

PUZZLES

In Which Tragedy Comes Upon Us

To the Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—For many moons now I have been serving you faithfully. As each week's mail has brought in letters for my attention I have sat down at my desk and puzzled industriously. In many cases, I have reached the correct answers. You have to thank me for relieving the suspense among your staff when importunate correspondents have been so careless as to set problems and omit the answers. Sometimes I have been wrong, but usually when I'm wrong the

then it's time to take your holidays or concentrate on chess, maybe.

But, seriously, I buy *The Listener* solely for the amusement and brain-fag your column affords me.

Miss Collins's variation or deviation of the monkey puzzle proved much less horrific than it appeared at first glance—both my father and myself reached a correct solution—but those liars! Several problems of various types have come to my notice and I am passing them on for what they are worth:

Hats

A group of men stand talking, all wearing hats. There are three colours of hats; grey, brown, black. Four of the men are not wearing black hats, four are not wearing grey, four are not wearing brown. How many in the group?

Ambition

A young man starting work has the choice of two positions:

- (i) £100 a year to start, with a £10 rise each year.
- (ii) £100 a year to start, with a £5 rise each six months.

Which position should he take?

Two And Two Makes . . .

Straight mathematics. Topical too!

In a leap year a number of women of whom $\frac{1}{8}$ were widows, made offers of marriage. In consequence a number of men were married, of whom $\frac{1}{11}$ were widowers. Of the offers to widowers $\frac{1}{5}$ were declined. All the widows were accepted and 1,221 spinsters were refused by the bachelors; $\frac{35}{44}$ of the widows made offers to bachelors and the number of bachelors who married spinsters was 7 times the number of widows who married bachelors.

Now—How many women made offers?

Drapery Department

Call it what you like, but you need brains!

Five ladies, each accompanied by her daughter, purchased cloth at the same shop. Each of the ten bought as many feet of cloth as she paid farthings per foot. Each mother spent $8\frac{5}{4}$ d more than her daughter. Mrs. Robinson spent 6/- more than Mrs. Evans, who spent only about a-quarter of what Mrs. Jones did, while Mrs. Smith spent most of all. Mrs. Brown bought 21 yds. more than did Bessie, one of the girls, while of the other girls, Annie bought 16 yds. more than Mary and spent £3/0/8 more than Emily. The other girl's Christian name was Ada. What was her surname?

If that doesn't make Miss Collins's hair curl, nothing will. And Mr. Hamer probably will assume a very grave air when he sees it.

Once again I wish to thank you for the happy inspiration of Puzzle Corner, and wish you the continued Success of Ye Olde Puzzle Puddler.

Yours sincerely,

Mt. Eden

R. B. HOULIHAN

Sir,—The problem about white and black tribes published in a recent issue had us worried, but the answer proved as big a headache as the problem.

Now what's wrong with this solution? Consider what A says. He can't say "I'm black" because if he was black, being a liar he'd say he was white. If he were white, he'd also say he was white. So he must say "I am white." B, by saying "He said he's white" told the truth, so must be white. C it follows is black.

Your puzzle page is appreciated.

How about the invoice sent by the hardware store?

4 iron boxes	- 8/-
2 wooden do.	- 4/-
	4/-

And I wonder if readers can believe that "Moses was the daughter of Pharaoh's son."

Yours, etc.,

R. MOSES.

Auckland,

January 2, 1940.

Answers

Sir,—I am sorry to be late with the solutions to the puzzles I sent (published in issue for Christmas), but I have only just returned from a long holiday.

(1) The problem about the 2 men and 2 sons shooting 6 ducks, each bringing home an equal number: If the party consisted of a father, son and grandson (3 people only, yet still 2 fathers and their 2 sons), each would bring home 2.

(2) What can a man shave with, sleep on and clean his boots with? Note the wording (not WHAT IS IT?). A single word answer is not necessarily required. Answer: A razor, a bed and a brush!

(3) The sailor going into the restaurant. The waitress knew he was a sailor by his UNIFORM! The rest of the story is merely a camouflage.

Yours, etc.,

R.G.

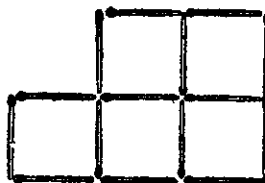
Waihi,

January 3, 1940.

(R.G. scored. He has sent some more teasers, for which our thanks. They will appear next week.)

J. B. Hogg (Raetihi): The dog will try to catch the hare next week. The salaries catch had come in earlier from another correspondent, but thank you.

J. A. Reid (Glenorchy): We can take it (we hope). What have you?



Imagine 15 matches arranged as above. Which three would you take away to leave exactly three complete squares with no matches left over? Take the matches away only in your mind's eye. (From the book mentioned on this page.)

BRAIN DRILL

An Improver For Minds

Dr. Donald A. Laird, America's brain-trainer professor, has already told the world *How to Make People Like You*, the secret of More Zest for Life, and half-a-dozen other popular lessons. Last year he explained *How to Increase Your Brain Power* (published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York).

For 14 years Dr. Laird has been Director of the enterprising Psychological Laboratory at Colgate University, and he is director of Philadelphia's high-sounding Ayer Foundation for Consumer Analysis. His new book proclaims that the "waste effort" of the tricks which centuries of men have laboriously devised to zip up mental power can now be eliminated. . . .

Laird gives brain-teasers without the answers—"you would not get mental exercise if you could turn and look up a ready-made answer."

"Yes," "No," or "Not Certain," have to be scored against such questions as: Do you put your left shoe on first? Is the knob on the left side of your bathroom door? Did the last man you saw to-day wear a brown tie? Are there handles on your breakfast table sugar bowl? Does your radio switch turn on to the right? Memories that give two "Not certain's" to five questions are average; less than two means good memory—or dishonest marking.

A check for verbal fluency is to pick out pairs of words meaning pretty much the same thing from this list: opulent-rich; fusion-union; fatuous-stout; vilify-defame; asperity - hope; wistful - glistening; cavalier - haughty; cryptic - indisposed.

What Time?

As an experiment in reasoning, this problem is posed: John said, "I heard my bedroom clock strike yesterday ten minutes before the first gun was fired. I did not count the strokes, but I am sure it struck more than once, and I think it struck an odd number of times." John was out all the morning, and his clock stopped at 4.55 the same afternoon. When was the first gun fired?

Exercise in inductive power: Find the number that comes next in order in such series as 2, 5, 8, 11, 14; 17, 24, 31, 38, 45; 14, 16, 19, 21, 24; 17, 12, 15, 10, 13; 4, 8, 2, 4, 12, 3.

STOP PRESS

To the Editor,
The Listener.

Sir,—

Some one sent a copy of "The Listener" here. Please can I come back?

Yours, repentant,
The PP.

Porirua,
January 6, 1940.

typist is right. Any way, we give you good service. Your complaint that subscribers, nerve racked, might cancel subscriptions, seems to have been quite unfounded, if the latest audit is any indication.

All this is leading up to the confession that when you receive this I shall no longer be with you. I came to work this morning full of stewed peaches and cereal, my summertime counterpart of beans. All went well. Along came the mail. All was bad. I've left the mail behind, but for the rest of the day I shall be lying beside the peaceful sea.

If you really want to find me, travel north three miles, take the mean of the tram numbers you see on the route, divide that by $2\frac{3}{4}$, add the name of your favourite author, mutter it ten times into the ear of the nearest policeman, ask him what sort of lipstick he uses, and jump through the nearest shop window. When you arrive, I shall be there to meet you.

And bring your toothbrush. They tell me it takes a long time, sometimes.

Yours, etc.,

YOUR PUZZLE PUDDLER

Porirua,

January 5, 1940

P.S.: I've left the mail. Throw it at the printer.

Herewith, the Mail

The Editor,

Puzzle Corner.

Sir,—I feel I must congratulate you on your perverted sense of humour. I just love confounding people, too, but when I start dreaming startling phantasies in which monkeys, ropes, a veritable rainbow of shirts, and an exotic woman called Salome, are interwoven,