Passing Notes.

BY JACQUES.

Laugh where we must, be candid where we can:--Pope.

A thing that puzzles me a lot Is that I always see The others fellows all have got A better job than me.

While we daily read the bitter complaints of the clergy about failing church membership and attendance, and other indications of decay in religious feeling, a recent cabled item informed us that Conan Doyle's initial lecture on Spiritualism packed the Sydney Town Hall. These two facts, considered together, are significant. No doubt many of Conan Doyle's vast audience were attracted by curiosity and other motives, but it is, I think, reasonable to assume that the majority were actuated by the hope of receiving some satisfying answer to that oldest and most absorbing questions, "Does Death End All?" If so, it would seem to prove | direction. The latest instance presents that the clergy are at fault in their deductitons; that the truly religious instinct in mankind is not moribund; that the hunger of the human soul for "the fruit of the tree of knowledge" still persists-in an even more intense degree, perhaps, because of the terrible events of the last few years. But men to-day want more nourishing spiritual pabulum than satisfied their forefathers, and the churches do not seem to be able to "deliver the goods." Spiritualism, on the other hand, makes the claim (with what truth, I know not) that it can and will. It promises something real, near, demonstrable, tangible. Can we wonder that the people in their soul-hunger are attracted by it as flies by sugar? Its following already runs into mill us, and is daily increasing by thousands, despite the many exposures of fraud and trickery in connection with it. Small wonder that the churches dread and oppose the most formidable rival they have ever had. Whether it turns out a mere passing madness, or proven to possess the elements of a stable and satisfying religion, time alone will tell.

"I want to join the angel band," Sang Willie in the cheir-Next day his gun exploded and He got his heart's desire.

Recently a returned soldier in Buckinghamshire applied for a military pension, and was astonished to discover that he was dead. He hotly debated the matter, as up to that time he had received no intimation of the fact and so was War Office, however, had no doubts at: income tax from this officially dead man. This he refuses to pay, on the reasonable grounds that if he is too dead to receive other. a pension he is surely dead enough to be exempt from taxation. At present there is a deadlock, but it would be hardly prophesying too much to say that red tape will win both ways. As an example of official ineptitude this instance must just about reach the dizzy limit.

Still a case within my own experience bore a close family resemblance to the foregoing. About 1892 the Queensland electoral rolls were being very drastically purged, and among others the name of "Jacques" was ruthlessly expunged. Learning of this I applied for its reinstatement, only to be gravely informed by a wise looking and be-spectacled official that I was dead, done, deceased, defunct, a mere sad and beautiful memory. Like Mark Twain, I considered the report somewhat exaggerated, and produced documentary and other evidence to convince the authorities that I was really I and not some other fellow, that I was. actually above earth in Queensland, and not in h-though the difference is not great. But all in vain; the official mind is impenetrable by argument, evidence, or anything lighter and blunter than an axe. I was dead and buried, and that was all there was about it; and I was never resurrected, so far as the Queens-

land electoral roll was concerned. Truly the red-tape mind is a fearsome thing.

"We look before and after, And sigh for what is not--" The cards we throw away this hand Might help the next a lot.

"Vae Victis"-which is Latin, or something, for "God help the bottom dog in a scrap." In the good old days it was the custom for the victor to take and hold the vanquished in bondage, and sit back easy while the hellots sweated. It was a grand plan, and worked well for the top dog. It is pleasing to note a present-day tendency to revive those glorious old customs, and already considerable success has been achieved in that itself in the latest "stand-and-deliver" of the Sawmill Workers' Union." That body, flushed with their many recent successes over their hereditary enemies, the employers, have decided at last to put the shackles on the latter as a proper penalty for their presumption in opposing them. Note, for example clause 7 in their demands:

"Any member of the Union over 12; months in arrears shall have same deducted from his wages by his employer who shall pay the same over to the Union."

Could anything be more exquisitely ironical and better calculated to sink the iron deep into the souls of their adversaries and slaves. The proud and powerful conqueror sets the conquered at debtcollecting, tax-gathering and other humiliating tasks (presumably without commisison or other remuneration) to still further strengthen the means of the latter's still greater subjugation. Verily it was a cynical genius who conceived the idea. Again Vae Victis.

By the way, it seems to me that there is an interesting legal point raised by the foregoing insolent demand. Under the Truck Act-which used to be regarded as one of the glories of Labour's political achievements-no employer may deduct any part of the wages of an employee (with the sole exception, I think, of cash actually advanced on account) without as I believe it to be, then the action of the Union in making such a demand is tantamount to inciting the employer to break the law. Therefore the Union would seem to lay itself open to prosecunaturally sceptical of its truth. The tion and a short term of imprisonment say twenty or thirty years. But, perall; there it was in black and white, and haps, Trades Unions to-day, like Kings, the dispute was finally clinched by the authorities supplying the number of his employer, if the Courts concede the degrave and its location. And what adds mand, will not be a pleasant one. He to the humour of the incident is the fact will have no other choice than between that the authorities are now demanding being punished for a fracture of the Truck Act on the one hand, or for violating the ordinances of the Union on the

LOST WAR MEDALS.

An instruction as to replacement of lost war medals (1914-1915 Star) has been issued by G.H.Q. In order to prevent war medals falling into the possession of unauthorised persons, the replacement of lost medals can be authorised only when satisfactory proof of loss is forthcoming. Replacement of the 1914-1915 Star will be made only on the following conditions:-Serving soldiers-Claims for replacement will be investigated by a Board of Inquiry. Discharged soldiers.-Applications for replacement must be made in the form of a statutory declaration setting out the circumstances under which the loss was sustained; that six months have elapsed since the loss, and that every reasonable effort has been made to recover the medal. All applications must be accompanied by a remittance of 3s 6d to cover cost of replacement. The Department may refuse to make a fresh issue if the evidence of loss is considered unsatisfactory or to indicate that the loss was the outcome of carelessness.

The world's diamond industry is practically monopolised by the De Beers syndicate in South Africa.

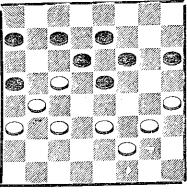
DRAUGHTS.

(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

All communications of interest to readers of this column to be addressed to "Draughts Editor," 28 Biggar street.

PROBLEM 36.

By W. T. Broadbent, Oldham. (No. 53 in "Bolton Chronicle"). Black.



White.

Black to play and win. Black 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15. White 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27. An intricate finish.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 35.

By H. F. Shearer, Dundee. (No. 1534 in "People's Journal"). Black 4, 5, Kings 22, 23. White Kings 11, 14, 15. Either to play and White to draw.

White to play. 10.15 16.12 11.16 8.11 14.18 25.21A. 23.26 5.9 16.11 15.10 10.7 в, 30.25 11.1518.11 26.30 15.10 11.16 12.16 9.14Drawn. 22,25 4.8

A. 22.26, 16.11, 26.31, 11.16, 23.27, 16.11, 27.24, 11.16, 24.20, 16.11, 31.27, 25.10, 27.24, 10.7.—Drawn.

30.26, 11.16, 4.8, 16.12.—Drawn.

D.	00.40,	11.1U, 7.U,	10.1010	THE SECTION
		Black	to draw.	
C	, 22.26	27.24	20.16	* 8.12
	11.16	*16.12	7.2	19.23
	26.31	23.19	16.11	2.6
	16.11	р,15.11	12.8	15.18
	31.27	24.20	11.15	6.9
	11.16	11.7		Drawn.
c.	23.26,	15.10, 26.30	, 10.15, 2	2.25, 15.10,
25.21, 10.15, 30.26, 15.10.—Drawn.				
D. Now into C. F. Barker's famous "Tri-				
anala Duarry				

SOUND OPENINGS.

Some of our openings are based upon sounder principles than other openings. Analysis has nevertheless modified the attack, as, in the case of less sound openings, it has completely demolished it. We must, however, warn weaker players that but little reliance is to be placed upon the fact that such and such an opening is considered unsound. Unless the principles of it are known it will, curious to say, have the opposite result of defeating the weaker player with greater expedi-

> WILL O' THE WISP. . (In the "Draughts World.").

By Piper R. Menzies, India. 8.11 н, 11.8 25.2211.15 A,32.28 4.8 12.16 9.13 19.15 11.15 19.12 30.26 15.18 22.187.1015.22 9.14 22.15 24.20 25.18 10.19 26.23 10.26 1.5 14.23 14.17 29.25 B, 20.16 10.14 25.19 c, 6.9 21.14 27.23 3.10 16.11 9.2528.24 2.6 Drawn. 8.11A. Given as a loss in var. 63, "Drummond's Second."

B. To correct same var. where 31,26 is played. c. $(D) \cdot 2.7$, (E)-16.11, 7.16, 24.20, 15.24,

28.19, 6.9, 20.11, 10.15, 19.10, 14.17, 21.14, 9.25.--Drawn. p. (r) 15.18, 22.15, 14.17, 21.7, 2.27Drawn.

E. 21.17, 14.21, 23.18 also draws.

F: (G)-13.17, 22.13, 15.18, 16.11, 18.27. 19.16, 12.19, 24.15, 10.19, 31.15.—W. wins.

g. 5.9, 16.11.-W. wins.

н. 24.20, 15.24, 28.19, 12.16, 19.12, 10.15, 11.7, 14.17, 21.14, 9.25, 7.3, 6.9.—Drawn.

The following shows a neat win in the "Defiance."

h,oep5 shrk20.a cm shrd ,shrdulshrdl 11.15 25.9 15.24 22.18 3.7 31.24 23.19 5.14 28.19 4.8 18.9 8.11 9.14 29.25 18.15a 13.17c 30.25 11.15 1.6 в 21.14 7.10 27.23 11.15 32 28 8.11 25.22 15.2426.22 6.13 25.22 22.18 7.11 28.19 9.13 15.6 10.14 15.22 24.20 9.6 22.18 2.27 Black

A. 20.16 is the correct move to draw. B. If 1.5, 15.16, 14.17, 21.14, 9.27, and White wins.

c. This idea occurs in several openings.

Pasture Notes.

PASTURES, DRAINAGE AND HERBAGE.

In New Zealand the pasture occupies a far greater area in proportion to that devoted to crops than is usually known in other countries. It is quite natural that this should be the position, for the plants of our pasture have a longer season of growth than those of most The pastures of New other countries. Zealand are its greatest riches. The question may, however, be asked, are these pastures in the best condition? It is believed that it will be accepted that the reply cannot be in the affirmative, Many of these pastures remain undrained, or but little attempt has been made to remove surplus water. This is a condition that is adverse to the greatest production of herbage of many of the most desirable varieties of grasses and clovers. It is fully admitted that the cost of draining is a serious item to consider; still the improved condition of the pasture is a warrant for the undertaking, and there are few pastures where draining is wanted that will fail to repay the outlay within a reasonable time. The advantages are immediate and numerous, the production is greater, the better varietics of grasses and legumes may be grown, the season is lengthened, and most of all, the very reason of the existence of pastures, the maintenance of live stock in a thriving condition is secured. In the well-drained pasture the parasites that affect the animal fail to obtain the favourable habitat of the water-logged soil, and certain diseases are less formidable on the warmer welldrained farms.

It cannot fail to be recognised that field drainage should receive much greater attention; in fact, the increasing price of land will enforce improvement. The rush-covered water-saturated country may have been permitted, when the unearned increment was the most secure and profitable production of the farms of New Zcaland. That increment may be accepted as becoming less assured and very decidedly of a less rapid harvesting. The improved condition of the land is the necessity of the present, and the first step to that is drainage.

There are other improvements also to be undertaken. There is, on the great proportion of grass lands, the all-essential lime to be liberally applied. With this there are the usually accepted fertilisers to be used. To these the plants of the pasture respond in actual proportion to the extent of the application, and the live stock participates with the favourable conditions of the soil to rapidly affect the desired alteration in the pasture. The clovers from forming but a small part of the herbage become the greater. With this the animals thrive better, and the greater stock-carrying capacity of the pasture is quickly manifested, and with this, the greater the abundance of the clover, the greater the quantity of nitrogen that will be obtained and the greater fertility of the soil is secured.

WHITE CLOVER.

It may be that a pasture before draining and treatment is so unsuitable to plants of the family of legumes that few clover or trefoil plants are present. When this is the position seed of these plants may be surface sown with fair results. It is, however, absolutely useless to expect to establish clovers on such pastures, until the indicated improvements have been allowed the necessary time to assert themselves. It is futile to expect soil to dry as soon as drains are made, or soil to mellow so soon as lime has been spread. first spring following the draining and treatment will exhibit improvement, then the addition of clover seed sown on the surface of the ground is warranted and that will be greatly helped with a topdressing of a phosphatic manure followed with chain harrowing. We hear great claims for the wonder working Wild White Clover, with the further claim that it is a distinct variety of the usual White or Dutch or Creeping clover, and the prices quoted in Great Britain are not less than 35s a pound. It is, however, fairly assured that colonial-grown White Clover possesses just about the identical qualifications as the lately made fashionable wild variety.

ALSIKE.

It has to be accepted that there are soils and conditions that may not be amenable to the treatment required to admit White clover to become abundant. It is in such circumstances that Alsike becomes useful. This variety is, of course, well known, but is not possibly of such general knowledge that it will grow on

Nat. Greaves.

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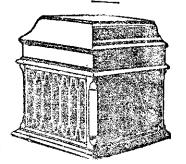
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soils too acid, too wet and too poor to be acceptable to other clovers-it has been known to withstand a winter season that destroyed both grasses and White cloves. Alsike comes from the North of Europe It was called Swedish clover, and named Alsike from the district from which it was introduced into Great Britain. It is also catalogued as a hybrid. Later botanish consider it a separate species and the pant as we know it has been a thousand per in cultivation in its own country. introduction into other lands dees not dis back to more than a century. grasses that are not in the highest extended as certain varieties of the fescue of pa and with those of the agrostis as form and others. Alsike clover is valuable villa these where White clover would fall. This last thrives with ryegrass, cocksfoot timothy. With these the less discriminating Alsike should have a place. Bit sponds generously to the better conditions and with White clover is of as great value in the most productive pasture the white variety, even as great a the widely-advertised wild white one. and Alsike clovers are valuable plants the herbage of the pasture. The capacity is indicated in proportion to their abundance ance