

The Forum Quiz

The Quiz, designed especially for FORUM readers, is planned to amuse them but not to measure their intelligence. Counting 2½ points for each correct answer, a college senior scored 67½ on this month's Quiz. A secretary scored 70, and her businessman employer had a score of 75. Answers on page 80.

1. "My, my; I could almost do a little rug cutting myself," declared Aunt Clytemnestra happily, while chaperoning a teen-age party not long ago. Auntie meant she liked to:
 - (a) *dance* (b) *kiss in the dark*
 - (c) *mix cocktails* (d) *cut rugs into little pieces*
2. Everyone knows what a U-boat is of course, but what's a Q-boat?
 - (a) *an armed vessel disguised as a merchant ship*
 - (b) *a "pocket" battleship* (c) *an English submarine*
 - (d) *a dinghy used in "frostbite" racing*
3. Which one of these statements is FALSE?
 - (a) *Green and black tea come from the same plant.*
 - (b) *"Bill" Bullitt is American Ambassador to France.*
 - (c) *The U. S. army's latest rifle is the Springfield.*
4. Precocious little Agamemnon, aged five, recently became disgusted with a playmate. "Why," snorted Agamemnon, "the boy's a mere sedulous ape." He meant that the lad was:
 - (a) *acting like a Senator* (b) *nonreasoning*
 - (c) *imitative* (d) *too playful*
5. Yes, the name of the new President of Cuba is:
 - (a) *Colonel Batista*
 - (b) *Ramon Grau San Martin* (c) *Mario Menocal*
6. Baseball fans will have no trouble picking the former star who is now a parole officer:
 - (a) *Babe Ruth* (b) *Walter Johnson* (c) *Lou Gehrig*
7. Speaking of sport — which team won the National League football championship last season?
 - (a) *New York Giants* (b) *Green Bay Packers*
 - (c) *Detroit Tigers* (d) *Notre Dame Irish*
8. Reporter Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is sobering up but is still incapacitated in that tavern. Can you finish his verse for him?

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream! —
For the soul is dead that slumbers, . . .

 - (a) *And he that struggles, is supreme!*
 - (b) *And things are not what they seem.*
 - (c) *Never beckons HIM, the gleam!*
 - (d) *It can't raise an ounce of steam!*
9. When warcraft, on the sea or in the air, are in echelon formation, they remind one of:
 - (a) *home and mother* (b) *a series of steps*
 - (c) *a circle* (d) *a truncated parallelepiped*
10. American Indians, as compared with a few years ago, now number _____.
 - (a) *more* (b) *fewer* (c) *the same*
11. When her beau, Herkimer, asked Aunt Clytemnestra what kind of fur coat she'd like to have as a wedding gift, Auntie sighed and said, "Chinchilla." Herkimer fainted dead away because:
 - (a) *it is the world's most expensive fur*
 - (b) *it would cost him less than mink*
 - (c) *he had figured on dyed cat*
 - (d) *he'd eaten something that didn't agree with him*
12. Before the navy accepts a new cruiser or destroyer, the ship always gets a shakedown cruise. This is:
 - (a) *the launching* (b) *a test run*
 - (c) *the christening* (d) *a crash stop*
13. The author of the latest and probably definitive biography of Abraham Lincoln is:
 - (a) *Emmanuel Hertz* (b) *Carl Sandburg*
 - (c) *Emil Ludwig*
14. The Big Eye is a new 200-inch reflector telescope now being erected in the State of:
 - (a) *Wisconsin* (b) *Texas* (c) *California*
15. A film contains: a group of gangsters mowing down another mob with "tommy" guns; talk of rackets and district attorneys; a prison break. The movie was probably produced by:
 - (a) *Paramount* (b) *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*
 - (c) *Warner Brothers* (d) *20th Century Fox*
16. Which of these statements about architecture is TRUE?
 - (a) *The Byzantine followed the Gothic style.*
 - (b) *The Egyptians invented the arch.*
 - (c) *The Greeks used the Corinthian capital.*
17. Best opinion seems to be that the popularity of "swing" music is now:
 - (a) *on the wane* (b) *still on the upgrade*
18. What American writer, whose works were formerly distinguished by whimsy and impeccable morality, has recently written a best seller about a lively gal named Kitty Foyle?
 - (a) *Will Durant* (b) *John Steinbeck*
 - (c) *Christopher Morley* (d) *Mary Ellen Chase*
19. Do you know how large our regular army is now?
 - (a) *220,000 men* (b) *360,000 men*
 - (c) *three men and a boy* (d) *110,000 men*
20. Now who do you suppose could have written this?

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you,
I loafe and invite my soul. . . .

 - (a) *Archibald MacLeish* (b) *Carl Sandburg*
 - (c) *Walt Whitman* (d) *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

THE FORUM QUIZ

21. In a Chicago hotel lobby you bump into a huge, round-faced man named Pierre van Paasen. "Hello, Pierre," you'd exclaim:
 (a) "Your biography of Stalin is a wow."
 (b) "The war's certainly a flop from a correspondent's point of view, isn't it?"
 (c) "Your music sounds like alley cats to me."
22. I'm a stranger here myself, but perhaps that long-faced elevator operator can tell you who the Poet of the Sierras was:
 (a) Hamlin Garland (b) Joaquin Miller
 (c) Ambrose Bierce
23. How many bones are there in the human body?
 (a) 100 (b) 206 (c) 3 (d) 5,280 (e) 342
24. Who wrote the words of this song?
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
 And never brought to mind?
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
 And auld lang syne?
 (a) Robert Burns (b) Walter Scott (c) Robert Bruce
25. If Willy Messerschmitt were to meet Adolf Hitler at a Nazi festival, one might expect Adolf to shout:
 (a) "Phooey on your pocket battleships, Willy!"
 (b) "As a Wagnerian conductor, you're punk!"
 (c) "Ach, those planes of yours are fast!"
26. Railroad reorganization is in the air, and the man in the thick of it is the I.C.C. Chairman, named:
 (a) Marriner S. Eccles (b) Joseph B. Eastman
 (c) Frederick E. Williamson
27. After wearing one of those red-and-green ties you get from your wife each Christmas, you are naturally depressed and pessimistic — like the philosopher:
 (a) Aristotle (b) Schopenhauer (c) Bergson
28. Cousin Claudia and her steady are sitting on the parlor sofa in the gloaming. "How about a little levitation?" he inquires. "No," she says, firmly:
 (a) "One false move from you, and I'll scream."
 (b) "I'm a disembodied spirit already, sweet."
 (c) "I'll play the zither, and you sing alone."
29. Please stop beating your wife long enough to pick out the word which is misspelled here:
To say we are sorry we cannot use your 18,000-word short story is extreme understatement. We are mortified, chagrined, dumbfounded, abashed, and embarrassed.
30. A complete blank is the only way to describe the expression on a man's face when his wife speaks of brocade, but any woman knows it's:
 (a) a rich fabric with a raised pattern
 (b) like needlepoint (c) crocheted (d) knitted
31. Men ought to know more about home decorating. For instance, they ought to know from what article of furniture the thing called a chest of drawers has evolved:
 (a) coffin (b) Bible box (c) chest (d) table
32. Uncle Arthur may take his exercise sitting down, but he's quite right when he insists that the fastest of all swimming strokes is the:
 (a) breast stroke (b) crawl (c) side stroke
33. Which Dickens novel may most justly be called autobiographical?
 (a) Bleak House (b) David Copperfield
 (c) Dombey & Son
34. Of the present members of the British cabinet, who has the greatest reputation as a journalist?
 (a) Anthony Eden (b) Neville Chamberlain
 (c) Sir John Simon (d) Winston Churchill
35. Please oblige by filling in the missing words:
 For of all sad words of tongue or pen,
 The saddest are these: " "
 (a) Remember when? (b) He's drunk again!
 (c) Amen, amen! (d) It might have been!
36. Little Agamemnon, still only five, looks up from his copy of the *Police Gazette* to inquire, "I say, governor, what is a paranoiac?" You'd correctly reply:
 (a) "A person who thinks he's persecuted."
 (b) "A man in love with his wife." (c) "An idiot."
 (d) "One who lives in a dream world."
37. One of the books named begins with this sentence — "He was born with a gift of laughter and a sense that the world was mad."
 (a) Anthony Adverse (b) Scaramouche (c) Escape
38. One of the world's great libraries, the Bodleian, is located in:
 (a) Cambridge, England (b) Pasadena, California
 (c) the Vatican (d) Oxford, England (e) London
39. Today, Shinto is the religion of what country?
 (a) India (b) Japan (c) China
40. Uncle Arthur was telling one of his stories when Cousin Clarence's eyes began to fill with tears. "It's just that I'm allergic to liars," explained Clarence. "Why, you don't know whether a zebra's basic color is white or black!" "Indeed I do," retorted Uncle Art with heat. "It's:
 (a) black (b) white (c) periwinkle blue

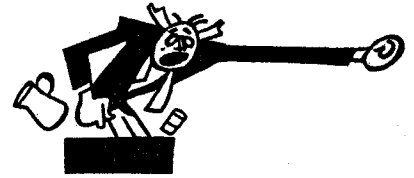
COMPILED BY

JO CHAMBERLIN



Drawing by Elmer Lasher

Our Rostrum*



HOT SOUTHERN TEMPERS

If Mr. Edward Twig will climb into the bombproof shelter for five minutes, we will sound the siren while a couple of his neighbors let loose a Blitzkreig. Mr. Twig was the author of "Charleston: the Great Myth," in the January FORUM.

FRANK K. MYERS, federal judge in the Eastern District of South Carolina, writes, in part:

It would seem from a reading of the article that Mr. Twig had come to Charleston with a pre-disposition to be nasty. It would further seem that, while here (if he did come), he failed to contact any representative Charlestonians, and was determined to see nothing and to hear nothing to Charleston's advantage. The article is so filled with ridiculous misstatements that time and space would not permit me to comment on it in detail. If you think this article (which is full of filth and misrepresentations) worthy of publication, I have, even to this extent, wasted my time. If you should succeed in having the magazine with this article get into the hands of many of those (both resident and non-resident) who love the old city, its only effect would be to arouse their indignation; and, as to others, their interest in finding out whether this person named Twig had really seen and known Charleston, which would be to its advantage.

Mr. Twig, actually, is not just a fellow who stopped off at Charleston on the way to Florida. He has lived there, for varying lengths of time, over a period of some years. He was living there when he wrote the article. As to whether he has "really seen and known Charleston," we imagine Mr. Twig's rejoinder would be that most Charlestonians can't see the forest for the trees.

GENERAL C. P. SUMMERALL, President of The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, is more detailed, no less furious:

... I characterize it as one of the most evil and dastardly libels that could be uttered.

The people of Charleston are very much like those in any other part of the country. Many of them have come from every section of the United States. The social life here, as elsewhere, leads to

groupings of similar tastes and associations. Here, as in other old cities of America, there are families who rightfully cherish the pride of ancestry but snobbery does not exist here or elsewhere among well bred people.

The culture in the colleges, schools, churches and clubs and in the intellectual, artistic, professional, religious, fraternal and social organizations, as well as in the homes, is evident to the many visitors of culture who identify themselves with the people. Prominent Englishmen have told me that they regarded Charleston and Richmond as being the American cities most like England.

The old homes represent a period of classic architecture and living in them is no more a reflection upon the people here than in any other city that enjoys the prestige of history. The water-front which appears to have been Mr. Twig's inspiration may be no better or worse than that of any port but cities are not judged by this feature alone.

While few of the people are wealthy, the standard of living compares favorably with that in the south and, in America, it is no reproach to be poor. The public health of Charleston is rated high in the country and the activities of the welfare organizations are on a creditable plane. Law enforcement and politics conform to the American standards and can not be singled out as horrible examples. Nowhere is there a more kindly interest in or better treatment of the colored people than here.

Charleston is too well known and its reputation is too well established at home and abroad to be injured by the extravagant falsehoods in Mr. Twig's slander. The injustice will be indignantly resented by right-thinking people everywhere. It is pertinent to note that *House & Garden* and *The National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1939, and *Life* of December 25, 1939, present a diametrically opposite view. *Life* says: "Capital of the Low Country is Charleston, whose inhabitants probably have better manners and a more thorough appreciation of good living than the residents of any other city in the U. S." "The people of Charleston still live in the lovely historic houses which line its streets." The public will find no difficulty in deciding between these reputable journals and THE FORUM.

It is deplorable that THE FORUM should stamp itself as a muckraker and become the medium for propagating this vile and unbelievable attack upon a respected and worthy part of our country and upon the inhabitants *en masse*

who are loyal American citizens, striving to accomplish their destiny and that of the nation. The offense of the instigator transcends that of the poison pen. Both have earned a place in a "Who's Who of Infamy."

Regardless of the accuracy of any other statement in his article, may we point out four sentences of Mr. Twig's whose correctness now seems to stand undisputed? Wrote he: "It may safely be said that no place on earth is capable of such concerted and violent indignation as Charleston. The town grows apoplectic with indignation when criticized in any way. The old city is allergic to criticism, no matter how honest or indisputable. It is regrettable but manifestly true that Charleston hates criticism far more than crime."

In milder vein, Mr. William O. Stevens (incidentally, a contributor elsewhere in this issue), who, though not a Charlestonian, is author of a book called Charleston, Historic City of Gardens, comments:

I am sorry that Mr. Twig has so unhappy an impression of Charleston. Of course one can draw a dismal picture of any community if only the unpleasant details are selected and accented. I know there are things that irritate the stranger in Charleston, as no doubt the Charlestonian finds things to annoy him in New York and Boston.

But the Charleston people whom I had the pleasure of meeting were charming, helpful and the soul of courtesy. They told me things I wanted to know and enabled me to visit places where usually the visitor cannot go. As for the town itself, I confess to a delight in the streets, lanes, gardens and houses, so unlike any others in America. To me the architecture was unique and beautiful; I can't imagine a pleasanter paradise for painter and etcher. And I am just sentimental enough about American history to get a thrill out of a city that is so rich a shrine of the past.

Charleston does affect different people in contrary ways. Mr. Twig thinks it is pretty awful. I found the place fascinating. Mr. Jonathan Daniels is a sharp critic of the seamy side of life in the Deep South, and yet this is what he writes of Charleston: "Nowhere on this earth that I know are there any people with a clearer sense of the tempo of good manners and good living." And Mr. William Allen White declared that "Charleston is the most civilized town in America."

* EDITORS' NOTE:—These columns are open to brief letters commenting on any article or subject that has appeared in THE FORUM. Because of space limitations, the Editors must reserve the right to publish letters only in part.