

## CAN YOU COLOUR THE BLUE BOY?

£50 FOR A GOOD TRY

How Near Can a C.N. Artist  
Get to Gainsborough?

FAMOUS PICTURE AT ITS  
VERY BEST

The Blue Boy has gone to America, and it may never more be seen in its native land.

It is good to know, however, that a most excellent copy of this immortal picture was made before its removal from the National Gallery for its voyage across the Atlantic. There have been many published copies of Gainsborough's splendid portrait, but all of them bore the mark of time, for, however preciously guarded a picture may be, its colours will get dimmed with dust.

Now, however, there is published perhaps the best impression ever printed in a magazine of this great picture. It is the cover of the new number of the C.N. monthly, My Magazine, and it is unique, because, by the generous courtesy of Messrs. Duveen, the world-wide dealers in art, the photographers of My Magazine were allowed to make a special negative of the picture after it had been cleaned for exhibition in the National Gallery.

The effect of the cleaning was wonderful, and, as only ninety thousand people were able to see it, it occurred to the Editor of the C.N. that it would be a good thing to send a reproduction of the picture round the world.

And so My Magazine this month is carrying with it this famous Blue Boy looking its very best; and in order to encourage the thousands of young artists who read the C.N. we have decided to offer a prize of £50 and fifty other prizes of £1 each for the best coloured copies of this cover.

All you have to do is to take the new number of the C.N. monthly, cut out the page on which the outline of the cover appears, and paint this outline according to the colours on the cover.

Full particulars of how to send in your attempt will be found in My Magazine for May, now on sale on the bookstalls. Secure a copy today.

## BADGER HUNT IN LONDON

### Truant Animal Caught in a Net

About three o'clock in the morning a policeman in the Marylebone district of London heard a cats' chorus of great and unusual vigour.

He went to see what was the matter, and found a number of cats making a great noise around an area. He turned his searchlight into the area, and there, to his surprise and alarm, he saw a large badger crouching in a corner and showing his teeth at the cats.

The policeman called to another, who said at once, "Why, that's the animal that escaped from the Zoo; they've been looking for him these two days."

And then he told how forty-eight hours earlier the badger had broken out of his cage, had been seen here and there, chased round a square by a taxicab, hunted out of a railway goods yard, and then lost altogether.

But at last he was cornered, for he could not get out of the area except by running past the policemen's searchlights; and this he was evidently afraid to do. So he stayed where he was until a party arrived from the Zoological Gardens with a big net, in which he was quickly caught and taken back.

He seemed quite thankful to get back, ate a good meal, then settled down to a long, comfortable sleep. He had not enjoyed his run about London.

Having only recently arrived at the Zoo from his native haunts, the badger was wild and unused to the excitement of town life.

Picture on back page

## Your Wonderful Memory

C. B. FRY'S LETTERS TO C.N. READERS

How to Train Yourself to Remember  
the Things You Should Know

THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF WILL-POWER AND PERSEVERANCE

In the ancient classical times, which had their merits, nearly all the really nice deities were ladies—or, rather, goddesses.

Mnemosyne, Lady Memory, was not quite a goddess, but she was the Mother of the Muses; an important position, because in those days, though people did not talk much about Culture, they practised it.

Plato, the charming philosopher, called Memory the Mother of the Intellect; he thought that knowledge is to wisdom what his realm is to a king; and no one can be wise with nothing to be wise with. But Plato did not, I fancy, concentrate much on dates of kings and battles, or masses of fugitive detail, but rather on the pith and essence of things, main principles.

### India's Unwritten Grammar

Anyhow, we all know the worth of a good memory for what we want to remember, and we know that people differ much in this valuable quality. The Sanskrit grammar, about the size of our Bible, was handed down by memory, unwritten, in India for 350 years; and there are Indian priests who can repeat correctly poems of 300,000 lines.

On the other hand, the Roman Emperor Claudius, having had his wife Messalina put to death, got angry about an hour afterwards because she did not come when sent for.

Some people have two memories, good and bad; for instance, a gentleman named Calvisius Sabrinus had to call his nine servants after the nine Muses, and his friends after poets, such as Homer, because he could remember none but literary names.

There are only two ways of developing a good memory; one by what is called association, the other by practising to remember. All systems for remembering are based on association—schemes for joining one thing with another in your mind.

### Association of Ideas

For instance, you remember that *panis* is the Latin and *pain* the French for bread, because bread can be baked in a pan. This method has been cleverly elaborated, and some of the dodges are in a way very useful; you can pay quite a lot to learn them. Except for certain details, however, they are in the end more bother than they are worth, because you have such a lot of things referred to such a lot of other things that you get lost in a mass of associated associations.

The second, and, I believe, the only good method, is that of direct memory guided by will. A man named Leland, whom I have mentioned before, explained this method best, and I owe him most of what I know about it. He did not sell his information for money, and his methods of education had an enormous success. He did not deny that association of ideas was useful, but he objected to it as a basis. His advice is this.

In order to learn how to remember we should begin by taking something easy to retain, such as a verse, or proverb, or text, and learn it absolutely perfectly backwards and for-

wards. We should repeat it next day; this revising is the most important point. On the second day we should add another verse, and so on.

We should never learn anything new till we have absolutely and perfectly memorised the old, and we should revise and review every day. The result, if we persevere, is that we find the process easier and easier, especially the revision, which is troublesome to begin with. The exercises at first cannot be too easy; it is the perfection of the effort, and not its size, that counts. Gradually the exercises may be increased.

After acquiring a good facility in this way, the next step is to have the verse or text read to you several times in earlier stages, and later only once. Try to remember and revise it on this same plan, and let the length increase as your power grows.

It is maintained that after a year or so most people can remember, word for word, a whole lecture. I myself once heard Prince Ranjitsinhji dictate a six-page letter to his secretary, who took no word down, but brought the whole exact half an hour afterwards.

### Will and Perseverance

This, of course, sounds a simple and troublesome process, but there is a great aid to it I will tell you about. But first you should note that, though this method begins with verses and texts, the same process can be applied later to any sort of subject matter for memory. Clearly the method depends on will and perseverance; but so does every real method of acquiring any power of mind and body, or of developing fully our material gifts.

Now the great aid is what Leland calls Energetic Forethought. It applies not only to this task, but to others. You must fully intend, but more, and in a special way. Every time you must assure yourself clearly and completely that you know your own mind about what you mean to do—however small the thing may be. Meditate on it earnestly and quietly, and gather a considered determination to master it. Put as much active forethought into the work as you can, and proceed.

### Resolving to Remember

It is claimed that this way of acquiring strength of memory is much facilitated by repeating the task in hand just before going to sleep, together with a resolution to remember it in future.

All this really amounts to training by a form of drill our faculty of memory. The faculty grows through, not merely in, the particular subject matter on which it is exercised. Anyone can see that the second method suggested aims at developing a faculty, at helping it to grow; whereas the dodge and tip methods founded upon conscious association, or linking of one image in the mind with another, only work at one brick in the building.

I am sure that all this is worth the attention of those who would woo the fair goddess Mnemosyne. She does not accept "tips," but does accept service, and blesses it. C. B. F.

## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

BRILLIANT WOMAN  
NOVELIST

Charlotte Brontë and Her  
Clever Sisters

A SURPRISE FOR THE  
PUBLISHERS

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| April 16. Battle of Culloden . . . . .               | 1746 |
| 17. Bishop Stillingfleet born at Cranborne . . . . . | 1635 |
| 18. Mme. de Sévigné died at Grignan . . . . .        | 1693 |
| 19. Lord Byron died at Missolonghi . . . . .         | 1824 |
| 20. Napoleon III born in Paris . . . . .             | 1808 |
| 21. Charlotte Brontë born at Thornton . . . . .      | 1813 |
| 22. Royal Society founded, London . . . . .          | 1662 |

Charlotte Brontë who, many of us think, wrote the English language more powerfully than any other woman has written it, was born at Thornton, near Bradford in Yorkshire, on April 21, 1816.

During the greater part of her life her home was at Haworth, a grey village on the edge of rather sombre Yorkshire moors. There her father was the clergyman, and in the parsonage four children grew up after their mother's early death, with Charlotte as the eldest. The others were Emily, as clever as Charlotte; Anne, not so clever, but very good; and a brother, Branwell, next in age to Charlotte. He became a drunken ne'er-do-well, and a terrible trouble to the family and its rather grim father.



Charlotte Brontë

### Three Famous Authors

Charlotte and Emily, and an elder sister who died, were educated at a school they detested and that is described in Charlotte's powerful novel "Jane Eyre." Then they had to leave home and become governesses, for the family was poor. They taught sometimes in manufacturers' families of the kind described in Charlotte's book "Shirley." Charlotte went as a teacher as far afield as Brussels, as described in her story "Villette."

At home, from childhood, they wrote books for love of writing; and when they grew up published jointly a volume of poems under the names Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell, thus keeping to their initials. Under the same names each of the sisters had a tale accepted for publication in 1847, and Charlotte's tale, "Jane Eyre," made her almost instantly famous. The publishers themselves did not know it was written by a woman, and were astonished when they discovered the author to be a lady.

### Writer of Vivid Books

After that Charlotte had great literary success, and it has endured now for nearly 75 years, and will endure. But her home troubles continued, for her brother and her two sisters died. Their whole story is finely told in Mrs. Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Brontë," one of the best biographies ever written. When she was 38 Charlotte married her father's curate, and died before she was 39.

Her books, based largely on her own experiences, are written with an intense vividness that makes them seem exactly like pictures of real life. The heroine in "Jane Eyre" and in "Villette" is drawn from herself, and in "Shirley" from her sister Emily.

Her favourite subject was how strength of character in a feeble little woman can grapple with all emergencies and rise triumphant over difficulties. That was what Charlotte Brontë did, and through her tales she described the doing of it with a power that no novelist, man or woman, has surpassed.