

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC4
MARCH 15 1952

£1,500,000 TO SAVE LIFE

NEVER has a sum of money been allocated to a worthier purpose than the £1,500,000 from the National Road Fund which is to be used to tackle the problem of the "accident black spot" on our roads.

The amount is indeed little enough, but it does represent a practical attempt to get rid of some of the causes of road accidents. We cannot get a new road system overnight, but we can try to straighten out bad corners, lower humped-back bridges, and give a more uniform lighting system to our big towns.

If this money is used in an imaginative and determined manner many lives will be saved. Last year, 5250 people were killed in road accidents, and 211,243 more were injured and nearly all of them were victims of speed, carelessness, and unthoughtful conduct.

It must be remembered that however many millions of pounds we spend on our roads, the problem of accidents remains a human problem. When everyone who uses the roads — pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike—is aware *all the time* of the need for alertness and consideration—then, and then only, will the appalling toll of road deaths appreciably diminish. It is a matter for the consciences of us all.

The Editor's Table

No short cut

To learn, parrot-like, stock answers to hoped-for stock questions is believed by some students to be a short cut to success in exams; they expect their store of answers to win them marks.

This fallacy was criticised recently by the Vice-Chancellor of London University, Professor H. H. Bellot. Pointing out that a university is not an institution for giving docile minds a knowledge of the right answers, he went on to call the fear of making mistakes "the most deadly of academic diseases."

He was urging the value to universities of doctors of philosophy who, he said, "are persons who have shown a capacity for finding out."

The road to knowledge is always a hard one, and we must agree with a recent report of the National Association of Schoolmasters that a scholar must have "the ability to suffer continuing drudgery willingly, in order to reach a goal."

Jeannette's Choice

JEANNETTE ALTWEGG, who at one time recently held the British, European, Olympic, and World figure-skating championships, has decided to retire.

This 21-year-old daughter of a textile manufacturer could have earned a fortune in the next four years by turning professional; but she refused all offers.

"What is the good of making a million dollars?" she said. "I should get ideas far beyond me. I should have to keep up a position quite unnatural to me."

Instead, this famous girl intends to study psychology in Switzerland, improve her knowledge of languages, and take up child welfare; along these paths, she feels, lie true riches, of far greater worth than those she has renounced.

Well done, Jeannette — and good luck!

UNCLE SAM IS 100

UNCLE SAM is just a century old. The figure of the tall Yankee with chin whiskers, which represents the United States of America, first appeared in a New York comic weekly, the Lantern, on March 13, 1852.

He was designed as a contrast to John Bull. The cartoon in which he first appeared was called Raising the Wind. It depicted the struggle between the American shipowner and the Cunard Line, with John Bull actively helping his company while Uncle Sam stood by as an amiable onlooker, refusing to give a government subsidy to American shipowners. The cartoonist was F. Bellew.



A competition is being held in America to find a new Uncle Sam, for the original creation is not considered truly representative of the modern progressive spirit of America.

Damage Recorder

AMONG recently-marketed gadgets is one which records the rough treatment sustained by a parcel in transit.

When enclosed in a package, the device provides unquestionable record, it is claimed, of the number of times it has been dropped, as well as the heights from which such drops occurred. It can measure drops of from three inches to three feet.

We now await a device that will guard the contents of parcels from breakage or damage when dropped from the same heights.

ONCE MORE THE SPRING

Once more the Heavenly Power makes all things new,
And domes the red-ploughed hills

With loving blue;
The blackbirds have their wills,
The throistles too. Lord Tennyson

Self-help builders

IT is now possible for people in Britain to build their own houses—and by so doing to earn the blessing of the Minister of Housing. Already there are more than 30 building groups in the London area, and the pleasing thing about them is the spirit of self-help and mutual aid.

Each has a membership of about 50, all trained in one or other of the building crafts, and every member of the group eventually gets a house. The money is provided by the local authority, but each member puts in £20 or £30, and binds himself to give his labour free for two years at weekends and during holidays.

These amateur builders aim to keep the cost of each building at £1000, and a house is allotted to them on a points system according to their family needs. Some of the houses are constructed of concrete blocks, an easier method for the amateur.

The National Self-help Building Association have 600 houses under construction, and about 40 people a day are asking for plans.

Thirty Years Ago

IN a New York police-court a blue cat was a prominent witness in a recent case.

It sat on a bench and looked round benevolently, and did not show any resentment against its owner, who was charged with dyeing it blue.

Its natural colour was white, but the owner, a young woman of 23, wanted it to match the blue walls and the blue curtains and the blue furniture and her blue frocks. So she dyed pussy's long Angora fur, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals summoned her for alleged ill-treatment.

It was not asserted that the cat would suffer permanently, but the magistrate, after telling the young woman how foolish she had been, ordered it to be left in the Society's keeping.

From the Children's Newspaper, March 18, 1922

JUST AN IDEA

As Oliver Cromwell wrote:
Subtlety may deceive you;
Integrity never will.

The Children's Newspaper, March 15, 1952

THINGS SAID

I CAN cook only three things. When people come to see me they have to like one of the three or stay away.

Hilda, Duchess of Richmond and Gordon

HALF my time as a teacher is spent trying to immobilise small boys.

Mr. P. Major, of Chingford

FILM music is even more painful than my sciatica. It has nothing to do with the film's story. It is just noise, loud, silly.

Sir Thomas Beecham

THE writing of a well-made play can be learned: the writing of a fine play can neither be learned nor taught.

Mr. Peter Ustinov

IT is an all-day and nearly an all-night job, and just between you and me and the gate-post, I like it.

Mr. Truman on the Presidency

AMERICANS like to make a plan, write it down, then fit the bits together. We like to start with bits, getting the whole at the end instead of the beginning.

Sir Christopher Steel, Minister British Embassy in Washington

IN THE COUNTRY

THE earth is stirring now, awakened by the roaring of the winds of March. It is a good time to be out-of-doors, to rejoice in the warmth of returning sunshine, and in the many signs of spring.

In the words of John Clare:
Though still so early, one may spy,

And mark Spring's footsteps every hour;

*The daisy, with its golden eye,
And primrose bursting into flower;*

And snugly, where the thorny bower

Keeps off the nipping frost and wind,

Excluding all but sun and shower,

The children early violets find.

Truly it is a joyful thing to see the early spring blossoms hastening forth, like over-eager children, to greet the sun, and to note the first suspicion of gossamer-green in the top of the larchwoods.

Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If washing dishes counts as homework

Scientists are to discuss how tiredness affects working people. Usually they go to sleep.

Some people join the first queue they see. And think their troubles are at an end.

We are not likely to get South African apricots much longer. Are they short?

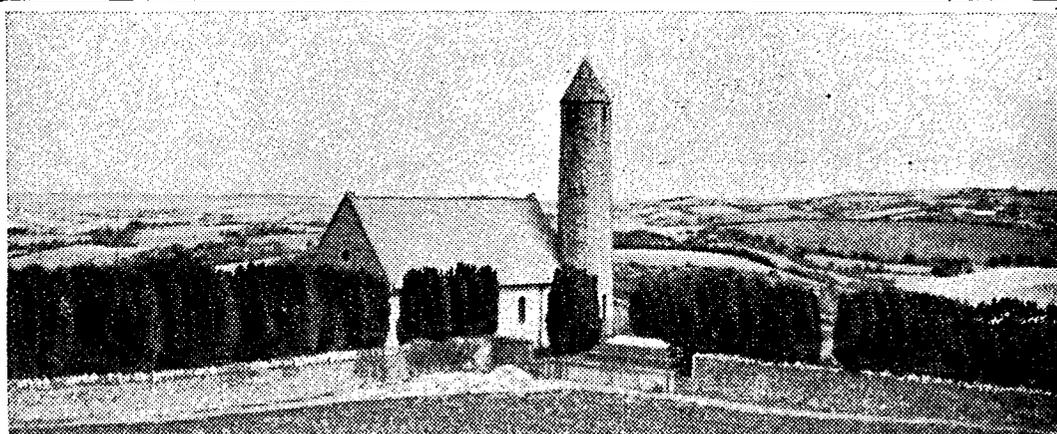
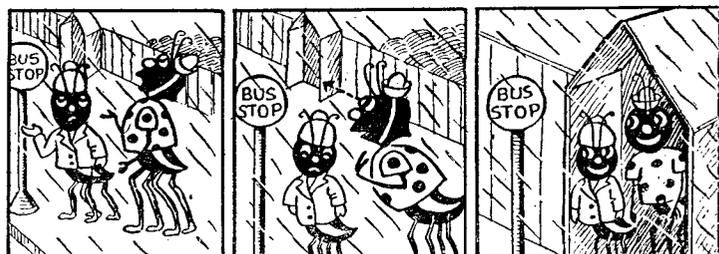
A little boy went to a fancy-dress party as a postage stamp. Wonder if he got a licking?



While a motorist was at a meeting the sea washed over his car. Trust it gave it a polish as well.

Britain's leading industrial scientists are searching for the ideal chair. Better form a committee and sit on it.

BILLY BEETLE



OUR HOMELAND

Saint Patrick's Memorial Church on the banks of Lough Strangford, in County Down, the site of this Saint's first church in Ireland