

THE OPEN FORUM

THE POLISH QUESTION AGAIN

SIR: Messrs. Chamberlin and Lyons in their defense of Poland as the injured party in the Russo-Polish border dispute have committed several sins of omission which ought to be cleared up in the interest of truth. If the spirit of fair play demands that we go to bat for Poland in this dispute, the same spirit demands that we know what we are defending.

The Government of Pre-war Poland can in no sense be termed a democratic one. Its treatment of minority peoples was, to say the least, deplorable, and this despite the fact that Poland was originally created with the understanding that its minorities would be protected.

No doubt you recall its treatment of the Ukrainians who were practically forbidden the use of their language. Have you forgotten Poland's treatment of its three million Jewish citizens? And is it not noteworthy that Poland was not at all finicky about grabbing a slice of dismembered Czechoslovakia, with Hitler's aid, in 1938?

The present Polish Government-in-exile is but a continuation of that same Polish oligarchy and it is visionary to hope that things will change when peace comes. The recent dispatches to the *New York Times* regarding the behavior of Polish exiles in Iran and in Palestine, and most recently, the desertion trials of Polish-Jewish soldiers clearly indicate that the Polish Government-in-exile is dominated by reactionaries wholly out of step with the democratic spirit of the United Nations. I have not heard of any desertions by Jewish soldiers from the armies of any of the other United Nations and surely the heroic revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto would in itself belie such charges.

If Messrs. Chamberlin and Lyons wish to defend such a Poland it is their privilege, but I am sure that your readers will agree that for the inhabitants of the disputed area — the majority of whom are non-Poles — Russia with all its ac-

knowledgeed shortcomings, is the lesser of the two evils.

ISRAEL KLAVAN

Rabbi

*Williamsport,
Pennsylvania.*

Note: All that Rabbi Klavan says, even if it were 100 per cent true, which it is not, would only prove that Poland ought to have a more democratic régime.

It scarcely justifies the imposition of an even less democratic government on all or any part of this small member nation of the United Nations by one of the big members. Those of Russia's neighbors who remain independent will have, at least, the chance of developing free institutions. If swallowed by their huge neighbor that chance will be lost forever, or at least until Russia itself is free.

— E. L.

CATHOLICS AND BIRTH CONTROL

SIR: I have just finished reading carefully the article written by J. H. J. Upham, M. D., in the February issue of *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*, "The Catholics and Birth Control." There is a definite deceit in this article that evades the entire issue of birth control. The "powerful" minority group which Dr. Upham refers to in his article who represent only one-sixth of the population of this country, and of which there are one-third who are in the armed forces of our country fighting to preserve the principles of decency and democracy would not be there if they believed in or practiced birth control. Who is this powerful majority who would like to drive this unethical practice down the throats of the people in this country? It is the same group that has been trying for years to drive this unethical practice home not only to their own select set, but to Catholics also.

Birth control is immoral and against the natural

law as well as the law of God and those who practice it are violating the law of God as well as the law of nature, and no evasive arguments to the contrary can change that fact. Catholics are no more interested in the political aspects of birth control than Dr. Upham is, but, because from a Catholic standpoint birth control is wrong, Catholics everywhere will resist any effort on the part of any organization to foist their diabolical free love theory upon the people of this country. It is a self evident fact, and even Dr. Upham seems to recognize that Catholics in this country cannot be "blown about by every wind of fashionable doctrine."

JOHN F. BURKE, YEOMAN 1ST CL.
USNCTC, S. C. Legal Office,
Camp Peary, Virginia.

SIR: This is to express to you my complete approval of the article on "Catholics and Birth Control" by Dr. Upham. It is the very best of its kind I have read. It is also a great satisfaction to those of us who have given our effort and time to the birth control movement, to have magazines such as yours present in such a courageous manner a discussion of this most important sociological problem.

MRS. CHARLES A. GOETTING
Honorary President

El Paso Mothers' Health Center,
El Paso,
Texas.

SIR: I have read with interest and pleasure the article by Dr. Upham about the Catholics and Planned Parenthood. I want to commend you for printing so straightforward and honest an account of the controversy. It is preposterous that in this country founded for religious freedom there should be so much pressure by one religious body against an organization which is constantly contributing to the nation healthier, better adjusted, economically more helpful families.

I'd like to have Dr. Upham's article reprinted in every newspaper and magazine in the country, so that the great body of thinking people in the country would rise up and demand an end to the domination of the Catholic minority.

RUTH H. STINE

Colorado Springs,
Colorado.

DEFENCE OF DOGS

SIR: In your January issue, there appeared an article entitled "Why I Hate Dogs," and I just finished reading it. At the present time, my blood is boiling, and I would like personally to meet the author.

On the other hand, I hope, for his sake, that we never meet. I very much fear it would be a most unpleasant experience for him. I wonder if Mr. Wyndham knows anything about the wonderful job our K-9 Corps is doing in this war? Evidently not!

He would probably brand the facts in this case as blasphemy. I have always said that every man has a right to his own opinion, but there is a limit to everything.

I will agree with the author in that there is no sign of genius in a dog "making a rumpus" when he smells smoke, and, as he further stated, a parrot will do the same. However, did Mr. Wyndham ever hear of a parrot, or any other bird or animal, dragging an unconscious man out of a burning apartment building? Also, did a parrot ever rescue a drowning man, track down and kill a murderer, or lead a totally blind person around the City of New York and through the busiest intersections with or without human assistance?

I would like to ask the author just how many of us are perfect. We all have our faults, dozens of them.

Mr. Wyndham's article doesn't live up to the title, not at all. He merely stated a few, and damn' few at that, of dogs' shortcomings. What has any dog ever done to him, personally, to warrant the writing of such atrocities?

In closing, I would like to say that I sincerely wish all the dog-haters would form a club or society, as suggested in the article, in order to allow the American public either to exterminate them or put them some place out of the way. Such fanaticism is indeed dangerous to the welfare of the American people. And I thought the Army sent me over here because of a war with the Japanese!

I must have been dreaming, to think all of the barbarians lived outside the Continental limits of the United States.

CORPORAL R. L. ABEL

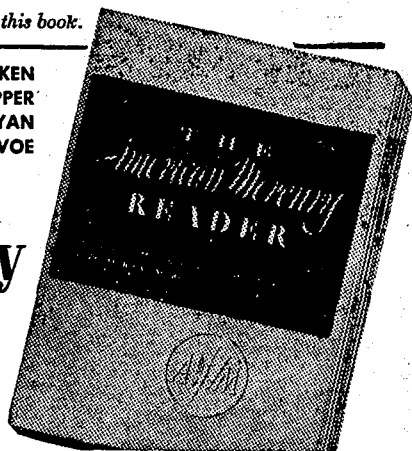
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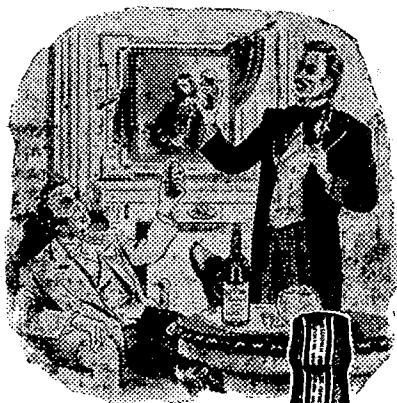
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(Continued from page 122)

poison during the Russian Revolution, Frossia refused and fled alone to Petrograd because to her life itself, regardless of the circumstances, was all-important. This is the central theme of Mrs. Almedingen's novel. Less convincingly maintained is the parallel theme that no matter what the political system or how great the misery it brings, Russia is always progressing towards something greater. But fortunately *Frossia* is neither a chronicle of events nor political propaganda but primarily a picture of the Russian people, and as such it makes absorbing and enlightening reading.

THE WOMEN ON THE PORCH, by Caroline Gordon. \$2.50. *Scribner's*. Catharine Chapman discovers her husband's infidelity and flees New York to be with her relatives in Tennessee, where she tries to resolve the conflict within her. The characters are well-created but the story seems a bit disintegrated and tenuous.

THE RED COCK CROWS, by Frances Gaither. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. Pre-civil war Southern life in all its beauty and all its ugliness as seen through the eyes of a Northern schoolmaster. A worthwhile and highly exciting story of a slave rebellion and what happens when existing laws are forgotten.

GREAT TALES OF TERROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL, edited by Herbert A. Wise and Phyllis Fraser. \$2.95. *Random House*. Fifty-two stories to chill your blood during the coming hot weather. All are entertaining, but some will be too familiar to the follower of terror tales. Authors range all the way from Poe to Hemingway.

THE CASE-BOOK OF JIMMY LAVENDER, by Vincent Starrett. \$2.50. *Gold Label*. Twelve of the well-known detective's best adventures are collected in book form for the first time. Good hunting.