

hazard, unsystematised and often erroneous observations of a poet be considered of greater worth and dignity than the systematic study of nuclear physics? Why should the intellectual appeal of a geometric proof, simple, elegant, and withal profound, be considered of a lower aesthetic order than a few lines, rhymed and metered (Sic), describing a passing sense experience? Why should a metaphysical system of the past, with no empirical roots whatsoever, be considered so much superior to the speculative darning of the quantum theory as first expounded (amid considerable ridicule) by such men as Bohr and Planck, or Einstein's General Theory of Relativity? Admittedly, these magnificent flights of imagination and reason were suggested by, and designed to explain, certain observational data. But surely this self-imposed discipline makes the grand structure of the theories all the more admirable as compared with any uncurbed *a priori* flights?"

So said our 20th Century friend. The mistake made by, and the limitations of, his contemporary poets were simply that they could not conceive of beauty imbedded in a mathematical theorem or emotional depth being inspired by an atomic pile. They could not see the elegance of a many-valued propositional logic (indeed, some of them hardly knew what such a many-valued system was). They did not understand the emotional

satisfaction in discovering and studying, and predicting the behaviour of electrons and protons and neutrons and neutrinos, to mention but a few of the entities postulated before we discovered the basic stuff of reality. In short, they could not appreciate the mysticism (we need not be ashamed of the word) which prompted physicists to pursue their lonely task of seeking reality. The poets saw bombs and the calculating machines and the spaceships and the automatic tin openers and they thought this was science. Therein lay their error, and the misconceived cause of their forebodings. And so, when a young logician remarked, "All the beauty I need lies in Whitehead and Russell's *Principia Mathematica*," they thought he was being paradoxical for the sake of effect when actually he was being epigrammatic for the sake of emphasis. The result . . . (static) . . . and just as we now have mathematical

reading circles where groups of people, whether organised or unorganised, in colleges or private houses or public halls, gather together and read one another their latest mathematical theorems, or criticise the method of proof, or praise the simplicity of some newly found shortcut to an accepted formula; so in the old days, the poets and playwrights used to gather in circles and discuss . . . (static).

At this stage it is regretted that the apprentice technician, realising that things were not as they should be, hurriedly tried to replace the plugs as they originally were. Although he has been carefully questioned, he cannot describe what position the various plugs and switches were in during the broadcast. The investigation has had to be abandoned and the broadcast considered as an inexplicable freak.

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28 YOUNG LIVES LOST SO FAR THIS SUMMER

a little forethought could have saved them

Shocking feature of this summer's mounting drowning toll has been the number of children lost. Of 85 drowning victims in four months of this summer, 28 were children ten years old and under. Six of these were just babies—under 5 years.

This loss of young life . . . with its tragedy and suffering could have been avoided, if adults had learned to recognise the danger spots and done something about them. For nearly all these accidents were preventable. Monthly drowning statistics—17 in November, 22 in December, 34 in January, and 12 in February—make it clear we all have a personal responsibility to safeguard our children and become water wise ourselves. Let's all realise the hazards of our rivers, lakes and sea—and particularly, that even the shallowest pool . . . only a few inches deep . . . is a death trap to our toddlers.

HOW DID THESE ACCIDENTS HAPPEN?

Most of these small children drowned in the vicinity of their own homes . . . in water-tanks, ponds, creeks, wells, sheep-dips . . . one fatal accident even occurred in a goldfish pond. Because such areas offered no danger to grown-ups, they were not recognised as hazards to youngsters.

CAN SUCH ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

Yes. Search out, learn to recognise, the potential danger spots in the vicinity of your home. If possible, get such danger spots fenced off or covered in. Even a fish pond can be covered with light wirenetting, making it perfectly safe without detracting from its appearance. If this is not possible, fence in a play-area, preferably within sight of the house. Children are safer under your eye.

WATER WISDOM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Have your children taught to swim at the earliest possible age. More important still, see that they acquire water wisdom.

Make sure they understand the dangers of river currents, heavy surf with its undertow, and the risks involved with such artificial aids as inflated tyres and water toys. Teach them never to swim alone and to stay between the flags on patrolled beaches. As soon as they can absorb it, have them taught life-saving and artificial respiration. Above all, teach them that the taking of unnecessary risks in or near the water isn't a sign of courage. It's foolishly chancing their own lives and the lives of others.

With a little thought this summer, you could save a young life. It could even be one near and dear to you.

From The Courts

EVERY newspaper reporter will tell you that court proceedings are full of human interest stories, and as James A. Jones found a good many years ago no city in the world is richer in this material than London. The stories he has written over the years for a well-known London newspaper, not about master criminals but about ordinary people in their encounters with the law, are the basis of *Courts of London*, now being heard from 3YZ. *Courts of London* is narrated by the well-known radio actor Howard Marion-Crawford (below) and in the episode to be heard at 6.0 p.m. this Sunday (March 27) he tells of a street two-up school, a street bookmaker, an old soldier wandering in the night and an ancient street musician charged with begging—typical examples of the sort of people who appear day by day before London magistrates. *Courts of London* has also started from 2XG, which will broadcast the second episode at 8.25 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29.



BBC photograph

