

PENNY FOR LUCK

By E. Q. Sibley

Just three days before Christmas Ma Judkins went forth to her work early in the morning, wrestling with a difficult problem. Her work was charging and cleaning, and kept her busy from the earliest hours until long after dark; for she had two little grandchildren to tend for, as well as her tallant self.

Little Lucy, aged six, the elder of the pair, had innocently provided the financial problem for her granny. Ma had made all her Christmas plans, and had spent herself out on good things and presents for the children. And then Lucy had been invited to a Christmas party where she had achieved a social success.

The result was that she was bidden to another party to be given on Christmas Eve, by no less a person than the little daughter of Constable Nolan.

Ma had social ambitions for Lucy, which were much gratified by this notice from a policeman's daughter; and when Lucy proposed a return of hospitality, what could Ma do but agree? Lucy's idea was a party on Boxing Day, with a present for every guest. Invitations had been issued and accepted, and now Ma was confronted with the well-nigh impossible task of getting the money needed for this festivity.

She reviewed all her employments in turn, considering which among them she might approach with some remark about the season of the year, and a petition for an advance of future earnings, to be deducted at the rate of so much a week. All her employers seemed unapproachable when discreetly considered; but the most likely prospect was Mr. Rosenbaum, the proprietor of the Rag and Racket Club.

At this institution Ma was chiefly valued as cleaner; and was the only regular. Ma was under suspicion with Mr. Rosenbaum, owing to her misleading personal appearance, and also to the circumstances under which she had been engaged.

At first glance Ma Judkins irresistibly suggested the Widow Twankey, of pantomime fame. Wisps of uncontrolled grey hair; a brilliant red nose; and the habit, when not in action, of carrying her arms defiantly akimbo gave her a rakish appearance which was entirely deceptive.

For really, Ma was the most sober, honest, industrious and grateful old party that ever charmed. Her flaming nose was due to chronic dyspepsia, contracted through drinking a bitter, astringent fluid brewed from the used-up tea leaves passed on to her by employers.

In fact, Ma was a total abstainer, and a very different person from her predecessor at the Rag and Racket Club, a kindly but bibulous soul named Polly. Polly, permitted the sole occupancy of club premises for cleaning purposes, had not resisted the temptation of rows of bottles behind the bar. And she had replaced her bibblings with water from the tap.

One morning Mr. Rosenbaum, afflicted by high comings on his whisker, had looked in unexpectedly, catching Polly in the very act.

"By rights, I ought to send for a cop," he said. "But what's the use? Clear out, and if you know a sober, honest woman, send her at once."

Good-natured Polly had sought out Ma; and when Ma presented herself as a candidate, Mr. Rosenbaum's reaction to her appearance had been alarming. Smiling himself on the forehead, he gave a creditable imitation of a stunned man collapsing insensible into a chair.

"I told her to send a sober woman," he groaned. "And along you come, with a schnozzle fit must have cost hundreds and hundreds of quids to colour!"

"Begging your pardon Mr. Rosenbaum, sir!" Ma replied, with tremulous dignity, touched on her sore spot. "I am a Son of Temperance, and strong drink never passes my lips."

"I know people," said Mr. Rosenbaum, darkly, "who would go so far as to call you a liar, just for saying that. I don't know that I believe it myself; but the place is filthy, and the boys will be here in less than an hour. Let's see what you can do with a broom and a scrubbing-brush."

The result apparently satisfied him, for Ma was hired on a temporary basis; but Mr. Rosenbaum was suspicious. He came and watched her, tasting the contents of his bottles, and even testing the spirits with a terrifying apparatus.

"You've not been dipping your beak so far," he said one morning. "But understand this, Ma—if I catch you at it, it's the cops for you."

If you are again alluding to my pore nose, Mr. Rosenbaum, sir," retorted Ma, on the defensive at once, "the cause of it is merely dish-pepper as the panel doctor will tell you."

"As hot as that?" asked Mr. Rosenbaum, sceptically. "Never mind; put some spit and polish into them fruit machines."

Ma often wondered about the fruit machines. The Rag and Racket Club, she knew, was primarily concerned with horse racing. Hence the strips of tape on the green notice board and the floor; hence also the litter of dirty paper, cigarette-ends, mud and other filth which she daily removed.

But the fruit machines puzzled her; with their dials showing three pictured fruits in a row; and their device to insert a penny in the slot, or even a shilling. Ma had often considered sending a penny, just to see what a catch it in. At the best, she thought and something told her that there was would happen.

But pennies were important coins, and a fruit machine would yield fruit; and

though she liked fruit, fruit notoriously disliked her.

On the day of her financial crisis these machines were still a mystery. Tackling the litter on the floor, as she rehearsed her petition to Mr. Rosenbaum, she discovered a stray penny among the cigarette-butts. This she sat on the bar counter, for it was not the first time she had retrieved money from the floor.

But it was the first time that she had ever been tempted to make use of her find. It was probably the spirit of Christmas, early abroad in search of desecrating cases, that whispered in Ma's ear that the right place for that penny was the fruit machine.

It was merely curiosity that tugged at her, not the hope of solving her money problem by a desperate coup. And curiosity prevailed upon her to risk it.

The coin was inserted, with a click; after which, most disappointingly, nothing more happened. To have stinned for nothing is always enraging; and Ma, as a last resort, seized the lever handle and gave it an angry jerk.

The result was exciting, beyond her expectation. Three strips of pictured fruits revolved madly, so that cherries, oranges, lemons and plums spun before Ma's fascinated gaze. One row ceased to move, leaving an uninteresting black bar on the dial. A second strip stopped, with a similar result. Ma watched the third, hoping for fruit of some kind, if it was only a lemon. But a third lack ar, after bounding up and down, finally settled into line with the others.

Ma was just reflecting that she knew there was a catch, when the monster uttered an angry cough, and belched a stream of copper coins on to the floor, at Ma's feet.

Ma recoiled in terror, sure that Nemesis had overtaken her with appalling swiftness. The penny had not been hers; and now she had broken a fruit machine and must face the dire consequences.

With trembling hands and a sinking heart she set about her work. The pennies should stay where they were until Mr. Rosenbaum came, when she would make a clean breast of it. Presently Mr. Rosenbaum appeared, and looked at the heap of coins out of hard eyes that glowed like agate.

"I have done wrong, Mr. Rosenbaum, sir," Ma said bravely. "And she told his in detail what she had done."

"And I do hope you will kindly overlook it, Mr. Rosenbaum, sir," she concluded. "If I pay for mending your machine, you stopping it out of my wages."

During her recital, Mr. Rosenbaum had darted curious looks at her.

But now he smiled, to Ma's great relief.

"That's all right, Old Dear!" he said, cheerfully. "If you pick the coppers up, I'll count 'em. I never saw a bigger jacket; but why not, when Sonny Cohen and Issy Inklestein spent hours yesterday feeding it. They only stopped when there wasn't another copper to be had in the neighborhood; and that'll be here at opening time, with a quid's worth of pennies, to win the pot. This is a yarn to tell the boys, Ma."

Ma talked, he dextrously arranged the pennies in piles of a dozen, on the counter.

"One thirteen seven," he said, arriving at a correct total first time, with the money magic of his race. "This calls for a tiddy on the Club."

He drew two measures of whisky, but Ma indignantly rejected the glass he offered.

"I am a Son of Temperance, Mr. Rosenbaum, sir," she insisted. "I will not touch, taste, nor handle."

"Funny enough, I believe you," said Mr. Rosenbaum, with another of his queer looks; and drank both drinks himself.

After that, he produced a wad of treasury notes.

"Seeing it's Christmas, we'll call it even money," he said. "Put that in your kilt, Old Dear; and may it do you a bit of good. It will be worth it, to hear what Sonny and Issy say when they hear who won their jacket!"

Incredulously, Ma stared at the two pound notes. In the end Mr. Rosenbaum had to force them into her guarded fist, which he closed on the money with a friendly pat; for he belonged to a race which may be suspicious, but is warm and friendly when suspicions have been overcome.

"Get on with your work," he said. "And from the New Year we'll make it a quid, instead of twelve and a tanner. You don't booze, and you don't thieve; so I fancy you and me will get along together."

Ma wasn't listening to the last words—she was thinking of the most wonderful Christmas-tree and the finest Christmas party ever seen. —London Tit-Bits.

Much Prized Scholarship Won By Surrey Girl

A 20-year-old Croydon, Surrey, England, girl has won Oxford's most sought after award — the Craven Scholarship.

The girl, Miss Barbara Flower, daughter of Dr. Robin Flower, the poet and deputy-keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum, is the first of her sex to win the prize.

Latin and Greek, for which the Craven scholarship is awarded, are not Miss Flower's only linguistic accomplishments. She speaks French and German and is a Celtic scholar.

Two previous holders of the Craven Scholarship were Lord Asquith and his son Raymond.

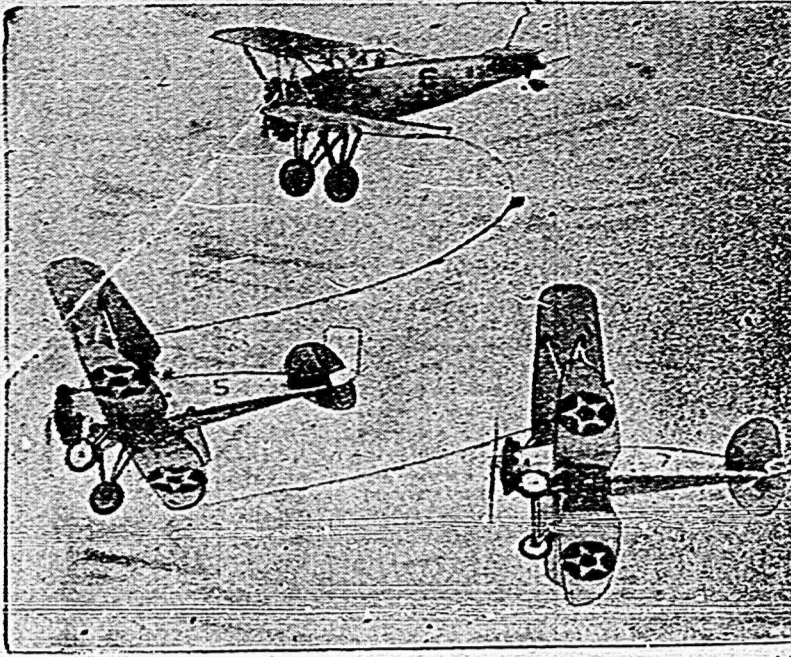
"I am at Lady Margaret Hall," she said, "where the Latin is optional. In the examination you have a piece of English poetry to translate and it is most difficult at times, but to me it is always of interest."

Dr. Flower said his daughter went to Croydon High School and won a scholarship to Oxford just over a year ago.

The Craven scholarship is worth £40 (about \$160) a year for two years.

Silence is the best resolve for him who distrusts himself.

Stunt Flyers in Risky Number



Secured—without security. Army stunters with aeroplanes fastened by a 25-foot rope risk their lives over Miami.

Canadians Ate Less Apples in '32

Pomologists See Challenge in Loss of Popularity of Fruit

Montreal.—The per capita consumption of apples in Canada has decreased 10 per cent. during the past five years, the average being 29.7 pounds per person per annum as compared with 34 pounds which was the per capita consumption in the five years from 1927-31; but the consumption of oranges, bananas and other fruits has considerably increased, and this was regarded by apple growers as a challenge to them to increase the public demand for their fruit. J. L. Webster of Macdonald College, reported at the meeting of the Pomological Society of Quebec here.

Dr. J. E. Little, professor of agricultural economics at Macdonald College, declared that taking the country generally the fruit grower occupied one of the bright spots in Canadian agriculture. He maintained that growers should take a keener interest in the British market which they had neglected for the past ten years.

W. B. Gornall of the Fruit Branch, Ottawa, followed with an analysis of the British market and ruling prices. Canada's interest in the British apple market was between September and April and during that time it imported an average of 3,522,977 barrels of apples, of which the United States supplied 65.25 per cent. up to last year. With the new trade agreement it is anticipated this figure would be cut in half.

Better Handling

Some of the many problems that have to be solved by apple-growers of the province in order to bring their fruit to the market in an attractive unblemished condition were discussed by over 200 apple growers at the meeting. Among the questions discussed was that of pollination—the selection of the proper varieties of trees necessary to ensure proper pollination and consequent fruit production. From the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa came H. Hill, of the Department of Agriculture, who went into an analysis of the pollinating values of old and new varieties of apples that have been produced in the experimental plots.

As nothing truly valuable can be attained without industry, so there can be no persevering industry without a deep sense of the value of time. —Mrs. Sigourney.

The young man had just proposed. "No!" she replied. "A thousand times, no!" "Well, don't rub it in," he retorted. "I only asked you once."

"There Was a Boy"

There was a boy; ye knew him well, ye cliffs, And islands of Winander!—many a time. At evening, when the earliest stars began To move along the edges of the hills, Rising or setting, would he stand alone, Beneath the trees, or by the glimmering lake; And there, with fingers interwoven, both hands Pressed closely palm to palm and to his mouth Uplifted, he, as through an instrument, Blaw mimic hootings to the silent owls. That they might answer him.—And they would shout Across the watery vale, and shout again, Responsive to his call,—with quivering peals, And long halloo, and screams, and echoes loud Redoubled and redoubled; concourse wild Of jocund din! And when there came a pause Of silence such as baffled his best skill; Then, sometimes, in that silence, while he hung Listening, a gentle shock of mild surprise Has carried far into his heart the voice Of mountain-torrents; or the visible scene Would enter unawares into his mind With all its solemn imagery, its rocks, its woods, and that uncertain heaven received Into the bosom of the steady lake. —Wordsworth, "Poems."

Too Costly Festivals Frowned at in Kwangtung

Shanghai.—A society for the promotion of Temperance in Feasting has been organized in Kwangtung Province to modify the age-old custom of spending more than one can afford upon feasts to commemorate weddings and other festive occasions.

The Kwangtung Government has supported the society by imposing a 10 per cent tax upon feasts considered beyond the means of those who give them. In one town, Melhsien, there was a caterers' strike when this tax was imposed, and no feasts were given for several days. But the Government did not yield. Members of the society have pledged themselves not to serve more than light refreshments upon any occasion, and not to give more than 10 cents toward any commemorative gift. Some prominent officials have set examples by serving only light refreshments at the weddings of their sons.

Air-Conditioning Means Better Health Survey Shows

Air-conditioning is opening up a vast field of social and economic betterment.

Now firmly entrenched in industry, it is improving railway operation, is increasing the business of department stores, motion-picture theatres, hotels, restaurants, and other enterprises, and promises to win general adoption in apartment houses and homes.

Records of department stores, banks, and offices are cited by experts to show that air-conditioning has cut down illness and loss of time among employees. Winter colds, it is predicted, will be reduced, and nerve and bodily fatigue resulting from noise will be less common as air-conditioning becomes more widespread.

These facts were brought out by speakers at a recent symposium directed by the New York Section of the American Chemical Society. To quote a press bulletin issued by the Society: "Equipment is being developed to make homes more comfortable in the summer than motion-picture theatres, William L. Keplinger, of the Carrier Engineering Corporation, New York, said. Air-conditioning apparatus within the means of the small homeowner, and needing no trained attendants to operate it, will soon be available."

"The problem of air-conditioning railroad-cars has been worked out so that entire trains can now be equipped without lowering transportation efficiency by drawing power from car wheels, Herbert K. Williams, of the Safety-Car Heating and Lighting Company, New York, reported. New apparatus uses water as a refrigerant with steam taken from the ordinary train steam lines as power.

"Air-conditioning in drug factories is yielding big returns to manufacturer and worker, William A. Hanley, of Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, asserted. Artificial atmospheres of desired temperature and humidity permit delicate processes to be carried on in the factory and laboratory regardless of weather conditions, eliminating losses to owners and workers resulting from seasonal schedules of production."



Mother—Does your husband make a report to you of how he spends his time? Daughter—Yes, but he censors it.

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS—LOST AND FOUND

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



Man Responsible For Epidemics

Poor Resistance of Human Race Affords Fertile Field For Germs

If you take in thirves as guests, your property will probably be stolen.

And if you are hospitable to germs and offer them the food they like, you must expect to have bronchitis, or possibly pneumonia or meningitis.

In fact, we are assured by The Illinois Health Messenger (Springfield), epidemics are rarely sudden outbreaks that come without warning. Neither do they result alone from the activity of germs. People must share with bacteria the responsibility not only for epidemic diseases but likewise for such endemic infections as tuberculosis. Says The Messenger: "The last object of any and all disease germs is to kill a person or even to make him sick, because that destroys the source of food of germs. Killing of people is to disease germs what the willful exhaustion of agricultural land would be to humans. Either would be a case of killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

"Man must therefore blame himself for a very important part in the causes of every epidemic. He not only provides the soil upon which the epidemics grow but he cultivates the soil in the sense that he allows it to become especially favorable for the rapid multiplication of germs.

Of course there is such a thing as a healthy person with relatively high resistance being overwhelmed in an attack by a multiplicity of germs.

This danger is minimized, however, by quarantine, but it sometimes materializes by contact with carriers, ambulatory patients and in homes in which children or even adults come into contact with tuberculous patients. It may also happen when a person drinks or eats highly contaminated water or food.

"Evidence indicates, however, that a decrease in physical resistance is on the whole a more important factor than exposure to large dosage of germs.

Colds and pneumonia are particularly good illustrations of diseases which await the invitation of humans before making an attack. Germs of these diseases are almost universally present nearly all the time.

"By breathing polluted air, by eating a one-sided and undernourishing diet, by living for most of the winter in what to all practical purposes is a hot-house, by changing suddenly from high and dry inside temperatures to low, moist outside temperatures, by drinking too much and walking too little, and by indulging too much in other ways the desire for comfort and pleasure without compensating adjustments, the body is converted into an incubator for disease germs.

"Epidemic meningitis is another disease that usually requires an invitation before establishing itself in the body. A cold or a spree or a convalescence or an indigestion or an undernourished condition or a pair of bad tonsils, coupled with crowding too many people into one room, are conditions which nearly always precede an attack of epidemic meningitis. Carriers of the germs are numerous enough to make exposure rather common.

"As to smallpox and diphtheria, every man, woman and child can take his or her choice in the risk of these infections.

"These illustrations show how each community and each individual can decide for it or himself how many and how extensive will be the epidemic outbreaks of this winter.

"Every form of epidemic disease which the winter will bring is now prevalent.

"Exposure to infection is almost certain for everybody.

"The question as to whether this or that person will be sick is largely a question of whether or not the body will be able to resist an attack. That is a thing over which we have a large degree of mastery if we are clever enough to recognize the situation and are able to adjust ourselves accordingly.

"The most serious aspect of unemployment distress is the possible effects on health, particularly of children. Undernourishment, overcrowding of living-quarters and a shortage of clothing may lead not alone to sharp excesses of various communicable diseases within the immediate future but to serious health problems such as tuberculosis, lowered vitality, reduced mental alertness, and an increase in nervous instability throughout the life of the generation affected. Health problems like these, because of the influence on mental capacity, may become determining factors in the political and economic course of a nation."

Layout of \$42,000,000

Paris.—More than \$42,000,000,000,000 was spent by France this year on a national highway works program including maintenance and repairs to provincial and national roads, Paris streets and construction of buildings and bridges.

Medals for Football Team

Members of the Austrian football team which played against England in London recently have been decorated by President Miklas for "their services to the Austrian republic."

Dobbs—How is it that you are not angry with your wife for buying you such an expensive Christmas present? **Hobbs**—"Well, you see, I am going to be money in. I'm going to return it and get my money back."

Quick Freezing To Preserve Food

Reduces Enormous Waste in Distribution of Food—Stuffs Freezer Show

About three-quarters of the food that is eaten in the United States is perishable.

The new and rapidly-growing industry of quick-freezing, however, gives promise of greatly lessening the present losses, according to a recent address by Clarence Birdseye of Gloucester, Massachusetts, issued as a bulletin by the American Chemical Society (New York). He continues:

"The public has with some justice been taught to consider ordinary frozen foods as inferior to fresh products. That was not the fault of freezing alone, but of many other factors, such as improper raw materials, insufficient packaging, incorrect storage conditions, and inadequate retailing.

"Scientific research has found ways to avoid the old pitfalls. Seafoods are dressed, packaged, and quick-frozen immediately after being brought ashore. Poultry is dressed ready-to-cook, government-inspected, and frozen right after it has been pre-cooled. Meats, from scientifically-finished animals, are 'aged' just the right number of hours at correct temperatures and under controlled humidity conditions. Vegetables and fruits are harvested at the height of their goodness and quick-frozen before flavors have deteriorated, vitamin values been lessened, or decay set in. Meats are actually made noticeably more tender by quick-freezing; and quick-freezing is less time-consuming than one-half as much cooking as fresh produce of the same kinds.

"Perishable foods may be distributed more cheaply by means of low-temperature refrigeration than by former methods. Very large savings are made by mechanically eliminating inedible matter at the point of production and thus lowering transportation costs. The edible portions are completely packaged in rectangular containers and distributed economically in much the same way as packaged dry groceries.

"In the home every product is ready for the pot, pan, or fruit-dish. Quick-frozen vegetables actually cook in about half the time required for similar fresh vegetables. The process of quick-freezing tender meats and poultry is about 15 per cent. It is not necessary to thaw frozen perishables before cooking them. No special refrigeration facilities are required."

Quick-freezing should be thought of, Mr. Birdseye asserts, merely as a system of getting perishable foods from the producer to the consumer by means of constantly applied low temperatures. There are many essential steps—choice of raw materials, treatment before freezing, packaging, the freezing step itself, cold storage, storage, distribution, retailing, and last but not least important, cooking. A very large percentage of those problems are chemical. He goes on:

"Chemical considerations largely determine the selection of the raw materials and their handling. The ripening of meats is largely a race between enzymes and bacteria. Some kinds of orange juice are more acid than others, and therefore less suitable for freezing. Certain varieties of strawberries are almost entirely lacking in vitamin values, while others are rich in them.

"Although low temperatures slow up chemical actions of all kinds, they proceed noticeably even at storage temperatures as low as 30 degrees Fahrenheit. In vegetables, enzymes are inhibited by freezing, but treatment called blanching, prior to freezing. Sugar syrup is used to prevent oxidation in strawberries and sliced peaches. Very light salt brining has beneficial effects with certain products.

"Even in the home, chemical considerations are of primary importance. Vitamin C is readily destroyed by a combination of high temperatures and the presence of oxygen. With spinach ordinary cooking often materially lessens the vitamin value of this much discussed vegetable. Since quick-frozen vegetables require less cooking they may be richer in vitamin potency when they reach the table.

"Quick freezing is already a commercial success, and is destined to become one of the world's largest industries. However, many hazards lie ahead of it and an almost infinite number of problems are yet to be solved. In its growth chemistry must lead the way."

To a Pessimist

If conditions were as hopeless as the pessimists sometimes paint them, we should still have our honor; and that could not be taken from us. If it were true that the battle is lost, we should have the great consolation of dying with faces toward the foe and with scorn of fear. The pessimism in which a great deal of modern art is steeped is the cursing of those who cannot look fate in the face. The air of the last two decades has been filled with the eyes of the panic-stricken, the defeated, the disheartened. "The old sources of hope are lost," they tell us; "the old leaders are shown to have been mistaken; the old faiths were lies; the old enthusiasms are dead; we are defeated and the cause is lost." Well, if there are those who believe all this, let them go to the rear in silence, and give their places to men who have courage, even if they have lost hope.

Excuse vs. Reason

What is the difference between an excuse and a reason? A bad cough may be an excuse for not going to church, but it may be a reason for having to go.—Sherbrooke Record.

Here's the man who really solved the traffic problem—he sold his automobile.