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ESTHER GOULD'S TRAVEL CORNER



Dear W:
"I hope I never have to see another grapefruit-headed child," someone remarks behind me on the train. It is true. These Javanese children have heads exactly the shape of grapefruit, that bulging on the sides and slightly flattened top. In the short time since leaving Ceylon we seem to have crossed some race boundary, these people are much more aboriginal than the Hindu and Cingalese types.

We have certainly had a good time in Java. A party of about fifty of us traveled up into the center of the island to see the famous Borobodoer Temple—one of the great Buddhist monuments of the East. We were there yesterday afternoon. It is a vast grey stone pile—built in terraces and capping a hill. It was built in the ninth century, and later, at a time when the population feared persecution, they covered it with earth, and it was not discovered again until the nineteenth century.

We climbed up the huge steps, walking around the terraces to study the huge figures of the Buddha—a thousand of them, we were told, though we didn't count them—and study some of the seven miles of excellent carved frescoes. It is a strange and impressive pile there in the center of this huge melancholy plain.

Our first night in Java was spent in a hotel that could scarcely be equalled in Europe. Imagine our joy at piling, hot and dusty, out of our trains, and being confronted with those wide shady verandahs, and the tinkle of ice-cooled drinks. Our rooms were palatial in extent with baths as large as ordinary hotel bedrooms. You can see the hardships to which Raymond and Whitcomb subjects us.

There is a truly tropic heat over everything. Friendly lizards crawl over the walls, and faithfully, according to orders, we shake out our shoes in the morning for the possibly less friendly scorpions. None yet!

Last night we had an extraordinary motor ride through the Jungle at midnight. It was very impressive, tearing at reckless speed along the winding road, our headlights boring ahead into that impenetrable darkness, throwing strange lights upward on the trunks of the majestic trees. As we rounded curves we often came upon—too abruptly for safety—groups of natives carrying their produce down to the morning market in the town. Their small dark shapes bent under great bulky loads and lit by the vivid flaring torches they carried, made them seem more gnomes from under the ground than human figures.

The country is very interesting. Principally rice fields in terraces, and flooded with water most of the time. The people literally live with their feet in water and their heads exposed to the merciless burning sun. It must often make them long to stand on their heads! Tonight we will be back in Batavia, the very Dutch capitol, with its many Dutch canals. Then to the good Columbus again!

Java
"THREE VIRGINS OF HAWORTH"
By Emilie and Georges Romieu.
E. P. Dutton.

Surely no one could ask for a more dramatic or inspiring subject than that taken by Emilie and Georges Romieu the French authors of this book, "Three Virgins of Haworth." With the lives of the three Bronte sisters as a subject, drama and pathos and vivid humanity walk out of themselves and take possession of one's pages. Much has been written about this family, which with one of those inexplicable flowerings of genius, suddenly burst into bloom—in the most unlikely place, a barren country parsonage on the harsh Yorkshire moors.

The very inexplicability as well as the importance of such a strange phenomenon has summoned many pens to its service. But there is room for all. No matter how often it is retold there is thrilling interest in the story of the gifted children growing up so strangely and unsmilingly in their stern environment, then their sorties, always so unsuccessful into the world. Emily to rebuff it at every turn and come back home as the only place where life was possible, Charlotte to meet with more success but a hopelessly unhappy love affair, Anne the most timid of the three scarcely to venture out at all.

The story of the simultaneous writings, as a sort of game, of their three novels, is one of the most extraordinary things in the history of literature.

Fame came to them—and wealth, but it was too late. Emily died just before the critics discovered her to be a unique genius, Anne died immediately after the publication of a second novel, and Charlotte, saddened by these losses and that of her brother, lived only a few years. This book, although not wide in scope, is good, in that it stimulates once again our interest in these remarkable sisters.

Illinois County Fairs Receive Shares of the Illinois Racing Funds

Illinois farmers received their annual Christmas present from the sponsors of horse racing in the state last week. The gift was in the form of cash vouchers to 60 counties for their share of state aid money in paying county fair premiums.

A total of \$243,748.29 was mailed to the various 60 counties which participate in the fund collected from race tracks to support state and county fairs and Four H club exhibitions.

The participating fairs will draw this year, \$95.59 to each \$100 due them on the percentage basis that the law allows. The appropriation made by the legislature in 1929, set aside \$520,000 for the two years.

The fairs paid out a total of \$96,098.29 in premiums other than for speed, and their reimbursement from the state funds will average about

61 per cent of their premium payments.

County fairs held at Aurora, Kankakee, Jacksonville, Taylorville, Charleston, Fairbury and Marion benefited most through the state aid program, these receiving more than half of the total amount paid out.

According to a Yale scientists the age of the earth is now 1,852,000,000 years. Well, isn't it about time Mother Earth is entitled to an old age pension?

SPRING CRUISE

MEDITERRANEAN

Perhaps we're all debutantes

If she's been a success, any debutante is ready to take rest by April 1 . . . in fact more than ready.

We're all that way. Winter's a tough season no matter whether you're worn out debutanting—or just need a rest from some other business.

April is the time to go away, to see new faces, new scenes.

Just imagine the Mediterranean in the Spring—it's less crowded and the weather is decidedly better.

Sail on the "Carinthia" on April 11 . . . visit the Azores, Gibraltar, Spain, Algiers, Sicily, Greece, Odessa, Turkey, Naples, the Riviera—and above all the Crimea and the Black Sea. It's a short cruise. Only 36 days to Southampton. The rates \$725 & up include return to New York at your convenience.

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