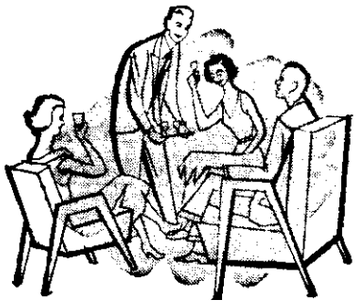

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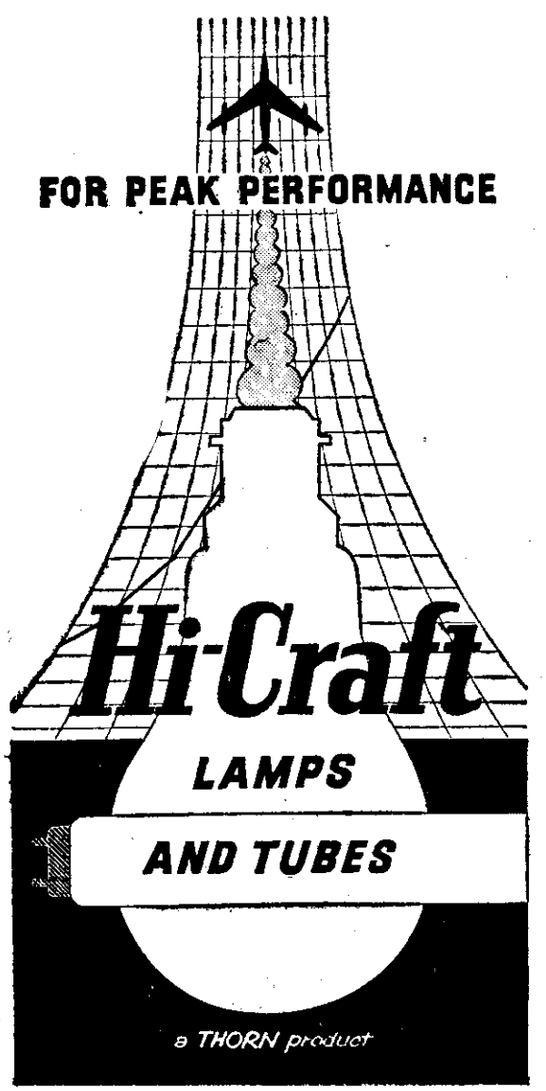


SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR

Pursuit of Unhappiness

by "SUNDOWNER"

OCTOBER 1

I KNOW that there are men and women who have never been homesick, as there are birds and beasts that are as happy in one environment as in another. But they are not common. Though I thought when I was very young that homesickness was a human complaint only ("How can ye chant, ye little birds, and I so weary, fu' of care?") I am sure now that animals feel most of the pains their owners feel, but feel them less intensely, and for shorter periods. The chief advantage they have over us, if the test is one of feeling only, is that they do not anticipate their troubles. A man going to war, a boy going to sea, a girl leaving home for a boarding school, knows that misery is coming. An animal, knows nothing till it does come.

It surprised me all the same when I sent Betty away recently, separating her from a six-months-old calf, from Elsie who had been her companion for six years, and from the only home paddock she had ever known, that she had forgotten everything in three days. It was no doubt a help that she went from scarcity to abundance, but her shallow brain helped most. She forgot because she had no capacity to remember, none to see the shadow before separation came, and none to retain it when it began to lift. If she had been a cat or a horse or a dog the experience would have been more bitter, and the bitterness of longer duration, but it would not have risen to the human level even if she had been an elephant. I have known a dog resist change for six months, but he was not miserable all those months: he was uneasy, and if left to himself he would set off after an hour or two for the farm, several miles away, from which he had been bought. But he forgot at last and spent the second half of his life very happily with a new owner. Elephants, we are told, never forget, but that, I am sure,

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

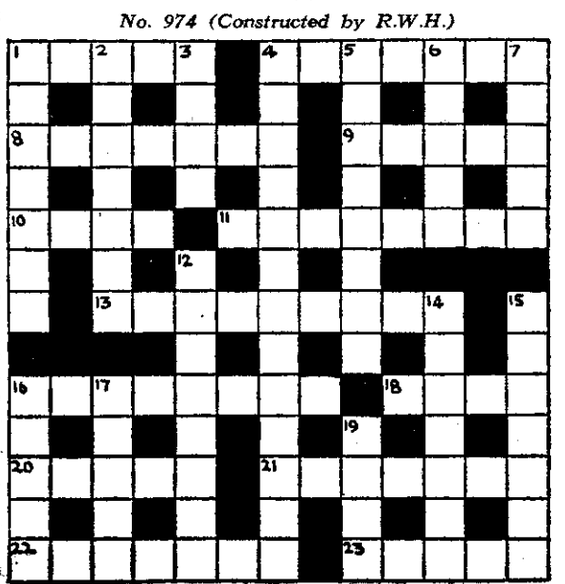
(Solution to No. 973)

P	E	N	A	L	T	Y	■	W	O	R	D	S
A	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	I	■	O	■	P
T	I	M	O	N	■	W	I	D	O	W	E	R
E	■	I	■	O	■	I	■	E	■	I	■	I
N	I	N	E	L	O	G	S	■	A	N	O	N
T	■	G	■	E	■	M	■	S	■	G	■	G
■	■	■	D	U	R	A	N	C	E	■	■	■
I	■	C	■	M	■	K	■	H	■	P	■	S
R	E	A	L	■	M	E	A	N	T	I	M	E
O	■	R	■	S	■	R	■	A	■	L	■	V
N	O	T	I	C	E	S	■	P	R	O	S	E
I	■	O	■	A	■	■	■	P	■	S	■	R
C	A	N	O	N	■	D	I	S	C	E	R	N

Clues Across

1. It's good for the French to be before us in providing that extra payment (5).
4. Row about a distorted piece of sculpture; perhaps it is only fit for this? (7).
8. The men who sort the letters in the Post Office should find no difficulty in solving this type of clue (7).
9. It's a bore, although it's part of a quite agreeable experience (5).
10. Turn to one side, mate! (4).
11. Public house at a Cathedral city, naturally! (8).
13. Clerical vestment at a Westland township which played a fateful part in the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (9).
16. This kind of letter is not necessarily a round robin (8).
18. Transaction in timber? (4).
20. Very musically (5).
21. You must overcome this if you want to get a move on (7).
22. Punishment inflicted for making an entry among the coppers (7).
23. "Like one that on a lonesome road Doth walk in fear and ——" (Coleridge) (5).

Clues Down

1. Lay bets (anag.). How horrible! (7)
2. Falls in a Pennsylvania garage (7).
3. He was held in thrall—by the sound of the waves breaking on the shore? (4).
4. Note: I'm starved! (anag.) (13).
5. Throne as a type of furniture (8).
6. Nasty little insect the French used to blow on (5).
7. It's poor, in fact it has only one penny (5).
12. Boil aunt in the washing (8).
14. Naturally it calls for respect (7).
15. It's all up with the peer about a 14th century heretic (7).
16. Fifty under canvas? No, a brace (5).
17. You could make a rinse from this, but it would be rather sticky (5).
19. Give me a penny, and I'll give you a drink (4).

No. 974 (Constructed by R.W.H.)