

to a janitor, helper in a garage, worker on a farm or in a greenhouse, or as a delivery boy. For girls, such positions include errand girl, packer, or domestic assistant.

IV

A recent development of particular significance in the field of mental deficiency is the organization of groups for parent education. Such groups are not only helping their mentally retarded children, but are helping themselves, as they gain more insight and understanding of the problems which they and their children face. New Jersey has led among the states promoting such groups, and the New Jersey State Department of Institutions and Agencies, in Trenton, has prepared a manual for the formation and functioning of such groups.

The plight of the mentally deficient

is particularly tragic in that there is no one from their ranks to whom they can point with particular pride. The poliomyelitis victim has Franklin D. Roosevelt as a man who overcame his disabilities; the epileptics, Julius Caesar; the psychotics, Clifford Beers; the deaf and blind, Milton, Beethoven, Helen Keller and a host of others. But the mentally deficient, by the nature of their condition, are destined for mediocrity.

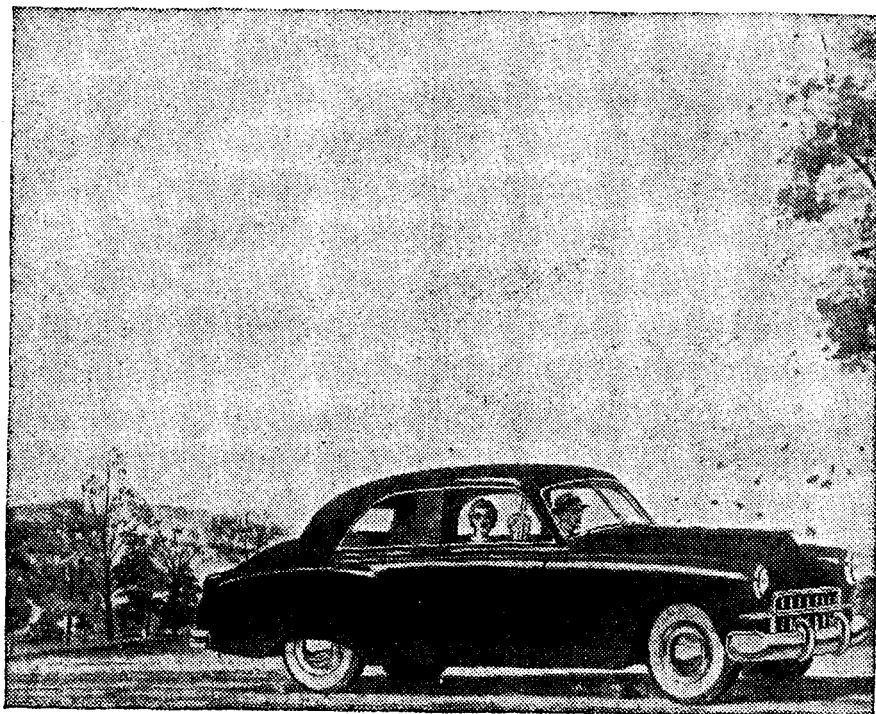
The greatest handicap that the nearly-half-million mentally deficient children in the United States have is not their low mentality, but the public's lack of understanding. Society's responsibility to these children who never grow up is to find out what they individually are capable of doing, and then to give them the chance to do it. Or, if they are incapable of working, to give them adequate facilities for custodial care.

PHRASE ORIGINS—56

TO KNOW WHERE THE SHOE PINCHES: *This phrase has a double meaning: to recognize a sore spot, or to imply that the best judge of a person's trouble is the sufferer himself. It is a very old English proverbial saying which has its counterpart and possible origin in a story told by Plutarch in his Life of Aemilius Paulus. Plutarch tells the story of a Roman who had divorced his wife. The husband's friends complained of his conduct and pleaded with him, "Was she not chaste? Was she not fair? Was she not fruitful?" In reply, the Roman took one of his shoes, held it up to his friends, and asked, "Isn't this new? Isn't it well made?" When they failed to answer, he added, "Yet, not one of you can tell me where this shoe pinches me."*

MORRIS ROSENBLUM

For Safer Autumn Driving



Autumn, with its crisp, cool days, is usually one of the most pleasant seasons of the year for motoring—but this can be enjoyable only when it is safe.

The President's Highway Safety Conference reports that the traffic fatality rate has dropped steadily in the postwar period from 11.3 for each 100,000,000 miles of vehicle travel in 1945 to 7.3 in 1948. While this is encouraging, the 32,000 automobile accident fatalities last year indicate the need for greater improvement.

Safety authorities agree that most

accidents are the result of *drivers' mistakes*. By far the most important cause of accidents is the failure of drivers to adjust speed to changing road and traffic conditions. For example, 55 per cent of all fatal accidents happen at night, when vision is obscured, and 14 per cent occur in inclement weather, when roads are slippery.

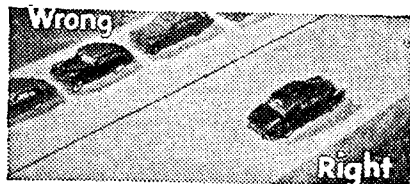
Traffic experts stress driving at reasonable speeds as one of the most important steps in reducing highway accidents. In addition, they make a number of other suggestions, some of which are illustrated at the right:



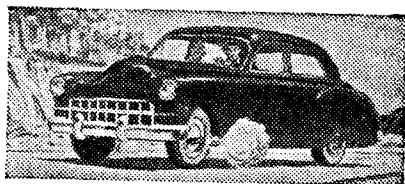
1. Vehicle defects are reported as contributing causes in many accidents. So, it is important to have your car completely checked at regular intervals to make sure it is in safe operating condition. Particular attention should be given at all times to brakes, tires, steering mechanism and lights.



2. Skidding on slippery surfaces is a frequent cause of accidents. To help avoid this, brakes should be applied with light pressure, then released and applied again. Jamming the brakes on will lock the wheels and may cause a skid.



3. Collisions frequently occur when cars are too close together. On dry pavements, a good rule is to allow one car length for every 10 miles of speed. This margin should be increased at night, on slippery roads, or at high speeds.



4. Emergencies need not always cause accidents if drivers know how to handle them. For example, when a tire blows out, keep a tight grip on the wheel and allow the car to slow down before applying the brakes. This makes it easier to prevent swerving or skidding.

The cardinal principle of safe driving is to keep one's car under control at all times. Only as more and more motorists observe this basic principle can the number of automobile accident fatalities be further reduced.

For more information, send for Metropolitan's free booklet, 129-L, called "How's Your Driving?"



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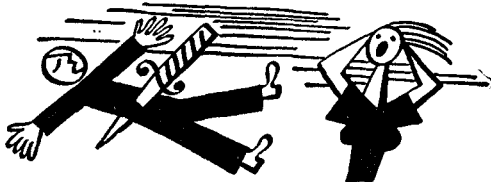
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THE THEATRE

by GEORGE JEAN NATHAN



CLINICAL NOTES

Sensitivity. Why is it that no fat, or at least physically substantial, actor is ever described by the critics as sensitive? Let him be personally, professionally and artistically as sensitive as a violin string and the adjective will nonetheless be withheld from him and bestowed instead on some colleague, however lacking in the quality, who weighs under one hundred and thirty pounds and looks as if he had not had a square meal for a month.

* * *

Lost Persons Bureau. What ever became of Sartre?

* * *

Memory. It is possible that I may forget many things as the years roll along, but I doubt if 'til my dying day I shall fail to remember a ditty of forty years ago by the Messrs. Dumont and Lilly that bore the matchless title, *Plant a Watermelon on My Grave and Let the Juice Soak Through.*

Sidenote. Take away the epithet son-of-a-bitch from the contemporary American playwright and he would have to get someone else to write the curtains to his second or third acts.

* * *

Vaudeville. Seven vaudeville acts out of every eight are based on the theory that the average human being's capacity for acute suffering is limited to about twenty minutes. The eighth act, on the other hand, is based on the theory that average human beings do not attend vaudeville shows and that, as a consequence, vaudeville audiences are abnormal and hence able to endure exquisite pain for at least half an hour. The eighth act is accordingly known in professional circles as a headliner.

* * *

Souvenir. One of the things that has disappeared from the theatre, and to its amusement loss, is the old-time curtain speech. Now and again, true enough, there is a perfunctory one,