

AT THE HOUSE OF SHELLS

Diving for shells and coral is not just a hobby for Hugh Read of Cairns, Queensland. It is a full-time job, for Hugh lives at the House of Ten Thousand Shells.

His parents' interest in conchology, or the study of shells, began seven years ago when Hugh was a schoolboy of 14. As members of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club, the Reads used to spend their weekends on the Great Barrier Reef, searching for various kinds of shells. Hugh himself loved to wander about the

world, and gradually their house began to look like a museum, with boxes of shells and showcases in every spare corner. Young Hugh labelled each shell with its scientific name, all the time learning more and more about the many species.

In the collection are shells ranging in length from one-32nd part of an inch to 24 inches. There are smooth shells, shiny shells, spiny and prickly shells of every shape, and hinged shells looking like butterflies poised for flight.

Hugh became an expert diver,

Rush weaving in Suffolk

In the small town of Debenham, Suffolk, a group of craftsmen and craftswomen have revived the ancient industry of rush weaving, and in the past ten years have produced a variety of useful articles, including floor coverings and woven baskets, which have found their way to many countries, principally America.

The rhythmical clatter of the hand looms attracts the visitor, who can see, through the windows, matting of every size and variety of weaves being made. The warp is supplied by enormous reels of flax, dyed red, gold and blue, while the weft is of green and gold rushes.

Nimble fingers plait the specially pliable reeds and rushes of the River Stour into circular table mats, which are afterwards moistened and hammered into perfect shape in a mould.

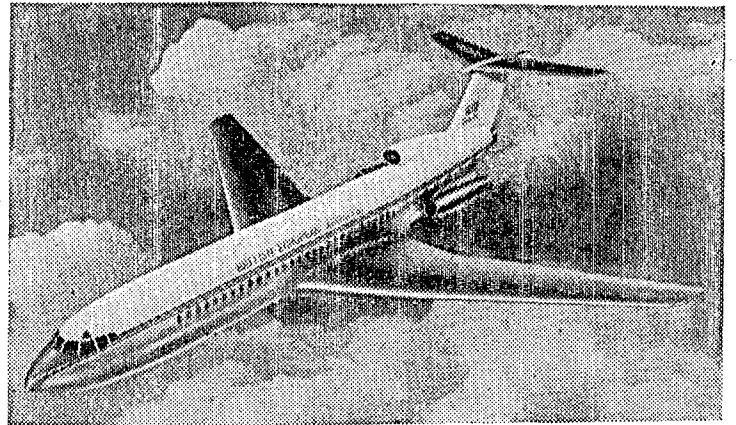
Piles of baskets lean crazily towards each other under lines of fringed table mats hanging from the rafters, and rolls of golden matting lean against the walls.

Cheaper foreign examples of woven rushwork are on the market, but for design and durability nothing can equal the workmanship of this small group of Suffolk craftsmen.

enthralled with what they saw that the Reads decided to build a special room for the collection, and it has now become one of the leading attractions of Cairns. During the tourist season hundreds of people arrive each day to see what the guide book describes as "10,000 of the world's most rare and beautiful shells scientifically and artistically displayed."

Hugh Read and his parents take turns in conducting tourists around the collection, explaining all the corals and sea ferns and shells. As a result they lead a most interesting life, meeting people from all walks of life and from many lands.

An airliner with three jets



Paris in half-an-hour, Rome in two hours, Athens in a morning. Flight times such as these will be commonplace in 1964, when British European Airways introduce their fleet of 600 m.p.h. Airco 121 jetliners.

A clean-looking low-wing monoplane seating 100 passengers, the Airco 121 is the first airliner in the world to be powered by three jets. These are grouped at the rear of the fuselage, one on either side and the third at the base of the fin. Big advantages of this arrangement are that the cabin is quieter and the wing is kept

free of engine nacelles—resulting in a higher performance.

Three engines were chosen, as two would have provided insufficient power, and four would have been uneconomical.

The engines chosen are Rolls-Royce RB 141s, notable for their quietness.

The Airco 121, which is to be produced by the new Airco Manufacturing Company—formed by de Havilland, Hunting Aircraft, and Fairey Aviation—will be used by B.E.A. on inter-city routes in Britain as well as on continental routes.



Hugh Read and his mother with two huge shells

exposed coral reefs at low tide, gazing into rock pools and turning over countless stones in quest of unusual specimens. Sometimes he would get up in the middle of the night and go looking for shells by moonlight.

The Reads would bring their treasures home and find out their names. Then they started exchanging shells with other enthusiasts in far corners of the

and would find all kinds of treasure in the multi-coloured grottos of the Barrier Reef. Over the years he has collected more than a hundred species of beautiful coral, some as delicate as lace, and others of fantastic shape.

The Read collection became widely known, and one day the Australian Tourist Bureau asked Mrs. Read whether visitors might come and see it. They were so

Following the pioneer

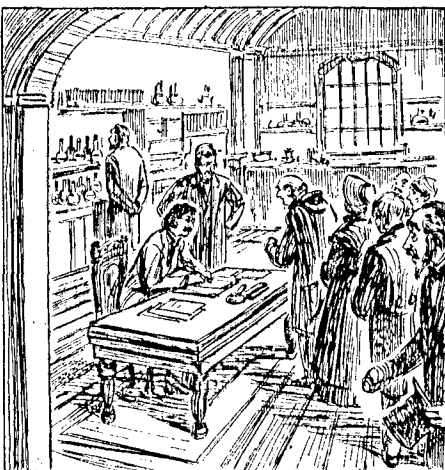
On September 11, 1928, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith made his pioneer flight across the Tasman Sea from Australia to New Zealand. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of that event there is to be a flight over the same route, Sydney to Christchurch, by Tasman Empire Airways. Among the passengers will be people who were prominently associated with the pioneer flight, and the plane will also carry special mail, Australia and New Zealand both having issued stamps to mark the anniversary.

GOOD COMPANIONS

Annuals are bright companions for winter evenings, and among the brightest of them is the Billy the Kid Book of Picture Stories 1959. It is packed with thrilling yarns of the old Wild West, and is beautifully illustrated.

Equally good as a companion for girls is The School Friend Annual 1959. Here smiles are blended with excitement in picture stories, and in tales of school life, adventure in faraway lands and in bygone times. At 7s. 6d. each, these Annuals are grand value for money.

LOUIS PASTEUR—picture-story of one of the world's greatest life-savers (11)



The boy, Jupille, recovered, and the news of Pasteur's successful preventive treatment against rabies spread to other lands. Many people who had been bitten by mad dogs came to his laboratory. He supervised their treatment by his assistants, and helped those who were poor, or who could not speak French, to find accommodation in Paris. Doctors, too, came from distant countries to study his methods.



One day a girl was brought to him who had been bitten 37 days before—too long for him to have much hope of preventing the onset of rabies. If he tried to save her and failed, people might lose faith in his treatment. However, he yielded to the parents' entreaties and inoculated her. But she developed the disease and died. He stayed at her bedside all the time, and burst into tears when he left the house.



This one failure in no way lessened the world's confidence in Pasteur, and not long afterwards four American children who had been bitten by a mad dog set sail for France. When the youngest of them, aged five, had his first prick with the syringe he asked, "Is that all we have come such a long journey for?" But that and several more inoculations saved him and his three companions from developing rabies.



In March 1886 a mad wolf roamed a district of Russia, savagely biting everyone it met. Nineteen people received terrible wounds from its powerful jaws, one of the victims being a priest who was attacked as he was entering his church. The local authorities decided to send them all to Paris, in charge of a doctor, for treatment by Pasteur. But when they arrived, five were already very ill.

What can Pasteur do for these unfortunate people? See next week's instalment