

amounts had no toxic effects on the patients who were subjected to the tests. It adds, however, that one precaution must be observed: Liquids should not be given to persons who are unconscious or who cannot swallow.

Needless to say, medical help should always be sought when a person is suffering from burns just as for all other illnesses and disabilities. But it is good to know that a simple remedy is at hand in cases where a doctor may not be readily available.

Not Cricket

The British Labour Party's policy in the current dispute over the Suez Canal does not appear to put its new leadership in a very good light. When Prime Minister Eden announced in the Commons that Britain would use force if necessary to insure free navigation of the important waterway, Mr. Hugh Gaitskill, the Party's leader, assured him of his and his party's support. Indeed, his speech on that occasion was every bit as critical of Colonel Nasser as was Sir Anthony's. He referred to the Egyptian President as "a dictator, another Hitler" and called upon Britain to "reassert Britain's prestige" in the Middle East.

Now, however, sensing a growing sentiment in favour of a compromise settlement, Mr. Gaitskill is saying that the Prime Minister's military precautions were a "bluff" and that he, Gaitskill, wants nothing more to do with it. His policy now seems to be against the use of force in almost any conceivable circumstance. In a recent statement he declared that the Prime Minister is facing "political ruin"; the inference being, of course, that he himself would profit in the event of the Government's having to back down from its firm stand.

All this may be Mr. Gaitskill's idea of good politics, but it is not in the British tradition of fair play. It is bound to have the effect of weakening Britain's position in negotiations with Egypt and its Arab allies, to say nothing of the Soviet Union, and it could very well hinder the completion of a workable solution to the many problems involved. Somehow, one cannot imagine Mr. Attlee's resorting to such tactics. Having once given his support, he would not have withdrawn it in such a cavalier fashion.

EDITORIAL NOTES

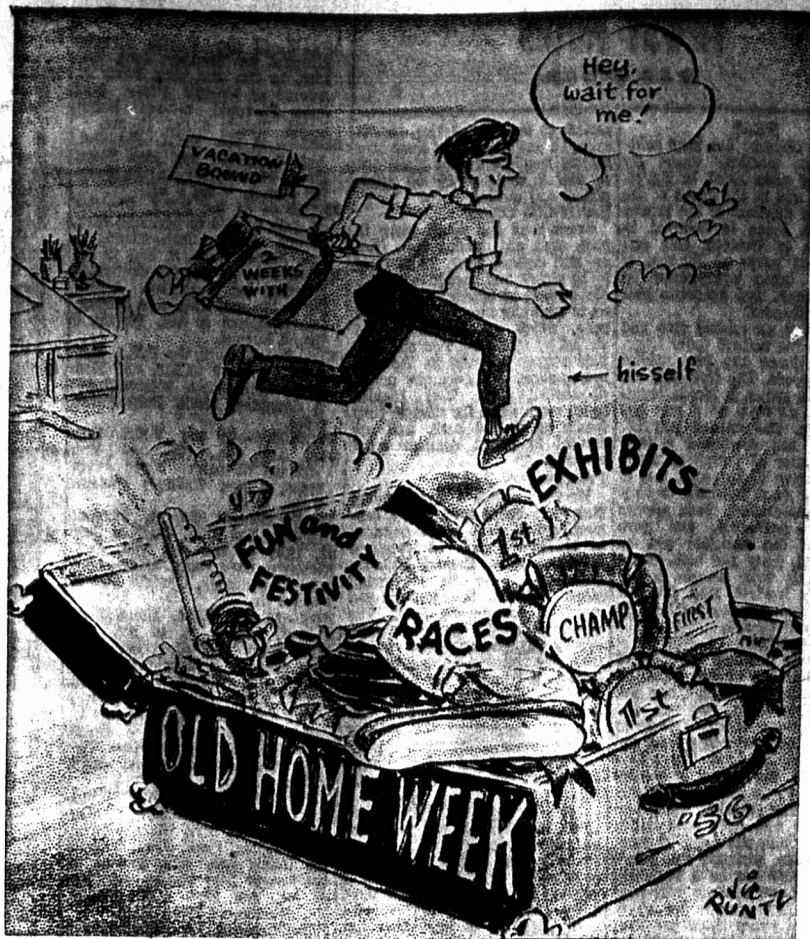
The formal opening of the marine dock at Georgetown must have recalled to many of the older citizens the day when the port was the haven for many ships and the home of many seafarers.

An official of the Federation of Churches in Chicago appealed to the Democratic delegates to let their actions at the Convention "be an inspiration to people in other lands." He must have been joking.

A weather expert says that Chicago does not deserve the nickname "windy city," since several other American cities have stronger average winds. That may be. We still think, though, that it was the windiest place in the world this past week.

It is now clear that Mr. Truman did not exert the influence on the Democratic National Convention that some of his close friends—Governor Harriman, for one—had hoped he might. He is still, however, the party's best vote catcher. At least that seems to be the opinion of most American political analysts. He had a lot of fun at the Convention, as he said he would, and he will have a lot more at the whistle-stops.

The call for a truce by terrorist leaders may mean an end to strife on Cyprus. It's a pity the call had not been issued sooner; for terror is not a good device for winning sympathy, nor is it a good weapon with which to oppose constituted authority. Meanwhile, a report from London suggests that Archbishop Makarios soon may be recalled from exile to resume negotiations with the British concerning the future of Cyprus. It is to be hoped that this time he will see his way out.



PACKING IT UP

Scapa Flow Base

National Geographic Society

Britain is closing her big naval base at Scapa Flow, a sea haven important strategically since the ninth century.

Famed as the home of the British fleet in two world wars, Scapa Flow is a roadstead between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, it holds some 100 square miles of anchorage—enough to shelter all the navies of the world.

It lies in the midst of the Orkney Islands, bits of land that resemble a giant's jigsaw puzzle scattered in the sea north of Scotland.

BASE FOR NORSEMEN In the ninth and tenth centuries the Norsemen came across the North Sea from Scandinavia and based themselves in the Orkneys, from which they were able to overrun much of Scotland, Ireland and England.

At the start of World War I, the British Admiralty chose Scapa Flow as the main base for its home fleet. Naval facilities were installed, and the fleet was based there through the Battle of Jutland, in which the German fleet was chased back under the protection of the shore defenses in the Helgoland Bight.

Five times during that war German submarines tried to penetrate the defenses of Scapa Flow. Five times they failed.

At the end of the war, American sailors stationed at Kirkwall, near Scapa, were charged with the hazardous duty of sweeping up 70,000 Allied mines strung across the North Sea between the Orkneys and Norway.

They were there in 1919 when the German fleet of 74 men-of-war, interned in Scapa Flow, was scuttled by its crews. Later, the British salvaged some of those vessels.

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.

PRIMARY GRADE TEACHERS Sir:—Much has been written and spoken recently about public school matters. This exhibits a healthy interest in an important subject: the education of our future citizens.

Some criticism has been aimed at the lack of suitable educational equipment possessed by a percentage of primary grade teachers. This criticism has been singularly silent as to the great success in former years of this same class and kind of teachers. May I cite a few names of men, former pupils of these teachers, whose records and achievements would seem to belie the criticism.

Jacob Gould Schurman, among the noted philosophers of modern times; Franklin Knight Lane, Secretary of the Interior of the U.S. Government; Cyrus Chang, Industrial Arbitrator at Washington, who could and can give the Biblical Job some pointers on patience; Lucy Maud Montgomery (Mrs. MacDonald) the writer; Rev. Monte MacLeod, Eldon; His Eminence James Cardinal McGuigan; the numerous Island-born clergymen of all denominations spread over all the world the Island judiciary, lawyers, doctors and others who run this Island kingdom, the huge number of unnamed Islanders unknown to fame.

I am willing to bet dollars to doughnuts that few, if any, of the primary teachers of those distinguished men and others were college graduates or even formal graduates of high school.

It seems to me that letters after a teacher's name do not necessarily make him a great teacher. A teacher may be so completely informed as to a given subject that it might be difficult for him to impart the information. In other words he might be talking over the heads of his pupils. Some like the sound of words for the sound itself; like the colored lady who criticized Abe Lincoln: "Mr. Lincoln an orator, I understood everything he said."

Allow me to imitate Barney Shaw by quoting myself. In an essay on the high subject "Her Majesty, The Queen" published two years ago I wrote: "The human individual; he can learn, but cannot be taught in the sense of receiving anything from the teacher. The best the teacher can do is urge, hint, expose, excite, repeat, make pleasing, present and even play-act. It is the individual reactions of the pupil which are effective."

It is a fact, recognized by too many who were knocked about more than any other of the S.E. Asia lands with many ruined cities. Japan offered \$400,000,000. To-day in Manila Bay one sees Japanese ships raising the sunken wrecks of some 600 ships struck by the U.S. Army and Navy Air Corps during the war. Japan is doing a remarkably fine job at salvage. It is counted as part of her reparations and the scrap from the ships can be sold by the Philippines Government. Beautiful Manila Bay, one of the world's loveliest of that Pearl City of the Orient is gradually assuming its "old beauty."

OTHER OBLIGATIONS Now Indonesia wants a settlement though no cities were destroyed; and Burma is after reparations too. Japan will have to work hard to meet all these during the coming years and keep her head above water.

All political parties are making a song and dance about the way America has acquired land and is still acquiring precious acres in Okinawa for airstrips and it is good ammunition for the next elections. The same is true of the six Bases which America desires extending far beyond Japan in Japan itself. The first agreement concerning one of them has just been signed.

Meanwhile Japan aims at ending prostitution by law next April.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Sangeson, M.D.

YOUR THERMOMETER IS A VITAL HEALTH AID

What is the most commonly used diagnostic instrument in the world? Not the stethoscope, but the thermometer. It is the fever thermometer, of course. No American home should be without this tiny, but highly important, medical tool.

Now all of you, I hope, know how to take a temperature. It's the easiest thing in the world just place the thermometer under the tongue of the patient for three minutes.

But there are a few other things you should know about thermometers and temperature taking. For one thing, don't take anyone's temperature for at least half an hour after eating or drinking hot or cold foods, exercising or smoking. These activities can throw the reading way off.

STERILIZE INSTRUMENT Sterilizing a thermometer is very important, too. But it is amazing how many persons either don't know how to sterilize one or just don't bother.

First, wash the instrument in warm water (less than 100 degrees) with soap. Then dip it into alcohol before and after using.

And don't forget to "shake down" the thermometer before using it. This is necessary because thermometers are built with a small obstruction near the end which prevents the mercury from sliding down immediately after you take it from the mouth.

TO LOWER MERCURY The instrument should be snapped downward sharply several times while holding the end opposite the mercury container between the thumb and forefinger. Continue shaking it until the mercury is well below the 98.6 degree mark.

Incidentally, there's now a thermometer on the market which does not require this shaking down process. By simply whirling the case and the thermometer, the attached strings centrifugal force does the work for you.

In any case, your thermometer is an important health aid. Use it carefully.

QUESTION AND ANSWER T.H.: What is the cause of brain cell wasting away?

Answer: Brain cells deteriorate because of lack of circulation, as may occur with hardening of the arteries or extreme old age. Certain chemicals and drugs can be harmful to brain cells; certain diseases such as syphilis also can harm them.

few, that Islanders are of a high order of intelligence. However, they are poor self-advertisers. I am convinced of this by experience, much travel and comparison. In fact I never yet met a dumb Islander. Why this is so I do not know, but I can guess. This is not a statement of praise or blame, but of observed facts. When criticizing our teachers it might be well to remember that they also are Islanders. Never shoot the fiddler.

A few years ago I was gabbing with two young Island farmers. They were leaning on a fence watching a third Islander plowing. Mr. A remarked "he doesn't make a straight furrow." Mr. B replied, "you notice he is doing the plowing, not us." When the plowman was at the far end of the field we hopped over the fence and there, sure enough, about thirty yards from the fence was a huge flat boulder or outcropping. The plowman had to plow around it. It is not all straight furrows for the teacher either.

The vital, over-riding need in this matter of education on the Island is selling the idea of its importance to the Islanders themselves. This done the effective modus will follow. But in this politically free economy the idea to be successful must be adopted by the people themselves.

I am, etc. MICHAEL J. BYRNE Ratepayer, Iona, Queens.

OUR YESTERDAYS From The Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (Aug. 18, 1931) Great pleasure at the evident prosperity of the Province at the present time was expressed by Hon. W.A. Black, M.P., Halifax, on his arrival here last night.

Work is progressing favorably on the airport at Upton Farm and will be completed on Saturday night in good time for the Trans-Canada Air Pageant. TEN YEARS AGO (Aug. 18, 1946) The new 17th Recce Regimental Band will make its first appearance in public Monday afternoon, when it will play at the official reception of Field Marshal Montgomery. The band is under the direction of Bandmaster Thomas MacFarlane.

Veteran's Affairs Minister, Hon. Ian MacKenzie, said in the House of Commons today that he hoped to visit "beautiful Prince Edward Island" in the near future, and while here he planned to look into a number of matters concerning veterans' affairs.

NOTES BY THE WAY A woman gets a line on her neighbor by observing what kind of clothes she has on the line.—St. Thomas Times-Journal. Many a wife has turned an old rake into a lawnmower.—Nanaimo Free Press. Industrial expansion is on the march, and confidence that the boom will continue is shown by the young proprietors of a lemonade stand on our street, who have bought their second lemon.—Brandon Sun. We would suggest that signs be placed (on the highways) where accidents have occurred. Such signs, in big, bold type, "Three Persons Killed Here," "Youth, 16, Girl, 16 Died in Crash Here" and so on might well prove very effective. Such a policy might make those certain people, who are so difficult to reach, stop and think.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

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