

PUZZLES

One Blush (For Sylvia) And Then To Work

MOST immodestly, and most irreverently, The Puzzle-man has invented a parody beginning "Give us each day our daily blush." Because readers will insist on sending him letters like this one: "Congratulations, Puzzle-Puddler, on the most preposterous puzzle page ever perpetrated. It is quite the best, and most comprehensive, I've ever seen." That's from Sylvia, of Wellington. Sweet Sylvia!

There are others, but one blush this week is enough, for last week, thanks to the Department of Industries and Commerce, and its advertisement, there was not much nutriment for hungry puzzlers. This week, to work right away:

First, four problems that had to be omitted last week.

One Was a Magnet

Two problems in metalwork come from G. F. Chippindale, who asks readers to say how they would find which of two pieces of steel was magnetised if no apparatus, not even a pin or a piece of cotton, or any other metal was available. The second concerns a clever mechanic who was asked, as a test of proficiency, to fit a round peg into a square hole without daylight showing through the joint when it was held up to the sun. The mechanic accomplished this with ease. How? The job was done in steel.

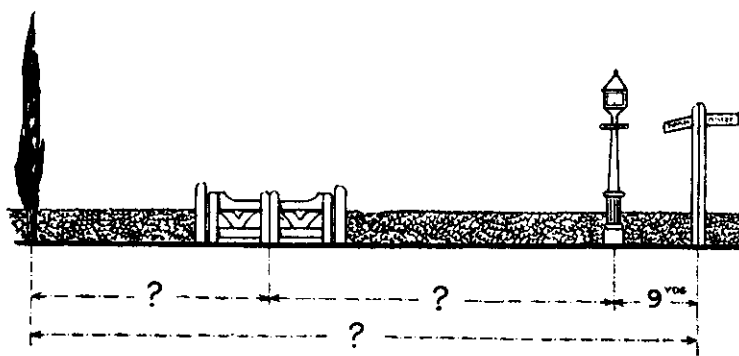
Mr. Blimp

The strange tale of Mr. Blimp, of Battersby on the Bay, is told by L.C.T. Mr. Blimp, it seems, was short of ready cash, and planned to visit the bank before he went buying his bread and beer. He planned to withdraw a sum of money consisting of a certain number of pounds, shillings, and pence. But in making out the cheque he carelessly reversed the number of the pounds and shillings and had spent 40 per cent. of the cash before he discovered the error. That evening, he won four shillings at bridge, and found he had left the exact sum he'd intended to draw. What was that sum?

This similar problem comes from W. R. Hamer (Foxton):

Six Smart Men

A reporter was asked to "cover" six professional men visiting New York. He returned to his editor and said: "I found the six men walking up Fifth Avenue six abreast. Mr. Thompson was on the outside, next to the doctor. The lawyer was between Mr. Jones and the engineer. Brewster was not next to the man on the inside. Mr. Harvey, I found, was in love with the engineer's sister. The architect was walking between Mr. Harvey and the doctor. Mr. Fish had nobody on his right. The author had never met Mr. Thompson before. Babeson is not a pianist."



Down our street (see puzzle on this page)

And the editor had to work out their names and professions himself, for he sacked the reporter in a fit of temper. Can you?

Down Our Street

And now, one of our own, entitled "Down Our Street," or "Who Cares?"

The distance between the lamp-post and the sign-post in the diagram is 9 yards.

The distance between the tree and the centre of the gate is equal to the total of that between the lamp-post and the sign-post and half that between the centre of the gate and the lamp-post.

The distance between the centre of the gate and the lamp-post is equal to the distance between the tree and the centre of the gate and the distance between the lamp-post and sign-post added together.

What is the distance from the tree to the sign-post?

The Green Funnels

There is a promise to keep to P.J.Q. (Motueka) who sent this one.

The Green Funnel Line of ships (so he says) trades between the ports A and B. One of these ships leaves each port each day at noon and arrives at each port at noon each day. The time occupied by each ship between ports is exactly one week. One of the directors of the company, wanting first-hand information of the working of the service, stepped on board one of the ships leaving A and travelled on her to B. How many Green Funnel ships would he meet on the trip?

Answers

Just for variation, we cast back to February 16, the date on which Volume 2, Number 34, of *The Listener* saw the dim light of a gloomy summer's day. That indefatigable puzzler, L.C.T., supplied some general knowledge tests, taking in vain the name of Our Bob. The answers are more or less a lemon, for the first question, relating to Mr. Semple's immortal exclamation "Oh, for another hand!" referred to "hand" as a measure of length. (Three inches = one palm; four inches = one hand.) So that the answers were 499, and four inches. The second, in which he made the simple statement: "Oh, for another nail," referred to a "nail" as a measure of cloth. (One nail = two and a-quarter inches.) So the answer to the problem was $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The problems in the panels on the same date were easy: Green Cheese was obvious; There and Back, simple. The trains, of course, at any speed, would be equidistant from any point as they passed. The question of averages would be considered rather more subtle by any puzzlers other than *The Listener* readers. They made short work of it with simple mathematics, and treated P.J.Q.'s cyclist's record attempt with the same felicitous facility.

When F.W.K. sent from Nelson his problem about dividing the 17 horses among the three sons, he very kindly included the answer. The lawyer who presided added one horse of his own, and from the total of eighteen extracted the fractions to secure his total of 17. A simple matter of selecting odd numbers which total to an even number, or something like that in whatever technical language appeals to our purist mathematicians.

Prizes Awarded

This puzzle attracted a good number of answers, but not many Aesops appeared to answer Miss Collins's problem about the slow race for camels. The week's apple pie goes to the aforementioned sweet Sylvia, a new correspondent from Brooklyn (that's in Wellington!), who got in first with the answer that the wise man persuaded the weary contestants to exchange camels. We like that sort of problem, and would welcome more.

To G.M.H., of Putaruru, we admit defeat, but without shame, for we really have not had time to get to work on the problem of supplying the three houses from the three mains without crossing the leads. All readers rally please. . . . (We think some leads might run through the houses.)

As an afterthought, we return to P.J.Q.'s cyclist, in order to record readers' protests about the inaccuracy of the averages stated. However, on the figures given, Sylvia (What! Again?) decides that he travelled 100 miles, and anything Sylvia says is good enough for us. Sylvia also says that the car running to Wanganui and back averaged $34\frac{2}{7}$ th m.p.h., or 34.285714, the 2 and the 4 repeating. Sylvia really is super. She answered all these, and the horses problem, and the locals problem, made some wise comments about green cheese, and, in short, did everything but enclose her address. We feel quite bereaved.

The honourable laurel leaf also to another new one, "S.J.S.", of Spreydon, who sent answers to a whole host of problems in recent issues and demands a Nelson apple for standing up successfully to F.W.K. To acknowledge everything would steal too much space. However, thanks to S.J.S. for telling us that the man who entered the hotel had $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.

His answer to the delicate question of shunting the trucks was not complete.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

J. Thane (Island Bay): See above. Heard that one before, but it will bear repetition, later.

L.C.T.: Shall use the rest of your material as space dictates.

Maxixe: Have already had the Achilles type of problem, but thanks.

G.M.H.: You are in the upper ten.

All readers: A Reminder.—We have no answers yet to Horses, or Angles (February 2). We can say that the man with 21 horses put one each in five stables and sixteen in the fifth, and that last, you must admit, was a very odd number of horses to put in a stable! But the angles of the ladders are still not surveyed. Also required, proper answers to J. C. Lesnie's Shuntings and G.M.H.'s Every Mod. Con. (February 16).

R.G. (Waihi): Glad to hear from you again. See next issue.

H.D. Mullon (New Plymouth): By next week, we might come out of the daze.

W.H.P.: Sorry, still cramped.

G. Tisbury (Invercargill): Your letter arrived after most of this page was in print. With pride in Invercargill, we acknowledge your answer of 20 feet to the ladders-angles problems, and the first correct solution of the shunting problem. Shall print this next issue. All your other answers were almost all in the best tradition.

H. S. Scott (Onehunga): Yes, the big Indian was the little Indian's mother. Still waiting for an answer to the mains problem. Your letter pleased us mightily, notwithstanding the mud in the eye. A clod to reciprocate. . . .

J. Geddes (Temuka): The blush remained under control. You scored at least 99½ per cent. You say the cyclist travelled 50 miles. Must we forsake Sylvia?

S.G.E. (Glenavy): No schoolboys have written. The radius of a circle equals the circumference divided by 2π . In each case the circumference is increased by the same length, so the radius in each case is similarly increased. P.J.Q. was entitled to make any statements he wished, to set out his problem, so long as they did not lead the working astray. However, for the helping hand, our gratitude.

Wiri Tieki (Hamilton): Errors are easy to find; answers more difficult. That means you.

H.B. (Homeless): Finding the answers in succeeding issues is part of the fun. So far, no diploma, but keep on. Puzzles later.