

It Seems to Me by HEYWOOD BROWN

MY right to discuss American opera may be challenged for cause since I admit that my favorite music drama is "Madame Butterfly" and even so I must protest at the curious nature of the themes selected by our native composers. It would be unfair, perhaps, to insist that no American opera should be accepted at the Metropolitan unless it dealt with Union Square or a Kansas cornfield. And yet both places might furnish an excellent locale. Indeed, offhand, I think of Willa Cather's "My Antonia" as superb material for a librettist. Nor need we deal wholly in theory. The musical comedy founded on Edna Ferber's "Show Boat" is much closer to my idea of what American opera ought to be than anything which Mr. Gatti-Casazza has done.

The point comes up because of the news accounts of the latest native work to be produced. John Laurence Seymour's short opera is called "In the Pasha's Garden." For all I know it may be swell, but I am alienated by the synopsis of the story.

Surely there must be, somewhere, better plots than this old flubdub about the husband, the wife and the lover and "hide in yonder trunk." In this case the trunk I buried in the garden which is most unfortunate for the man inside. And that goes to prove, I suppose, that it is better to stand your ground and say, "I was waiting for a street car."

Picks Millstone to Millionaire

IT is not wholly accidental, I believe, that American composers and librettists have sought their themes in ancient Britain, in Du Maurier's Paris and in a pasha's garden. The pallid quality of these productions can be traced, perhaps, to the hot-house atmosphere under which and for which they are nurtured.

Many have argued that without great individual holdings of wealth many art forms would languish. Certain rich men have sought to justify their estate in the community by buying paintings, endowing plays, collecting vases and supporting the opera. But I think that in the world today the touch of Maecenas is quite as dead as that of Midas.

The new theater which inhabited the now defunct Century was doomed from the start because it was handed down from the top. When the great ones of the land start handing out culture the general public has an uneasy feeling that somewhere in the basket there is concealed a cold turkey leg, a jar of cranberry sauce and a bag of flour. They fear, and have a right to fear, that they are being patronized. And in all truth most of the artistic handouts have been decidedly cold turkey.

Indeed I have known not a single painter or author whose work did not suffer when some wealthy friend, with the best intentions in the world, began to take an interest in him. It is better to hang a millstone than a millionaire around the neck of a creative artist.

Why Not Save the Opera?

IF the objection is raised that there must be some source of support for the artist who has ample talent and slight recognition the answer is easy. It should very properly be the function of the government, both municipal, state and federal, to foster the fledglings. Such aid has been extended in recent years has certainly not been unprofitable. On various projects throughout the country the government has received absolutely first class work for rather meagre stipends.

As far as I know, practically no help at all has been extended to unemployed writers but the painters of the land have had a little aid and have been stimulated by it. And this I do not regard at all in the light of patronage. Taking money from Uncle Sam is quite a different thing than going around hat in hand to the salons of Mrs. Augustus J. Schnickelfritts-Schnickelfritts. On government projects the artist is working for the public and being paid by the public and what could be fairer than that?

I do not think it fair to wave away all such suggestions on the ground that they are born out of a wholly visionary radicalism. State theaters and opera houses are not unknown in countries which have never brought the golden horse-amount of luck and I read with a certain disaffection the news that some vast sum had been spent to get more red plush for the music temple.

I am aware that these sums did not come out of the save-the-opera-fund to which we were all allowed to contribute. Certain rich men made these gifts on their own. But in that case why didn't they save the opera themselves? After all it is their toy.

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Today's Science

—BY DAVID DIETZ—

HOW the force of gravity has played the major role in determining man's shape and size is pointed out by Dr. R. P. Wodehouse, well known scientist, Yonkers, N. Y.

Because of the force of gravity, Dr. Wodehouse points out, three worlds exist side by side upon this earth of ours: the shapes and forms and characteristics of the inhabitants of each determined by the relationship between their size and the force of gravity.

The three worlds are the world of gravity walkers, the world of easy flight, and the world of floating and sticking.

This new classification is picturesque and striking. It awakens new avenues of thought and clarifies many phenomena.

Man, as Dr. Wodehouse points out, belongs to the world of gravity walkers.

Because volume increases as the cube whereas cross-section increases only as the square, volume and therefore weight increase much more rapidly than surface.

This means that nature has put a handicap on bigness.

NATURE's tendency, Dr. Wodehouse continues, is to make all things as symmetrical as possible. But this tendency is thwarted in the land of gravity walkers by the force of gravity which is a one directional pull.

In consequence, gravity walkers developed a top and bottom, and since they had to move forward at right angles to the force of gravity, a front and back.

The only symmetry possible to them was bilateral symmetry or a "right and left" symmetry. They show this symmetry.

The world of easy flight is a world of smaller things, things so small that body weight is no longer an important problem. Indeed, it is not even enough to give sufficient traction for moving on two or four feet.

The world of easy flight is, of course, the world of insects. Here we find feet provided with hooks or suction disks.

THE third world, the world of floating and sticking includes spores and pollen grains. In this world, no wings are needed. Dr. Wodehouse points out, because objects are so small that when they are free they float.

The force of gravity is not sufficient to pull them down against the slightest current of air. Whenever they touch an object, they stick to it, because the force of gravity is not sufficient to pull them loose.

Since the force of gravity is here unimportant, Nature has full play to obtain symmetry. Top and bottom, front and back, are no longer important terms. Hence we find most objects in this world modeled upon the sphere.

Q—By what other names are cougars known?
A—Puma, panther, catamount, mountain lion and American lion.

Q—Name the United States Secretaries of the Interior since 1920.

A—John B. Payne, 1920; Albert B. Fall, 1921; Hubert Work, 1922; Roy O. West, 1923; Ray Lyman Wilbur, 1929; Harold L. Ickes, 1933.

THE SUPREME COURT WEIGHS GOLD



Gold: Seeking the metal, Forty-Niners set out in wagons and in ships, racing westward. The Josephine advertised (right) that, having crossed from Liverpool in 14 days, she could make California via the Horn faster than any other ship.

BY EARL SPARLING
Times Special Writer

THE gold clause is inextricably linked with the so-called gold standard. From 1816 to 1914 the latter placed an apparently immutable value upon gold in terms of all currencies.

When American money lenders after the greenback inflation of 1869-1874 began demanding that debts be paid in gold of a specified weight and fineness, they thought they were obtaining a value beyond human hands to change.

Any government might change the value of its currency. No nation could change the world value of mined or minted gold. That clearly was the theory that persisted among debtor nations, including the United States, throughout the nineteenth century and right up to the World War.

The truth of the matter is that there never was a gold standard as popularly conceived, or any natural value of gold. There was only a value for gold as set and maintained by Great Britain in terms of the pound sterling.

It is patriotic American legend in demanding gold was merely saying, although few of them ever realized the fact, that they had more faith in British money than American money. Great Britain could have raised or lowered the value of gold in terms of all currencies at any time during most of the nineteenth century.

Few persons realized that then, and few compared the issues involved even now. Lenders and borrowers alike seem to have believed until quite recently that the value of gold in terms of all currencies was a natural thing, not a managed thing.

It was partly recognized that the purchasing value of gold in terms of commodities might vary from year to year because of the varying supply of the commodity. It was not recognized that, if the British government so decided, the value of gold could be changed in terms of all currencies—that is, with no internal increase or decrease in the amount of the currencies and with no increase or decrease in the amount of the world's gold or that of any nation.

THE history of the so-called gold standard is interesting and extremely revealing. It originated in England, and it evolved by accident. The accident gave England an enormous economic and industrial power.

For nearly a century there was only one gold standard in the world: it was operated and managed by England to England's advantage.

Today England is off the gold standard and finds herself at the mercy of two other gold standards, the French franc gold standard and the American gold standard.

And if you have an idea that that does not mean anything to Englishmen who so long were able to dominate the economic world with a pound sterling gold standard, listen to what the oriented Englishman Sir Charles Morgan-Webb: "It is a fallacy that there is one particular gold standard, and one only," he writes. "There are innumerable possible gold standards. The assumption that the widely known gold standard is the only one, masquerading under the name of the gold standard are identical has recently brought the world to the verge of ruin."

The world at large was filled with apprehension of the fate that would overtake Britain now that she had defied golden superstition. But Britain was undismayed. Her exuberant expression of relief and delight at being rescued from her degrading position "under the harrow" was regarded by her believers as verging on the indecent.

In other words, during the nineteenth century when America and other nations were "under the harrow" to Great Britain, the pound sterling gold standard was a miraculous instrument of international finance.

When the World War changed the United States from a debtor to a creditor nation and enabled Americans to institute a dollar gold standard, to which England

"Britain went on to a gold standard in 1925 under the delusion that because it bore the designation of 'the gold standard,' it was identically the same as the gold standard from which she had been forced by the war in 1914. Seven long years of depression and disaster and a very narrow escape from ruin was the price paid for this delusion."

What Sir Charles is saying here is that up to 1914 when the rest of the world was on the British sterling gold standard Great Britain prospered, but that after the war when Great Britain had to go on the American dollar gold standard, Great Britain did not prosper.

HE says that quite plainly later on in his recent book, "The Rise and Fall of the Gold Standard," which can be translated as "The Rise and Fall of the British Sterling Gold Standard." Britain's withdrawal from the gold standard (in 1931 after borrowing millions from America and France in an attempt to stay on it) was regarded by the orthodox as an act of financial blasphemy. The golden fetish had been flouted.

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was forced to tie, the gold standard became a "degrading" thing.

FROM 1544 to 1604 the gold pound had been reduced in weight from 200 to 171 grains.

The odd thing, never completely explained, is that gold, despite the government's steady reduction, gradually went to a premium in England. A given weight became worth more there than anywhere else in the world.

The gold guinea became worth 30 shillings in England, but in France it was worth only 20 shillings. The French, and most other peoples, preferred silver.

Therefore England shipped silver rather than gold in settlement of debts.

THERE was a steady drain of silver from England to the other nations until eventually there was virtually nothing but gold left in the realm.

In 1730 Conduitt made his famous announcement, so strange to modern ears: "Gold is as much a measure as silver, and as legal a tender."

Then came the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, and there was a sudden demand on the continent for any kind of money to be had, gold as well as silver.

The guinea increased in value externally, and there was a drain of gold.

In 1790 the gold coinage in England totaled £25,000,000. By 1797 the gold had been so drained from the country that the Bank of

FOR
CALIFORNIA
AND THE
GOLD REGION DIRECT!

The Magnificent, Fast Sailing and Favorite Packet Ship,
JOSEPHINE.
BURTHEN 400 TONS, CAPT.
10th November Next.
RODNEY FRENCH.
No. 103 North Water Street, Rodman's Wharf.

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HAUPTMANN GOVERNOR, SCHOOL PUPIL WRITES

Third-Grade Confuses Bruno With Gov. Hoffman.

By United Press
TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 31.—In an examination in the third grade of a Paterson school, one of the questions was:

"Who is the governor of New Jersey?"

One pupil wrote: "Hauptmann is governor of New Jersey."

The governor is Harold G. Hoffman.

By William Philip Simms

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Unless the curse of Solomon and Sheba prevents, the bloody field of Adowa, where 40 years ago, come March, Italy suffered one of the most humiliating defeats in all her history, may soon be avenged.

The Rome accord between France and Italy calls for co-operation between these sister nations in northeast Africa, where both have colonies, and in Abyssinia, now bordering on a state of war.

Thus a policy of 50 years' duration stands reversed. And Ras Tafari, King of Kings, Lion of Judah, Emperor of Ethiopia and descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, faces punishment for his border raids against the Italians and the massacre of a French detachment of 16 men.

Unless something is done soon, therefore, to straighten out the dispute at Geneva, seat of the League of Nations, or elsewhere, more bloodshed will be inevitable with incalculable consequences on two continents. Even the future of Benito Mussolini is involved.

ITALIANS can not mention Abyssinia without a wry face. To them the name means defeat, the biggest defeat any European force ever met with at the hands of an African horde.

Back in February, 1885, exactly half a century ago, Italy's Rear Admiral Caimi arrived at Massawa (now Eritrea), on the Red Sea, with two ships and 1000 troops, colony-hunting.

Emperor John of Abyssinia was far from pleased. He called on his vassals, among them Menelik, King of Shoa, to defend the country, and guerrilla hostilities began. One day in 1887, Ras Alula, a vassal of John, massacred three companies of Italians at Dogali and such an uproar was created in Italy that war had to be declared.

After a treaty was signed, war broke out again. In 1895, Ras Makonnen, vassal of Menelik, marched with 25,000 men against 2500 Italians and annihilated them. Behind them came 75,000 more, fairly well armed with European weapons of every make. The Italians numbered less than 18,000.

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I COVER THE WORLD

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Fair Enough by WESTBROOK PEGLER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—With the various investigating forces investigating back and forth these days, it is a wise policy for any one living in Washington, or even passing through the city, to lead an upright life, speak only when spoken to, burn the contents of all waste-baskets, get to bed early and keep a diary of a blameless existence certified by an accredited pastor. The investigator may yet turn out to be the most potent moral influence ever organized in the United States. Mr. Harold L. Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior, who had three billion dollars to spend last year and will get some more money where that came from to spend this year, has one force of investigators.

Mr. James A. Farley, as Postmaster General, has his investigators, and Mr. Homer Cummings, the Attorney General, of course, has his. In addition to these staffs of Hawks and old King Brads there are the regular intelligence forces of the Department of Justice, of the national defense, the detectives of the City Police Department and, possibly, some Republican detectives employed to check up on any little odds and ends which escape the Democratic detectives. Your correspondent does not go in heavily for innuendo but the Republicans are great patriots and it would seem that if the Democratic Administration is so little able to trust itself, the Republicans would be alert to keep them reasonably honest by peering over transoms and poring over old correspondence in the traditional detective manner.

The End Does Justify the Means

THE mission of Mr. Ickes' detective force seems to be to keep the deserving Democrats honest in the disbursement of the three billion and such further billions as may be allotted to him. It is cheaper in the long run to do this than to let them follow their own inclinations and then have to find them out.

There has been some indignation over the thought that Mr. Ickes' detectives may be checking up to find out what time this one or that one got home last night and how much he paid for the little woman's fur coat, but, after a look over the war expenditures of the Wilson regime and the salvage operations of Mr. Harding's time, it can be argued that the end justifies the means.

The Harding Administration had its detectives, too, but the trouble was that there was nobody to investigate the investigators until it was too late. Although it is presumed that all the present-day investigators are men of fine character with personal endorsements from their home town aldermen, the memory of the career of Gaston B. Means is a little disquieting and it is the sincere hope of one and all that no errors of selection have been made which might call for regrets later.

Mr. Ickes is a cautious man, however, who has a reputation for taking no chances. It was reported in dispatches recently that he had even investigated Mr. Farley, which would have been unbecoming of a fellow Cabinet member. But, although this report was denied, it should not be taken amiss if he had done so because Mr. Ickes is one who does not even trust himself.

Think Twice Before You Speak

MR. FARLEY'S investigators are currently reported to be engaged in an investigation of the organization of the good Mahatma Townsend of California who claims to have 25 million followers in his demand for a pension for \$200 a month for all citizens over 60. The good Mahatma seems to be the soul of innocent sincerity, however, for he lives in a modest hotel and does not gamble, drink, smoke or attend burlesque shows.

There is no telling who is investigating whom at any given moment because detectives are very close-mouthed and the situation naturally creates a feeling that there is a detective in every bellhop's uniform, a dictagraph in every taxicab, a wire-tapper on every telephone and more than a dash of mere larceny in the soul of every deserving Democrat now engaged in the patriotic work of spending the deficit.

As far as your correspondent is concerned, although his life has ever been an open book and he has always been careful to put nothing in writing, it is a great additional incentive to avoid idle conversations with strangers of either sex, especially the other one, and to look behind the pictures on the walls for concealed wires.

The whole thing should be a great boost for the correspondence schools which teach rural high school students how to be detectives in 10 easy lessons and award each paid-up graduate a diploma, a complete set of disguises, a pair of handcuffs and a German silver badge.

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Your Health

—BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN—

AN injury to the hip joint is one of the most serious you can suffer. Although it is a ball and socket joint, like that of the shoulder, it does not move as easily, because the socket is deeper and the structures moving in the joint are larger.

Therefore, an injured hip joint is more difficult to correct than an injured shoulder joint. After the torn or damaged tissues have been healed, the doctor or physiotherapist tries to restore motion by reproducing the movements common to the joint in time of health. They involve rotating the leg inward and outward, drawing the leg upward and extending it.

These motions are carried out slowly and steadily, but never to the point where they are seriously resisted by the patient.

The following exercises are recommended: Lie face down, leg supported off the bed, knee straight, try to draw the knee toward the bed with the help of gravity (no resistance being used by the operator).

Lie on your back, operator lifts the leg (the knee straight) and you force it down.

Lie on side to be exercised, a piece of powdered cardboard under the leg, the operator holds the other leg. Now bring the knee to the chest.

Lying on your back, lie on a piece of powdered cardboard, move the leg directly sideways, without lifting the foot, keeping knee straight and foot up.

Lie on the good side, operator holds the affected leg up, knee straight, now bring it down to the other leg.

SIT with knees bent, legs hanging, raise the leg to the side away from the other leg, keeping knees together.

Sit with legs hanging, raise the leg across in front of the other leg to the knee.

Lie on your back, heels on powdered cardboard, knees at right angles, straighten the knees and return to first position.

Lie on your back, knees straight, raise both legs to an angle of 90 degrees and move them forward and back, alternating.

Lie on your back, knees straight, raise both legs to an angle of 45 degrees, then 90 degrees, back to 45 degrees and to position.

Sit, body erect, knees straight, reach forward and touch the toes.

Stand, grasp a chair for support; swing leg loosely from the hip.

One of the best exercises for the hip joint is bicycling.

Q—Can a person born in the Philippines of alien parents, who has resided 10 or more years in the United States automatically become an American citizen by reason of his long residence?

A—No. He must comply with the requirements of the naturalization law the same as all other aliens.

The DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The revolt against Roosevelt's work-relief bill disclosed a behind-the-scenes rebellion among supposedly loyal Democrats which has Administration leaders worried.

They won't admit it, but they are. And they have good reason to be. The session is less than a month old. The measure was only the opening gun of the President's legislative program.

Yet on this first—and what was considered easy test, the fires of

insurgency flared so fiercely that the House leadership saved its face only by making material concessions.

The White House always expected trouble in the Senate. But the House, gagged and curbed, was to be the trump card up its sleeve.

In this chamber, according to inner council strategy, the Administration would put through legislation in the form it desired, then hold the House as a bargaining club over the Senate.