

NOTES BY THE WAY

Some sales clerks should remember the customers as well as goods are perishable.—Brantford Express
Perhaps the reason the lights are kept so dim in cocktail lounges is so the patrons will know when they're lit.—Toronto Star

Our neighbors returned from their two week vacation in four days, due to \$10 a day motels and a \$50 speed rap.—Brandon Sun
Constables who hide themselves in order to trap motorists ought to be given a ticket for concealing the law.—Toronto Telegram

It's easy to understand how Australians, being located in the part of the world where they are, must be upside down most of the time, but why does this make champion mile runners and tennis players out of them.—Hamilton Spectator

It's an old question—whether the head of a provincial government is a premier or a prime minister. In Quebec and Ontario the more grandiose term is used officially: Prime Minister Duplessis, Prime Minister Frost. The other provinces are content with the more modest expression—Ontario Journal

Bank entrances and banks advertisements have in recent years shown that banks have adopted a younger look. Where bank entrances once were forbidding gates, there are now bright panels of glass that open at a touch; where advertisements were austere and almost bearded with Victorian conservatism, they are now ingratiating and almost frivolous. Banks are definitely sprightly today.—Toronto Telegram

News came from Japan that about half a million women had had a minor operation on their eyelids by which a "Western fold" is made with plastic thread. The surgeon apparently charges about 4 pounds for the job. As the "slant-eyed Oriental look" is a present in favor in this country even though it is only put on each day and rubbed off at night, it seems that plastic surgeons over here could do quite well in unfolding Western eyes.—Manchester Guardian

Burke Electric Authorized Dealer
Electrical Wiring Repairing and Supplies Oil Heating Household Appliances Television DIAL 4021 156 Great Geo. St.

Medically Speaking

WILL YOUR GLASSES DO FOR HOME TASKS?
If you wear glasses, better check them before tackling any lengthy do-it-yourself chores.
Millions of Americans are now doing tasks about the home which formerly would have been turned over to a skilled tradesman. Unfortunately, some 638,000 of these amateur builders, decorators and repairmen suffer disabling injuries every year.
Of these injuries, I fear can be blamed on the poor or blurred sight or forced unnatural position of the injured individual.
Your glasses may be perfectly all right for reading, driving and general everyday use. But in the uncustomed positions you must sometimes assume in repair work around the house, your regular spectacles might not be adequate. Bifocals, especially, might lead to trouble.
Perhaps you try to paint or repair something above eye level while looking through the low segments made ordinarily for reading. Or maybe you use these low segments for doing floors while on your knees.
In either case, the uncomfortable head position you are forced to assume might cause you to lose muscular control of your body.
The solution may be to get glasses with the reading segments placed high; in the lenses or possibly to have both upper and lower segments for close-up tasks.
Sometimes trifocals might be best; sometimes single-vision lenses are what you need.
I don't expect you to run out and get a new pair of glasses every time you have some little household job to perform. But if you've noticed any of the difficulties that I have mentioned during previous chores and you have a major home task coming up, I think it might be wise to see an eye specialist about a special pair of SAFETY GLASSES.
Safety glasses, of course, are important for certain kinds of jobs, even around the home. They give much needed protection from grease, solvents, lime, paint and silvers of wood, steel or brass.
Incidentally, if you are now wearing glasses, how old are they? Better have them checked at least once each year just to be sure they are now suited to your eyes.
QUESTION AND ANSWER
Z L: What causes chapped lips and is there any cure for it?
Answer: Chapped lips are usually seen in nervous people who moisten and bite their lips excessively and then expose the lips to cold winds.
A lack of Vitamin B2, or riboflavin, may be a contributing cause. Chapping generally yields to some simple ointment, such as cold cream, unless a secondary infection has occurred.



IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NOBODY GOOD

Uncomfortable Aden

Hot, dusty and camelopardous, the British Colony of Aden is one of the world's busiest seaports. With little to offer except its strategic position and harbor, Aden has been important since according to local folklore—Noah built his Ark there. The ships that carried the Queen of Sheba to meet King Solomon were also built in Aden, legend has it. Little different, even today, are the hand-made, heavy, triangular-sailed Arab dhows that swarthy shipwrights still construct there.
More important to modern Aden and to the world, however, is its status as a refueling station on the vital Suez sea lane.

As a free port—without customs duties—Aden does a large business in importing and re-exporting such items as coffee, hides and cotton. Aden itself produces little for export except salt and a few fish. Amid the bustle of a modern port, evidence of an older culture lingers in a small trade in frankincense and myrrh, use of the streets by camels and goats, and the veiled seclusion of Arab women.

The residents of Aden—Europeans, Arabs, Jews, Indians, Parsis, and Greeks—swelter in a climate that provides 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade on a "cool" day, and up to 105 degrees at other times. The average rainfall is only three inches. Recurring sandstorms bring a constant haze of reddish brown dust that settles alike on food and drink on men, camels, and wandering cats.

The Dying Flea Circus

Among the victims of progress is the flea circus. As an institution the flea circus is dying, on the word of Mr. William Raynor, an old-time British ringmaster. Mr. Raynor tells the London press that he is down to his last flea and sees no future source of supply. He is making a valiant and lonely attempt to maintain the good old tradition but progress is against him.
This news may not greatly disturb the young of America who probably have never seen a flea circus and seem to prefer larger performers, like elephants. The old will recall, however, the joy of the travelling flea circus in which minute actors rode bicycles, dragged carts and disported themselves in the most surprisingly human fashion for a small admission fee.
The ordinary circus, with its elephants, lions and human acrobats, has the attraction of size, which is our modern criterion of things; the flea circus has its own fascination because it defied size. It was indeed, though no one realized it then, the advance showing and sneak preview of the atomic age, wherein minute elements produce massive results.

Without Mr. Raynor's help, we are all becoming skilled performers in this spectacle. An educated pulex irritans, lamenting the fate of his profession, must be comforted to find all his tricks successfully imitated and handed on to an adaptable creature called man. For example, I write this beside a remote lake, its margins inhabited by human beings. And what are these creatures doing this fine summer morning? Are they behaving like human beings on holiday? No, they are laboring in their own flea circus, though they would be the first to deny it.
They are chained to speed boats are racing round and round the lake for no discernible purpose, but with deafening sound, and at nightfall will crawl aboard to their nests, exhausted.
You will find the same sort of behavior, but slightly different forms, wherever modern man lives. He does the same thing every day, over and over again, not because he likes to but because he has been trained to it in school, in his job and in his home.

Well trained
He has been trained so well that he seldom pauses to consider what he is doing or why, or even to wonder whether he enjoys it. Only a few brave spirits even break out of the circus routine and are thereupon pronounced, crazy by their friends.
Nothing can stop the circus. With or without pulex irritans, the show must go on. And to tell the truth the modern performers on our lake are much more irritating and deadly than their humble predecessors of the days before progress arrived. The old-time circus had might be small but he was silent.

Until progress saved the world and brought about the pulex irritans were available among the unsanitary human inhabitants of the world. They could be secured in large numbers and trained for their task of amusing the public.
To be sure, the training was difficult, since a flea lives at most ten weeks or so. All his education, and his whole career before the footlights, must be crowded into this brief span. Nevertheless, ringmasters like Mr. Raynor could manage it somehow and in a fortnight of intensive training could present fleas capable of almost any feat performed by an elephant, on a smaller scale.
If this great and ancient art is doomed by lack of talent, if Mr.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 31, 1931)
The 66th annual prize meet of the Provincial Rifle Association commenced yesterday morning with sixty-five riflemen in attendance. The conditions were good and some splendid scores resulted.

Several of the Junior Red Cross members who are summing at Brighton shore put on a circus of their own and invited their parents and friends. The proceeds went to the crippled children's fund of the Red Cross.

TEN YEARS AGO (July 31, 1946)
The Canadian National Steamship S.S. "Lorne Parke", Captain Victor Clarke, is due here Monday August 5th, from the Barbadoes with a cargo of 700 puncheons of molasses.

It was announced yesterday from the United Nations that the U.N. R.R.A. has cancelled a \$30,000,000 order for Canadian canned fish. A prominent cannery states that this cancellation should not seriously affect Island canners as the commodity, canned fish, is rare and not a major industry in the Maritimes.

The Age Old Story
"My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

PUBLIC FORUM
This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

DISAPPOINTED VISITORS
Sir,—We are leaving the Island after six days, not through lack of time but rather because we have been disappointed in the comparison between fact and the promises contained in your travel literature.

Early this year my wife and I decided to visit one of the Maritime Provinces during our vacation with a view to exploring it thoroughly, enjoying its sea food and bathing and meeting its people. Your Travel Bureau did such an excellent job that we were convinced that P.E.I. was the answer and decided to locate near a good beach and spend most of our time roaming the Island.

We have travelled over eight hundred miles, from East Point to Alberton, covering most of your places of interest. Your roads make it easy to reach any point in a short time but your sea food is difficult to obtain. Island crafts and produce are not very much in evidence, the Islanders for the most part are reticent or unenthusiastic in providing information and your food and other services could have a much higher standard.

As a result of our experiences we feel that your present conditions do not warrant a trip of eleven hundred miles.
I am, Sir, etc.
H.L. FANSHAW
Burlington, Ontario.

MAXIMS
To have peace in our world we have got to get peace in our minds.

SWEDISH DRINK MORE
STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Reuters)—A sharp increase in drunkenness and liquor consumption following the abolition of liquor rationing in Sweden was announced Monday by the state alcohol monopoly. Liquor consumption in the first quarter of this year was 13,910,000 liters compared with 9,450,000 liters in the same period last year.

NOISY FISH
Scientists have established that fish emit sounds varying from a cackle to a moan, whistle, bleat or buzz.

nomination would not be in the interests of the Party has been held more or less consistently, though privately, by a good many influential Republicans. It has now come out in the open. What course it will take is anybody's guess, but it would not be surprising to hear that Mr. Nixon is worrying more than he has been wont to do in the past about his political future.

No comparable situation could arise in Canada; since, perhaps fortunately, we do not have Vice-Prime Ministers. The nearest thing to it would be for a member of the Cabinet, say Mr. Martin, to suggest that another Cabinet Minister, say Mr. Pearson, should move out of public life, "in loyalty to Mr. St. Laurent".

Not Perfect

One fact stands out clearly amid the confusions which surround the case of the sinking of the liner Andrea Doria; and that is that there is no such thing as absolute scientifically-insured safety. Pending results of the official inquiries into the unfortunate event, which probably will take several months, it is not possible for anyone to say exactly what caused the two liners to collide. This, indeed, may never be determined. But, from a statement made by the captain of the Stockholm, there seems no doubt that the radar system on that ship was in working order both before and after the collision; and it is reasonably certain, though not definitely established as yet, that it was functioning on the Andrea Doria as well.

A specialist in radar has disclosed that "in some specific atmospheric conditions" radar beams are deflected by fog. He seems to think that this was the case when the collision occurred. What it means is that radar is a help to navigation; but it is in no sense a sure guarantee of a ship's safety, any more than the shipbuilding skill of 1912 was proof against the power of icebergs.

Science has done many wonderful things and brought many benefits to voyagers on sea and land and in the air; but it is still a long way from a position of unerring supremacy over human misjudgment or mechanical imperfections.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Some Italians are asking the Church to impose ecclesiastical penalties on traffic law violators. It may be worth trying. The difficulty is that drivers who are careful about heeding religious injunctions don't as a rule go around defying the civil law.

Strange Doings

Several days have passed since Harold Stassen, adviser on disarmament to President Eisenhower, announced that "in loyalty to the President" he would nominate Governor Christian Herter of Massachusetts for the Vice-Presidency; and any explanation for the unexpected move is still in the speculative stage. Judging by the available evidence it has all the marks of a comedy of errors. The President himself has said nothing and suggested nothing that would indicate he has changed his mind about Vice-President Nixon whom on several occasions he said he would be delighted to have as a running mate. As for Governor Herter, he has not only denied any vice-presidential ambitions but has informed Republican Party managers that he would be only "too glad" to nominate Mr. Nixon, something he evidently had not thought of prior to Mr. Stassen's announcement.

A further bit of confusion has been added to the picture by reports that Mr. Stassen would like to have the second place on the ticket for himself—or even the first place, if it could be arranged. In this regard it will be recalled that before General Eisenhower said "yes" in 1952, Mr. Stassen was right out in front as a Presidential aspirant. It seems hardly likely that he would place Governor Herter's name into discussion at this late stage just to draw attention to his own availability; but strange things happen when ambitions meet in clashing combat, and, as everyone knows, the ways of politicians are devious and past finding out.

In any event, Mr. Stassen is nobody's fool; and it can be taken for granted that he did not make the announcement before pondering the repercussions which were sure to result. Nor should it be assumed that Mr. Eisenhower's disavowal of it clears the way for Mr. Nixon in November's meeting of all the talents. The suspicion that his re-

Two more high ranking officers of this country's military establishment have announced their retirement effective in September. Defence Department officials say the officers are leaving the service "at their own request". That may be; but it is sure to add strength to the widespread criticism that the department is not giving proper support to leaders of the armed forces.

Maj. Gen. Rockingham is quoted as saying the 10,000 soldiers engaged in mock exercises at Camp Gagetown were "100% willing to undergo the experiment". Does that mean that each man was asked his opinion beforehand? If so, reformation of army life is proceeding apace—probably a bit too fast. Certainly, such exaggerated courtesy would not be possible in "the real thing".
Minister of Defence Campney has declared that the \$24 million expenditure on "velvet glove", the Canadian designed air to air weapon now being scrapped in favour of an American missile, was not wasted, since "400 persons had been trained in the missile field". Would it not have been better simply to acknowledge that a mistake had been made and let it go at that? The training of the 400 was, of course, a credit item; but it could have been done for a lot less than \$24 million.