-planned.

The inaction of the Central Government at that time had made the Assam Government bolder and they made intensive preparation to crush the Bengalis of Cachar for trying to get recognition of their mother-tongue as an alternative official language. They have fired and taken 11 innocent lives. But they forget that repression will only aggravate the situation.

If the demands of an articulate linguistic minority can give the jitters to a hypersensitive, intolerant majority and lead to repression of the Cachar type, then India may well go to pieces right under the nose of Nehru, and speculation about what is to come after him may be unnecessary. National centenary celebrations to honour Rabindranath could hardly have a more disgraceful accompaniment. The non-official hooliganism of July last has now been supplemented by official killings. Assam seems to be an independent country, not a part of India.

Assam's fanatics, emboldened by the Centre's tolerance, have

not hesitated to spill blood even when the Prime Minister was on the soil of that ill-fated State. Assam could not have devised a more ironical way of welcoming the arch apostle of national unity.

Would Congress leaders care to reflect at Durgapur that the cry of emotional integration would sound hollow and hypocritical if domestic dis-unity is not paid more attention than Laos or the Congo? A nation could be created and sustained by many methods. The passing of platitudinous, mealy-mouthed, resolutions is not one of them.

Assam seems determined to be the main architect of the disintegration of India. Last year's tragic happening due to her linguistic intolerance have made her none the wiser, nor have they brought about stirrings of conscience that seems altogether dead in her. Once more, in Cachar District, where the Bengali-speaking people form the majority of the population, she has unleashed forces of repression of a type that may have serious repercussions all over India, and make the task of reconciliation with the Bengalis and hill-tribes living for generations in that State all the more difficult.

The conciliatory approach of the late Pandit Pant and even the recent presence of the Prime Minister in Assam have failed to convince its rulers of the imperative need to accommodate the legitimate demands of linguistic minorities. Have not our Central leaders realized

that mere emotional appeals and tall talk will not serve the purpose of national integration?

NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE

Following the rulers of India who have been flying out on world tours to avoid, the scorching heat of this accursed country, our Parliamentarians are now engaged in packing their wardrobe trunks. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Hukum Singh (Dy. Speaker) Ram Krishnamoorthy (Dy Chairman of the House of Lords), Tariq and Bibhuti Misra are going to London. Dr. Kunzru, Vithal Rao and Dr. Sushila Nayyar are going to Brussels. Surjit Singh Majithia is going to Japan. Others are also trying hard to be included in these junkets abroad and more names will be added to these lists.

* * *
Some cantankerous persons have, commented on the bonafides of the numerous visits of our Ministers, Secretaries and other Government officials abroad while we maintain a strong force in the form of diplomatic, purchase, stores and economic missions. In granting foreign exchange and passports, the rulers always have first preference. The subjects come a long way behind. These is what it should be in a socialistic structure.

The various cultural, goodwill and other fancy delegations have long been the subject of just criticism, without effecting

any noticeable difference in official policy. Is it absolutely true that India must be represented at every conceivable international conference? Inclusion in these delegations, it is well-known, is a matter of influence and favour, the latter is distributed among officials by turns. Several Ministers, Central and State, are at this moment abroad on vaguely educative or bogus goodwill missions. The education they receive is not reflected in their post-visit policies.

It is the experience of many that all restrictions operate only on those honest and ordinary folk who do not know the "right people", while these are mysteriously relaxed when it comes to people of influence (also their wives and children) and people who know how to bypass regulations without actually getting caught.

It is said that the children of several popular film "stars" are now at school in Europe. Where and how is the foreign exchange found?

Notes & Comments

GOOD BEGINNING

Morarji Desai thinks that the great hold of Nehru on the Congress organisation is due to his being vote catcher *par excellence* at election time. The future Prime Minister of India should also have this qualification and so Morarji has gone to Orissa in his leader's trail to try his prentice hand.

NOT ENOUGH

President Kennedy has asked the American Congress to make available a total of 7300 million dollars for foreign aid over the next five years.

7300 million dollars are equivalent to Rs. 3650 crores of rupees. Our total demand for foreign aid for the 3rd Five year Plan is Rs. 4000 crores. So if the U. S. gives all her foreign aid grant to us, even then there would be a deficit of Rs. 350 crores.

MUDDLED THINKING

The rulers of India have raised the slogan EXPORT OR PERISH.

But even the members of the Government do not speak in one voice in this regard as to who is to export. While the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry told the Lok Sabha that export promotion might be entrusted to the State Trading Corporation, another Union Minister, Nityanand Kanungo, earlier told a meeting in Calcutta that the Government thought it proper that businessmen should be entrusted, more than the Government, with the urgent task of stepping up exports.

A SMALL WHITE HOUSE

The President spends two weeks in the summer in Panchmarhi, a M. P. hill station. A small Rastrapati Bhawan has been built for him there at a cost of Rs. 4,50,000 only.

(DR.) TSOMBE

Mr. Moise Tsombe, President of Katanga, has himself diagnosed his own malady to be claustrophobia, i.e., fear of being kept confined in a room.

Tsombe is in good company; all prisoners convicted of crimes, prisoners of war and political prisoners have been known to be sufferers from this malady; only they are not aware of the scientific name given to it.

STUNTS GALORE

With an endless capacity to deceive themselves and create the illusion that something worthwhile is being done, government in this country keep on adding to the numerous weeks and fortnights, that achieve little beyond giving an opportunity to a few individuals to strut about and feel important.

Very soon we may find every week to be some (emotional integration, courtesy in railways, tree planting...) WEEK and every day of the year some DAY.

QUITE USUAL

It is alleged that a number of powerful Bihar Congressmen commanding almost a dictatorial influence at the Secretariat level have made huge fortunes out of the disposal of stocks of imported raw materials in short supply in black-market at Calcutta and other business centres. The surprising part of the affair is that even when the local Government authorities refused to recommend their case for the issue of essentiality cer-

tificates on the ground of the non-existence of their concerns, the favoured Congressmen somehow managed to obtain them direct from the Secretariat under pressure from ministerial quarters.

Such things are natural concomitants of "controls." While the subjects cannot get any cement or steel, there are always people who can get special permits for these (for sale in the black market) either through bribing or "influence." Congressmen have just as much right (if not more) to indulge in black market operations as anybody else. It is their Government that has imposed controls and they have every right to be their beneficiaries.

A TWO PRONGED ATTACK

Health Minister Karmarkar has stressed the need for a pincer movement against tuberculosis—on economic as well as on preventive fronts. His Cabinet colleague, Morarji, has taken charge of the first. Mounting taxation and increased cost of living are calculated to improve the economic condition of the subjects of the Socialistic Structure. Karmarkar has only to look after the preventive front.

POLITICAL WISDOM

Addressing a public meeting in Durgapur Mr. Nehru said that both sides in Assam should maintain status quo on the language issue for 12 months.

This is very wise advice. By May 1962 the present rulers of India will be firmly seated

on their respective thrones for five years and then they can do what they like which is not feasible in this pre-election year. In course of the next 10 months, the rulers of Assam can also start a few pogroms against their non-Assamese—speaking subjects who may be compelled to leave the State, thus solving the language problem there.

GOOD, BUT BETTER STILL

The summer school in theoretical physics held in Dalhousie was a thumping success. Naturally enough, as it was inaugurated and addressed by the great Indian physicist, Professor Doctor Humayun Kabir. It would have been a much greater success had the Riviera been chosen as the venue of the "school" instead of sleepy Dalhousie in India.

It is best to hold all-India conferences in Europe or America. When Dalhousie is chosen for the "summer school" (whatever that might mean) in physics, Srinagar, Simla, Naini Tal, Mussourie, Darjeeling, not to speak of Ootacamund or Kodaikanal, turn green with envy. That would not happen if the "school" were held in Monaco, Grasse, Nice, San Remo or Cannes.

ELAICHI

After pepper, the most important article of our export trade in spices is CARDAMOM. The promising markets are in Sweden, Arabia, Germany, Russia and U. K.

The only competitor of India in this commodity is Central America.

At present most of the cardamom grown in India comes from Kerala and Mysore (Nilgiris) Sikim is best suited for cardamom cultivation (3000—5000 ft. elevation, shade and well-distributed rainfall), where the average yield is 5 to 8 maunds per acre. With 1300 acres under cardamom cultivation, Sikim exports 50000 maunds a year.

RESULT OF CONTROL ON SUGAR

The subjects of the Welfare (of the rulers) State have now been told the reason for continuance of strict control on sugar that has led to high price for the Indian consumer and accumulation of huge stocks of unsold sugar. We are told that control was necessary in order to maintain the weaker section of the industry against competition from the stronger section. In ordinary language this means that inefficient sugar mills were allowed to survive, and the high price of sugar allowed the better worked and more efficient mills to make huge profits at the cost of the subjects (the rascals !) of the Welfare (of the rulers) State.

In other spheres too, the socialistic structure has promoted survival of the unfittest and made the rich richer.

DIPLOMATIC ILLNESS

Chaliha, Chief Minister of Assam, has a knack of falling ill whenever there is trouble in his demesne, to avoid having to answer awkward questions. This time too, his spine has conveniently saved him from a journey to Durgapur to listen to the tut-

tuts of West Bengal W. C. members.

THE WAY TO DININTEGRATION

Government policies and political devices can do both good and harm, and unfortunately, as in India now, they do more harm than good to Indian integration; for when a Government, to maintain its party in power by any means, encourages alliance with communal organizations (as in Kerala) and puts a premium on gangsterism (as in Assam) it works for one party domination at the price of Indian integration. This is just what the Prime Minister abhors in public but also just what his Government and more positively, his party are working for. Who are then the "architects of Indian disintegration"?

W. C. LASHES OUT BOLDLY

In their Chhota Jamboree at Durgapur the internationally-minded Bharat Bhagya Bidhats were deeply concerned over "Portuguese atrocities in Angola" "deplored factionalism in Congo", "welcomed the Geneva Conference on Laos" "hoped for a satisfactory outcome of the Khrushchev-Kennedy meeting in Geneva," and "welcomed cease fire in Algeria".

We can imagine the shock or the thrill that Messrs. Salazar, Kasavubu, Sonvanna Phouma, Khrushchev, Kennedy and de Gaulle will get when they read the strongly worded resolution passed in the W. C. and the sleepless nights they will pass in consequence.

Pandit Nehru did not say anything about the state of emergency in South Africa. Fidel Castro, South Korea or the Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict to their great chagrin.

RADIO

The A.I.R. & India's Cultural Unity

By R. C. TANDON.

All India Radio has been making special efforts to promote the cultural unity of the country and to bring together in a closer bond speakers of the various Indian languages. A.I.R.'s National Programme of Classics provides a significant instance.

While broadcasts in the regional languages have catered amply for the lovers of classics in those languages, a planned attempt to introduce to the listeners, in all the regions, the best books in all the languages of the country, was started only in May 1959. Behind this attempt has been the realisation that there was so much of rich common heritage, which today was not being shared as widely as it should be, because of linguistic barriers. A tenable thesis would be that these classics in the various languages reflect an emotional integration which the country had already achieved in the past and which only need to be underlined and sustained.

Verse Classics

The National Programme of classics, as a series, consists of featured presentation of classics. To start with, only verse-classics were selected for featurization, but the scope of the series has been enlarged by the inclusion of classics to the average listener, avoiding a pedantic and academic approach. The cooperation of eminent scholars and literary persons is,

however, enlisted in the production and presentation of these programmes.

Selected excerpts from the classics are presented, in the case of verse, in the traditional style of recitation, followed by translation in prose or verse. Brief comments from well-known critics, in the form of symposia or discussions which throw light on the various aspects of the work, are included in the programme. The point worth noting is that basically the same programme is presented simultaneously in all the Indian languages.

Twenty-six programmes so far included in the series represent a coverage of two classics from each of the 13 modern Indian languages and it is a continuing process.

Assamese Classics

From Assamese the series has drawn the 'Bargeets' of Shri Shankar Deva and Madhava Deva. Philosophic in thought, the 'Bargeets' are songs of great lyrical beauty, set to definite *ragas* and *talas*. Leader of the Vaishnava movement in Assam during the latter part of the 15th century, Shankar Deva was a musician and a dramatist besides being a poet. The 'Bargeets' are written in 'Brajbuli' a dialect akin to Braja Bhasha, and can be understood through the best part of north India. Madhava was his illustrious disciple. The other Assamese

work broadcast is *Monomati*, a famous historical novel written by the Late Rajani Kanta Bardoloi, first published 60 years back. It gives a picture of the social and political decay in Assam in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Chandidas

From Bengali the series has had the *Padavali* of Chandidas. The earliest and significant of Vaishnava poets, he proclaimed his humanity in the words "Hearken O brother, Man is the Supreme Truth, there is nothing greater than Man." Also from Bengali is *Meghnad Badh* of Michael Madhusudan Dutt, published just 100 years back. An innovator in verse form and language and the forerunner of modern Bengali literature, he showed originality in his appreciation and interpretation of our traditional classics.

Nalakhyan, from Gujerati, is an outstanding classic based on the widely known episode of Nala and Damayanti, from the Mahabharata. The genius of Premanand has lifted this oft-told tale to the height of a great literary epic. Also by Premanand is *Sudama Charit*, an epic legend presented with great charm. Two Hindi works presented in this programme are *Padmavat* by Malik Muhammad Jayasi, and *Ramcharitmanasa* by Tulsidass both outstanding classics. In the chain of stories

of Rama with which the celebrated names of Valmiki, Kam-ban, and Krittiwasa are connected, Tulasidasa's is no mean contribution. Not only did he recreate the story as a great literary work but he interpreted the social forces of his times and re-established age-old human values. Tulasidasa's is a house-hold name with the Hindi speaking people everywhere.

Kannada Classic

Bharatesh Vaibhava included in the series is a celebrated Kannada classic by the 15th century Jain poet Ratnakara Varni. The legendary hero Bharata (after whom India is called "Bharata Varsha") symbolised the poet's ideal of an integrated life—a life comprehending both *tyaga* and *bhoga*. In its eight cantos, the epic pictures love as the quintessence of life on earth and beyond. The other Kannada classic, *Madhavakaruna Vilasa* is a novel by the late Venkatesh Tirako Kulkarni known as 'Galagnath'. A pioneer work in modern Kannada fiction, the novel depicts the glorious story of the Vijayanagar Empire.

From Kashmir, in the far north, two poetesses have been selected for the series. *Lal Wakh* is a compilation of sayings of Lal Ded, the 14th century mystic poetess. Her philosophy is a charming blending of Sufism and the traditional Shaivism of Kashmir. *Love Lyrics* of Habba Khatoon are compositions of the most

popular Kashmiri poetess, who was also the queen of the Chak dynasty. Her poetry is very popular among women folk whose sentiments have been voiced in it.

Malayalam Literature

Krishna Ghatha of Cheruseri is one of the gems of Malayalam devotional literature, narrating the story of Krishna from the Dashama Skanda of *Bhagwata*. Written in gotha style in the 15th century, it displays great originality and depth of imagination and a genuine sense of humour. *Chandala Bhikshuki* by the late Kumaran Asan is a modern classic, which heralded a romantic revival in Malayalam literature. Written in *Khandakavya* style it depicts an episode from the life of Lord Buddha and exposes the meaninglessness of caste. His style is noted for brevity and aptness of imagery.

Two names known and honoured throughout Maharashtra are those of Daynadeva and Tukarama. At the age of 18, Dnyanadeva had the call to write in Marathi a commentary on the Bhagwad-gita. Rich in its poetry and human outlook, *Dnyaneshwari*, as the work is popularly known, is as dear to the Pandit as to the common man, and has immortalised its author. Sant Tukarama also wrote for the common man and *Abhangas* express his views on different aspects of life and proclaim his deep faith in God. Both the works have been

covered in this programme of classics.

Oriya Poetry

The romantic tale of Laban-yamati, a Ceylonese princess and Chandrabhanu a prince of Karnatak is the theme of Upendrabhanja's poem named after its heroine. Medieval Oriya poetry is to have reached its high watermark in this work, rich alike in its melody and the overpowering beauty of language. The other Oriya classic on which this programme has drawn is a novel, *Chhaman Athaguntha* by the father of modern Oriya prose, Fakir Mohan Senapati. The novel highlights the problems of Oriya peasantry and their exploitation by the rich landlords.

The author achieves his object, fully retaining his sense of humour and mastery of simple Oriya prose.

Punjabi Shalokas

The first Punjabi Sufi poet, Sheikh Farid, who gave his couplets the name of Shalokas was born in a village now in Pakistan in the last quarter of the 12th century. Being constantly, almost unconsciously, used as proverbs by even simple village folk, these *Shalokas* have become a part of the thought pattern of Punjabi. *Pooran Bhagai* by Qadir Yar, a Muslim peasant of Gujranwala district is, however, one of the most popular Punjabi *qissas* rich in romance and pathos. Researchers and critics of Punjabi have acclaimed it as one of the most important and magni-

ficient classic in Punjabi. Both the works have been featured in the national programme of classics.

Two Tamil classics presented in the programme are *Silapadhikaram* and *Kamba Ramayanam*. The first, composed between 200 and 500 A.D. is one of the five epics known as *Panchakavyas*. The author, a princely saint of the royal house of Cheras, Ilango Adikal depicts the tragiromance of Kovalan and Kannagi in a powerful narrative poem of three cantos. Kamban is the poet who produced the immortal epic *Kamba Ramayanam*. Though an adaptation by Valmiki's *Ramayan* it shows an originality of composition and excels in poetic merits and rightly holds a place among the supreme works on its theme.

Telugu Classics

The golden era in the history of Telugu literature was the age of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagar. This was the age of Prabandha poetry, and Telugu poetry became a thing of sheer beauty in the hands of masters. Foremost among them was Allasani Paddana whose *Manucharitra* achieved distinction and popularity not only because of the episode which it describes of Pravara, the innocent Brahmin youth and Varudhini the Gandharva damsel, but also because of the chiselled perfection of its poetry. This work was included in the National Programme of classics as also another, a modern work *Rajasekhara Charitam* by K. Veereslingam

FAMILY PLANNING

Contraceptives

By DR. M. N. SARKAR

'Contraception' and 'Contraceptives' are matters of discussion from several platforms and by groups of individuals from different grades of society during the present status of the country's progressive social and economic development. For us in the profession with responsibility for the prevention of causes leading to social and economic depreciation, diseases consequent upon over production and finally for the propagation of good health and general well-being—there is a special importance to arm ourselves with the latest world-

Pantulu. Pantulu was a radical who brought about great social changes through his powerful writings in the early days of this century.

"Dewan-i-Ghalib"

Urdu has contributed two classics to the programme. Ghalib's short *Dewan* of 1800 lines is one of the most esteemed treasures of Urdu literature and attains the high watermark of Urdu poetic expression. At their best, Ghalib's couplets scintillate wisdom and reveal a masterly economy of words.

Indian literature in the different languages is a great treasure house of classics, and surely there is very much more of interest which can be made use of.

knowledge and to help to spread the same amongst those who may not be as conversant as a professional medical individual is expected to be.

Contraception has been a subject in the routine curriculum of medical study. There are several diseases and physical disabilities consequent upon the normal union of two sexes, which would mean the deposition of the male sperm in the receptive passage and the subsequent onward progress of the sperm cells till the union with the female gonad takes place. Contraception studies the physiological and therapeutic processes to put obstruction to this normal and physiological process. "Contraceptives" are devices and suppliances which are used and adopted to prevent the union of two gonads when intercourse that is, full functional union of the sexes are allowed in a natural way without any limitations. Under the above definition it will be redundant to discuss the current topics of—(1) Safe period, (2) Abnormal and unnatural ways of male ejaculation and (3) last of all—permanent or temporary methods of either male or female sterilisation.

Observance of the 'safe period' is strictly not a contraceptive measure but requires elucidation and explanation both for the general medical

practitioners and for the public.

The varieties of contraceptives are many. It is now accepted that for all practical purposes, contraceptives are most useful and effective when placed in the receptive canal of the female. It may be asked why is it so? Any mechanical barrier acts best if placed in a location where its position is to be disturbed the least. Because of the considerable activity of the male in the sexual act, the only male contraceptive *viz.*, the occlusive condom is frequently torn and defeats the object. Another fact, not to be taken lightly—is that the vigorous male does not like the routine use of a condom. In the female, however the receptive organ is usually passive and so contraceptive is not likely to be much interfered with.

There is a point to be discussed: The female passes her secretions from the internal gonads through the receptive passage and this again anatomically opens into the peritoneal cavity. The vaginal canal and the mouth of the womb opening into it are very often damaged during and after childbirth. An occlusive device which fits snugly in a younger individual may lie loose in the stretched vaginal and widened mouth of the uterus in a parous woman. Spermicidal drugs are chemicals. Some of these interfere with the physiological movement of the sperm cells and others actually kill them. These latter if used continuously may in

time damage the lining of the vaginal and of the cervical canal.

The male partner in the sexual act is the person who needs to be instructed about the proper use of the contrivance to be used by him, he has further to be warned against some of the consequences of improper use and his co-operation is to be sought in helping his sexual partner about her part in helping contraception.

It can be dogmatically declared that the condom is the only contraceptive for the man. To make this contrivance absolutely dependable it should always be used with an occlusive, either a rubber check pessary or an occlusive chemical in the passage of the female. For perfect contraception the sexual act should begin with the organ harnessed with the condom and the same should be removed after going away from the other partner. Each time a fresh condom should be used, except for economic reasons when the same condom may be used over again—but never more than on three occasions. Elaborate instructions about the cleansing and drying it should be learnt by the user.

The passive partner, the female—is usually the important individual to be elaborately trained in the use of contraceptives. These may be: (1) chemicals in the shape of jellies—foaming tablets—lubricants; (2) occlusives charged with chemicals or without them and these again may be placed: (a)

in the vault of the vagina: (b) round about the vaginal portion of the cervix, or (c) in the cervical canal. The choice will depend upon the complete assessment of the following important factors, *viz.*,

- (1) The intelligence and competency of the user to understand the details of application.
- (2) The anatomical state of the birth canal—as well as pathological conditions if any.
- (3) The economic status and the domestic surroundings.
- (4) The husband's libido—the psychology of the partners in mutual co-operation in the sex act—their sex play and the degree of the intensity of the desire to prevent conception.

It will be seen that contraceptives are not mere contrivances which a doctor or a public health worker just prescribes in the course of his routine duty nor is it enough for the patient to buy the same and to use it.

Not only is it necessary for the instructor to know how an apparatus works, but it is very important for him to study the sex psychology of the pair in question as also to examine the birth canal or the sex apparatus of the individual or individuals concerned.

Congress and Group Politics

By P. CHAKRAVERTI

While admonishing the members of Congress Legislature Party in U.P., who abstained from attending the opening session of the U.P. Legislature when it was being addressed by the Governor, the Central Parliamentary Board has drawn the attention of all State Congress Organisations and Legislature Parties to the basic policy that the existence of any group within the Party must on no account be tolerated and that any attempt at group formation or signature campaigns of one group against another will in future be considered breaches of discipline.

In addressing the Conference of Presidents and Secretaries recently held at Jullundur, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru strongly put forward that the Organisation must fight against all forms of groupism which was a continuous abomination. He pointed out that this form of groupism undermined the organisation itself and, as a result of group manoeuvres, the first rate man—the decent man—was relegated to the background and only third-rate people came to power. The character of the Congress was likely to be vitiated if the people, having no integrity and principles, assumed power through groupism. This form of constantly applying one's energy and labour to the task of pulling down others through all possible tactics did not testify to high level of culture and nobility. It indicated a form of immaturity

of mind and character and the organisation manned by such inferior people also suffered most.

No Isolated Case

This warning is not an isolated case. The President of Indian National Congress, the Working Committee and the Parliamentary Board had occasions to issue clear directives to Congressmen from time to time and warn them against formation of groups within the Congress in unmistakable terms. The occasional outbursts of group wrangles intensified by acrimonious passions had to be dealt with at the State level and the Working Committee and Parliamentary Board, as the final authority, took measures to curb these fissiparous tendencies.

The different States faced different problems arising out of interplay of forces that had a predominant say in the State politics and attempts were made not without success to resolve the growing conflicts through the mediation of the State leadership. Of course, it was expected to work within the confines of the basic principles that had been evolving steadily on an all-India pattern but unfettered by doctrinaire rigidity. A considerable measure of initiative had been left to the State Congress and Congress Party in State Legislatures thereby affording opportunities for the emergence of effective leadership and this answered the purpose to a large extent.

It was only when the contending claims of rival Congressmen took a menacing attitude and brought to the fore disruptive tendencies that undermined the solidarity of the organisation that the Working Committee and Parliamentary Board handled the situation and tried to put a stop to any unhappy development.

It left no room for doubts that any Congressman, however highly placed he might be, would not be allowed to challenge the accepted principles and practices of Congress and thereby bring about chaos and confusion in the organisation. The question of unity and co-ordinated work had been emphasised without equivocation.

Clear Directive

It was in 1950, in the month of April, that the Working Committee had to take up a similar question regarding the activities of some Congress members of the Legislature Party in U.P. who, as a protest against the Provincial administration, left the seats allotted to the Congress members in the Chamber and took separate seats. The Central Parliamentary Board advised them to return to their original seats. The matter came up before the Working Committee. The latter was of the opinion that the behaviour of these Congress members constituted an act of great indiscipline and decided that

they should be asked to express their regret to the Leader of the Legislature Congress Party and to return to their original seats immediately. In the event of some members not agreeing to do so, they would be asked to show why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

Similarly, in December 1950, the Working Committee had to take decision with regard to the formation of 'Congress Democratic Front' by Acharya Kripalani. His action was deemed to be improper likely to give lead to dissensions in the Congress. It was pointed out that it should be the effort of all Congressmen to strengthen the organisation by working for the removal of all defects that might have crept into the organisation. But unity could by no means be effected. Acharya Kripalani was requested to dissolve his separate group.

In the A.-I.C.C. meeting, held at Ahmedabad, in January, 1951, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru moved the official resolution which was seconded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Shri Sampurnanand supported the resolution. It specifically pointed "it is necessary for Congressmen to put aside the differences and co-operate for the larger cause which the Congress represents. The A.-I.C.C. has noted with regret that certain tendencies are at work which must inevitably weaken and partly disrupt the national organisation. The Congress itself has, during its

long history sheltered varieties of opinion, but has at the same time succeeded in having a large measure of harmonious working. Nothing should be done on partisan lines which may be injurious in the larger interests of the Congress and of the country. The formation of special groups in the Congress either on the part of a majority or a minority is to be deprecated as they tend to create hostile factions and disrupt the organisation.

"The A.-I.C.C. directs the Working Committee and all the P.C.C.s to work with large outlook so as to diminish and overcome the tendencies which weaken the organisation and to make the organisation an efficient instrument in the nation's service."

Breach of Discipline

In its meeting held in April 1951, the Working Committee adopted a resolution reading as follows :

"The Working Committee have noted with regret a growing lack of discipline among Congressmen as well as in Congress Committees and Congress Parliamentary Parties, and an encouragement of disruptive tendencies, which come in the way of effective work and do injury to the Congress prestige and the objective for which it works. In the circumstances of today, the maintenance of discipline among Congressmen is particularly necessary and breaches of it must be dealt with according to rules made therefor. No

separate parties can be formed within the Congress and Congressmen must not condemn or criticise policies which have been adopted by the Congress or by Congress Government, except in Party or Committee meetings. Members of Congress Parliamentary Parties must bear this in mind in all their activities in Parliament or the State Assemblies. Any activity contrary to this will be considered a breach of discipline. The Committee, therefore, call upon all Congressmen, in whatever sphere of activity they may function, to act with restraint and in keeping with the traditions and dignity of the Congress."

In the A.-I.C.C. meeting held in Bangalore, 1951, Sri Rajgopalachari on behalf of the Working Committee moved a resolution which was seconded by Shri G. B. Pant and was unanimously accepted. The resolution pointed out that, in the course of long struggle for freedom, the Congress functioned as a national front leading that struggle. In the changed circumstances, after the attainment of independence, it had naturally to function more as a disciplined political party working for the attainment of its objectives. The Congress discipline must be maintained and where any charges of irregularity in the working of the organization are made and appear to have some prima facie justification, these should be

investigated in a prompt and impartial manner. The Congress did not approve of the formation of groups within its fold as this would impair the strength and efficiency of the organisation.

Shri Nehru's Letter

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on his assuming the office of Presidentship of Indian National Congress in Sept. 1951 addressed a letter to the Presidents of P. C. C.s. He pointed out that he attached great importance to the removal of the spirit of faction from the Congress organisation. He stated—"we have suffered in the past from groups, majority or minority, and we have also had a considerable number of resignation from the Congress. We have had many complaints in the past about conflicts and difficulties both in P. C. C.s. and D. C. Cs. All this requires looking into and, whenever necessary, reorganisation. We should not hesitate to do so. The measure of success that we have in building up a strong and united Congress organisation will be the measure of success not only in the election but in the other important work that faces us. The whole point is creating an impression in the Congress and in the public generally that we are all co-operating to further the great work of the Congress."

In February 1952, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru addressed a letter to all Congress candidates, who contested the General Elections, giving his impression of the state of country or of

Congress organisation. He remarked that organisation was not properly functioning. It was essential that the Congress should function as a compact political party with well defined economic programme and proper discipline had to be maintained.

He said, "we can no longer carry on in a loose and inchoate way. Let us have a broad enough basis, but a Congressman must believe in and act with certain principles and policies. On no account should faction and sectional groups in the Congress be tolerated in future. We have to function as a disciplinary organisation with definite objectives and with continuous work to attain them."

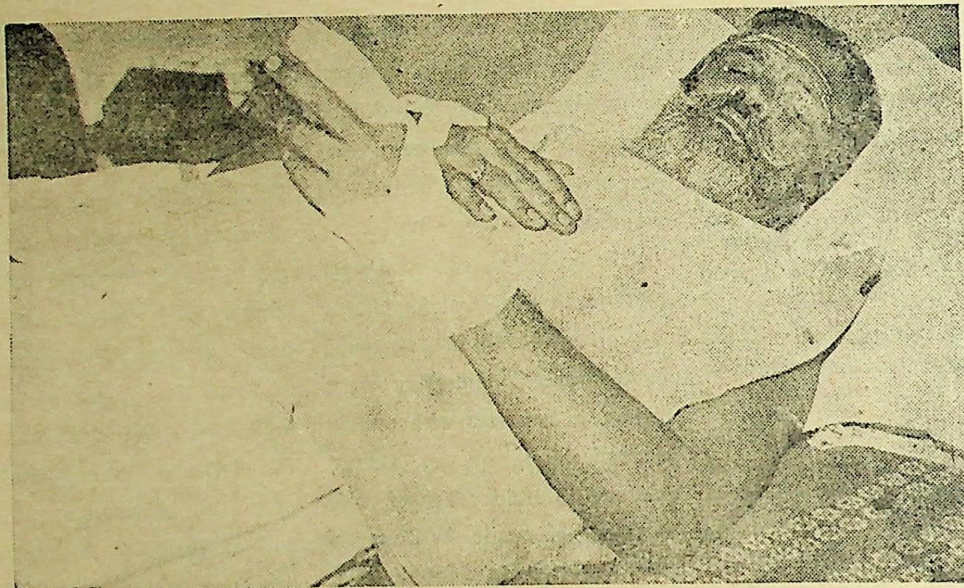
Unifying Force

In a letter, addressed to the Presidents of P.C.C.s in November, 1953 Shri Nehru remarked. "It is the principal business of Congress today to continue to be cementing and unifying force. If the Congress or Congressmen pull in different ways, the unity of organisation is affected and that will immediately react on the unity of the country. Therefore, it is of essential importance to see things in proper perspective and not allow ourselves to be swept away by some passion or feeling."

In a letter addressed to the Presidents, in May 1954, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru said "I have been convinced of the high importance of Congress functioning today carrying on its work of unifying and integrating India. The first thing to be borne in mind by Congressmen is the gravity and urgency of this moment, and the demands that it makes upon the organisation as well as upon all of us individuals. We must not loose ourselves, as unfortunately we often do, in smaller problems and or in petty disputes. For any organisation to be effective, it must have discipline and effective work to its credit. That discipline need not be the narrow discipline of a sect, but it has to be an effective discipline. Otherwise, the organisation becomes just a loose collection of human beings with no clear purpose or will to work. I have noticed with deep regret conflicts among Congressmen in some States. Where such conflicts occur, regardless of the merits of the question, there is narrowmindedness and lack of vision, and sometimes there are group loyalties or caste considerations. Both have no place in a great movement, both are disruptive. Ours is a work of construction, not disruption."

(To be Concluded)

3RD JUNE : 1958
[LEST WE FORGET.....]



Pandit M. S. M. Sharma, veteran journalist who died last November, was the victim of a murderous attack three years ago to-day, by hired hooligans engaged apparently by Sharma's political enemies. Sharma, luckily, got away with injuries that kept him bed-ridden for a month and only the index finger of his right hand was immobilised for a few months.

The *Blitz*, of Bombay, carried the following news from its Bihar correspondent, regarding the attack:

"The murderous attack at high noon on a public thoroughfare on the 62-year-old Chief Editor of the daily 'Searchlight', M. S. M. Sharma, by half a dozen hooligans continues to agitate the public of the State."

The despatch described: "The Government's failure to track down the assailants has created tension and bitter feelings against Chief Minister Sri Krishna Sinha are mounting." The report further states: "During the stormy debate in

the State Bidhan Sabha on this ugly incident speaker after speaker, including Congressmen, denounced the assault and said there was political motive behind it. Some went to the extent of bluntly stating that the Chief Minister's specific reference in the Bidhan Sabha, a few days earlier, to Mr. Sharma as 'the mad Editor of a mad newspaper' had inspired the attackers." The Correspondent, walking back through the corridor of time recollects, in a spell of flashback: "Editor Sharma, a crusading journalist all his life courted arrest during the freedom struggle more than 20 years ago and was a jail companion of Chief Minister Sinha."

"However," the report adds, "today Editor Sharma was the same crusading editor, but against casteism, communalism, and Congress parochialism which powers-that-be here did not relish." In the concluding lines of the despatch, there is a reiteration of the demand voiced by representative public opinion in Bihar that "if the Bihar Government is unfit to meet

justice to this veteran leader; the Union Home Ministry must step in the picture and bring to book not only the attackers, but also their cowardly backers."

In the angry and spontaneous reactions throughout the State that followed this unprecedented attack on a journalist, the Governments' soothing—and embarrassed—assurances of locating the hooligans and their employers failed, as expected. This assault, for one thing, further strengthened the old fighter Sharma to carry on, ruthlessly exposing political rackets and championing the cherished cause of civil liberty. The "Sermon of Lathis", as he used to term the attack in pungent prose, only accelerated the fight editor Sharma was waging mostly much alone, against the then political regime. A comic equal to this fight was witnessed less than a year later, at a famous house on the Boring Road where, among others, the chief acquirers of this assault were begging of Sharma, to forgive and forget, at any terms.

(Contd. on next page)

LOCAL NEWS

★Railway Ram & Lal Bahadur Shastri★ Against K. B.—M. P.

● By Our Political Correspondent ●

Patna :

The unusual tie-up of Messrs K. B. Sahay & M. P. Sinha, group-leaders in the Bihar Congress is apparently facing difficulties unexpected by them, and their more turbulent supporters.

The A. I. C. C. session at Durgapur held last week provided the opportunity to stalwarts of this group to sell their thesis to the Congress brass. According to quarters close to Sri Jagjiwan Ram, their antics cut no ice with the seasoned Sri Ram whose support is regarded as frightfully important for any decisive move in Bihar Congress. The Railway minister's campaigning and support for Pt. B. N. Jha during the leader-

(Contd. from last page)

But that's another story that must await proper narration in a logical sequence, later. *Meanwhile, all those who cherish a democratic way of life as against the fascist way would like the government of Pandit Binoda Nand Jha, and Satyendra Narayan Sinha to atleast cause a thorough and fool-proof investigation to ferret out the attackers who might have killed M. S. M. Sharma, if providence had not interfered. And Sharma was the man ever so much responsible for the political changes in Bihar to-day.*

—Argus

ship election in February contributed greatly to B. N. Jha and his group's victory. Various subsequent developments particularly in the sphere of the administration has reportedly upset Sri Ram but not to the extent of withdrawing either his personal regard for and support of the B. N. Jha Ministry. At Durgapur, where Assam predominated, great efforts on the part of the K. B. Sahay & M. P. Sinha to interest the Congress President and Sri Nehru about their judgement and prophecies proved to be futile. Sri Morarji Desai was the solitary Congress leader of any standing who found time to talk—as expected. *It is most reliably learnt that Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Home Minister who holds a pivotal position in the Election Sub-Committee appointed by the Congress Working Committee bluntly advised K. B. Sahay to stop running the kind of circus now being played in Bihar Congress, and make-up with Pt. B. N. Jha.* After weeks' of assiduous cultivation of people close to the Home Ministry to gain his important support, this attitude of Shastri has completely frustrated the game of the rebel group.

On June 1, immediately after his return to Patna, K. B. caused a press-meeting to be called where, by and large, newsmen known for their soft-corner for K. B. were invited.

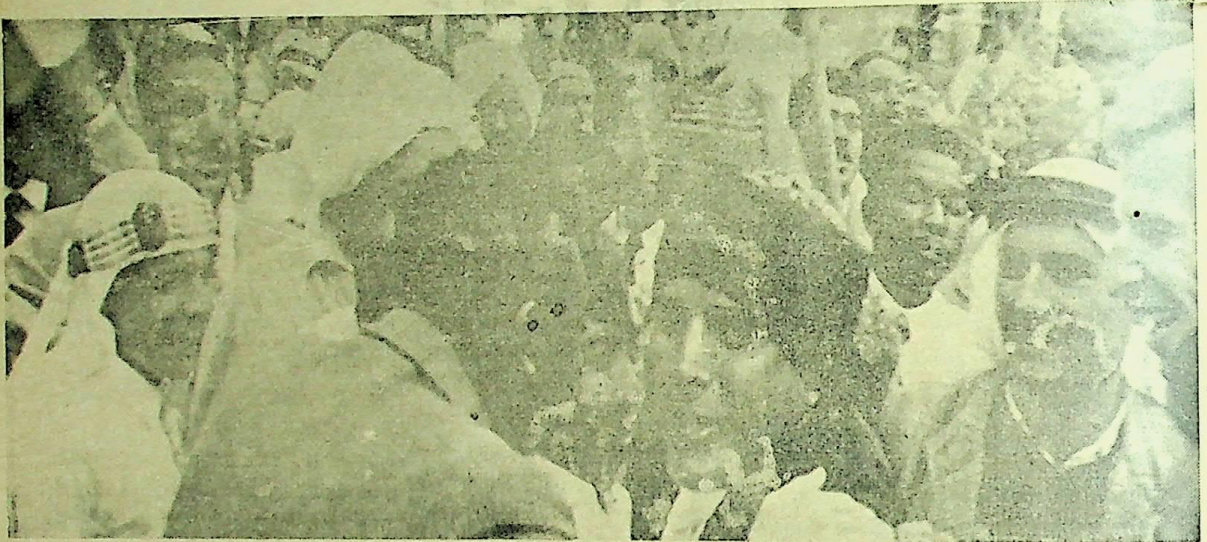
His reported statements there indicate that he is now trying hard to save face and make up, if possible, with the ruling group.

Among other things, providing a comic interlude, he stated at the Press meeting that M. P. Sinha's interests were supreme in his mind....

The requisition meeting of the B. P. C. C., fixed for June 14 where K. B.'s former lieutenant and now, apparently his political mentor, Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav will move his unique resolution seeking to entrust the next election-victory of the Bihar Congress in the hands of a trinity comprising A. Q. Ansari, K. B. Sahay and M. P. Sinha is likely to flop miserably, in view of the Congress President's categorical statement that the sub committee, if appointed, will have nothing to do either with selection of candidates or raising disbursement of funds—spheres where real power lie. Reiteration of the same theme by Sri Rajagopalan, Genl. Secretary of the A. I. C. C. in Delhi on Friday has further damped the rebels.

Fresh and important political overtures are expected to be in evidence after the Chief Minister's return, on June 4.

The Moscow Film Festival



A still from the film "There is One Sky Above Us." Amazing composition and filming of crowd scenes initiated by Sergai Eisenstern, regarded as a pioneer in new film forms and 'The father of the Soviet cinema,' is evident even in this documentary film.

MOSCOW, May 26 :—Over fifty countries will take part in the Second International Film Festival which will open in Moscow on July 9, the USSR Minister of Culture Yekaterina Furtseva said today at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists arranged by the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry of Culture of the USSR.

The conference was held in the crowded assembly hall of the Ministry of Culture and developed into a lively, unconstrained conversation between the correspondents and the Minister.

Yekaterina Furtseva came to the microphone and immediately began to reply to correspondent's questions.

She said that the Moscow Festival would be even more representative than the Cannes Festival both for the number of countries taking part and the number of leading film-makers attending.

Yekaterina Furtseva said that invitations had been sent to Sophia Loron, Simone Signoret, Luchina Visconti, and Ives Montand. We should also like to see at the festival Federico Fellini, Jean Gabin, Fernandel, Otto Fischer and other prominent directors and stars.

Asked about the Soviet films to be shown at the festival, Yekaterina Furtseva said that final decision would be made in a week's time. Of the films considered for this honour she mentioned the new films "Clear Skies" by Grigory Chukhrai and "Two Lives" by Leonid Lukov.

At the request of the correspondents, the Minister named some of the films already submitted to the festival. Among them are "The Trial of Oscar Wilde" (Britain), "The Big Catch" (Norway), "Struggle Without Weapons" (Japan), "The City Will Perish Tonight" (Poland), "The Last Winter" (Denmark), "The Family of the Revolutionary" (China), "The Scandal at the Women's Gymnasium" (Finland), and "A Big Concert at the Request of the Audience" (Austria).

French correspondents asked Yekaterina Furtseva about her impressions of the Cannes Festival. She said that she regarded the festival as a very interesting and important event. Such meetings enable intellectuals and art workers of different countries to get to know each other better, to trust each other more, and to assimilate each other's experience.

Many journalists asked Yeka-

terina Furtseva to name the best recent Soviet films. She listed such films as "Clear Skies", story of the war years "Yeydokia", "Two Lives", "My Friend, Kolka".

The Minister of Culture of the USSR said that all foreign films which earned recognition at the festival would be purchased by the Soviet Union.

Sergei Yutkevich, the noted Soviet film producer, spoke at the press conference. He said that the aim of the Moscow Festival was to promote a major creative discussion among masters of the world cinema on big problems of contemporary art, especially the artist's responsibility to his epoch.

Sergei Yutkevich said that two international festival juries had been set up. The feature film jury has 17 members including director Luchino Visconti (Italy), critics Roger Menzell (Britain), Erzy Teplic (Poland), Leon Moussimac (France), producer Joshua Logan (United States), directors Karel Zeman (Czechoslovakia) and Sergei Gerasimov (USSR).

The short-length film jury has eleven members including producers Joris Ivens (the Netherlands), Henri Stork (Belgium) and Roman Karmen (USSR).—Tass

"The Prince of Oyster Bay"

By ARTHUR CALDER-MARSHALL on Jack London

He was fifteen. He had left school two years before because there was no money to continue. His mother was no real mother to him, she was too busy summoning up the spirits with the neighbours round at seances and thinking of money-making schemes which always went wrong because the spirits gave the wrong advice. The man who was like a father to him, John London, was not his real father; though who his real father was he could not find out.

For two years after leaving school he had been a dutiful son, at first delivering newspapers and earning money cleaning out saloons and waiting on the bowling alleys, then later working in the cannery, ten cents an hour, in the high season working sometimes twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day. And he looked across at the Golden Gate and said to himself: 'Oakland is a good place to get away from'. He got away in the books he read from the free library, *Typee* and the voyages that led across the horizon to the lands beyond the horizon. And he got away in the little boat he bought when he was thirteen for a couple of dollars, and then later in a better boat he went fishing for rock cod off Goat Island, beating the Bay in high weather the old salts refused to believe he could sail in.

Now, at fifteen, he had thrown over the respectable life and with money borrowed from his old Negro foster mother, Mammy Jenny, he had bought the sloop *Razzle-Dazzle* from French Frank, the oyster pirate. There was no money to be made in the cannery, ten cents an hour, ten hours a day. But raiding the oyster beds at night, selling to the saloons, he could make as

much in a night as he made in three weeks at the cannery. And it was adventure, romance, a training for what lay beyond the Golden Gate.

He was, I have said, fifteen; and he thought that all he bought from French Frank was the *Razzle-Dazzle*. But French Frank had a girl called Mamie who was nicknamed the Queen of the Oyster Pirates. French Frank, who was fifty, wanted to marry her. But Mamie took one look at this wildly handsome, lusty young boy who was fifteen, and she went with the *Razzle-Dazzle*.

Jack London was very strong and very good-looking and determined to stand up to the men he found himself with. The one he most admired was a reckless maniac of twenty called Young Scratch Nelson, who when drunk was capable of appalling violence; but Jack admired him because he was a sailor of astonishing skill and daring. One morning passing by the Last Chance saloon, Jack was hailed by the object of his worship and asked to have a drink. Jack hated drink—but he adored Nelson and he went into the saloon. He took a schooner of beer with Nelson and tried to draw him out about sailing. The beer finished, Nelson waited and then ordered him another and another and another. Jack was fascinated by his hero and appalled by his extravagance, because each round represented one hour's work in a cannery. After six, he said that he had to go back to the *Razzle-Dazzle*, anchored nearby.

But he did not go back. He sat down on the wharf and puzzled out why his

hero had spent on him the equivalent of six hours' work in the cannery. As he sat on the wharf in the sunshine with six beers under his belt, he suddenly realized that his hero Young Scratch Nelson had stood him six drinks because he wondered how many drinks he had to stand before Jack stood one back. 'I could feel myself blushing with shame', he wrote twenty years later. 'I buried my face in my hands. And the heart of my shame burned up my neck and into my cheeks and forehead. I have blushed many times in my life, but never have I experienced so terrible a blush as that one'.

He went back to the Last Chance. Young Nelson was standing outside. 'Come on and have a beer', he said. They went back in, and this time it was Jack who stood treat, knocking back the beer which he hated. He had 'achieved a concept'. Money no longer counted. It was comradeship that counted.

This episode Jack London recorded in *John Barleycorn* as very significant in his alcoholic history. He saw himself as someone who was drawn to comradeship and frustrated by the fact that the comradeship he really enjoyed was always with alcohol. 'I was deciding', he wrote, 'between money and men, between niggardliness and romance'.

There was of course no reason for him to pose this as a dilemma, either niggardliness or prodigality: no logical reason. But it was his nature always to go to the extreme—in his own words 'to outdo the other chap in his own game'.

Having started on this fifteen-year-old drinking, he tried to prove to his comrades that if they drank, he could

drink even more. He was nicknamed Prince of the Oyster Pirates, not for his daring but for drinking and standing treat. Luckily his physique was superb and his constitution strong. Even so, within a year, after three weeks of continued drinking at Benicia, he fell paralytically drunk into the water in the Carquinez Straits, and making no effort to save himself decided to 'go out upon the tide'. He had been in the water over four hours before he sobered up and managed to reach a fishing boat returning to harbour.

Death had an extraordinary attraction for him; placing his life in danger gave an edge to living. One might say this was because he belonged to the post-pioneer generation. Certainly London himself, as a maturely thinking man, considered this pioneering instinct as something surviving in himself and his contemporaries. It is very strong as a theme in *The Valley of the Moon*, his last considered novel. But all the same much of his very special desire of his to outdo everyone in his own particular sphere; the urge for excellence. And because the men he admired were courageous, and largely daring, this meant a frequent skirmishing with death.

I do not want to make this sound morbid. Jack London had a pride in doing everything well, even working in the laundry of the Belmony Academy, learning to wash and iron and starch quicker, better, with greater economy of movement; the details of farming which he learnt from his foster-father John London, the ingenuity of showing radishes and carrots together, thinning out the slow-growing carrots by harvesting the quick-growing radishes. Anything that was skill or knack—slapping the tenderloin steak into a hot, ungreased pan, for example—fascinated him.

Violence, Death and Killing

There was something morbid all the same about his concern with violence and death and killed more people in his pages than Jack London. In his short story 'Yah! Yah! Yah!', which is his record, he killed 7,000 people in 7,000 words. But the mortality in all his books is terrific; and so picturesque. Of Young Scratch Nelson, the boyhood hero whom I mentioned, he wrote: 'When he was shot in Benicia, a couple of years later, the coroner said he was the greatest-shouldered man he had ever seen laid on a slab'. Does a phrase like that toll a bell for you? Everyone is so concerned with tracing the influence of Gertrude Stein on Ernest Hemingway as a sort of literary aunt, that Jack London is forgotten as Hemingway's literary uncle; Hemingway is the second generation of the pioneers with no country to open up.

Of course Jack London was not the genuine pioneer. He had already seen the appalling results of the early pioneering. He went in search of the lost epic virtues of America, the continuation at the close of the nineteenth century of that lust for adventure which he traced in his own veins back to the Vikings whom he was sure were his ancestors—perhaps with justification. So when he was frozen in for a winter seventy miles from Klondike, with a motley of men all drawn by the lure of gold, the dominant subject of conversation was the breakdown of the capitalist system and the inevitability of socialism.

I am not impugning Jack London's socialism if I say that it was interwoven with a number of entirely contradictory threads. Karl Marx, Herbert Spencer, and Darwin were all mixed up with Rudyard Kipling, Herman Melville, Stevenson, Conrad, H. G. Wells, and even, towards the end of his life, with

Havelock Ellis and Sigmund Freud.

His heredity was strange. His mother was a Miss Flora Wellman, daughter of a comparatively rich Ohian engineer and inventor. Clever and herself inventive, Flora was neurotic and unstable. As a result of typhoid at the age of twenty she lost so much hair that she wore a wig for the rest of her life. She had to wear spectacles; and perhaps to counterbalance this and the fact that she had no vision of God she developed psychic powers.

She ran away from home at the age of twenty five and never communicated with her family again. She went to live with an astrologer of Irish extraction, who called himself 'Professor' Chaney for business reasons and when not casting horoscopes wrote about socialism and the economic and political ills of the world, for a strange magazine called, paradoxically, *Common Sense*. They never married and when Jack was one month in her womb, Flora either pretended to shoot herself or really cried and failed, as she subsequently failed with all her bright ideas. Professor Chaney was run out of San Francisco and shortly after Jack was born Flora married a widower named John London. The idea was that she would look after his children, but in fact his children, especially the elder daughter, Eliza, looked after Jack.

His illegitimacy, to which he came gradually but from an early age, was an important thread in the warp of his character. His father was unknown. So Jack was nobody. Or alternatively he was anybody. His illegitimacy made him in a strange way a premature citizen of the classless society of the future. One of the books that most influenced him as a boy was Ouida's novel, *Signa*, about the illegitimate son of an Italian peasant girl and a vagabond artist who rose

from poverty to become a great musician. If he had really known his parentage, Jack London would have been fixed. As it was, he became the Prince of the Oyster Bay and later the Boy Socialist, and finally the Prince of Story-tellers, a wonderful alternation of roles.

Add to heredity the oddities of environment, the steady constructive husbandry of his forterfather, John London, with his lessons of rebuilding the heart of the soil which had been weakened by the greed of the snatch-crop farmers; his mother's clever, febrile schemes for making money quickly, always more quickly than she had the money to finance; the generosity of his foster-mother, Mammy Jenny, who came to his aid without question when she had money and Jack was in need; and the steady, practical love of his step-sister Eliza, who with Mammy Jenny gave him the care and affection which his neurotic, spiritualist mother was too busy to give.

Rebellion and Devotion

His writing began as a means of breaking away from the slavery of unskilled labour and the danger of illegal oyster-piracy. But it was also a vocation, in devotion to which he spent longer hours for less money to begin with than he did in the cannery or the jute-mill or the laundry. It was also the means of his rising socially from the poverty of the Oakland slums to the wealth whose opportunities he admired as much as he despised its abuses. In his thirties he described himself as in search of the boyhood he had never had; and he bought it as an adult as carelessly as he bought Young Scratch Nelson beers in the Last Chance saloon.

This is the strange thing: that situation of the boy on the quayside, with a family pinched for bare subsistence yet flinging his money away like dirt, was repeated over and over and

over again. And as Jack London earned more and more, so, to keep the sharp bite of poverty at his heels, he had to spend more and even more; and there was always a reason, because, poor bastard among men, he had to be a prince. The sufferings of others could not be denied, the strikers victimized and being railroaded, the ex-lag out of goal begging for a new start, the widow of a comrade begging fifteen dollars or fifty for doctor's expenses. As he grew more and more famous, the circle became wilder, while the old dependents clung like leeches. His mother, his first wife fighting for her two children, his second wife, her aunt, her uncle, her aunt's partner, his friends. Only Mammy Jenny and his step-sister Eliza remained true friends.

Jack London was not 'a pure artist'; he learnt the art of story telling when he was a 'burn' on the road and knocked at the door and then pitched the tale best calculated to get him a square meal and a quarter to help him on his way. But at his best he was a wonderful storyteller, as fresh as D. H. Lawrence, as sensitive and as crude; the one great natural genius of American literature in this century, and the most fertile influence.

Just as Rupert Brooke was the symbol in England of a generation fighting in the first world war, so Jack London was the symbol right through the world of the emergent twentieth century man, romantic, tough, courageous, ranging the continents of the earth, the freeman of all classes—and yet the champion of the underdog: a Robin Hood of letters, the man who put heart back into the exploited workers. In those early years of the century, phrases like the New Age, the New Dawn were as fresh as lettuce straight from the garden. And Jack London and his lusty, blond,

beastly heroes were in the vanguard, waving the Red Flag of Revolution and selling short stories to *The Saturday Evening Post* at 1,000 dollar at time.

What made him was what smashed him. He was convinced that he could stand up like a pugilist to the violent slugging of American capitalism at the beginning of this century and beat it. He was prepared to die on the barricades.

But he was not prepared for the strain of earning nearly 1,000,000 dollars in twenty years and earning the money to preserve the balance between affluence and penury as precariously as in his childhood. That creative flow of experience began to give out; and then his belief in other people gave out, as he saw that he had surrounded himself not with 'gay comrades' but with bloodsuckers; and then his belief in love gave out as he saw his second wife, Charmian Kittredge, not just as she had become but as she had always been, a boring unattractive, selfregarding child who had never grown up. Finally, his kidneys gave up and his body swelled and became monstrous to him; and to him the body was important because he did not believe in his soul. So he took an overdose of morphine and killed himself.

Initiator of Prohibition

When he was attacked by fellow socialists for his unorthodox views of the class struggle, he said: 'I think I may have hastened the triumph of socialism by ten minutes'. What he certainly did, with his alcoholic autobiography *John Barleycorn*, was to inaugurate the Prohibition Laws which killed more American through alcoholic poisoning than Jack London himself killed in his gory fiction, and established a gangster system even more terrible than the capitalism against which he fought in his lifetime. But against this

(Contd. on page 547)

RADIO

BBC's "London Forum" Brains Trust



In the fourteen years since it first went on the air the "London Forum" programme broadcast weekly in the B.B.C. General Overseas Service has established a high reputation for variety, both in the range of its discussions and in the way in which it has used the techniques of radio to conduct these lively exchanges of opinion, often linking speakers as far apart in physical distance as in their views on the subjects under discussion.

Until recently subjects for discussion had always been chosen in London, but in April a new monthly Brains Trust was introduced in which questions invited from listeners in all parts of the world are discussed by broadcasters with wide knowledge and experience. The picture shows the first Brains Trust in session at Bush House in London, headquarters of the BBC External Services. Seated (left to right): Bernard Williams, Lecturer in Philo-

sophy at University College, London; Bernard Storey, the Chairman; Frank Byers, widely travelled businessman and former Liberal Member of Parliament; and Margaret Lane, novelist, biographer and journalist author of the recently published "A Calabash of Diamonds." Standing: Muriel Howlett, the producer.

In every Brains Trust the aim will be to provide a panel of speakers who can talk interestingly and entertainingly from wide knowledge and varied experience. If questions submitted by listeners reveal a marked interest in certain specific subjects speakers will be found who are specialists in those fields.

The Brains Trust will be broadcast as the first "London Forum" in each month, and book prizes—usually favourably reviewed new publications—will be awarded to the listeners who send in the questions selected for discussion. The

subjects for discussion will be considered on the Monday preceding each broadcast, and questions should be addressed to "London Forum", BBC, Bush House, Strand, London, W. C. 2.

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LETTER

POLITICS AND MUSLIM WOMEN

Sir—Through the columns of your esteemed journal I want to draw the attention of the Election Committee of the B.P.C.C. to the desirability and need of giving some tickets to Muslim women for contesting the General Elections. Viewed superficially the proposal would appear to be ridiculous, narrow minded and probably not worth taking serious note of. It would be, however, worth while for the Congress High Command to appreciate the deep implications of this problem particularly in the back ground of our endeavours for building up a "Socialistic" pattern of society. Women generally and Muslim women particularly are pathetically callous to their own social, educational, political and economic problems. For building up a socialistic pattern of society it is however necessary that women are given due encouragement to assert themselves and to gain a sense of confidence not only in their domestic affairs but in matters outside their homes as well. Muslim women generally do not dare to come out to take part in political activities for so many reasons. The Congress organisation cannot afford to ignore the existence and effects of such a state of things. This problem in its manifold aspects is so clear that it hardly needs any elucidation.

Ordinarily it might be difficult to find suitable candidates from amongst Muslim women but it would be in the larger

interest of the Congress organisation itself to give a correct lead in this direction in order to uplift them though it may mean defeat of some party candidates at some places. Such a step will however undoubtedly go a long way to build a healthy tradition.

I would, therefore, appeal to the Election Committee of the B.P.C.C. to give an imaginative lead by giving a few tickets to some desirable Muslim women of the State in suitable constituencies for being elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Bagum Roshan Rahman,
Gopalpur, Purnea

CHILDREN WHO REMEMBER THEIR PAST

Sir,—For some years I have been studying the evidence for reincarnation and this summer plan to visit India to investigate at first hand a number of cases of children who claim to remember previous lives.

I will be grateful if you will publish this letter in your newspaper in order that I may ask your readers to send me accounts of cases suggestive of reincarnation which come to their attention.

Information about cases should be sent to Sri H. N. Banerjee, Honorary Director, Seth Sohan Lal Memorial Institute of Parapsychology, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan. Mr. Banerjee will collect the information about the cases and assist me in my investigation of them this summer in July and August.

We are interested in both old and new cases, so reader should

not hesitate to send us information about cases on the grounds that they may be already know to us.—IAN STEVENSON
M.D. (Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurology and
Psychiatry University of Virginia
Hospital) Charlottesville,
Virginia, U.S.A.

(Contd. from page 547)

legacy of anti-socialism must be placed. *The Call of the Wild, Martin Eden, The Valley of the Moon*, and a large number of short stories.

Whether the world is better for his living is a matter of opinion but it is certainly different.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER :
CHAPRA DIVISION :
P.W.D.

TENDER NOTICE

Scaled tenders on form obtainable from the office of undersigned on payment of Rs. 5/- each, atleast one day before the date of receiving tenders to be eventually drawn in form H2, are invited for the work : *Supply of stone metal for Impt. to Bhokey-Pagra Road Group A(0-7)* which will be received by the Superintending Engineer, North Bihar Circle on 9.6.61 at 3 P. M.

The amount of estimate is Rs. 60,000/- approximately.

For further details this office may be contacted

Sd/- R. P. Jyotishi,
Executive Engineer,
Chapra Division.

**INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT : BIHAR,
Patna Polytechnic, Patna-7**

NOTICE

THE 1961-62 SESSION COMMENCING JULY, 1961.
APPLICATIONS are invited in prescribed forms for admission to the 1st year classes of the various Diploma Technical and Vocational Courses of this Polytechnic.

Prospectus and prescribed forms of Application may be had from this Polytechnic on payment of 50 nP only in Cash or by a Money Order (payable to the Principal, Patna Polytechnic, Gulzarbagh, Patna-7 by designation).

Girls are eligible for admission to Vocational courses only.

Applications must reach (by designation) the undersigned latest by the 25th June, 1961.

NAME OF COURSES :

DIPLOMA (DURATION 3 YEARS)

Sl.No.	Name of courses	Age.	Qualification.
1.	Production Engineering	15 to 21 years Relaxable by two years	Matric with Physics,
2.	Textile Technology	in upper limit for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Backward Classes (Annexure-1)	Chemistry and Advance Mathematics
3.	Ceramics Technology		

TECHNICAL (DURATION 2 YEARS)

1.	Turning	16 to 21 years	Matric
2.	Machinist	Rest as above	"
3.	Sheet-Metal		"
4.	Welding		"
5.	Foundry		"
6.	Carpentry		Non Matric

VOCATIONAL (DURATION 2 YEARS FOR SERIAL-2 TO 8 AND ONE YEAR FOR SERIAL-1)

1.	Mfg. of Soaps and Disinfectants	16 to 21 years Rest as above	Matric Below Matric
2.	Textile Technology		"
3.	Leather Craft		"
4.	Mfg. of Durries and Carpet		"
5.	Toy Making and Lacquer Works		"
6.	Cane, Bamboo and Willo Works		"
7.	Knitting		"
8.	Ceramics (Pottery)		"

A. N. Dhar.
Principal,
Patna Polytechnic Gulzarbagh,
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No. S.E.B.C.-G/W-4 (Pt)/61.

The last date of receiving tenders advertised under tender notice No. S.E.B.C.-G/W-4/61 PRO, 97/61 for construction of Bridges along Don Branch Canal is extended from 22nd May, 1961 to 15th June, 1961.

Sd/- U. K. Verma,
Superintending Engineer,
Barrage Circle,
Gandak Project, Ramnagar,
(Champanan).

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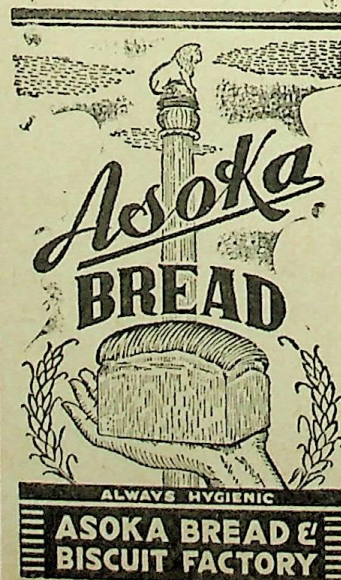
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(TECHNICAL EDUCATION)

NOTICE

Applications in prescribed form are invited from intending candidates for admission to the under mentioned schools of Engineering in the trade noted against each, for the session commencing from July, 1961.

S.No.	Name of the School	Type of course with seating available.	
1.	Patna School of Engineering, Patna	(a) Civil	120
		(b) Mechanical	30
		(c) Electrical	30
2.	Tirhut School of Engineering, Muzaffarpur	(a) Civil	60
		(b) Mechanical	60
		(c) Electrical	60
3.	Bhagalpore School of Engineering, Bhagalpore	(a) Civil	60
4.	Darbhanga School of Engineering, Darbhanga	(a) Civil	60
		(b) Mechanical	60
		(c) Electrical	60
5.	Purnea School of Engineering, Purnea	(a) Civil	60
		(b) Mechanical	60
		(c) Electrical	60
6.	Gaya School of Engineering, Gaya	(a) Civil	60
		(b) Mechanical	60
		(c) Electrical	60
7.	Ranchi School of Engineering, Ranchi	(a) Civil	120
		(b) Mechanical	30
		(c) Electrical	30
8.	Dhanbad Polytechnic, Dhanbad	(a) Civil	120
		(b) Mechanical	60
		(c) Electrical	60

2. Candidates for admission in the above Diploma course must have passed Matriculation with Elementary Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and advanced Mathematics.

3. The minimum age limit for admission will be 15 years and the maximum will be 21 years on 1st July, 1961. In case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Annexure I) the upper age limit will be relaxed by two years.

4. Certain privileges are given to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Annexure I) for which they will have to furnish a certificate from the District Magistrate of the District or the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the Sub-Division in which the candidates normally reside in the forms given below—

- (i) Name of the Candidate.....
- (ii) Father's Name.....
- (iii) Guardian's Name, if father is dead.....
- (iv) Permanent address.....
- (v) A brief statement of the enquiries on the basis of which certificate is granted.....
- (vi) Present address.....
- (vii) Certified that.....is a member of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Backward Classes (Annexure I).

District Magistrate/Sub-Divisional Officer

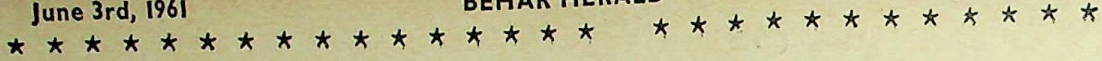
Seal of the office of the District Magistrate/Sub-Divisional Officer.

5. The selected candidates will have to undergo a Medical Examination as prescribed by the Principal.

6. The application forms along with the prospectus may be obtained from the Principal of the institutions on payment of Re. 1/- by cash or by Money Orders. Postal Orders and Stamps will not be accepted.

7. Applications with attested copies of certificates, testimonials and marks sheet should be submitted direct to the heads of the institutions concerned by designation so as to reach them latest by the 21st June, 1961.

Sd/- C.B. Prasad
Addl. Director of Industries (I)
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