Serial Story

A Page of Interest to Women

Promenade Deck . .

by Ishbel Ross

CHAPTER I

A whistle sounded across the harbour, the signal for the Marenia to slip from her moorings. Its booming note spread tumult through the midnight stillness and startled a flock of sea gulls into flight. Two snub-nosed tugs prodded the ship's sides and eased her slowly into midstream, where she paused for a throbbing second, a dark monster riddled with rings of gold.

Along her decks, passengers leaned at the rails. The band played and the music drifted faintly back to those who stood at the end of the pier, waving good-bye to their friends who were starting out on cruise around the world.

Keith Macduff turned away from the rail and climbed to the boat deck, where he could breathe the iced night air without distraction. The Woolworth Tower, old and friendly, went shimmering past, as the Marenia had cleared the tip of Manhattan Island.

Macduff breathed deeply and his chest swelled under his ulster. There was no one in New York that he would miss; that was one of the great advantages of going through life without ties. He had boasted to Hamish Ingles that he would sail around the world and never speak to a soul.

Hamish had laughed him to scorn, telling him that there was nothing any more difficult to down than the overtures to one's fellow travellers on a cruise. As a solace, he had made him a list of the best cocktails of every port.

Looking Back

A light breeze was rustling the water's surface and Macduff looked back at the sparkling towers that were now no more than a trail of phosphorescence. New York was the place for work, he reflected, thinking of all the pleasant things that a man could do when he lived by himself.

He would miss his peaceful existence in New York, and his pleasant evenings with detective stories, under the battered lamp that Susannah had wanted removed in favour of something she called a bridge stand. His thoughts ran back over his years in New York. Each one was locked in a dark chamber in his mind, and it was only at rare intervals, when something unusual was happening to him, that he switched on the lights, then things sprang to life like pictures on a picture screen.

Macduff looked back towards New York. It was only a phantom of light on the water's edge now, but he knew that its tiers of stone and panes of glass aspired to the drifting cloud. For a brief flash he could see through it all, as if the walls had collapsed before his eyes — bright rooms inhabited by people chattering about nothing, men and women quarelling, making love, reading and dancing; bands playing; radios spreading din; children making a noise. Such a race for budding! They did not know what it was to spend an evenin,, alone, or to seek quiet with a book. Must have company, must make whoopee. Hah! He turned away. He saw a fur coat and a huge bunch of orchids curled against the rail.

Clare Langford, lost in though had watched his receding back for a moment, then turned her attention to the sea. Dick Charlton, the chief officer, came stalking along the deck and then leaned against the railing, several yards away. His cap was tilted over a profile as sharp as the blade of a knife.

Glad to be Leaving

"Are we near Quarantine?" she asked, aware of his presence.

"Just about there." He moved responsively in her direction.

Clare turn : her face towards him. It was pale and oval in the half-light, marked only by the full curve of her lips.

"I'm so glad to be leaving New York — her admission was as swift as the blaze of her eyes. Then she remembered herself and was quenched. She turned to the rail again and forgot that there was anyone else on the top deck. Dick moved quietly on his way. A shiver ran through her frame. She was glad to be leaving New York, and to be going around the world. It was an excellent thing to be getting away from Hugh. Four months were too many to have devoted to him.

She looked back at the trail of light that marked New York and could see him returning alone to his apartment. How had she ever come to throw in her lot with his? It was so unlikely — a dusty scientist who had turned to writing and worldly living after a lifetime in his laboratory. Her friends were continually telling her that his mind was gay and enterprising; they had discovered that from his books.

"Poor Hugh!" she thought, as she leaned over the rail. "He looked so mournful as the boat moved out. What will he do with himself now?" But he was less at a loss than she imagined. Soon after meeting Clare, one of his oldest friends had warned him that she was the wrong woman for him, and that he must not neglect his work for her.

Clare was suddenly weary. Yes, she was glad to be getting away. There was no excitement for her in the ethereal beauty, "I think I shall turn in," she thought, looking around to see if anyone were in sight. "I wonder if I would be quiet and more romantic under the stars."

The passengers were disappearing for the night, until only a sprinkling remained on deck. The Marenia was heading for the sea, and her four jewelled strings of light were showing blanks above the water line, as one porthole after another went dark.

In a minimum rate cabin on D deck Miss Alice Mudge bent with fluttering fingers over a straw suitcase lying open on her narrow bed. Her black eyes gleamed from a nest of anxious folds, for she was near-sighted and had decided to avoid her glasses as much as possible. Somewhere she had read that glasses were a hindrance to romance, and nothing must interfere with the full enjoyment of her trip around the world.

In a spasm of anxiety her hand moved to her waist. She took off her belt, undid her skirt, and fumbled for the small chamois bag that Hortense, the seamstress of Ohonto, Wisconsin, had made for her, along with her travel wardrobe.

At last she had dug her way through tapes and buttons and had reached the chamois bag. Twittering, she tucked it upside down on the bed, having first made sure that the cabin door was locked. Before her lay five hundred dollars in crackling bills, which Mr. Brown, the banker, had given her with a flourish, remarking that it was not every day that Ohonto had a citizen leaving for a trip around the world.

Her ticket which had cost two thousand was safe in her handbag, ready to be turned over to the purser tomorrow. It had taken her twenty years of saving and scrimping to accumulate twenty-five hundred dollars, though it now seemed like a day. By being very careful, Miss Mudge would see the world sumptuously on her surplus of $500.

The boat was beginning to heave and Miss Mudge wondered if she should take her Seasoxyl now, or wait until she felt ill. No, the directions said it should be taken before feeling ill. Had she been wise to have her hair bobbed before sailing or was it frivolous and out of keeping with her years and occupation? It was too late to worry about it now. Besides, she rather liked it, and, whatever happened she was going to be utterly frivolous for the next five months. No one could stop her.

Her cabin was comfortable enough although her bunk seemed perched at a great height. She lay on her back and at last she turned out her lights and murmured a little prayer. She was so thankful to Providence for letting her go round the world at last. With the words slipping over her lips she fell asleep, lulled by the pounding of the engines.

CHAPTER II

The Marenia began to creak and roll in answer to the sea. Sandy Hook was left behind and the pilot had been taken off. Captain Mark Baring, standing on the bridge and straining his eyes into the darkness that lay ahead, was the least cheerful person on board. He saw five hard months ahead of him, care and responsibility, with strange harbours and the monotony that drove crew and passengers to erratic behaviour.

A panorama of faces swept before him — middle-aged women starved for romance, travellers who had been everywhere and who made him a target for their ill-assorted knowledge, women who talked too much, women who talked too much, and, above all, women who drank too much.

He lived in a world of his own and

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Spring Favors Gayest Colors

New Skirts Circular; Waists Smaller In Paris Silhouette

Nature says it is spring with posies blossoming, green grass and the singing of birds.

Women say it with gay costumes—dresses that flaunt bright colors, hats with flowers and flying ribbons and veils.

Newest skirts are circular or with fullness introduced with all-around pleats, sometimes confined at the hipline, but free lower down to swing in the breeze. Waists are smaller, hips are definitely in the picture, according to the latest Paris silhouette. At the same time there is a decided trend toward a lowered waistline.

We see smart versions of this trend in easy fitted, sweater-like silk jackets worn over trim tailored silk dresses with pleated skirts. This costume is made in flower printed silk with a cardigan jacket that has bright blue felt bands.

Lingerie touches are favorite trimmings on silk print dresses and suits as well as on plain, sheer silk dresses.

Silk Coats Popular

To complete ensembles smart women favor silk coats, as endorsed by Paris. They are seen in silk alpaca, grosgrain or marocain. They feature usually soft dressmaker details and fitted lines. One model shown that goes far in transforming dresses into distinguished costumes, has pushed-up sleeves and vertical tucks forming a fitted waistline.

Rustic weaves hold great interest in plain silks. Elizabeth Hawes has designed a long-sleeved, peasant type of frock in one of these new weaves, with high surplice closing and circular skirt set off with a gaily striped girdle. An unusual feature of this ensemble is the matching sleeveless, full-length box coat. There are many other interesting versions.

Bed-Making

Consider Comfort As Well As Appearance

Beds should be made according to a definite routine for comfort plus that smooth look. Wrinkles must be kept out of every corner, so begin by placing the pad smoothly over the mattresses. The bottom sheet should be placed with the centre crease exactly in the middle of the bed and must be tucked in well at the top and sides, with corners folded flat and smooth. The top sheet should be laid wrong side up with the large hem at the top, and should be tucked in well at the bottom.

Lay each blanket or cover evenly on the bed so that both sides can be pulled tightly and neatly. The hem of the top sheet is then turned back over the blanket for a neat finish to the covers. Plump up the feathers of the pillows to shape them.

Crystal Generates Maternal Instinct

Scientist Isolates Substance Linked To Mother Love

Isolation of a pure crystal, which generates mother instinct when injected into animals and which comes from the pituitary gland, was announced last week to the American Chemical Society meeting, at Dallas, Texas.

The crystal was found by Yale chemists and goes far toward explaining the riddle of "how we are made." It is the first time that any of the products of the pituitary gland, a small hazel-nut-shaped organ at the base of the brain, has been extracted in pure form.

The crystal proves to be prolactin, the hormone which governs secretion fo milk by mothers, both human and animal. Prolactin in impure form was discovered several years ago.

It's A Protein

Furthermore, the new Yale crystalline form proves to be a pure protein. Protein is the main part of living tissue and is one of the three basic food substances.

The fact that this mother-instinct crystal is a protein, it is explained to the chemists, fits into a new picture of what constitutes the fundamental life processes.

The report was made by 32-year-old Dr. Abraham White, of Yale. He will receive the $1,000 Eli Lilly and Company award in biological chemistry.

How Much Would You Be Missed?

Ask Yourself These Questions If You Would Know

"How good a citizen are you?"

Did you ever sit down by yourself and ask yourself this question? Because it will be worth your while to do so, says the Sault Ste. Marie Star. And not kid yourself about the answer.

You may think you are a model citizen. You may bridle up and think the above question absurd.

But—let's get down to cases — do you pay your taxes and your bills when they show that be paid? Or do you impose on everybody by putting these things off as long as you can?

Do you spend money on things you could do without—money that really belongs to those who have trusted you? Are you really fair to these people?

"Let George Do It?"

Are you one of those who think "the world owes you a living" you don't earn? Do you carry your own load as a man?

Do you break the speed laws, and thus put others in danger?

Do you accept an office and then fail to discharge its duties? Are you a drag on efforts to make your town a better place to live in? Do you support bodies which try to help the general good as far as you can afford?

Or do you lie back and do it?

Nobody can object to you if you refuse tribute when you can afford it. But the men and women who are probably as busy as you are in fairness you should give your time and your money to.

Just how good a citizen are you? How much would you be missed if you passed out tonight?

"Toning Up With Rhubarb"

Why anyone should feel the need of a tonic in the spring is beyond us. We have always thought that spring itself was about the best tonic nature could invent. The days of molasses and sulphur are definitely past but if the feeling persists that your system does require some form of natural tonic, try rhubarb,

This fruit, which is not a fruit because it is a plant stem served as a fruit, is rich in mineral salts and supplements your daily need for vitamins. Rhubarb is just coming on the market now and this is the best time to serve it. Its color and flavour are never better and its tangy flavor is like a tonic to winter-worn appetites.

Here is a rhubarb pie which is guaranteed not to run. Quick-cooking tapioca is used to bind the ingredients and insures a flaky crust. When your pie is ready to serve, you'll cut the wedges proudly. For though the fruit juice is a clear, sparkling color, it will not run all over the plate and the crust will be crisp.

Rhubarb Pie

1½ tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
1¼ cups sugar
¼ teaspoon salt.
1 tablespoon melted butter
3½ cups rhubarb, cut in ½-inch pieces
1 recipe Pie Crust

Combine quick-cooking tapioca, sugar, salt, butter and rhubarb; let it stand for 15 minutes, or while pastry is being made. Line a 9-inch pie plate with ½ of pastry rolled 1-8 inch thick, allowing pastry to extend ½ inch beyond edge of plate. Moisten edge of pastry with cold water and fold inward, even with rim of plate. Fill with rhubarb mixture. Moisten edge again. Roll other half of pastry to 1-8 inch thickness. Fold half the pastry back on other half. With sharp knife make several slits to permit escape of the steam. Place upper crust on filled lower one, opening out folded half after it is placed on pie and drawing snugly across top to prevent sagging at the edges. Press edges together. Trim off surplus pastry, being careful not to cut folded edge of lower crust. Bake in hot oven (450 degrees F.) 15 minutes; then decrease heat to moderate (350 degrees F.) and bake 30 minutes longer, or until filling is cooked.

Pie Crust

2½ cups sifted flour
¾ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2-3 cup cold shortening
1-3 cup cold water (about)

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder and salt, and sift again. Cut in shortening until pieces are about size of small peas. Add water (preferably ice water), a small amount at a time, mixing lightly with fork. Handle as little as possible. Wrap in waxed paper and chill thoroughly before rolling. Roll out on slightly floured board. Bake in hot oven (450 degrees F.) 15 minutes. Makes enough pastry for one 9-inch two-crust pie, or two 9-inch pie shells, or fifteen 3½ inch tarts.

Rhubarb Jelly

½ cup sugar
½ cup water
1 pound rhubarb, cut in small pieces.
1 package strawberry jelly powder.

Combine sugar and water and heat until sugar is dissolved. Add rhubarb and simmer until tender. Measure, add water to make 2 cups. Dissolve jelly powder in hot rhubarb mixture. Turn into mold. Chill until firm. Unmold. Serves 6.

Summer Holiday Period Extended

Children Will Have Until September 6 This Year

TORONTO.—Dr. Duncan McArthur, Ontario deputy minister of education, gave school children cheering news last week when he announced they would have nearly an extra week of summer holidays this year.

Dr. McArthur said children would return to school on September 6, the day after Labor Day, instead of the usual September 1. The deputy minister explained the lengthened holidays as a move to make it possible for teachers taking summer courses to have a full month's holiday before returning to school.

"For several years to come, summer courses will have to be provided for the retraining of teachers that they may be prepared adequately to teach the new courses of studies," said Dr. McArthur.

"It is only fair and proper that these teachers who are engaged in taking summer courses should be assured of a reasonable holiday.

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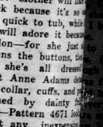
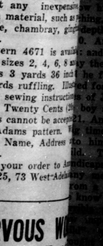
Wrigley's Gum Relieves that sluggish feeling after eating. Cleans, polishes teeth, too.... A simple aid to health. Buy some now, but big in benefits every meal—

Make Tot's W

NERVOUS W



St. N., Hamilton, Ont., said: "My Favorite Prescription is a tonic that helps to stimulate the appetite. I'm one of that tired, nervous type so good for girls growing up. It gives relief from periods, helps to build one up. It was fit to me in my younger days. At druggists. New size, tablets only $1.00. Large size, tablets or liquid $1.60.



PATTERN

By Anne A

Just right for a s
tion and play wear,
style! Mother will li
frock because it's so
and quick to tub, wh
ter will adore it becau
to don—for she just
fastens the buttons, t
and she's all dress
smart Anne Adams d
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Sunday School Lesson

LESSON V
FOLLOWING VISION WITH
SERVICE—Mark 9:14-29
Golden Text.—All things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:
23.

LESSON IN ITS SETTING
Time: Autumn, A.D. 29.
Place: At the foot of the mountain on which the transfiguration of Jesus took place, and therefore probably on the plain at the foot of Mount Hermon.

And when they came. That is, the Lord Jesus, with his three in the first time that any of the products of the pituitary gland, a small hazel-nut-shaped organ at the base of the brain, has been extracted in pure form. disciples and the nine who had been left behind at the foot of the mountain. The crowd, and the scribes were taking advantage of their tragic failure to accuse them of impotence and an inability to accomplish the things they boasted of.

And straightway all the multitude when they saw him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. The multitude were amazed because they had not expected Jesus to return with the one person whom they could see, especially in view of the latest argument that had come down on the disciples were enveloped in the cloud of wind.

Multitude Astonished

And he asked them, What questions are ye debating with them? The question of Jesus was addressed to the scribes who had begun to dispute with the disciples in general. Here is the first mention of Jesus in the gospel, to secure attention, because Jesus did not like his divine omission.

And one of the multitude answered him, Teacher, I brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit. And he answered him and said, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I bear with you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when they saw him, straightway the spirit tare him grievously; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it since this hath come unto him? And he said, From a child. And many a time hath it cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us. And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst! All things are possible to him that believeth. The father's faith had not been very strong to begin with, and the failure of the disciples had made it weaker. What Jesus really told this man was that it was not a question of his (Jesus') ability to cast out this demon, but the real issue was whether the man had faith enough to believe that Jesus could do it.

When Jesus said that "all things are possible to him that believeth," he meant that everything which we have a right to expect from God, according to the teachings of the New Testament, we shall receive from the Lord, if we have faith to believe in him who has made these promises.

24. "traightaway the father of the child cried out, and said, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. He wished to believe, but felt unbelief still too strong within him. He presents himself to the Lord just as he is.

25. And when Jesus saw that a multitude came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I command thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

26. And having cried out, and torn him much, he came out: and the boy became as one dead; insomuch that the more part said, He is dead. What is often feared most in a major operation is what is called "shock." When a power that has dominated a life is removed, it is natural that there should be a convulsive experience in the readjustment of that life to new conditions and to the loss of that which previously had been a veritable part of that life. Here there was more than a power, an actual Satanic, personal dominion over this boy.

27. But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him up; and he arose. Jesus did not here, as it were, pick up a limp body. There was immediate, and complete, and so definite that no one could doubt the reality of it. Jesus was not only interested in casting out this demon, but he had an infinite compassion for the boy himself, and waited until the boy was on his feet and restored to normalcy again.

Why They Couldn't Act

28. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, how is it that we could not cast it out? They were ashamed and perplexed and bewildered at their own impotency, because they knew that once they had had power to cast out demons, and they knew also that they ought to have had power to do so that day. Such humiliating experiences are wholesome for every Christian worker. Times of impotency and failure are used by God for a great searching of our hearts and lives.

29. And he said unto him, This kind can come out by nothing, save by prayer. These mightier spirits require the full measure of faith to dislodge. The disciples did not think of prayer. They let their faith droop, and thus failed. Depression laid hold of them, and in consequence they neglected what they then needed most, prayer; and so their faith failed and they were left without power. Prayerlessness always results in lowered spiritual vitality, and that in turn brings failure.

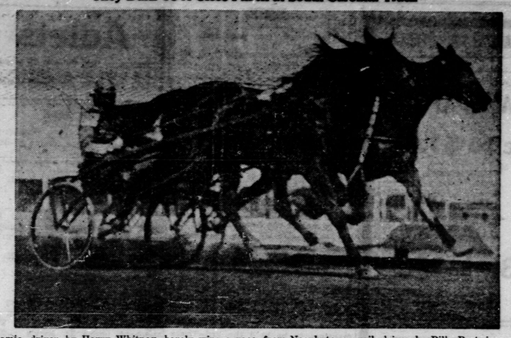
The feathers of the touraco are not waterproof; the colors wash off in a rain.

Miss England To Wed

Muriel Oxford, "Miss Great Britain" in 1936, will marry Gilbert A. Evans, a London stock broker. Miss Oxford figured in the disappearance of Frank Vosper at sea, last year, when he vanished from a party she gave.

A—C

They Dash To A Close Finish at South Carolina Track



Dynamic, driven by Harry Whitney, barely wins a race from Neophyte, on rail, driven by Billy Post, in a neck-and-neck finish on the Aiken Mile Track, South Carolina.

Age Is Leading Reason For Lack Of Employment

Survey By Canada's National Employment Commission Shows Chronic Disease Takes Second Place In List of Unemployment Causes—Construction Industry Hardest Hit.

While employment figures were much brighter for the years 1937 and 1936 than in the previous two years the statistical reports compiled by the National Employment Commission, published in booklet form, reveal that the majority of heads of families unemployed in 1937 have not been continuously self-supporting for a 12-months period since 1933.

Of 99,561 heads of families in Canada unemployed in September of last year more than 13,500 were not employed for that period since 1933, 16,600 since 1932, 14,300 since 1931 and 17,411 since 1930 or earlier. And of the 99,561 only 1,734 were never self-dependent. The same proportion holds good for Ontario.

A table of the causes of unemployability reveals that age is the leading cause for men and broken homes the leading cause for women. For men, chronic disease takes second place and physical defect third place as the cause of unemployability. For women age is second cause, chronic disease third and physical defect fourth. Addiction to drugs or alcohol is a minor cause for both men and women, only 16 heads of families in the whole Dominion being listed under this cause.

Employable persons, however, enjoyed some measure of employment in 1936 and 1937, as approximately one-third of them last had work in either of those two years.

The age group of the largest number of employable persons is that between 25 and 45 years, while the age group of the largest number of unemployable persons is from 46 to 65 years.

A comparative table of unemployed in Ontario cities in September, 1937, reveals as follows: Stratford, 781; Woodstock, 193; St. Thomas, 356; Owen Sound, 175; Sarnia, 154; Niagara Falls, 1,471; Oshawa, 1,970; London, 3,360; Kitchener, 916; Guelph, 1,161; Galt, 326; Chatham, 269; Brantford, 2,957.

Counting agricultural aid the total number of persons receiving relief in Canada in September, 1937, was 754,839, of which the Province of Saskatchewan accounted for 316,004, while Ontario had only about half that number, 156,692. But of the Saskatchewan total there were 269,601 farmers and their dependents receiving aid while Ontario had only 5,773 in this category.

Construction Hit Hard

A table setting out the normal occupation of relief recipients in the Dominion reveals that the construction industry has been hardest hit. There were 18,893 fully employable persons in this category. Next was manufacturing with 15,224, then general labor, 11,880, and trade, 10,323.

For Ontario the order differed slightly but construction was still in the lead with 8,974, manufacturing next with 4,738; general labor, 4,042; trade, 3,429. Primary industries such as logging, farming, fishing and mining played only a small part in these tables, with a total of 8,073 for the whole Dominion. This is exclusive of special aid to resident farmers such as those in the prairies.

Tombstone Laid To Appease Ghost

Victim of Murder 200 Years Ago Said to Haunt Premises

To appease the ghost of a sailor who has haunted the Blue Posts Inn at Portsmouth, Eng., ever since he was murdered 200 years ago, a tombstone has been erected over his grave in the inn's courtyard.

According to legend the sailor arrived at the inn one night early in the 18th century and was killed by a stranger, who robbed him of a bag of jewels and money. The landlady and her son, fearing that the crime would damage the name of the inn, dragged the body into the courtyard and buried it under a flagstone.

Whitefaced Sailor

A traveller who slept in the room where the murder occurred a few days later complained that he had seen a "whitefaced sailor, with blood on his face".

For generations the inn retained its reputation of being haunted, and even after a new building was erected the sailor was said to haunt the corridors at night.

The present landlady hopes that the new tombstone will appease the ghost.

Butterfly's Flight Well Controlled

It Is In Some Ways Superior To That Of A Bird

Butterflies are such light, fragile creatures that one would suppose them to be largely at the mercy of the winds in flying. Their wavering, seemingly erratic flight, even on still days, suggests this. But, writes Sir W. Beach Thomas in the Atlantic Monthly for January, "Their flight is now known to be much more under control that seemed likely. Large flocks of butterflies have been seen tacking their way against strong winds over the sea as both immigrants and emigrants." Further, the author tells us, the flight of butterflies is in some respects superior to that of birds. As an instance he cites the huge light blue butterflies of the Brazilian forests and the purple emperor butterflies of France and Great Britain which have the power of rising into the air almost vertically "with an ease and at a speed that are scarcely credible." These capable aeronauts seem to be the gyroplanes of the insect world.

Sideways and Backwards

Insects have several tricks of flight of which other flying creatures and heavier-than-air flying machines are incapable. For example, many species, including dragon flies, have the ability to go into reverse gear and fly directly backward without changing their bodily position. In addition to this, they can fly sideways, either to the right or left, at right angles to the axis of their body. Many of the smaller insects, including bees and flies, can hold their own with the larger dragon flies in reverse or lateral flying.

IS THIS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

By A. R. WEIR

What the Stars Foretell for Those Born on April 29 and 30th and May 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

If you were born on a date listed above your Zodiac sign is Taurus. This sign is of the Earthy Triplicity and it gives your great practicality, a strong will and fired determination. You are self-possessed, have decided views and great powers of perseverance.

While you have influential friends you should beware of open enemies, who will attempt to cause trouble for you. Your children will be a source of great happiness to you. Your lucky number is six. An unexpected business change for the better is indicated.

For complete birthday horoscope for any birth date in the year, send 10c to A. R. Weir, 73 Adelaide St., W., Toronto. Please print your name and address plainly.

Second Great War Now In Progress

Began When Italy Gave Aid To Franco, Is Famous Soldier's Claim

LONDON.—The second great war of the 20th century began in July, 1936, according to Capt. Basil Liddell Hart, historian and expert on military matters.

Captain Liddell Hart, who is military correspondent of the London Times, told the University College Union Society in London that the first operation of the war came when Italy with aircraft gave "direct assistance" to the Spanish insurgents and Germany with warships gave "indirect assistance," helping transport troops from Africa to Spain.

Preceding the war, he said, encouragement and experience had been gained by Japan in Manchuria and Italy in Ethiopia in defying the League of Nations and developing the new technique of camouflaged war.

"The situation in this new 'great war' now would seem to be that the enemy is within reach of gaining the decisive points without a battle, and in the most vital direction we have made no serious attempt to prevent him," said Captain Liddell Hart.

Plague Declines Throughout China

And Disappears Gradually From Rest of the World—Scientists At a Loss For Explanation.

Plague is vanishing from the world, and scientists are at a loss to understand why.

The British Colonial Office, reporting that for seven years no cases of plague have been found in Hongkong, says: "The disappearance of plague, not only from Hongkong, but from the greater part of China, and its decline throughout the world, is due to factors which are not understood."

With the decline of plague is vanishing a mysterious scourge which has killed millions throughout the world. The first known plague was in North Africa. In the sixth century, Europe experienced its first visitation.

The Black Death

One of the most famous—or notorious—plagues in history was the Black Death which, in the fourteenth century, swept Europe and in England alone wiped out more than three-quarters of the population. In all, 25 million people died. In 1664-65 came the Great Plague of London. The population of London at that time was less than a half a million—and in one year 68,000 were struck down.

As time passed the plague became less and less common in the West and finally disappeared from Europe, moving to the East. An outbreak in India between 1897 and 1906 killed over 4,000,000 people.

The plague is believed to be caused by rat fleas, and constant vigilance is maintained in all ports. Hundreds of dead rats are examined every year.

Penal Settlement Italy's Gibraltar

Pantelleria Island In Mediterranean Lies Across British and French Route to the Indies

Once regarded as a penal settlement, similar to Devil's Island, the Isle of Pantelleria is now being regarded by Italians as a potential Mediterranean "Gibraltar" of their own.

Many British atlases do not even mark it, but, lying across the British and French route to the Indies, it occupies a position of high strategical importance.

Pantelleria is a volcanic island rising to a peak (Monte Grande) of about 2,500 feet. Its area is 33 square kilometres, and it stands in the middle of the narrow channel between Sicily and the French North African colony of Tunis, from which it is only a few minutes' journey by aeroplane.

Stationary Battleship

It dominates British and French shipping to the Indies as effectively as a mountain dumped in the middle of the English Channel would dominate all Franco-British shipping.

The population of Pantelleria is nearly 7,000 — mainly a peasant class who have up to now tended their vineyards and lemon and orange groves in peace. But now Italy visualizes the island as "a magnificent battleship", stationary, it is true, but which no squadron could hope to sink.

Further south, again in mid-channel, lie three more islands, small but of strategical importance, within a few minutes' flying from any point on the Mediterranean between Sicily and Africa—Lampedusa, Linosa and Lampione.

The large boulders scattered about Britain, and now known to have been left by glaciers, once were thought to have been washed in by the big Biblical flood.

A queen wasp produces from 10,000 to 20,000 offspring in a lifetime.

Woman Cricketer "Whistles While She Works"

Miss Marjorie Pollard, former captain of England's Women's cricket team, is seen here officiating in a recent field hockey match between Stevenage and Slough ladies' teams. She is on tour as newly appointed national organizer to the Women's Team Games Board, organizing sport throughout England.