

Awake!

World Events Involve You

"Keep awake by reading 'Awake!'"

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Is Your Youngster Ready for a Driver's License?

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MARCH 22, 1974

THE REASON FOR THIS MAGAZINE

News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ties; it is unhampered by traditional creeds. This magazine keeps itself free, that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

The viewpoint of "Awake!" is not narrow, but is international. "Awake!" has its own correspondents in scores of nations. Its articles are read in many lands, in many languages, by millions of persons.

In every issue "Awake!" presents vital topics on which you should be informed. It features penetrating articles on social conditions and offers sound counsel for meeting the problems of everyday life. Current news from every continent passes in quick review. Attention is focused on activities in the fields of government and commerce about which you should know. Straightforward discussions of religious issues alert you to matters of vital concern. Customs and people in many lands, the marvels of creation, practical sciences and points of human interest are all embraced in its coverage. "Awake!" provides wholesome, instructive reading for every member of the family.

"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of God's righteous new order in this generation.

Get acquainted with "Awake!" Keep awake by reading "Awake!"

PUBLISHED SEMIMONTHLY BY

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

117 Adams Street

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.

N. H. KNORR, President

GRANT SUITER, Secretary

Average printing each issue: 7,850,000

Now published in 31 languages

Five cents a copy

Yearly subscription rates for semi-monthly editions in local currency
Offices America, U.S., 117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 \$1.50 Australia, 11 Beresford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135 \$1.50 Canada, 150 Bridgeland Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6A 1Z5 \$1.50 England, Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN 75p New Zealand, 6-A Western Springs Rd., Auckland 3 \$1.50 Philippines, P.O. Box 2044, Manila D-406 P8 South Africa, Private Bag 2, P.O. Elandsfontein 1406 R1.10 (Monthly editions cost half the above rates.)

Remittances for subscriptions should be sent to the office in your country. Otherwise send your remittance to Brooklyn. Notice of expiration is sent at least two issues before subscription expires.

Semimonthly—Afrikaans, Cebuano, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Zulu.

Monthly—Chinese, Cinyanja, Hiligaynon, Indonesian, Malayalam, Melanesian-Pidgin, Polish, Sesotho, Tamil, Ukrainian, Xhosa, Yoruba.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us thirty days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label). Write Watchtower, 117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, U.S.A.

Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A.

The Bible translation regularly used in "Awake!" is the "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures." When other translations are used, this is clearly marked.

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Awake!

"It is already the hour for you to awake."
—Romans 13:11

Volume LV

March 22, 1974

Number 6



LOOK closely at the news headlines accompanying this article. The conditions that they reflect are probably not new to you, but the global extent of some of these problems and the critical proportions that they have reached may come as a surprise. In one way or another these crises are a source of personal concern for everyone living on earth.

However, because some persons are not directly and immediately affected by these world events, they may feel that some have been exaggerated and made to appear worse than they really are. But are the problems represented by these headlines really exaggerated?

How Big Are the Problems?

Before answering, we ought to take into consideration that not merely one news reporter, but knowledgeable people in many parts of the earth are saying essentially the same thing. The testimony of so many men who are prominent in their various fields gives strong indication that the problems are real, not merely imagined, does it not?

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But just as convincing as someone else's testimony is one's own experience in life. Has your life to some extent been changed as a result of these critical situations? If such is the case, this no doubt affects how you view what is being said about the same matters on a worldwide scale.

Millions of persons know, firsthand, that when a headline says "World Starvation Is Feared" it is not just scare talk. Hunger has already become a way of life for them. Tens of thousands have recently died in Africa and Asia from famine conditions. Those whose business it is to deal with the food problem say that there is the possibility of greater disaster in the coming months. The extent to which food shortages will eventually afflict mankind or even one section of the earth, of course, remains to be seen.

Yet there is no reason for those who may live in areas currently unaffected by famine to doubt that serious shortages could occur. Ever-increasing food prices have already convinced them that something is wrong. Food supplies are limited;

that is one reason why prices are driven upward.

So, too, with the energy crisis. It started with events that took place perhaps thousands of miles from where most of those affected live. Some persons doubted that a fuel shortage was real; it seemed far off, distant to them. But when they went to buy gasoline for their car or heating oil for their home, unlimited supplies were no longer available. Yes, they personally came to feel the reality of the energy crisis, just as did hundreds of millions of others.

The energy crisis, in turn, has contributed to many other shortages, some of which no doubt presently affect you. Men who are able to view the fuel situation and related problems on an international level say, as one headline here reports: "We Are Running Out of Everything." If that is true, then the headlines warning of the danger of economic collapse do not seem farfetched, do they? These other events make the possibility quite real.

In the light of all of this, the headline that says "The World Living in Fear" is not hard to understand. Fear is a controlling factor in decisions made by individuals, institutions and nations. They fear that when favor is shown in one direction, animosity will come from another. As serious problems multiply, understandably they fear what the future holds.

There is another major situation that affects almost everyone in some way. This is the morality problem.

The Moral Crisis and You

The moral situation is evident in a variety of ways. Outstandingly, violent crime is on the upswing; an Australian newspaper says: "It's Not Safe Anywhere." Acts of terrorism, rape and murder have become commonplace in large cities of the world. A large percentage of these crimes

are related to drugs; addicts steal to have money to support their drug habit. The safety of everyone is affected.

Sexual immorality skyrockets. Adultery and fornication are glorified on the movie screen and in the theater. Homosexuality is now out in the open. These things cause concern to parents, and may affect even the stability of their own marital relationship. Not surprisingly, the family is said to be "An Institution in Crisis."

Do these developments affect you? 'Those things may be problems in the big cities of America, but not where I live in a suburb,' some may say, or, 'not in my European village,' or, 'not on my South Pacific island.' But is that entirely the case?

Murder, rape and mugging may not yet be everyday occurrences in such areas. But who can overlook more subtle lawlessness, like "white-collar" stealing and customer shoplifting? These practices abound, not just in big American cities, but elsewhere.

Yet, more importantly, are not the *attitudes* leading to such crimes—yes, leading even to murder—abundantly evident everywhere? Consider: Are most people, wherever they live, genuinely concerned with their neighbor's well-being? Or is there apathy about what happens to others? Is there a desire for "easy money"? Is there even outright hatred of others? You know the answers to such questions.

Further, persons in some smaller or out-of-the-way communities may make many outward pretensions about being moral and upright individuals. But if you live there too, then you know many of these same people personally. And you know what they *really* are. Do they shun fornication, adultery and sexual perversion? Are not their claims to be moral and upright, therefore, often hypocritical?

Basically, regardless of where people

live, most of them are essentially the same. The seeds of immorality, distrust and hatred are everywhere. Thinking people see this fact of life and realize that the morals problem is real.

Institutions Wane

The world's religions are involved. The facts show that church members as well as others practice these things. Obviously such religion is not really teaching its members true godliness and morality. No wonder, therefore, that reports from all over the world agree with the headline reading "Clergy's Stature Crumbling." Think about your own area: Do people readily accept a religious leader's words as undeniably truthful, as they once did? Do the majority of people even bother to go to religious services to hear him speak? More and more people notice a growing lack of respect for the clergy in their own area.

Of course, it is not just the clergy's influence that is waning, but that of prominent men in general. Governmental and political institutions that have held the confidence of men for generations are now regularly accused of corruption and gross mismanagement. Fewer persons seem to trust governments or their representatives.

Have you not noticed this attitude among people? Is it not the topic of frequent conversations by your fellow workmen, neighbors and relatives? Yes, people all around you no doubt express this lack of confidence. It is as reported by the *New York Times*: "Public Trust in Institutions Found to Decline."

The Meaning of World Events

Involves You

Take all these events together, and what do they mean? Most people reach a conclusion like that found at the bottom of

our page of news headlines: 'Civilization Is on Its Last Legs.' For most people the international picture that the facts paint is a bleak one. Is any other proper conclusion even possible?

Yes. Outstandingly, today's world events give you basis for firmly believing the Bible. How can that be said?

Many of the major problems facing mankind today, and which most persons feel in some way, were spelled out in the Bible hundreds of years ago. For instance, Jesus Christ gave a sign, recorded in Luke chapter 21, in which he foretold a certain series of events that would mark the conclusion of the system of things. Why not get out your own Bible and read that chapter. At the same time read 2 Timothy 3: 1-5. Compare for yourself what those scriptures say with what is actually happening in the world right now.

Do you see what those scriptures are saying? They point to the time in which we live as the "last days," the time when "deliverance is getting near." What is written there is coming true in our day.

The same Word of God also tells us that God will wipe away this present worldwide wicked system. A paradise earth ruled over by God's kingdom, a stable, lasting government, will follow. The current world events, which so often have involved you in an unfavorable way, will be gone. No more will there be shortages of the essentials of life; earth will yield abundantly. More importantly, the people then living will be those who can be trusted, men who truly love God and one another. (Ps. 67:6; Matt. 24:21, 22; Rev. 21:1-4) Would you like to live at that time?

If you would, the first action to take is to learn what the Bible says is required of you. Jehovah's witnesses will be happy to discuss these matters with you and your family.

THE BIBLE'S ANSWER

Satisfied Them

MANY persons today are deeply distressed about world conditions. They just cannot understand why things are the way they are. Some who at one time felt this way finally learned the Bible's answers and found them to be most satisfying.

A man from Virginia relates his experience: "I hated this system of things and wanted to withdraw from it. The grandest hope imaginable was to live on a farm with my family and just be left alone by the 'outside world.' Raise our own food, make our own clothes, be independent from the systems of the world—that was my wish." Yet he realized that this would really not be the answer to his feeling of hopelessness.

"Marijuana and other drugs," he continues, "seemed to be a relief from this hopelessness. One night, while under the influence of a drug, I stayed awake until dawn fighting to stay alive. I felt that I was dying. This made me realize how precious life is."

"A few weeks later, I decided that this frightening experience was due to my own unpreparedness, and not the fault of the drug. So I began to study different drug-oriented books. The next time I was going to get all the answers that I had asked: Who is God? What is supposed to be my relationship to him? This time I was going to 'see' or experience God. Also, to further prepare myself, I began reading the Bible. Of course, I didn't understand it, but the most important thing that I did was to pray to God for his help in my search for him."

"In a few days a new electrician came to work at the company where I was employed, and I became his helper. When I learned that he was one of Jehovah's witnesses and was

considered to be a minister, I began deluging him with questions. He patiently tried to answer my questions, but, because of their nature, he told me that I needed to 'learn to add and subtract before I could learn the multiplication tables.'

This Witness thereafter arranged for a Witness couple to study the Bible with this man and his family. He now rejoices in having come to know that God's kingdom by Christ will bring lasting relief to mankind. Regarding the change this brought to his life, he says: "After learning the truth, drugs were no longer used in our home. I now realize that Jehovah is all-wise and all-loving, and that he does answer the earnest prayer of searching people."

A man from another part of the United States tells how he found satisfying answers to his questions:

"I believed in God but, because of the hypocrisy and materialism in my church and others, I didn't think any of them represented God. I had tried to read the Bible. But the archaic language in the version that I used made it difficult to read, let alone understand."

"One night while walking to the local hangout, I was picked up by a couple of my friends who were driving by. I asked if they were doing anything. They said that later that night they were going over to Tom's house to talk about the Bible. Tom was one of Jehovah's witnesses. I had known him from a few years before and had been meaning to get in touch with him to find out what the Witnesses believed. When my friends invited me to come along, I readily accepted."

"We got to Tom's house and we talked. My two main questions about God were: 'What is his purpose for man? And why did he let things get so bad?' Tom gave me a Bible and the book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* and we set up a Bible study. I read the book by the following week. I was really glad finally to get answers that made sense."

Shortly thereafter this man attended an assembly of Jehovah's witnesses. He observes: "I was amazed at the total lack of prejudice, and at the orderliness, friendliness and love demonstrated by those in attendance. I was firmly convinced that this was God's truth."

If you, too, are still searching for an answer to the meaning of world conditions and God's purpose for mankind, Jehovah's witnesses will be happy to help you to find the Bible's answers. We are confident that you, like others, will find these to be truly satisfying.

YOUNGSTERS often cannot wait to get a driver's license. It may be one of their chief ambitions. And more and more young people today are realizing their ambition.

In 1972 there were 12,200,000 licensed teen-age drivers in the United States. Of these, 4,255,000 were under eighteen. That means that more than one driver in every ten is a teenager, and nearly four out of every one hundred drivers are seventeen years old or younger.

Perhaps your teen-age son or daughter has a driver's license, or may want one. But is the youngster really prepared for the responsibility that comes with driving an automobile? Consider why that is such an important question.

In just four countries—the United States, France, Germany and Japan—over 100,000 persons are killed in traffic accidents *each year*, and more than six and a half million are injured. The dead, if laid head to toe, would stretch about 115 miles! And the injured would reach some 7,000 miles—over a quarter of the way around the earth!

Yes, more drivers are having accidents than ever before. 'But what,' you may ask, 'has this to do with my youngster being ready for a driver's license?' A great deal.

Youth's Driving Record

Youngsters are chiefly responsible for the growing slaughter on the roads. Last summer's *Journal of American Insurance* explained: "The increase in accident rates can be traced to the upsurge in young drivers." It added:

"Several years' experience has shown that the under 25 driver—particularly the male in his late teens and early twenties—has more than twice as many accidents as driv-

Is YOUR YOUNGSTER

Ready for a DRIVER'S LICENSE?



ers in older age groups, averaging 40 involvements per 100 drivers for each year."

Just think: Two out of every five young drivers will have an automobile accident this year! Pointing to the particularly poor driving record of young males, Dr. Stanley H. Schuman, member of a research team of doctors and scientists, said: "Although young male drivers amount to only one-eighth of all registered drivers, they are responsible for a third of all fatal accidents."

Proportionately, just how many more young people does this mean are dying on the roads? *Traffic Safety*, a National Safety Council publication, answers:

"The National Transportation Safety Board has released an accident prevention study showing that thousands more 15-to-24-year-old drivers are dying on American highways each year than their proportional share of all drivers...."

"Among 17,700 young fatalities in 1969, there were 7,400 more youthful driver deaths than would have occurred if their fatality rate had been the same as that of drivers 25 and older, the safety board found. This 7,400 'excess loss' was greater by one-third than the combined 1969 fatality total in aviation, marine, railroad, pipeline and grade crossing accidents. The disproportional

ate loss involves 'predominantly the young male,' the board said."

The loss of young life in traffic accidents is tragic. Just consider: In 1966, near the height of the Vietnam war, 12,200 young male drivers were killed—more than double the number of United States servicemen killed in Vietnam that year!

It would be bad enough if young drivers were only killing themselves, but they are killing others as well. Passengers riding with them, occupants of other cars and pedestrians are all dying by the thousands each year, struck down by youngsters behind the wheel of an automobile. Could your youngster also be a serious threat to the life and safety of others?

Only a Minority Responsible?

Perhaps you feel that only a small minority of young people are responsible for this horrendous slaughter. Is this true? Do a few give a bad reputation to the rest?

Well, consider these statistics: *About 40 out of every 100 drivers under the age of twenty-five are involved in auto accidents each year.* That is not a small minority. Thus, as soon as a teen-ager is added as a family car driver, insurance rates may jump a great deal.

But why are young drivers involved in so many accidents?

Reasons for Poor Record

Lack of driving experience is the principal reason, according to most driver-education specialists. In an effort to provide needed experience, a driving-education course is offered by over 80 percent of the high schools in the United States.

However, perhaps an even more important reason for youth's poor driving record is the very nature of young people. They are prone to be exuberant and thoughtless, to lack judgment and to dare and be dared. Stating the matter bluntly,

driving authority Paul W. Kearney wrote of young drivers: "Their judgment is juvenile—and their highway sportsmanship is on a par with that of a couple of infants fighting for a rattle in a crib!"

Behind the wheel of an automobile such youthful traits often prove disastrous. Thus on his first night out alone with a car, a seventeen-year-old high school football star ran down a mother and child in a crosswalk in a jackrabbit start. The boy's athletic coach offered this explanation:

"If they had asked me, I could have told them that Harvey wasn't ready *emotionally* to drive. He has a bad temper in the locker room and needles other players. He is a flashy performer and carries a chip on his shoulder. His mental attitude showed itself in his driving as soon as he was unsupervised. The boy just had to be first away when that light turned green."

It seems true, as Dr. Mathew Ross, a psychiatry instructor, noted: "The auto is almost an extension of our personality and the way we drive sums us up perfectly." Therefore the fact should not be ignored: A youth usually has the personality traits characteristic of a youth, traits that often contribute to auto accidents.

Parents need to recognize this fact, and seriously consider: Is my youngster really ready for a driver's license? Otherwise, are they not at least partially responsible when their youngsters become involved in traffic accidents that cause deaths and injuries?

'But what am I to do?' you may ask. 'Should I refuse my child a driver's license?'

Parental Responsibility

That is a decision you will have to make. Many think it is the best answer, and recommend that laws be passed forbidding young people from driving. But others be-

lieve there are better answers, much fairer to youths. They argue that raising the driving age will not lessen the number of beginners on the road who lack driving experience. And it is this lack of experience that is considered a major cause of auto accidents, regardless of the age at which one starts learning to drive.

So perhaps it is your decision to allow your child to learn to drive while he is quite young. Do not conclude, however, that you have fulfilled your responsibility by simply having him take the driver's education course at school. These are generally inadequate. In fact, studies in Mississippi and in California show a higher accident rate among school-trained teenagers than among other teen-age drivers! Why do school programs fail?

Basically, it is felt, because they do not give the young driver practical experience. Only a little time is spent actually driving, and this at slow speeds on lightly traveled streets. Few, if any, emergency situations are faced. "Because of this," a spokesman for a large auto insurer explained, "young drivers are not ready to face many emergency situations such as blowouts and skids. Too often the youthful driver's first experience with an emergency situation is the real thing, and too often he will never get a second chance."

For this reason Dr. Amos E. Neyhart, the man who set up the first high-school driving course in 1933, says: "At least 12 hours should be spent by each student behind the wheel. The student driver must be given simulation experience in skidding, brake failure, tire blowouts, running off the road, and so on. We've been teach-

ing manipulative skills but not enough accident-prevention skills."

So, as a parent, you should see that your youngster receives adequate driving experience. Let him practice while you are with him. Give him practical experience at turnpike speeds. Also, it is wise to teach him to handle skids, estimated to be a major contributing factor in one of every four fatal auto accidents. Perhaps you can find a large, unoccupied, iced-over parking lot and obtain permission to use it to practice skidding and countersteering. Reading about skid control will never educate as well as will experiencing the real thing.

Nor does your responsibility end with simply seeing that your youngster can expertly handle a car, even in emergency situations. Inculcating a proper mental attitude is equally important, if not even more so.

Instilling a Sober, Mature Attitude

Your youngster may be a teen-ager, but when he is behind the wheel of a car it is essential that he be a stable person who values life and property. It is your responsibility to see that he is. Endeavor to develop in him courtesy, respect for law, carefulness and consideration for the rights of others.

A vital way of doing so is by providing a good example in the way you drive. Emphasizing the importance of this, Dr. Bruno Bettelheim, a noted psychoanalyst, said: "Even if a parent breaks a traffic law only occasionally, it may be enough to destroy a child's belief that he should obey *all* rules at *all* times. An occasional speeding violation by a parent, or impatient cheat-

● Are Better Times Ahead?

● Benefiting from History.

—In the next issue.

ing at the stoplight, makes a youngster imagine that to be 'grown up' means one can break the law and get away with it."

It is vital, too, to teach your youngster to think while he drives, always to be analyzing the traffic situation. One parent makes a kind of game out of this, explaining:

"My son . . . sits beside me in the front seat of the car, looks ahead, and picks out possible dangers. For example, there is a line of parked cars ahead with a driver seated at the wheel of one car. What should the driver of our car do if the other driver pulls out suddenly or opens his car door on the wrong side? There's a hidden driveway where a car may come out unexpectedly. How do we prepare to meet this emergency? Up ahead is a blind curve. How do we proceed?"

Some may think that young people have such quick reflexes that they can, at the last moment, take accident-preventing action. But the fact is, being able to get one's foot to the brake a fraction of a second faster than the next person is much less important in avoiding accidents than driv-

ing carefully enough so that such activity is unnecessary.

Yet another way to impress upon your youngster the importance of safe driving is to allow him to see and hear firsthand what happens to traffic violators. If you get in touch with the local court, the judge may be glad to have you come down to listen. He may even arrange to hear a series of cases that will be especially instructive and impressive for teen-agers.

Also effective is to have youths visit the emergency ward of a hospital and watch traffic-accident cases as they are brought in. This can certainly make a lasting impression that emphasizes the importance of safe driving! By inquiring and explaining the reason for it, you may receive permission to visit such an emergency ward.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the future of your youngster is dependent, to a surprising degree, upon your proper supervision of his use of the car. You simply cannot close your eyes to the danger when he is behind the wheel. It is real! So do all you can to make your youngster a safe driver. His life, and that of others, may depend on it.

HIGHWAY HALLUCINATIONS

HALLUCINATIONS brought about by driver fatigue are apparently causing many mysterious accidents at night, authorities report. Illustrating the possible effect of driver fatigue is the case of a San Francisco surgeon who was driving to his suburban home after performing an operation that lasted till 5 a.m. Suddenly the doctor saw before him a huge office building. The doctor brought his car to a screeching halt—at what he felt was a few inches from the lobby level of a skyscraper. But when he got out, there was no building at all, only a virtually deserted highway.

"I was immediately aware, of course, that I had been deceived by highway hypnosis," said the doctor afterward. "The long drive, the late hour and my weariness had set the stage for a mirage. My need for sleep had triggered the hallucination. I could have been killed, or

killed the occupants of another car, trying to avoid a building that wasn't there."

Because of the danger of such highway hallucinations, some authorities have proposed putting up signs on monotonous stretches of highway to warn drivers: "Danger: Hallucinations Occur Here When You Are Tired!"

But why may a fatigued driver experience hallucinations? The Harvard School of Public Health has stated this possibility: "Subconsciously, an extremely tired driver wants to stop and rest, but his conscious mind makes him continue at the wheel for one reason or another. It is his imagination trying to get him to stop that creates such roadblocks as spectral houses, buildings, windmills, walls and animals.

. . . If a driver is really fatigued, he is likely to experience a hallucination. It is his mind's way of compelling him to stop driving now."



BLUSHING

—A Human Exclusive

THE English author Rudyard Kipling once wrote a poem in which he has a seventeen-year-old girl plaintively saying the following words:

"I cannot check my girlish blush,
My colour comes and goes.
I redden to my finger tips
And sometimes to my nose."

In those lines the poet accurately indicated several basic characteristics of blushing.

Generally, authors speak favorably of blushing. Thus some of them have written: "A blush is the color of virtue." "A blush is a sign that nature hangs out, to show where chastity and honor dwell." "Better a blush in the face than a blot on the heart." However, a few others, perhaps somewhat cynical, say: "Whoever blushes is already guilty; true innocence is ashamed of nothing." "Men blush less for their crimes, than for their weaknesses and vanity." And a modern psychologist theorizes that persons blush because they want to communicate that what others think of them is not actually so.

Most likely you have blushed on more than one occasion or may even be among those who blush quite readily. Why do you blush? Is it a good or a bad thing?

Characteristics of Blushing

A blush is a sudden reddening of the face, ears and neck. It is often accompanied with a flaccid condition of the cheek muscles and a downcast expression of the eyes, in which the glances of others are avoided. At times there may be a turning of the body as if wanting to conceal oneself. And more likely than not, a blush will be accompanied with a glowing or tingling sensation over the whole body. There may even be a tremor of the muscles and a partial paralysis of the limbs. At times there is a change in the sound of the voice and even tears may come to the eyes of the one blushing, or one may suddenly begin to perspire. And, in some cases, a person blushing has a palpitation of the heart and a feeling of fear or panic.

All races and nationalities blush, although in the dark-skinned races the blushing is not as obvious. Albinos, those with little if any pigment at all in their skin, also blush; in fact, more readily than do their fellows of their own race.

Blushing is most prevalent in the young, the innocent and the unsophisticated. With the advancing years and with one's becoming worldly-wise it often gradually ceases to manifest itself. However, what another does may cause you to blush if that one should happen to be a close friend or relative. And their blushing may also cause you to blush. Though some question it, it does seem that women blush more readily

than do men, at least some women do. But it is quite likely that women today blush less readily than their grandmothers did.

What causes blushing? It has been described as "a mental disorder which begins with overlapping mental attitudes, producing embarrassment and inability to function." It comes and goes almost instantaneously and is an involuntary act. A person can be made to laugh by being tickled, but there is no physical means by which one can cause another person to blush. Neither can blushing be termed a reflex action. Laughter and merriment can be feigned by actors on a stage but not a blush. Even as it cannot be brought forth at will, the will cannot prevent its appearance. In fact, to try to do so may cause one to blush all the more.

Strange as it may seem, as well as apparently contradicting some modern theories about blushing, the fact is that blind persons blush, even more readily than those enjoying sight. Deaf persons also blush. And most remarkable of all is the fact that even those blind and deaf blush, as did Laura Bridgman, who lost both her sight and hearing at the age of two. And of Helen Keller, who even earlier in life became both deaf and blind, we are told: "Her blushing can have no relation to looks or words of disapproval, connected either with her appearance or her conduct; yet she blushes just as girls do who see and hear, from the same causes, over the same parts of the body, and with the same experience of tingling." This report accords with the findings of some that even when alone a person may blush when visualizing himself in a situation in which he would ordinarily blush or when he happens to be reading something that embarrasses him.

One artist, we are told, nearly drove himself mad trying to portray the charm

of a blush on his canvas. To him it was "the most extraordinary incident in a woman's face." But all he could do was paint rosy-cheeked maidens.

Let it be noted that a blush is not to be confused with a flushing of the face. A hot flush may be due to some physical condition, such as the menopause of women, or it may be the flush of rage.

The Mechanism of Blushing

Blushing might be said to be an example of the psychosomatic principle at work, namely, that the mind, the *psyche*, and the body, the *soma*, are one; what affects one affects the other. A confused state of mind, as it were, acts upon the sympathetic nervous system. It, in turn, stimulates the vasodilators, causing the peripheral capillaries to expand. The result is that more blood flows to the surface of the face and neck, resulting in a reddening of the skin.

What accounts for this mechanism? Why do persons blush? What purpose does it serve?

A Human Exclusive

Blushing is a human exclusive. The brute creation, the animals, do not blush. They may at times display emotional characteristics similar to those of man, such as rage, jealousy, affection, playfulness, and so forth. But they do not blush. "Blushing is the most peculiar and most human of all emotions," says Charles Darwin in his book *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*.

Why is blushing a human exclusive? Because it involves conceptual thinking and/or the moral sense, neither of which animals have. Animals cannot conceive of either the fitness or the lack of fitness of things; neither can they judge between right and wrong. They are "without under-

standing," as the Bible puts it. Idiots rarely blush. And very small children, those who are still without understanding, do not blush.—Ps. 32:9.

Thus a young woman may blush when something indecent happens to her or she hears or sees something that seems immodest. It is as if her purity and innocence were violated. Then, again, a person may blush because of an awkward situation or for having committed some foolish blunder. Likewise, a modest or shy person may blush when complimented or when singled out for high praise that suddenly makes him feel unduly conspicuous.

Why do persons blush under such circumstances? Those who hold that man is the product of evolution have no answer. How has man acquired this characteristic if he evolved from the brute creation, since none of them blush?

If we recognize that man was created by God and in the image of God and given a moral sense, a conscience, then we can see at least one practical purpose being served by man's involuntarily blushing. As one writer, living more than a century ago, put it, blushing serves as a guardian of the conscience, which tells man that he must not deceive. When he violates what he knows or thinks is right, he will blush; it will cause him to feel shame.

In addition to this basic cause for blushing, persons may blush because of having

made some mistake, violating the fitness of things in another respect. It is natural to want to be well thought of, and when one makes an awkward social error or faux pas, embarrassment may cause one to blush. This would help to explain why most, though not all persons, blush less readily with the passing of the years. The nervous system becomes less responsive to the emotions and, at the same time, a person's conscience may become less responsive to moral values.

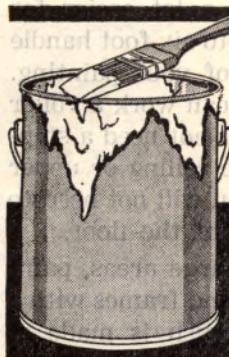
Blushing as Mentioned in the Bible

While not all Bible translations use the term "to blush" or "blushing," they all more or less describe the effect. Thus, *The Jerusalem Bible* quotes Ezra as saying: "My God, I am ashamed, I blush to lift my face to you, my God. For our crimes have increased, until they are higher than our heads." (Ezra 9:6) And the *Revised Standard Version* at Jeremiah 6:15 reads: "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush."

No question about it, blushing is a human characteristic. It also gives evidence that man was created by a just, wise and loving Maker. Blushing is one of his gifts to man to help him to respond to his conscience, for his own happiness and well-being.

A Changed View of Wildlife

● "One of the best rough-and-ready naturalists in the Canadian north woods is a former trapper called Long Joe," reports the volume *Marvels & Mysteries of Our Animal World*. Why did he suddenly end his trapping activity? "One day a she-bear was caught in Long Joe's trap," says the account. "When he got to the trap, the bear's mate was there. The big, shaggy brute had his arms around her, hugging her and sobbing. . . . Long Joe has never trapped another living thing."



DOING YOUR OWN PAINTING

IN THESE days of rising costs, many people are looking for ways to economize. It is not genuine economy to neglect upkeep and let your property get run down. You might save money by doing some of the work yourself. For example, have you thought about doing some of your own painting? It is not hard. Furthermore, there is real satisfaction in doing things with your own hands, especially when the results are good.

Suppose you want to paint the rooms of your house. What would you need? Paint, of course; also a roller and a roller pan and a *good* paintbrush about two and a half inches in width (recommended for "do-it-yourself" painters). You will need drop cloths too, for covering the furniture and areas not to be painted. Old sheets will do.

Painting rooms is largely a matter of applying color to the walls. Of course, colors have an emotional effect as well as a practical value. Red and orange are lively colors, but they also tend to produce tension and so should be used rather sparingly. Yellow, which suggests sunlight, is cheerful. Light green reminds one of the outdoors; it is restful and quieting. Light blue is soothing and cool; it calls to mind clear blue skies and the waters of rivers and lakes. Light colors make a room look bigger, but darker shades make it look smaller. It is good to take these factors

into account. Of course, when choosing the colors for an individual room, you may also want to consider the colors of your drapes, the upholstered furniture and the rug.

Having decided on your colors, what kind of paint should you use? While there are many different kinds, of interest to most

"do-it-yourself" painters are just two: the oil-based or alkyd (a synthetic resin) and the water-based latex wall paint. Although it is called "latex," it has no rubber in it but is simply a milky-white emulsion. Latex wall paint has much to recommend it for interior painting. It is easier to apply, easier to clean up afterward and usually is far more economical than the alkyd types of paint.

Latex flat wall paint is ideal for living rooms, dining rooms and bedrooms. In recent years manufacturers have also developed a semigloss latex paint, which is replacing the semigloss oil or alkyd paints. Semigloss paint is to be preferred for kitchens, bathrooms, windowsills and frames; it can stand more scrubbing.

How much paint will you need? About a gallon for every 400 to 500 square feet that you want to cover with one coat.

Before starting to paint, protect with drop cloths or newspapers all surfaces that you will not paint. Also, it may be practical either to move out the furniture or to move it to the center of the room so as to make all the walls accessible.

Now check the surface to be painted. If it is dry, smooth but not glossy, has no cracks or holes in it, has no loose paint, dust, dirt, oil or grease on it, then you can proceed at once. But what should you do if there are defects? Is there loose paint? Scrape it off. Then all such places,

as well as holes and cracks, will need to be smoothed out with a puttylike preparation called "Spackle." (Buy it ready mixed.) Since Spackle often shrinks when it dries, you may need to apply a second coat in some spots. When that dries, sand it smooth and then apply a primer on these areas so that they will not show through when you paint over them. Is the surface glossy? Then you will need to sand it before painting. Remember, make sure the wall is free from dust, dirt, oil, grease and soap before you start to paint.

To apply the paint you will need a seven-inch, or, preferably, a nine-inch, roller with a cage-type roller frame and a roller pan. The roller should have a core made of *firm* materials, such as fiber phenolic, not merely cardboard. The roller sleeve or cover should be made of good-quality material, such as *lonel* or *dynel* nylon or lamb's wool. The length of its nap is governed by the effect you want. A three-eighths-inch nap may be good for the average wall, a one-fourth-inch nap for a very smooth surface, and a one-half-inch nap for a very rough one. (Of course, the longer the nap the more paint the roller can hold.) Either before or after applying the paint with the roller, use the brush to paint the corners and other areas of the room that need special attention.

Begin by rolling the roller in the paint pan until it is uniformly covered with paint and then get rid of the excess paint by rolling the roller on the pan's grid. Paint the room from the top down, starting with the ceiling. But, to minimize dripping when painting the walls, make the first stroke an upward one. Start away from a finished area and then work toward it; then it will not be too apparent where you overlap. For best results, avoid applying the roller with too much paint, and avoid rolling it too long, as if to get every bit of paint out of it.

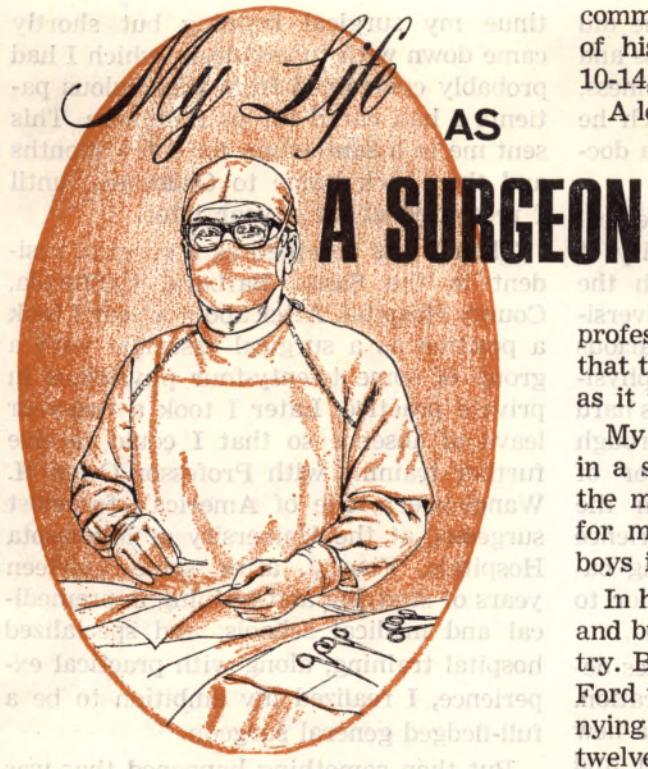
You can make things a lot easier for yourself by using a four- to six-foot handle on the roller for much of your painting. With such a handle you can work a roller with both hands, you will not need a stepladder when painting the ceiling or upper parts of the walls and you will not need to stoop if you want to paint the floor.

After completing the large areas, paint doorframes, windowsills and frames with a brush. Make sure the brush is made of synthetic material if you are using latex paint. A natural bristle brush is ideal for oil or alkyd paints, but when used with latex paint it loses its shape, as its bristles absorb water.

It may be that you will want to apply two coats. For example, if you are putting a light color on top of a dark color, you will need two coats of paint so that the dark color does not show through. Likewise, where the surface is new, whether wood, plasterboard or plaster, you may need a first coat of an appropriate primer and a finishing coat. In some cases two coats of paint will serve.

When you have finished painting for the day, what will you do? It is wise to remove all paint spots before they dry too hard. Also, clean the roller and brush. If you painted with latex, then thoroughly wash both the roller and the brush with soap and water. But if you painted with an oil or alkyd paint, you will need to clean the roller and the brush with a paint thinner such as turpentine.

As you do your work, exercise care. If you are not in too much of a hurry, you should be able to do a presentable job. And not only will you save on expenses but, more importantly, you will have the satisfaction of accomplishment, having something beautiful and enduring to show for your efforts. For, as has well been said, painting involves "the hand, the mind and the heart."



THE career of surgery that I chose is one of the oldest professions of man. Ancient Egyptian and Babylonian records tell of surgery as being performed as far back as four thousand years. And some archaeological finds indicate that surgery is even older than that.

In fact, I like to think that surgery is as old as man himself, for the Bible tells us at Genesis 2:21, 22: "God had a deep sleep fall upon the man and, while he was sleeping, he took one of his ribs and then closed up the flesh over its place. And Jehovah God proceeded to build the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman and to bring her to the man." It seems noteworthy that God anesthetized Adam before operating on him, and afterward 'sewed up' the incision. And man-performed minor surgery goes back at least to the time of Abraham. On God's

command he had himself and all the males of his household circumcised.—Gen. 17: 10-14, 22-27.

A leading American professor of surgery once stated: "The surgeon's training is the most rigorous and demanding of all professions or occupations and his responsibilities are the heaviest." What, then, caused me to choose this profession? My upbringing and the fact that the work promised to be as satisfying as it was challenging.

My father was a country doctor. He lived in a small town in Oklahoma and served the medical needs of farmers and others for many miles around. There were five boys in our family, and I was the eldest.

In his early days my father used a horse and buggy to make sick calls in the country. By the time he was using a Model-T Ford to visit his patients, I was accompanying him. In fact, even before I was twelve years old I was his part-time chauffeur, as well as his medical assistant, as it were.

As the years went by I was able to help him more and more in those days of kitchen-table operations. One memorable case was that of a farmer who had been kicked in the head by his mule and nearly scalped. His surgery was performed under a tree by my father, with me as his fascinated assistant. At times when a patient needed an anesthetic I was assigned to give him a few whiffs of chloroform while dad performed the operation. Today, of course, a number of better anesthetics are employed and operations are seldom done under trees.

Becoming a Surgeon

Upon completing high school I went to college. I chose what seemed to me to be the natural course to take, that of becoming a doctor. My father had never urged

me to take up his profession, but he did not need to. His example, his kindness and compassionate goodness and helpfulness, as well as the great respect in which he was held, made me want to become a doctor also.

I started out with a two-year premedical basic science course at the University of Oklahoma and then continued with the regular four-year course at that university's medical school. Studying the various medical subjects such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and histology was hard work, but I enjoyed it. Halfway through this school I received my bachelor of science degree, and from then on the course also included bedside experience with hospital patients and delivering babies at the homes of women too poor to afford regular hospital care.

Youthful frivolity surfaced at times despite the seriousness of medical education. After a home delivery of her baby, a new mother once heard another student and me use the word "placenta." It was a nice-sounding word to her so she suggested it as a name for her baby girl. Without any explanation to her, we completed the official birth certificate accordingly. Our professors and the authorities soon had us "on the carpet," however, and we had to apologize to the mother and help her think of another more acceptable name than "Placenta."

After graduating I took a one-year internship at the Baltimore, Maryland, City Hospital. During this year I rotated from one speciality to another, such as general medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology and psychiatry. This practical experience helped me to see just what was involved in these various fields. By the end of the year I chose surgery; to me it seemed to be the most interesting and challenging. From there I went to a hospital in a small town in Tennessee to con-

tinue my surgical training but shortly came down with tuberculosis, which I had probably contracted from tuberculous patients I had cared for in Baltimore. This sent me to a sanitarium for a few months and then back home to Oklahoma, until I recovered about a year later.

Then I was accepted as a surgical resident in the Santa Barbara, California, County Hospital. After about a year I took a position as a surgical associate with a group of some twenty-four physicians in private practice. Later I took a two-year leave of absence so that I could receive further training with Professor Owen H. Wangensteen, one of America's foremost surgeons, at the University of Minnesota Hospitals. Finally, after some fourteen years of studying and training in premedical and medical schools, and specialized hospital training, along with practical experience, I realized my ambition to be a full-fledged general surgeon.

But then something happened that was to change both my outlook on life and my future as a surgeon. Closely related to it was the subject of blood transfusion and the issue made of it by the Christian witnesses of Jehovah.

The Blood-Transfusion Issue

My early years were influenced not only by my father as a physician; both my parents were also Jehovah's witnesses—the only ones for many miles around. I grew up with great respect for the Bible, but with little real knowledge of it. This was no doubt partly due to the fact that my father was so occupied with his medical work. Also, the familiar family Bible study program featured by Jehovah's witnesses was not emphasized then as it is now. So I left home for college, a country boy determined to be a doctor, strongly influenced by Scriptural principles that I did

not really appreciate until several years later.

During the years I was in medical school, I saw my first blood transfusions—crude donor-to-patient procedures, somewhat heroic and usually unsuccessful. But World War II, with its terrible blood loss, gave the use of transfusions an impetus. The war also caused most doctors of my age to serve in the armed forces. I volunteered to serve as a surgeon in the Army but was turned down because of my having had tuberculosis. Later I tried to get into the Navy by not revealing my record of illness, but somehow they found out anyhow and so the Navy rejected me also. So I continued my career as a civilian surgeon.

Until my father died early in 1950, the big thing in my life was my surgical career. But his death and the funeral discourse I heard at the time gave me a jolt that made me think seriously about religion.

Somewhat to my embarrassment, my parents had always been ridiculed for their religion. I had always admired them for their stand for their beliefs, but after leaving home I had given it little thought. Now upon hearing the Bible truths about life and death and God's kingdom as the hope for the future, old childhood memories were stirred. For his beliefs on such matters my father had been adjudged a religious fanatic by many of his old friends, and even insane by some. I knew him as an intelligent and educated man, artistic and sensitive to the needs of others. He was not one to accept ideas without study and investigation. His judgments on matters were well thought out. He was scrupulously honest. It was impossible for me to conceive of him as staking his life on something that had no merit. He was no religious hypocrite. I felt a deep need to examine critically his ideas about God and His purposes for man.

For the first time in my life I began a serious study of the Bible, primarily because my father had put so much confidence in it. I read it through in a month, along with all the Watch Tower Society publications on which I could lay hands. That convinced me that the Bible is God's truth and that my father, as one of Jehovah's witnesses, understood it correctly. I knew that I had to do something about it. So it was that at the 1950 Yankee Stadium assembly of Jehovah's witnesses I symbolized by water baptism my dedication to do God's will. Two of my brothers, moved by the same funeral talk seriously to examine the Bible, were baptized alongside of me.

Convinced as I was that the Bible was true, I readily accepted what it said about the sanctity of blood, even though I had actively participated in hundreds of blood transfusions and had seen the procedure develop with many technical refinements. To "abstain . . . from blood" now posed a real problem for me. (Acts 15:20, 29) I had a fine association with the Santa Barbara medical group, with the prospects of one day heading the surgical department. However, in those days "good" medicine and surgery dictated the use of blood as a necessary therapy; the Bible condemned its use as objectionable to God. In order to maintain my dedication to do God's will in all matters I had no alternative, so I resigned.

But now what to do? I had a wife and two small children to support. More than that, I still had to pay off debts that I incurred during my surgical training. So I began looking for a community that was desperately in need of a doctor. In addition, the thought came to me, Could I not use my skill as a surgeon to aid Witnesses who were being denied surgery elsewhere because of their objection to transfusions?

I soon heard of the small lumber community of Loyalton in northern California. There was a new federally built hospital of about fifteen beds, well equipped except for a doctor. Their need was desperate; there was not a doctor in the entire county. By that time I was accustomed to being looked upon as something of a medico-religious oddity, but I reasoned that a community in such need would accept me. And they did.

For about four years I practiced general medicine and surgery there, at the same time getting a lot of practical experience as a house-to-house minister. My neighbors in the community could tell what business I was about by the type of bag I carried. My family and I enjoyed life there and found a number of people who were interested in regularly studying the Bible with us. Seven were baptized on one occasion.

The message that Jehovah's witnesses preached was new to the small villages of that isolated area and we had many interesting experiences in our ministry. One well-known citizen awoke from an anesthetic, after I had operated on her, loudly proclaiming that she knew she was not dead because the dead "know not anything," and even if she did die she would not end up in any hot fiery hell, as hell was merely the grave. In her semi-conscious state she referred anyone with questions to me for further elaboration. Sometime after her recovery she too was baptized.

Medical Intolerance

What caused me to leave Loyalton, where I was so favorably situated? A traveling representative of the Watchtower Society asked me if I would be willing to go where my services—that is, my services as a presiding overseer of a congregation of

Jehovah's witnesses—were needed more than in Loyalton. I told him that I would be glad to do so, and so it was that I moved to Lodi, California.

I had not been there six months, however, when I faced a confrontation with the doctors of the city over the blood-transfusion issue. An elderly Witness from out of town came to me for help. His condition was serious due to an abdominal tumor that would require a two-stage operation. However, before I could proceed with the simple first stage, I was opposed by the anesthesia department and representatives of the hospital staff. They informed me that unless the patient received blood he could not have the surgery he so desperately needed. My argument that on religious grounds the patient had specifically requested that he have no blood fell on deaf ears. The fact that the operation could be done quickly and without appreciable risk was given no consideration. Neither was his willingness to accept full responsibility for the consequences of his stand. He was ordered to leave the hospital.

Then followed meetings and hearings in which the ire of the medical staff, the hospital directors and trustees was heaped upon me. No explanations were accepted. I was summarily dismissed from the hospital surgical staff. The county, state and national medical societies all canceled my memberships. I was now ineligible to apply for staff membership in any accredited hospital in the United States.*

This was a shocking experience for one who had thought of the practice of medicine as a sort of compassionate humanitarianism. My prior experiences and relationships had been too idealistic, perhaps. Now I was being cursed as a fool and a murderer. Ironically, many of my most

* Twelve years later, after several rejections in the interim, I was invited to make another application and was reinstated to full medical society membership.

vociferous castigators had had experience as so-called medical missionaries. My special respect for doctors as men was practically lost.

Their parting message was to notify me that the board of directors had ruled that neither Jehovah's witnesses nor anyone else not agreeable to blood transfusion on the order of his doctor could use the hospital. How inflexibly they applied this rule I was to find out in a matter of weeks. My mother came to visit us and, while in our home, suffered a heart attack. The hospital refused to admit her even though no surgery nor blood transfusion was involved. So I had to take her to another town where a hospital would accept her. The following day she died.

The Witness as a Patient

Again I was faced with the question, Where to turn? I soon heard of a small private hospital staffed by osteopaths in Stockton, some twelve miles from Lodi. I consulted with them, presented my qualifications and told them of my stand on blood transfusion. Yes, they said, I could use their facilities, for being osteopaths they were not bound by the medical society boycott. Incidentally, these facilities were greatly improved and enlarged over the years. And so it was that for the next fourteen years I practiced surgery in that hospital. From then on my patients more and more came to be Witnesses who had been denied help by other doctors and hospitals because of their Christian stand on blood.

During all those years and since then, I have not administered a single transfusion of blood. To my knowledge no patient has lost his life because of this, even though many had extensive surgical operations. It has been especially gratifying to me to see at firsthand evidence of the

truthfulness of the Bible's directives on blood. The medical profession itself has gradually come to appreciate that blood is not an innocuous lifesaver. Blood transfusion is now recognized as a dangerous procedure—as hazardous as any other organ transplant. Medical journals today have more to say about the perils of the procedure than the previously proclaimed benefits. Had I been routinely giving blood transfusions during the past twenty-three years of my practice, it seems quite likely that a number would have suffered from one of the now-recognized dangers of blood administration.

The Witnesses who came to me for surgery in Stockton, by and large, elicited my greatest respect and admiration. Because of their Christian scruples they were willing to risk their own lives or the lives of their loved ones. And the hospital staff thought very highly of them. They were recognized as a respectful and cooperative people, always considerate of the nurses and other attendants. In fact, they got such a reputation that the hospital administration did not go through the formality of first ascertaining their ability to pay before accepting them.

And not only those coming there for an operation were bearing witness by their exemplary conduct. There was a local Witness housewife who called every day at the hospital and visited those who were registered as Jehovah's witnesses. Her visits were particularly appreciated, as the patients often came from far away and had no other visitors. Her friendliness and thoughtfulness in supplying the wishes and wants of these patients greatly impressed the hospital workers, as they were aware of the fact that she did not know any of them personally.

A Witness once came more than a thousand miles for me to do some major sur-

gery. His nurse was curious as to why he had come all that distance. Did he know the surgeon personally? No, he did not. Had he heard of his reputation? Yes, he had heard of it, but the real reason why he came was that this surgeon worshiped and served the same God, Jehovah, as he did. In reporting this to me the nurse acknowledged that it was this common worship and service to Jehovah that explained Jehovah's witnesses' close relationship.

One Keeps on Learning

The American College of Surgeons likes to feature a fourteenth-century description of what a surgeon ought to be. It reads:

"The conditions necessary for the surgeon are four: First, he should be learned; second, he should be expert; third, he should be ingenious, and fourth, he should be able to adapt himself.

"Let the surgeon be bold in all sure things, and fearful in dangerous things; let him avoid all faulty treatments and practices. He ought to be gracious to the sick, considerate to his associates, cautious in his prognostications. Let him be modest, dignified, gentle, pitiful and merciful; not covetous nor an extortionist of money; but rather let his reward be according to his work, to the means of the patient, to the quality of the issue, and to his own dignity."

No question about it, with such a high standard at which to aim there is room for improvement all the time; one needs to keep on learning. There is an avalanche of medical literature to be examined—some of it studied carefully—in order to keep up to date with progress. Medical meetings and seminars are also an important part of the necessary continuing education. One's technical proficiency improves with experience and practice—a

busy surgeon may perform several operations daily.

Success in any endeavor is rewarding and this is especially the case with a doctor. To be involved in a patient's recovery from a serious illness is most gratifying. One learns from this, but, as is also true, one learns from one's failures and mistakes. A surgeon's mistake can be very costly, of course, so a good surgeon must be a careful one. But he must also be honest with himself and realize that mistakes cannot be entirely avoided. He, as well as his patients, can gain by these sobering experiences. Fortunately, in modern times the Code of Hammurabi is not in effect, for under it no surgeon was able to learn from his mistakes—he had his hands cut off as a penalty!

Good judgment is an essential mark of a good surgeon. According to a best-selling autobiography of a surgeon, making decisions or deciding on options is the most important part of a surgeon's work. With all his application to study, his experience and his technical skill, a surgeon hopes to improve in this area. Many doctors emphasize the treating of the "whole man," rather than isolating one's interest to a certain diseased area. It is likely true that a successful surgeon will, of necessity, be one who has learned to view his patient as a whole. He will be one who considers, not only his patient's diseased parts, but his feelings, his fears and his hopes and his conscience. One may successfully treat a disease—surgically or otherwise—but at the same moment inconsiderately destroy an individual by ignoring his conscience. A surgeon who forces unwanted treatment upon his patient may feel justified in doing so. His superior knowledge of disease may dictate the course. But his inability to consider the conscience of his patient is a de-

fect in his makeup that affects his judgment. He has not treated the "whole man."

Exploits of Modern Surgery

It is indeed remarkable what strides modern surgery has made! Far from being simply a profession in which diseased body parts are removed, much of the advance has been in the fields of reconstruction and correction. Amputated extremities can be reattached, new joints can be constructed, congenitally crippled hearts as well as feet can be rebuilt. New and improved technical methods make the control of bleeding easier. There are a number of sophisticated and refined surgical procedures that employ the laser beam. Too, surgeons are quick to credit the skills of their associates, the anesthesiologists and the members of their operating teams. Ingenious engineers have been involved in the development of new instruments and equipment.

Today much is also made of the transplanting of various organs—kidneys, hearts, lungs and livers. But, regarding these procedures, I am reminded of the comment that my father once made. I was home from medical school and performed a vasectomy on one of his patients who had asked to be sterilized. I was proud of my newly learned technique and asked my father what he thought of it. He replied: "The patient is no doubt pleased, but I wonder what the Creator thinks about it." Because of what I have reason to believe is the Creator's view of organ transplants, I have serious reservations as to their Scriptural propriety.

Yes, we cannot leave the Creator out of surgery. As Dr. Alexis Carrel so well notes in his book *Man the Unknown*, while "owing to the extreme ingenuity and audacity of its methods, [modern surgery] has surpassed the most ambitious hopes of medicine of former times," yet the fact

remains that even "in the best hospital, . . . the healing of wounds depends, above all, on the efficiency of the adaptive functions" of the body. In other words, everything depends upon the powers of healing that the Creator has placed in the human body.

Activities as a Christian Minister

Remarkable as are the achievements of modern surgery, I agree, as a Christian minister as well as a surgeon, with Jesus Christ that spiritual values come ahead of material or physical ones. (Matt. 16:26) And what does that mean? That the Christian minister who can point people to the hope of everlasting life can do them more good than can any modern surgeon who, at the best, can help them to live only a few short years. That is the reason why I was willing to leave my very rewarding practice in Santa Barbara years ago. In addition, I am well aware that the day is near when the surgical profession will be unnecessary. Were I to start out now, I would not undertake the lengthy period of schooling and training needed to become a surgeon, but would choose to devote my time more exclusively to the Christian ministry.

Today I enjoy a rich and full life. My two children, both grown and married, are serving as Christian ministers also, one as a congregation elder and one as a missionary in a faraway land. My wife and I are now serving full time in the Christian ministry, members of the Watchtower Society's headquarters staff, assisting fellow full-time ministers and others as their needs may be. All of which privileges, I must add, have also greatly benefited me, so that I can truly echo the words of the wise writer of Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich, and he adds no pain with it."—Contributed.

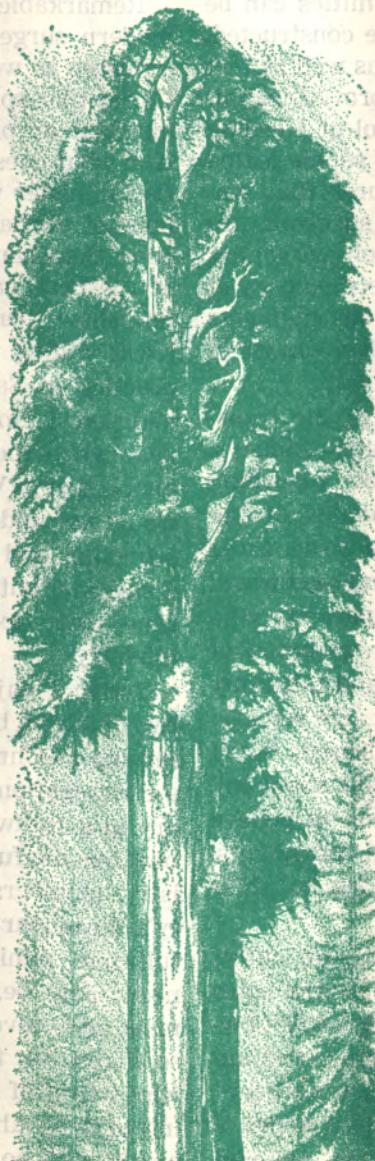
WHAT seemed to be "wild tales" once came out of America's Far West. Men talked of trees more than three hundred feet high, with trunks a hundred feet around. "Nonsense," people thought; "who could believe such a thing?"

But the trees were there. Nothing else on earth has grown to their massive size, and few things have lived longer. How have these giants succeeded in growing so large, and surviving so long? The answers might interest you, for these astounding examples of creation are unusual in more ways than most persons imagine.

Called Big Tree, Sierra Redwood, Giant Sequoia or *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, these masters of the forest reign only in a limited area, about 260 miles long, generally between the 4,000-foot and the 8,500-foot level, along the west side of a single mountain range—California's Sierra Nevadas.

Usually they are found in groves, which may contain from as few as six to as many as several thousand trees. Many groves are in country that still can be reached only by hikers, but some of them are easily reached by roads leading up from Cal-

THE WORLD'S LARGEST LIVING THINGS



ifornia's fertile central valley.

The long, winding roads that climb toward Big Tree country go through great stands of pines. But suddenly you have an impression of something bigger. You get your first glimpse of a Giant Sequoia.

Tremendous Size

At first you do not realize the Sequoia's size, because the surrounding trees are so large. It is only when you stand at the base of a Big Tree and look up, or when you walk around it and count your paces, that its awesome majesty begins to dawn upon you.

To illustrate how big these trees are, imagine a tree as high as a twenty-five-story building. Think of a single limb more than six feet thick, and visualize that limb so high up the trunk of the tree that you could put a twelve-story building under it. Consider a tree whose trunk is thirty feet in diameter. Cut and laid on its side in a city street, it would reach the top of third-story windows!

The largest of these trees contain more wood than is used in building forty five-room houses—though their wood gener-

ally is not put to use for construction.

The General Sherman tree, in the Sequoia National Park, is considered the world's largest living thing. It is 272.4 feet high, and 101.6 feet around. It is far from the tallest tree in the world, but its massive trunk tapers very little, and it contains an astounding quantity of wood. Recent studies suggest that it may also be the world's fastest-growing thing—not in height, but in mass.

The Birth of a Big Tree

The birth of one of these mighty trees is a relatively rare event. The world's largest living things grow from a seed kernel as small as a pinhead. It takes 90,000 of these seeds to make a pound. They come 5,600 to the ounce!

An individual Sequoia produces millions of such tiny seeds, but few germinate. Even fewer grow into full-size trees. It has been said: "It is no uncommon thing to see trees that have been bearing seed year after year for one thousand years or more yet show no reproduction beneath them."—*Big Trees*, Walter Fry and John R. White, page 59.

The tiny Sequoia seed requires exposed mineral soil. It finds this only after some disturbance removes the foliage and branches that normally litter the forest floor. A lightning-caused fire can burn this litter away. Or, an ancient tree can fall, exposing the earth in its root pit.

Then a seed may flutter down, to be lightly buried. If conditions are just right, it swells and a tiny root pushes downward. A timid stem reaches up toward the light. Even then, its chances for survival are not great. A bird may spy the seed hull, still attached to the sprout. Or a tiny ant may nip it off, and drag home what might have become one of the world's greatest living things!

But once infancy is past, the Sequoia develops incredible vigor. At the end of

its first century it is six feet in diameter and 150 feet tall. It can survive severe physical damage.

Exceptional Resistance to Fire

The Sequoia's spongy red-brown bark may be as much as two feet thick. It is thought to be an outstanding factor in the long life of these Big Trees.

Lightning may stab out of the billowing mass of a summer thunderstorm, and set the forest afire. Other great trees are destroyed, consumed in torches of flame. But the Sequoia's spongy bark—soft enough to give when you push it with your finger—enables it to withstand furnace-hot wildfire. Over the centuries Sequoias live through fire after fire. They are singed and wounded, scarred and scarred again, but they continue to survive, standing head high above the rest of the forest.

Most of the older Sequoias have such fire scars. Visitors can stand within the blackened recesses burned out of some of these trees and look up through the burned center of the tree's trunk. Two hundred feet of a tree's vitals may be consumed, yet it lives on till successive forest fires have cooked so much of the wood that the sap can no longer pass.

Generally the fire injuries heal. Little by little new bark creeps over the wound, at a speed of perhaps a quarter of an inch a year, until, in a few centuries, it completely covers the burn.

When the fire has consumed smaller trees, and the sunlight again bathes the ground, new Sequoia seedlings may sprout. In time, these too may become giant trees.

Roots and Enemies

Despite their tremendous size, these trees have an exceptionally shallow root system. Their roots may be only four or five feet deep, but they can spread out to gather nutrients from an area 400 feet

across—perhaps two acres. It would take 500 persons, standing at arm's length, to encircle such a root area. It is difficult to imagine such a shallow root system successfully anchoring, against the storms of centuries, a tree structure as high as a twenty-five-story building, and weighing as much as a small ocean-going freighter.

No Sequoia has ever been known to die of disease or old age. Its enemies are fire, erosion, wind and man. Erosion by a nearby stream may undermine the tree, which leans more and more, over a long period of years, till finally it comes crashing down. Loggers have destroyed in a day trees that were old when Jesus was born, and that may have been standing when Solomon built Jehovah's temple in Jerusalem. But little profit came from this destruction, as the wood is brittle, splits badly under the shattering crash of such a tremendous tree's fall, and is not very useful for building. Many groves are now preserved in national parks, to protect them from such destruction.

They Praise the Creator

Man is humbled at the foot of such giants. Their ability to withstand the heavy snows of three thousand winters, and the droughts of innumerable rainless summers, is beyond our limited comprehension. Literally hundreds of generations of bustling squirrels have busied themselves in such a tree's shade. Uncounted generations of deer, porcupines and gray

foxes have nosed through the twigs at its base. Other trees have sprouted, matured, grown old, died, and been replaced by generations of their descendants, while the Big Trees stand, silently supreme.

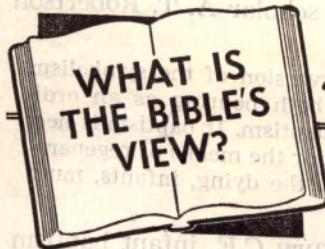
Thousands of visitors have stood at the base of these trees, struck first with awe, then with reverence. Some have been stirred to a greater appreciation of God's creation, and of the wisdom of the One who made such splendors possible. They remind us of Paul's words: "For his invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world's creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship, so that [persons who do not glorify him] are inexcusable."—Rom. 1:20.

Foretelling the conditions of God's righteous new order, now near at hand, the Bible says that the lives of God's people will be "like the days of a tree"; that is, they will enjoy long life. Even in Palestine there were trees that lived a thousand years or more. (Isa. 65:22) The existence of such trees helps us to appreciate that it is well within the scope of God's power to accomplish his promise of permanent human life on earth.

The Bible's promise of everlasting human life is made by the One whose creation made the growth and life of these great trees possible. It is no more a "wild tale" than were the reports of the existence of such trees—which people did not wish to believe a century ago.

The Largest Manufacturing Process

- Is the largest manufacturing process the making of automobiles or some other such process? The New York Times said: "The largest single manufacturing process in the world takes place in one of the smallest units of life—cells of green plants. The manufacturing process is . . . photosynthesis. Each year this process accounts for the transformation of 100 billion tons of the inorganic element carbon into organic forms that support life. By contrast, all the big blast furnaces of the world would make only a half-billion tons of steel in the same time."



Should Your Baby Be Baptized?

BAPTISM has been part of Christianity from its beginning. Jesus himself was baptized, and he directed that others undergo baptism.

If you will soon become a parent, or recently became one, perhaps you have wondered whether your baby should be baptized. Would this be necessary in order for your child to meet God's approval?

The churches of Christendom have different opinions about this. Some practice infant baptism. But others will baptize only those who are old enough to demonstrate belief in the principles of religion taught by their church.

The Bible is the only dependable source of information about baptism, for it alone is "inspired of God." (2 Tim. 3:16) Does the Bible advocate baptizing babies?

The earliest references to baptism in the Word of God are related to the activity of John the Baptist. Concerning him, Mark 1:5 states: "All the territory of Judea and all the inhabi-

tants of Jerusalem made their way out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, openly confessing their sins." This would, of course, require that they be old enough to recognize their sinful state.

Concerning Jesus, we read: "In the course of those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. And immediately on coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being parted." (Mark 1:9, 10) At that time Jesus was "about thirty years old."—Luke 3:23.

During his earthly ministry Jesus did not personally baptize anyone. But, under his direction, his disciples baptized quite a number of people. Did they include babies? The Gospel of John reports: "Jesus was making and baptizing more *disciples* than John." (John 4:1) So Jesus had his followers baptize only persons who had already become disciples.

Knowing this helps us to understand Jesus' command at Matthew 28:19, 20: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you." Jesus did *not* mean to make disciples of people, even infants, *by means of baptism*. This command clearly means that a person would be baptized only after becoming a disciple.

It was the same after Jesus' death and resurrection. Those baptized at Pentecost of 33 C.E. had "embraced [the apostle Peter's] word heartily." (Acts 2:41) A group of Samaritans who were baptized was made up of "men and women" who had "believed" the Christian message. (Acts 8:12) The Ethiopian eunuch whom Philip baptized was already a worshiper of Jehovah. (Acts 8:27, 38) Of the ones gathered in the house of Cornelius, holy spirit

fell upon "those hearing the word" and they were baptized.—Acts 10:44.

In the days of Jesus and his twelve apostles, baptism was performed by complete immersion in water and was a *symbol* of something that had already taken place in the heart of the one being baptized. For example, John's baptism was "in symbol of [in token of, *The New En-*

glish Bible] repentance." (Mark 1:4) Baptisms that the Bible records as taking place after 36 C.E. symbolized the dedication of the individual to do Jehovah's will. This could not apply to infants.

But today it is common for babies to be baptized. Also, many churches baptize by sprinkling or pouring instead of by complete immersion. What brought about these changes?

Infant Baptism Appears—Why?

The apostle Paul foretold that a general "apostasy" from Bible Christianity would occur after the death of the twelve apostles. (2 Thess. 2:3, 6-12) At 1 Timothy 4:1 Paul wrote: "The spirit says expressly that in after times some will desert from the faith and give their minds to subversive doctrines."—NE.

How did "subversive doctrines" appear with regard to baptism? It was due to the adoption of beliefs from pagan Greek religion (Hellenism). The *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* says of the period following the death of the apostles:

"Alien elements came in from the outside world. Hitherto these had been carefully held in check by the filter of prophetic and N[ew] T[estament] religion. But now, using external agreement as a channel, they came in full flood. Baptism became a syncretistic* mystery."

As a result, early in the second century C.E. the pagan idea that baptism washes away sins and brings about "regeneration" crept into the Christian congregation. Illustrating this are the comments of Justin Martyr, of the second century C.E., concerning candidates for baptism: "They are brought by us where there is water, and are regenerated." "We may . . . obtain in the water the remission of sins formerly committed."

To what did this blending of pagan beliefs with the Bible's teaching about bap-

tism lead? Greek scholar A. T. Robertson explains:

"Out of this perversion of the symbolism of baptism grew both pouring as an ordinance and infant baptism. If baptism is necessary to salvation or the means of regeneration, then the sick, the dying, infants, must be baptized."

By the third century C.E. infant baptism had become a general church practice. Origen, in the third century, wrote: "Because by baptism native pollution is taken away, therefore infants are baptized." Origen even claimed, incorrectly, that baptizing babies was "a tradition from the apostles." ^{coy}

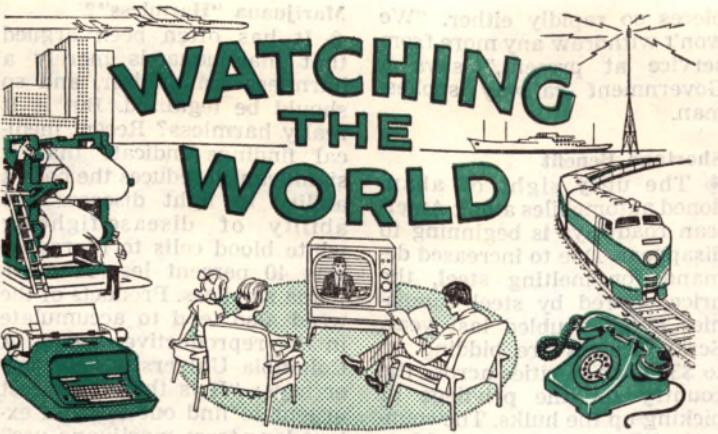
Helping Children Meet God's Approval

While the Bible does not allow for baptizing babies, it does show what parents must do to help their children to meet God's approval. The Bible, at Proverbs 22:6, exhorts parents: "Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it."

The most important aspect of this training process is found in the apostle Paul's words to parents at Ephesians 6:4: "Do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah." That means that parents must acquaint their children with the Holy Scriptures, which set forth Jehovah's mind on matters.—1 Cor. 2:16.

Infant baptism is not taught in the Bible. It stems from the pagan superstition that baptism "regenerates" a person and cleanses him from past sin. However, the Bible teaches that it is, not baptism, but 'the blood of Jesus, God's Son, that cleanses us from all sin.' (1 John 1:7; Acts 22:16) Also, it is not baptism, but "the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah" that qualifies a child to meet God's approval. (Eph. 6:4) If you are a parent, will you make sure that your child receives that training?

* Blended from the beliefs of different religions.



WATCHING THE WORLD

Compromise with Communists

◆ Pope Paul VI removed a protesting Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty, exiled primate of Hungary, from his post in February. This is seen by most observers as another step in Pope Paul's wooing of Communist countries to gain concessions for the church. Now the Hungarian government allows the pope to fill vacant church posts, but retains the right to veto candidates. In his statement of refusal to resign, Mindszenty wrote: "The installation of 'peace priests' in important ecclesiastical offices shatters the confidence of priests and believers in the supreme leadership of the church."

Economists' 'Changed World'

◆ Economic adviser to presidents Walter W. Heller recently told the American Economic Association that they "are distinctly in a period of reexamination.... There are too many things we really just don't know." Old economics, based on manipulating demand while assuming unlimited supply, do not work anymore. "Economists suspect that the world has changed in ways that they are only beginning to comprehend.... the old economic textbooks are going to have to be thrown away," observes the Los Angeles Times.

"Almost Incredible"

◆ Conservative bankers are not often given to overstatement. Yet the monthly Business Bulletin of the Cleveland Trust Company declares: "In terms of economic analysis and interpretation, 1973 (and probably 1974) will be remembered as one of the most baffling and frustrating periods in American History.... there has been an almost incredible sequence of illusions, perversities and seemingly insoluble dilemmas." "The affairs of government and business," it continued, are being forced "re-morselessly toward a turbulent [outcome], the ultimate nature of which cannot yet be fully comprehended."

Lutherans Divided

◆ Bitter theological disputes have caused the Lutheran Church's Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, to experience the suspension of its president, resulting in a student boycott. Adding to Lutheran troubles are bitter racial clashes at the 2,500-student Concordia College in Minnesota. "Intramural touch football and basketball games between black and white teams ended in slugging matches," reports Christianity Today.

Unborn "Breathing"

◆ For years it was thought that fetuses do not "breathe"

in the womb. Now *Medical World News* reports that "the fetus has regular, and apparently essential, episodes of breathing" during pregnancy. These episodes are said to "prepare the unborn for the demands of respiration following birth." During these periods human fetuses move tiny quantities of fluid in their windpipes from 30 to 70 times per minute. After birth, the hard-to-move fluid is replaced by air. The baby's muscles are by then well toned for the job.

Space Discomforts

◆ "It's a nice place to visit, but we wouldn't want to live here all the time," commented the commander of the Skylab space satellite. The bland food, which one astronaut said was becoming "highly detrimental to morale," may have contributed to this feeling. The food, together with air bubbles in the water, and weightlessness, was also blamed for a hygiene problem he described. "We have to pass so much gas. I don't want to pass over this lightly because I think passing gas about 500 times a day is not a good way to go.... The only redeeming feature is that everybody is passing the same amount."

Space Junk

◆ Debris from space launches is now returning to earth at the rate of about one per day. So far the only fatality has been a Cuban cow killed about 13 years ago by a 40-pound piece of a U.S. space probe. In 1962, a 20-pound chunk of Russia's Sputnik IV hit the main intersection in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Usually such objects are burned up by atmospheric friction or they plunge into the ocean. Of more than 7,000 objects put in orbit, there were nearly 3,000 remaining in early January. All but 624 are classified as "debris."

Presbyterian Decline

◆ "We Presbyterians are so affluent, so comfortable, so

concerned with getting it and spending that the church has slipped into the rim of our lives," says Clinton Marsh, moderator of the 2.9-million-member American church. A three-year decline in membership and financial giving was cited as coming from spiritual malaise and internal disputes over the church's social-action policies.

Copper for Pennies

◆ At the current price of copper, it costs the American government nearly a penny to make a penny. The U.S. Mint wants Congress to authorize aluminum pennies if the price of copper continues to go up. Thirty-six other countries already use aluminum coins. These would cost less than one tenth of a penny to make, saving the government \$40 million per year. At less than a third of the weight of copper, they would not be as wearing on pockets either.

No Miles to the Gallon

◆ An automobile engine may idle away as much as a gallon of gasoline an hour while waiting in line for more. Long waits are becoming commonplace in many parts of the U.S. Every line of cars just two blocks long burns up about 15 gallons of fuel an hour—at no miles to the gallon. Thousands of these lines further aggravate the energy crisis as well as the people in the lines.

Oil Crisis Saves Locomotives

◆ India and South Africa are delaying their planned phase-out of coal-fired steam railroad locomotives. Fuel for oil-burning diesels is hard to get, whereas coal is plentiful. In India, "the Railway Board is coddling its remaining steam engines" to get another 10 years of service from them, reports *Business Week* magazine. South Africa's 2,128 still-operating steam engines will not meet their frequent end as brightly polished museum

pieces so rapidly either. "We won't withdraw any more from service at present," says a Government railway spokesman.

Shortage Benefit

◆ The ugly sight of abandoned automobiles along American roadways is beginning to disappear. Due to increased demand for melting steel, the price offered by steel companies about doubled last year. Scrap dealers are bidding up to \$35 each to cities across the country for the privilege of picking up the hulks. The country's 105 automobile shredders make quick work of getting them into a usable form. It takes them about 15 seconds to cut a 3,000-pound auto into 5,000 little pieces.

Volcanic Heating

◆ Hot lava that last year almost buried the little island town of Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, is now being used to heat homes. Scientists say there is enough heat in the lava to warm all the homes on the island for twenty years. Water pumped through coils of pipe buried in the lava was 181° F. when it reached the first home.

Fruits of Education

◆ Education, it is sometimes said, will solve mankind's problems. But what kind of record do the world's educational systems have? One answer comes from educator Rolf A. Weil, president of Chicago's Roosevelt University, who says: "We see the same destructive forces of nationalistic power politics and religious and ethnic prejudices that have plagued mankind throughout history. . . . throughout history formal education has usually made man more competent and skilled, only occasionally made him wiser, but practically never made him better by ethical or religious standards." Why? Because they have not been motivated by a genuine desire to know and to do the will of God.

Marijuana "Harmless"?

◆ It has often been argued that marijuana is merely a harmless tranquilizer, and so should be legalized. But is it really harmless? Recent medical findings indicate that it significantly reduces the body's ability to fight disease. The ability of disease-fighting white blood cells to reproduce was 40 percent less in marijuana smokers. Products of the weed also tend to accumulate in the reproductive organs. A Columbia University researcher says: "It is therefore most urgent to find out to what extent long-term marijuana use" might adversely affect offspring.

Halibut Shortage

◆ The International Pacific Halibut Commission cut in half (to 12 million pounds) this year's halibut catch quota for the Gulf of Alaska area. It would have been set at 10 million pounds were it not for economic hardships already facing the fishing fleets. The Commission says halibut stocks in the northeastern Pacific and Bering Sea "are at seriously low levels." Nations other than the U.S. or Canada that fish in the area are not controlled by the Commission. They are reportedly severely depleting stocks, and cooperation is slow in coming.

Poor Nations Face Disaster

◆ A recent World Bank survey of the oil needs for 39 poorer countries reveals that higher prices are enough to more than cancel all the foreign aid scheduled for them this year. Oil-dependent fertilizer supplies are short and prices are soaring. At the same time, cost of food imports for these hungry countries will nearly quadruple during this crop year. Oil shortage in the U.S. means that "we may have to ride the bus instead of drive. . . . In Asia, Africa and Latin America, it means disaster," says a high government official.

Subcontinent of Hunger

◆ Hunger persists in the Indian subcontinent. Both India and Bangladesh have current record harvests. Nevertheless, India is still plagued with food riots. Reports indicate that these are largely because farmers do not want to sell to the government for distribution at low subsidized prices in government "fair price shops." The farmers sell where they can get higher prices. Bangladesh, whose rapidly growing population density is now about 1,300 persons to every square mile, compared to India's 426, is compelled to import food. Pakistan is still suffering from last August's massive food-destroying floods.

India's Wealth

◆ India's recent food problems spotlight her as a poor nation; per person income

there is about \$75 a year. Yet, by other standards, India is among the world's wealthier nations. It is considered a major industrial country, having the world's tenth-largest gross national product. Only the United States and Russia have more science graduates than India. And the country is rich in many undeveloped natural resources, richer in iron and zinc, for example, than North America.

Soldiers Overseas

◆ Among approximately 13,000 personnel in the U.S. Army's Second Division stationed in Korea, 11,600 cases of venereal disease were reported in 1972. American authorities, reports a Seattle *Times* correspondent, say this "is an indictment of the desultory lives led by generally bored G.I.s on overseas assignment."

First 1974 Babies

◆ Four newspapers in the state of Iowa ran "first born of 1974" contests. Illegitimate children were first in all four cities. Three newspapers awarded prizes to the unmarried girls, aged 15, 17 and 19. The fourth refused and awarded its prize to a legitimate child finally born 15 hours later.

"Sound" Limit

◆ The City Council of Leeds, England, has decreed a 96-decibel limit for amplified music to save its young people from hearing loss. That is four times the level of sound at which the British Department of Health recommends protective earmuffs for workers. Yet a spokesman at the University of Leeds says that almost all groups play louder.

the 1971 Report of the
U.S. Postal Service in the
area of town and "near post
offices." The letter
continued with this in the
same language:
"The townspeople and a few
of the townspeople have
been to the office to get a
post office box or a
mailing facility prior to
leaving."

"Second," Lynn

• The City Council of Pease,
Michigan, has decided to
designate itself as a
people's unit for application
of laws to areas where
there is no local government.
A city council member
applied for this designation
to the secretary for welfare. He
was told that it was to
"allow people to live under
the same laws that citizens in
other cities do."

There is probably a lot
of room for improvement
in this area of town and
"near post offices." The
letter concluded with
these words:
"I hope you will
keep us posted on
any developments in
this area."

Second-class letters

• Among approximately 15,
000 persons living in the U.S.
Area, Second-class delivery is
commonly known as "mail to
order." In Korea, 11,000 cases
of necessary articles were re-
ported in 1971. American
authorities report a definite
trend toward the use of this
form of delivery in the United
States. It is not clear just
why.

The letter concluded with
these words:
"I hope you will
keep us posted on
any developments in
this area."

Health's "Health"

• John's Health food shop
located just off Highway 100
near Pease, Michigan, has
been serving the public since
1970.