

Snippets From Outstanding Talks of the Week.

(Continued from page 13.)

days after this the boat was picked up, and the men were taken to Falmouth and committed for trial at Exeter. Lord Coleridge, delivering the judgment of the Court, composed of the five senior judges of the Queen's Bench Division, was unwilling to admit a dangerous precedent, and found the men guilty of murder. The head-note of the case in the law report of the period is simply "The necessity of avoiding starvation does not excuse murder."

MISS MARJORIE BASSETT (3YA).

THE modern theatre is a world theatre, drama having become largely through the influence of the cinema—international. In every capital city of the world plays are being exchanged and being prepared simultaneously in all languages. Perhaps the spirit of international drama will do more to cement world peace than all the conferences of statesmen. Where statesmen confer together in the language of state, the modern theatre speaks in the language of the people, and speaks to the entire masses of the people; using in its mirror the people themselves, revealing them in the problems of their everyday life, in their sorrows and their joys as its illustrations—there all may come, each individual demanding satisfaction according to his need of the moment. To judge what this need may be, and to supply it, is the job of the showman and his players

THE showman's job is not an enviable one—he must be able to judge instinctively the public need of the moment—whether it be to laugh, to be childishly amused or discreetly shocked. Very seldom is it to be educated, as the showman with high ideals soon finds to his cost.

HAVE I painted rather a gloomy view of my profession? I don't mean, to, for despite the undercurrent of tragedy in the life, stage people are wonderfully gay and lighthearted as children—generous and kindly to each other—though reckless almost to a fault, living for the day and what the day holds—and taking no very serious thought for the morrow.

MR. G. C. KIRV (3YA).

IT is not given to many men to escape becoming bores when they rise to speak. If the gift of eloquence is not in a man he can do something, if only by memorising to enable him to utter a string of platitudes, but he will never be able to grip his hearers and rouse them to enthusiasm. No amount of reading will make a man a golfer, and no amount of reading or advice will make a tongue-tied man a speaker to whom it is a delight to listen.

THE following story is told of Canon Teignmouth Shore: The canon had arranged to speak at a banquet. "For how long do you think I ought to speak?" was a question he addressed to the American Ambassador to Great Britain at the time. "Well," was the frank reply, "that depends on circumstances; I should say that if you

haven't struck oil at the end of two minutes you had better stop boring."

HOW often the speech of an after-dinner speaker is accompanied by a mysterious game of chess, performed with the cutlery, glass and other table furnishings. Such mannerisms distract the minds of the audience from the subject of the speech.

MR. PATRICK BELL-SYER (3YA).

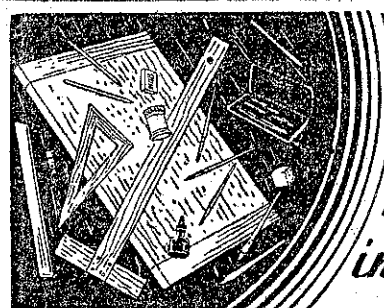
TO-DAY the corps of the British South Africa Police numbers close on two thousand men, and constitutes, in addition to its police activities, the first line of defence in Rhodesia. Recruits are mostly enrolled in England and are attested for a period of three years.

I HAVE travelled at night, often in a darkness that sometimes was so black it seemed tangible. It often reminded me of the Turkish proverb, which says: "A black ant on a black rock in the black night—God sees it." In the dome above smouldering stars gleamed like millions of diamonds: and

all around me brooded a silence, save for the insect world or the beat of far-away tom-toms—a silence which was like a living thing; ominous, immense.

ONE night at a place called Chilmahze I was safely ensconced in a "schem" or lion-proof enclosure for sleep when the smell of lion reached my nostrils. Fortunately the walls of the "schem" were fully 15 feet high, so that there was small chance of the intruders leaping into the interior. Presently I heard the eerie cry of the jackal, followed by a short sharp growl from the king of beasts. Yet no other sound was heard; lions move with cat-like stealth, not even betraying their presence by the snap of a broken twig. By way of a little diversion I fired my rifle through the "schem" and for a time quiet reigned, but during the whole night animals of the wild prowled round the enclosure hoping for an opportunity to attack. When day broke I examined the ground round the "schem." It was covered with lion spoor and I estimated that at least five of the brutes had worked up an appetite the preceding night.

THE new "Davenport 5XX" transmitter, which is to be erected near Droitwich, will consist of five aluminium units resembling those of the regional stations. It will not be ready for operation till next year.



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