

It Seems to Me

By
Heywood Broun

I WAS writing yesterday in somewhat facetious way on a very serious subject. An editorial in the New York Herald Tribune moved me to discuss the reputation of American newspapers. According to the Herald Tribune's own estimate, it generally is agreed in America that our papers are the finest in enterprise, public spirit and fairness. I believe this is a decided misconception of the popular attitude.

It is within neither my power nor province to say whether or not American newspapers as a whole should have such a ranking in the public mind. But the plain and palpable fact is that they have not. Many things have occurred within the last four years which have led the average reader to distrust the average newspaper. Never has the phrase "Oh, that's just a newspaper story" carried a heavier ring of cynicism.

But it is my impression that newspapers have suffered far more from a failure to print than for any gross errors in factual statement. I will agree, also, that part of the loss of reputation which newspapers have suffered may have come through excellent motivation.

Maybe They Meant Well

INDEED, I think that Washington itself during the Hoover regime set the pace and the practice which are dangerous and punishing to journalism. I am referring to the familiar theory that psychological factors played a major part in the depression and that recovery would be far more rapid if a bright face were turned upon everything which was happening.

But what was the result? Certain investors lost their money in enterprises which proved after the event to have been very transparent swindles. These men and women, naturally, were inclined to ask, "Why didn't my newspaper let me know anything of these conditions before the complete exposure came?" It was certainly the policy of the press, in general, to play down the increasing number of bank failures which preceded the holiday. Up to a year or so ago there was a vast minimizing of the extent of unemployment.

Editors throughout the country fell for the fatal heresy of giving the public what they assumed would be good for it rather than the news itself, bleak and ungarished. In this respect I think there has been a recent improvement.

It seems to me that at least some of our journals are now willing to look at the dark side of things when that is the side to which the weight of evidence points. Even yet newspapers are unwilling to give up one peculiar perquisite. You probably are aware of the fact that when a man or woman sues a paper for libel the story has a much better chance of being printed if the litigant loses. Save in the case of very big names, the person who sues will get no publicity at all if he happens to be awarded damages.

And this bad habit of thinking about the newspaper industry itself as particularly privileged has led to a number of abuses. You may find in one of the better papers long and adequate articles on the labor situation in coal or steel or cotton. A certain number of newspapers will be eminently fair in giving the facts and in telling the point of view of the workers.

The Gunshoe Code

ONE of the most interesting codes presented in Washington was the newspaper code. It enlisted the direct attention of the President. It took a vast amount of General Johnson's time and reams of testimony were heard; vital information as to methods of news dissemination was spread upon the records, and yet almost nothing was printed about the whole problem. One or two New York papers gave fairly full accounts. The rest was silent or, at best, paragraphic.

I remember one particular incident. Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical Union, was rebuked sharply by Elisha Hanson, counselor for the publishers.

"We have tried to play fair with you," Mr. Hanson said, "and then you go out and make speeches in which my clients are held up as great villains and rascals."

"I thought," said Mr. Howard, "that one of your fights was for the freedom of the press. Doesn't free speech go along with that? Haven't I a right to express my opinion whether you like it or not? And, incidentally, don't you feel that your bringing the subject up just now may prove a little embarrassing to the deputy administrator?"

The Integrity of the News

PROFESSOR LINDSEY ROGERS was at that time in charge of the newspaper code. He went to Chicago to make a speech on the newspaper business at the typographical convention. In the course of his speech he made one or two severe criticisms of newspaper practice. As a result every paper in Chicago but one omitted his speech entirely. The other gave him a single line.

It seems to me that the general public likely is to be far more excited about the freedom of the press if it is coupled with still another slogan which should be "the integrity of the news."

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Your Health

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

SOMEHOW, because the eye is such a highly specialized and important organ of the human body, we have come to separate it in our minds from our bodies. Nevertheless, you should consider it not only as a part of your body, with special functions, but also as a mirror of the body for many conditions which affect your system as a whole.

When you have trouble with your nervous system, with the blood vessels or the heart, when certain infections invade your body, the very first manifestations may become apparent in the eye.

Sometimes a tumor in the brain is discovered first because of a difficulty with sight. Sometimes double vision is the first sign of an inflammation of the brain.

The pupils of the eye may vary in size due to some condition in the eye itself, but sometimes because of the taking of drugs or some condition behind the eye.

In cases in which the nervous system is attacked by syphilis, the pupil of the eye will respond to the vision of distant objects or near objects, but will not narrow with more light or widen with less light, as does an ordinary pupil.

In addition to examining the eye from outside, the competent physician can study the back of the eye with an instrument called the ophthalmoscope.

In various forms of severe anemias there are frequently hemorrhages in the back of the eye. In many conditions affecting the white blood cells, similar changes occur.

In the retina of the eye the doctor can see a blood vessel at close range and observe the changes which occur in disease conditions. When there is hardening of the arteries, the blood vessels in the back of the eye are found to be very much twisted, sometimes narrowed, and sometimes broken with bleeding.

WHEN there are diseases of the kidney which interfere with the ordinary output of this organ, resulting eventually in the condition called uremia, changes in the back of the eye may appear long before other manifestations, such as convulsions. Diabetes, too, produces a large variety of changes in the eye.

Thus you can see that the eye is linked closely to many diseases of the body as a whole, and examination of the eyes, both from within and without, frequently reveals information of the greatest importance in establishing a diagnosis.

Of course, where the actual disease of the eye itself is responsible for loss of vision, for headaches, or for various types of nervous disorders, a complete examination of the eye by a physician who has given special attention to the subject is of utmost importance.

HORRORS OF THE NEXT WAR

Deadly Gases to Be Turned Against Cities in Next Struggle

This is the third of David Dietz's series of articles on the "Horrors of the Next World War."

BY DAVID DIETZ
Scripps-Howard Science Editor

POISON gases, one breath of which will cause instant death, so penetrating they will eat their way through clothing and burn the skin horribly, causing great cancerous sores, will be used in the next world war.

A shudder of revulsion ran through the whole world when the Germans released the first cloud of poison gas at Ypres in April, 1915. The gas was chlorine. It caught the allies entirely unprepared and killed 6,000 men.

People read with horror of the deaths of these first victims, their faces blue and bloated, their lips flecked with blood, as they died gasping and coughing.

But chlorine gas was soon shovelled aside as too mild and ineffective. It could be beaten with the aid of masks. And soon all the belligerents in the World war were using poison gases while behind the lines leading chemists and scientists worked night and day to make more deadly gases.

It has been said many times that when the armistice was signed, the allies were getting ready to launch a poison gas attack like that had never been seen.

The next world war will begin where the last one left off. This is the opinion of the military experts. I find it stated again and again, by French, British, German, Swedish, Swiss authorities. That means the next world war will begin with the use of poison gas.

YOU will find very little talk among the military men about the horror of poison gases. Instead, the great majority of them point out that it is more humane than high explosive shells.

Poison gas, they say, does not kill as many as high explosive shells. It does not tear off arms and legs the way exploding shells do. Among military men there is even the opinion that the best poison gas may not prove sufficiently horrible for the next war.

"In a future war," says General Von Metzsch, member of the German general staff in the last World war, "chemicals will be used on a far greater scale than in the World war, unless by that time their use has proved to be less humane than explosives."

But however that may be, scientists in every nation are working on the problem of poison gases. Their goal is an odorless, colorless, deadly gas that will penetrate any gas mask and that can be manufactured from raw materials available within the borders of their own country.

One of the chief arguments in every country for the building up of a strong chemical industry is that dye and drug and perfume plants could be turned overnight into poison gas factories.

WHAT secrets may be locked up in the archives of war departments, no one is able to say. It is possible, however, to discuss the gases which were used in the last war and the gases which were ready for use as the war closed.

And it should be remembered that any gas used in the last war will be used more effectively in the next because of improvements in artillery and improvements in aircraft.

LET us have a look at some of the poison gases and their effects. The poison gases can be divided into five classes. First there are the acute lung irritants.

These include chlorine, phosgene, "Green Cross" gas or



Citizens will get brunt of poison gas.

All military authorities look for airplane raids upon cities in the next war. Poison gas, they all agree, will be used in such attacks.

Professor Philip Noel Baker, a former English member of the secretariat of the League of Nations, writes, "In the last war, gas never was used against open towns, but now the air force of every country has been trained to carry out large-scale gas attacks and unless an effective disarmament treaty is prepared and accepted, every large town will inevitably be subjected to an intensive gas attack in the next war."

The gas will naturally be more deadly than formerly.

"Three drops of Lewisite are enough to kill a man if they come in contact with any part of the skin."

Lord Halsbury, chief of the explosive department of the British ministry of war during the World war, informed the house of lords on July 14, 1928, that forty tons of diphenylcyanarsine would be enough to destroy all of London.

This gas was used in the last World war. Brigadier-General Fries of the American army, in a communication to the aviation committee of the house of representatives, stated that new gases, invented since the war, are fifty times superior to those used in the war.

But they have the ability of penetrating gas masks, causing sneezing and choking. The victim is forced to remove his mask in order to breathe and then he exposes himself to one of the more deadly gases.

THE fifth type of gases are known as vesicants. They cause inflammation and blistering of the skin. Dichlorethyl sulphide, better known as Yellow

trichloromethylchloroformate, and chloropicrin. Green Cross has the effect of making the capillaries of the lungs pervious to the blood. The result is that the lungs fill up with blood and the victim drowns in his own blood.

"Dry land drowning," the British soldiers called it in the last war.

Chloropicrin also causes the lungs to fill up with liquid and so causes death.

The second type are the so-called lacrymators. These irritate the eyes, producing temporary blindness. They are chiefly useful in surprise attacks. Among them are xylol bromide and ethyl iodacetate.

The third type are known as paralysants. Prussic acid is one of them. In high enough concentration, they cause death almost instantaneously by their effect upon the nervous system.

The fourth type are known as stimulators, since they often cause sneezing. They irritate the eyes, nose and throat. Blue Cross gas, used in the World war, was of this type. These gases are not important in themselves as causes of death.

It is significant that most of the military experts emphasize the use of poison gas against cities in the next war. It is the destruction of cities by airplane raids that they are all talking about. This is probably what will happen.

Poison gas will be used against civilians. Men, women and children will be gassed.

On the fighting front it is probable poison gas will not find any very great use in the early stages

of the war. The invading army will be a motorized army, an army of big tanks and little tanks, tanks carrying machine guns, tanks carrying heavier artillery, armored automobiles and trucks of all sorts.

THIS invading army will be swift and mobile. It will attempt to strike quick and decisive blows, to strike and move fast.

It will prefer to use the greater violence of high explosives. It will fear to blight with gas the territory which it may wish to occupy next. That is why at the beginning of the war, civilians will get the brunt of the poison gas attack.

The defenses against poison gas are not many. Some authorities have suggested that a whole city be equipped with gas masks. Gas masks for the men on their to work. Gas masks for the teachers. Gas masks for the children. Gas masks for mothers and for babies in arms.

It does not seem quite practical. But it may be necessary to try it. Not so long ago the British Red Cross Society published a "First Aid in Chemical Warfare" in which it told how room might be rendered gas proof by putting up the windows, plugging the keyholes, etc.

But how long could the population of a city endure in such rooms? And what about an explosive shell that would shatter walls as well as windows and open the way for the poison gas?

Monday: The Meaning of "Total Warfare."

COX AGAIN IS HEAD OF AIRCRAFT GROUP

Re-Elected President at Athenaeum Session.

Charles E. Cox Jr., municipal airport superintendent, was re-elected president of the Indiana Aircraft Trades Association yesterday in the Athenaeum.

Other officers, all re-elected, are: Howard H. Maxwell, vice-president of Central Aeronautical Corporation, vice-president; Dick Arnett, president of Central Aeronautical Corporation, treasurer, and Herbert O. Fisher, Chamber of Commerce aeronautical secretary, secretary.

THE serene scene had its moments, but it did not reach the heights of comedy relief which were needed. That was the only serious defect in the first three acts of the play.

Elizabeth Bogert Schofield last night showed the benefits of study. She was at east nearly all the time in her part.

Much talk on the way the "baby talk girl" is acted in this play. It is a difficult role. Henrietta Orr had this difficult task.

She rose to her great moment when she tossed her kiss to the Man in the Moon as the boys left the front porch on a grand date.

This message was brought home in a curtain talk by Governor Paul V. McNutt as he read telegrams expressing praise for the "Gentlemen" not from Indiana, but in Indiana.

The play was the thing last night and the audience knew it. The players accepted that challenge and the result was genuine comedy out of pantomime.

Others who contributed to the genuine success of the cast were Horace F. Hill III, Robert Hankin, Jane Roemler, R. Blayne McCurry, Myles Sweeney, Eugene McManamion, Lionel Wiggin, and Mary Florence Fletcher.

Hale MacKee directed "Seventeen" and as usual the assisting staff gave a production which was right.

Last night was a night which will be remembered for years to come.

Youth ruled once more.

New Attendance Records
Janet Gaynor's latest Fox film, "Carolina," in which she is starred with Lionel Barrymore, has set new attendance records in Philadelphia, Detroit, Baltimore and Cleveland as well as Tucson, Phoenix, Indianapolis and other cities.

SIDE GLANCES

By George Clark



"Get all the names spelled right?"

Map Garden Plans for Model Home Exhibition

ASSASSIN'S LUCK TURNS

Pardon Last Year, Victim's Son, 14, Kills Him.

By United Press

ISTANBUL, Feb. 24.—Last year was a lucky one for Mehmed, the assassin. He was pardoned on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the republic. But 1934 proved fatal to his newly found freedom.

The 14-year-old son of a tailor he had murdered killed him in the open market place of Trebizon after firing three pistol shots into his body.

The landscape design committee of the 1934 Home Show will meet Monday night in the Architects and Builders building to map plans for the gardens which are to be built in the pit of the state fairground manufacturers building.

The Home show, which it is to be held April 6 to 14, will include displays by landscape architects, florists and members of Indianapolis Garden Clubs. E. E. Temperley is general chairman of the flower and garden committee.

The landscape design has been planned by Lawrence V. Sheridan, landscape architect, to comply with the general architecture. Particular emphasis is being given to landscaping about the 1934 model house, which is of French design. Assisting Mr. Temperley and M. Sheridan is Colonel Will H. Brown, vice-chairman.

The committees are in three divisions. Members of the landscaping committee are Alex Tuschinski, E. B. Palmer, Homer Weigand, Don Ruh and Andy Miller.

The florists committee consists of Carl Brandlein, Frank Rieman, Tom Roberts, Bert Stanley, E. C. Grande, William Roepke, George Weigand, Robert Kiefer, William Fox, William Mahoney, Marion Elder, Raymond Kline and O. E. Stein Kamp.