

# HOWLERS

RUSSELL · ASH

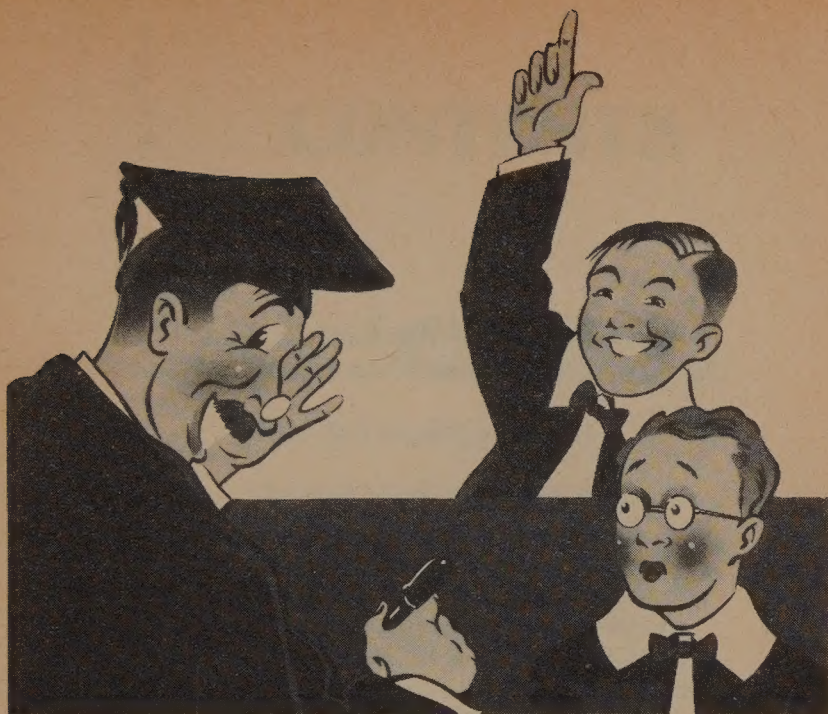




# HOWLERS







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RUSSELL · ASH

Based on the Howler books by  
Cecil Hunt



*Ravette Limited*



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# CECIL HUNT AND HIS HOWLER BOOKS

When Cecil Hunt died in 1954, I was only eight, but I was already familiar with his *Howler* books. My father had three of them – one inscribed and presented to him on his thirteenth birthday in 1929, and long since missing its cover – and he had passed them on to me with other mementos of his childhood. I read them and re-read them. I must have understood relatively little of their humour at first, since howlers are funny only if you know what their perpetrators were striving to say. The mistranslations of Latin were a closed book to me (and to some extent still are), but even without understanding them they are hilarious in their sheer ingenuity.

I treasured these three books and later acquired others by Cecil Hunt. More recently I had the pleasure of meeting his widow, Kathleen, and found out something about Cecil.

He was born in 1902 and became a publisher and a writer, employed by Blackie, the publishers, and then by Ernest Benn, and in the 1930s was Fiction Editor of the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening News*. He was a prolific author who turned his hand not only to humour (independently and with the famous illustrator, W. Heath Robinson), but also to novels (under his own name and two pseudonyms), to quiz books, books on the writing profession, proverbs, prayers, epitaphs and word origins – a total of about 60 books. He started a literary agency which Kathleen kept ticking over while he served in the army during the Second World War. After the War he continued writing



and lectured extensively on the craft of the writer. He was also a driving force in establishing the Writer's Summer School, an institution which still flourishes today.

But it was as the compiler of the *Howler* books that Cecil Hunt achieved his greatest success and fame. In the first volume of his autobiography, published at the early age of 33, he described how he had been jotting down howlers for years, filling exercise books with examples. Ernest Benn published the first book, *Howlers*, as a one shilling and sixpence paperback in August 1928. It was an immediate runaway best seller that surprised not only its publishers (who seemed to have issued it almost as a favour to their employee) but also Cecil himself. Benn sold 10,000 copies before publication, and over 9,000 in the week before Christmas. It went on to sell in excess of 60,000 copies. The publishers were hesitant about the potential of a follow-up book, but when Sir Ernest Benn heard that Cecil had received numerous offers from other firms, he signed up a second collection, which was as popular as the first. These were followed by ten further books of howlers, some of the later editions illustrated by a friend of the Hunts, the eminent Jersey artist, Edmund Blampied.

The word 'howlers' had been used to describe glaring, and especially funny blunders made by school children since the 1890s. A few articles and small books on them had appeared before Cecil Hunt started collecting them, but he was evidently unaware of their existence. He was often accused of inventing his howlers, but he received them in good faith from teachers and other correspondents and claimed that as far as he could ascertain they were entirely genuine. (Whether his contributors were as scrupulous about authenticity is another matter, and, like most jokes, it is now impossible to establish their true origins.) He had many imitators in the 1930s and his books have been heavily plundered by others ever since, but they

outsold all their rivals: over 150,000 copies of the various titles were sold during the 'thirties and some were reissued as recently as the 1960s. The originals are now in demand among book collectors.

*The Guardian* recently reported that howlers are alive and flourishing in British schools: the first man on the moon was declared to be none other than Louis Armstrong, and we were introduced to that heroine of desert warfare, 'Florence of Arabia'. But only references to computers, TV stars and contemporary events distinguish today's howlers from those collected by Hunt over 50 years ago. The essential humour of howlers has remained unaltered by the passing of time: they are marvellous examples of the ingenuousness of the young, often also revealing world-weary cynicism, outrageous sexism, logical responses to and exasperation at the absurd questioning of teachers, and inventive genius – as well as occasional manic desperation to supply an answer, however wrong it might be.

Cecil Hunt's *Howler* books gave enormous pleasure to many thousands of my father's generation. I am grateful to Kathleen Hunt for allowing me to prepare this selection from them which I offer in the hope that it will be enjoyed by those who remember them and by newcomers.

Russell Ash

London, January 1985

AN APPEAL FROM THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHERS:

We would be pleased to receive further examples of howlers. All contributors whose howlers are used in a new book will be acknowledged.





**Q**ueen Cleopatra ended a remarkable life rather curiously. She was bitten by an aspidistra.

Louis XVI was gelatined.

Say briefly what you know about the Princes in the Tower. Two. Smothered.

After hanging everybody in the Peasants' Revolt, the King rode up to them and said, 'I will be your leader.'

Henry II walked on his bear feet to Canterbury.

Queen Elizabeth liked Sir Walter Raleigh so she made him one of her nights.

Michaelangelo spent most of his time on his ceiling.

The chief clause in Magna Carta was that no free man should be put to death or imprisoned without his own consent.

The Poll Tax was to be paid by everybody who had a head.

Latimer was a martyr who was tied to the stake and said to Ridley, 'Cheer up, brother Ridley, you'll soon be dead!'



The Romans drove the pixies over Hadrian's Wall.

The Seven Years' War went on and off in a funny sort of way until the seven years were up.

William Tell shot an arrow through an apple when standing on his son's head.

Edward III would have been King of France if his mother had been a man.

Thomas à Becket met Henry on the altar steps, and said, 'What ho, King!' Henry massacred him severely.

Clive committed suicide three times.

Sir Walter Raleigh laid down his cloak. Her Majesty remarked to Sir Walter, 'I am afraid I have spoiled your cloak', to which the gallant knight replied, 'Dieu et mon droit', which means, 'My God, and you're right!'

Julius Caesar was renowned for his great strength. He threw a bridge across the Rhine.

At the coronation of Henry III, when the little king had been crowned all his barons stood round and swore at him.

The names of the Five Members were Pym and four others.

In the Five Mile Act no one who was a Catholic was allowed to go within five miles of anywhere, nor might he be a teacher when he got there.

The death of Julius Caesar was foretold by a shower of metaphors.

The great Duke of Marlborough was a man of exceedingly fine character, omitting his vices, which were many.

Queen Elizabeth was a vurgin queen, and she was never marrid. She was so fond of dresses that she was never seen without one on. She was beautefull and clever with a red hed and freckles.

'Habeus Corpus' was a phrase of the Great Plague, and means 'Bring out your dead.'

Caesar was soon given news of the approach of Cleopatra's burnished poop as it was very conspicuous in the distance.

'From the fury of the Danes, good Lord, deliver us' means 'Good Lord, deliver us from the fury of the Danes.'



Humphrey of Gloucester and Cardinal Beaufort died shortly after each other.

Queen Elizabeth died a naturalist's death.

Lady Jane Grey sat on the thorn for a few days.

The leading cause of the English Reformation was that the Pope insisted on Henry VIII employing massage for the dead.

Henry IV passed the Law of Hey Presto Comburendo.

The Romans came again 100 years after their first visit, 90 years before.

Raids were made on Britain by the pigs and sots.

In 1733 Walpole brought forward an Excise Bill by which tobacco and wine were taxed only when used for internal consumption.

Drake went to Cadiz to sign the King's beard.

Cardinal Wolsey invented motor cars and then discovered underwear.

The basketwork boats of the ancients were called crocodiles.

The Papal Bull was a mad bull kept by the Pope in the Inquisition to trample on Protestants.

Give King Alfred's views on modern life had he been alive today. If Alfred had survived to the present day he would be such an exceedingly old man that his views on any subject would be quite worthless.

In the Middle Ages the barons used to ask the king to make their friends courtesans.

1066 is always in the ninth century because centuries always for some reason or other fall back one.

William III came to the throne by the Act of Circumcision.

Hargreaves invented an improved machine for spinning cotton threads. He called this a jenny in honour of his wife. Crompton also invented a similar machine. He called it a mule.

Sir Walter Raleigh invented potatoes, tobacco and bicycles.

After the passing of the Factory Act there was a great improvement, and people of the same sex were not allowed to sleep in the same bed.



When a man was detected in a murder he had to keep his hand in boiling water for three days and if it healed he was innercent.

In 1234 AD, the AD shows that it is A Date.

'You must have eggs to make an omlette' is one of Napoleon's most remarkable sayings.

The Black Hole of Calcutta was when fifty Englishmen were shut into a small room with one small widow. Only four of them came out alive.

In the days of Judge Jeffreys there were so many executions that the land was literally strewn with giblets.

Napoleon dispersed the rioters with a whiff of grapefruit.

King John made himself rather disliked because often he used to burn down the house of the person he stayed the night with.

When Henry VII was angry his eyes flashed and rolled upon the floor.

Robin Hood was dressed in a red cape by his mother and he took a basket to his grandmother who was sick in Sherwood Forest.

What king came after Queen Elizabeth? Philip of Spain, but she wasn't having any.

When an Act of Parliament is passed, the queen sings it.

Drake was playing bowels when the Armada was sighted in the Channel. Asked why he did not come, he replied that his bowels were more important.

George I could not speak any English at all, while it is said that the only English that George II knew was some swear words.

Guy Fawkes really did some good because he made Parliament wake up and look into things, especially the cellars.

What happened in (a) 1483 (b) 1487? (a) Luther was born (b) Luther was four years old.

Who was the famous maid who saved France? Mademoiselle from Armentières.

Robert the Bruce was a Scot who kept a performing spider.

Florence Nightingale was a young lady who became a nurse and at her own risk attended soldiers.

The Merry Monarch was Old King Cole.

Henry I died from lampreys of the surfeit.

Lady Jane Grey sat for a brief period upon the crown of England.

I like the part in history when William the Conjuror is crowned King of England.

The Great Plague was serious illness which began with a swelling under the arm and spread all over England.

Christianity was brought to Great Britain in 55 BC.

Members of Parliament meet at Westminster to disgust the nation and its problems.

Long, long ago, in the reign of King George II, the good old days were taking place every day.

Henry Percy was sometimes called Hotspur.

You can learn many lessons from Caesar. He made a speech from his golden chair and when he had finished his friends killed him.

Livingstone went to Africa to be a misery to the natives.



King Henry VIII's next marriage was childless because a blight was put on the onion.

Cardinal Wolsey built a school at Ipswich which is known as Christ Church, Oxford.

Caesar was warned to beware the Ideas of March.

Congress is a female negress from the Congo.

Queen Elizabeth was sometimes called a virgin, but only behind her back.

With what do you connect Lord Baden-Powell?  
A hyphen.

William Wallace should always be remembered by all Scotchmen. All Scotsmen should remember him. To write a brief note on William Wallace in the short time at our disposal is no easy task, so in the minute or two left us perhaps that is all we can say about that noble man.

Queen Elizabeth never marrid, she had a peaceful reign.

When Napoleon decided to invade England he gathered together all the flat-bottomed bargees.

The people of Vennas used to call their king a dog, but they did not prernounce it the same.

King John ground the people down under heavy taxis.

Another large building in Egypt is Cleopatra's Needle. It is covered with Roman writing which is still audible though it has been on for many hundreds of years.

Guy's Hospital was built to commemorate the Gunpowder Plot.

Richard II was murdered in Pontefract Castle, but his fate is unknown.

My favourite character in English history is Henry VIII because he had eight wives and killed them all.

Alexander the Great was born in the absence of his parents.

In 1620 the Pilgrims crossed the ocean, which is known as the Pilgrim's Progress.

When the Black Prince died it was called the Black Death.

Oliver Cromwell's home policy was that of being a good husband and a kind father. His foreign policy was to walk abroad in a big slouch hat and a very large red nose.

Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul.

The Prodigal Fathers sailed for the New World in 1620.

Joan of Arc won her chief battle because the enemy's wind came across to her. As soon as that happened she knew God was on her side.

What do you know of Henry VIII? I can't answer that as we are not doing the Old Testament now.

Wycliffe's great work was the translation of the Bible into Middle English, because he thought the people would be more likely to understand the English spoken in the Midlands.

Martin Luther did not die a natural death. He was excommunicated by a bull.

When roused the British Lion is a very hard nut to crack.

The Turks manicured the pilgrims.



Rome is noted for its Catacombs, where skulls of great people are kept. These are very long and dismal.

King James I was very unclean in his habits. He never washed his hands and married Anne of Denmark.

Finally James II gave birth to a son so the people turned him off the throne.

Lambert Simnel became a scorpion in Henry's kitchen.

The Pope called Henry 'Fido, the Offensive'. The Pope never did like Henry's wives, but then it wasn't his business to, being a Pope.

Perkin Warbeck was saying he was the son of a king, but really he was the son of respectable parents.

St Andrews is the patent saint of Scotland. The patent saint of England is Union Jack.

Queen Philippa saved the lives of six honest burglars of Calais.

England wanted to keep Flanders and Gascony as it traded in wool and wine respectfully with these parts.

When Henry VIII took the throne, the older Catherine got, the less he liked her, because he said she was getting uglier, so he asked the Pope whether he ought to marry his brother's wife, thinking he'd say 'no', but the Pope said it did not matter, for he had her all these years, and that surprised him.

King Arthur collected all the fine brave-looking young men of his time and called them The Knuts of the Round Table.

The Ballot Act said that all voting must be done by voting.

Wolsey saved his life by dying on the way from York to London.

The cause of the Indian Mutiny was that the Sepoy soldiers before they could use their cartridges had to be greased with the fat of a pig.

William III on his way to Hampton Court tumbled over a mole and broke his collarbone, which was fatal to a man of his constituency.

Ridley and Latimer were scented to death.

M. Poincaré is known by his saying, 'Every day and in every way I get it better and better.'

The Battle of Sluys was fought at sea. It was one of those battles in which the bowmen did better work than the cavalry.

The Romans have left tasselled pavements.

The Scotch hatted the English.

Why does true English history begin with the reign of Henry VII? Because up to this time it was all lies.

The Plebians were a sex of the Romans.

William I was the first of the Mormons.

Describe briefly the character of James II. What children had he? James was a bad-tempered man and he had no children.

Henry VIII married Amberlim.

The Duke of Marlborough was a great general who always commenced a battle with the fixed determination to win or lose.

The Synod of Whitby was about what shape the tonsils on the priest's head should be cut.

William the Conqueror landed in 1066 AD.  
'AD' means After Dark.



In olden times foresters used to wear halibuts  
under their necks.

Henry V was rather a good king, only like many  
other kings he often went mad.

One of the causes of James's unpopularity was  
the persecution by Judge Jeffreys of  
Monmouth's followers, known as the Bloody  
Asses.

Thomas à Becket lived a dissipated life. Three  
nights killed him.

The first Roman sent to Britain was very cross  
with the English people for not being  
Christians.

Then William's men turned back and shot up  
into the air and one fell into Harold's eye.

The Young Pretender won the battle of Pots and  
Pans.

The result of the persecution of Protestants  
living in France was that many Hottentots  
came across to England.

On a mound stood Napoleon, his legs wide apart  
and locked behind his back.

The Normans were famous for introducing the Frugal System.

What was the purpose of Cook's second voyage?  
To see if America really was there.

In 1066 Edward the Professor was King of England.

Henry married his chief difficulty, Elizabeth of York, who might have claimed the throne so that if she said 'I ought to be queen', he could say, 'Well, you are.'

Messalina was the wife of Mussolini, a Roman Emperor.

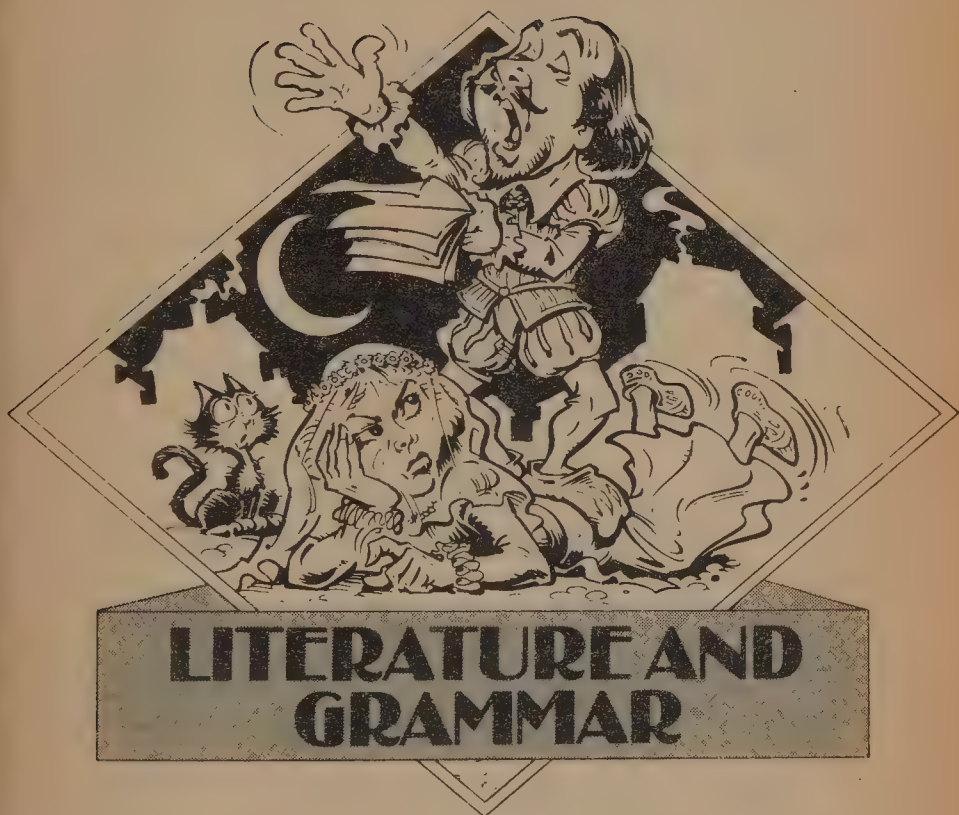
The cause of the Peasant's Revolt was that a shilling poultice should be put on everybody over sixteen.

Lord Bacon was imprisoned for deceiving brides.

The difference between a king and a president is that a king is the son of his father, but a president isn't.







**O**ne of the most famous lines of Shakespeare is, 'I stood on the bride at midnight.'

A monologue is a dialogue for one person.

Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Letters in sloping type are in hysterics.

In *Ivanhoe* the Knight Templar leered as he asked Rebecca to be his mistress, but the brave girl reclined to do so.

Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, but he mostly lived at Windsor with his merry wives. This is quite usual with actors.

A simile is a picturesque way of saying what you really mean, such as calling your mother an old trout.

The brave knight was swallowed up by the awful abbess that yawned all of a sudden in front of him.

'Quadrupeds' has no singular. You cannot have a horse with one leg.

Bassanio sang a beautiful song called, 'Tell me, where is fancy bread?'

The feminine of manager is managerie.

The Gorgons were three sisters that lived in the islands of the Hesperides somewhere in the Indian Ocean. They had long snakes for hair, tusks for teeth, and claws for nails, and they looked like women only more horrible.

The plural of spouse is spice.

‘Fetish’ is applied to people who seem to have a gay air, as if they were going to a fete.

The Augustan era was a mistake of Augustus.

St George saved a little girl from a monstrous dragoon.

Byron wrote epics and swam the Hellespont. In between he made love drastically.

Poetry is when every line starts with a capital letter.

Odysseus put a steak in Polyphemus’s eye.

Scene One: The Count and Countess are seated in the lounge. Enter butler. ‘Countess, a son has been born to you!’

A myth is a female moth.



An ampersand is a special kind of sand used in electricity.

Paraphrase, 'Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter.' It is nice to hear music, but it is still nicer not to.

After a hard struggle the constable overcame the burglar and put cuff links on him.

Write a brief story with reference to religion, modesty and aristocracy. 'My heavens! said the Countess. 'Take your hand off my knee!

The Pied Piper blew his whistle and it sounded like a piece of cheese.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. This means that some kings' crowns do not fit properly and the king's head aches.

Lunatic is derived from two words, 'luna', meaning the moon, and 'attic', meaning the top storey.

Christopher Robin built St Paul's.

It was the custom to decorate Greek poets with coral reefs.

Macbeth was Dick Turpin's horse.

Correct 'The toast was drank in silence.' The toast was eat in silence.

Anonymous is the man who writes all the poems which are not signed.

Three shots rang out. Two of the servants fell dead, the other went through his hat.

The darkey's hour is just before the dawn is one of the most famous proverbs of Africa.

It is a long worm that has no turning.

My brother is handsome, my sister is handmore, but my cousin is by far the handmost.

Sir Thomas More wrote *Ethiopia*.

Keats wrote an ode to the Greasy Urn.

A classic is a book you have to read at school.

You should say hippopotami when there are more than one hippopotamuses.

What do you think of Scott's style? I don't like the Scots style, I prefer English. The plaids are too bright in colour and the kilts do not look well in the street.

Damocles's Sword was a washout really because it never fell in spite of all the talk.

Oliver Twist was born in the drab surroundings of a workhouse. His mother was present.

Robert Louis Stevenson travelled right across America with his wife and later on he wrote *Travels with a Donkey*.

Complete the following: 'One swallow does not make a . . .' Good meal.

Galsworthy wrote a saga on foresight. It took several books.

Posthumous literary works are those written after you are dead.

Correct 'It was me that broke the window.' It wasn't me that broke the window.

Mixed metaphor means putting the wrong halves of proverbs together, such as, 'Too many cooks make an ill wind', or, 'A spoilt broth blows nobody good.'

In the sentence, 'I saw the goat butt the man', 'butt' is a conjunction because it shows the connection between the goat and the man.



‘Stout Cortez and all his men  
Silent upon a Peke in Darien . . .’

Complete the following: ‘Where there’s a will  
there’s a . . .’ Dead man.

Bacon was the man who thought he wrote  
Shakespeare.

In his journey up Mount Zion Christian had a  
fight with a polygon.

John Ridd in *Lorna Doone* was very kind to his  
sisters and all other dumb animals.

The plural of penny is twopence.

What meter is Tennyson’s *Ulysses* written in? In  
diameter. In thermometer. In meterphor.

Homer wrote the *Oddity*.

An abstract noun is something you can’t see  
when you are looking at it.

The masculine of vixen is vicar.

An anachronism is a thing a man puts in writing  
in the past before it has taken place in the  
future.

In the quarrel between Oberon and Titania I cannot waste any sympathy over Oberon because he should have known better than to start to argue with a woman.

‘I took thee for thy better’. This was said by Hamlet when he stabbed Polonius and thought it was a rat.

The stoics were diciples of Zero who believed in nothing much.

Portia, the wife of Brutus, killed or poisoned herself by swallowing burning sticks.

Cassius was a vile selfish man who was always doing his best to make his own ends meet.

The masculine of heroine is kipper.

Tennyson wrote a most beautiful poem called *In Memorandum*.

A consonant is a large piece of land surrounded by water.

The plural of forget-me-not is forget-us-not.

Epics describe the brave deeds of men called epicures.

You can imagine Prince Hal surrounded by Falstaff.

*Imitations of Morality* is by Wordsworth.

A noun is a lady who wears black robes and is always going to church.

The plural of ox is oxygen.

What is the verb from 'suspicion'? To suspish.

An anthology is the study of ants.

Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*, then his wife died and he wrote *Paradise Regained*.

The feminine of hero is shero.

A metaphor is an instrument used to shout through.

The Attics are Greeks or cellars at the tops of houses.

Dictionaries are books written by people who think they can spell better than anybody else.

The Gorgons were people who had only one eye and one set of teeth between them.

Describe the figure of speech or artifice of style used in the following: 'The child is father to the man.' This was written by Shakespeare. He often made this kind of mistake.

The feminine of Czar is sardine.

Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who it seems, lived up to her name, and had her own way and gave Shakespeare a hot time of it.

'Etc' is a sign used to make believe you know more than you do.





**V***enit servus tristi vultu.* The slave came in with a sorrowful vulture.

*Coup de grâce.* A lawn mower.

*Delicta majorum immeritus lues.* The delights of our ancestors were unmitigated filth.

*Il jeta un coup d'oeil sur ses bagages.* He threw a cup of oil over his luggage.

*Mea, mater, mala sus est.* My mother is a bad pig.

*Pas de deux.* Father of twins; a tandem.

*Ne plus ultra.* There is nothing beyond Ulster.

*Allah gab ihm die Kraft.* Everyone gave him cheese.

*Pax in bello.* Freedom from indigestion.

*Tout à fait.* On the make.

*Hors d'oeuvre.* Out of work.

*'Tenez! dit Paolo Orso.* 'Hold your polar bear!' he said.

*Il fit volte-face.* He made a horrid face.

*Vespertinus circumgemit ursus ovile.* The evening bear moaned round its egg.

*Cum grano salis.* Although with a corn, thou dancest.

*Bouteilles du rhum.* Rheumatism boots.

*Il a un crêpe au chapeau.* He has crept into his hat.

*Les oiseaux chantaient dans les arbres.* The oysters were singing in the trees.

*Nota Bene.* This is an American expression which is the equivalent of the English 'penniless'.

*Maecenas atavis edite regibus.* Maecenas truly you eat kings like a bird.

*Lassen uns das Rathaus finden.* Let us find the rats' nest.

*Fur puerum domum redeuntem vestibus spoliavit.*  
Returning home the boy spoilt his fur vests.

*Il fait beau temps aujourd'hui.* Your aunt is very large today.

*En face de caniche.* With a face like a poodle.

*Galli conclamabant quod Germanos sub jugum dejecerunt.* The cocks were crowing because they had laid a German egg.

*Il est assis en face de sa femme.* He was sitting on his wife's face.

*Nemo mortalis sapit omnibus horis.* No mortal man is safe in a public vehicle with women.

*De gustibus non disputandum.* High winds and no mistake.

*Son père a le goût prononcé pour le jardinage.* His father has severe gout through gardening.

*Vere fabis satio.* Truly I am full of beans.

*Le marquis recommanda son âme à Dieu.* The marquis wished his donkey goodbye.

*Elle avait la bouche rose et les dents comme de l'émail.* She had a red nose and teeth like emeralds.

*Ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte.* It is certainly not the Premier who is cute.

*Auto da fé.* A fire engine; a fabulous carriage used by the fairies.



*Non hominum vide, non ego facta bonum.* I see no man, I am not made of cows.

*Lèse-majesté.* A lazy king.

*N'ayant d'air que celui qui vient d'un soupirail.*  
Having only the look of he who comes out of a fanlight.

*Robora et ingentum lato dedit ore fenestram.* Robust and heavy with milk he put his oar through the window.

*Cimbri saepe narrant hoc suis liberis.* The Cimbri often tell this to the children of the pig.

*Corps diplomatique.* Shamming dead.

*Vere novo, gelidus canis in montibus humor Linquitur.* Strange but true, the cold dog is left in the mountains by way of a joke.

*Tripodas geminos.* Three-footed twins.

*Ora super postes affixaque brachia pendent.* Skulls and trousers fixed above the door posts hang down.

You put a gorilla under the 'c' in *reçu*.

*Chemin de fer.* A fur shirt.

*La belle dame sans merci.* The beautiful lady who never said 'thank you'.

Tell me, where is fancy bred? *Dites moi, ou est pâtisserie?*

*Apologia pro vita sua.* Apology for living in a sewer.

*Hubo un largo rato de paz en barrio.* There was a large but harmless rat in the mud.

*Conjux pendet ab ore viri.* The wife hangs by her mouth.

*Dido dejecta vultum.* Dido having thrown away her face.

*Un obus prussien tomba dans la bibliotheque.* An obese Prussian fell into the library.

*Ni l'un ni l'autre.* Neither Hun nor Austrian.

*Quidquid in utraque parte.* Two pounds each way.

*Cave canem.* Beware of the cane.

*Il y a des cruches suspendues au buffet de la cuisine.*  
There are crutches and suspenders on the cupboard of the kitchen.

*Vous faites énormément du progrès.* You fit enormously into the programme.

*Salle à manger.* Sales manager.

*Ali était un vrai musulman.* Ali was a real he-man.

*Domestico vulnere ictus, filium anno ante natum amisit.* Having been bitten by a tame fox he lost his son a year before he was born.

*Le âmes élevées ne trouvent plus d'espace pour ouvrir leurs ailes.* The oldest schoolgirls no longer find time to talk about their illnesses.

*Ave Domine.* Lord, I am a bird.

*Pied à terre.* One foot in the grave.

*Flagrante delicto.* A sweet flavour.

*Caesar, secundum ventum nactus.* Caesar, having got his second wind.

*Dido et dux.* Dido ate ducks.

*Des livres et journaux protégés les jours de pluie par une toile tendue.* Books and newspapers forecasting the wet days by a tedious method.

*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.* In the dead there's nothing but bones.

*Infra dig.* In lodgings.

*Gallia omnis est divisa in partes tres.* All Gaul is quartered into three halves.

*On verse le vin dans les verres.* They poured the wine to the worms.

*La levrette au cou de tourterelle.* The greyhound with the coo of a turtledove.

*Rose, émue, répondit.* The rose emu laid another egg.

*Tête à tête.* Having tea twice.

*Leges utiles hominibus sunt.* Legs are useful to men.

*Raison d'être.* The right to live.

*L'abbé était bien gras, car il aimait la bonne chère.*  
The abbot was very fat, for he loved the dear nursemaid.

*Vis consili expers mole ruit sua.* The unexpected weight of the consul fell upon the soft pig.



*Sotto voce.* In a drunken voice.

Hypothesis comes from *hippo*, horse, *thesis*, placing – it means putting something on a horse.

*O si sic omnibus.* This bus is very wobbly.

*Dente tenaci.* Gnashing his teeth.

*Quid pro quo.* A pound note for you.

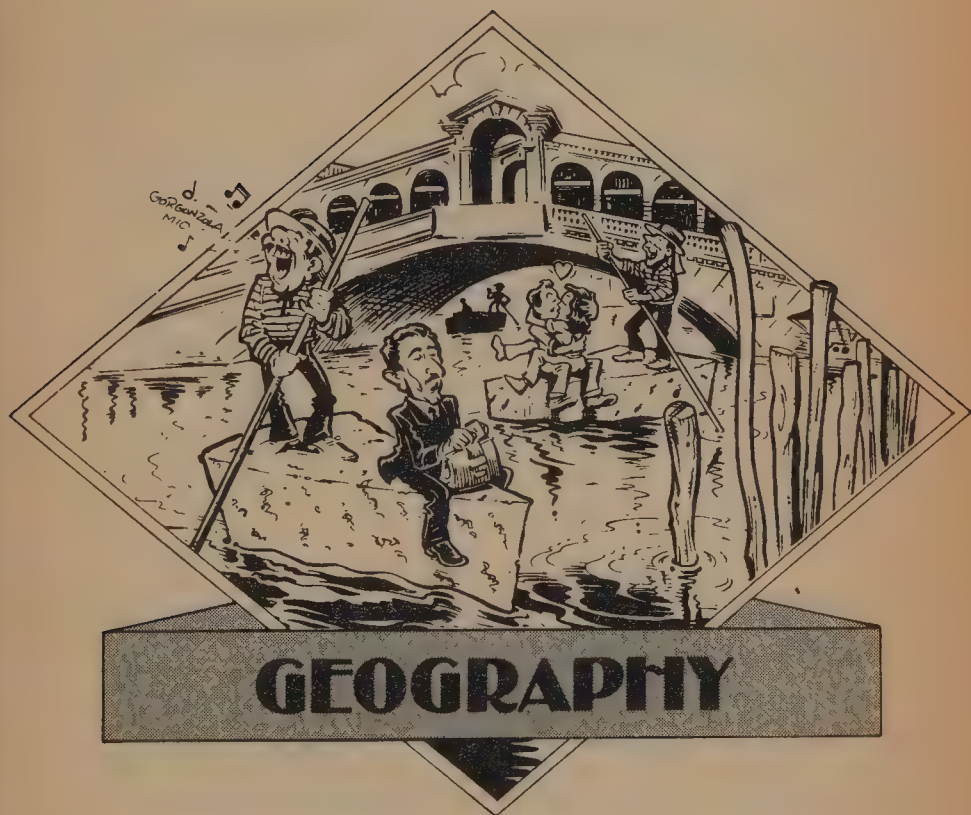
*Dira viro facies.* His face was screwed up with poison.

*Mon frère aîné.* My ass of a brother.

*Il retire les lèvres d'une manière très désagréable.* He shows a cage of teeth, very ugly.

*Prima facie.* Original complexion.





**P**eople go about Venice in gorgonzolas.

Lyons is a city noted for tea.

Name six animals found in the Arctic. Three bears and three seals.

What do you know of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland? The Grand Banks of Newfoundland are very grand.

The sun sets in the west and hurries round to the east to be in time to rise next morning.

The Temperate Zone is the region where no one drinks too much.

The three highest mountains in Scotland are Ben Nevis, Ben Lomond and Ben Jonson.

There is a great deal of nothing in the centre of Australia.

The river Rhine flows horizontally until it reaches Basle, and then it flows vertically.

People go to Africa to hunt rhinosteriches.

Penzance is noted for pirates.



What is a cyclone? God made them. It sucks.

Coal is decayed vegetarians.

The inhabitants of Moscow are called mosquitoes.

In Holland the people make use of water power to drive their windmills.

Natal has a very heavy summer rainfall, but most of it falls in the winter.

England has always been known as a nation of shoplifters.

In some rocks there are to be found the fossil footprints of fishes.

Certain areas of Egypt are cultivated by irrigation.

What is the capital of England? E.

Denmark is washed by the Catty Cat and the Scraggy Hack.

An oasis is a futile spot in a desert.

Africa is much hotter than some countries because it is abroad.

In India a man in one cask cannot marry a woman in another cask.

Livingstone named the Victoria Falls after Queen Elizabeth.

What difficulties confronted de Lesseps in making the Panama Canal? They were afraid that if they cut through the Isthmus of Panama, South America would float away.

I know the map looks wrong somehow, but I can say with the poet, 'England, with all thy faults I love thee still.'

The only visible signs of life in the Tundra are a few stunted corpses.

They use the Swiss cows chiefly for making chocolate.

Canada is England's granny.

The climate of Bombay is such that its inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

The Union Jack is the flag of the Untidy Kingdom.

The inhabitants of Paris are called Parisites.

A Red Indian's wife is called his squaw and his children squawkers.

It is 45 miles to Brighton as the cock crows.

Thunder is a disturbance of the air. The monocles are disturbed and make a noise.

An equinox is a cross between a horse and an ox.

The boats in Venice are called gwendolines.

The Chinese eat a lot of rice. They eat it with things called pitch forks.

The Channel Islands consist of Jersey, Gansey, Alderman and Shark.

The people of Japan ride about in jigsaws.

Geneva is a beautiful lady who sometimes rode on a white charger.

Equinox is derived from two Latin words. Equus means a horse, and nox means night, therefore it is a nightmare.

The Swiss send us watches and condemned milk.

The chief animals of Australia are the kangaroo, larkspur, boomerang and peccadillo.

The natives of Papua are cannibals. They live together in tribes and are ruled by the chefs.

The Flemish people are generally called flamingoes.

A Boer is a kind of wild pig with tusks.

Hindus are natives of India. They wear turbans round their heads.

Captain Cook was killed and the natives ate him so the place was called the Sandwich Islands.

The people of Algeria bring their skins down to the coast and export them.

A spa is where people drink bath water.

Great Britain extends from Land's End to Joan of Arc.

The inhabitants of the island of Crete are called Creatures.

What are the main feeders of the Amazon and Orinoco? Alligators.



Why are the days longer in summer and shorter in winter? Because the heat expands and the cold contracts.

The inhabitants of Spain are called Spaniels.

Lourdes is a cricket ground in London.

Oxo is the capital of Norway.

The people in Iceland are called Equinoxes.

A contour is the outline of a funny shape, such as a broken coastline or a woman.

One of the chief damn places in Egypt is Aswan.

The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

Much butter is imported from Denmark because cows have greater enterprise and superior technical education than ours.

An isthmus is a bit of land that juts inland.

The climate of the island is wet but embracing.

Stirling is noted for its fine silver.

The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends towards the moon, because there is no water in the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. Gravitation at the earth keeps the water rising all the way to the moon. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants of Perth is dying.

If 20 feet of an iceberg is above water, the rest is below.

Reefs are what you put on coffins.

Nearly at the bottom of Lake Michigan is Chicago.

Harlem is the place where the Turks keep all their wives.

The River Shannon glides through deep ravines overlooked by hills covered with woods where the wild deer and the fox, the panther and the otter find almost unmolested abode, where the turtle dove and the linnet, the grouse and the badger can sing and ramble at ease.

Some of the West Indian Islands are subject to torpedoes.

New York stands on the Atlantic sideboard.

A line joining places of equal temperature is called an iceberg.

One mineral found in Canada is conundrum.

In Russia there are vast carnivorous forests.

What do you know of Newfoundland? A number of fish live there.

Tundras are the treeless forests of South America.

In Spain the chief occupation is wine.

The rotation of the earth means that the earth turns on its own abcess.

The chief industry of Madeira is the cake industry.

Sardinia is populated by sardines.

An inlet in Scotland is the Firth of Froth.

New York time is behind Greenwich time because America was not discovered until much later.

The Matterhorn was a horn blown by the ancients when anything was the matter.

Volcanoes are mountains which send out smoke and palaver.

The five quarters of the globe are four in number, and they are as follows: Europe and Asia.

Most of the land in Holland is water.

Dover is noted for going to France.

Yeovil is the headquarters of the Surrey Cricket Club.

The inhabitants of Tasmania are called maniacs.

Among home industries distilling in the Highlands is the only one which is carried to excess.

There are three kinds of Downs: North Down, South Down and Eider Down.





**E**lijah went up to Heaven in a fiery carrot.

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

Salome was a very wicked woman who wore very few clothes and took them all off when she danced before Harrods.

Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenburg for selling papal indulgences.

Solomon was very fond of animals because he had three hundred porcupines.

A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.

St Alban was the first British martha.

Infants singing morning hymn: 'We can sing full though we be!' (Weak and sinful though we be.)

The Israelites made a golden calf because they hadn't got enough gold to make a cow.

During the Reformation every clergyman was compelled to receive thirty nine articles.

Jacob had a brother called Aseesaw.

A Protestant is a woman who gets her living through an immortal life.

Acrimony (sometimes called holy) is another name for marriage.

If David had one fault it was a slight tendency to adultery.

Who was sorry when the prodigal son returned?  
The fatted calf.

Solomon in all his glory was not a rabbit like one of these.

The Methodists were a peculiar sex mostly found on moors but sometimes in barns. They were discovered by a man called Wesley.

John the Baptist was a centaur which means that he was half a man and half a horse. It says his head was on a charger.

The Mosaic Law was a law compelling people to have their floors laid with coloured stones.

Buddha is worshipped chiefly in Buddha Pest.

The Sadducees did not believe in spirits, but the Publicans did.

Unleavened bread is bread made without any ingredients.

A Mammon is a prehistoric animal, larger than an elephant, which lived before the time of the Bible. They are now quite extinct.

Paganism is a strict form of Roman Catholicism.

Get the hens, Satan.

‘Gross darkness’ mentioned in the Bible means that it was a hundred and forty four times as dark as ordinary dark.

The first words of Zacharias on recovering his speech were, ‘I am dumb.’

My duty toads God is to bleed in Him, to fering and to loaf withhold your arts, withhold my mine, withhold my sold, and with my sernth, to whirchp and give thanks, to put my old trash in Him, to call upon Him, to onner His old name and His world, and to save him truly all the days of my life’s end.

The Decalogue is a low-necked frock.

St Paul’s Cathedral has a far bigger knave in it than our church at home.

It was when Saul heard the people say that Saul  
had slain his thousands, but David his tens of  
thousands that he began to get the wind up.

The Kodak is the Bible of the Mohammedans.

Joseph had a goat of many colours.

Thy rod and thy staff they come for me.

So the three wise men brough many presents,  
gold and francs and cents.

Moses received ten commandments and two  
stones and these he impressed upon the people.

An atheist is a man from Athens.

Who went into a lion's den and came out alive?  
A lion.

Ahab got some sackcloth and raped himself in it.

The Prodigal son wasted his substance on riotous  
loving.

Hallowed is God's Christian name.

Abraham, the prophet, was chiefly noted for his  
bosom.

Thou salt not kill.

Thou salt not still.

Thou salt not abouny.

Thou must not covet thy naber.

Thou salt not bair fals witnes agnest thy ox, nor  
thy cattel, nore thy hores.

Sins of omission, which the Prayer Book refers  
to, are the sins we have omitted to commit.

One of the three wise men was Frank Insense.

Another of the commandements is, 'Thou shalt  
not kick a duckery.'

The chief missile used in the Church of England  
is the Book of Common Prayer.

Samson was a very strong man with long hair  
until he loved a young woman. When he began  
to ask riddles he got weaker and gradually the  
Temple fell on him as a punishment.

If you hit a man in the eye you may hit him in  
another; if he knock thy teeth out, thou shalt  
knock his out, says the scriptures.

When the sick man had been let down through  
the roof a man in the crowd said, 'Thy faith  
hath made the hole.'



Beersheba was the wife of Sodom and Gomorrah. They did those things in the old days.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall irrigate the earth.

Zacharias was burning insects when he saw an angel.

The Philistines are islands in the Pacific.

The locusts were the chief plague. They ate the first-born.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 cucumbers.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day, six days shalt thou labour and do no work.

What did the Israelites do when they came out of the Red Sea? They dried themselves.

Explain the meaning of bishop, priest and deacon. I never saw a bishop so I don't know. A priest is a man in the Old Testament. A deacon is a thing you put on the top of a hill and set fire to it.

Wycliffe taught that all men ought to be the same height.

A Protestant is anyone who is not a Catholic.  
Roman Catholics believe what the Pope speaks,  
but Protestants can believe what they like.

Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.

Peter told the people that the end of the world  
was coming and at once they became very  
neighbourly.

The Gideonites came to Joshua with their clothes  
on their asses.

How did David drive away the evil spirit from  
Saul? By flinging a stone at his head.

In what order do the Gospels come? One after  
the other.

Psalms are found in tropical forests.

If thine eye offend thee it does not actually mean  
we are to pluck it out, but we are not to let our  
right eye know what our left eye doeth.

The Pope is claimed to be inflammable.

The message came to Abraham that he should  
bear a son, and Sarah, who was listening  
behind the door, laughed.

Six days shall thy neighbour do all thy work.

Who said, 'See that thou fall not out by the way'? Elisha to Elijah when the latter went up to heaven in a chariot.

Moses died before he reached Canada, but he saw it from a mountain.

And Essau came in from hunting and said to Jacob, 'Please give me some soup.' And Jacob said with cunning, 'I'll give you some soup if you'll sell me your birthmark!'

Goliath was knocked out by Jack the Giant Killer.

St Luke was a doctor but he didn't go round to houses like our doctors because most of the people who were ill came through the roof.

The disciples were told to go into every village wearing only their shoes and talking to people.

One of the women said to Solomon, 'My friend and myself had a very young baby each in the night.'

Ash Wednesday is so-called because Charles I hid in an ash tree.

Eve was tempted by the servant.

The three wise men brought gifts of gold, fat insects and beer.

David fought a Plasticine soldier called Goliath.

Surely to goodness mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

John the Baptist was a man who said there was a leader coming who could not tie up his own shoes.

A deacon is the lowest form of Christian.

Saul was commanded to kill everybody. This he did in a half-hearted fashion as he nailed the King to a tree.

The Israelites carried Noah's Ark with them through the wilderness.

A prophet is a man who sells things for more than they are worth.

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses, but he passed them on quickly because the stone was very heavy.





**S**tradivarius is an imaginary prehistoric animal.

The fugue is what you get in a room full of people when all the windows and doors are shut.

An oboe is an American tramp.

Contralto is a low sort of music that only ladies sing.

How many symphonies did Beethoven compose?  
Three – the Pastoral, the C Minor and the Ninth.

The word 'phonograph' is derived from two Latin words, 'phono', I speak, and 'grapho', through a tin tube.

A minim is a little fish.

I have learned five scales and one archipelago.

Instruments that you hit, like drums and triangles, are called persecution.

The army advanced to the sound of marital music.

Who was Caruso? A shipwrecked mariner.

Loudness in a note always depends upon the strength of the pitchfork.

Opera singers are often called prima donnas because they only give of their best when they are in their prime. They often grow too fat later.

The bagpipes are Scotland's national instrument. No other country has taken to them.

Benjamin Britten is our most famous contemporary composer. It is unusual to be a contemporary as most composers don't live until they are dead.

Our programme concluded with glees and mad wiggles.

The Last Post is always sounded by the burglars of our school spitoon.

Three-four time is simple cripple time.

My favourite instrument is the picadilly.

One semibrieve equals two minions.

*Ff* means fump, fump.

SOS is a musical term meaning same only softer.

There are two types of scales, dramatic and chronic.

Schubert wrote unfinished symphonies. In fact he became famous for not finishing what he had started.

A prima donna is a first gift, or christening present.

Offenback wrote *Tales of Halfmen*.

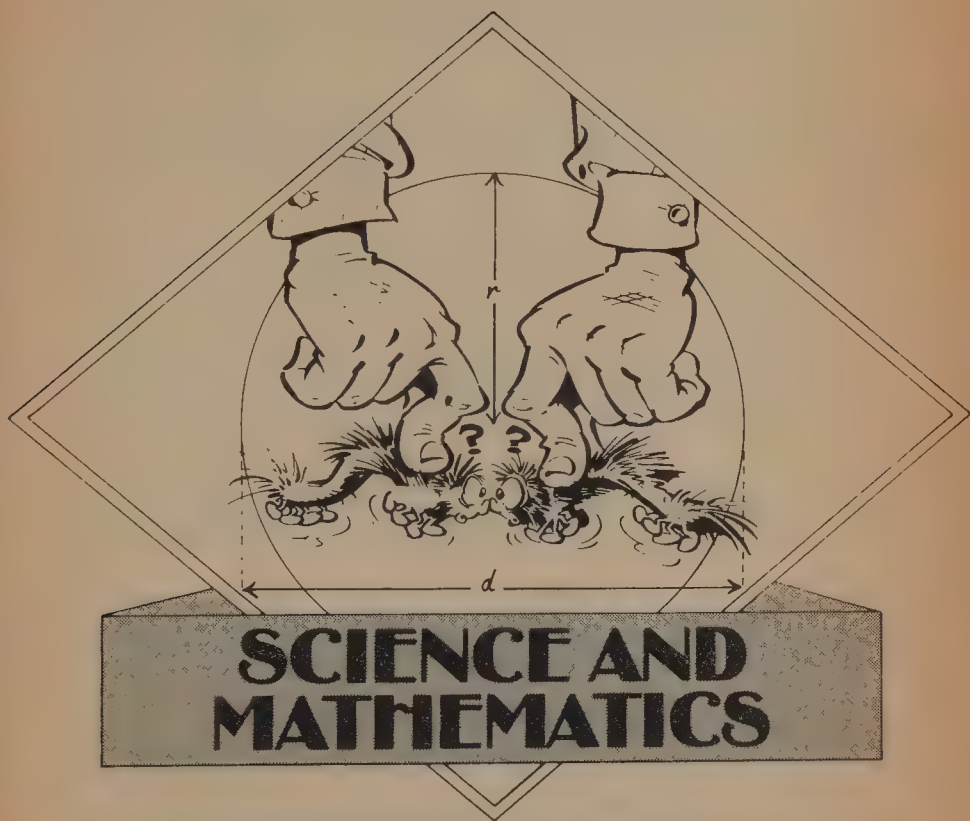
The National Anthem is always played standing because the orchestra are tired of sitting. Besides, they want to get off home quickly.

DC means ditto, chaps. It saves the conductor telling them.

Who wrote the Hallelujah Chorus? The Salvation Army.

Melba is where Napoleon was imprisoned.

The French national anthem is the Mayonnaise.



**D**iameters are measured with a pair of caterpillars.

Gravity tells us why an apple does not go to heaven.

A circle is a line of no depth running round a dot for ever.

A centimetre is an insect with a hundred legs.

Horse-power is the distance one horse can carry a pound of water in an hour.

The 'Complete Angler' is another name for Euclid because he wrote all about angles.

How would you make soft water hard? Freeze it.

Our school is ventilated by hot currants.

Water is turned into a viper when it gets too hot.

To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.

A man has  $x$  miles to travel. He goes  $a$  miles by train,  $b$  miles by boat, and  $c$  miles he walks.

The rest he cycles. How far does he cycle?

$d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w$  miles.



To find the value of  $a^\circ$ , write down  $a$  no times.

Reductio ad absurdum. This is a term used in solving Euclid's propositions and implies that what is required is proved to be impossible, and working backwards until something is proved, which is absurd.

A litre is a nest of young puppies.

The specific gravity of a substance is the ratio between the weight of one gram of the substance and the weight of one gram of water.

A polygon with seven sides is called a hooligan.

Mars is so far off that it would take a million years to walk there in an express train.

A pendulum is a point bob hung at the end of an extensible, flexible weightless thread.

A bolt is a thing like a stick of hard metal, such as iron, with a square bunch on one end and a lot of scratching wound round the other end. A nut is similar to a bolt, only just the opposite, being a hole in a little chunk of iron sawed off short, with wrinkles around the inside of the hole.

James Watt invented the steam roller.

When Oxygen combines with anything heat is given off and other things. This is known as constipation.

Einstein is a well-known German maker of pianos.

If the air contains more than 100% carbolic acid it is very injurious to health and you are soon dead.

When an irresistible force meets an immovable body the result is a hell of a bust up.

The meaning of  $x^2$  is curious. If  $x$  is an ox,  $x^2$  is not two oxen but something different because  $2x$  would be two oxen. In fact you can't describe the little two.

Draw inferences from the fact that when water freezes a pipe bursts. I have never seen an inference so I cannot draw one.

Chlorine gas is very injurious to the human body, and the following experiments should, therefore, only be performed on the teacher.

A trapezium is the thing in the gymnasium.

The difference between air and water is that air can be made wetter, but water cannot.

What is half of five? It depends whether you mean the two or the three.

Parallel lines are those which when they are produced so as they meet, do not meet.

The process of turning steam into water again is called conversation.

A vacuum is the place where the Pope lives.

A polygon is a dead parrot.

Heat is transmitted by conviction.

Geometry teaches us to bisex angels.

Vanishing lines are those that get nearer together as they get further apart.

At  $180^{\circ}$  C sulphur is vicious.

Oxygen can be prepared by heating potassium chocolate.







**W**here is the elephant found? The elephant, being a large animal, is seldom lost.

A cat is a quadruped, the legs, as usual, being at the four corners.

The zebra is like the horse only it is striped, and is chiefly used to illustrate the letter Z.

Guano is the product of manurous birds.

The camel is the ship of the dessert.

Herrings go about the sea in shawls.

Some cows are very dangerous, especially the bull.

A monkey has a reprehensible tail.

The leopard has black spots which look like round soars on his body. Those who catch the soars get leprosy.

An octopus is a person who hopes for the best.

The smallest bird known is the ladybird.

An ibex is where you look at the back of a book to find out anything you want.

Snakes are of two sexes, poisonous and non-poisonous.

The bull has a ring in his nose to show he is engaged. My sister's got one too now she's engaged.

Feed your horse with horse radish and horse chestnuts if you want your horse to grow.

The chamois lives in mountainous regions, and is a wonderful leaper. It is difficult to catch. It is a pale yellow colour and has to be washed carefully because it is liable to stretch.

A quadruped is someone who has four children, all born at once.

The two divisions of the animal kingdom are the vertebrate and the inebriate.

Give three carnivorous and three herbivorous animals. Lepod, jugar, links. Graphf, hipopotimus, dinosorus.

All creatures are imperfect beasts. Man alone is the perfect beast.

A hostage is a big bird with four legs and a long neck.

Marsupials are p~~o~~ached animals.

To kill a butterfly you pinch its borax.

The only pouched animal in America is the apostle.

The cow has a pulse as well as anyone else, but you can't feel it in its wrist.

A cat is a carnation because he eats meat.

The opposite of evergreen is nevergreen.

To germinate is to become a naturalised German.

A halibut is a combined spear and battle axe.

How do you spell 'hair' when you mean 'rabit'?

Quinine is the bark of a tree. Canine is the bark of a dog.

Domestic cats are a strange family because they must be killed nine times before they are really finished.

A chameleon is a funny man.



**T**he function of the skin is to keep in the bones, and we look much nicer with the skin on. If we had no skin on we should go about skeletons.

By eating food slowly it is digested before it is swallowed, and thus it enriches the blood which goes down one leg and up the other.

Doctors treat patients with ultra-violent rays.

We should not eat too many bone-making food, because if we do we shall have too many bones, and that would make us look funny.

The liver is an infernal organ.

What is a microbe? A robe that the mics wear.

What is catarrh and how would you treat it? Catarrh is an old-fashioned instrument. I would put it in the fire.

A stethoscope is a spy-glass for looking into people's chests with your ears.

An antidote is a funny story that you have heard before.

FRCS: Friends, Romans, Countrymen and Sinners.



Doctors say that fatal diseases are the worst.

You should always give a drowning person artificial perspiration.

Goitre is a kind of banjo.

Lack of vitamins will give rise to crickets.

There are three stages of digestion: in the mouth, in the stomach, and in the interestings.

Distemper is a kind of disease. Dogs and ceilings get it.

An artery is another name for a picture gallery.

My baby brother was so small he had to be put in an accumulator.

It is a very serious handicap to be without one's liver.

The woman had her face lifted by a drastic surgeon.

A cosmetic is for making people sick.

A coroner's duty is to decide whether a person died a natural or a fatal death.

The brain of a woman is almost as heavy as a human brain.

To be a good nurse you must be absolutely sterile.

There are four symptoms of a cold. Two I forget and the other two are too well known to mention.

The best food for babies is oxygen, hydrogen and a little carbon.

The symptoms of scarlet fever are a very bad sore throat and interruptions on the face.

Some people frequently lose their consciences when they are very ill.

What are rabies, and what would you do for them? Rabies are Jewish priests. I should do nothing for them.

The blood vessels are the veins, arteries and artilleries.

When we eat we digest. We suffer from indigestion when we are fed up.

An incubator is used to burn rubbish.

He could not play rugger because he had a  
tabernacle on his knee.

The white forecastles in the blood kill bacteria.

The lungs are organs of execration.

An aorta is a man who makes long speeches.

A bacillus is a kind of cabbage.

The doctor says I must not eat any solemn food.

Wise people get intoxicated before they travel  
abroad, so as not to get malaria.







**T**he dome of St Paul's is supported by eight peers, all of which are unfortunately cracked.

The lake was frozen, so they used a brassiere to melt it.

A Job's comforter is a thing you give to babies to sooth them.

An optimist is a man who looks after your eyes.  
A pessimist looks after your feet.

The Navy is sometimes called the Senile Service.

A glazier is a man who runs down mountains.

Barbarians are things put into bicycles to make them run smoothly.

An epitaph is a horse with the head of a man.

The embalmed body of an Egyptian is called a dummy.

Marco Polo invented the game of polo and called it after himself.

The cenotaph is a creature with hundreds of legs. It crawls around you and if it stings you, you will die.

A gherkin is a native who runs after people with a knife.

Grace Darling was a great cricketer.

A brunette is a young bear.

Certainly the pleasures of youth are great, but they are nothing to the pleasures of adultery.

A miracle is something that someone does that cannot be done.

Owing to slackness of demand there was a great slut in the market.

Mother-in-law is supposing a man to marry a woman who has a mother, and this man has brothers and sisters, then this girl's mother is mother-in-law to this man's brothers and sisters.

Every morning my mother waves her arms to stretch her abominable muscles.

Ladies should always take their tea in their hats when visiting for a short while.

The chairman replied in a few appropriated words.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the hat.

The horse you bet on is called a cert. If it loses it is called a dead cert.

A toreador is a really bad storm.

Leap year is instead of its being the next day on the same day next year it's the day after.

Ethics is a county in England.

A detective is a man who searches out the mysteries of things in his private clothes.

When a bridge is hung from one side to the other it is called a suspender bridge.

If a person marries and has a father who has a child, this child is niece to the husband.

Alabaster is the man who caught the forty thieves.

My aunt takes in weakly boarders.

Polygamy was practised by the Greeks, but monotony was the general custom with the Romans.

Who said, 'Après moi, le deluge'? Noah.

A swastika is a thing you kill flies with.

It is a great honour to be presented to the Prince of Wales, but he can't keep you afterwards as he has so many every week.

Nowadays it is not so usual for a man to insult a girl's mother before he marries her.

A man who reaches a hundred is called a centipede.

In netball, girls are divided in two parts. One lot wears red ribbon and the other nothing at all. There are two parsons who stand between them.

It is nice to go damsel picking in the autumn.

Al Fresco was a famous gangster in Chicago.

Infanticide is a powder for killing babies.

A winch might be the old English way of spelling wench.

A cygnet and a leveret are both impossible birds.

Venus was the god of love, but the Greeks called her something else and had their own way of doing things.

We had a very busy weekend because mother was in bed. She had a prehistoric baby.

PS at the foot of a letter means please excuse scribble. This is generally done because a PS is written afterwards when the things have been put away.

A lifeboat is so cleverly constructed that it can carry more than it can hold.

A virgin forest is one where the hand of man has never set foot.

When two children are born together they are called twins. When there are three, they are culprits.

CID means copper in disguise.

Politicians turn to and fro in their complexities, weaving and unweaving their combinations.

The Oedipus Complex means liking your mother as if she were a normal woman.

A vandal is a kind of shoe that shows all the toes.

OBE means old boy from Eton.

Cubism is the rules of very young scouts.

An inhibition is like an exhibition, only indoors.

A refugee keeps order at a football match.

Rhubarb is a kind of celery gone bloodshot.

The houses in old London were so close they could shake hands.

In the United States people are put to death by elocution.

Crematorium is French for a dairy.

The court of Chancery is so-called because it takes care of property when there is no chance of the owner turning up.

Hiatus is breath that wants seeing to.

Before being the captain of his ship he had worked as an amiable seaman.

Newspapers are useful for reporting calamities, such as deaths, marriages, etc.

A pessimist is a man who is never happy unless he is miserable; even then he is not pleased.



Snoring is letting off sleep.

A hostage is a lady who entertains visitors.

Cheese is butter gone bad.

Ladies used to wear oyster feathers in their hats.

An aristocrat is a man who performs tricks on the stage.

A herbacious boarder is one who boards all week and goes home on Saturdays and Sundays.

The jockey lost two of his teeth when his horse fell, and had to be destroyed.

A barrister is a thing which is put up in the street to keep the crowds back.

A fan is a thing you brush the warm off with.

Sinister means a woman who hasn't married.

A bibulous man is one who frequently quotes from the Scriptures.

A man who looks on the bright side of things is called an opinionist, and one who looks on the dull side is a pianist.

There is a man who watches the Highlands at night. He is called the Black Watch.

Mandarins are a kind of musical instrument. They take a lot of playing.

A great-uncle is father of an uncle which has a nephew.

Pig iron is what they use for making the nose rings for pigs.

Large barrels of wine are called hedgehogs.

'Dour' means a sort of help, as in the hymn 'O God dour help in ages past'.

Ali Baba means being away when the crime was committed.

The wife of a duke is a ducky.

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# HOWLERS

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Ethics is a county in England.

CID means copper in disguise.

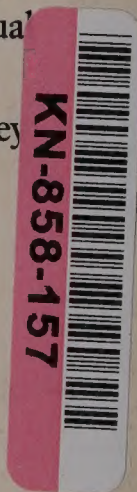
Cardinal Wolsey invented motor cars and then discovered underwear.

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Dictionaries are books written by people who think they can spell better than anybody else.

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