

Sarawak Gazette

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The Sarawak Gazette

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 1954

Saying for the Month

The only thing that might be said against his appointment is his youth. But surely that is a fault which needs quickly?

Queen Victoria, to
Archbishop Benson, 1887

The Philippines

Two months ago Ramon Maguayay took office as third President of the Republic of the Philippines, amid scenes of unexampled enthusiasm. The people would not let him walk; they carried him shoulder-high. He had been elected by an almost 2 to 1

majority over his predecessor, Elpidio Quirino, and on Independence Day a revolution began in Manila and throughout the islands. Impartial observers on the spot are full of hope and confidence for the people under the new Administration.

We in Sarawak, not without hope and confidence in our own future, look primarily westwards where most of our people first came and where our political and commercial interests have always largely lain. But we should not forget our East. Our first cousin, North Borneo, with whom we share so many interests, looks with the naked eye straight upon the islands of the Sulu Sea, and from there for a thousand miles the great thousand islands of the Philippine Archipelago stretch northwards to the tip of Luzon and the narrow sea that leads to Formosa. At present we can have little personal contact, largely because of currency restrictions that bedevil us all. The Philippine Republic is within the American orbit. Business bonds between us are very few, and we cannot—even if we could afford it—go to the bank and say "Please sell me some pesos. I want to go to Manila on a holiday." There is ignorance on both sides. "Borneo," you will hear in Manila; "that is somewhere south, isn't it? A wild country, Sarawak? Is that how you pronounce it? Is Sarawak in Borneo?"

Let us get a few facts into our heads, to awaken our interest; and let us go and see our northern neighbour when we can. The Philippine Republic, with her 21,000,000 people, is the third largest English-speaking country in the world. English is the everyday language of government, trade and commerce, of the schools and the leading newspapers. President Maguayay spoke his inaugural address in excellent and vigorous English. In a country where sixty-eight different languages are spoken, it is understandable that one language must sooner or later take the lead and be officially sponsored. Four-fifths of the people are Christian and a large number of the rest Mohammedan. Education is a passion. The Public School system advances steadily and there are three first-class universities.

The land is of astonishing beauty, from the tiny islands and river branches of the south to the wild and lovely mountains of the far north. Four hundred years of Spanish influence and fifty of American have spread architectural beauty and material benefits widely over the country. Natural wealth, in agriculture, forestry and mining, has been described as "hardly within the comprehension of man." The kindness and charm of the people, allied to remarkable vigour and independence of spirit, are not likely to be forgotten by anyone who has felt and enjoyed them.

There is good reason for believing that in her growing political progress, the Republic of the Philippines will more and more rapidly develop her natural assets, her educational system, and her internal peace. She will play an ever larger and more important part in world affairs. Sarawak salutes her neighbour as she marches forward on new and exciting roads.

His Excellency the Governor's visit to the Satang Rajang

At 11.00 a.m. on the 5th February His Excellency, accompanied by the Acting Chief Secretary (Mr. J. H. Ellis), the Commissioner of Trade and Customs (Mr. L. D. Kennedy) and the Private Secretary, set off from Pongding—all feeling rather apprehensive due to the long spell of very bad weather that had recently been experienced all along the Sarawak coast. We had lunch in the river, found the bar frumpy, but out to sea the weather was good and the sea consisted of long rollers, which for once Mermaid took like a lady. We anchored in calm water off Kampong Jerijeh and a boat was sent to buy crabs. The District Officer, Lower Rajang (Mr. A. J. N. Richards) and Native Officer Inche Mohamed Prangi came aboard for a bit and then went to the Kampong. As night fell we could see the new electric lights from Kampong Rejang twinkling at us.

Next day an informal landing for a pre-breakfast swim at Jerijeh was made after which the Resident (Mr. D. C. White) arrived in Kulu and we all went ashore officially, being met there by Mr. Richards and the local people. Owing to the low tide, we were carried over the mud in a palanquin marked "Fire-Red" and "Please come in". His Excellency went to the school, where the people offered him refreshments and speeches were made, and His Excellency congratulated the people, especially the light-house keepers, on their work in connection with the recent capturing of the Heavens. He then inspected the kampong and looked at some crafts. After lunch we sailed for Kampong Rejang.

We all sailed ashore, His Excellency and party being paddled in a small boat low down in the water with a top heavy platform and chairs on it, and then once again being carried over the beach in a palanquin and were met by Mr. Jack Bault of the Colonial Timber Company and his staff, as what was probably the most delectable and prolonged burst of crackers yet experienced went off. His Excellency was then introduced to the local dignitaries and to the many visitors from Sibu and elsewhere all come to see the residence at Kampong Rejang.

First of all we went to the Club house where speeches were made, then to the new national building, which His Excellency declared open. The most modern machinery was set in motion, and it was most evident how in a very short time, with the minimum of human exertion, a huge log could be cut up into thin wafers of wood. After this for a short time we watched some football while Mr. A. D. Hines conducted the Sarawak Constabulary Band. Then there was a smash ceremony whereby the Tsan Inan buried a cow's leg at each corner of the new mill and buried its head in the middle under some machinery.

That evening the Colonial Timber Company gave a champagne party and then we returned to the Club house where we were given an excellent Malay curry followed by the usual type of bungsawan which we all enjoy so much, even though it means we were late in going to bed.

On 7th February Mermaid left at daybreak and at 11 o'clock we landed at Binatang where what, when we were met by Mr. Richards and by the Assistant District Officer, Binatang, and Mrs. Smith. His Excellency was introduced to the local dignitaries and then inspected a Guard of Honour and met the Government staff. Speeches of welcome were made in the kaiba, after which he heard Requests. He then drove to the well patronised dispensary and went around the Kai Wan Middle School, after which he drove round the town and then was entertained at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce by refreshments and speeches. Eventually we set off for Sibu, which was reached at 4 p.m. and His Excellency landed informally. That night the Chinese Chamber of Commerce gave a large dinner party.

At 9 a.m. on the next day (8th Feb), His Excellency, accompanied by the Chief Secretary and the Resident arrived outside the latest extension of the Government office and inspected a Guard of Honour of the Sarawak Constabulary and then declared the new office open. They are very fine both outside and inside.

At 11.30 a.m. he arrived at the Airport and opened the new buildings there. These too are very well designed and will undoubtedly make Kuching very modern. We saw the plane from Kuching come in and then drinks were on the house.

At 2 p.m. a Sunderland came down bringing with it Lt. General Sir Hugh Stockwell, General Officer Commanding, Malaya, and Lady Stockwell and Captain Russell, the General's A.D.C. They were met by the Resident and the Governor's A.D.C. (Mr. J. D. Polgeet). On landing the General inspected a Guard of Honour and then drove to the Residency.

That evening at 6.30 p.m. there was a cocktail party at the Residency.

On the 9th February the party split, the Private Secretary and two A.D.C.s, leaving at daybreak in Mermaid while His Excellency and General and Lady Stockwell and the Resident left in Arava at about 8.30 a.m. Mermaid did not stop at Kaniok but Marau arriving 15 minutes later did and its occupants were received by the District Officer and Mrs. Morris, Messrs. Rowland and Leahy, and local dignitaries. A short stay was made at Kaniok, after which Marau set off again and caught up with Mermaid within sight of Seng.

The next stop was Kapit. Here His Excellency, in uniform, accompanied by General Stockwell, inspected a Guard of Honour of the Sarawak Constabulary and then proceeded to a dais from which His Excellency presented Pengulu Temonggong Koh with the Queen's Medal for Chiefs and General Stockwell presented Angas anak Ngabu with a Commander-in-Chief's Testimonial. After this His Excellency and party were introduced to the local dignitaries. The Kapit Pengulu then entertained his guests on the lawn outside the kaiba and then the Constabulary Band kept the Retreat. This was followed by some Kenyah singing and dancing and a film show.

On the 10th February the whole party with the addition of Mr. A. J. N. Richards, the District Officer, Kapit, (Mr. M. MacSparran and Lieutenant Hanson of the West Yorkshire Regiment proceeded upriver in several outboards. The water was kind and the last boat reached Pengulu Iupah's house at 5 p.m., where needless to say a great reception had been arranged. We went down to bath in the clear fast flowing Mirial. Lady Stockwell quickly made friends with some local ladies who affectionately cleaned her by scrubbing her with a loofah and some stones. Before dinner all the party were called on to do several exercises on the outside verandah and to don ornamental Pan dress and frighten away the bad spirits and encourage the good ones. After dinner we were all called on to enjoy outside party dock, though none of us quite achieved this. A good time was had by all, and the last few members of the party to go to bed did so at 5.15 a.m. on the 11th February.

At 6 a.m. on the 11th February we were all rather unwillingly awakened to set off early breakfastless on our long journey to Sibu. We set off at about 6.45 a.m. leaving Lieut. Hanson replying quietly on the road and once again the water was most co-operation for we made good time to Kapit, switched to Mermaid, where we had breakfast-run-lunch and reached Sibu in record time for a late tea. Mr. Richards did the whole trip from Pengulu Iupah's house in the Malak to Binatang in his outboard in one day.

There was a combined dance at the Sibu Recreation Club that evening for the members of the Sibu Recreation Club and of the Island Club: at which the Constabulary Dance Band produced the best dance music heard at Sibu for a long time.

Next morning at 8.30 His Excellency said farewell to General and Lady Stockwell, who were leaving at 1 p.m. by Sunderland for Kuching, and with the Resident and the Private Secretary stepped into Mafusa and just under two hours later reached the Kut, where he was met by the District Officer, Makah, (Mr. A. R. Stekler) and Native Officer Michael Toyah. The party transferred to small boats and proceeded up the Kut, having to walk through the water at the bump, despite the high tide. A little way the other side of the bump the dredger was working and His Excellency was greeted by the Divisional Engineer (Mr. J. J. Howard) who showed him how it all functioned. The dredger has been working from Kampong Kekas on the Oya side and the difference in the shape of things behind it from what we had experienced coming from Kut was most revealing. About this time a lone figure was seen being pulled towards us and Mr. Justice Reddy appeared, having failed to reach Balingias due to bad weather at sea.

After a sandwich lunch we left the District Officer, Makah, and all returned to Sibu. The journey from the Kut to Sibu was once again done in just under two hours.

On 12th February at 9 a.m., His Excellency, accompanied by the Resident, his Private Secretary and his Aide-de-Camp left in Mafusa for Sarik, reached promptly at 11.30 a.m. after stopping a very short time at Banting to pick up Mr. Smith. Here we were met by the District Officer (Mr. A. J. N. Richards) and Senior Native Officer Abang Aman. His Excellency, in uniform, stepped ashore and walked to a building near the Government office, inspected a Guard of Honour and then presented a Certificate of Honour to Mr. Saw Ah Khoo. He was then introduced to local dignitaries. Later he went to the Sanket Recreation Club and met many local notabilities over a few refreshments. After lunch we left the Resident and the District Officer and set sail for Kuala Rejang and, finding the weather good, carried straight on to Palau Labet, which was reached some after 10 p.m.

A pleasant morning was spent at Palau Labet on Sunday 14th February, and in the afternoon we sailed for Kuching, reached about 5 p.m. We had been very lucky on the trip, for the weather had scarcely improved us at all.

Some Aspects of Legislation

*A Lecture delivered to Power Officers
on January 22, 1954*

Most of you will from time to time have read Ordinances in the Government Gazette, and a few of you may have read the Forest Ordinance. In doing so you may perhaps not always realize or appreciate the difficulties facing the draughtsman: in fact, you might even have imagined that no doubt industrious individual, for, after all, the draughtsman, like equity and the law, does let us hope nothing in vain; Ordinances are meant to be read, understood, and observed.

OBJECTS OF DRAFTING

What are the primary objects of legislative drafting? The first and foremost object of the draughtsman is to put into familiar language the intention of the Legislature. Is the first place he is usually advised by Government of the necessity for some legislative measure. Usually this necessity is sketched in broad outline by the Government, and it is the task of the draughtsman to put the Government's intentions into reasonably clear English that might be comprehended without ambiguity. This object cannot, of course, always be achieved.

Having considered this first point the draughtsman must then consider exactly how the intended legislation will fit into the existing framework of the law. It often happens, for example, that the existing balance of the law may be upset by a new Ordinance, and it is the task of the draughtsman to avoid the dilemma. In doing so he must, of course, bear in mind the possible criticisms likely to be levelled against the intended legislation, and be in a position to meet these criticisms.

Having appreciated the broad outline of the intended legislation, it is the draughtsman's next task to consider whether or not there is anything fundamentally bad in the proposals before him; for example, the intended legislation might derogate from native customary rights, and in such event a law officer of the Crown should not properly advise the Governor to give his assent to such a measure, if it were enacted, unless adequate protection was afforded to such rights.

FORM OF THE LAW

Having overcome these main difficulties, the draughtsman then seeks to put into concise language the objects of the proposed legislation. To assist him in this task he has a considerable body of precedents to fall back upon, but these old precedents, like old wine, must be used sparingly. Unfortunately it has been a tendency on the part of the lawyers and magistrates to interpret legislation strictly, sometimes departing the clear object of an Ordinance. In earlier days Ordinances were cast in terse and precise language, for their subject-matter was usually brief, and cast in statutory mould; but in our days, owing to fashions of judicial construction, it is necessary to anticipate all possible interpretations likely to be placed upon the letter of the law, and to stop up any channels of misconstruction. For these reasons contemporary legislation tends to run to greater length—for example, and one no doubt near to your hearts, the old Order relating to Forests—Order No. F—1 of 1934—ran to 61 sections, but the Forest Ordinance, 1953, runs to 97 sections. In England the Statute Law Revision Committee has been at work expurgating the Statute Book of laws which have run their course. No doubt the average Sarawak government official (if there is such a person) looks wistfully at the activities of such a Committee, in the hope that similar work may be commenced here. The outlook in this regard is, however, gloomy. As far as the eye can see and reason can fathom it is probable the Ordinances will continue to be enacted by the Council Negri at the rate of perhaps 20 a year for the next few years, at the end of which time it may be possible to publish a new Revised Edition of the Laws.

Some of you may have noticed that during the past few years about half of each year's legislation has been concerned with amending Ordinances. This is a task to which a draughtsman addresses himself with energy; but, owing to the fact that almost all the laws of Sarawak were promulgated before 1946, when the fashions of drafting differed considerably from those now employed, it will take some time before we will have a reasonably stable set of laws.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE LAWS

What have been the most important changes in the law of late? To the draughtsman all legislation is of equal importance. To the local authority official, the Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, or the Kuching Municipal Ordinance, 1952, are probably hand-marks; to the immigration official the Immigration Ordinance, 1952, and its companion, the Passports Ordinance, are of similar consequence; but to the lawyer the most important piece of legislation is perhaps the new Interpretation Ordinance of 1953. It is impossible to underline any Ordinance, particularly any recent Ordinance, without reference to this piece of legislation; for example, in the Forests Ordinance, 1953, penalties are expressed by reference to a flat rate of imprisonment and fine. On the face of it it would seem, for example, that any one who cuts timber on Crown land without permission, would subject himself automatically

to imprisonment for three months and a fine of three hundred dollars. Indeed, a Magistrate unacquainted with the provisions of the Interpretation Ordinance might well suppose that that was a sentence of the law, just as hanging by the neck is the appointed consequence of a conviction for murder. It, however, reference is made to section 37 and 38 of the Interpretation Ordinance, it will be found that the two penalties of fine and imprisonment are maximum penalties, and that they can be inflicted alternately or cumulatively. This may illustrate how necessary it is to understand that particular piece of legislation. There are many other interesting points in the Interpretation Ordinance, and I would suggest that all government officers should endeavour to read and understand it.

FUTURE OF THE LAW

Where is the law of Sarawak taking us to? The draughtsmen's dream I think would consist of one slim volume of laws. This ideal is not, however, possible; indeed it could only have been possible in the absence of lawyers prepared on behalf of their clients to argue the meaning of the law. Now that we have a united Supreme Court for Sarawak, North Borneo and Borneo, and private lawyers in practice here, it has become imperative to expand our laws in order to define the rights of the public and the individual with the greatest possible exactitude. In doing so, of course, knowledge of the law tends to become a specialist occupation, so much so indeed that it almost seems reasonable to apply the maxim that "every-one is presumed to know the law". Some of you may indeed consider it unreasonable to presume that a maniac should be deemed to know the provisions of the hundred-odd sections of the Road Traffic Ordinance, together with twenty-odd sections of the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party) Risk Ordinance, 1929; yet these are only a small part of the law that affect him as an ordinary citizen.

This tendency in the law is not unique or peculiar to Sarawak. Throughout the world laws are multiplying rapidly, and it becomes more and more necessary for private citizens to rely upon the advice of government officers and lawyers in the conduct of their affairs. Exactly when this tendency will stop or diminish is a matter of speculation, but it does not seem likely, with the increasing growth of the powers of the State, that it is going to diminish for many years to come.

DUTY OF CITIZEN

As private citizens tend to transfer their responsibilities to the State, the State exerts an increasingly profound influence upon more aspects of ordinary life, from birth to death. Let us take an ordinary man, a father; he has generally fourteen days to register the birth of his child; when the child attains the age of fourteen he must, within twenty-eight days, see that the child is registered under the National Registration Ordinance; he must register with a licensed retailer before a status of car can be sold to him or his family; he cannot own or drive a car without due registration and licensing, and taking out third party insurance on the car; if he is involved in a road accident, he has twenty-four hours in which to report it to the police; if the police require his driving licence or insurance certificate, he has five days in which to produce it; if he carries on business as a firm he must, within one month of commencing business, register the firm with the Registrar of Business Names; if he and twenty business friends form a trading association, they must forthwith register as a company and pay the Collector of Income Tax thirty cents for every dollar of the company's profits; if he imports any goods into the Colony, he has fifteen days in which to pay customs duty; when he pays his debts he can use one dollar notes up to any amount, but notes of less than one dollar are legal tender only up to two dollars; if he owes a debt of three hundred dollars or more, he may

be made bankrupt; if he employs a labourer for a period of more than one month he must enter into a written contract approved by the Protector of Labour; if he wishes to employ workers from outside Sarawak he has to enter into a bond in the sum of two thousand dollars to ensure their safe return home; if he himself wishes to go abroad he must have a valid passport or other travel document before he can be sure of being able to enter another country, or even of being able to return to Sarawak; if he buys a wireless set he must take out a receiving licence for it; if he publishes any book, newspaper or pamphlet he must, within one month of publication deliver three copies to the Curator of the Sarawak Museum, and one copy will go to the British Museum; if he wishes to teach in any school, he must be registered under the Education Ordinance; if he wishes to make a will he must be licensed under the Wills Ordinance; if he is a landholder he cannot obtain possession of his property in any real contested case, except, in most cases, under a Court order; if he changes his address he must notify the National Registration Office of his new address within fourteen days; and when, finally, he drops dead from sheer exhaustion, his relatives have exactly twenty-four hours to report the matter to the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

There are just a few of the duties put upon the ordinary citizen, but, on the other hand, he derives many advantages from the law, advantages that are not always appreciated or, regrettably, known, by him. It was an old Roman lawyer who observed, in the treatise of Justinian, that the maxims of the law are that we live honestly, that we injure no man, and that we give every man his due. These are still, and, I trust, always will be, the principles upon which our law develops, however complex that law may become.

R.H.H.

Notes and Comments

Sailing and boating enthusiasts will find much to interest them in the enlarged boat section of the British Industries Fair (Kaiso Court and Olympia, London, and Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, May 3 to 10) where many of the leading United Kingdom manufacturers will be displaying their latest ideas in small craft design. Among the boats on view will be the Britrene motor dinghy made by the Southampton Launch and Boat Company Ltd., of Britrene Manor, Southampton. This ten feet six inches (three metres) moulded plastic dinghy has a beam of four feet six inches (1.3 metres) and a keelboard of 16 inches (40 centimetres). Essential fittings are of mahogany and the asbestos-plastic hull can be painted in any colour. Models have room for an ice box and fish box on either end of the midships thwart. The dinghy is claimed to be lighter than wood, non-corrosive and resistant to extremes of temperature.

Kits which allow the amateur to build his own sailing or motor boat will be shown by more than one exhibitor. Plywood kits shown by Geoffrey Lord, of Petrus Works, Polly Mill Lane, Bridport, Dorset, England, cover a wide range of craft, from eight feet (2.4 metres) pear dinghies to 20 feet (6.14 metres) commercial craft. Every component in these kits is numbered and the detailed instructions, with sketches for every stage of construction, are easily followed. Small boat kits for clubber built racing dinghies will be shown by Chippendale Boats, Beccles Lane, Warrash, Hampshire, England.

The four-ton hog-back progressive trailer now, a 25 feet 6-inch (7.6 metres) craft of monolithic construction has already attracted public notice. The company which makes these boats—Godhawk Shipyards Ltd., East Cowes, Isle of Wight, England—has now announced that a slightly larger development of

the Porpoise will be available soon. A new design from this yard is the Aero range of fast motor launches. The first of these craft to come off the stocks was ordered by His Highness the Sultan of Brunei for use as a royal barge.

Nearly 2,500 volumes have been given by the British Publishers' Association for the exhibition by the British Council in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. This will be the largest exhibition of recent United Kingdom books to be shown by the Council in the Far East. Subjects include art, architecture, biography, economics, education, history, literature, music, reference books, religion and philosophy, medicine, nursing and public health, science and technology, sport, drama and ballet, travel, fiction and children's books. The volumes will eventually be incorporated in the British Council library in Kuala Lumpur and in the newly established British Council study group reference library in Singapore.

His many friends in South-East Asia will be delighted to learn that Ische Ya'acob bin Abdul Latiff is to succeed Mr. A. D. C. Paterson as head of the Federation of Malaya Information Services when Mr. Paterson leaves Malaya early in July. Ische Ya'acob will be the first Malayan to hold such a position. Mr. Paterson is returning to the United Kingdom to resume his career in education.

Ische Ya'acob, who is 36, was with the Malayan Administrative Service from August, 1946, to July, 1948, when he was awarded for service as Senior Public Relations Officer, Negeri Sembilan.

He did a course of training for Public Relations Officers sponsored by the Colonial Office in the United Kingdom for six months during 1948-1950. He acted as Deputy Director and then as Director, Information Services, in 1950-1951. With the inauguration of the Information Services, Ische Ya'acob was appointed Assistant Director and acted in the post of Deputy Director-General from February 1, 1952. His promotion to this substantive post was made effective from June 15, 1953. Ische Ya'acob is the fourth son of Dr. Abdul Latiff bin Abdul Haqak, who was the first Malay doctor to be appointed in Government service in Malaya.

A Delegation from the Federation personally conveyed the thanks of the people of Malaya on February 2nd, to the Sultan of Brunei for the loan of 500-million which the State recently made to the Federation.

The Federation delegation consisted of Mr. Eric Hinmweeth (Financial Secretary), Ische Mustapha Alshari bin Haji Hassan (Member for Industrial and Social Relations) and Y.T.M. Tengku Ya'acob bin Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah (Keeper of the Rulers' Seal).

The delegation presented the Sultan with two messages, both of which were written in English and Malay, from the High Commissioners of the Federation and the Rulers.

By the terms of the loan with Brunei officials it has been agreed that the period of the loan will be 15/20 years, i.e., 1969/74, and the rate of interest will be that prevailing for similar stocks in London at the time when the loan was taken up by the Federation.

Comings and Goings

We welcome Mr. R. A. Brewster, Mr. H. M. Cuckle, Dr. and Mrs. J. Lomas, and Mr. R. W. K. Milby on their return from leave. We welcome, too, Mrs. Turnbull, who, with their son, has rejoined her husband, Mr. F. E. Turnbull, after leave. To Mrs. McGeoghe,

who has joined her husband, Mr. H. McGeoghe, at the Loper Settlement, we offer our very good wishes for her happiness on her first arrival in Sarawak.

The following have also arrived: Mr. B. B. Johnson, Marine Officer, and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Man Sai Kwong and Mr. William Lee, Assistant Superintendents, Sarawak Constabulary, who have come from Hong Kong, each accompanied by his family; Mr. H. A. Tannar, Assistant Controller of Posts and Telegraphs (on transfer from Sierra Leone) and Mr. A. Wicks, Education Officer, with his family. Newcomers to Sarawak, we welcome them all and hope they will very quickly find at home here.

Mr. A. F. R. Griffin and Mr. T. F. Stone went on leave on February 6th, and our best wishes go with them. Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Burnham sailed on the 15th and we hope their leave will entirely restore them to good health. On the 21st Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Courtney and Kim went on leave and we offer them our especial good wishes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dulu

27th January, 1954

To the Editors,
Sarawak Gazette,
Kuching.

Gentlemen,

Mr. C. N. Cheong inquires in his letter appearing on page 207 of your November issue, if anyone could explain whether the *tsun* meaning of *Sarawong* has anything to do with the locality at all.

The common opinion would be against it, it would rather deter people from going to Sarawong, if they connect Sarawong with the meaning of coffin. It is very likely that Sarawong is Chinese (Khab or Cantonese). The explanation on page 149 of your August issue is certainly a good one. (That of the Jungle 山王; 王, if it can be proved that there was a Chinese temple in the locality in ancient times, because the Chinese would have gone there to worship the *Ta Fong* 王, 王, the King of the earth.

However Mr. Lim Swee Koo, Captain China of Dulu offers a more plausible explanation. The word Sarawong is definitely Chinese (Khab and Cantonese Dialect) (山王) *San-to-wong*, i.e., the mountain much to gaze at (the mountain with a good view), or it may also mean: the mountain much to hope for. Nobody can deny the first meaning, that there is a good view from that mountain, and for many years it has been a holiday resort.

The second meaning, the mountain much to hope for, would also be justified. Imagine the Chinese coming with their junks from China, having been tossed about by the waves, sighted the mountain and cried out full of joy (山王) *San-to-wong*, the mountain much to hope for. The perilous journey came to an end, and the sight of the mountain gave them fresh hopes for what lay ahead.

That *San-to-wong* became *Sarawong* can easily be explained by the fact that people who did not speak Chinese would have tried to imitate the pronunciation, rounded the *o* a little too hard, and it became *Sarawong*.

Yours faithfully,

P. ARONSON

Good Health

NOTE: My paper below, in double-format, the account by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. W. Glen Evans, of the recent parachute-drop of D.D.F. for anti-malaria use in the Upper Baram, and an article by Sir James Whitby, Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge. Read together, and in conjunction also with the inspiring work of Dr. Zulata and his team and of the Department of Agriculture in its efforts to increase Sarawak's food production, they provide much to stimulate our thoughts for Sarawak's future.]

Early in the year 1953 the World Health Organisation Anti-Malaria Team, under Dr. Julio de Zulueta, having already completed extensive surveys and investigations in all parts of Sarawak decided to conduct an experimental control project on the Iharan River. The object of the project was to attempt to control the transmission of malaria by means of residual insecticide spraying of dwelling places. This method is, of course, well-known and has been entirely successful in other parts of the world, but there was some doubt whether it would be equally successful in Sarawak for two special reasons. The first was that the particular mosquito which carries malaria here was an unusual one, which had never been controlled by this method before, and did in fact on theoretical grounds appear to be a difficult one to control because of its habit of not resting on the walls of the houses. The second was that the majority of the population of the more rural parts of this country spend a considerable part of the year living away from their houses, sleeping in only the smallest of lean-to shelters.

As the year progressed it became increasingly evident that even under these unusual conditions the transmission of malaria was, in fact, being controlled on the Iharan River by residual spraying, and it was decided to try to extend the control area further up into the head waters of the river.

It was not possible to carry the quantities of materials required all the way up the river, and it was decided, therefore, to seek the assistance of the Royal Air Force to make an air drop. It took many months, and a great deal of detailed planning, to complete the preliminary arrangements but finally a date was fixed for the drop, February 16th, 1954. The ground party led by Dr. de Zulueta and accompanied by Mr. R. J. G. Collins, Travelling Superintendent of the Medical Department, left Miratuk for the dropping zone at Lio Maku on January 17th. The aircraft, a Valiant of the Far East Transport Wing under the command of Flying Officer Hamilton, arrived at Kuching Airport at about 10 a.m. on February 16th, and the necessary supplies were loaded on board with great despatch by a party of R.A.S.C. soldiers in charge of Corporal John Davies. We took off at about 11.30 a.m. and reached the vicinity of the dropping zone at about 1 o'clock, but maps of this region are not noted for their accuracy, and a great deal of time was spent searching unsuccessfully for Lio Maku; finally we identified Long Akah and a compass bearing thence soon brought us in sight of our objective, which was clearly marked with a white cross as arranged.

The next problem was to get down low enough to drop the supplies without ourselves making contact with the ground, which seemed to rise up alarmingly steep on all sides. The pilot finally decided on the only possible route for the run in, which included steep banks and turns, ending up by skimming the top of a low ridge and going down to about 500 feet over the dropping zone. It was not possible to get any lower. Five runs successfully landed all the cargo by parachute where we wanted it, a magnificent feat since the aircraft had to cross the objective transversely, and a few yards either side would have landed the stuff either in jungle or in the river. We then gained height in a spiral and since fuel was running short made a bee-line for Labuan, where we arrived at about

4.30 p.m. We took off again about one hour later and landed in Kuching in the dark at about 7.30 p.m.

W. GLEN EVANS

Sir Winston Churchill once said, when addressing the Royal College of Physicians of London, that 'the more one looks back the further one can look forward,' and so if one is thinking of what medicine will be like in the next quarter of a century it is not unprofitable also to look back at least twenty-five years for a brief survey not so much of the facts of medical advances as of their implication.

The tremendous progress during this period has been a dividend from the basic work on bacteria and parasites. And this work had to wait until the microscope was sufficiently developed to observe these minute organisms. The great names in these are Pasteur, Koch, Lister, and Ross. There has been exploitation also of the principle of the deficiency diseases first forecast by Joseph Lind's experiments on scurvy in the British Navy as long as 1753, but not accurately recognised until the work of Theobald Smith at the beginning of this century.

And from the research which the development of these principles made possible we have been able to develop all the modern methods of preventive medicine; for example, the practice of successful immunisation against diphtheria, yellow fever, typhus, and many other infections; the control of disease caused by bacteria, such as pneumonia and septicaemia, for which we use the sulphamonomides, penicillin, and other antibiotics; the mastery of parasitic infections such as malaria; the maintenance of good health in deficiency diseases like diabetes and pernicious anaemia; not to mention the avoidance of the more obvious vitamin-deficient states like the classical scurvy.

But it is quite salutary to take a broad look at this magnificent tale of success and to realize that the most spectacular advances have been in the diseases arising from agents outside the human body. We have not yet done nearly so well in the fight against the pathological conditions which are inherent in man himself. The bacteria and the parasites which are extraneous agents have been studied and methods have been found for their eradication, control, and the prevention or cure of the diseases which they cause. There have also still smaller agents from outside the body, the viruses. These in principle are entirely parasitic and cannot multiply unless they are located within a living cell. And here the successes have been strictly limited. As long ago as the eighteenth century Jenner achieved a triumph with the first rational experiment in preventive medicine by vaccination against small-pox, a virus disease. This triumph has not yet been repeated with the common cold or influenza, nor with the dreaded nervous-system infections such as poliomyelitis. But research workers have now got something of the measure of the problem, and it would be reasonable to forecast that in twenty-five years' time protection against a good many more of the virus diseases will be reasonably efficient, though it may not be 100 per cent. effective on account of the large number of different strains of virus which exist.

Here again one should pause for a moment and reflect whether in twenty-five years' time the position will be greatly different from what it is today. It is a curious fact that the elimination of one disease seems somehow to answer or lead to the evolution of another. Bacteria themselves can quickly change their nature—or, as we say, undergo mutation because they multiply so rapidly. In one hour an organism can become a grandfather three times. It is a well-established fact that different organisms have already developed strains which are resistant to the sulphamonomide drugs, or to penicillin, or to streptomycin. And so in research workers may well be looking for new chemotherapeutic agents and antibiotics which will be effective against strains of organisms no longer sensitive to the agents which we employ today.

For some considerable time now the most actively growing points in medical knowledge have been in the subject of biochemistry. It is likely that many of the discoveries in this highly scientific and factual aspect of life—physiological and pathological—will find their way into everyday medical practice in the fields of both prevention and cure during the next twenty-five years. If we are to solve the problem of prevention and cure of the degenerative diseases which are inherent in man himself we must understand much more fully than we do now the chemistry of the body.

By the diseases inherent in man himself I mean, for example, the degenerative changes which occur in the blood vessels, such as a hardening of the arteries, or diseases of the joints or other systems of the body as the result of aging, or of climate or mode of living, and not least the stress and strain of everyday life. Cancerous conditions likewise fall into this class, since cancer itself is fundamentally a disorder of metabolism—that is to say it comes from changes in the chemistry of a cell which give to the cell malignant properties. If we could understand the basic chemistry of the disordered change we could see the way to cause and prevention. But the chemistry of the living cell is so complex that even in twenty-five years it is unlikely that anything more than the fringe of its marvels will have been explored. It is always salutary for more men to appreciate that the intricate enzyme systems—the chemical factory—of the simplest living cell can accomplish in a fraction of a second what all the laboratories and the whole resources of the biochemical world achieve at enormous expense of time, energy, and effort—and in some cases cannot achieve at all.

Take, for example, the substance which was at one time called Compound F. It was regarded as a specific curative agent for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and a number of allergic diseases. This material, originally obtained at great labour and cost, is produced by the living cell as part of its normal, very, complex function. And, even more, there is little doubt that comparable substances are just since stage in a whole, long chain of which the living cell can forge all the links in a fraction of a second, whereas man does not yet know the nature of the links themselves, much less how to forge them. We can see that studies like these may provide the solution to the problem of prevention rather than cure in cancer and comparable diseases which arise from faults in the living cell itself. Such diseases, and more especially cancer, will only come to be properly understood by sheer hard work, the intelligent application of ever-increasing but hard-won knowledge, and, let us hope, one or more of those inspirations which come occasionally to the mind of a man who, by his training and instinct, is able to grasp their significance.

So far I have spoken about man's triumphs over his natural enemies. But one ought also to pause and ponder seriously whether man's life and death, his happiness or misery, and his property or poverty, may not within some measurable limit be dependent not upon plague and pestilence caused by the enemies of man or upon the diseases to which a finite biological man is exposed, but upon man himself and the vicious circle which his own ingenuity has produced.

For example, if it be that the parasitic diseases, such as malaria, can be controlled or eliminated, what may be the population in twenty-five years' time of certain tropical countries where the birth-rate is astronomical but where the survival rate has always hitherto been influenced by an indigenous disease which has exerted a natural control over the number of mouths that need to be fed? Modern medicine, by removing the misery and mortality of malaria, may have raised the spectre of starvation in vast areas. In such places the fertility of the soil and the industry of the people may eventually be more important than medical discoveries.

Man's ingenuity, too, has enabled him to battle through the air at speeds for which the human body was never constructed. Who can doubt that in twenty-five years' time, when even space travel may be if not practicable at least contemplated, the problem of protecting the vulnerable human will call for much ingenuity? And man's ingenuity in the field of nuclear fission and atomic energy, though it will provide him with boundless power, has also given him the ability to obliterate or sterilise whole tracts of country, and to make huge areas uninhabitable because of the deleterious effects of irradiation on the living cell. So it may be that in twenty-five years' time medicine will be more concerned with trying to neutralise the results of man's folly, the misuse of the fruits of his ingenuity, than with a struggle against his natural enemies or his natural decay. In such an event the problems will indeed be formidable.

Lowell Winters

The Secret of Scotch Whisky

Unless the world loses its enthusiasm for Scotch whisky, Scotland's monopoly is secure. Geography has made that quite certain because in the water-coloured liquid lies a subtle blending of brown peat water, top grade barley, fragrant sweet-smelling peat ferns and the pure fresh winds which sweep over the heather-covered mountains of the Highlands.

The unique chemical qualities found only in Scotland's peat-bled streams give genuine "Scotch" that subtle "zest" which no other whisky can quite capture—even more important than the centuries-old skill of distillers and blenders, whose secrets have never been written down but have been passed from generation to generation by word-of-mouth.

The early history of Scotch whisky is shrouded in the mists of time. We do know, however, that in 1553 the Scottish Parliament granted to Edinburgh College of Surgeons the exclusive privilege of making aqua vitae, as whisky was then called. But not until the end of the 17th century did it become generally popular, even in Scotland.

Until then the Scots were a wine-drinking people. In 1778, for instance, we read that Lord Lovat, having occasion to entertain 24 guests at Boscawen Castle in Inverness-shire, recorded in his diary: "I have ordered John Forbes to send in horses for all Luchlan Macleod's wine and for six dozen of the Spanish wine."

And as recently as 1820 an officer of the Customs and Excise stationed in the Highlands wrote: "Till within the last 30 years whisky was less used than rum and brandy, which were smuggled through the West Coast. Every occasion and tradition go to prove that ale was the principal drink among ordinary folk and French wine and brandy among the gentry."

Whisky originated because of the traditional Scottish distils of waste, and in those early days men made no more than they required for themselves and their families. After each harvest Highland farmers took their surplus grain and distilled it into alko beatha, Gaelic for whisky. By present-day standards that early whisky would have tasted very raw and harsh.

For centuries whisky remained merely an incidental addition to farming, but as each generation developed new techniques of distillation and blending, so the appreciation for whisky grew and eventually commercial distilleries were founded.

"Scotch" falls into five categories, the principal being Highland malt whisky produced north of a line drawn from Greenock in the west to Dundee in the east. Lowland malts come from south of this line; lakys from the island of the same name in the Inner Hebrides, and Campbeltown from the town of the same name in Kintyre.

These whiskies are produced in pot-stills, a method which has remained unchanged for centuries. They are called malt whiskies simply because they are made from malted barley. The 50th category is produced in Coffey stills, which were first introduced just over 100 years ago.

From the barley fields of Moray, Banff and the Lothians grain is taken to the distilleries. First it is cleaned of all dust and foreign bodies, then stored in bins. Conveyer belts carry the grain from the bins to the steps, large vats where the mashing process begins. Initially the barley is soaked in cold water until thoroughly soft, next it is spread on the mashing floor, where, under strictly controlled temperatures, germination takes place. While lying on the floor it is turned continuously, very gently, with wooden shovels.

After 12 to 14 days the green malt, as the barley is now known, because of the manner in which it has sprouted, passes to the kilns for drying. Here, for the next three or four days, thinly scattered on a floor of wire mesh, the grain gradually dries out in the heat and smoke from slow-burning peat fires smouldering quietly beneath. When thoroughly dry, and with all growth stopped, the malt is put into large bins for a further five to six weeks to mature. Next it is screened, weighed and put through a grinding process.

After grinding, the malt—and again it has changed its name, this time to grist—is taken to a further series of bins. Here it is mixed with hot water, then poured into the mash tun. In the tun, or cask, the grist is gently stirred for some time, then left to infuse. By doing this the sugar is extracted, and the liquid—known in the trade as “wort”—is then drawn off. At this stage in the process all the franks of grain are finally removed and manufactured into cattle food.

When the worts are cooled, a little yeast is added to the mixture, which is then pumped into fermentation tanks. In these tanks a natural chemical process takes place and the liquid becomes alcoholic.

When thoroughly fermented, the liquid, or “wash”, is distilled in large stills which boil gently over red coal fires. When boiling, the spirit rises from the “wash” as a vapour—as steam rises from boiling water. The vapour is diverted into thin copper pipes kept cold by continually circulating water, and eventually it drips from the pipes into spiritual tanks.

These drips are pure whisky.

From the tanks it is taken to the spirit store and filled into casks. Genuine “Scotch” achieves its unique smooth texture because of the many years it is allowed to spend in these casks, stored away in quiet, cool water-houses. The casks are permeable and allow air and oxygen to pass inwards while raw spirit and other secondary products in the young whisky escape outward.

After maturing, the different whiskies—and no two are ever exactly alike—go to the blending warehouses, where experts blend them together to produce uniform whisky, remaining for at least another year in casks before removal again for further maturing.

Genuine “Scotch” cannot be obtained for consumption until it is at least three years old. In fact, not until it has reached that minimum age can it be called whisky. Hardly, however, is genuine “Scotch” bottled and sold until it is very much older.

HAMISH MACKENZIE

How Research is Helping Social and Economic Development

To read from cover to cover the annual Blue Book which is published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office on Colonial Research is a formidable task resembling that. As I browsed through the 268 pages of the latest of these reports, I became more and more awestruck at the amount of work which is being done and

at its remarkable variety, and, not for the first time, I started that so few people except the scientists know that anything is being done at all. Here are some of the facts.

In the United Kingdom alone the Colonial Office now has three research councils, six advisory committees and several fully-equipped centres all concerned with Colonial scientific research. In addition other centres of different kinds are maintained by governments of the non self-governing territories in East, Central and West Africa, Malaya, the Pacific and the West Indies. Beyond them they seem to be investigating every imaginable problem from the cost of living in Barbados to the behaviour of a species of ant in the Solomon Islands.

Social science, economics, medicine, agriculture, animal health, forestry, fisheries, insects, entomology and zoology—problems in all these fields are being studied and experimented upon by specialists of the Colonial Research Service in almost every part of the tropic world. Since 1948 over £12,000,000 has been allocated under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts for research alone; nearly £7,000,000 of it has actually been spent and most of the balance committed.

I was struck, too, as I read the report, by the number of instances where experts and particularly United States scientists were working in these territories in close co-operation with United Kingdom scientists. Some of them are being paid for by the great Foundations established by people like Andrew Carnegie and Henry Ford, others under the “Point Four” programme and the Colombo Plan.

I thought how very fit and proper all this was because, after all, science is not concerned with frontiers and these are certainly ignored by the mosquitoes, fungi and parasites which are the common enemies. The tropics and their pests and diseases are much the same all the way round the globe.

Not, of course, is it only the Europeans and Americans who are working together in this great field. More and more Asians and Africans are coming forward, qualified and eager to help. Only the other day I met a Matsigena from Northern Rhodesia, whose grandparents had probably never seen a white man, and who was qualifying as a plant pathologist at Cambridge.

As a layman I was, of course, particularly interested in looking for practical results among the hundreds of investigations so meticulously reported. I turned to the entomological work and found that the disease has, after a campaign of some three years, been wiped out in Malawi. That is indeed an achievement. I found that the sulphone treatment for leprosy is now a proved success and that its use has spread from Nigeria to many other countries. (And at this point I was led astray by a fascinating new discovery of a possible connection between tuberculosis and leprosy which may enable the anti-tuberculous drug BCG to be used for immunisation against leprosy.)

The zoological discoveries of the year are important: graphite and asbestos in Kenya; 2.8 million tons of apatite in Uganda and some wolfram; important carbonaceous fuels in Central Africa; coal and asbestos in Barbadosland; columbite in Nigeria. The list is impressive and so are the frequent notes of the interest being taken in these discoveries by mining companies.

The agricultural reports seem, of course, less spectacular because research in this field is a slow process. It was, however, good to read that the causes of all three of the diseases which have been endangering the olive industry of Zanzibar have now been identified and that one of them, at least, can now be controlled. That “swollen shoot” in cocoa, the disease which has four years been so serious and intractable a problem in the Gold Coast, can be fully controlled by “cutting out” is proved by the excellent condition and high productivity of a plantation maintained by the scientists in the middle of the most seriously infected area. The difficulty is to teach the peasant farmer to do likewise.

Important advances have been made in insecticide research, although anticyclole (now based on the carboxylic acid of Africa) has proved to be of only limited use. All over tropical Africa more and more are being discovered about the habits of the various species of insects, and different techniques in both clearing are being developed to reduce the cost of reclamation.

The variety of the investigations being carried out in the wide field of social science is remarkable. The most important undertaking is probably the great ethnographic survey of Africa undertaken by the International African Institute, to which several United Kingdom workers are contributing. Fifteen volumes have now been published. Other typical studies in Africa concern land tenure, Islamic law, the economic position of women in the Cameroons, the "Kikuyu Family", numerous ethnographic studies of individual tribes and several socio-economic surveys of particular areas, such as Owerri in Nigeria and Gambia.

Similar work is being done in Borneo and the Pacific, while in the more populous Caribbean area we find attention concentrated rather on the economic problems. Some of the titles here are, indeed, forbidding—"Productivity and Selective Industrialisation" for example, or "Employment, Development and Incentive Financing (Guatemala)"—but then so are the problems.

The impression left on the mind is one of increase and varied activity and enthusiasm, of hundreds of single-minded people busily engaged on projects of great importance to themselves because such is adding its quota to the sum of knowledge, and of viewing importance to the administration and development of the "backward areas" which they are serving.

It is, above all, very satisfactory to see that at last we have come to realize how little we know, and that governments must have facts, figures and accurate knowledge on which to base their policies.

KENNETH BRIDLEY

The report mentioned in the above article, "Colonial Research, 1951-52" is published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 at seven shillings and sixpence, and available for reference at the Information Office, Canton Road, Kowloon.

Some Bornean Snakes

I am very much of a type as far as herpetology is concerned, and the following notes represent the result of a superficial investigation of the subject, as well as a list of my own observations. However, perhaps Sarawakians will find something interesting in them, while the knowledgeable may amuse themselves by maintaining the errors.

Before considering Bornean snakes, perhaps it is as well to give a brief outline of the classification of snakes. The first series includes pythons and boas and numerous small burrowing forms; they are in general rather primitive, many having vestigial hind-limbs, and none are venomous. The second series is very large, and includes most of the typical snakes, with mostly harmless but some venomous sorts. The third includes the vipers and pit-vipers, all of which are venomous.

About 140 species of snakes are known to occur in Borneo. They represent 39 genera from eight of the eleven families.

NON-VENOMOUS SNAKES

Ninety-three species of Bornean snakes have no poison fangs at all. These comprise snakes in five families. Four of these families belong to the rather primitive series noted above—the pythons and some burrowing snakes.

The pythons (family *Boidae*) are represented in Borneo by two species. *Python reticulatus* is the great python of South-east Asia, the air snake of Malaya and Sumatra. It is undoubtedly the longest snake in the

world, 10 feet being the record. Of course, we know that Colonel Forrest killed a 60-foot specimen in South America, but such monsters have an inconvenient habit of shrinking when a scientist lays a tape-measure along their backs! Thirty feet is exceptional even for a reticulate python, 20-25 feet being a normal large-sized individual. Though not venomous, large ones have a formidable bite, although they rarely attack humans unless disturbed. There are, however, a few fairly well authenticated accounts of unprovoked attacks by pythons on humans, two of which are quoted by *Shelford*¹. The large pythons feed mainly on wild pig. Contrary to popular belief, pythons do not crush their prey before eating it, but merely constrict it enough to suffocate it; nor do they cover their prey with saliva before swallowing it. The other species of python occurring in Borneo, *Python variegatus*, is a much rarer form and not so large.

The three families *Pythonidae*, *Atractaspidae* and *Xenopeltidae* are burrowing forms. The only species in these families which seems to be at all common are *Cylindrophis rufus* and *Xenopeltis unicolor*. The former is black with a few white spots, an orange collar, and a pointed tail with a red tip; its under side is banded black and white. It is very flexible, and can fasten itself and it is almost ribbon-like. When annoyed it raises its mid-ventral tail off the ground in an attempt to bluff. This habit has earned it the Malay name of *ular dupala* (shin), and some Malays claim that it changes the position of its head and tail every 6 months.

Most of the Bornean snakes belong to the family *Colubridae*, in which the sub-family *Colubrini* accounts for 70 species of non-venomous snakes. Only a few of the commonest can be mentioned here.

The air pit of the Sea Dayaks (*Aerobolus javanicus*) is a very common water-snake in Sarawak, particularly in the swampy rivers such as the Sarawak and Seluyan. It is a fat, ugly snake, reaching 4 feet long, of a non-descript brown colour, and covered with small horny scales. It used to be much hunted for its skin, which makes good leather for bags and shoes. The Seluyan Dayaks hunt it with fish spears in the reedy banks when the water in the rivers is low. The air pit brings forth its young alive, but the undeveloped eggs may often be found inside, and make quite good rattles, as I can testify.

One of the commonest snakes in gardens and dwellings in the air hill (*Liasocallis asserifolia*). When confined in the Juhay are seen frantically hoisting a snake to pulp with a pole, the odds are that it is this one, which, of course, is quite harmless. It is easily recognized by its general appearance and colouring. Generally 3-4 feet long, it is olive or brown on the back, with a yellowish strip along side and another dark strip between this and the whitish belly. It feeds on frogs and lizards. The air hantia (*Liasocallis asserifolia*) is another very common "grass-snake", rather similar in appearance to the air hill, but more strikingly marked, and the black stripe along the side does not extend across the side of the head, so it does in the air hill. It is said to emit an appalling odour of carrion if annoyed.

An interesting snake is *Macropisthodon rhomboides*, which, when alarmed, runs up like a cobra and flutters out its neck. It has, however, a dark stripe along the middle of the back that serves to distinguish it.

Very common snakes in gardens are of the genus *Oligodon*, which have striking markings, and of which there are five Bornean species. The commonest is known as *ular mata-hari* (*Oligodon ocellatus*). It is yellowish or pale brown with six or eight black stripes along the body, and usually a scarlet stripe along the middle of the back.

The air hantia (*Elaphis taeniata*) is a common snake in limestone districts, particularly in caves, where it lives on bats. The specimens from caves are much lighter than those from outside, which has led to the suggestion that this light colour is "protective coloration", but it

¹ R. W. C. Shelford, *A Sarawak in Borneo*, London, T. Fisher Unwin Ltd., 1916.

is difficult to see what benefit protective coloration is to an animal which lives mainly in pitch-black caves, must have few or no natural enemies, and whose prey consists of sleeping bats?

VENOMOUS SNAKES

There are 48 species of venomous snakes in Borneo, belonging to 12 genera in four families. This seems a lot, but, paradoxical though it sounds, many venomous snakes are harmless, and of the dangerous snakes, the majority are sea-snakes.

Poisonous snakes are of three kinds. First, the sea-jumped snakes, which have grooved teeth in the back of the jaw. Few of these snakes are dangerous to man, for the following reasons:

1. Their poison fangs, being at the back of the jaw, and small at that, are difficult or impossible to engage at a single bite, and have to be worked on. Small specimens are completely harmless.
2. Their poison is not very virulent.
3. Many just don't bite, anyway.

Secondly, the Elapidae snakes, including the cobras and the kraits, and the sea snakes, have comparatively short, fixed, deeply grooved fangs in the front of the upper jaw. The third type, the viperine snakes, have very large fangs, with a central canal, attached to movable bones which fold against the roof of the mouth when the jaws are closed.

Asar-fanged snakes. These snakes comprise members of two sub-families of the great family Colubridae.

The *Homonaspidae* include nine species of five snakes. They are said to be hot-tempered.

The poisonous *Crotalinae* comprise 12 species, none of which are very common. Of these *Bolus dohrnigii* may be mentioned; this is the star children's snake ("gold-ring snake") or mangrove snake, and is typically seen coiled on the branch of a small tree over a stream. It is jet-black with narrow yellow cross-bands. If it is a gentle snake, but large specimens—and it grows to 7 feet long—could conceivably be dangerous.

One of the commonest snakes in Borneo occurs in this sub-family—the star snake or star lizard (*Dryophis prasinus*). It is also, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful creatures in the world. It can be any shade of bright-green, olive or greyish-brown, and is easily recognized by its pointed head and extremely slender, whip-like body. It is a tree-snake, feeding on lizards and frogs. Some individuals, I have found, rather resent handling and strike freely; but they are, of course, quite harmless.

And now—the flying snakes! These certainly exist, although you are advised to have some documentary evidence handy if you want to convince an English audience. They sound a bit too *Manchurian* even to the average skeptical stay-at-home. They are of the genus *Crotaphaga* of which there are two species in Borneo. They can glide down to the ground by flattening the body and keeping it generally rigid, and making the belly convex; if the reader wants to know what benefit the creature derives from this, his guess is as good as mine. *Crotaphaga parvifila* (the star vertebra) is said to feed on lizards, frogs and sometimes bats, but I have based no suggestion that it catches the bat on the wing! Of course, there are flying lizards and flying frogs in Borneo, so perhaps they feed on those!

Next we come to the really poisonous snakes—the ones with fangs in the front of the upper jaw. There are 28 species of these in Borneo.

The first family—the *Hydrophillidae*—accounts for 16 species which are easy to identify, since they all occur in the sea. Should you chance to find one in a jar of alcohol you can easily distinguish it by its vertically flattened, eel-like tail. They are all very poisonous and bite freely when provoked, but never attack anyone, even bathers in two-piece costumes, unless provoked. If you want to see them in Sarawak, go out with the

Sabayau fishermen to their poison traps—every trap contains one or two lively snakes, which are deftly hooked out by the fishermen before he collects the prawns.

A listless of *Trimeris* should introduce the elapine snakes—family *Elapidae*—which are the most poisonous, and which probably contain the only Bornean snakes deadly to man. But even these are a bit of a disappointment to the sensation-seeker. There are only six species and two of these are probably harmless.

Naja nasuta has several aliases including King Cobra, Hamadryad, and air *seling* *selor*. It is the largest poisonous snake, commonly attaining 12-14 feet, with a record length of 18 feet. It is very poisonous, feeds on snakes and has an "aggressive and insolent disposition". When disturbed it may, according to record, glide away or rear up cobra-fashion. It has a hood but not so wide a one as the common cobra. Even when it rears up, it seems rarely to strike at once, and if the poison disturbing factor is hasty retreat, the King Cobra generally subsides. It is supposed, by those who have studied it, to possess a great deal more intelligence than any other snake, which isn't saying much.

Naja nigra, the common cobra (*Naja naja*) occurs in Sarawak, but without the spectacular markings of the Indian varieties. Durrant² states of these cobras:

"When cobras are irritable enough to come forward in attack, but their action is not spectacular or particularly dangerous. There is no deliberate rush to be avoided with difficulty, but an angry gliding forward with head spread and anterior body erect. Such a specimen can easily be kept at bay with a light stick and the victim is more anxious than thrilling."

I myself have never tried this, as I prefer more exciting sports.

Two species of krait occur: *Bungarus fasciatus* (also *velox*), which is easily recognized by its yellow body with broad black rings, and *Bungarus koro*, which is black, with a yellow line along the side and sometimes along the back, and with a red head and tail. The kraits have a peculiar enucleated look due to a ridge along the back. They are nocturnal, and lie coiled on paths and roads at night; they do not bite unless stepped on or handled.

The remaining genus of elapine snakes is *Martensia*. *Martensia berytus*, the common air *demung* of the Sea Dayaks, is black, purple or blue above, with a coral-red head, tail and under-surface. The other species, *Martensia indurata*, comes in various shades of grey, brown and black, but also has the lower surface of the tail pink or red. The genus is unique in the relatively enormous size of the poison glands, which extend back a third of the length of the body. These are sluggish snakes, which I have seen several times lying across a path, and surely loth to move until touched. The jaws of all but the largest specimens seem to be too small to enable them to bite dangerously; they are, however, held in great dread by the Sea Dayaks, who consider that the pink tail is poisonous and will not touch it even when the snake is dead.

It is fortunate that Borneo has only one genus of viperine snake: *Trovanosus*, of which there are four species. They can be recognized by the shape of their head, which is like a short, stout, arrow-head, covered with small scales. Most are green in color. *Trovanosus wagneri* is common in mangrove swamps as its Malay name (*lar bolong*) indicates. In Malaya, according to Boudenger, "Chinese hat-cutters are often bitten, without, however, any very serious results".

INTRODUCTION OF SNAKE-BITS IN BORNEO

Having considered the array of poisonous snakes occurring in Borneo, we can easily see the reason why snake-bite is so rare and death from snake-bite rare still. Although there are some 48 species of technically venomous snakes, the 21 sea-fanged species can be considered harmless, except for large specimens. The sea-snakes are dangerous, but are not normally occur-

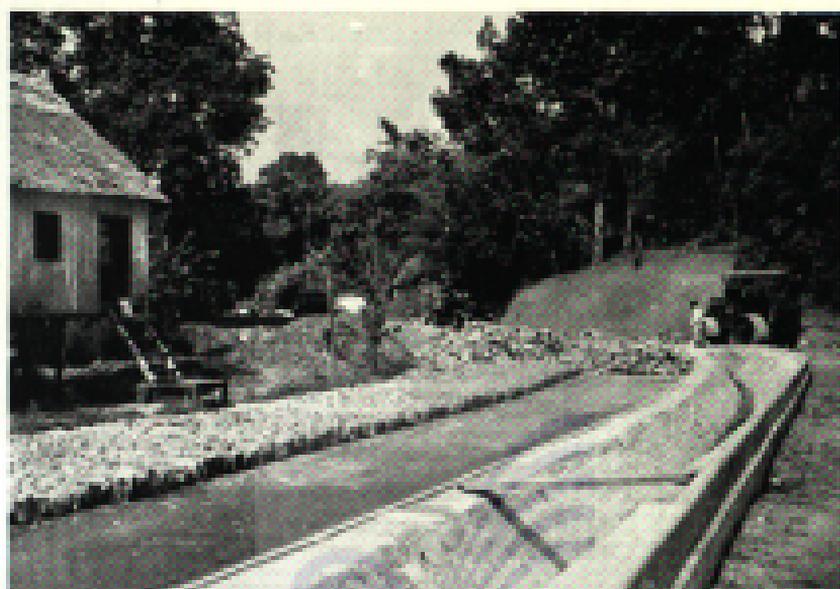
² Raymond Durrant, Snakes of the world, Macmillan, 1931.



His Excellency the Governor inspecting a Guard of Honour mounted by the Sarawak Constabulary at the opening of the new Government offices in Sibn



The opening by His Excellency the Governor of the new Airport Terminal Building at Sibn



Work in progress on the Kaching—Bua Road

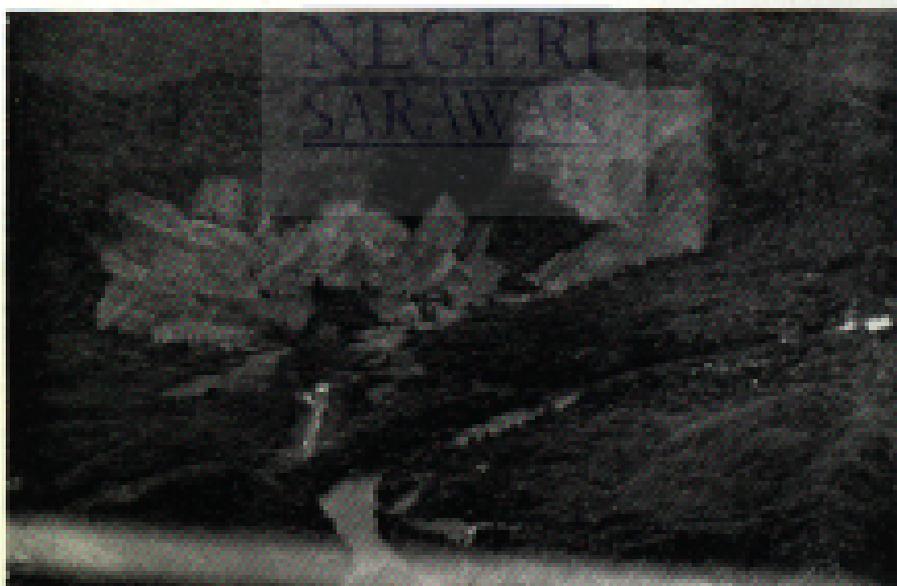


The Bureau D.D.T. drops preparing to load the RAF Valenta at Kaching Airport



The Russian D.D.T. drop: loading the Yalenta at Kuching

PUSTAKA
NEGERI
SARAWAK



The site of the drop (left center) at Lio Mera



Preparing to do the drop by parachute



D.D.T., about to go.

[All CGIS photographs]

tered except by fishermen, who know how to deal with them. The pit-viper *Pseustes* can certainly strike, but it appears that its season is rarely if ever fatal to man.

We are left with the Elapid snakes as the only ones likely to be a real menace on land. It is perhaps not generally realized that, unlike the viper, which have relatively enormous fangs which can bite deeply and penetrate thick clothing, the Elapid snakes have short fangs which they have to embed by a deliberate bite, working them in by a churning motion that may last several seconds. Thus, even if you are struck at by a cobra, provided you are wearing trousers and not shorts, with any luck the snake will get hold of the clothes and be unable to embed its fangs. For this reason the small specimens of Borneo Elapids are not very dangerous. The Arawakan has such a small head that it is probably practically harmless, to a man with shoes on at any rate, though large specimens should be treated with respect.

The kraits are certainly dangerous if you tread on them or handle them but will not attack otherwise. The cobras are probably the only Borneo snakes that may, on occasion, attack man without physical provocation. These usually give warning by rearing up and making angry hissing noises. The high mortality from snake bite in India is not, as is popularly supposed, due to cobras, but mainly to kraits and the Russell viper.

All in all, it is an encouraging picture for the Borneo traveller. He runs far less risk from snakes here than he would in Australia, Africa, the warm parts of the Americas or the mainland of tropical Asia—not even, probably, in some parts of England where snakes abound.

CONCLUSION

Perhaps this account contains some useful or interesting information (and not too much mis-information) and I hope it may serve to arouse a little interest in Bornean snakes. Not much is known of the habits of even the commonest snakes. If any reader has any observations or specimens he would like to pass on, either the Curator of the Sarawak Museum or I would be glad to have them. Information about any of the following would be particularly useful:

- (a) habits, distribution, and disposition;
- (b) details of any cases of snake-bite;
- (c) local names for different species.

The only complete account of Borneo snakes in N. de Becc, *The Reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago*, II, Ophidia, Leiden, 1917, is, in this respect, the most complete in out-of-date. M. W. P. Tzucelin, *The Fauna of Malaya, Singapore, 1919*, contains an account of most of the common Bornean species and a number of excellent photographs.

N. S. HALL

The Plateau and Falls of East Sarawak.

The southern portion of east Sarawak is one of the best known parts of the country, and this is true particularly of the watershed separating the Barun and Rajang rivers. This mountainous region is among the least yet partially explored areas of the world. This is understandable as access is difficult and the sparse population limits itself mainly to the river valleys. On this watershed there is a broad tableland nearly 200 square miles in extent, dissected to the east by rivers, and the country has the appearance of being broken and divided into several plateaus. To the east the main plateau is bounded on its northern and eastern sides by cliff-like faces, where numerous waterfalls abound, some being plants rising to a height of over

800 feet. The scenery here shows considerable variation and beauty: to the north rise high, isolated mountains peaks such as the Kolintang (3,400 feet), while the country bordering the tableland is rugged and hilly in character, and to the west there is a deeply dissected fringe of plateau remnants. Numerous rivers drain the area, and where they flow off the plateau these rivers cascade down the steep cliff-like faces to high falls.

The existence of this plateau area and the waterfalls appears to have been recorded only in recent years. It is hard to believe, however, that there are no other records, and that accounts taken down from the local inhabitants do not exist. Any information that readers can give will be gratefully received as a party will soon be leaving for the area.

As recently as 1949 it was a matter of some controversy whether or not such a plateau area really existed in Sarawak. Thus in the *Sarawak Gazette*, 1st July, 1949, at page 165, in an article *Serial Reconnaissance of Sarawak* it is stated: "Sappers have previously been made that there is a large high plateau in the interior of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions. The light revealed no trace of such a plateau." In August, 1949 the *Gazette*, 1st page 150, printed another account of this supposed plateau where the former statement was qualified. In the September 1949 issue, at page 215, further news are given in an article entitled "The Barun, Lintang and Trusan Highlands", and there the significance of the word plateau was examined. The *Highland Rajang* watershed was proved in April, 1951, by the David Leach-Tom Harrison expedition which is described in an account, "The Uluu Apas", appearing in the *Gazette* for June, July, August and September, 1951.

A reconnaissance flight over the Barun-Rajang watershed made in August, 1951, when visibility was generally good, showed clearly an extensive tableland about 1,000 feet in height. The aircraft flew along the northern edge for some distance, and high waterfalls were observed where tributaries of the Barun river leave the tableland. The course of the waters from one particularly fine and striking fall has since been traced downstream on air photographs, and the river on which this fall occurs has been almost certainly identified as the Jukan, a tributary of the Barun. This fall is estimated to be over 800 feet from the air photographs and is thus among the highest, if not indeed the highest, in Sarawak. The cliff-like edge of the plateau is estimated at various localities to be between 500 feet and 1,000 feet in height. The route followed across the Barun-Rajang watershed by David Leach and Tom Harrison skirted the western slopes of this main plateau, following mostly difficult and rugged valley areas, dissected through the igneous rocks that are believed to build these highlands. The course taken was up the Dupoi valley from the Tejar, then across the watershed to the Mamasan valley of the Plietan in the Rajang basin.

Subsequently the R.A.F. took air photographs of this area, and from this information combined with that of the expedition, the Land and Survey Department has been able to make the excellent Sarawak preliminary sheet No. 12, with a scale of 2 miles to an inch.

Geologically this region is particularly interesting as it seems likely that the plateau is built largely of volcanic rocks, mainly lava flows and ash material. Some pumice has also been found. A striking feature is that the trees on the tablelands appear to be stunted. The reasons for this are not clear but it is possibly due to the rocks being of an acid type, and weathering to give soils deficient in certain elements important in plant growth.

As far as it is known no one has yet been on to the top of the main tableland. This is understandable as journeying in this part is difficult enough without the added task of making waterfall faces to reach an isolated and apparently unhabited area.

F. W. ROE

Five Autobiographies

Among the Christmas books there were five autobiographies, and by a chance both melodiously and bright, they fall into a kind of pattern. Two are by men, Lord Simon and Lord Norwich, who served the State and who died soon after their books were published. Two are by women, Miss Elena Gerhardt and Barbara Karamella, who serve the arts and their fellow men and have in common remarkable generosity of nature and personal beauty. The fifth, which in a sense links these pairs, is by Mary Agnes Hamilton, who shares the qualities of the other women but has all her life been passionately political.

Lord Simon's *Retrospect* is disappointing. It was almost bound to be so. My large cousin the greatest English lawyer of his day, and one who never let the demands and rewards of his profession hinder public service—as shown by his work as Chairman both of the Indian Commission of 1927, which meant the complete abandonment of the Bar for three years, and of the inquiry into the loss of the airship R.101 in 1930—he encloses almost all reference to his legal career and concentrates upon his political service, about the quality and effect of which there will always be much less agreement. The choice is understandable but the result is sad. A record of the part he played in the government of Britain between the two great wars may, as the author says, "have a wider value than the recounting of merely professional successes", and it is well for the sake of history and the future that everything possible should be honestly told about those squallid days. Lord Simon adds something to our knowledge, but nothing to our pride. The book has little literary merit: the style is pedantic, riddled with tired phrases. To discover that the author had subtlety and a human heart one must leave this volume and turn to his memoir of his mother, a beautiful piece of work.

Old Men Forget, by Lord Norwich, much better known as Duff Cooper, is very different. It opens with three simple and enchanting verses dedicated to his wife and closes with three sentences which do honour to the writer's nature and his native tongue:

"Although I am very glad to be where I am, I shall not be too distressed when the moment comes to go away. Nature has always kept my feelings sweet, and I think has been for me the pleasantest one of my. I love the sunlight but I cannot lose the dark."

In between there lies, lucidly, mildly, homely told, the story of a life richly lived in manifold service, to a beloved wife and son, to the State, the English language, and good wine, and through the whole there runs as a golden thread what time may show to have been Duff Cooper's greatest service of all—his care and deeply understanding love for France.

This book is especially worth study for two things, one tragic, one brave, and both supported by contemporary papers now first published: the blind obstinacy of Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister in 1938 and 1939, and the courage and foresight, proved to true, which led the author to resign, and irrevocably to damage his political career, at the time of Munich. And there is one new piece of information of especial interest to South-East Asia. When Mr. Eden resigned as Foreign Secretary in February 1939 because of his profound differences over Mr. Chamberlain's cohesiveness to Mussolini, it was urged that he should be succeeded by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald.

We turn now to the women. *Arched*, by Elena Gerhardt, is a naïvely written story affectionately introduced by Dame Myra Hess. It tells how a young woman gifted with great beauty of face and voice and high musical intelligence became by hard work and good luck the greatest singer in her day of the greatest songs in the world—the *Lieder* of Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Wolf. None who ever heard her will forget or deny the magisterial splendour and subtlety of

Mrs. Gerhardt's singing and interpretation, revealing in both music and language regions of beauty they had never known. Her book explains—in some measure—the reasons for her greatness, pays tribute to a matchless series of accompanists, and shows, by the portrait she quite unconsciously draws of herself, why after she was driven by her own integrity from Germany twenty years ago and became British, she has become so greatly beloved by her fellow Londoners.

Lady Ravensdale, too, has served the cause of music. There must be many musicians, young and poor ones, or old and forgotten ones, who know and cherish what her many years of work as Treasurer of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund have meant to them. It has never been the desultory work of a filled cupboard. She has been desultory in nothing. As Treasurer over long years of the World Congress of Music, and as organizer of, shameless beggar for and untiring worker in peace and war at, her Highway Clubs for boys and girls in the East End of London, she has held to her faith in God and her way of service to her fellow-men. The World Congress of Music was founded by Sir Francis Youngblood, and of it Lady Ravensdale writes:

"His [Sir Francis] showed me, known from my father through education to organisations that would bring the Christian and Oriental faiths together in a greater brotherhood through song. I first worked for it over seas, and was convinced, with no show given to found a synthetic faith which drew from them all, that this was the only way on the human instrument that first of all the great faiths together—of one we might believe the message of Christianity, which is a faith and must be taught by another faith in dynamic and use of itself."

This is a conviction we in Sarawak understand and a purpose worthy of our firm allegiance.

Her book—it is not unambiguously called *My Many Rhythms—singles, runs, zigzags*. It has sometimes too much the face of an unprinted, unorganized diary. It will never be quoted as a masterpiece of English prose. But it should long bear witness to what uncompelled courage and devotion can achieve. There was never any reason outside her own character why in the time of its story the writer, inheriting high place—and high qualities—from her father, Lord Curzon, and given beauty (look at the frontispiece) and wealth from her lovely American mother, should thus expend herself unselfishly, even dangerously, in the service of high faith.

Like Mary Agnes Hamilton's *Op-Me All The Way*, this is the record of her autobiographies. The first, *Remembering My Good Friends*, was what its title says. This new one is, as far as it suggests a constant material struggle, less happily named, but read for what it is, an autobiography of the mind, it recounts a ceaseless struggle in the defence, support, and growth of opinions firmly held. Attempting, not very successfully, to describe herself, Mrs. Hamilton writes:

"Few things make me more uncomfortable than to hear a chairman introducing me to a meeting—politician, C.M.P., or B.B.C. Governor, or L.C.C. Alderman, and, now, or Civil Servant, anything more involved and 'billy' still, surely be imagined. Lack of all truth and matter of none, perfectly unappreciated."

She need not fear that she will be taken at her own valuation. Those who heard her when she was a regular member of the B.B.C. Britain Trust and those who read this book will know her as one of the most able, wise and humane women of her day. It is the best-written book of the five. In observation and reminiscence fast and lively, in political wisdom most apt for the times, in honouring letters and music sure of itself, this book draws together all the others, and is a splendid addition to English prose.

Splendid? "Splendid I certainly am not", writes Mrs. Hamilton, "but in valuing splendour when I meet it, I am representative. Splendid in some sense we would all like to be. Our hearts realize, in art or in another human being, the presence of this quality. It

in what every man in arms would wish to be." Read as a whole, thought of together, these five books hold a splendour—of intellect, courage, faith and service—we do well to salute. They are well worth the price of a few good dinners or half-a-dozen bottles of whisky.

Books reviewed:

Entrepreneur, by Viscount Simon (Hutchinson, 2/-)

Old Man Forster, by Duff Cooper (Rupert Hart-Davis, 11/-)

Swivel, by Elena Gerlach (Methuen, 18/-)

An Army Moves, by Harcourt Keston (Widdowell & Nicolson, 11/-)

Up the Hill all the Way, by Mary Agnes Hamilton (Cape, 12/6)

PUBLISHED

The Good Old Days

(Extract from Sarawak Gazette)

March 18, 1910

DANGER CEREMONIES IN PREGNANCY AND CHILDRETH

As soon as a woman is pregnant, restrictions come into force. These restrictions are binding on the husband as well as the wife. It is forbidden them to cut off creepers that hang over the water or over the road, lest the mother would suffer from haemorrhage after delivery. It is forbidden to clean a stream, to plant the staves for fixing the nets, to make the board planking for the hull of a junk, to set up a clam for the fish-trap (*shabu*) and to drive a nail into a board, lest the woman should have difficulty in the delivery. It is forbidden to pour out oil, lest the child should suffer from (bad) inflammation of the ears; to fix the junking in its hull lest the child be deaf; to break an egg, lest the child be blind; to plant a banana plant, lest the head of the child be large; to burn the wood of the trees to waste oneself, lest the child be dumb; to kill any animal, lest the child be deformed and the nose bleed; to scrape smooth the shell of a coconut, lest the child's hair should not grow; to bring a fresh-water turtle into the room, lest the child should not be born; to dye anything black, lest the child be black.

As for the woman, if she goes anywhere she must return by the same way that she went so that the child should not know how it is to be delivered. It is further forbidden to eat anything in a mosquito curtain, lest the child should be stillborn; to carry stones, lest the child should be paralysed; to cough anything, lest the delivery be difficult; to cast stones into the water, lest the child be not delivered and the mother die; to bend into a circle any piece of wood, else the child will not prosper; to hang a scare lest the child should cry the whole day and night.

There are several other restrictions of a minor character which are not worth mentioning. But it is interesting to notice that in the case of nearly all these restrictions there are ways in which the above limitations may be circumvented and no evil effects follow. For example, though a man may not kill an animal yet if he does kill anything and runs away immediately then recovers a few minutes afterwards and make some remarks about this animal, "I wonder who killed this animal" he has nothing to fear. A nail may not driven into a board, but if a man drives a nail partly a little way and then pulls it out again, he may drive the nail in all the way, and no law is broken.

The whole period of a woman's pregnancy is passed in the deepest anxiety and fear lest the *akua* spirits may assault her and her innocent babe. An ill dream or a small accident such as a fall is considered a portent signifying coming danger during her delivery, and therefore sacrifice of a fowl must invariably be made to propitiate the spirits. It is not unusual to hear of a

woman talking about another and telling how many fowls have been killed to save her during her pregnancy.

It is considered to be a desirable offence if the husband should willfully violate any restrictions. The wife's relations would immediately bring him to justice.

When the time of delivery is come and while she is in travail, two or three midwives are called to her assistance to accelerate the birth of the child. Nature is not allowed to pursue its own course but force is applied.

As soon as the child makes its appearance into the world, a signal is given by beating a bamboo receptacle with a stick, or a brass gong is struck or may be a gong is fired to announce that a child is born in the house. Immediately follows a religious ceremony, a fowl being waved over the heads of all present, including the infant and its mother. The fowl is then killed and the blood is smeared on the foreheads of those present.

After the mother and the child are washed and dressed, the afterbirth is deposited in a plaited bag and hung on a tree either in their country or in their *sembawa*, the site of their former house. The infant is sprinkled with a compound of plumpy (*beritang*) and *Arany* (*Arany*), is bandaged and made to lie on the spot of its own palms, a cloth is put round it, and a *Dyakk* shirt hung over it. One of the women who assisted in the birth washes the child and cuts the umbilical cord. She is afterwards rewarded with a *patang*, an animal's plate, and a long piece of the black *raw* (black split rotan) wares round the waist. The mother is seated with her back against the blazing fire; she drinks freely ginger-tea to facilitate her discharge.

As soon as the umbilical cord has dropped off, the infant, for the first time, is taken to the bathing-place. The man who carries the child takes a fowl with him. As soon as they come to the bathing-place the fowl is killed and a wing is cut off. If it be a male child this wing is tied on with a piece of red thread to a spear, and if the child be of the other sex this wing is tied on to an implement used by *Dyakk* women in weaving (bamboo). On the fourth day the spear or the *brivot*, as the case may be, is taken back to the house.

When the child is able to look about, to laugh, to turn on its side, to roll over, to crawl, to get on all-fours, to sit up, to walk holding on to something, to walk by itself, the restrictions with regard to the killing of animals or snakes are still binding—the child has not cut his teeth. As soon as this has taken place there is an end to all restrictions. If the child dies before it cuts its teeth the parents do not observe the mourning customs.

The *Dyaks* of old, it appears, did not know how to assist a woman when she was in travail, consequently many brutal practices were adopted.

The knowledge first came to be possessed by a certain man named *Kelid* *Budak* *Rasa*, whose wife was *Tebut*. When his wife was expecting he went out into the jungle with a blow-pipe. There he saw the *motor* (*trany* *anyak*) assist the female at the birth of its young and he saw that they used *lin* (ginger) and also bandages. Afterwards his wife gave birth to a child and *Kelid* *Budak* *Rasa* was able to assist a woman when she was in travail in the same way as the *motor* did. After his child was born he called him *Maling*, and gave him the title *Pangir* *Bunga* *Mengala*.

It must not be omitted that after a woman has given birth to a child and before she is bandaged, ground ginger is placed on the abdomen and is changed once or twice a day. This process continues for a month or perhaps less, as the case may be, while the woman is still drinking the ginger-tea.

The husband or whoever takes away the afterbirth to bury or hang on a tree is solemnly warned by the mother not to look to the right or to the left as he leaves the room, or the child might avenge.

As the mother sits with her back to the fire in the room holding in her hands the bundle of a native adze

(Mising) the process it to her stomach to assist the course of nature. For twenty-four hours she is not allowed to drink water, but if she does, it must be very little and first warmed but fever should set in. Her food is light and simple. The husband goes out to get certain kinds of fish which is first smoked before it is eaten.

The mother is not allowed to sleep for twenty-four hours after giving birth to a child, nor is she even allowed to lie down. One would think that after such a fatiguing time, a rest was most essential and to be deprived of it would be detrimental to health. Strangely to say it is not so.

The period of a Dayak woman's confinement is doubtful. It depends entirely on the strength of the woman. I have known several cases of women going out three days after their confinement to the paddy fields.

The person who takes away the afterbirth brings back with him a young shoot of a kind of fern (*Arundinaceae*) for his spear, a leaf of a kind of fern (*Polypodiaceae*) for his shield, and a leaf of grass (*Cyperaceae*) for his plume on the head. These things are stuck up in the room.

It is interesting to know of other restrictions which cover into force after a woman has given birth to a child. It is forbidden to eat pinesap lest the child lose a retreat when he is on the war path, to eat eggs lest the child should have sores on the head, to eat the fern called *pala*, lest the child be exhausted on the war-path. Pork can only be eaten when the child begins to hit or suck its teat. It is forbidden to throw cotton in the house or village, lest the mother should feel stiff, to procure a kind of fly for tinned, lest the mother should feel a crazy sensation, to lie down on a bamboo mat, lest the mother should have rheumatism, to give suck to the child lying down, lest the child should be deaf, to give suck to the child in the water lest the child should have bad teeth, to eat sugar cane, lest the mother should give birth frequently.

It is very often the case that the mother has no milk for the child for perhaps two or three days or a week after it is born, and the child has to live on macerated cooked rice. It is believed by Dayaks that a kind of land crab (*Grapsus*) when cooked and eaten by the mother will produce milk.

Enough has not been said about the ceremony of taking the child to the watering place to bathe for the first time. It is not necessary to repeat what has already been written but it is a very solemn ceremony. Every family has its own peculiarities of ceremony, which are more or less attached to religious rites. With some families the village or house is taboed when a child is born. The doors are marked with signs to denote non-admittance to strangers until the umbilical cord of the child has dropped off. Anyone trespassing in the house or village is not allowed to leave until the umbilical cord has dropped off, which may be five or seven days. Should any one leave the house before that time he is liable to a heavy fine of a full-grown pig. Unless this custom is carried out, the child might suffer from blindness.

Once on my usual tour round my mission at a place called Puan, one of my followers entered into a large village when it was too dark to discern anything, so buy some rice for our consumption. He was detained in the house. Three of the people in the village came to see me and brought the rice. This was unfortunate as I could not stay there more than two nights, so I had to reform my friend by paying for a large pig.

After the umbilical cord has dropped off the village or house is no longer taboed and the marks or signs are taken off. Some families have not got such customs.

I must mention one case in which I was the innocent victim. It happened in a Christian family whom I had converted and baptized. To my great surprise and indignation when the wife was confined, the house was pronounced taboed, but I entered it. I was told that

I had incurred upon myself a heavy fine. The wife explained that she had lost an eye. It was because some one had entered the house when she was born. With much difficulty and persuasion I answered her that every Christian was to give up all such superstitions for me but she persisted as against such calamities. I also assured them that if the child was to be un-fortunate I would be responsible for it. She has since had six children none the worse for it.

The ceremony of first taking a child to bath is called by the Dayak *nganyon* *nganyon* which means to take to bath. The mother calls a maiden and asked her to catch a kowl. The husband or anybody waves the kowl over the child and then kills it. The maiden who is asked to catch the kowl is honoured by being asked to carry the child to the bathing-place. After the kowl is killed, a wing is deposited in a arena together with some ashes. The maiden carries the child in a gauzy horse-hair blanket, sews a gauzy-silk-hat, holds in one hand ignited *talak*, which is the bark of the *Albizia* tree. She marches down to the bathing-place gradually, and the mother follows with a little boy armed with a spear and the spoke of the arena, containing the *talak* and the wing of the kowl. When the bathing-place is reached, the wing of the kowl with the *talak* in the spoke of the arena is placed with the spear and placed standing alongside the bathing-place. The maiden then walks gently down into the water to give the child a wash, or rather to introduce the child to the general bathing-place. They return to the house and the spear is left behind. When the house is reached, beads are threaded and tied round the legs, to act as eyes to prevent the child from slipping. Beads are also tied round the hands in order not to make a man when throwing a spear. The lips of the child are slightly braced with bags in order that when it chews the lips might appear red. It is made to suck the tail of his fish to prevent it from having thrush too soon. Sparrows' eggs are dashed on its head to enable it to endure the rain when its mother takes it to the farm.

REV. W. HOWELL.

Two Extracts from Recent BBC Talks

"Experience of the past few years has shown that even the sort of fish can be identified by echo-sounders to a considerable degree of accuracy by means of the sort of echo produced. Herring in British waters usually produce messages with diffused edges like the mark of a dirty thumb. Cod produce a characteristic crowd of spikes. Pichards in shoals produce continuous shaded patches, but with the edges more sharply marked than when a similar echo is produced by herring. There are examples of a new sort of technology gradually being learned by the modern fisheries."

C. L. Bolt, talking in the BBC's European Service about modern methods of fishing.

"I don't really believe we're just a ball given a certain bias and rolled up the grass towards heaven or hell at the end of it. I do believe, on the contrary, that we humans are only a little lower than the angels, and that the human destiny is happiness, by which I mean the Peace of God which passeth understanding; and that every human being can get there by his own efforts; but that he can't do so on a desert island, or in a speck of land he happens to be presently shipwrecked, but can only do so inside the human community in the full flow of life, by plunging into the stream of life and not running away from it, by being a full member of the human community, which means, at a guess, putting more into the community than one takes out of it."

Robert Heinsiger, well-known novelist and lecturer, broadcasting in the BBC's Midland Home Service.

The Year That Made The Day

At five minutes to ten on the morning of Coronation Day there was a sudden and complete failure of sound at television's switching point in Broadcasting House. The power supply to sound desk had failed. It was a tense moment for everyone but fortunately a faulty power lead was soon located and replaced and all was well. This is but one of many incidents recorded in the BBC's recently published book, *The Year that Made the Day*, an account of how the Coronation Day broadcasts were prepared and carried out.

A whole year was needed to work out the complicated preparations to make certain that sound and television broadcasts should be as good as human skill and ingenuity could make them. The main thing was to ensure that enough cameras and microphones were unobtrusively placed in Westminster Abbey in situations where they would provide the best results and also take up little space. One of the most important cameras was put amongst the orchestra on the choir screen, with floor boards removed to make room for the feet of the cameraman, whose back was increased by a ring of sharp steel 'wells' pegs. The broadcasts were given in forty-one languages, besides English, by commentators of many nationalities, all of them using the BBC's special lip microphones that pick up all the commentator says but are insensitive to extraneous crowd noise at a distance. Every commentator for the home sound team had a number two standby in case of need and duplication of everything possible was carried out so that nothing should mar the success of the day. Each of the eleven commentators also had a temporary control room associated with it, where local commentators and sounds picked up by the Abbey microphones, were blended, and the biggest of these, built on the Colonial Office site, had twenty-eight control positions handling the output from twenty-seven commentators' microphones.

Even after five on the morning of Coronation Day a body of rather chilled engineers assembled in the Head Verger's room in the Abbey. The programme tests had been completed by nine and at ten fifteen the microphones became "live" to the world. The key phrase "The coach moves" was included in Jean MacCall's commentary from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace a few minutes later—pre-arranged as a signal for the procession marshals in the event of their own communications breaking down. And so began the commentary on the greatest broadcast in history, which is described with a wealth of behind-the-scenes detail in *The Year that Made the Day*.

An Odorous Case

COURT OF APPEAL

KULAMBU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND OTHERS

v.

KACHING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Negligence or nuisance—whether Kaching is on the Ayeh river—damages distinguished from interest

The respondents were awarded one hundred thousand dollars damages by Quennan Jervis, J., in the High Court, for reasons which are recited in the judgment of Rave Baskin, C.J.

Held: Quennan Jervis, J., was, in all the circumstances, in error in concluding that the Ayeh river is an inland river, and that, Kaching is on the high bank.

Said: The Court of Appeal (Rave Baskin, C.J. Budge and Bismut, JJ.)

Mr. Gily Cassano, for the appellants;
The Chief-Justices' Ranges, for the respondents.

The facts appear from judgment of Rave Baskin, C.J.

Rave Baskin, C.J.: Sometime in December of last year the Kulambu Urban District Council decided,

in furtherance of that spirit of civil pride which is such a happy characteristic of local authorities throughout Sarawak, to make a gift of some of its electric trains to the newly established Kaching Municipal Council, which at the end of 1953 had completed the first year of its existence.

Such an enterprise, so fraught with moment in the annals of Sarawak, was pursued by the then Chairman of the Kulambu Urban District Council, the Honourable Mr. Mackintosh Thresher, with a zeal and imagination to be expected of that intrepid performer. As it was the height of the drier season, he proposed, and the proposal was duly seconded and unanimously approved, that a ship-load of the finest darters of the Kulambu District should be despatched as a gift to the Council and citizens of Kaching. Those of us who know the Sixth Division are aware of the swiftness and unique flavour of the Kulambu darters, and can appreciate the signal honour done to Kaching by this offer. A telegram, the contents of which have been the subject of dispute, but which apparently read, "Taken appreciation accept Kulambu Council darters Thresher", was despatched, and the following reply returned: "Offer accepted may civic gratitude in preparation to arrival of darters offered may Mayor and Corporation, Kaching."

As a result of these telegrams the Honourable Mr. Mackintosh Thresher, on behalf of his Council, chartered an apparently seaworthy vessel, the *s.s. Gajah*, which was promptly loaded to the gunwales with prime Kulambu darters, and then departed with the good wishes of the population of Kulambu, which had assembled on the jetty to watch the historic event. Indeed, a silver darters spoon, engraved with the arms of the Kulambu Council was, in a short ceremony on the jetty, presented to Mr. Chingay bin Koning, the master of the *s.s. Gajah*, by the Chairman, as a memento of the historic voyage.

For historic it proved to be.

Alcock, J.: When are we coming to the law?

Rave Baskin, C.J.: Quiet. The sea, which had been running heavily off the Sixth Division, was mysteriously quieted by the passage of the *s.s. Gajah*, and went the round the Moura Tobou entrance to the Sarawak River the master had, he assured the Court, no objection whatever. At that point, however *s.s. Gajah*, began to behave (if I may be forgiven a little judicial levity) in a manner worthy of her name: now crossing from one side of the river to the other, now attempting to turn nose round to sea, she convinced the quartermaster that the steering gear was broken. The teeth of the master (and which we are, of course, intimately concerned) was that a school of dolphins, attracted by the junks of the darters, which had swept through the hull, were playing violently with the *Gajah*.

Stead and persistence prevailed, and the *s.s. Gajah* managed to reach Penang at 10 p.m. on December 20th: where, to the annoyance of several other vessels waiting there, she anchored for the night, in order to arrive at the Kaching wharves at 11 o'clock on the following morning, when a civic reception had been planned.

If it were possible to anticipate all the contingencies of human life our presence in this Court would, I feel, be unnecessary. Be that as it may, the *s.s. Gajah* left Penang at 10 o'clock in the morning, and arrived off the Astana Sapa, Kaching, at approximately 10.50 a.m. Here, in order to perform the evolution that forms part of every Sarawak seaman's training, she anchored, in order to turn round, stem the tide and proceed to the wharf, where a large crowd had gathered to greet, if not the vessel herself, at least her cargo.

The evolution was safely completed, and in mid-stream the *s.s. Gajah* headed for the jetty. Two late did the master of the *s.s. Gajah* observe the approach of the *m.v. Nyosok*, intent on performing a similar evolution to that just performed by the *s.s. Gajah* herself: both vessels put their helms over in the same

direction; there was a violent head-on collision, and the s.s. *Gajah* listed over and capsized on a shoal lying immediately off both the Municipal market and one of its largest pleasure gardens.

Various explanations have been offered for this calamity, but this Court is, like Mr. Justice Quanten Meritt, prepared to accept the evidence of the *juror* of the s.s. *Agamod*, that he and his crew were incapacitated by the smell of the durians, which they had been pursuing up the river, and could see nothing. Nevertheless, applying the principle of *Andes v. Mariner Harbourside Industrial Co-operative Society** our brother held that both vessels were equally at fault.

Blosser, J.: Ah, law at last.

Ray Bealish, C.J.: It has been observed by one of the poets that trouble seldom comes as single spits. If this incident had been all, Mr. Justice Quanten Meritt could, in pursuance of the ruling I have just stated, have divided the damages between the masters and characters of the two vessels concerned. Such a happy judgment of Solomon was denied him, and the reasons for such denial must, I regret, be elaborated.

Of what happened upon the capsizing of the s.s. *Gajah* the recollection of all witnesses was, it seems, confused, and our learned brother had some difficulty in extracting the truth from them. Certain facts stand out with astonishing clarity, however. The first and more important fact is that, water entering the hold of the s.s. *Gajah*, the durians therein swelled to gargantuan proportions, and like animals (even manatees, looks out of the second hold in which they were contained, and drifted into the Sarawak River, then almost at the turn of high water. Thousands of durians were seen observed floating off the Municipal pleasure ground, the Municipal market and, mirabile dictis, the Asiatic Hotel, and all traffic on the river was soon suspended.

This, though enough, was not all. As the tide receded, it gradually threw up the durians on to the banks and stands of the river, and within a few minutes the stench of the unique fruit hung like a pall over the area. Scenes were enacted that defy of sufficient terror to make the hottest blood run cold. Of the civic delegation standing by on the welcoming wharf everyone except the Health Inspector fled; confusion was hastily communicated to the Councillors in hospital, the Constabulary Band, which had been standing by to play *Delius's* *Love poem* (in *Measuring the First Durian in Spring* would manage only the first few bars (and those scarcely recognizable as music) before they abandoned their instruments and collapsed into the river; and the Chairman of the Council, as he was carried away on an improvised stretcher, was heard to say: "This is not, this means war!" These were the immediate calamities; others, more far-reaching in the consequences, ensued.

As the poisonous cloud drifted towards the town scenes of unparalleled confusion were enacted; the bazaar area was hastily evacuated, except those whose passionate habits had rendered them accustomed to the vile fruit; roads leading from the town became packed with anxious bearing much of their belongings as they could carry; some Red Cross volunteers manœuvred in obsolete gas masks, which proved useless against the insidious fumes, and as one man they collapsed in paroxysms of unrelieved agony; and the pale cream dispenser of the Secretariat assumed a dreadful mummy hue.

Indeed, the Secretariat itself was soon deserted, Government officers resident across river were prevented from returning to their homes, and at one time a handful of high-ranking officers, isolated in one of the few air-conditioned chambers of that venerable building, were engaged in anxious debate whether or not to declare a public holiday, a local emergency, or a day of national prayer, when the air-conditioning plant, choked with durian, broke down and put the officers concerned out of their inhibition.

Such were, in brief, the consequences of this dreadful gift, a gift which in part explains the recent decision by the Kuching Municipal Council of the motto "*non Durian et dona ferentes*". It now falls to my lot to consider the legal issues attendant thereon.

As I have indicated, the Municipal markets were put out of action, both during the crisis and for seven days thereafter, when the smell of rotting durian drove home visitors to a distant distance from the river-bank, and thereby deprived the Council of vast revenues, assessed in the lower Court at \$100,000. It is with these days that we are concerned.

In the lower Court the respondents claimed damages in negligence against the Kelambu Urban District Council in respect of the non-user of their Municipal markets and pleasure grounds during the durian invasion. Mr. Gannon argued forcefully that it was never proved that the vile scent which compelled the evacuation of Kuching was due to the durians. This, I may say, caused my brother judges and I to think poorly furiously, oh, Boggle?

Bogge, J.: What's that, what's that? Oh, I concur.

Ray Bealish, C.J.: As I was saying, this main argument aimed at grave concern, but was finally obtained the solution. If our brother Quanten Meritt and this Court cannot take judicial notice of durian, then what can we take judicial notice of? I put this question to Mr. Gannon, and he had to admit that he didn't know. Didn't know, indeed! I fancy that dispenses of that particular argument.

Mr. Gannon's next argument related to *volenti non fit injuria*. If, he said, the Kuching Council accepted the risk of durian in the municipal area, then they could not afterwards complain of its smell; and he quoted the much-disputed telegrams to establish his argument, for what it was worth. These telegrams indicate to me quite clearly however, that the low durian Kuching had, the better, and I would continue to the Kuching Council's reply to read, "Clear guidance in inverse proportion to amount of durian offered." That's what they must have meant, anyway.

Bogge, J.: But the durian was immersed.

Ray Bealish, C.J.: Please let me finish. The third argument raised by Mr. Gannon was that the durian could be regarded as sewage of the Sixth Division; that there is a common law right on the part of the Kelambu Urban District Council, as a sanitary authority, to discharge sewage into the open sea; and that as the sides abut and flow beyond Kuching, that town is on the high seas. Well, again for what it is worth I find (in case there is an appeal, you never can tell these days) that Kuching is on the high seas, but that there is no common law right, even in Sarawak, to discharge sewage, or even durian, into the high seas. *Foster v. Warblington** decided that, long ago, and I should like to quote *Moulton L. J.* in that case. He said "To my mind, oceans is an ocean lying so not differ substantially, in their legal status, from lobsters in a lobster pot." In the same way I would suggest that those equally wild animals, durians, when immersed in the Sarawak River, do not differ substantially, in their legal status, from bad eggs on the highway.

In his fourth and last argument, Mr. Gannon quoted his most recent case, that of *Southport Corporation v. Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.*,† and quoted at length various passages from the extremely lucid judgment in that case, arguing that there was no proof of negligence on the part of the appellants. At first I was impressed by this argument, but bitter reflection convinces me that all cast upon the waters by a stranded ship (which in that case polluted the Southport pleasure park) cannot equal in its violence one native durian. Indeed, there can be no

* [1906] 1 K. B. 605.
† [1952] 1 W. L. R. 775.

comparison. Exactly in what respect tortious liability on the part of the Kelambu Urban District Council has accrued in this case, whether in omission, negligence, trespass or what you will, one fact remains crystal-clear: for seven days Kuching was a dead town, entirely owing to the appalling wayward philanthropy and so-called good neighbourliness. I hope this will be a lesson to them; good intentions constitute the bedrock of legal arguments, and I trust that the Kelambu Local Authority has now learnt the price of vanity. I therefore dismiss the appeal.

Blosser, J.: I concur.

Sare Beekin, C. J.: What about you, Beggie?

Beggie J.: Eh? Oh, I concur, of course. I always do.

Sare Beekin, C. J.: The appeal is therefore dismissed. And in dismissing the appeal I should like to observe that our views have been fortified by those of the Public Prosecutor who, after short deliberations, considered that serious mental derangement had been suffered by certain members of the Kuching public, and directed that the master of the *s.v. Gajah* should be charged with the offence of voluntarily causing hurt, within section 311 of the Penal Code, and that the master of the *s.v. Nyamel* and the Chairman of the Kelambu U.D.C. be charged with abetment of the offence. Charges of polluting the Sarawak River, which had been prepared at the instigation of the Natural Resources Board, and charges of exporting rare tropical plants, which had been framed by the Curator of the Sarawak Museum, were later withdrawn. Fortunately for the Honourable Mr. Hachtelmann Thresher, his term of office had expired before the charge of abetment was framed by the learned Deputy Public Prosecutor, and his absence in office, Mr. Arbutnot Kuchakot, in view of serving twelve months in the Sarawak Gaol, together with Mr. Chakap bin Kening and the master of the *s.v. Nyamel*. Of these criminal matters, I must remain judicially ignorant, and I would only wish to observe that the sentences appear in the light of the catastrophe to be remarkably moderate, and that they serve as a salutary reminder of the sense of responsibility required of persons engaged in voluntary public services. I will say no more on this, since the criminal appeals are shortly to come before us.

Beggie J.: Goh!

Sare Beekin, C. J.: Pineapple.

Beggie J.: I was going to say "gollywog".

Sare Beekin, C. J.: Yes.

Beggie J.: Oh. I thought you said "pineapple".

Sare Beekin, C. J.: I did.

Beggie J.: Oh.

Blosser, J.: Can a member of a Court be guilty of contempt of that Court?

Sare Beekin, C. J.: Bah.

*Appeal dismissed.
—dram.*

Random Jottings

A new lightweight ejection seat for pilots of jet aircraft has been developed by United Kingdom designers. Weighing only 50 pounds (22.7 kilograms)—approximately half the weight of the seat at present in general use—it is also fully automatic. This means that the parachute attached to the seat opens automatically, however low the aircraft is flying when the seat is fired from it, and at any speed; in tests, successful ejections have been made as low as 200 feet (60 metres) from the ground.

The new seat, which has been developed by the Martin Baker Aircraft Company Limited of High Downham, near Lutbridge, Middlesex, England, has many advantages over the earlier version. No least of these is that the overall height has been reduced, enabling the pilot to see behind him, while the parachute, now combined with seat harness, acts as a head rest.

As in the seat in current use, the new model is fired from the cabin when the pilot pulls a small handle over his face. One second later, a drogue is fired, controlling the descent of the seat itself, while a time mechanism fires the harness and automatically opens the parachute when the pilot reaches 10,000 feet (3,048 metres). If the ejection is made below that height, the whole operation is virtually instantaneous, the parachute opening immediately after ejection and bringing the pilot safely to earth, even if he is unconscious.

One of the rarest breeding birds in Britain is the dotterel, which Eric Simons, staff ornithologist of the British Broadcasting Corporation, determined to put on record to add to the Corporation's extensive library of recorded bird-song. He went to the Scottish Highlands, one of the few areas where it can be found, and with Douglas Netherfield-Thompson, an authority on Highland flora, climbed and found a nest. But a thunderstorm drowned the bird's song.

A high land they had another try, this time in the Grampian Hills. Mr. Simons was burdened with an 80-pound (36-kilogram) pack which included a midjet recorder, two microphones, a transformer, some cable and a parabolic reflector 18 inches (45.7 centimetres) in diameter. They found a nest at the top of a hill with one egg and both birds in residence—an unusual thing as the male dotterel does all the brooding and occasional duties, the female seeming to consider that she has done her duty merely by laying the egg.

Mr. Simons was delighted and set up his reflector. It was a perfect day for recording—extremely hot with sun pouring from a cloudless sky—and he hoped to record "conversation" at the nest. But conditions were too good this time—the heat was intense and there was no shade anywhere for a passing dotterel. The female one saw that the parabolic reflector afforded ample shade for a hot little bird, walked over to it and went to sleep.

Fortunately the chicks was only short-lived and Mr. Simons was eventually able to get an excellent set of records.

Although puppets have for many years been a source of entertainment for children (and their parents), their manipulation has been a matter for the expert. It is only the last few years that puppets have been made which can be operated by the amateur, and children are now able to assemble the characters, manipulate the strings and write little plays for the performance. Puppets have now become so popular that one United Kingdom firm—Pellam Puppets, Limited, of Victoria House, Marlborough, Wiltshire, England has a "puppet club" which claims to have members in nearly every country in the world.

It all started when Bob Pellam left the army after the war, and decided he wanted an occupation that was at once creative and completely independent of the tasks of big business. However, the work that he found turned out to be so successful commercially that he called in a partner to look after the business side of the undertaking.

Mr. Pellam's first task was to evolve a method of making puppets that could be passed on to semi-skilled workers without loss of the individual character and craftsmanship that are so important. This he did with considerable ingenuity, adapting his ideas for three different types of puppet designed for the children from five to twelve or more years old. In the four years since he started, his range of puppet "characters" has been widened to include animals and birds, as well as

Walk Disney, Enid Noyton and television characters. Stages and scenery are available and the puppets can be brought complete or in kits for assembly.

Today, the firm has a factory on the edge of an English town which is said to be the only one in Britain—and probably in Europe—capable of producing puppets by the thousand while retaining hand methods of production, painting and stringing.

For years it has been regarded by the London County Council as essential that the children in the 1,100 schools under its control should be helped to build up resistance against the damp, and sometimes foggy, atmosphere of London's winters. For this purpose cod liver oil and milk or halibut oil capsules have been supplied to children as vitamin supplements, either free or at minute cost to the parents.

The general level of health of London's school-children and the high standard of attendance may be put down, in part at least, to these vitamin supplements, and during 1952-1953 it is calculated that five million doses were supplied on payment and another three and a half million free of charge.

Now the halibut oil capsules, which were introduced in 1938, are so popular—even very small children never object to them—that it has been decided in future that these can supply all the vitamin supplements the children need. The normal dose is two a day and the capsules are distributed to schools in packets of 1200.

It might be thought that during holidays the best thing schoolboys and girls would want to do is attend lectures by learned men. That, however, is not the experience of the London County Council which each year organizes a series of lectures for pupils of their secondary schools. The lectures are free and pupils may attend as many as they like, receiving tickets from their headmasters or headmistresses.

The subjects covered are varied and fascinating. For example, *A Voyage into Space* was the title of the lecture given by Dr. J. G. Porter of the Royal Greenwich Observatory. In it Dr. Porter described some of the plans for making space-ships to visit the moon and planets, and some of the things that might be seen during one of these voyages of the future, illustrated by lantern slides.

Two of the talks dealt with animals. Mr. J. W. Lester, Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoo talked on *Some Features of the Reptile House* describing how reptiles and amphibious animals are captured and introduced to zoo life, with some unusual stories attached to reptiles in the London Zoo. Another talk by a well-known veterinary surgeon was on the care of domestic animals and the audience had the opportunity of seeing part of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Beaumont Animals' Hospital.

In the *Twinkling of an Eye* was the intriguing title of a talk outlining the methods by which very rapid movements are recorded—for example the growth of a stroke of lightning. An expert of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, talked on the ever romantic subject of sailing ships, while *The Romance of Radar* was the up-to-date subject of another illustrated lecture. But boys of this jet age found the former talk just as thrilling, for it was given by Mr. Alan Villiers who is the last of the great fleet of Cape Horn sailing ship skippers. He described his experiences at sea in all manner of craft from Arab dhows to giant square riggers.

Girl

Miss's BOOZY, January 30th, 1954

1.	B. D. Muir (5)	All square
- 2.	C. O. Adams (7)	7 down
	J. R. Outram (7)	7 down
4.	I. S. Gordon (11)	7 down
5.	B. A. Hepburn (12)	5 down
6.	N. Thomas (13)	7 down

= 7.	H. W. Harcus (5)	8 down
	W. L. Whyte (5)	8 down
9.	B. T. Joyce (10)	10 down
10.	E. Bomphrey (11)	11 down
- 11.	A. N. Outram (13)	12 down
	W. H. Dickie (15)	12 down
	A. M. E. Currie	No return.
	R. E. Chaser	

Miss's GAMESON, 14 Hours, January 17th

		Great	Handicap	Net
N. Thomas & Mrs. L. T. Muirson	64	18	48	
J. R. Outram & Mrs. R. E. Chaser	64	14	50	
B. D. Muir & Mrs. F. C. Oplem	65	14	51	
I. S. Gordon & Mrs. I. S. Gordon	71	18	53	
A. M. E. Currie & Mrs. A. M. R. Currie	79	19	60	
A. E. H. Bullford & Mrs. A. E. H. Bullford	80	19	61	
W. L. Whyte & Mrs. W. L. Whyte	77	14	63	
E. Bomphrey & Mrs. T. V. Courtney	89	22	67	

Comment: Miss's Ask in two quadrilles.

LADIES' BOOZY, January 20th

1.	Mrs. L. T. Muirson (31)	All square
2.	Mrs. H. S. Roe (31)	2 down
3.	Mrs. R. E. Chaser (29)	3 -
4.	Mrs. F. C. Oplem (26)	5 -
5.	Mrs. A. E. H. Bullford (26)	7 -

GAMESON'S COMPETITION (SHOOT), 15 Hours, FEBRUARY 13th

	Great	Handicap	Net	Prize
1. Jussell	68	14	54	Community Plate
2. Ah Song	70	12	58	spoons in case
3. Ah Chuan	79	10	69	RM5.00.
4. Alan	86	18	78	Fruit dish (RM.50),
5. Afandy	85	14	71	Ann pot (RM.50),
6. Ismail	85	11	74	plus 1 tin of Bonson
7. Marcel	90	19	79	and Hodges cigarettes each.
8. Pook	111	20	91	
9. Ah Pook	118	14	94	
10. Sook	140	19	125	
11. M'Intosh				No return.

Comment: The young idea,—and at least one very good one at that.

Miss's ELEGANT COMPETITION, 14th, 20th & 28th FEBRUARY

54 Hours

		J+J	Handicap	Net
1.	I. S. Gordon	19		57
2.	C. O. Adams	2		59
= 3.	W. L. Whyte	5		61
- 3.	A. M. E. Currie	12		61
- 3.	C. B. Hors	18		61
- 6.	H. W. Harcus	5		62
- 6.	A. N. Outram	12		62
- 6.	E. Bomphrey	18		62
9.	B. D. Muir	5		65
10.	F. C. Oplem	18		68
11.	G. Booth	18		82
12.	M. B. McCabe	18		85
	L. C. Smith	18		N.R.

Comment: A most entertaining outing during which strokes legitimately taken varied from 6 to 34.

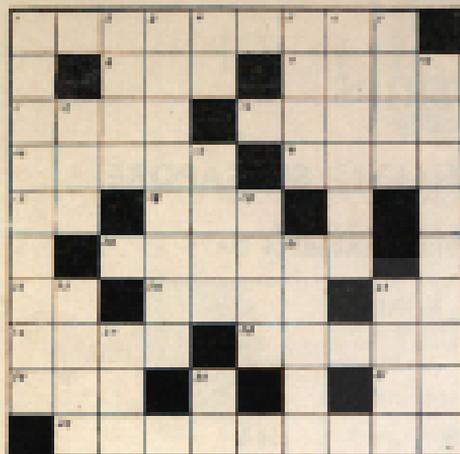
C. O. ADAMS

Coverer,

Girl Sub-Committee

The "Gazette" Crossword No. 4

(New Series)



CLUES

Across

1. Large German bird.
2. Staffs forming masses of circles.
3. Lamentation.
11. Amorphous quartz-like form of hydrous silica some kinds of which show sharp colours.
13. Old man's hair.
14. Obscure.
15. Not a moment ago.
17. An accountant's title.
18. Chinese national drink.
20. Clearly.
22. A preposition.
24. The name of this vessel is mentioned somewhere in the Almanac of the General Gentry of course.
25. Three-quarters of a foot.
26. Bark of oak.
28. Ingots of pure silver bearing leader's or manager's seal and used in China for payments by weight.
29. Ocular envelope.
31. — owners.
32. To set up on permanent basis.

Down

1. There was made a comparison in Kuching.
2. Order.
3. Christmas festival.
4. Between midnight and noon.
5. Proper behaviour.
6. He will protest the very fact you must pay him.
7. Pinhead.
10. Name of our Queen.
11. Hand-woven cloth of heavy pattern used as blanket or ornament by Dyaks.
17. Clear in tone.
19. Increase.
21. All Government servants are expected to be so.
23. Temple.
24. Golden of wine.
27. Yellowish cloud matter produced by apparatus.
30. A University degree.

SOLUTION

(GAZETTE CROSSWORD No. 3)

Across

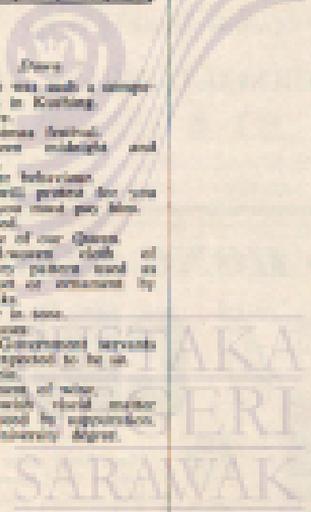
1. Bismarck, 20. Inland, 11. Strife, 13. Aha, 15. So, 16. Yuck, 18. Puck, 21. At, 22. Box, 24. Ann, 25. Nothing, 28. Goo, 29. Cobble, 31. Seebot, 34. Kix, 35. Yaw.

Down

1. Bismarck, 2. Ho, 3. Name, 4. TNT, 5. Aah, 6. Nore, 7. OTH, 8. Aah, 9. RUDOLPH, 10. Blue, 14. Broom, 17. Yeh, 18. Yuck, 20. Aah, 23. Sand, 26. Book, 27. Goo, 30. DYS, 32. Yaw, 33. CE.

Kuching Market Price List

The list was not received in time for publication.



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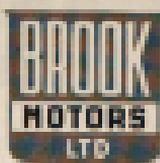
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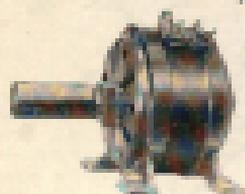


1904



1954

FIFTY YEARS OF ELECTRIC MOTOR MANUFACTURE



1904.

Making electric motors has been a specialised business for Brooks who believe in producing one article to the best of their ability.



1954.

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS
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[8-3]

PUSTAKA
NEGERI
SARAWAK

RAJIBHARAS

HIGH SPEED EARTHMING



A Caterpillar DW10 Tractor with a No. 10 Scraper provides dependable, high speed hauling. These matched units have an available top speed of 24.5 MPH. The No. 10 Scraper has a capacity of 8.7 cu. yds. struck and 11 cu. yds. heaped. With this tractor-scraper, cycle time is cut to a minimum. The No. 10 Scraper provides positive ejection of the stickiest materials.

The DW10 is powered by a 115 HP Caterpillar Diesel Engine. This engine

lowers operating costs by using low cost, non-premium fuels, without fouling. The brakes on the trailing unit take hold an instant before the brakes on the tractor, thereby preventing jackknifing and assuring safe operation. Mechanical steering is aided by an hydraulic mechanism, giving the driver complete control and a "feel of the road."

This machine has a place on nearly every earthmoving project. Come in and let us explain more about the DW10 Tractor and the No. 10 Scraper.

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MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE


TRUCK ENGINES • TRACTORS
MOTOR GRADERS
EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

CAT. 6/18

Sarawak Gazette

PRICE

KUCHING, Saturday, February 27th, 1954

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MARCH 1954

CHRISTIAN		CHINESE		MUSLIM		MOON PHASES		HIGH WATER	
Days of Week	Months	Moons	Dates	Months	Dates	1st New Moon	1st Full Moon	A.M.	P.M.
						1st First Quarter	1st Last Quarter	h. m.	h. m.
M	1	1	27	Purnama (Full Moon)	26	1st New Moon		00 06	2 31
Tu	2		28		27	1st First Quarter		1 25	3 24
W	3		29		28	1st Full Moon		2 37	4 22
Th	4		30		29			3 45	5 03
F	5	2	1		1			4 42	5 41
S	6		2	2			5 37	6 30	
S	7		3	3		1st New Moon		6 29	6 37
M	8		4	4				7 20	7 15
Tu	9		5	5		Kedondong, 1954		8 12	8 15
W	10		6	6				9 04	8 33
Th	11		7	7	Bayan			10 05	9 36
F	12		8	8				11 11	10 17
S	13		9	9				—	10 28
S	14		10	10			1st New Moon	—	1 37
M	15		11	11				00 48	3 29
Tu	16		12	12		1st Full Moon		2 07	4 13
W	17		13	13		1st First Quarter		3 22	4 48
Th	18		14	14		1st Full Moon		4 22	5 18
F	19		15	15		1st Last Quarter		5 09	5 43
S	20		16	16				5 49	6 18
S	21		17	17		1st New Moon		6 28	6 34
M	22		18	18				7 03	6 57
Tu	23		19	19				7 36	7 30
W	24		20	20				8 11	7 42
Th	25		21	21				8 48	8 07
F	26		22	22				9 29	8 39
S	27		23	23				10 20	9 15
S	28		24	24		1st New Moon		11 25	10 25
M	29		25	25				—	11 40
Tu	30		26	26		1st First Quarter		—	1 43
W	31		27	27		1st Full Moon		1 04	2 42

I AM



a Tiger

For quenching thirst I come first

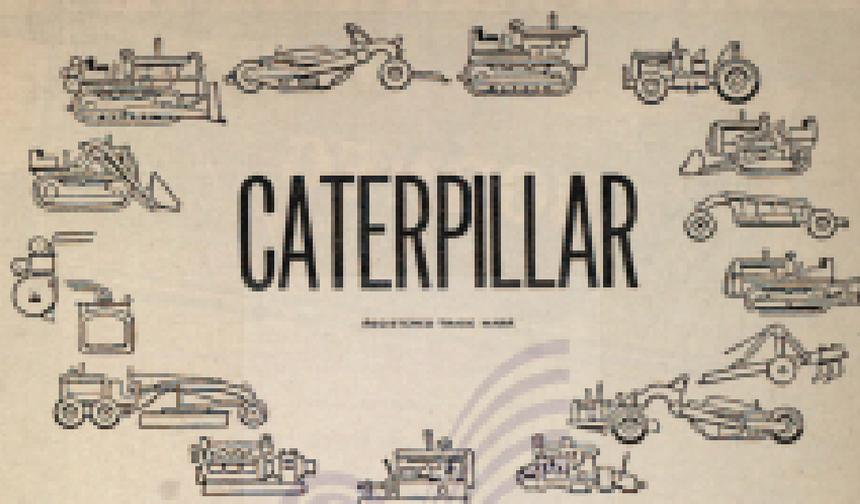
THERE'S ALWAYS

-time for a

Tiger



The **BORNEO** *Company Limited*



The most complete selection of matched earthmoving equipment

- | | |
|--|---|
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32 to 130 drawbar horsepower | Cable Controls 4 sizes
Front and rear-mounted |
| Wheel-type Tractors 3 sizes
115 to 225 horsepower | Hydraulic Controls 3 sizes
Front and rear-mounted |
| Scrapers 5 sizes
4.5 to 27 cu. yds. (heaped capacity) | Agricultural Tool Bars 2 sizes
For D6, D4 and D6 Tractors |
| Wagons 2 sizes
14 and 25 cu. yds. (heaped capacity) | Agricultural Loader
For D2 Tractor |
| Bulldozers 27 sizes
Hydraulic and cable controlled | Rippers 2 sizes |
| Motor Graders 3 sizes
50 to 100 horsepower | Diesel Industrial Engines 12 sizes
52 to 500 horsepower |
| | Diesel Electric Sets 12 sizes
19 to 315 kilowatt |
| | Diesel Marine Engines 12 sizes
28 to 400 horsepower |

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EQUIPMENT TRACTOR MARK



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