

The



Majorca Sun

25 Céntimos

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AUGUST 3RD. 1492

«... I armed three ships well calculated for such service and sailed from that port well furnished with provisions and with many seamen, on Friday, the 3rd. of August, of the same year, half an hour before sunrise.....»

THE man who made this entry in his journal 443 years ago to-day was one Christopher Columbus, a navigator who for eighteen years had been tirelessly seeking the help of sovereigns and sages for a mad project to reach the east by a westward sailing. The summons from the Spanish rulers Ferdinand and Isabella which at last made the journal entry possible came to the sailor when he was at the Monastery of La Rabida in the province of Huelva. Columbus set sail from the Island of Saltés, near Palos, on August 3rd., 1492.

The three «well calculated» ships were the *Santa María*, the *Pinta* and the *Niña*. The first had a deck, the other two none. The port was Palos, near Huelva, on the Rio Tinto, which for «default in dues and services» had been condemned by the Royal Council to serve the crown for one year with two armed caravels and complied with the royal decree by supplying them to Columbus. The third vessel in the fleet was furnished by the brothers Martin Alonso Pinzon and Vicente Yañez Pinzon, Palos sailors and shipbuilders, the first of whom took command of the *Pinta* and the second of the *Niña*. The «many seamen» were 120 men recruited mostly by pressure to overcome their unwillingness to embark on the dangerous voyage.

At «half an hour before sunrise» when the little fleet, led by Columbus aboard the *Santa María*, sailed over the bar, it left behind a village in which few people believed that the vessels would ever be heard from again. Eight months later the navigators came back. They returned with strange Indians, some bright-colored birds, some silver and gold objects and without knowledge that they had discovered a new continent.

The court of Ferdinand and Isabella, los Reyes Católicos, was at the time in Barcelona. Columbus proceeded overland by way of Seville to report to his patrons. He came to the great Catalonian seaport in April and here received a solemn and magnificent reception. To welcome the Italian-born navigator with pomp the Spanish sovereigns greeted him from a throne placed in public beneath a rich canopy. Columbus' entry was

triumphant; multitudes made the streets almost impassable; from crowded windows and balconies people looked down upon the collection of Indians, plants and birds which the sailor brought with him as both proof of discovery and mark of homage. He who thirteen years later died in disgrace and poverty told his story to the King and Queen, amid a shower of praise and blessings.

The colour and glamour of the discoverer's return to Barcelona is represented in the painting *Recibimiento de Colón por los Reyes Católicos* on the wall of the Salon de San Jorge in the Palacio de la Diputacion, the work of Galofre Oller and Galofre Boris. It is not the only tribute which Barcelona has paid to the great navigator. Another is the monument which stands in the Plaza de la Paz at the end of the Rambla de Santa Monica, facing the port.

Built largely by funds raised by public subscription and dedicated at the city's first international exposition in 1888, the striking pillar is said to be the largest of the many monuments erected in memory of the navigator. The design is the work of Don Cayetano Buigas Monrava who won the honours in a public competition. The first stone was placed September 26th., 1882, and the construction of the two hundred foot pedestal was from then until the dedication six years later the talk of the city, in view of the monument's then unusual proportions and the well-known artists who were engaged in its construction.

The dedication took place on June 1st., 1888, with the assistance of the Queen Regent, Maria Cristina, and representatives of King Humberto I of Italy, President Grover Cleveland of the United States, and the City of Genoa.

On pedestals on the granite platform base stand four bronze lions, the metal for which was donated by the State. The first section of the pillar is adorned with the episodes in the life of Columbus. The next section, in the form of a cross, supports on each arm figures representing Aragon, Cataluña, Castille and Leon. In the sculptured groups a little lower may be seen figures of Luis Santangel, treasurer of King Ferdinand; Jaime Ferrer de Blanes, author of the first maps of America; Pedro de Margarit, captain of the expeditionary forces; and P. Bernardo Boil, first patriarch of the Indians. Four Victories also stand at the base of the column. The capital weighs thirty tons, and on four sides are allegorical figures of Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

The interior of the column is about seven feet in diameter and permits the operation of an elevator to the gallery at the top.

The statue of Columbus is the work of Rafael Atche. Among the other sculptors whose work is represented in the monument are Venancio Vallmitjana, Antonio Vilanova, José Llimona, Luis Ferrari, J. Carbonell, José Gamon, José Carcassó, Manuel Fluixa, Francisco Pagés, Eduardo Alentorn and Rosendo Nobas.

The cellar of the monument was at first designed to serve as a pantheon for famous Catalan navigators, but this was abandoned. A bar and souvenir stand are there now.

A decorative medallion of Columbus is found on the Casa de Xifre in the Paseo de Blasco Ibañez. Another is in the pinnacle of a house in the Calle de Salmeron.

The subsequent voyages of Columbus, of which there were three, were successful so far as actual exploration went, but the difficulties were tremendous, and his later life proved to be a series of failures, quarrels and disappointments. He was hardly of the stuff of which great leaders are made. Had he been endowed with the necessary qualities of leadership the history of the world might well have been very different.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The strike of drivers and conductors on the Green Line coaches and the country omnibus services of the London Passenger Transport Board, which had reached serious proportions early in the week, collapsed. At one time there were 2,800 men out, with the service paralyzed. The Transport Board took a firm stand, threatening to consider all strikers as having left their service, and the men, with possible idleness ahead of them, capitulated.

A Patriarch Dies

Mgr. Meletios II, Patriarch of Alexandria, died early in the week at the age of sixty-four. His life had been a full one, bound up as it was with the recent history of Greece and its Church. He was a compatriot and ardent supporter of his friend, M. Venizelos, and when Venizelos was at the head of the pro-Ally government in Athens after the War, Meletios was appointed Metropolitan of Athens. He is remembered for the many modern innovations which he introduced into the Church.

Foreign Visitors to Britain

Figures from a report of the Travel Association of Great Britain show that during the month of June 3,400 more foreign visitors came to Britain than in the corresponding month a year ago. This number does not include callers from any of the dominions...

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Anti-Nazi Disturbances in New York

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matters is running high among the Communists in New York City. Early last week as, the *Bremen* was about to sail, a mob swarmed to her deck and tore down a German flag flying there. Police reserves were called and after sharp fighting managed to disperse the Communists, several of whom were taken to a hospital for treatment. The *Bremen* sailed on time.

The Floods in China

The recent floods in China are said to have been the most destructive disasters which have afflicted China in many centuries. Government officials put the loss of life at almost 100,000, with ten million homeless. The damage is so far estimated at one hundred million pounds. In the stricken areas epidemics have broken out to add to the misery of the survivors. Heavy rains are still falling in Northern China causing additional floods where weakened dykes are giving way.

Bullitt and the Komitern

Ambassador William C. Bullitt, it was disclosed last Tuesday, has been instructed by the State Department to follow closely the current session in Moscow of the seventh congress of the Komitern, with a view to detecting possible violations of the Soviet undertaking, at the time of the American recognition of the Moscow government, to refrain from Communist propaganda in the United States.

Mr. Bullitt has cancelled his projected trip to the Soviet provinces to be in Moscow during the sittings of the congress.

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News York's Campaign

New York has opened a campaign against vice. This is more or less a regular happening, although this time it bids fair to turn into a real clean-up. A special grand jury panel of fifty has been convened and Thos. E. Dewey and eight assistants have been sworn in to wage this war. Dewey has been appointed a special prosecutor with orders to investigate any and all crimes, racketeering or vice. There will be practically no publicity in connection with this investigation until indictments are actually handed up by the grand jury. It is expected that two years will be needed to complete the inquiry which should go far towards ridding New York of organized crime which takes a toll of one hundred million dollars a year.

Authorities, backed by Governor Lehman, of New York State have promised that politics will play no part in the coming war, and the whole hearted support of the police force has been pledged.

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BARCELONA SOCIAL NOTES

His Excellency the Spanish Ambassador to London, and Sra. de Pérez de Ayala, were hosts at a cocktail party at the Embassy on Thursday last. Amongst the many and distinguished guests were to be seen the Brazilian Ambassador and beautiful Madame Réhis de Oliveira, the Portuguese Ambassador and Madame Genoveva de Lima Ulrich. Viscount Scarsdale, General Claude Hawker and Sir Weldon and Lady Dalrymple-Champneys also accepted the hospitality of the popular Spanish diplomat.

Don Ramón Pérez de Ayala and his wife later attended the tea-cum-cocktail party given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Neville Chamberlain, on the occasion of the wedding of their daughter, Dorothy, to Mr. Stephen Lloyd. They were also present at the dance given by Sir Louis Greig, for his daughter, at Thatched House Lodge, Richmond Park.

Those fortunate people who are able to spend the lazy hours basking at Cala Ratjada should not miss seeing the mural in Pedro Antonio's café. It is by the distinguished Mexican painter, Santos di Balmori, whose recent and successful exhibition in Madrid culminated in the purchase by the Spanish Government of three canvasses. The mural in Cala Ratjada is entitled «La Pêche Miraculeuse» and, owing to the fragile medium employed by the artist, is doomed to an early extinction. Take a moment off from that sun bath and take a look at Sr. Balmori's work.

For Pijamas, Dresses, Coats, etc.
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Amongst the fortunate people enjoying life at Sitges are Mrs. Alexander and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, who have a charming villa on the Avenida Sofia.

Several Golf-Competitions at the «Terramar» Club, and an International Tennis Tournament (which will be held from the 14th. to the 18th. of this month, are making this Beach extremely popular this season.

Amongst the visitors at «Terramar Palace» last week-end were General Sanchez Ochoa and his family. Lord Seymour, with a large party of friends from London, also spent a few days at the same hotel.

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Miss Elsie Parsons returned from Majorca last week. She and her sister are now at Caldetas, staying at the Hotel Providencia.

Mr. and Mrs. Cheshire and their little daughter, Anne, left for England on Monday aboard the German liner *Scharnhorst*.

Ribas, by the way, is one of the most delightful haunts in the Spanish Pyrenees, and the Mecca of many who are fleeing from the heat of Barcelona.

It is a good «jumping off» place for excursions and there is quite good fishing to be had in the river that tumbles and churns along its course behind the Hotel Prats.

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Mr. Fred Witty, who left by air for England last Sunday morning, returned to Barcelona a few days ago quite thrilled with this, his first experience of flying.

Mr. and Mr. Arthur Witty may travel by air, too, when they go over to England for their son's wedding, which is to take place near London on September 7th.

The Naval Review at Spithead must have been a marvellous sight. One cannot help wondering how it impressed the numerous Spaniards who recently sailed on the cruise-boat *Habana* with the



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special object of being present at it.

Which reminds one that, whereas smart Britons send their sub-débutante daughters to Paris to be finished, many Spaniards seem to prefer giving their girls a *temporada* in England before they are finally launched into Society. English is certainly first favourite with them!

Amongst the numerous young people who have returned to the fold for summer holidays are Mr. Newberry's two sons. Most of them came *via* Puigcerdá. Master Geoffrey Webb broke the journey at Ribas, where his parents are settled for the summer.

A week-end arrangement that will be very popular with lovers of the Costa Brava is the new service of motor coaches organized by *Servicio de Turismo*. Leaving every Saturday afternoon at 3, from the Plaza Cataluña, Tossa is reached in time for tea. which will be provided for passengers on request at a very small extra cost. After a stay of some two hours in Tossa, those who wish may proceed to San Feliu de Guixols, arriving in time for dinner. The cars return from San Feliu on Sunday night at 10 p.m., calling at Tossa at 11 p.m., thence to Barcelona. A special week-end price, including full hotel accomodation in Tossa, is also arranged for. Given the normal difficulties of travel on the Costa Brava, this new service is a very welcome one, and its prices extremely reasonable.

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SPORT

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Cricket

Another Test Match (test of what?) has been played. The fantastic ideas of the selectors were only rivalled by the Captaincy. The return of Tate, not too old even at forty, certainly introduced at least a little comedy into a dreary business. He is no longer the brisk fielder of ten years ago, and was played, no doubt, for his popularity, and as a tardy amend for past slights. Hendren hit the first century for Middlesex, about whose batting in relation to their position in the Championship table unkind remarks have been made.

Racing

Goodwood, unequalled for its scenic and gastronomic potentialities, has come and gone. The layers are smoking bigger and better cigars, and the punters, sadly encasing their silk hats, are looking forward to another black Ascot. The running of Tiberius was watched with keen interest by all lovers of good horses.

Swimming

The Japanese have chipped another chunk off the 400 metre record. I shall have a little money on them at Berlin. Barcelona has now a huge and elaborate pool where one can almost get out of sight of land. Fired by Mr. Galbraith's lucid exposition of Archimedes in our issue of last week, I lowered myself, and duck, into bath and tried it out. Subsequent heated discussion with bird-men leaves me convinced about the speed, but it is difficult for self—not to speak of duck—to perform acrobatics against a slippery wall. What will be the length of the pool at Berlin? Is it true that treating the water with chemicals makes one lose one's hair? How far can one go with a fowl at water-polo? Who is to referee at Berlin, and what Life Insurance can a water-polo player get?

Athletics

The defeat of France proves once more that England can produce a great track side, but is scandalously weak in the field events. Why don't the police step in and throw their weight about to some purpose? Something must be done. England seems to be breeding a runner of short distances *par excellence* and a lot of brilliant hurdlers. Otherwise it seems that lack of brawn and training, bad nutrition and want of opportunity, and slackness, together with no interest from the men higher up are responsible for this state of affairs.

Football

The Association is making efforts to shoulder its parental responsibilities. The question of two referees has been shelved—the Clubs being nothing if not

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Conservative. It is hard enough to get one referee, and the best of them make mistakes. The tragedy lies in the viewpoint of the crowd which always knows better and says so. The disgraceful scenes at Wimbledon and Lords are fresh in our memories, and make one thank God that hockey, where dual control is a physical necessity, is not a popular sport. It is a common thing to blame the spread of professionalism for much of the dirty and *not cricket* tactics which daily smirch the field, but the reason is deeper to seek. The crowd is turning away from the amateur and is watching the pro., and the latter, with one eye on the gate receipts, another on the gallery, and a third—let's be Irish—on the manager, gives of his little best. But is it Sport? And what is Sport, anyway?

TENNIS

Great Britain Retains the Davis Cup

England won the Davis Cup for the second year in succession by beating U. S. A. at Wimbledon last week by five matches to one.

Austin gave England the lead by beating Allison, America's No. 1, after a hard fight in which the game went to five sets and so confounded his critics, who thought that Austin was no fighter and could not last a five-set match. The score was 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

This was followed up by Fred Perry who beat Donald Budge, the youthful Californian who so surprisingly beat Von Cramm in this event at Wimbledon last week. Their score was 6-0, 6-8, 6-3, 6-4.

Perhaps the greatest surprise was in the doubles when G. P. Hughes, partnered by C. R. D. Tuckey, gave England her third victory by beating those veteran doubles players W. Allison and J. Van Ryn in the fifth set by 6-2, 1-6, 6-8, 6-3, 6-3.

W. W. P.

Late News

England won the two remaining singles: Austin beat Budge 6-2, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5. Perry beat Allison 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

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Where to go in Barcelona

Cinemas

Owing to the increasing difficulty, during the summer season of reprises, of obtaining exact information we are not listing the cinemas this week.

Necessary Addresses

- American Consulate General**—Plaza Cataluña, 22 Telephone 14507. Hours: 9 to 1 and 2:50 to 5.
- American Chamber of Commerce**—Rambla de los Estudios 8, 2º, Telephone 18252.
- British Consulate General**—Diputación, 250, Telephone 10588. Hours: 9:30 to 1 and 4 to 5.
- British Chamber of Commerce**—Rambla de los Estudios 8, 3º, Telephone 18222.
- British Club**—Plaza Urquinaona, 3.
- Evangelical Hospital**—Camelias, 21, San José de la Montaña, Telephone 79014.
- Methodist Church** (Spanish).—Calle de Ripoll, 22, pral.—Minister: Rev. José Capó, Provenza, 373, 4.º A. Telephone 50744.
- Our Lady's Club**, for English-speaking Catholics, Aragón, 279, segundo.
- Patrónato Nacional de Turismo**—Cortes, 658, Telephone 20923.
- Seamen's Institute**—Pasaje de la Blanca, 3, 1.º
- St. George's Church**—Calle Rosellón, corner of Claris.

Other Places of Interest

Restaurants—Good food of the de luxe type can be had at Hostal del Sol, (off the Paseo de Gracia). Taberna Vasca (next to Ritz), Colon Restaurant, (Pza. Cataluña). More moderate in price: Restaurant Suizo, in Ramblas, Hostalet (off Paseo de Gracia), Hostal del Gall (Pza. República). Canari de la Garriga (opposite Ritz), Tostadera (Pza. Universidad), Restaurant Casa Jorba (lunch only, on roof of the Jorba Store), Glacier (in Pza. Maciá). For the Bohemians—Las Siete Puertas (Pza. Palacio), Los Caracoles, etc.

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- 14th.—Asturias.
- 23rd.—Esperance Bay.
- 30th.—Voltaire.
- 30th.—Doric.
- 31st.—Lancastria.
- Sept. 9th.—Orontes.
- 13th.—Atlantis.
- Oct. 8th.—Vandyk.

Hotels & Pensions

Barcelona

- HOTEL MADRID (Ptas. 12) Boquería, 29
- HOTEL CONTINENTAL Rbla. Canaletas, 8
- HOTEL NOUVEL Sta. Ana, 20
- HOTEL URBIS Paseo de Gracia, 23
- HOTEL BRISTOL Avda. Pta. Angel, 42
- HOTEL INTERNACIONAL Rbla. Centro, 1, 3
- HOTEL MAJESTIC DE INGLATERRA P.º de Gracia, 70, 72
- HOTEL VICTORIA Plaza Cataluña, 12
- PENSION CENTRAL Fontanella, 12
- PENSION CISNEROS Aribau, 54
- PENSION ALEMANA Claris, 24
- PENSION FRANCO-ESPAÑOLA Rbla. Centro, 37
- HOTEL RITZ Calle Cortes
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«Piscinas and Sports»

Under this name the largest and most complete Sports Ground in Spain has just been inaugurated in Barcelona. The opening ceremony, which took place on the night of July 24th., attracted a huge crowd, which augurs well for the future of this ambitious undertaking. The main attraction of the Grounds consists of a swimming pool, 100 metres by 34 metres, varying in depth from 2 to 5 metres, and claimed to be the largest in the world. The water of this immense pool is passed through a special filtering system and is constantly disinfected. The effects of the neutralizing acids are counteracted by dissolving special salts which make the water pleasant for bathers. The pool is open to the public at a very moderate fee and there are very advantageous season tickets available. Various competitions and water carnivals will be held during the season. For divers there is an elaborate system of platforms and springboards situated on a gigantic bridge which spans the pool. A swimming instructor will be in constant attendance for the benefit of visitors. Besides the attractions of this pool the park contains a large Skating Rink, a Gymnasium, a Baseball Diamond and a Golf Course, and it is hoped to open before long a Race Course, Dirt Track, a Dog Racing Course, a Physical Culture Field and a Pelota Fronton. The children are also provided for by pleasant playgrounds situated amongst the shady avenues. Dancing also is catered for in this gigantic Country Club, and one may dine and wine before a plunge in the beautiful pool. «Piscinas and Sports» can be claimed to be one of the most modern installations of its kind in the world, and one of the largest, and it should do a great deal towards bringing the attractions of Barcelona before the travelling public. The grounds are easily reached by tram and bus from the Plaza Cataluña, or by taxi, the entrance being in the Carretera de Sarriá.

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Drama at Montjuich

To-night (Saturday) a performance will be given at the Greek Theatre on Montjuich of Daudet's «L'Arlesienne.» Bizet's musical adaptation will be played by the Barcelona Philharmonic Orchestra, the actors will be chosen from the excellent company of Mercé Nicolau, and the dancers will be supplied by the Catalan Folklore Institute. Many seats have already been sold for this unique performance, which will, of course, be given in the open air, so that enthusiasts of Daudet and Bizet should book as soon as possible before to-night. The Greek Theatre is situated near the Pergola.

LATE NEWS

Friday, Aug. 2—News has just been received that Prince Alexis Mdvani, the ex-husband of Barbara Hutton, was killed yesterday in a motor accident which took place on the Costa Brava, not far from Palamos.

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LADY LEISURE

By Jane Schuyler

A thorough study of yourself in a mirror may show you that you have lovely eyes, not much of a nose and a passable mouth. Then you must do everything to emphasize those eyes, both by daily care and right make-up subtly applied.

You may have heard of eyebrow pencil all your life, but do you know how to use it? A little knowledge of art principles, a few tricks in shading, and you will be surprised at the difference in your appearance. Sometimes the simplest thing will help.

First examine your eyebrows carefully, consider them in relation to your whole facial expression and with especial regard to the shape and type of your eyes. Usually nature gives you the right type of brow for your face, and the only thing for you to do is to train that brow in its natural line, removing stray hairs that deviate from a neat design. On the contrary, you may decide that a change is what you need. The best way to find out which shape suits you best, without promiscuous plucking, is to apply cold cream heavily over your own brows, blotting them out as much as possible, then with an eyebrow pencil, drawing another shape which you think you might like. If the result does not satisfy you, take the cream off with tissue and begin all over again. You will eventually accept your own brows as pretty good or shape them in a new design. However, when doing so, always remember *not* to shorten the brow. The longer it is, the lovelier. When plucking, work as much as possible from the under side, and always use a magnifying glass which will help you a lot to keep growing hairs in order.

And now for a few tricks to improve

your eyes. Your eye-shadow will do wonders if you'll let it. Blend in on the upper lid only. Never under the eyes. Nowhere should there be an intensity of colour, and it should be worked up delicately and gradually over the lid. How far and how much depend on the formation, size and colour of the eyes themselves. For eyes inclined to be deep set, the shadow is applied *only* from the centre of the upper eyelid, and shaded *outward*. By powdering right up under the lower eyelashes and touching just the tips of them with eyelash make-up, you can improve them infinitely.

Since shadow is greatly approved (for the moment), you need not be self-conscious about its use, though you must do a subtle job. If you can use blue effectively, that is if your eyes are

green, blue or gray, do so by all means. This gives an impression of delicate veins, which you will find just there on the fair skinned person. Violet and green often add an ethereal effect when used in this manner, but I do not suggest it for brown eyes. If you do not like using shadow of any kind, you can still get a very interesting result by touching the upper lids with a bit of face cream, vaseline, or castor-oil. This is more becoming for daytime use than the other, and helps to keep the lids smooth and unlined.

The fitting finish to the glamour of shadow is the correct use of mascara. If you are a blonde, brown is a better daytime choice than black, and for the evening, blue is more suitable. The only harm in using mascara is the rough handling of your eyelashes when removing it. The best method is to wet a piece of cotton in cold water and brush it upward over the upper lashes and downward over the lower ones. If your mascara is moisture proof, use a little cream in the same manner.

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Double Dummy Problems are played with all the cards exposed, and it is not necessary to infer the position of cards. Hence, the result must be obtained against perfect defense. By perfect defense is meant any and all defenses that the adversaries may offer. A Bridge problem can have but one correct solution.

This series of twelve problems has been edited by Selwyn Harris, lecturer and teacher of Contract Bridge, whose advertisement appears in this issue. Mr. Harris will answer any written question concerning either the bidding or the play of any hand. Questions should be addressed to Mr. Harris, of THE SPANISH NEWS AND MAJORCA SUN, enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope.

The correct solution of the following problem will be given in our next issue.

Problem No. 2

S-----
H-K.
D-K, J, 10.
C-A.

W	NORTH	E
E		A
S		S
T	SOUTH	T

S-6.
H-----
D-A, Q.
C-A, 10.

S-Q.
H-2.
D-----
C-K, J, 9.

Spades are trumps. South leads. Can you (South) make four out of the five tricks against any defense?

Solution to Problem No. 1

South leads club five, North trumping with diamond deuce. Diamond queen is led, South discarding spade ace. West's discard is immaterial. North now leads low heart, South takes finesse and leads ace. Small spade is led, and whether West plays king or not, North must make a spade and heart to take six tricks.

SELWYN HARRIS

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Zaragoza Revisited

Situated on the banks of the mighty grey Ebro, which at this stage is most spectacular, Zaragoza has an attraction on the lines of an acquired taste. The capital of Aragon has some aspects which are anything but attractive to the visitor, especially if he be seeing them for the first time. There are, however, several sections of this surprisingly large town which grow steadily upon one.

One would imagine the life of the town to be dominated by the river, as, in a way, London centres upon the Thames, even if she doesn't use it as she might. But no, in Zaragoza one feels that the rushing winter floods of the Ebro, or the welcome summer stream (in which so many worthy Aragonese find an untimely death each year, when bathing) are not of much importance in the lives of the inhabitants. The river is, of course, valued for its irrigational virtues—the Ebro Hydrographic Confederation is one of the most important bodies in Spain—but what rather seems to influence the character of the Zaragozanos is the eternal presence at their doors of one of the most appalling deserts in all Europe. For miles around, excepting in a few spots where the river or springs have produced fertile patches, there stretches a series of *steppes* which on a hot day make the Sahara appear a place of rest and comfort. An excellent motor road, that from Madrid-Barcelona, passes through this portion of the country, and all one can see on either side for many kilometres is range upon range of grey-brown hill, or flat, dead plain, reaching off into the distance. This district is not without its beauty in cloud effects when a thunderstorm is due, or in the sunset when the most lurid colours splash the landscape (even mirages are seen from time to time) but one cannot help thinking of the inestimable damage done to these parts of Spain by her Moorish invaders. With an unerring passion for woodwork, the hosts of Islam removed every tree from several regions of the country, with the result that, as the centuries passed in a welter of glorious and romantic history, these districts were laid bare and now await the time when Mother Ebro will be allowed, or rather forced, into feeding them. Such are the *steppes* of Zaragoza, and in their barren solitude they influence the capital of the old Kingdom of Aragon. Old Zaragoza, by which one usually means the portion of the city surrounding the Cathedral, is grey and appealing in a pathetic sort of way. The dark but splendid interior of the Cathedral, and its well preserved Moorish-Christian side wall, reflect the glories that were typical of the whole town many centuries ago. The *Ajaferia*, where there is a remarkable small Mosque with some exquisite carving, and a *mihrab* in an excellent state of preservation, should not be missed. The number of formalities to be gone through are as varied as they are necessary. The *Mezquita* of the *Aljaferia* is, I think, one of the finest of its kind in Spain.

The next place of interest on the map is the great Church of the Pillar, which is best seen from outside the Puente de Piedra nearby. The interior, the severity of which, as far as its lines are concerned, somewhat justifies its gloom is remarkable for the paintings which it contains. The main cupola was decorated by Velazquez, and one of the side chapels contains some good work by Goya. At the side of the main altar stands the Image of the Virgin of the Pillar, which is one of the most venerated in Spain. She is small, and one feels that she should have a more prominent position. The great treasure owned by this church is one of the sights of the whole country. Many famous people, now dead have left precious jewels, ornaments and personal articles, such as gold and lacquer jewel cases, in honour of the Virgin whose powers have restored them to health or lessened their afflictions. Among the treasures on view is the jewelled cane used by Ex-King Alfonso on his wedding day, when a bomb so nearly changed the fate of a dynasty. The crown worn by the Virgin on her Feast day is said to be worth more than a million pounds. Some of the gems it contains are of spectacular size. Somehow, however, accumulated wealth of this kind no longer strikes one as being out of the ordinary. Our standards are so changed nowadays that more stones, enamel or massive gold objects do not affect our imagination so much as do the towering heights of a skyscraper, which in itself is so much concentrated wealth. Culture pearls have had their effect on our characters, used as we are to synthetic beauty.

The modern parts of Zaragoza are well-planned and attractive. The wide avenue leading to the residential district of Torrero is worthy of a European capital, and the park itself, from a little hummock in which a fine view may be obtained over the surrounding desert, is a haven of refuge from the midday summer sun. Nearby, the Imperial Canal flows, scene of many a water carnival in the times of Amadeo of Savoy, now

a place of recreation for the rowing and swimming enthusiasts of the town. You have to be able to swim well, though. The current is swift and the canal deep. In the centre of the town, what strikes one most is the large number of smart, modernistic cafés. Most of them are in excellent taste, as though the sober lines of Le Corbusier school had a special appeal for the Zaragozanos. At night time, when the cinemas and theatres send forth their crowds into the brilliantly lighted avenues, these cafés become filled with chattering groups, whilst, over all, the music of many small orchestras mingles with the long vowels of the Aragonese accent. Zaragoza, set in the middle of her man-made desert, makes a staunch fight against the difficulties which beset her (her labour problem has long been acute,) proving to some extent that the reputation for stubbornness possessed by her citizens is not just another of those legends.

D. D.

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S'Agaro is a fashionable and consequently rather formal resort, and its hotels are on a level with the finest in the world; but should you prefer a simpler holiday you can still find a place

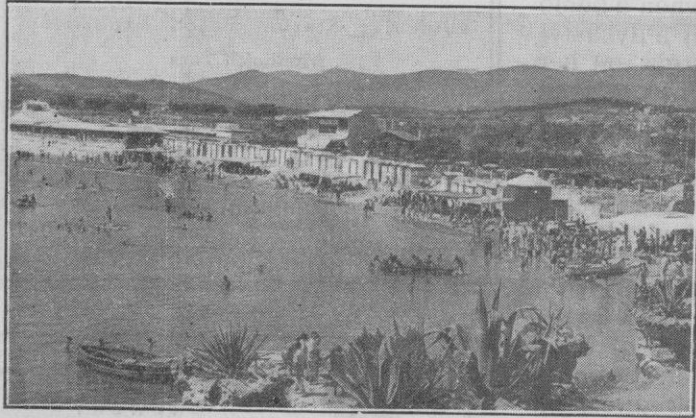
to suit your taste in S'Agaro, and use it as comfortable headquarters for numerous excursions into the surrounding countryside, as a complete network of magnificent roads facilitates visits to most interesting places.

Foremost, perhaps, among these is the fascinating mediaeval city of Gerona. Its beautiful Gothic streets are being preserved with the utmost care and it is like sliding back several centuries into the past to walk through their quiet shadows.

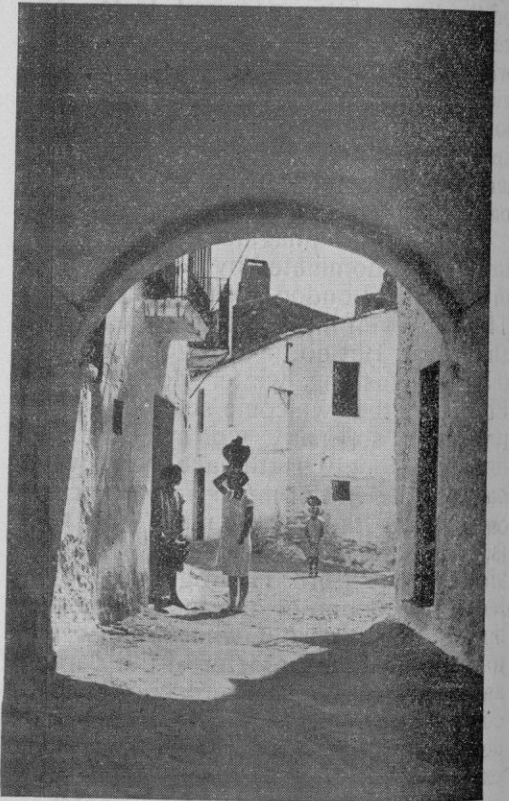
On the sea coast, San Feliu de Guixols possesses one of the rarest jewels of Visigothic art, the «Porta Ferrada» being the remains of a wonderful old convent.

There are still other sea-side spots—Tamariu, Aigua Blava, Aigua Freda, Sa Tiera that seem to come straight out of a fairy-tale, names that in themselves are an invitation, islets lost in the sea, such as «Les Medes», whose precipitous rocks rise over three hundred feet above the waves.

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Bathing Beach, S'Agaró



Street Scene, Costa Brava

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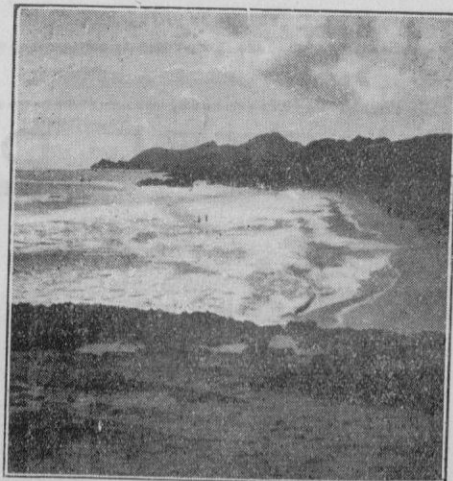
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Camprodon is an excellent centre for many delightful excursions, including the ascent of some of the highest peaks in the Catalán Pyrenees. Superb scenery, lovely walks.

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Letter Box

(Note: «THE SPANISH NEWS AND THE MAJORCA SUN» is not responsible for any of the contents of this column. Letters should be addressed to the Editor, and must be signed with the writer's own name. A nom-de-plume may be added, for publication, if desired.)

To:—The Editor,
Sir,

You have asked for it for several weeks and I have been wanting to do it, so here goes.

I should say as one of your oldest readers—as one of your constant readers, no—I had a lapse and it seems to me I shall soon be having another if you continue as you are going. In the days of the first editors your paper was shrewd, witty and clever. Of course after that subsequent editors have had a difficult path to follow I know, but why not even try to imitate them. Last week, one of your late editors, in his «Eternal Question» was rather proud of stating he put as much as he dared in the paper about bull fights, meaning, I suppose, that he catered for a neurotic few who seemed to have formed a cult, after reading «Death» in the afternoon, which was made famous by its general get-up, good paper, pictures and smutty yarns at the end of each chapter. Can you wonder the circulation dropped. I expect it did or why join up with the SPANISH News and spoil both papers. I have lived and mixed with many people in many towns in Spain during the last ten years, mixing chiefly with the business folk and never do they talk and «ole» at the slightest provocation on bull fights. We go to see them occasionally but keep our own opinions—we know lots don't like them so let it go at that. If you have something to write about one, well get someone to do it who knows. Your «aficionado» said at 2 years old the bulls are proved to see if they are brave or not. The fact is, it is the cows that are tested. However, after reading some of his dope I wonder if he knows the difference.

Again, why dish up all that London news, generally at least, 8 or 10 days old. Surely we get good reports in our London dailies.

Again, I say, imitate. There is no need to use filler, many of your readers are interested in other towns besides Palma. I thought Valencia was a feature of your paper not forgetting to mention Seville and Madrid. Please don't go «high-brow» because it will be an awful «wow» if it is not.

Well, Sir, you asked for it and I shan't even sign a «nom de plume.»

Harry Firbank

(Ed. Note: We can not only take it but like it.)

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To:—The Editor,
Dear Sir,

Re. the article in last week's number, in which it was mentioned that some people are not even aware that the Balearic Islands belong to Spain—When last in London I dined with a very gracious Lady whom I told that I lived in Majorca: she replied, «Yes, I know. Balearic Islands, Majorca, Menorca, Alderney and Sark.» !!(Enough said.)

Yours truly,
Norman Duncan

Palma's Fiesta Week

Official Programme

Saturday, Aug. 3:—6 a.m. Awakening of the City by 4 bands, pipes and tabors, with parade of Giants.
4 p.m. Horse Races at the Hipodromo.
9 p.m. Folklore Students Parade from Plaza Cort to Plaza de la Conquista, where they will give an Exhibition.

10 p.m. Reunion of Cyclists, in the Velodromo del V.S.B. for the Speed Championship of Spain, etc.

Sunday, Aug. 4:—9.50 a.m. Grand Release of Pigeons in the Paseo de Sagrera.

10 a.m. Photographic Exhibition in the Lonja.

11 a.m. Swimming race across the Harbour.

4 p.m. Bull-fight in the Coliseo Balear, terminated by Procession in the Borne.

10.30 p.m. Display of Fireworks in the Avenida Estanislao Figueras, by the famous Espinos of Reus.

Monday, Aug. 5:—6 p.m. Laying of Foundation Stone of Workmen's Cottages. Concerts by Municipal and Provincial Bands, Plaza Santa Catalina and Avenida Alejandro Rosselló.

9.30 p.m. Special Vocal Concert by the Coros Clavé, and Folk Dances by the Agrupación Planas.

Tuesday, Aug. 6:—4.30 p.m. Unveiling of Monument to Chopin.

6 p.m. Popular Concert in Borne and Paseo de Sagrera.

10 p.m. Festival in the Fronton Balear.

Wednesday, Aug. 7:—5 p.m. Aviation Display, at the Son Bonet aerodrome.

8 p.m. Regatta, by Club de Regatas, España, Molinar, Portixol and C'an Pastilla.

10.30 p.m. Grand Firework Display on the Muelle, by the Mallorquin pyrotechnician, Sr. Frontera de Portol.

Thursday, Aug. 8:—11 a.m. Salute to the city and exhibition in the Plaza Cort by the famous acrobats «Xiquets de Valls.»

6 p.m. Grand Concert by the Inca Municipal Band, in the Borne.

9 p.m. Verbena in the Borne, with two orchestras, in honour of the *midinettes* of Palma.

Friday, Aug. 9:—8 a.m. Automobile Tour of Mallorca.

11 a.m. Acrobatics in different parts of the City, by the «Xiquets de Valls.»

8 p.m. Grand Contest between Regional Bands, in the Club Deportivo Galguero Balear, the «Xiquets de Valls» and Firework Display.

9 p.m. International Swimming Contests and *Verbena* at the Club de Regatas.

(Sat. & Sun. programme next week.)

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SOLLER

Miss Sheila Barnes left the Terramar Hotel, Sunday, for Palma to travel to England *via* Hamburg.

Miss Joan Gildea, who left some time ago for Formentor, has returned to the Terramar.

Among last week's new arrivals at the Marina were Lady Gilbert Carter with her son and daughter-in-law.

Mr., Mrs. and Miss Binney-Gibbs, who were so long at the Marina, are now in residence at the Palma Bay Hotel, Palma.

Wednesday night was a big night at the Bar Frontera, when Mr. Dean Paul and his sister, also Mrs. Brenda Shafto, recited the *saga* of their recent trip around the island in a small open boat to a large circle of friends.

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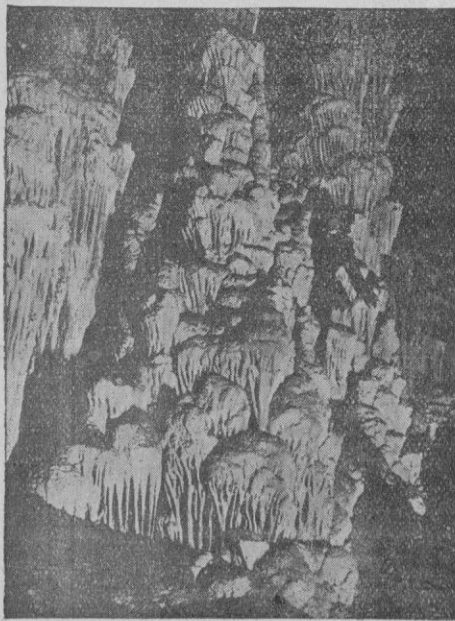
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OF PERSONAL INTEREST

PALMA

Among those who rose early enough on Tuesday to go aboard the *Scharnhorst* was Mrs. Dora Raffloer, leaving for Germany to visit relatives, Miss Noble and Miss Sheila Barnes. The ship lost no time in port, arriving at six a.m. and leaving half an hour later.

Also leaving on the ship were Mr. and Mrs. G. Ward Gough, Frau Selma Gass, Mrs. Broadwood of Deya, the Misses Cameron, and Miss Dorothy Kelly. In all the *Scharnhorst* took twenty two passengers from here.

After being a resident here for three years in Mallorca, Mrs. John Lowry has definitely decided to leave for America at the end of the month. This is a departure which will be keenly felt by many as during her stay here Mrs. Lowry has made a legion of friends. Her three children are going with her, a loss that will also be felt among the small fry of the foreign colony.

Mrs. Ann Bowman-Burns left in a whirl on Tuesday for France, expecting to be gone about ten days and upon her return will bring back with her her small daughter, Linnette.

We hear that Mr. Mortimer is sum-mering in London but will return in the Fall. Also in that grimy city is Mrs. Dina Harris.

Those who are interested in things culinary should see the kitchen of the new house which Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Galbraith are building on the seaside at Corp Mari. It has what surely must be the finest kitchen range on the Island. The stove has more gadgets than you can imagine, it feeds itself coal, regulates itself and does practically everything except winding up the cat. Alongside it stands a noble Frigidaire which made us green with envy. It only makes clear ice.

The Newhalls are settled in their new home in Bonanova and on Thursday gave a small dinner party. Work goes on apace aboard the *Picotee*, which looks very smart in its new paint and varnish.

Mr. and Mrs. Bensham landed yesterday, Friday, from England, on the S.S. *Yoma*. They will stay at the Hotel Costa d'Or, Lluch Alcari.

In for a quick visit early in the week came Mr. Fritz Lyons, genial proprietor of C'an Anet in Puerto Pollensa. He reports the Puerto as full and getting fuller day by day. Also that they hope to start the summer's yacht racing this week.

We were out enjoying the cool breeze and cooler refreshments at the Florida Bar of the Hotel Playa, Camp de Mar, the other afternoon, while that excellent manager, Mr. Charles Salisbury, told us of the success of the dinner-dance held there last Saturday. Actually, even in these hard times, over a hundred and fifty people were present to enjoy the dinner (which included fresh lobster *ad lib*) and dancing to a really good band. Festivities continued until six in the morning, by which time Mr. Salisbury was seen to droop slightly from exhaustion. He revived, however, when the return from sea of the local fishermen brought fresh life to the gay party, for breakfast appeared as by a miracle, in which the fishermen joined, and after a final dance or two the last guests reluctantly retired to bed. Among those present were Mrs. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan-Miller, Mr. Regnault, and Mr. Lawrence Evelyn Jones.

Just on the eve of his departure for summer camp with some of the older boys, we hear from Mr. Ogden, of the International School at Porto-Pi, that several new-comers have arrived at the school. Two of these are Butler Franklin, son of the American Vice-Consul to Barcelona, and Bob Bailey, whose mother left the Grand Hotel on Thursday to return to her home in Bordeaux.



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There was a slight catastrophe out at C'an Casuela on Wednesday. Mr. Abner Perriwinkel, while rendering a small number on the oboe and at the same time executing a difficult step of the *carrioca* which he has picked up since being on the Island, slipped and fell. His fall was interrupted momentarily on the stair landing by a large potted plant, which continued the trip with him to the floor below. In the excitement the oboe was broken, and Mr. Perriwinkel is desolate. At the time of the fall Mrs. Perriwinkel was sitting as chairman at the regular Monday meeting of the Ladies' Temperance Society. She was obliged to disband the meeting in order to administer stimulants to her husband.

Miss Aileen Wall took a party of friends to Camp de Mar on Wednesday afternoon for a swim and tea.

The Howells, of Cala Ratjada, are leaving the Island before a great while. They have long been residents here, during which time Mr. Howell has been proprietor of the Boat House Bar in Cala Ratjada. Recently Mrs. Howell developed an abscess as the result of a mosquito bite and has had a very bad time. Mr. Howell is taking her away to secure additional medical attention, and has closed up his business.

Good news can also be bad news. The news that we have just received from Geoffrey Holdsworth, recent editor of THE MAJORCA SUN, is good inasmuch as it tells us that he has just started work on one of the big London dailies. The bad part, so far as his many friends here are concerned, comes in his last sentence: «Unless I get fired I fear I shan't see Spain again for some time.» Anyway, good luck, Geoffrey, wherever and whenever!

In a small place like Palma, if one tires now and then of the more popular and populated restaurants, it is not always easy to find a secluded place wherein to talk. The other night we found it, believe it or not. If you are an incurable *habitué* of places such as Voisin's or Prunier you might just as well go right on from here to the next notes; but if you like good, simple food served in a shadowy, stone-walled

garden within sound of the sea, and no bigger than it ought to be, try the tiny «Cafe de la Puente» on the Terreno road, just before the tramline turns off for Genova. A fantastic wild-olive tree overhangs the entire garden; your check, which includes your friend, comes to exactly three pesetas for two good dishes, wine or beer and coffee; your host has manners befitting the *maitre d'hotel* at Claridges, and your most private conversation cannot be interrupted or overheard—there simply isn't room!

Tea-lovers tears, layer-cake laments and fond farewells from fudge fiends are expected as contributions to our columns next week, for on August 10th. Madame Stronenko and her husband, of Anglo-American Cake Shop fame, will close up the door of their magic oven and fly to the cooler attractions of their house in Puerto Pollensa. Dry those tears, however, as they promise to return and open shop again on September 23rd.

The Bellver Gardens continue to attract many people these warm nights. They have imported a new band from Barcelona and this evening (Saturday) they are having a sort of band-warming or whatever one has when there is new music. Our advice is—go.

Miss Mary Coles, the young artist who has been missed so much since her return to the States last fall, writes that she is doing all she can to complete her arrangements for exhibitions in New York in order to return to Mallorca at the first possible opportunity.

One hundred and ten names were added to the roster of the foreign colony yesterday when the *Yoma* landed her passengers here. This is the largest number that has arrived here in a long while and hotel men were seen to smile for the first time in months.

Mrs. Craven, of Chalfont House, sends word from London that, if the health of her son Kenneth permits, she may go back to America direct from England, before returning to take up her duties in Palma.

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UNDER THE SUN

Weligama, Ceylon

The son of the resthouse-keeper, who could speak no language but his own Cingalese, waited just beyond the verandah steps until I was ready to accompany him.

The new moon transformed everything into sheer beauty. The night was warm and still. On one side of the resthouse lawn the gentle sea beneath the bowing coconuts made soothing, mysterious sounds and ahead, where we were going, over the leafed tops of the native huts came the distant sound of the Temple drums and bells.

I had been invited, through the influence of the man for whom I had made a sketch of his Temple on the shore, to go to the other Temple for the procession and ceremony following the blessing of the paddy-fields, at the time of the new moon.

As we left the curving, well-kept drive of the resthouse behind us the sound of splashing water reached my ears. Behind a low mud wall on our left, in a small circle of clear moonlight, a slim figure of bronze was ladling water out of a receptacle at its feet and, with magnificent gestures, was covering itself in a glistening, cool stream.

A few steps past the silent huts, around a corner and under row upon row of whispering coconut-palms, and the stone gateway of the Temple appeared before us. Here all was movement, colour and music. I left my shoes by the gate, and my companion led me inside the courtyard.

Festoons of lights—amber, rose and green—were strung above our heads, and beneath our feet was soft, white sand which had been sifted and cleansed hour after hour to beautify the temple floors.

Just inside the gateway was a small, stone building. We joined the stream of silent worshippers as they entered, and without question or even a curious glance from these well-mannered people I was led with them around the inside, pausing when they did before each group of figures representing different episodes in the life of Buddha. These particular figures seemed to me to be

only copies, rather badly executed if amusingly painted, of the old traditional carvings of the Buddhistic faith, and I was not sorry to find myself out in the court again, the smooth, warm sand beneath my feet, the lights and the dark blue sky overhead. In the centre of the court, surrounded by a gay throng of smiling, light-footed people, the men in softly rustling sarongs and the women beautiful with heavily scented flowers in their hair, was a roofed and railed-in daïs. On this daïs sat the musicians, sending their plaintive notes throbbing through the still night air, mile upon mile, calling all within hearing to the Temple.

We passed around them to another small building the front of which was open to the courtyard. Here, with much ceremony, a fine looking young Buddhist priest, in saffron draperies and shaven head, came up and welcomed me. In excellent English he explained each thing as we came to it. Let into two alcoves in this second building were sheets of glass about the height of an average man. It was dark, and the priest called for a lantern. The coolie who brought it was a simple man of the fields, old, wrinkled. He held the light close to the glass, his hand trembling with devotion. The result was I could not see much of what was behind—only the reflection of the light and my own pale, wondering face. Perhaps it was just as well, as in one of the alcoves was, I think, a very poor figure of Buddha in some sort of wax, together with some relics and offerings; although in the other alcove, as the priest pointed out with some pride, the figure was well carved out of a magnificent piece of marble.

A few feet away was a covered space under which long tables were laid out with wooden bowls and dishes containing refreshments for the priests. One of these priests now started a low chant or prayer from the centre of the

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courtyard. The people, very devote, their large brown eyes shining in faith and gladness at the richness of the crop, gathered silently round him while he gave voice to their adoration of Buddha. The group beneath the coloured lights and softly waving palms was so beautiful that it was intoxicating, and I became part of a great appreciation of the wonder of things.

From where I stood I watched each figure or group as the throng moved, slowly, beneath the lanterns. I was loathe to leave, yet feared to prolong such sensations without price. I did not wait for my boy, who was still praying with his friends, but, picking up my shoes by the gate, walked slowly home-wards in the calm moonlight, the temple music fainter and fainter behind me...

S. SUTTON-VANE

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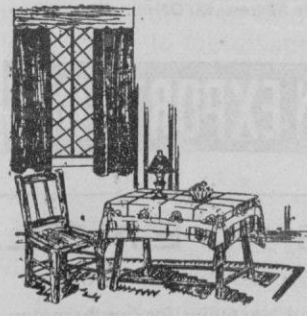
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HOTEL ALHAMBRA, Palma.	15-30 pts.
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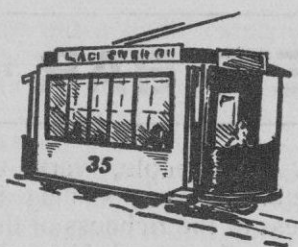
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On Sundays and holidays, cars leave Palma generally every 20 minutes from 6 a. m. to 9.20 p. m., returning from Genova at same intervals.

Regular Passenger Lines From Palma

Henderson Line: Agents: Agencia Schembri, Avenida de Antonio Maura, 52. Tel. 1417.

Aug. 11—**BHAMO**, from Marseilles and the East for Gibraltar and London.

Aug. 16—**PEGU**, from Liverpool and Gibraltar for Marseilles and the East.

Union - Castle Line: Agents: Agencia Schembri, Avenida de Antonio Maura, 52. Tel. 1417.

Aug. 14—**LLANDAFF CASTLE**, from London, Tangier and Gibraltar for Marseilles, Genoa and Eastern Mediterranean.

Aug. 22—**DURHAM CASTLE**, from East Africa and Marseilles for Gibraltar, Tangiers and London.

American Export Lines: Agents: Agencia Schembri, Avenida Antonio Maura, 52. Tel. 1417.

Aug 8—**EXCALIBUR**, from Genoa and Marseilles for Malaga, Boston and New York:

Aug. 16—**EXCAMBION** from New York, for Marseilles, Genoa, Naples and Eastern Mediterranean.

North German—Lloyd Line:

Sept. 30—**POTSDAM**, from far East for Southampton, Rotterdam and Bremen.

Aug. 17—**SCHARNHORST**, from Bremen and Southampton for Barcelona, Genoa and the Far East.

Orient Line:

Sept. 5—**OTRANTO**, from London and Gibraltar for Toulon, Naples and Australia.

Sept. 21—**ORONSAY**, from Australia, Naples and Toulon for Gibraltar and London.



Mail Connections for U.S.A.

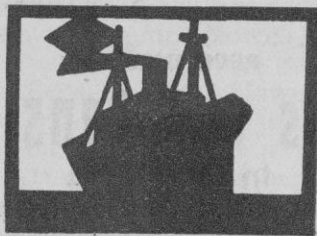
Thursday, Aug. 8th. Mail closes Palma Post Office 8:00 p.m. for the **COLUMBUS**, Cherbourg, due in New York Aug. 17th.

Cruise Ships:

August 8—**TUSCANIA**, Anchor Line, for Mediterranean cruise.

Aug 10—**MONTROSE**, Canadian Pacific Line, Mediterranean cruise, Lisbon and Tilbury.

August 22—**CITY OF NAGPUR**, Elliman Line, from England for Dalmatian coast on cruise.



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S.S. **PEGU** - Leaves Palma Aug. 16

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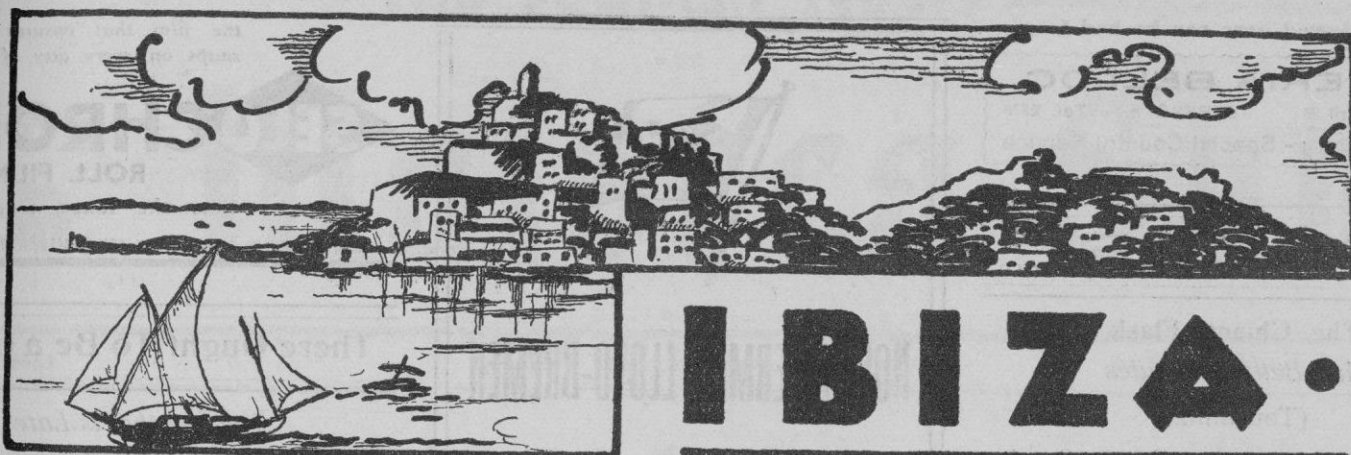
S.S. **Ussukuma**, September 21 to Port Said and Africa via Genoa

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The beautiful Spanish yacht *Alcora* from Palma, owner Capt. Torrescaffana, and the German yacht *Erika III*, owner Capt. K. Moritz, dropped anchor in our harbour recently.

Miss Ulrike Salzmann arrived from Paris and intends remaining the rest of the summer with her family at their beautiful house in Santa Eulalia.

Mr. Hilary Blake and Miss Blake, from London, are staying for some time at Ca Vostra.

At the Grand Hotel are: Miss Morey, Madame Blanchet, Mons. Antoine Fondeville, Mr. and Mrs. Fabio de Turnes, Dr. and Mrs. Plante and Mrs. M. Bayter. Miss Tonn and Miss Lindner, after staying a month, have left for Germany.

José Muja, son of the Argentinian Consul in Barcelona, left again after enjoying himself thoroughly here for several weeks.

Twenty pupils of the Reimann school, among them Scandinavian and Dutch, left after enjoying a four weeks stay and promising to come back, as the Baleares impressed them immensely.

The Spanish military seaplanes paid us a very short visit of only one day this time, much to the disappointment of the younger element of Puerto de Pollensa. One solitary plane has remained—we hope as a guarantee of the return of the others.

Miss K. Steitchen has just left for Paris, after spending six weeks with her mother, Mrs. Clara Steitchen.

Jorgen Lemming, the Danish landscape artist and caricaturist, who is now visiting Ibiza to study that island and its types, spent last week in the Puerto. He is cousin to Mrs. Fritz Lyons.

Mrs. G. Saint, a resident of long standing here, has left for England. Mr. Saint will remain at Villa Bernardo until the end of September.

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BOOKS

The Chianti Flask
Mrs. Belloc Lowndes
(Tauchnitz)

Mr. Ralph Strauss, in the *Sunday Times*, says of this mystery story—which is a study of what happens to be a charming, well-educated, sensitive woman after being tried for murder—«What a good story-teller Mrs. Belloc Lowndes is! And how well she enables you to see beneath the skin of those unhappy creatures who cannot stand up to misfortune.»

I don't know whether or not the present heat wave has weakened what little intellect I may possess to such an extent that I, personally, cannot see beneath the skin of any of the unhappy characters in the book. Frankly, I have no desire to become an epidermal explorer of any one of them. Perhaps my entire system is momentarily overheated to the extent that, in a spirit of slight frenzy, I merely want to be «different» to Mr. Strauss. I admit I have not had the opportunity to read his review in its entirety—merely one of those honied parts which publishers so conveniently take unto themselves for golden gain.

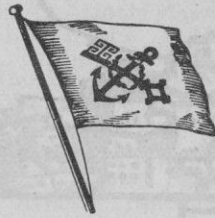
However, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes is deservedly famous as a good story-teller, and it was that fact which caused me to pick «The Chianti Flask» from the new Tauchnitz this week—that, and its attractive title. Accused of having murdered her husband, the result of a stormy and bitter married life, Laura Dousland is acquitted—but it is the verdict of her social set, «the hypocritical friendship of which barely masks a cynical and egotistical cruelty,» that forces her to give in, although, of course, everything ends well, in line for what seems to me the most boring thing on earth—everlasting happiness.

To remake one's life, after having passed through trying hours as the principal character in a murder trial, is no easy matter. But it seems to me that Laura is rather unnecessarily a boot-face about it all, and the «friends» who ruin her daily life are so amazingly dull in themselves (the sort of women who speak in italics, with men to match) that I would think she should be glad to be rid of them. Even her lover, Mark Scrutton, adores her in so gloomy a fashion that when, he having found out that she really did murder husband, she runs for the nearest deep water I rather wish she had found it, if only for her sake.

A book full of regrets, and guaranteed to cause regrets, which, really, one should never have.

S. S. - V.

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There Ought To Be a Law -

The Heather is Late

We were a whole lot relieved and disappointed, too, in fact we didn't know just where we stood after we had read the reports on the coming grouse season in the *London Times* the other day. We had set our heart on getting a bit of shooting this season and had written lots of letters to folks we knew in England who might, in a loose moment, answer us and say come along up for a fortnight. So far the only answer we've had mentions a fortnight, all right, but goes on to say something about ten quid and legal action and was really quite unpleasant. So maybe we won't go after all. However the report simply fascinated us.

We looked right away for Argyllshire because we always liked the name, and Cholmondeley is easy to pronounce. If we do go, we hope we are invited up there. Under Inverary, which must be a suburb or something of Argyllshire, we found some confusing facts. A fine stock of grouse was left from last year (they must have had guests who shot the way we do), they nested well and in some of their tiny homes there were as many as seven eggs. But in May they had a bad snow-storm and it apparently did plenty of damage. Some birds got lost and some even went so far as to lose their homes entirely. But the ones that survived are a healthy lot. Not even a single cold is reported. But the heather is late.

In Kintyre, though, there is real bad news. *Strongolosis* made its appearance. Anyone who has ever had anything to do with *strongolosis* will agree that this is about as bad a thing as could possibly happen. There will be many an unfired gun in Kintyre this year. The heather is late, too.

At Gordon-Richmond Estates (not a development) some homes were destroyed and there are lots of grouse around without families. This is a sad state of affairs and, while it is impossible to pin the blame on anyone, pamphlets of the Birth Control League have been found around the Estates. And then the heather is late, too.

Keith reports that the snow-storm in May did very little harm as the feathery little fellows were sitting tight, presumably waiting for a rise. There is no sickness in Keith, we are glad to report, although the heather is late, but then one simply can't have everything.

R. M. G.

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