

A DREAM COMES TRUE

Almost every boy at some time or other dreams of becoming an engine driver. The dreams of these two Lithuanian boys have soon come true, for they are the driver and guard of a children's railway which crosses the public park at Vilna, capital of Lithuania. The railway, nearly three miles long, was presented by the authorities and is run entirely by children.



PACIFIC PESTS

SNAILS four to five inches long abound in New Guinea, and are increasing so rapidly that they have become a menace to the plant life of several islands. The Japanese invaders introduced them for food. Now the authorities are racking their brains to think of a way of getting rid of these destructive snails.

GREAT & LITTLE

THE extremes of agricultural research are to be found in the aerial photograph and the electron-microscope photograph.

An aerial photograph may cover many acres of land. This type of photography is being used by the Ministry of Agriculture in research concerning such factors as differences in soil colours and the effect of shadows on crops.

At the other end of the scale the electron-microscope may only cover a millionth part of a square centimetre. It is capable of picking out objects 50 times smaller than those which can be seen with the best microscope, and is used for examining virus diseases.

A Pig Who Would A-Swimming Go

IN the middle of the Norfolk town of Diss is the Mere, covering some six acres, and the other day a pig performed the extraordinary feat of swimming across it twice.

After declining an invitation to be housed comfortably, the pig escaped into the Park fields, followed by children and its would-be custodians. Dashing into the Mere, it swam across to some butcher's premises. By the time its pursuers had got round to the spot, the pig sensed that there was no future for it in a butcher's yard. So, shooting through the legs of those out to

Operational Plan CCC

THE challenge of Christianity is going to be brought to the heart of our nation and Empire. The Christian Commandos, who have already established beach-heads at various points all over England, are now planning, preparing, and praying, in anticipation of their greatest and most difficult venture so far—an attack on Greater London, which will open on April 14 with a big meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, and will continue for ten days.

They will have many allies, some enemies, a few fifth columnists, and perhaps more than a few neutrals. But it is going to be a stirring business when Operational Plan CCC—Christian Commando Campaign—is put into effect. Youth will be there in full force. Some will be wearing the badge "CCC" and some will not. But badge or no badge London is going to be invaded by the Commandos of Christ, and thousands of young people will be in the forefront of the attack. More power to their elbow.

capture it, the animal ran back into the Mere and swam to the other side.

Ignoring all invitations to come ashore, the pig then paddled along to a private garden and took refuge for the night in a summer-house.

Not until the following day was its hiding-place found, and even then it took three men to capture it.

Except for a cold, the animal was none the worse for its adventure and has since been eating well—and we all know how well pigs can eat when they really get down to it!

PROBING THE SKIES

WRITING in the Soviet magazine, Culture and Life, M. Vavilov, chief of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, states that two Russian scientists have probed the atmosphere to a height of about 35 miles with "projector rays."

He goes on to say that this unexpected and surprising experiment opens up a new practical method of studying the atmosphere with results which may be significant.

Plane-Spotting Again

THE men and women of the Royal Observer Corps who kept constant watch for hostile aircraft during the war made a great contribution to the nation's safety by giving advance warning of the approach of enemy planes.

Now the Royal Observer Corps is being reorganised. Some permanent officers will be appointed, but 28,500 sparetime volunteers will be required. In the first place, only those with previous experience will be enrolled. All volunteers will be trained to identify planes in flight and practise plotting, and from time to time will join in exercises with the R.A.F.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

THE British Council, which was founded in 1935 to spread knowledge about Britain in overseas countries and foster cultural relations between them and us, has recently published its Report for the year ended March 31, 1946. The Report shows, among other interesting matters, how further progress has been made in building up again those valuable relationships between Britain and Continental Europe which had been broken by the war.

The Report is to be seen in most public libraries.

The Rabbit, the Fox, & the Dog

THIS story of a dog's cleverness has just reached the C.N.

Mr E. Woodward, of Hornchurch, Essex, was roused from sleep by the sound of a rabbit squealing in terror. Thinking of his own rabbits, he rose, took a torch, and called to his Alsatian dog, Rex. Hurrying to the door leading into the garden, Mr Woodward saw by the light from his torch a fox running down the path with one of the rabbits, which was still squealing. With a growl Rex dashed off in pursuit of the thief, which turned into a field and raced for safety with its victim.

Feeling that he had seen the last of his rabbit, but hoping that Rex would catch the fox,

Mr Woodward decided to return to bed. But before he had settled down there was a squeak followed by a bark at the front door. When he opened the door he was amazed to see Rex and the rabbit waiting for him, the dog wagging his tail with delight and the rabbit still trembling in fear.

The rabbit, he discovered, was suffering from nothing worse than a lameness in the hind legs, and a few hours later had completely recovered.

Mr Woodward believes that the fox was forced to drop the rabbit in the effort to get away from Rex, and that the dog gave up the chase in order to carry the rabbit home.

NEWS IN KENYA

THE influence of the printed word on the African reader is increasing in Kenya. Paid circulation of newspapers produced for the African there is now over 50,000; and as several people share each copy, and some read aloud to groups of listeners, an interest in current events and people is being cultivated and is becoming stronger.

A CHURCHILL BEACON?

AT a recent meeting at Sandwich, Kent, to consider the proposal of erecting a giant statue of Mr Churchill on the cliffs of Dover, a gentleman from Margate made a suggestion which must have caused Mr Churchill to chuckle heartily when he heard of it. The man from the town of shrimps, sands, and sea-breezes solemnly suggested that the statue should have a huge cigar which could be kept permanently illuminated as a guide to shipping in the Straits.

Some at the meeting thought that a giant statue was not in keeping with British tradition and dignity, and no doubt they also felt that, much as we owe Mr Churchill, there is no need to turn his cigar into a beacon.

The imaginative Margatian's idea recalls a similar one made by Mrs Kruger, widow of the famous Boer leader, when the question of a statue to her husband at Pretoria was being discussed. Her idea, which was carried out, was to leave the top of the statue's hat open to serve as a drinking bath for birds.

Canadian Generosity

INDIVIDUALS and Church groups and clubs in Canada have been surrendering their meat coupons so that the meat they might have obtained with them should be sent to Britain and Europe. During the last six months more than three million pounds of meat have been sent in this way to us and people on the Continent.

In the last two weeks of October alone 97,000 coupons were thus sacrificed, the largest single contributor being the Mennonite Church with 10,000 coupons. This Church was founded at Zurich in 1525, and after it had been greatly persecuted was reorganised by Menno Simons, whose name it bears.

Mennonites today are often farmers, and are everywhere respected for their honesty and philanthropy.

Twice Launched

NOW on the high seas, stowed on the deck of another ship, the Iranian Oil Company boat Lali will have the distinction of being launched twice.

Built at Port Glasgow in 1939, the Lali was dismantled to make way for war tonnage. Re-assembled after the war, she was launched, ran trials in the Gareloch, and was again dismantled by a new process. She was divided into four sections with oxy-acetylene flame cutters.

On arrival in Persia she will be launched in the River Karun after being electrically welded into one complete ship again.

WASHING SMOKE

THE world's strangest "laundries" are to be found aboard the Queen Elizabeth. They are situated in the funnels, and they wash the smoke.

These laundries are huge circular water-filled tubes which extract the heavy smuts from the smoke and allow a "clean" gas to be released. Through periscopes in the boiler-room, stokers, who can look directly into the smoke-boxes, are able to control the volume of smoke entering these strange laundries.

ROUND THE MUSEUMS

Here is the second of a new series of pictures of odd things to be seen in various museums throughout the country.

The Sword Breaker

THIS queer weapon, to be seen at the Brighton Museum, may well have been the answer to the bully with the sword in the days of Henry VIII, when it was used. The user caught the blade of his adversary's sword



in the weapon's teeth and then, by a deft movement of his wrist, broke the blade. The point at the end shows that the sword-breaker was not used purely as a defensive weapon.