

colour his version of this volume as they coloured the first.

"I write in and for a country where equality has won an irreversible victory over aristocracy. In these circumstances I have felt it my duty to dwell particularly on the evil tendencies to which quality *can* give birth in order to try to prevent my contemporaries from succumbing to them.... So I utter truths that are often unpleasant as to French society today and to democratic societies in general, but I utter them as a friend and not censoriously. Indeed it is because I am a friend that I dare to speak. Your translation must present me as such. I ask it not only of the translator, but of the man." (For the French, see Professor Mayer's edition, pp. 47-8.)

Tocqueville was a friend of democracy who put his searching and impartial judgment, and his transcendent intellectual honesty, at the service of his cause. If Mr Hirschson will only accept this almost self-evident proposition, he will also see how his earlier remarks tended to obscure it, and why, therefore, I attacked him.

HUGH BROGAN

*St. John's College,  
Cambridge.*

## Wittgenstein

IN THE PERSONAL MEMOIR of Ludwig Wittgenstein by Fania Pascal which appeared in your August issue, she describes Wittgenstein's "Confession" as being told in confidence to a few people. My recollection is that the Confession was also circulated by word of mouth to a number of people (including myself) at Wittgenstein's request. It would not appear therefore that Wittgenstein regarded it as very confidential, though he might have been surprised if he had known it would be published in your magazine more than two decades after his death! If he had known, he might have said something like: Good. If they want to understand what sort of person I was, let them know the worst....

Fania Pascal says that Wittgenstein was "a man of great purity and innocence." However, quite apart from the incidents in the Confession (of which Fania Pascal mentions two while I remember three), Wittgenstein's behaviour, and his views on moral and ethical matters, were by no means always pure and innocent. He himself constantly stressed his own moral shortcomings, and I see no reason not to take him at his own evaluation in this respect.

My knowledge of Wittgenstein is based on private conversations and correspondence with him over a period of several years beginning in 1935.

GEORGE R. FFENNEL

*Copenhagen*

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Tangier

**DAIRY STORY:** May I [Alec Waugh writes from Tangier] correct an inaccuracy in Alan Brien's Diary last week.

My brother Evelyn was not conceived above a dairy in Finchley Road. My parents, who were married in October, 1893, moved two or three years later—I do not know the exact date—from their flat in Finchley Road to the house in West Hampstead, No. 11 Hillfield Road, where I was born in July, 1898, and Evelyn in October, 1903.

SUNDAY TIMES

Cambridge

**SHELF SHELVED:** *Lest there be any confusion, the "prominent Cambridge bookshop" which has labelled one case of books PORNOGRAPHY is not that prominent Cambridge bookshop W. Heffer and Sons ("We have not yet gotten around to such a high degree of classification, and doubt whether we shall consider it necessary so to do in the foreseeable future"), but its Cambridge rival, Bowes and Bowes, only a few doors away in Trinity Street.*

Bowes and Bowes is a wholly owned subsidiary of W. H. Smith. Its pornographic classification has already brought its protests; Lady Page, wife of the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, writes that they have closed their account at the shop as a result, "as the only means open to us of acting upon our own intellectual honesty and showing that to some at least, permissiveness is not academically respectable".

A CAMBRIDGE bookshop, Bowes and Bowes, has taken down the label "Pornography" from some of its shelves following a complaint by Lady Page, wife of the Master of Jesus College, Sir Denys Page.

A spokesman for the shop said yesterday: "We do not have any hard-core pornography. We thought the classification honest and were trying to be light-hearted about it." Lady Page declared: "We are always being told about the silent majority. I hope this was a blow in the right direction."

THE OBSERVER

Strasbourg

**BABEL:** *At the European Parliament yesterday many of us were left with one eye shut and the other not open [Andrew Alexander writes]. The first day's proceedings were hardly calculated to stir one far beyond somnambulance. . . .*

It is certainly a happy coincidence that French is the language of three of the Nine. There is no language quite like French for saying nothing eloquently. German, even German poetry, sounds like a prolonged oath. Italian seems to rattle on too fast. English is too precise; Danish sounds a bit like broken glass, and the Dutch—though blessed with numerous virtues—cannot boast a musical tongue.

Ah, but French! As this Assembly and other assemblies prove, that is the language for gorgeous

abstractions, sonorous nothingnesses, eloquent gesticulations and platitudes, platitudes world without end, amen.

Some talk, hopefully, of giving this Assembly elaborate powers. But it is hard to believe it could ever work like, for example, the Commons. Here, set-piece speech follows set-piece speech. It is rather like the House of Lords, only worse—which is a cruel comment on any Assembly.

DAILY MAIL

**OUT OF JOINT:** Tom Stoppard, the playwright, has produced a 10-minute version of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" which is to be included from today in the Ambiance Lunch-Time Theatre Club's programme at the Almost Free Theatre, Rupert Street. Though only four men appear as characters, Mr Stoppard claims to have covered the entire plot.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

London

**PRESIDENT'S ENGLISH:** *The editors of the eighth edition of "Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary" confess that determining pronunciations in a country like the United States is a major problem, so many people have their own idea of what is correct.*

Their expert on orthoepy—the study of correct pronunciation—Edward Artin, says he regards the late Adlai Stevenson as one of the best public speakers he has ever heard, but deplores the fact that (like so many of his fellow-countrymen) he favoured "eeleete" and "surveylance". Other American peculiarities he might have mentioned are "bewie" for buoy, "cupon" for coupon, "huvering" for hovering, "veehickle" for vehicle, "deepo" for depot, "deecoy" for decoy, and an invariable accent on the third syllable of advertisement.

When to admit a new word is always a problem, but President Nixon has made it with "netherworld" ("the netherworld of deceit, subversion and espionage"), although there is still some doubt about the neologism "logophag" invented by the columnist Stewart Alsop to describe Senator George McGovern on an occasion when he caught him eating his own words.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

London

**FOUR-LETTER MAN:** Only *The Guardian* told its anxious readers yesterday the full shocking truth about what four-letter word Peregrine Worsthorne used on television on Wednesday. *The Daily Mirror* gave only the first letter, *The Times* had it as — and *The Sun* made it \*\*\*\*, like a secret name from the Waugh diaries.

It was simple to guess and I do not see, therefore, why we and the others should not have printed it.

THE TIMES

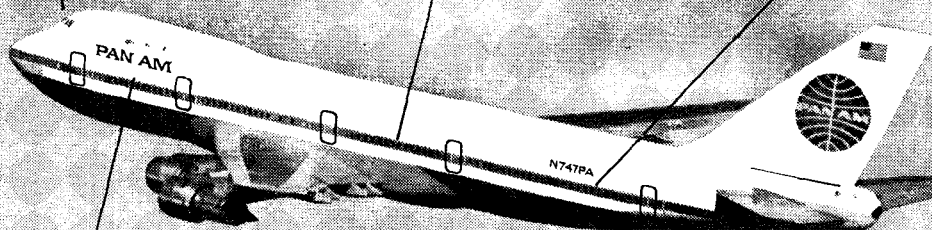
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