

Cheltenham children take over theatre

For the next few weeks the Playhouse at Cheltenham will virtually become a Children's Theatre, with about 50 children from the town and district taking part in a number of plays and playlets.

Tried as an experiment last year, the Children's Theatre was so successful that it is planned to hold it every year.

In charge of the productions is a well-known local actor and producer, Mr. Vernon Morse, who has also written some of the plays to be performed.

The young actors and actresses, all between eight and 18, are also carrying out many jobs behind

the scenes, as well as selling programmes and tickets.

Among the plays being presented are a short Elizabethan morality play, an adaptation of a Hans Andersen fairy tale, and an Italian legend adapted by C. P. Snow and Pamela Hansford Johnson. The season will close with a full-length production of *Alice in Wonderland*, written, by Vernon Morse.

Intended to give local children theatrical experience both on and off stage, this enterprise has attracted a great deal of attention and there are to be radio and television programmes about it.

Do it yourself at Olympia

The eighth International Handicrafts and Do It Yourself Exhibition will be held at Olympia, London, from the 8th to 23rd September.

The British contribution will include self-laid asphalt for paving garden-paths, a brick fireplace the householder can install himself, and picture-hangers which need neither nails, screws, nor wires. Various sewing and knitting machines will be displayed.

Fine craftsmanship from many countries of the world will also be on view, notably in the case of a team of Yugoslav weavers.

GOOD SCOUT

Of all the boys who ever triumphed over disability there was never one with a braver heart than Tony Jowett, Queen's Scout, of St. Martin's Troop, Leeds.

Physically handicapped from childhood, he joined the Scouts when he was 15, became a Cub Master, later Assistant Scoutmaster, and then a Senior Auxiliary in charge of Senior Scouts. His life was one long struggle against ill-health, but if ever there was anything he could do for his fellows, he would be there, the leader whose watchword was Service.

Now, at the age of 22, he has passed away. Tony Jowett fought the good fight, and by his shining example will be remembered.

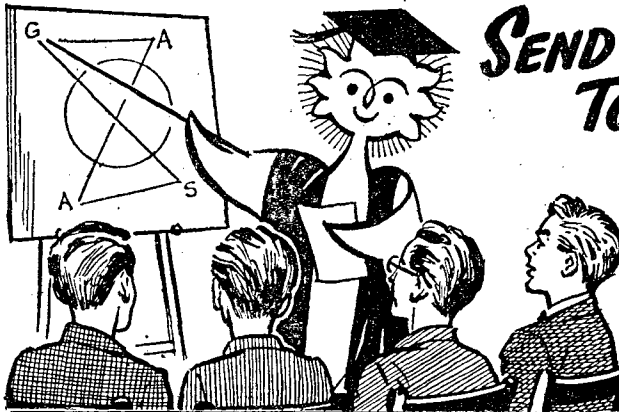
LITTLE BOY LOST



No wonder he looks puzzled. This signpost is not in America but in Lincolnshire, the village of New York being only a few miles from the market town of Boston.

Here's a Chance to Win Book Tokens

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO MR. THERM



Lots of people are interested in answers to interesting questions, and on this page are three of the sort Mr. Therm is always being asked. Can you think of a good question? Write it on a plain postcard, with your full name, address, and age, then send it to Mr. Therm's Mailbag No. 14, c/o Children's Newspaper, 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Each week Mr. Therm will award two-guinea Book Tokens for each of the three best questions for answering. If more than one of you send the same question, the first received will be chosen.

Issued by the Gas Council

WHY IS IT WASTEFUL TO BURN NATURAL COAL?



George Ballantyne of Leeds wins a book token for this question.

The most important reason for not burning natural coal is because of the damage it does! The cheery glow we see is all very well, but the smoke which comes from old fashioned ordinary open fires costs Britain something like £250,000,000 a year.

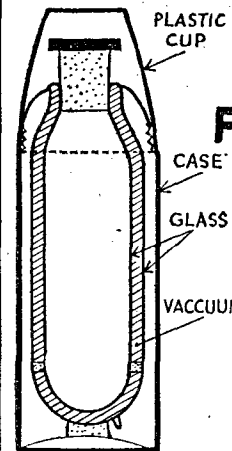
How is this damage done? Well, it is smoke which turns mists and fogs into killer smog, which, every winter, blankets our towns and cities, shuts off the sunlight, reduces all our resistance to colds, flu and bronchitis, and directly causes the deaths of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of elderly people.

Smoke also corrodes metal, and eats away the stonework not only of old buildings but of new ones as well, and it does a lot of harm to growing crops and vegetation.

And Mummy will tell you what a lot of damage is caused in the home by smoke, making clothes hard to keep clean, and paint dull before it need be.

However, things are not always going to be like this. In 1956, the Government passed the Clean Air Act, which permits local councils to set up "Smoke Control Areas." In these areas it is an offence to give off smoke from any domestic chimney. Gradually, the law will cover all England, and only smokeless fuels will be allowed.

Two of the most important smokeless fuels are gas and coke, so Mr. Therm is playing a really important part in helping to make Britain clean. Coke-heating appliances are much more efficient than old-fashioned grates—and more economical, for you can get as much heat from 16 cwt. of coke as you can from one ton of coal!



HOW DOES A VACUUM FLASK WORK?

A book token has been sent to Anne Watson of Norwich for this question.

The best way to keep food or drink hot or cold is to put a curtain of absolutely nothing between it and the atmosphere! That's what a vacuum flask does. Look at the diagram. You'll see that the bottle inside the container is really made up of two thicknesses of glass. Sealed in between these thicknesses is nothing—a vacuum that is!

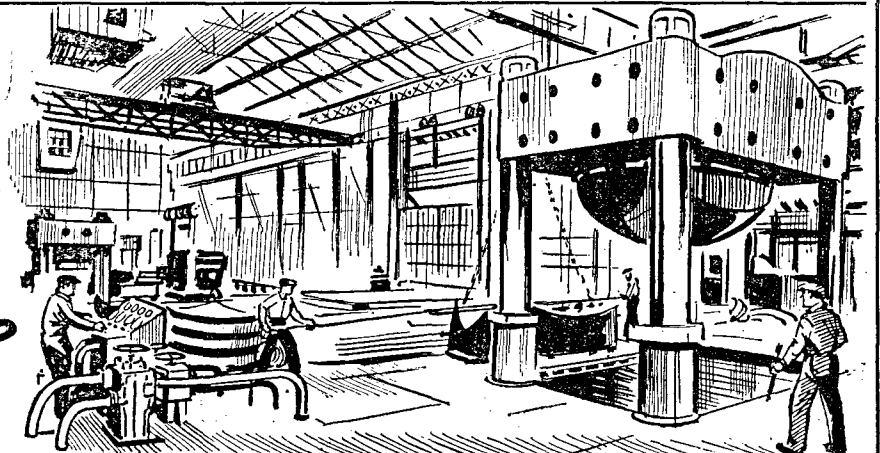
When the bottle is made (and gas will have played a large part in making it) a twist or nozzle is left at the bottom, rather like a small tail, which is then sealed with a special sort of gas burner, which gives the correct heat for a perfect join. Then the bottle is fitted into its case, and you have your vacuum flask.

If you put a hot drink in, it will keep hot because, as a vacuum does not conduct heat, no heat can get through from the inside. So there is no path along which the heat can flow, except the thin glass walls of the inner bottle, and the cork in the top—and as both glass and cork are poor conductors of heat, the leakage of heat in this way is likely to be extremely small.

As an added precaution against heat escaping the outer wall of the inner bottle and the inner wall of the outer bottle are silvered, which very largely reduces radiation of heat from the innerbottle.

Originally, the vacuum flask was invented by a scientist, Sir John Dewar, to keep gases in a liquid state, but now it is used in the home in a hundred different ways!

HOW DOES GAS HELP TO MAKE STEEL?



This question wins a book token for Gordon Robertson of Glasgow.

Gas is used extensively in Britain's great steel industry. In our picture you can see a gas-heated furnace working in conjunction with a 2000-ton hydraulic press in a factory producing heavy plates for atomic reactor pressure vessels.

The strength and durability of many of Britain's great engineering feats depend on the correct selection and heat treatment of the steel used in their construction. Town gas—just the same as that which cooks your Sunday joint and gives you constant hot water—is the ideal fuel for heat treatment processes necessary

in the manufacture of modern engineering equipment.

In the important aircraft industry, too, Mr. Therm is on the job. The widespread use of gas in the production of aero engines starts in the foundry where gas equipment, some specially developed, is in constant use for metal melting and precision casting of all kinds. The forging of turbine blades and the extrusion of airframe sections require the close control of increasing temperatures, and a number of other components which have to be heat treated require a similar high standard of finish.

As always, Mr. Therm can be relied on to provide just what is wanted!

GAS PROVIDES POWER FOR THE WORLD OF TODAY—AND TOMORROW