

THE OPEN FORUM

THE DOG'S BEST FRIEND — AND OTHERS

SIR: As a reader, I'm taking advantage of your invitation to reply to G. L. Wyndham's article in the January issue on dogs. It is not only a lot of tommyrot about man's truest friend but also very much biased. The subject is treated very sarcastically by Wyndham besides his supposedly funny quips in parentheses. If he'd come down to earth, cut out the sarcasm, the exaggerated cases and comparisons — the long article would simply be the title and his name — nothing more. Also — if he would state *actual* facts and cases — he'd have no arguments.

He says, ever so politely though the meaning is still plain, that Albert Payson Terhune made his fortune by glorification of the dog. Any person with two cents worth of brains *knows* this is an untrue accusation *and* a slur on the name of a man who glorified dogs long before he made his fortune.

You — as editors — are quite right in saying his is a "tiny" minority. I wager that a good many people feel as I do. Anyway, I hope they write him and show him what a *large* majority *are* dog-lovers.

Don't think I'm narrow-minded in that all people should love dogs, because I *do* think there are two sides to every question — but I and others can still disagree with G. L. Wyndham.

BARRIE TAIT

*Cresskill,
New Jersey.*

SIR: I have just finished reading the superb article about dogs in THE AMERICAN MERCURY. It is better than good, it's perfect. I couldn't have written it better myself, and higher praise can I give to no man.

I think the article covered most of the dogs' revolting habits. Many is the time those

dear dirty little paws have ruined my nylons when I am not even eating a candy, but merely thinking I might eat one any moment.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year with less dogs for all of us.

LEONORA CORBETT

New York City.

SIR: The boor who hates dogs simply proves that he hasn't intelligence enough to understand them. It is a self-confession of borderline idiocy. The more I see of this breed of egotistical asses, the greater becomes my esteem for canines.

This is addressed to no particular nincompoop, but rather to the low IQ which they represent. Even a mangy dog with fleas is far superior to sissy-pusses that detest them.

Lastly: Never trust a man who hates dogs — it is a pathological symptom of moral deficiency.

ANN WOODWARD MILLER

New York City.

SIR: I say, Windy, old top, are you male or female — or just neutral? And when we met (jolly, wasn't it?) in your last incarnation were you a dachshund or were you that little flea-bitten Pekingese that yelped at my heels?

We meet so many pups in this doggone world that it's difficult to identify all the breeds, but I can tell by your pitiful whine that you're not the English bulldog that once took the seat out of my pants on Piccadilly. Beastly, isn't it?

It makes a chap (or are you a chip?) "lick-spittish" to associate with mongrels, doesn't it, Gwendolyn, old girl? "Fidgetty," you know — "irritating, debasing, and dirty." I know just how you feel. I felt the same way when I read your epistle on dogs.

Cheerio! Better days coming in 1944 when we let loose our dogs-of-war on the Second Front. 'Twill be bloody good fun to attack Adolph from the rear and watch him run. I hope to see you there — carrying a gun. If mine accidentally goes off in your posterior it will be just sporting, you know — wholly unintentional!

A BLIMEY

*Westchester,
New York.*

RACE RIOTS

SIR: I have read Miss Raushenbush's article, "How to Prevent Race Riots," in the September issue and find that it contains some helpful and constructive suggestions.

Some of the proposals made in the article have already been put into effect in this state and in its several communities where racial difficulties might possibly occur, and we shall certainly give consideration to others which are so intelligently made in the article.

I regret that the author has seen fit to include several references to the South which seem hardly to be justified by facts or circumstances. She says: "The arrival of Negroes from the rural South created many of the tensions which resulted in the race riots of World War I; this time it is the arrival of whites from the farming areas of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and other Southern states." I do not have the benefit of full information but have been privileged to look over a considerable list of white persons involved in the Detroit race riots, particularly as involved in court actions, and a mere casual study of the names of these individuals seems to be sufficient proof that they are not from any portion of the South. They are names which are not to be found generally in the South, and certainly not in the rural areas of the South. I have no doubt that a careful study of this situation would reveal that the provocative incidents insofar as white instigation was concerned, arose from individuals who have never lived in the South.

The author makes the amazing statement that "Perhaps a majority of the city's [De-

troit's] policemen are Southerners, many of whom have a reactionary Southern instead of a Northern point of view about the Negro." Why should the author feel called upon to make such a serious statement, introduced by the word "perhaps"? If it is a fact — which indeed would be a most amazing fact — then it should be stated as a fact. If it is not a fact — and the author could easily have ascertained this information, I assume — the making of such a statement is utterly reckless and calculated to discredit an otherwise helpful article. Furthermore, the author ignores entirely the findings of the supposedly competent and impartial commission appointed by the Mayor of Detroit.

I write in no sense of controversy, because I have enjoyed and appreciated Miss Raushenbush's excellent article. Furthermore, I am not supersensitive to criticism of the South in respect to such matters. We have many serious problems with respect to racial relationships which could be remedied by intelligent study and racial cooperation. We are endeavoring to do this here in North Carolina, where we have not had a race riot in nearly fifty years and only one instance of lynching in over twenty years. We do not claim a perfect record, but we do believe that the record of race relationship in North Carolina is infinitely superior to that of most of the Northern states.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON
Governor of North Carolina

*Raleigh,
North Carolina.*

TRADE, WAR AND PEACE

SIR: Among the contributors who commented on Mr. Churchill's suggestion of a common Anglo-American citizenship, in your December issue, the President of Bowdoin College alone perceived that the removal of trade barriers and the sharing of economic problems was a matter of prime importance, more urgent than citizenship. Emerson hardly exaggerated when he said that trade was the cause, the support and the object of all government, an activity "built upon desires and

necessities which nourish no distinction among men." It is trade, he added, "which is the mover of the nations and the pillar whereon the fortunes of life hang." The endless wars recorded in history have had for their object the possession of natural resources and the enlargement and control of commerce.

It is some such conviction that impels Mr. Hull to persevere in the attempt to break down the toll gates that have separated and embittered mankind, and to substitute voluntary cooperation for armed conflict. The generous emotions aroused by the momentary partnership with Great Britain might make it possible to outlaw such dangerous expedients as destructive tariffs and "Colonial preference," thus preparing a basis for common citizenship. Who would not welcome an agreement that would eliminate the odious work *alien*, make passports obsolete, and transform ports of entry from grim barriers of greed into gates of hospitality?

FRANK W. GARRISON

*Arlington Heights,
Massachusetts.*

LABOR IS GENEROUS

SIR: I wonder how many Americans realize that members of the American Federation of Labor alone have donated \$25,000,000 to Community and War Chests and the Red Cross during the last year, aside from donations by CIO members and other labor men. Those who make harsh judgments of labor should know this fact.

Under agreements between the National Association of Community Chests and Councils and the Red Cross on the one hand and the AFL and CIO relief organizations on the other, representatives of organized labor have been admitted to membership on local boards, campaign, budget and publicity committees. This participation has brought about a remarkable increase in Chest and Red Cross totals; and has helped to break down barriers of misunderstanding and hostility.

There has been perhaps too much attention to strikes which impede the war effort; a too

easy acceptance of the reiterated charge that labor is lacking in patriotism, and perhaps too little readiness to take account of the fact that today every labor dispute has at least three sides — labor, management and government.

Many workers today are living under conditions hazardous to health and efficiency. Industrial casualties have exceeded military casualties from Pearl Harbor to the Tunisian campaign inclusive. Possibly strikes would be fewer if labor got more recognition for its part in the war effort and if there were medals for heroism on the industrial front — for those seamen, perhaps, who literally saved New York City by running a burning munitions ship out into the harbor and sinking it. Recognition, it has been found, increases labor's sense of responsibility in fund-raising.

There is, of course, a way to stop all strikes. They know it in Germany; they also know it in Russia. It is terrorism, which makes no distinction between real and fancied grievances, between reasonable demands of labor and demands without any reason. But if coercion by government is to be substituted for pressure by labor, we shall be accepting totalitarianism as a substitute for democracy. There is a better way; the democratic way of mutual understanding and adjustment between labor and management. And that way, to be successful, requires understanding also on the part of the general public, which is usually — and especially in wartime — a major victim of industrial disputes.

Americans are a fair-minded people. They are also empirical. If in their own communities they experience a wholehearted, intelligent, generous cooperation by organized labor in an important phase of the war effort, they will be less likely to accept blanket condemnation of labor. And the better the mutual understanding between organized labor and other groups, the less likely this war will be to have a labor-baiting aftermath. That is why organized labor's generous part in relief activities deserves wider recognition than it has yet received.

L. G. WELDNEY

Chicago.

You needn't squirm if you're seen with this mystery magazine —

You needn't feel uncomfortable if somebody sees you reading Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. You needn't go on the defensive; you needn't say you've just finished "War and Peace" and want a little relaxation. In short, you needn't feel anything but pleased with our own good taste and judgment.

This is a new kind of mystery magazine — raised to the level of first-rate detective literature. Ellery Queen's own reputation in the world of books and radio goes right on the beat with every issue.

For this new kind of mystery magazine, Ellery Queen selects only the best and the most absorbing work of leading detective-story writers, new and old. In addition, he digs out and gives you many little-known crime and detective stories by the literary great whose reputations were made in other fields. Thus he shares with you his great private collection of the world's short crime fiction, a collection which has spent his whole life in gathering.

To read Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine with the same ease and pleasure you'd have in reading a good novel. The chances are your bank president and Congressman read it too!



Lawrence E. Spivak
Publisher
Ellery Queen
Editor

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine is on sale at leading newsstands . . . Or you may prefer to subscribe and receive it by mail at home.

25c
A COPY

Topflight — topnotch — top-drawer

This new kind of mystery magazine is published bi-monthly. Each issue contains over 125 pages, over 50,000 words. The type is large, clear, easy on your eyes. The paper is book-quality paper. But the basic reasons for its top position in the field of mystery magazines comes, as it always does with any magazine, from its editor and authors:

Detective Story Writers: Dashiell Hammett, Agatha Christie, John Dickson Carr, Dorothy L. Sayers, Georges Simenon, Edgar Wallace, H. C. Bailey — and many others.

Famous Literary Figures: Mark Twain, Somerset Maugham, Christopher Morley, O. Henry, H. G. Wells, James Hilton, G. K. Chesterton — and many others.

ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE
570 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Enter my subscription to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine for one year — Six bi-monthly issues. I enclose \$1.50 in full payment.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....No.....State.....

AM 2-44

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine

PRODUCED 2003 BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The BARCLAY HOTEL

- ✦ The convenience of this
- ✦ socially central hotel
- ✦ affords more time for
- ✦ your New York engagements.
- ✦ Single Rooms, \$6 and \$7
- ✦ Double Rooms, \$8 and \$10
- ✦ Suites with Private
- ✦ Serving Pantry \$12-\$15

The BARCLAY

✦ 111 East 48th St., New York 17, N. Y.
William H. Rorke, General Manager

for YOUR CONVENIENCE

SEND ME

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

I enclose

\$3 for 1 year \$5 for 2 years

Name.....

Address.....

City..... No.....

State.....

AM 2-44

THE AMERICAN MERCURY
570 Lexington Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

CHECK LIST

(Continued from page 132)

G. I. JUNGLE, by E. J. Kahn, Jr. \$2.00. *Simon and Schuster.* Warrant Officer Kahn here relates some of his experiences as an American soldier in Australia and New Guinea. Much of his material first appeared in the *New Yorker*, where it helped to while away a pleasant ten minutes occasionally. But like so many other *New Yorker* prose collections, this one quickly becomes dull and one is appalled at the flat writing and the straining for literary cuteness and mild cynicism. To Warrant Officer Kahn a drink is often a "potable," a girl is a "belle," the equivalent of bath-tub gin is "a homespun distillation suitable only for the most tolerant of throats," and as for the South Pacific war, "my outfit wounded practically no Australians and a great many Japanese, so I guess we did all right."

THE STRUCTURE OF MORALE, by J. T. MacCurdy. \$2.00. *Macmillan.* An eminent British specialist in psychopathology discourses on such topics as active adaptation to dangers, panic thinking, biological significance of herd life, discipline versus resourcefulness, Chinese morale, Japanese morale, Russian morale, British morale, American morale, the religious characteristics of nationalism, and the meaning of democracy. Much of what he says is addressed to other specialists, but a good deal is intelligible to laymen and makes good sense.

ENGLISH INSTITUTE ANNUAL, 1942. \$2.50. *Columbia University Press.* Here are published eight of the papers read at the 1942 meeting of the Institute. They all deal with fairly technical aspects of biography, authenticity and attribution, and expression.

GEORGE M. COHAN, by Ward Morehouse. \$3.00. *Lippincott.* A chatty, none too critical, but highly readable biography of the "Prince of the American Theatre." The book