

First Electric Lamp Invented by Sir Joseph Swan

JUBILEE festivals were carried out with great felicitations in America, lauding Mr. Edison, the great inventor, as the creator of the first electric incandescent lamp, and a picture is now being shown in this country, where Mr. Edison is receiving the congratulations of President Hoover on that score.

Great inventor as Mr. Edison is, and none would wish to belittle his achievements, this honour is, intentionally or unintentionally, claimed for him in error.

October, 1879, was the date of Mr. Edison's first incandescent electric lamp, but it was not the first in the field, Joseph William Swan having exhibited a successful carbon filament lamp at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1878.

When Sir Joseph Swan was interviewed in 1914 he was 85 years of age, but the white hair which stood high from his broad forehead was as thick as in the days of his youth; his eyes were bright with intellectual energy, and his voice had the ring of an intense vitality.

He it is to whom we owe the incandescent lamp and many of the inventions which have made photography an art.

He was born before Queen Victoria came to the throne, was grown up when he travelled by stage-coach, and heard the watchman call the hours of the night as he lay in bed. He was an inventor before Darwin published "The Origin of Species"; and on the banks of the river Wear, he had watched nails being hammered into the walls of the old wooden ships of Old England.

Yet he lived in full possession of his great faculties, on to that catastrophic year of 1914, and as though he foresaw what was to come, he spoke in the January of that year of the madness and wickedness of war.

SPEAKING of Christianity and its message of goodwill to men, its promise of peace to mankind, he suddenly exclaimed that the civilisation of the world was threatened not by its most backward nations, but by the foremost Christian nation of enlightened Europe.

He said that the peril of war existed in Europe because Europeans do not love truth as the man of science loves it. "Science sets an example to philosophy, to religion, and to politics," he said. "Science has no prejudices, no superstitions. It desires trust and is willing to accept its consequences. Truth is the greatest thing of all except love."

From his youth up, Sir Joseph Swan loved truth more than his own ease. He was born in humble circumstances, had at first but a poor education and was early put to work. But he loved truth, and striving valiantly in her service he rose to high honour and comfortable wealth.

Surely it is significant that the greatest contribution made to human happiness by this devoted disciple of truth came in the form of light, light for our darkness, and we think his name should be remembered both for the work he did and the high example he set.

Trials in Tact or What Would You Do? (Conducted by Savoir-Faire)

Under this heading, an every-day problem will be set week by week, and readers are invited to send in their solutions, for which marks will be awarded. Prizes are offered to those obtaining the most marks over a series of ten. First prize, £2/2/-; second prize, £1/1/-; and third prize, 10/6 for each series.

Competitors may send in their own problems for publication and solution and a prize of 10/6 will be given for the best one sent in during each series, and 5/- for each contributed problem used.

Problem No. 2.

Mrs. A. and Mrs. B. live in the same country town and have been friends for some years. Mrs. A's husband is one of the two dentists in the town, neither of whom is making a very good living.

Mrs. B., who is badly needing dental treatment, hears that Mr. A's work is not satisfactory, but hesitates to hurt Mrs. A's feelings by consulting the other dentist. What do you advise Mrs. B. to do?

Suggested by Savoir-Faire.

(Answers must be postmarked not later than February 13, 1930.)

Problem No. 3.

One afternoon Miss A. receives an invitation by telephone from Mrs. A. to have dinner at Mr. and Mrs. B's house that night. Having good reasons for not wishing to go, but no legitimate excuse, Miss A. pleads indisposition.

She is later asked by Mr. C. to go to the pictures that evening and accepts his invitation. After they are seated, but before the pictures begin, Mr. and Mrs. B. come in and are shown to the seats immediately behind Miss A. and Mr. C. What should Miss A. do or say to Mrs. B?

Suggested by Miss N. Johnston.

(Answers must be postmarked not later than February 20, 1930.)

A nom-de-plume may be used, but names and addresses must be sent. The same nom-de-plume must be retained throughout the series. All replies must bear a postmark dated not later than the Thursday after the date of the journal in which the problem appears, and should be addressed to "Savoir-Faire," "Radio Record and Electric Home Journal," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Savoir-Faire's decision must in every case be accepted as final.

Solution of Problem No. 1.

May I first say how gratified I am at the interest that is being taken in this competition, and the pleasure it has given me to note the high standard of feeling most competitors adopt towards such a situation.

My opinion is that Mrs. A. should call on Mrs. B. (although as "Radex" says it would call for the exercise of more than a little courage) and ask in a dignified way, in friendship's name, for an explanation of Mrs. B's recent conduct.

I do not think it necessary for Mrs. A. to apologise for anything she may have done to offend Mrs. B. before matters are explained, and still less do I think it desirable that she should take a present of fruit or flowers from her garden, as one competitor suggests. My feeling is that at the moment Mrs. A. is the injured party, and by going to see her, is meeting Mrs. B. more than half-way.

Probably "A Trier's" suggestion that "it is possible an innocent remark of Mrs. A's about Mrs. B. to someone has been misconstrued and repeated to Mrs. B." will be found to be at the root of the matter, or something that can equally well be, and should be cleared up. Mrs. B. is not called upon to suffer such an affront without an explanation.

I cannot adjudge wrong those who suggest writing to Mrs. B., although it does not seem to me to be so good; but it would be hard for any quondam friend to resist the very nice letter "Listener-in" proposes. Still less do I like the idea of enlisting the aid of a third person, as some competitors suggest, although it still shows a laudable desire to have the matter cleared up. I derived great amusement from "Arabella's" humorous letter, but she herself, must feel as I do: that it would be more likely to widen the breach than to heal it.

Correspondents are asked not to read more into the problem than it states, but to deal with it as it stands; nor should they go on to eventualities, which are often further problems in themselves. Replies should be as brief as is consistent with clarity, and in future, alternative solutions cannot be considered. For this problem only, I have awarded marks for the best of any alternatives sent, but have deducted one mark from those gained, on that account.

Awards are therefore as follows, the possible 6 being granted for what I consider the best method of attacking the problem:—

A Trier, 4; Absolve meam animam, 3; Arabella, 0; Anon, 4; Bonza, 4; Clara, 3; Duplex, 4; Equity, 2; Fiat Pax, 5; Frances, 4; Miss Rhoda Green, 4; Grace, 3; Haven, 2; Irene, 4; Jean, Te Puke, 5; Miss N. Johnston, 3; Jonquil, 3; Kia Ora, 5; Kummel, 2; Listener-in, 4; Leon, 3; Lucid, 4; M.A.B., 5; Mrs. Mason, 5; Mary, 4; Myra, 0; Mayflower, 3; Natural, 4; Nomen, 5; Olivia, 3; Priscilla, 4; Pumpkin, 2; Query, 4; Radex, 5; Radio, 0; Rosa, 4; Senga, 5; Scylla, 0; Summit, 3; Thames, 0; Tuner, 3; Topaz, 4; Undine, 2; Viola, 0; Verity, 4; Wynward, 4; Weaver, 4; Xylonite, 1; Xerxea, 4; Yum-yum, 4; Zenobia, 4; "Pack" 5.

The Smoke Nuisance Are You Guilty?

New York City is waging war on the smoke nuisance, which is not only detrimental to health and vegetation, but costs the tax-payers ninety-six million dollars a year. It has been definitely discovered that owing to smoke, and the resulting soot and dirt in the atmosphere, New York City receives only about three-quarters of the sunshine that pours down upon it, and life therefore is not as healthful as it might be.

What is true of New York is true of all cities where smoke-producing fuel is used, and in this country a great step forward will be made when electric stoves and water heaters replace coal furnaces and boilers.

A False Alarm

Efficiency of Water-Heater

THE superlative efficiency of an electric water-heater was responsible for quite a little excitement at Upper Hutt on a recent evening. At half-past six an alarm of fire rang out, and the fire brigade, the officers of the Town Board, the Mayor of Upper Hutt, and many others rushed hastily to the scene, near Quinn's Post Hotel. For three-quarters of an hour a constant stream of motor-cars, speeding cyclists and others was concentrated on the spot. In all some hundreds gathered; but after all the rush and excitement it was found there was no need for the services of the brigade. The cause of all the fuss was simple. Dense clouds of steam were issuing from the roof of a house, but upon investigation it was found there was no fire, but simply the electric water-heater had been left on, and the water was boiling furiously.

Style versus Fashion

How Determined

AN American writer differentiates between Style and Fashion. Style, he states, can refer to any period, but Fashion is only that which is being worn by the majority at the moment. In New York fashion reporters are now sent out with counting machines to gauge the popularity of any particular style, according to the number in which it is being worn or used.

A young woman dashing between automobiles in the middle of the city at the right time may be unconsciously adding to the statistics on what is being worn at the moment.

A firm of fashion advisers will send one reporter to a fashionable restaurant, another to the races, another to meet a liner arriving from Europe, and another to a popular seaside resort with the object of noting which are the most popular styles.

Men's fashion reporters keep a watchful eye on sports gatherings, college functions, first nights at the theatre, and so on.