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NEWSMAN



MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

IN THIS ISSUE

The ideal reporter — Never a dull moment

Man and Nature — Good writing points

**Hostility to British Press,
and other interesting features**

January 1959

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>The ideal reporter —</i>	
<i>C. S. Krishna Ayyar</i> ...	1
<i>U. S. Editor on press freedom</i> ...	2
<i>The journalist who preferred jail</i> ...	3
<i>Good writing points</i> ...	4
<i>Never a dull moment —</i>	
<i>N. S. Muthana</i> ...	5
<i>Blow your blues away</i> ...	7
<i>Set up high standards for the press</i> ...	9
<i>Contempt of Court: Kerala decision</i> ...	9
<i>Off the cuff — N. Vembuswamy</i> ...	10
<i>Press laws in U. S.</i> ...	11
<i>Preparing for the profession</i>	13
<i>Baghdad Pact countries cut press rates</i>	14
<i>Man and nature — “Kaunteya”</i> ...	15

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Volume I

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Man is never happy in being content with the actual; he is ever after realising the ideal, and the thrill and charm of life lie more in this.

What is the ideal that a journalist and a reporter in particular should realise? What I am going to write is not intended to displace the famous definition of a gentleman by Cardinal Newman but to supplement it.

A reporter, to begin with, should be courteous, kind and considerate to all and at all times, and should have a pleasant and smiling face on all occasions and with all people. Just as enlightened selfishness yields in the long run more than quintessential self-centred selfishness, and honesty is the best policy so also by being cheerful and polite a reporter can reap a considerably richer harvest than if he were morose, gloomy and petulant.

To be unruffled by whatever might happen and preserve the element of detachment and objectivity whether what happens is pleasant or painful, expected or surprising, light or arduous, is a quality which a reporter should possess to produce the best result. The necessity and importance of cultivating this will be appreciated when it is remembered that a reporter's work is not one of made-to-order pattern but is ever new and fresh.

No Snobbery or Conceit

Needless to say, a reporter has to be a jovial companion and good mixer with all kinds of people with no sense of snobbery or conceit, vanity or false pride or condescension about him.

This care-free sporting attitude should thoroughly eschew all taint of charlatantry and dilentantism.

Now about more substantial requisites. A reporter should be sensitive to a degree to what happens and instantaneously react with an utter sense of abandonment to events, utterances and personalities. There is nothing which is outside the purview of his interest and attention for he is the eyes and ears of the entire public with their varied tastes and demands. But this

poison microbe and the sense of enjoyment of the youthful maiden at the newly blossomed flower in the garden. He should pay the artist's attention to minute detail with the philosopher's grasp of principles and fundamentals. In other words he should not himself miss or make others miss the wood for the trees while painting the trees in their luxuriance.

The reporter should have the ability to attack, condemn and expose without hurting and wounding anybody's

A newspaper reporter wields so much power for good or evil that the laws of defamation and libel should not alone be the standard for him. Set more store by self-imposed and voluntary code of conduct, says C. S. Krishna Ayyar in this article "intended not to displace Newman's definition of a gentleman but to supplement it".

ability should be coupled with a capacity to discern things deeper so that a reporter combines depth of knowledge with width and guards against mere shallowness and superficiality.

Combine details with fundamentals

I will illustrate these with some analogies. The reporter should have all the interest, enthusiasm and care-free sense of enjoyment of the spectators of a game combined with the one-pointed concentration, tenacity and dexterity of the player, the sense of detachment and objectivity of the scientist studying the death ray or

sensibilities; should be forcible and powerful in description without being guilty of exaggeration, suppression or distortion of any kind; in short should not sacrifice truth for the sake of effect and yet succeed in producing effect.

As I go on pondering over the requisites of an ideal reporter I fear that he should possess in an extraordinary measure all the traits that are necessary in a statesman, politician, lawyer, doctor, businessman and soldier, nay from the ruler to the scavenger. It is no wonder that ours is called the Fourth Estate. It has so

much of responsibility and power for good or evil.

If the Penal Code is to be the sole standard and measure of virtue and morality of the people in any particular society, one cannot expect them to be very high. So too if journalists and particularly reporters have only the laws of defamation, libel, damages and sedition to act as a check on them, journalism will not develop on sturdy and beneficial lines and journals be a source of instruction, amusement and guidance to the citizens of a modern democracy.

Selfless service necessary

Nor can journalists render the service expected of them if the sole motive of their work is monetary reward and recognition of a similar kind. It demands of its votaries a spirit of selfless service of the missionary, a sense of patriotism and concern for the public weal of the statesman, the spirit of inquiry of the scientist and philosopher, the faith, strength and courage of a crusader and martyr for a cause.

If democracy is not to be an infructuous failure as a system of Government which will deliver the goods for the many it can only be because of the existence of a vigilant press run by journalists of the ideal mould I have tried to portray.

They talk of professions being noble, liberal, skilled, unskilled etc. Ours is a profession full of power and responsibility, thrills and adventures, honour and dishonour, reward and punishment as no other single profession is. We share in the experience of the mighty and the low, the tyrant and the tyrannised, the haves and the have-nots, the ruler and the ruled, the learned and the unlearned, the sinner and the saint, and the prince and the peasant, and are charged, with the responsibility of proving that the pen is mightier than the sword.

Team work

As I was hoping to end the article here a colleague whispered whether in this description of an ideal reporter something should not be said about how he should conduct himself as one working with others in his own paper and with others in the profession and not merely those who are the sources of his news.

While I imagine that his conduct and attitude in these respects can be

Freedom of the Press

West should not compromise with the Communist concept

— Says U. S. Editor

There can be only one interpretation of the term "freedom of the Press" and that is that the Press should not be controlled by any monopoly—private, State or party; it should just be free.

This was the view expressed by Dr. Boleslaw Wierzbianski, President, International Federation of Free Journalists in a brief chat with a newsman during his visit to Madras in January.

Polish by origin, Dr. Wierzbianski is Editor of Foreign News Service in New York and is associated with a number of press organisations. He is a member of the U. N. Economic and Social Council representing the International Federation of Free Journalists.

According to him there was a clash between the two concepts of "freedom of the Press"—one represented by the Press in democratic countries in the West and the other represented by those in the totalitarian nations. On no account should the West compromise with the communist countries on the concept of freedom of the Press. Newspaper men had a tremendous task to fulfil in this respect, he added.

Dr. Wierzbianski said that there was no doubt that the Press in India was perfectly free. While appreciating the progress achieved by India since independence he was much disturbed at what he described as the "tremendous Soviet propaganda in India".

inferred and deduced from the requisites laid down above one or two points of clarification can be made. As a newspaper is the result of team work in the full sense of the term, the cooperation and mutual help of the various persons contributing to its production, a reporter should develop a fine sense of team spirit, helpfulness to others and toleration.

Set examples

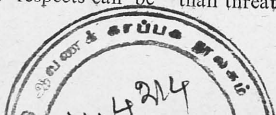
In a sense all are colleagues and co-workers in this calling and there is very little scope for commands and orders from anybody to be implicitly and abjectly obeyed. Obedience is secured not by enforcing rules—they are there as long as laws, statutes and standing orders are indispensable part of social life and work in any sphere—but by developing an inner discipline born of a common purpose and end to be secured by the cooperation of all. One's own conduct should set the pattern for others in their dealings with us. Ours is a creative work where a pat on the back yields better results than threats and bullying and a good

and encouraging word produces more than carping abuse.

While journalists like others cannot dispense with the protection of statutes for securing and enjoying their rights in relation to their job and emoluments, with regard to the mode of our plying our profession we should copy the profession and calling of law or medicine and set more store by self-imposed and voluntary code of conduct.

Never curry favours

Human nature being what it is, and in the present organisation of society a spirit of healthy and friendly rivalry and competition with hope of special recognition and reward is the greatest incentive to put forth the best. But this should be done not by treading on the corns of others or by going out of the way to curry favour. Only thus can a reporter be true to the ideals of the profession and be loyal to one's colleagues and the paper that one serves while ensuring the best performance and recognition of and reward for one's abilities and achievements.



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Refused to reveal news source preferred jail-sentence

(Should a journalist tell? It is a dilemma newsmen all over the world face sooner or later. There can only be one answer. Whatever the penalties, the journalist should safeguard the sources. Recently Miss Marie Torre, a New York Herald Tribune columnist, served a ten-day jail sentence for having refused to identify a source.)

Marie Torre, television columnist for The New York Herald Tribune, began a ten-day jail term January 5 for refusing under Federal court order to disclose a source of information.

After declining for the last time Monday to purge herself, Miss Torre, 34-year-old mother of two small children, was taken from the United States Court House at Foley Square to the Hudson County jail in Jersey City, with which the Federal Government has arrangements for detaining prisoners.

The court formalities took less than fifteen seconds. At 10 A. M. Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan's court was called to order. Miss Torre, wearing a two-piece black dress, sat with the spectators.

Refusal is Affirmed

Judge Ryan, who had ordered Miss Torre previously to disclose her source of information and had sentenced her to ten days when she refused, asked her attorney, Mathais Correa.

"Mr. Correa, has your client changed her mind?"

"No, her position is the same; it is no different," Mr. Correa replied.

"Is the marshal here?" Judge Ryan asked.

United States Marshal Thomas Lunney raised his hand, and Judge Ryan said: "Remanded". As Miss Torre was led from the courtroom by Mr. Lunney, Judge Ryan said:

"If you change your mind, you may communicate with the court."

The contempt arose from a column in which Miss Torre quoted an uniden-

tified Columbia Broadcasting System executive as criticizing Judy Garland.

The executive was quoted as having said the actress had an "inferiority complex," could not "make up her mind about anything" and was "terribly fat."

Miss Garland then filed a \$1,393,333 libel and breach-of-contract suit against C.B.S. Miss Torre and The Herald Tribune were not named in the suit. But in pre-trial examination, Miss Torre was asked to identify the executive.

After Judge Ryan found Miss Torre guilty of contempt of court, The Herald Tribune took the case to the Supreme Court which refused to review the case. Miss Torre contended that under the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the Press she was not required to answer.

Arrives at Court

Accompanied by her husband Hal Friedman, a television producer, Miss Torre arrived at the court house at 9-30 A. M. To reporters, television and newsreel camera men gathered there, she said:

"I have great hope that this will lead to legislation protecting a newspaper man's sources.

She added that her position was purely her own but that she was extremely grateful to The Herald Tribune for backing her.

Shortly before noon, Marshal Lunney drove Miss Torre in his car to the Hudson County Jail. Within ten minutes she had been registered, fingerprinted and had received a blue-and-white-striped uniform. She was then taken to a seventh-floor, pastel-tinted

cell with a southern exposure. The cell is usually reserved for court witnesses, civil and Federal prisoners.

Harry McFarland, warden of the jail, said Miss Torre's term would end at 9 a. m. Jan. 14.

The question put to Miss Torre can be asked again after she has completed her prison term. If she still refuses to answer, she may be cited for contempt again.

In Hollywood, Sid Luft, Miss Garland's husband, said they were sorry to see Miss Torre go to jail, "but there is nothing we can do." He added that Miss Garland had no intention of dropping her suit against C.B.S.

-By courtesy: 'New York Times'.

Bill to protect Reporters' rights

A Bill was introduced early January in the U. S. Congress to prevent newspaper reporters from being punished for refusing to reveal sources of information.

Twelve States in the U. S. already extend this right, but not New York State where Miss Torre served her sentence,

Mr. Francis Dorn, the New York Republican representative who introduced the Bill, said later the legislation would facilitate news gathering and "give further legal recognition to the best journalistic ethics which provide for the protection of confidential news sources."

Avoid slackness about special terminology

(Many organisations suffer due to inexact reporting of their special terminology. With a little more care, these common errors can be avoided, says the article)

The word "Field Marshal" is so often mis-spelt (*marshall*) by writers and printers that one can only wonder that more difficult words, such as "lieutenant" and "colonel" are almost always dealt with correctly. Another common error in using military terminology, however, is the omission of the hyphen from the compound nouns.

In such a word as *lieutenant-commander*, *major-general* and so on, neither word is an adjective, now. The words are compound nouns, and their two parts should be joined by a hyphen.

When one thinks of the millions of people who, in modern times, have served in one or other of the armed forces, it is a little surprising how slack many can be about the correct terminology.

This Slackness

This slackness, or lack of knowledge (or of observation), applies even more widely to the terminology of other bodies and organisations. Errors are least frequent, perhaps, in regard to the legal profession, with which most newspaper writers, at any rate, have frequent contact.

We soon learn about Lord Justice and Mr. Justice, His Honour and His Worship. There are special titles and terms to be learned in connection

with the different churches, the medical profession and the universities.

Chief sufferers from inexact reporting of their special terminology are the numerous civilian and voluntary organisations which do so much good work and fill so large a place in everyday life.

How many journalists take the trouble to familiarise themselves with the ranks and terms used in, say the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Salvation Army or the Fire Service?

The largest of the youth organisations, the Boy Scouts Association, has developed an extensive terminology of its own in the course of a half-century's useful activity, and it suffers much from misreporting, in spite of the large number of journalists who are ex-scouts. An example is the frequent and wrong reference to the Cornwell Badge as "the Scout's VC."

This exceptional award for character and devotion to duty, great courage, endurance or gallantry, is a civilian award which cannot properly be compared with the Victoria Cross given by the Sovereign for military valour.

The fact that it is named after a boy who won the VC in battle (Jutland, 1916) is no reason for comparing it with the VC itself, and the VC should not be bracketed with any non-Service award. The scout Cornwell Badge is also too often mis-spelt "Cornwall."

It has no connection with that country's name.

Highest Award

More closely akin to a "Victoria Cross" for scouts, in fact, is the Association's highest award for actual gallantry, which is a Bronze Cross, with a red ribbon. This is described by the Association itself as "the highest possible award for gallantry granted only for special heroism or extraordinary risk".

The Cornwell Badge, which has no ribbon, is more usually awarded for brave endurance of suffering, high character and cheerful devotion to duty.

Other Scouting terms which are often misreported include the use of "scout officers" instead of *Scouters*, a term devised to cover all adult leaders, including cubmasters and lady cubmasters (*not* cubmistresses) scoutmasters (*not* scout masters) and commissioners (*not* "commissionaires"); and of "troup" for a *troop* of scouts and "good deed" for *good turn*.

It should also be remembered that scouts are organised in *troops*, and girl guides in *companies*; and however much they may be good company for each other, scouts and guides are separate and distinct organisations.

—(Dr. "Syntax" in *W.P.N.*)

DIFFERENT EVERY TIME AND NEVER A DULL MOMENT

— N. S. Muthana

An odd thing happened three years ago when I was in the Capital of a South Indian State on a roving assignment. I had finished all the leg-work and had just about settled down behind my baby Hermes when an express telegram interrupted my work: 'INTERVIEW CHIEF MINISTER ET-FILE COPY URGENTESTLY STOP MUST REACH UNFAILINGLY TOMORROW EVENING EOM', it said.

The editor himself had signed it to give it an extra tone of authority. "That fixes me," I said to myself and proceeded to telephone the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister had returned just that day after a tiresome tour of his constituency. Briefly I introduced myself and said, "Sir, I should consider it a great privilege (a short pause) er". I stammered.

Before I could get the word "inter-view" across, the generous Chief Minister with a deadpan voice said, "Tomorrow, 12 noon. Secretariat."

I had never had it so easy.

The next morning I climbed into my only gaberdine suit and headed for the Secretariat. The way the flunkies salamed me!

And the Chief Secretary himself!

The red carpet felt good under my crepesoles.

First and Last Word

"Good morning, Sir. It's very kind of you to give me an interview at such short notice."

"Hm".

A terrible barrier of silence rose before me. I had tossed the ball to his court, but he wouldn't play.

[Sometimes up against a stone wall, other times easy and a few "snubs" thrown in-between, a journalist's life is full of incidents. The author looks back on the leaders he had met]

"May I smoke, sir?"

"Hm."

"Sir, I have a set of questions written down here." I produced a neatly typed sheet.

"Hm." The Chief Minister glanced through the questions.

"Yes, sir?"

Silence again.

"This Dakshina Pradesh proposal..."

"Hm, Hm!"

"Pardon me, sir?"

"Sorry, I am very busy and I don't want to talk to you now. I never talk to newspapermen. That is, I never give an interview," he said in his regional language which I well understood.

I knew I couldn't cut any ice with the Chief Minister. So putting on the best Dale Carnegie prescribed smile, I ventured a "but."

"Namaskaram," was all that he said in response. I had no choice but to leave him.

I returned to my hotel where another wire from the editor waited for me: 'File interview BGXQISE', it said peremptorily.

Positioning my Baby Hermes, I drew deeply on a cigarette and let myself go with all the digital dexterity I had acquired through a decade of writing copy. I even supplied a headline to ease the sub's burden at the office: 'Interview - cum Chief Minister dash but he wouldnt talk.'

After filing the telegram I began to feel a bit queasy. Something told me that I'd had it. I sought out a long lost friend and tried to forget about it. When I returned to the hotel late that night there was another 'gram for me. It was signed by the editor himself: 'BANGUP JOB STOP UPKEEP SAME TEMPO'.

I slept well that night.

But before my paper reached Madras, I was out of that town.

Since then I have ceased to laugh at the famous first and last word of K. Kamaraj: "Paarklaam."

Meeting Nehru was easier.

The first time I met him was back in April 1949 when he returned from the first Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference at which the formula for fitting the Republic into the framework of the Commonwealth was conjured.

Nehru bounded down the ramp and ran towards the lounge, smack into a covey of waiting newsmen.

Serious-looking officials wondered what he was up to. As they shepherded him into the V. I. P. Room, Nehru fumbled in his pocket. I flashed my cigarette case. Believe me. Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, accepted one of my Gold Flakes. What a pity no photographer shot it! Before my lighter worked, Security boss Handoo's did.

Talking of cigarettes (not that leaders are merely incidental), I am one of those odd types that never smoke

the same brand throughout the day. I chop and change. So does John Sherman Cooper, U. S. Senator, who was formerly Ambassador to India.

One nippy October day in Delhi we exchanged views on the nationalisation of enterprises owned by foreign interests and swapped cigarettes: His Craven 'A's for my Lucky Strikes! That was the first time I saw an American smoke English cigarettes. Sherman Cooper is a Southern Gentleman (Kentucky), from where the Bourbon comes) of the type that draws sedately in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*.

Southern Gentleman: That reminds me of another Southern Gentleman whose acquaintance I dearly cherish.

Cool and Composed

I met him on a sweltering afternoon after padding along miles of melting asphalt. Madras can be really awful, I told myself as I walked into 60 Bazlullah Road.

Rajaji was seated behind a low desk making some notes from a large pile of British Medical Association Journals. Oceans of time and mountains of literature, just about sums up my first reactions on entering his study.

Rajaji looked cool and composed. I was baking inside my suit. He saw my discomfiture. "Take your jacket off and make yourself at home," he said.

I mumbled a "thank you sir."

"Look, there are some ashtrays in my home. Use them if you smoke."

He couldn't have been kinder.

I didn't have to ask him many questions. He got the ball rolling, and short of batting it out for me on my Baby Hermes he almost wrote the interview.

Rajaji has an uncanny knack of opening a discussion and turning what might otherwise have been a desultory question-and-answer interview into an intellectually stimulating session. He is not ponderous and verbose as some leaders tend to be. He is smooth, word-perfect and letter perfect. There is no ambiguity in what he says. With metallic clarity he tells you what he means and sees to it that you understand it the way he does. You just can't misquote him. And he does it all without wasting a single second of his time or yours.

I wonder if Rajaji has ever lost his temper with anybody at all!

Quicksilver Temper

For a quicksilver temper they say Nehru and Krishna Menon are famous. I have seen Nehru's temper directed at people and at times even at the press. But I have also seen him burst out into belly-laughs quite often.

If Krishna Menon has Nehruvian temper I have not seen it, though I must say I have read a good deal about it in the press. But he does appear to sulk and smile at the same time.

When he was contesting his Parliamentary seat from a Bombay city constituency, I came face to face with him on several occasions. There is something breezy, straightforward and clean about him that makes one want to adopt him as one's hero. Only, Krishna Menon isn't easily approachable.

From the little I saw of him during those days, I am convinced that he is the most adroit of Indian statesman.

I know it is terribly old-fashioned to say anything good about Krishna Menon these days. But then, riding the rapids of seasonal political likes and dislikes is not exactly my idea of a pastime.

At a Raj Bhavan party held in honour of Dag Hammarskjöld who was passing through Bombay some years ago, I had an occasion to get close enough to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who was surrounded by admiring old ladies. (Dag is still the world's most eligible bachelor).

From a spate of questions about the U. S. prisoners-of-war in Chinese captivity since Korea, he picked up what appeared to be the least relevant one put by me: What did he think of V. K. Krishna Menon's role in the cause of peace?

His unfinished reply - "He is one of your finest," and added "thank you, I have a drink," gesturing in the general direction of a passing waiter.

I didn't feel as though I had been fobbed off by Dag.

But I remember an occasion when an eminent statesman, Moshe Sherrat (the former Foreign Minister of Israel), almost called me names

Gen. Keightly was pumelling Port Said and the Egyptians were holding out bravely, when Moshe showed up in Bombay with the ostensible purpose of participating in the Asian Socialist

Congress. He called a press conference at which I asked him a number of pointed questions relating to the then existing state of affairs. Moshe Sherrat who had obviously called the conference to justify his country's belligerent policies, lost his temper and chose the most biting words to tell me and my confreres that his country was not responsible for the actions of Britain and France.

He waxed eloquently on the pace of military build-up in the Arab countries, but when asked about his own country's military strength, he angrily burst out, "It's none of your business."

I was scalded, yes scalded somewhat, but I confess I also had the satisfaction of having nettled him more than somewhat!

The only other time I had been snubbed that way was long, long ago when as a cub, I nearly got tossed out of the Taj Mahal suite of the famous Communist barrister, D. N. Pritt, Q.C. At that time, I guess I was a little too indiscreet, for I told Pritt that I thought the Stockholm Peace Congress, a fad of all fellow travellers at that time, was a big hoax. And in so many words too!

During the Asian Socialist Congress another personality I met was the then Prime Minister of Burma, U Ba Swe.

Strong and silent, he gave the impression of being a phlegmatic and slow-witted man. But one of the Burmese officials assured me, "My dear chap, he is as deep as deep can be." I didn't get the hang of it then. The later political developments in the country which forced U Nu to hand over the Government to Gen. Ne Win, bore out the official who came to Bombay with U Ba Swe.

Misleading Descriptions

Official descriptions of people can often be misleading.

Officially, Earl Atlee has always been portrayed as a man no more colourful or humorous than a prosaic bank clerk. And the Earl's autobiography which I had read years ago had convinced me that he was absolutely deadpan. (If you don't believe me just read the chapter in which he says how he proposed marriage to Lady Atlee, I think, after seeing a football match, and later got married. It's definitely not romantic).

I changed my opinion when I met him at the Bombay airport towards the

end of '56. I was pinch-hitting for a colleague who couldn't make it to the airport that day, and I was armed with his tape-recorder.

The Suez cauldron was still bubbling at that time.

"What was the flight like sir?"

"Jolly good,"

"It wasn't sweltering over the Middle East, was it sir?"

"No, not at all. You know how these pressurised aircraft are? Absolutely wonderful!"

I had to turn to Lady Attlee with a pretty innocuous question about her passion for hats.

Yes, indeed she loved hats. It was a lovely flight all the way.

Was there anything special Lady Attlee would like to do during her stay in India?

"Not really, except see India, meet friends and, of course, I do whatever my husband tells me to do."

Lord Attlee turned towards me and spoke into the tape recorder, "I suppose, I too will have to do what I am told to," and gave out a big laugh.

That was my first and only interview for the All India Radio. I was a little cut up when it didn't come on the air. But then, being a persistent bloke, I inflicted it on my readers in cold print."

Are they same?

Running into leaders is not the same thing as calling on them. At home some of the celebrities can be frightfully boring. Not so, S. K. Patil. At his well-appointed residence at Shanti Kutir, Marine Drive, there is a very interesting doorbell. Press the button and it ding-dongs with a musical note. I have often wondered where he got that doorbell from.

Patil is an excellent host. Before he knows who the caller is, a welcome cup of tea is served. You can't say "no thank you." "Which journalist ever refused a cup of tea, my friend? That's a newspaperman's staple diet."

How well he remembers his old days as a working journalist on the *Bombay Chronicle*!

Patil gives the impression of being a leathertough man who drives other people to achieve his ends. But he does not spare himself either. He slogs shall we say, like a stevedore? The only other man who was the kind of energy Patil has is Nehru—with this difference though: Patil never looks tired. Age is on his side because he is one of those who refuse to grow old. He is no visionary, and he knows it. "I like the feel of *terra firma* under my feet," he once told me.

Visionaries, with the solitary exception of Nehru, have left me cold. Stephen Spender and Salvatore de Madariaga who once fired my imagination turned out to be a pair of damp squibs when I met them some eight years ago in Bombay which was the venue for the Congress of (or was it for?) Cultural Freedom. Recently when I met Arthur Koestler I felt the same way. Somehow, that reminds me of my geography master at high school who never cared to impart more knowledge of the subject than give the class a long list of names of spent-up volcanoes.

By courtesy "Deccan Herald"

BLOW YOUR BLUES AWAY

Curious ideas about anatomy prevail in the Press. It was stated the other day that a Colonel was recently "shot in the ticket office". Another paper says a man was "shot in the suburbs." "He kissed her passionately upon her reappearance," "She whipped him upon his return." "He kissed her back." "Mr. Jones walked in upon her invitation." "She seated herself upon his entering". "We thought she sat down upon her being asked", "She fainted upon his deparature".

The reporter returned from an interview. "Well", said the Editor, "what did Mr. Astorbult say?"

"Nothing".

"Well, then, keep it down to a column".

The reporter yelled into the phone to the editor. "This storm is something awful. The wind velocity is almost 100 miles an hour. The rain blinds you. The floods are high. Boss, I tell you it's no night for man or beast."

"Great" shouted the editor. "I'll send two photographers to cover it."

The reporter had gone to cover the hanging for his newspaper and now he was more than four hours late in returning home. His wife was more

than a little suspicious. "What took you so long?" she demanded when he finally came home.

"Well honey, it's like this," the reporter explained. "The hanging was four hours behind schedule. The sheriff and the condemned man got to talking about their bicycles".

"I held up a reporter - chap last night" one thug confessed to his pal.

"That's a Joke", laughed the other.

"Joke, nothing, His dinner alone cost me Re. 1."

A Great Sound of Machines...

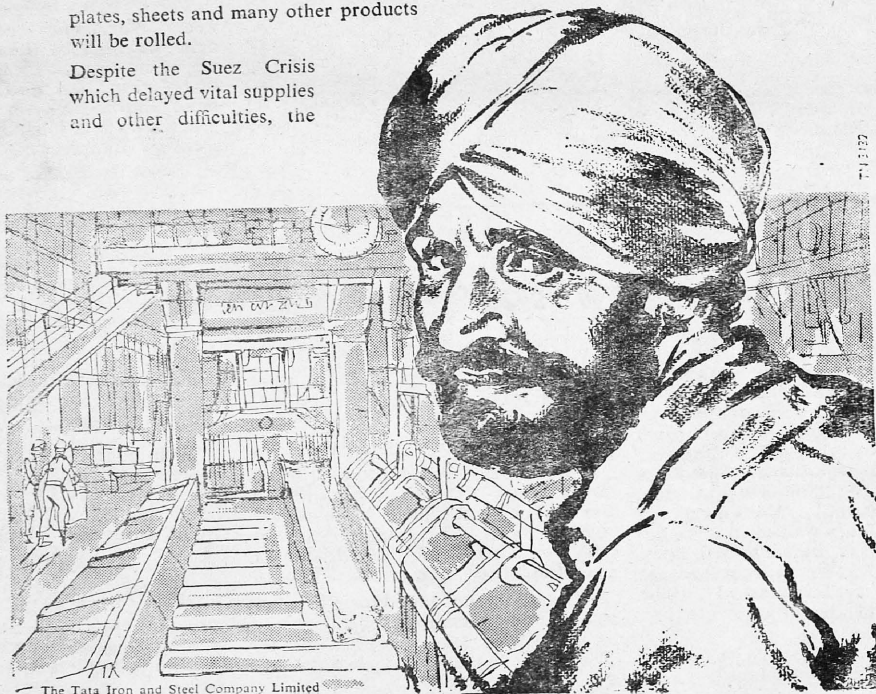
When Balbir Singh came to Jamshedpur from Bahrein in 1957, the site for the new Rs. 100-million blooming mill—a key unit of Tata Steel's Two Million Ton expansion Programme—had just been cleared after levelling a large hillock.

Today this new 46" Blooming Mill, the largest of its kind in India, with a rolling capacity of two million tons, is all set to produce the blooms and slabs from which rails, structurals, plates, sheets and many other products will be rolled.

Despite the Suez Crisis which delayed vital supplies and other difficulties, the

rapid completion of the Blooming Mill was made possible by the devoted service of men like Balbir Singh. He and hundreds of other Indians, assisted by American and German technicians, worked round-the-clock on this major expansion project to produce more steel to strengthen India's economy.

TATA STEEL
ON TO TWO MILLION TONS



The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

Set up high standards to stem hostility to Press

The *Fleet Street Annual* for 1959 has noted a hostile public opinion towards British Press in 1958 and says the Press has to seriously reckon with it.

"It must be steadily combated where it is based on misrepresentation, wild generalisation, misunderstanding or plain malevolence; fundamentally the surest defence, of course, is to set the highest possible standards for journalism" says the year book for journalism in an editorial note.

Pointing out that "never has the British Press been under heavier attack than in the past year" the editorial says:

Any journalist who discusses newspapers with the people he meets knows that it has become common form to say: "The papers never seem to get their facts right." From this it is only one step further to accepting any criticism of the Press as *ipso facto* true without making any attempt to verify the correctness or otherwise of the accusations. We have had unpleasant evidence during the past twelve months that this attitude is now widespread.

Criticism too Sweeping

Let us face it. The Press is vulnerable to criticism from several angles and has not yet convinced responsible people that it is resolute about setting its house in order. But much of the criticism levelled at newspapers is unjustified or too sweeping—and much of it is motivated by malice, especially on the part of those who find the democratic process of free and frank expression inconvenient or distasteful.

The growing hostility to the Press has been widely commented on during the year. The *Manchester Guardian*, which has always been severely critical of any lowering of journalistic standards, felt compelled nevertheless to draw attention to the indiscriminate nature of recent attacks on British journalism.

The London correspondent made this comment:

"It needs to be remembered that much of the clamour about the shortcomings of our newspapers is wild and wide off the mark. Some of it has been pure McCarthyism, the smear technique at its worst, designed to delude people who are angry (without knowing what they are angry about) into giving a blessing to any steps which would make the newspapers less of a danger to bumbledom and bureaucracy." (*February 19.*)

A month later the London correspondent of the *Guardian* devoted an article to the subject under the headings. "Press in the Pillory. A New Note in Criticism." "There has been an increase in the normal criticism of newspapers and a rather nasty note

has crept in," he pointed out and gave examples from a Commons debate, a judicial comment in the High Court, correspondence about charges of intrusion, etc.

"Around every corner of every Government department, magistrates' court, town hall, airport, railway station and so on is some small bigwig bumbling on about Press intrusion, inaccuracy, vulgarity, irresponsibility and so on. Now the Press sometimes intrudes, is sometimes inaccurate, vulgar, irresponsible; but it must defend itself and ought to be defended by its readers against those who would like to see its influence reduced so that their own power could be rendered less petty. . . . The papers with power are not those with the biggest circulations; but both sorts stand to suffer if the Press as a whole does not defend itself when attacked for the wrong reasons." (March 22).

Combat Hostility

This hostile public opinion is something with which the Press must seriously reckon. It must be steadily combated where it is based on misrepresentation, wild generalisation, misunderstanding or plain malevolence; but fundamentally the surest defence, of course, is to set the highest possible standards for journalism.

Contempt of Court

When can a newspaper article be deemed to have amounted to contempt of court?

According to Their Lordships, Chief Justice Koshi and Justice Vaidyalingam of the Kerala High Court, (i) the intention of a party had no bearing on the question whether the article amounted to contempt of court and it was enough if the matter published and complained of tended substantially to interfere with the due course of justice; (ii) it was not necessary that a matter should be actually pending before the court and it was enough if the cause was imminent.

These observations of great importance to reporters who write crime stories were made by Their Lordships while disposing of a contempt of court case against Mr. Mathai Manjuran Editor and Mr. K. Sudhakaran, Printer and Publisher of KERALA PRAKASAM, a Malayalam daily.

The case is a sequel to a report published in the daily in July about 1958

the occurrences at Varandirapilli in which five people lost their lives, and several others sustained injuries.

In the opinion of Their Lordships, the article in question tended as such substantially to interfere with the due course of justice or was one calculated substantially to create a prejudice in the public mind. The respondents, Their Lordships held, were guilty of contempt of court in publishing the article.

It was submitted by the respondents during the trial that the report in question was one given to the Press by the police officers for publication. Their Lordships took this into account in awarding the punishment. He sentenced the Editor, Mr. Manjuran to pay a fine of Rs 50 in default to undergo simple imprisonment for one month and the second respondent (Mr. Sudhakaran) to pay a fine of Rs 50 in default to suffer simple imprisonment for 15 days.

Off The Cuff

N. Vembuswamy

"You must know shorthand; otherwise you cannot be a Reporter." This naive assumption is made even by those who ought to know better. They show their unconcealed surprise if any hint is thrown to the contrary.

It is perhaps because I have never paraded my knowledge of shorthand and seldom pulled out my notebook unless it was absolutely necessary. It is only when I admit my familiarity with the winged art that they seem to acknowledge my competence to report.

There is no need to blame such people but there is one to answer them since the wrong notion somehow persists. And the best I can offer is from the book of experience. In the first place the confusion is due to the fact that most of them mistake the reporter for a stenographer whose duties and requirements are different. Secondly it is not generally realised that the reporter is required to be a man of learning who should adorn any subject. He has to be versatile in every sense of the term.

Reporting without having recourse to note-taking of any sort, be it in shorthand or longhand, has been my forte from the earliest days. At a time when Congress Ministers were a novelty and the Madras Press boosted them, my contribution to it was not inconsiderable by way of copious reports of their orations and interviews at inconvenient hours and places, mostly without note-taking. It is the grasp of the subject more than memory that is important for this purpose. In fact, correct understanding facilitates good memory.

If precedent and proof were needed to substantiate my thesis, one will get it from the record of the bitter fight waged for the liberty of the Press in England. A little over two centuries

back, it was voted as a breach of privilege to report the speeches in the House of Commons. This happened because the Commons was incensed by the accounts appearing in the Press, though it was not admitted to its precincts. "Strangers" listened to the debates as visitors from the gallery and reported from memory. One such "stranger-reporter" was the famous Dr. Johnson.

Dr. Johnson shaped the reports with such diction and skill that they became the rage of the time. Though some of these "outsiders" were caught and humbled to go on their knees at Bar of the Commons, Parliament eventually lost the fight and had to admit the Press. Such is the origin of reporting in the Mother of Parliaments itself. And even today there can be no better reporting of the proceedings of our Legislatures than listening and sketch-writing.

Newspapers have no need to emulate the "Hansard" in preference to the eloquent example of Dr. Johnson. At any rate there is no case for sacrificing so much of space to speeches whether in or outside the Legislatures.

History of journalism in England also reveals the stark fact that with the first flush of enthusiasm generated by Pitman's invention of shorthand, verbatim reporting became a fancy rather than a necessity. Soon this gave way to selective reporting leaving voluminous productions to news agencies. That vogue has become pronounced after the Second World War.

Reverting to this business of listening, a breezy talk in Telugu unsuspectingly carried on within my earshot taking my ignorance of the language for granted, gave the material for one of the best news hits. That talk provided the clue to the ambivalent atti-

tude of the authorities here towards the Divakar Committee recommendation for dropping the mention of caste suffixes to names in official records as a means of ending casteism.

Some may hasten to dismiss this by saying that it is all very well to produce short snappy reports but if one relied on this method for longer reports he will let himself down. The point is that this was itself a long report and I have produced umpteen two-column and three-column reports from memory without a single flaw. They are not surely *ipsissima verbe* productions all through but they are generally more flattering to the party concerned and faithful to the spirit of a subject than a copiously recorded report. One cannot obviously produce a text from memory. Nor is it an art.

Legislature and court proceedings are understandably treated with the utmost caution and reserve, but I have found the listening technique more profitable for a lively grasp of the intricacies of a debate or the nuances of Law. A little anecdotal diversion may illustrate my point.

It is said of a Member of the British House of Commons that in the course of an eloquent and passionate speech he remarked: "Don't distract the *helmsman* when he is shooting the *rapids*." He was reported by some as saying: "Don't distract the *huntzman* when he is shooting the *rabbits*." An obvious lack of understanding of the graphic phrase coupled perhaps with mishearing in the preoccupation of recording everything.

The other is a quip about the irate lawyer who told the adamant Judge: "The Law is an Ass; it bites if you go ahead and kicks if you lag behind."

(Contd. on page 12)

Guarantee freedom but prevent abuse



The issue of how much freedom should be granted the press is still a vital one even in many democratic countries, although more than three centuries have elapsed since the first newspapers were published.

Although theoretically almost all democratic countries swear by a free press, in practice there are several disabilities in the collection and dissemination of news. Among the few nations where the utmost freedom is enjoyed by the press are India and the United States. Just as government officials and other public figures in India are subject to frequent and often vitriolic press attacks against themselves and their policies, so are their counterparts in the United States.

Even in periods of emergency, no clamps are placed in America on any writing, as long as it is not obscene, libelous or slanderous, and does not advocate the violent overthrow of the government.

Rich Tradition

The tradition of free press in the United States goes back to the founding of the Republic, and even earlier. Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence and later President from 1801 to 1809, wrote in 1787 :

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a Government without newspapers or newspapers without a Government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter."

And after a good deal of experience with a hostile press, he provided a philosophical basis for his preference: "where the press is free, and every man is able to read, all is safe" Experience in the United States has largely borne out Jefferson's expression of faith.

Under the wise leadership of the Founding Fathers, among them Jefferson, freedom of the press was made

a constitutional right in the first amendment to the Federal Constitution, which provides that "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..."

A survey of press laws in the United States shows that nearly all states have written into their own constitutions, guarantees of press freedom similar to the one set forth in the Federal Constitution, and while setting forth such a liberty, also have taken steps to prevent abuse of it — abuse, that is, at the expense of others.

Several states, including New York, have made it a misdemeanor for any person wilfully to disseminate false information to a newspaper. The press, by generally applied law, does not have the right to print false defamatory stories. The advocacy of the overthrow of the government by violence is made a crime under federal statute.

Protection For Individuals

To protect individuals in their reputation, the laws generally provide four recourses, the first being a civil suit for damages for libel. The second remedy is that of a criminal prosecution for libel. The third, an action for damages for a trade libel (that is, one involving statements detrimental to a business concern). The fourth is a suit for invasion of the right of privacy.

Conviction for criminal libel is punishable by fines or imprisonment, and compensation in money may be ordered in event of conviction on other counts. Generally, also, in libel actions the words in question must (1) be defamatory. (2) they must be published and (3) the persons libelled must be identified.

Words that bring a person into disrepute are defamatory. The general yardstick is that if the published words lessen the reputation of an individual in the minds of the reader of the publication, they are defamatory, and the

individual whose reputation is affected may sue for damages.

In cases of civil libel, the establishment by the defendant of the truth of the statements in question constitutes a complete defence in 30 states, and in most of these same states the truth when published with good motives and for justifiable ends constitutes complete defence also in criminal libel.

Fifteen states have passed laws providing that the truth, when published "with good motives", is a complete defence in both criminal and civil libel prosecutions.

In general, these American laws are predicated — as one legal authority put it — "on the right of the individual to an unswollen reputation, the right of the government to maintain itself in times of stress, and the right of the state to protect its citizens from immoral and obnoxious influences". He adds :

"On the other hand, there is the right of the citizen to be informed of the activities of the state, instructed concerning the machinations of public officers, and warned of pernicious influences."

Today, in regard to blasphemy, the laws of the state provide as a general rule that to be convicted on the basis of any published words those words must be scurrilous and malevolent "so as to cause a breach of the peace." Both state and Federal statutes prohibit the dissemination of obscene matter.

Access To Public Documents

The general rule in the United states is that any member of the public can demand access to public documents and these can be published, except in certain instances such as that of diplomatic correspondence. The right to criticise the public acts of officials of government is generally upheld, as was exemplified in a court case in 1952 in the state of Louisiana.

In a decision supporting freedom of the press, a New Orleans judge on

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April 18, 1952, threw out charges against five newspapermen who had been accused of defaming 16 public officials during a campaign against gambling. The case involved criticism of a county governing body, the district attorney, assistant district attorney and a county judge.

In deciding in favour of the newspapermen, the trial judge declared that "any citizen or newspaper has the right to criticise the public acts of officials." He commented that even courts and their actions were not immune from newspaper criticism and fair comment. In regard to the right of criticism the learned judge asserted:

"Without that right, we would have a dictatorial form of Government and the discussion of important public issues would be only such as might be permitted by those holding authority."

Press freedom

An example of American press freedom to question and discuss all types of public affairs is found in the press conferences of the President and other Cabinet members, at which from 100 to more than 300 newspaper and radio

correspondents pose questions on national and international matters. There are no restrictions on the subjects newsmen may bring up. In the last two decades, the White House press conference has come close to resembling the interrogation of Cabinet ministers in parliamentary systems of government.

Apart from constitutional guarantees, the chief feature of freedom in the American press today is its size and variety. Some 16,000 newspapers and periodicals published regularly in the United States (including nearly 1,800 daily newspapers) represent an almost infinite variety of interests and reflect the widest range of political opinion—from conservative to liberal and leftist. This of course includes the DAILY WORKER, organ of the American Communist Party, which enjoys equal privileges with the WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Healthy Rivalry

Another feature of press freedom in the United States is the healthy rivalry among the newspapers, periodicals, radio, television and the various press services to present almost all facets of

a particular issue to their readers. As Arthur Hays Sulzberger told a New York City audience:

"Whichever way the cat will jump, we should record it.....we believe that you will look after the cat if we inform you promptly, coolly and accurately about its movements."

Parallel to its growth along the lines of technology and mass circulation, the American press, as a whole, has matured in terms of its awareness of social responsibility, its realisation that along with power and influence must come an even greater understanding of its vital role in a democracy.

In 1923 the American Society of newspaper Editors founded a year earlier, adopted a code of ethics known as the Canons of Journalism, setting forth the principles of responsibility, freedom of the press, independence, sincerity, truthfulness, accuracy, impartiality, fairplay and decency. This code of newspaper ethics has been widely endorsed by editors and publishers throughout the United States, and adopted in their daily service to some 50 million newspaper readers.

By courtesy USIS

Off the Cuff (contd.)

Judge: "What about the lawyers?"

Lawyer: "They are not Judges of the Ass."

The lawyer was reported to have said: "They are not Judges on the Ass."

This only shows what a hell of a difference it makes between what one hears as he calmly listens and what one thinks he heard in the hectic preoccupation of note-taking. Of course, the man of grasp who records to perfection is our ideal; but is there need for copious recording every time?

In the mid-thirties when Gandhiji's Wardha Scheme of Education was first given a concrete shape, I stumbled upon a foreign educationist settled in this country during a train journey. The 90-minute talk I had with him during the run appeared as a one and half column special interview on the subject at the time. I consider the comments embodied in that report as representing the most incisive analysis of the merits and demerits of the scheme, holding good to this day.

Casual chats have rewarded me that way times without number.

When V. K. Krishna Menon made an *ex tempore* address at last year's Madras University Convocation, a summary of his talk under circumstances which I need not elaborate here, earned for me a bouquet from a fellow craftsman, which I value better than plaudits from outsiders for obvious reasons.

Volume was never the hall mark of good reporting and in the modern hectic world it is much less so. A short and crisp story has always the merit and the advantage of actually being read. This is by no means an apology for lop-sided twists and mutilated matter perverting the public mind. What is the virtue of presenting something which will irk the busy reader and go unread?

Habits die hard and we are still interested in things said rather than things done. Madras seems to take a pride in verbatim reproductions as if to plough the lonely furrow is a merit in itself. The newspaper executives are

not sure about what they want with the result that it is yet a matter of competitive gamble. On top of this any pat from an outsider hungering for top newspaper space with the calculated remark that the Madras Press maintains the distinction of being different from others, acts like wine and goes to the head.

I think this will not last long because sheer compulsion of events will soon force a decision and happily the process is on already. Brevity is the soul of wit and Madras can keep her soul and the sole distinction even in brevity.

What is my verdict then? It is not that we have no use for shorthand. It is a serviceable handmaid for capturing some of the "quotable quotes" and the rapid recording of any felicitous exposition of value to the public. I always employ it as a time-saving tool. Have recourse to note-taking by all means if you must with or without shorthand; otherwise trust your ears and keep your wits about you so that you may not get lost in the labyrinth of verbiage or the hieroglyphics of strokes and curves.

Preparing for the profession

International Press Seminars Can Enhance Qualifications

Many times in discussions the journalist profession is compared to that of the doctor or the qualified engineer. This also often occurs when the questions of the needs and methods of training journalists are being considered. And yet in this very field the traditions of our profession are fairly meagre, both in quantity and quality. The doctor or the qualified engineer must complete his university studies, he must continually try to perfect his qualifications by reading the specialist press and literature in his field and he must participate in the work of his own and international scientific associations; Must he? Yes, he must, if he is to keep pace with contemporary thought, if he decides to improve and enrich his work, if he wants to serve society in a useful way.

Should not the journalist also have that kind of social ambition, or perhaps one should say obligation?

The idea of preparing for the journalist profession by means of suitably adjusted university study is gaining ground in an ever-growing number of countries. This is not the moment to examine how these principles are being realised in practice. My personal feeling is that in spite of all shortcomings and faults this idea must stand the test wherever the requisite conclusions are drawn from experience, where such study is closely linked with the needs of journalist practice and where theoretical research is being developed. It seems that in the socialist countries there exist all the necessary pre-requisites for the fulfilment of these conditions.

'Varsity training

The university training for the profession can, of course, only provide the basis on which journalists will build up their knowledge through self-education. Under the present conditions in majority of countries this can be done by reading scientific and expert magazines dealing with journalism and by attending home and international seminars and scientific conferences. There are more and more of such meetings every year and there is increasing support for the idea of organizing conferences devoted to the problems of journalist work. One expression of this, incidentally, is the International press conference to be organized in the spring of 1959 by the International Organisation of Journalists and its member union, the union of Polish Journalists.

Can such international press conferences and seminars contribute fundamentally to the raising of journalists' technical qualifications? Can they contribute to the development of the idea of studying for journalism on an international scale and in the individual countries?

In my opinion the answer to those questions is yes. I base my conclusion on my own personal observations of the International Centre for Higher Education in Journalism of Strasbourg University,

At Schiller Street

Several dozen people from more than twenty different countries met together throughout almost the whole month of November in the halls of the Institute in Schiller Street, Strasbourg,

and listened to lectures, took part in the discussions and seminars. Of course the discussions were not only limited to the place and time officially allotted to them. There were discussions despite various prejudices and lack of confidence. Once more we confirmed the old truth that a lot can be explained, a great deal can be learned and there is often much food for thought, in sincere if not always the friendliest of conversations.

The programme of the discussions in Strasbourg Institute was very heterogeneous. Here I would point out that many of the participants felt that perhaps it was too heterogeneous. The problems of press rights, systems of journalist training, methodology in the study of the history of the press, the organisation and work of press agencies, advertisements, the principles and an analysis of radio and television broadcasting, press photography, the theory of press work—those are only some of the problems touched on the conference. It is a field far too broad to be discussed in all its aspects, for it to be possible to confront the various points of view during the course of a few lectures.

Shortcoming

Though the wealth of problems touched on was to a certain extent a shortcoming of the meeting, it is true to say, at least in essence, that the geographical choice of lecturers and participants constituted a successful part of the meeting. It is surely a good thing if problems of the press are commented on by people living in countries as distant from one another as the United States and Pakistan, Ecuador and the Soviet Union. It is a good thing when representatives of various political regimes of various concepts of the press and its social function meet together in the small hall of the Strasbourg Institute. It is a good thing, both for those who feel themselves personally involved in a specific concept and for those who represent the so-called new countries, who in their own homes are trying to create a new national press, to establish its foundations and the direction of its activities.

But that this demand should be fulfilled we must see to it that the Strasbourg seminars are attended by more representatives of the socialist countries. Last November only the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia were represented there. It is too small a

proportion, not only in relation to the position of the peace camp in the world to-day, but also in relation to what the journalists of the socialist countries have to relate concerning their technical experience and claims, and indeed of the results of their theoretical studies.

Prejudices

Among many people connected with the press there are still far too often prejudices concerning the possibilities and need for research on the press, likewise concerning its value as regards the practice of journalism. Although the lectures at the Strasbourg conference were not all of the same high level, in general the participants were never the less able to convince themselves of the utility and advantages to be gained from such investigation. Numerous lectures contained material based on very interesting and well thought-out treatises, as, for instance, in the case of F. Fatorello, J. Bourquin, M. Kafel and M. Blin.

Much of the material of the meeting which are later supplied in mimeographed form to the participants, will certainly provide much matter for thought and discussion. That in itself will be an additional gain and will at least partly make up for the fact that the time of the meeting there was insufficient time for it.

Although in general, judging the results of the Strasbourg November conference (by now the second of its kind) favourably, both from the point of view of the development of the idea of the theoretical study of the press and for the fact that it brought together press workers from countries with very varied social-political regimes, we feel we should nevertheless voice certain demands.

Suggestions

It seems that it would be more useful and satisfactory in the future to organize limited gatherings, gatherings with a more monogamous or at least related theme (for instance, press rights or the problems of radio or television journalism, etc.) It would not only mean that the lectures would be more useful, but that undoubtedly the discussion would be on a higher level for the participants in the meeting would be mainly people primarily interested in that particular field of press problems. With some such profound attitude to the subject, both

in the lectures and in the discussions, it would then be worth while publishing the material from the meeting in book or script form and thus extending its range of usefulness.

The second basic demand concerns the tasks of the Strasbourg Institute in the periods between the conferences. It seems to me that here, also, the Strasbourg Institute could play a considerable role in helping to establish relations between people living in various countries but working on the same problems. The library at the institute can fulfil its role by providing those interested with information on publications sought by them, and even by enabling them to obtain or borrow such publications.

Three Baghdad Pact Countries to cut intra-regional Press rates

The three Muslim nations of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey—member countries of Bhagdad Pact—have agreed to reduce from February 24 the intraregional press telegraphic rates, to bring them in line with the commonwealth penny-a-word rate.

This was announced in Karachi by the Secretary General of the Baghdad Pact, Mr. M. A. O. Baig who said an understanding between the three nations was reached at the recent session of the Economic Committee of the Pact.

At present direct telegraphic links exist only between Pakistan and Iran and Iran and Turkey. Hence the reduction will be effective only for press telegrams between Pakistan and Iran and between Iran and Turkey. In the former case the rates will be reduced by 43 percent of the existing rates while for press telegrams between Iran and Turkey it will be reduced by 74 percent. The new rate will be one anna per word for Pakistan-Iran telegrams and one rial per word for Iran-Turkey telegrams.

The Dawn has hailed this as important and far-reaching concession, designed to aid free flow of news and information between regional members of the Bhagdad Pact and said it was a major contribution to the understanding and co-operation between peoples of the region.

If the Institute could fulfil these demands and others expressed by the participants at the conference, it will then carry out its proper role better—I should say even better, for the Institute is already achieving considerable successes. And perhaps not the least of these is the atmosphere that predominates in the Institute in Schiller Street itself, an atmosphere of cultural discussion, factual polemic, pertinent evaluation of each and every point of view. It seems that this is really due, in large measure, to the personality of the Director of the Institute and his nearest collaborators. This in fact bodes well for the future.

— [Michal Szulczewski in
Democratic Journalist]

This was also welcomed by the Vice President of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors who said it would greatly facilitate transmission of news between the three Muslim states which was a vital need. He hoped that other countries who professed support to freer flow of information between nations would follow suit.

Mr. Sarfrez Hussain, President of the Khairpur Journalist Association and string correspondent of the DAWN of Karachi was arrested in Khairpur by an order of the Deputy Commissioner.

The arrest is a sequel to a news item published in the DAWN of January 13 from this correspondent which inter alia stated that conditions in Khairpur had started deteriorating after the closure of the martial law office in the district.

The Khairpur Journalists Association has protested against the arrest and requested the authorities to look into the matter and order his release.

According to a report from the Associated Press of Pakistan, published in the DAWN, the commissioner of Khairpur said that this correspondent had been sending wrong and misleading stories to various newspapers.

Conflict in Western tragedies resolved in East's outlook

— "Kaunteya"

[The conflict between man and nature in Western dramas and novels leading to man's tragic discomfiture is resolved in the Eastern outlook as in the Gita by concentration on the supreme in which both man and nature rest. "Mr. Hyde need not triumph over Dr. Jekyll in man", says the author]

Among the works which have influenced me, special mention must be made of 'Hamlet' by Shakespeare, 'Return of the Native' and 'Tess of D'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy, the Poems of Mathew Arnold, 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' by R. L. Stevenson and the Gita. The crisis produced by the other works and those similar to them was resolved by the Gita.

What exactly was the nature of the influence is difficult to convey, for the impression that a great work produces on another is conditioned by one's state of receptivity which is also difficult to convey. But certain general remarks about those works is perhaps permissible. All these works—except the Gita—deal with the tragic element in human life, the struggle of man within himself and his struggle with the outer environment ending in his final discomfiture.

Man's struggle and discomfiture.

The discomfiture is complete in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde for Hyde representing the vicious propensities in man completely triumphs over Jekyll, representing the virtuous inclinations. The main element in this conflict underlined especially in Hardy's works is the antagonism posed between man and his external surrounding including nature and society. Man is worsted in this struggle. While the tragedies woven round this fundamental assumption cleanse and uplift, they do not instil a robust sense of optimism and faith in the virtue triumphing over vice and good over evil ultimately. Of course with regard to Shakespeare the tragedies by exposing the frailties in character which bring about the tragic

situation and disable the hero in a moment of crisis or make him act wrongly with fatal consequences to himself and others, emphasise the need to get over them and there is hope of victory for man when he succeeds in that. But not so in Hardy where man is depicted as a helpless plaything in the hands of a blind, malign and hostile Destiny operating as the instrument of callous nature.

The message of the Gita which also deals with a moment of supreme crisis of emotions and values is in refreshing contrast to this. There also is conflict between good and evil raging in the human heart depicted with an arresting and gripping intensity, the capacity of evil to grow in geometrical proportions whereas good develops in arithmetical proportion, and the constraint of nature before which man is helpless to alter his own character and conduct and consequently his actions and fortunes. But the final thought and feeling which the Gita leaves is that God who is the Ultimate Good, Truth and Beauty abides everywhere creates everything, sustains everything and destroys and recreates everything.

Ray of hope.

This inherent divinity of all things in the world which is most pronounced and becomes self-conscious in man is a ray of hope and cheerfulness to all whatever may be the travail and suffering and difficulties that are encountered in life. Nature which is pitted against man in the tragedies by western writers and which is sought to be controlled and brought under complete subjection by the scientists is brought to her legitimate place as one of the aspects

of God even as man is one. There is no irreconcilable antagonism between man and nature as both rest on God.

Evil, self-destroying

The Gita too as in the case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde 'depicts the divine and *asuric* qualities in man, the nature of the latter to become dominant to completely eclipse the former. But evil is shown to be self-destroying and good self-multiplying. This lays the foundation for hope that Hyde will not and need not triumph over Jekyll and his victories are short-lived and doomed to end in defeat.

Women Journalists in U. K.

At the end of 1957, about 1,170 of the 14,443 members of the National Union of Journalists were women. Many of these were fashion correspondents on daily newspapers, or were editing or writing for the 'women's' magazines; i. e. weekly or monthly journals, the contents of which are devoted to subjects of over-riding interest to women—the care of children, current fashions in clothes and interior decorations, beauty culture, cooking, dressmaking and household matters in general. Outside this purely feminine field, few women hold editorial posts, although there are two editors, one picture editor and one literary editor of national magazines; and the editor of the *Church Times* is a woman. Some newspapers and journals employ women as film critics and book reviewers (a few of whom are well known) and as full-time or part-time correspondents on public affairs, and all include a number of women among their staffs.

A letter from the Publishers

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You have just finished reading the sixth issue of "Newsman". We hope you have enjoyed it. This magazine, may we inform you, is to serve as a common forum for the Press, the reader and all those who use the medium of the Press to sell their wares.

Newsman also turns the spotlight on journalists in this City and elsewhere, and this reaches leaders of public opinion in different spheres, Union and State Ministers, Legislators, Foreign Embassies, V. I. Ps and others all over the country.

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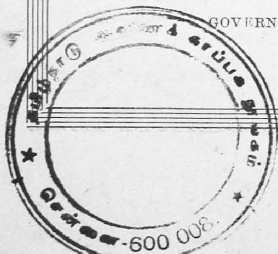
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