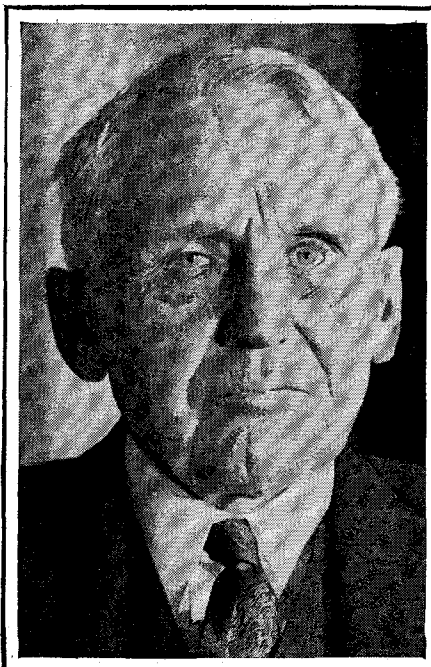


United States objects. This Government is not seeking to "create a privileged situation for its nationals" in Mexico, as President Calles lamely declared was the case in his reply to Secretary Kellogg. It simply affirms that legal rights, obtained under the laws of Mexico, must be protected. Calles is talking politically to his own people when he speaks of Mr. Kellogg's statement as "a threat to the sovereignty of Mexico."

The agrarian laws of Mexico aim to put the peons back on the land, and to this extent doubtless have much to commend. It is in the method by which they are being carried out that Mexico reveals the two fundamental causes of all her troubles: her false economic standards and her mistaken ideas of liberty. The former is being shown in the fact that lands in many parts of the Republic are not now being cultivated to anywhere near the extent they should be, the owners not being willing to sow in order that another may reap. The *agraristas* are not satisfied, as a rule, to seize a piece of land and work it themselves; they take a tract which is already cultivated, irrigated, and planted, frequently seizing buildings and water supplies along with the land which they appropriate for their own use. Not only do they exceed in many cases the provisions of the existing agrarian laws, but no compensation is paid to the owners for any of the land or property seized. Whether the Federal Government is not able or not willing to check the practice of such false economic standards, or whether it fears arousing the opposition of the various State authorities or the agrarian bands in the different localities who are responsible for these violations of the economic rights of others, is not known. The fact remains that the Government of the United States has not been able to obtain redress for any of its citizens in any of the numerous cases which it has presented to the Mexican Government. The delay has become excessive.

With a fundamental misconception of freedom, the agrarian leaders in Mexico seem to have mistaken liberty for license. And herein lies a big danger for Mexico in other directions which may lead to the abyss of economic and financial chaos. Unless this misconception is checked, this idea that there can be liberty without law, instead of liberty under the law, the whole fabric of Mexico's political system may be threatened. The ques-



F. &amp; A. Photos

Secretary Kellogg

tion is, Will the present Government apply the drastic remedy?

## Facts and Fights

A MAN whose letterhead classes him, at least technically, as an educator has taken serious exception to the statements in Mr. Mandeville's articles on prohibition, one of which, by the way, appears in this issue of *The Outlook*.

Not infrequently subscribers disagree with the opinions of the editors of *The Outlook* and its contributors. That is no new experience for us. Comparatively

rare, however, is the attitude of the critic to whom we have referred. He says, "Even if the Mandeville articles were true, I regard it as unpatriotic act to publish them."

If this is so, we shall have to revise our definition of patriotism. Truth, even disagreeable truth, is the corner-stone of a democracy.

Prohibitionists who refuse to face the facts hurt their cause and hurt the cause of law enforcement. The first job is to find out what is wrong; only then can remedies be applied. There is entirely too widespread a tendency to declare that "all goes well with prohibition" and that the malicious propaganda of the "wets" is the only "blot on the 'scutcheon'."

A wholesome exception to this general rule is to be found in the statement issued last month by the Iowa Anti-Saloon League. The Iowa State Superintendent faced the facts of widespread law violation in his own State courageously and openly. There is no sign in his statement that he is ready to give up the fight. Rather, he is armed anew for the contest by his recognition of existing facts and their significance. "The question," Mr. McNaught says, "of modification is not an issue. The fight must be carried on against nullification."

The forces of law and order have a real fight on their hands. They will not help themselves or the country by minimizing or ignoring the strength of their enemies.

## Good English

By LAWRENCE F. ABBOTT

Contributing Editor of *The Outlook*

THREE weeks ago in these pages I referred to the offensive use in an essay by a distinguished college president of the verb "we will" instead of "we shall" in a sentence which was manifestly intended to express, not volition or determination, but mere futurity. Such a confusion may fairly be called offensive, not because it is a violation of the rules of grammar, but because it hurts the ear accustomed to good usage of the English tongue. My comment has brought me several interesting letters in response to my expressed hope that some of my readers who are more expert grammarians than I profess to be might throw some more light

upon this vexatious problem of syntax. One correspondent writes:

In regard to the college president whose misuse of the word "will" so grates upon your ears, permit me to suggest the explanation that perhaps he may be a Scotch-Canadian with the habit so fixed by inheritance and training that many synapses within his brain would snap if he should try to change. I am not sure whether the changing about of "shall" and "will" is found among all Scotch or is peculiar only to those of Canada; I have observed it only in the latter.

About a year ago, a young chiropractor from the province of Ontario came to this city and hung out his shingle. In his advertisement in the

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local paper one line ran about like this: "All persons coming to my office for consultation during the month of April shall receive one treatment free."

In one of the colleges of this State there is a Scotch-Canadian Professor of Government, a very able teacher and a very lovable man, who regularly uses "will" for "shall" in quoting a law or a section of the Constitution before his class. His rendering of Article I, Section 5, would be: "Excessive bail will not be required nor excessive fines imposed, nor will cruel and unusual punishments be inflicted, nor will witnesses be unreasonably detained."

Probably this comment will be of some interest to you, if you have not already observed the same thing.

It is of great interest to me—not, however, because of the pertinent and amusing way in which it illustrates the misuse of "will" and "shall" among carefully educated people, but because my correspondent introduces to me a new and difficult word. "Synapses within his brain"! What does this mean? Now I am dictating this article in a country house where the only books of reference at my command are the Century Dictionary in twelve volumes, the Encyclopædia Britannica in twenty-nine volumes, and Buck's Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences in eight quarto volumes. None of these forty-nine useful books throws any light on the word "synapse," so far as I can discover. I examined, somewhat cursorily I admit, the complicated and highly technical articles on the brain and spine, with their wiggly and unpleasant illustrations and Latin names, but nowhere could I trace—to use Mark

Twain's phraseology in his amusing account of his attempt to find an unusual definition in the dictionary—the word "synapse." Luckily for me, however, the daughter of my hostess, a young girl of sixteen who is preparing for college, was in an adjoining room and overheard the labors of my dictation of this article. She modestly came in with her note-book in which she had recorded the lectures and diagrams of her teacher in "Physiology 9 B." In her manuscript on the nervous system and the brain she pointed out the following definitions:

A synapse occurs when an impulse brought in by a dorsal fiber is communicated with a cell at the beginning of the ventral fiber.

A stimulant decreases synaptic resistance, so that many reactions occur.

A narcotic increases synaptic resistance, so that few reactions occur.

In terms of synapses, a nervous person is one whose synaptic resistance has been lowered.

This is not very enlightening to a man of my limited comprehension. But, putting two and two together, or, in other words, combining the letter of my correspondent and the definition of the young girl student of physiology, I begin to surmise that the confusion of "will" and "shall" is a physiological symptom, and I am wondering whether the college president whose essay started all the trouble in which I find myself ought not to be psycho-analyzed. The inelegant—that is to say, the ill-bred—confusion of "will" and "shall" is due to bad habit rather than to bad education. Here physiologists and rhetoricians agree. "A habit," the young girl student

of physiology informs me, "is a path of low resistance which favors a certain reaction when definite stimuli are operated;" and Richard Grant White, a most entertaining rhetorician, points out that "shilly-shally" is merely a colloquial corruption of Shall I? Shail I? Thus it expresses the condition of a man who is vacillating between two courses of conduct. No man, however low he may have fallen in his habits of speech, ever stands asking himself, "Will I? Will I?" Therefore we have no such phrase in English as "willy wally," although Will he? Will he not? has been contracted into willy-nilly, which means that a man must do something whether he wishes to or no.

Richard Grant White concludes his illuminating chapter on "Shall and Will" with the following comforting paragraph: "Let us, then, should we make a slip, possess our souls in patience and not bewail ourselves that we are utterly lost to English idiom. For he must be an insufficiently informed critic of English literature who does not know that even the most thoroughbred English writers themselves have not always been able to use *shall* and *will*, and particularly *should* and *would*, without some shilly-shallying between them."

I began this article with the intention of saying something about Richard Grant White and his delightful books on literary expression—in which, by the way, he denounces English grammar as a wholly useless pseudo-science. But, having been unexpectedly diverted into the paths of physiology, I must leave him for another week.

## The Prince Who Would Sell Fords

By WOODHULL HAY

A pen portrait of a potentate who died for orthodoxy

ONE of the greatest of Indian potentates is dead. The circumstances attending his death disclosed that in the short space of a few days the sublime principle of Hinduism had waged a vital conflict of the utmost significance with two of the most powerful forces of the West, science and law. The first adversary it overcame, for the Prince preferred to die adhering to the faith of his fathers, which forbade the simple operation necessary to save his life; but to the second it suc-

cumbed, for the orthodox rite of the funeral pyre was denied by the French law.

The first picture that came to my mind was that of the famous Château de Madrid, the scene of these tragic events, for on my way back from India only a few months ago I myself had danced in the very ballroom whence the gay music of the revelers rose and mingled with the mournful dirges chanted by the Brahman priests around the body of their sovereign in the death chamber above.

But the second picture, far more vivid, and one that stirred the deepest chords of my emotion, was of the Maharajah himself, the living large-souled man of profound human kindness as I knew him in his great white palace at Gwalior.

I can see him now as he first greeted us. It was in the early morning, and he had just returned from his customary ride, dressed in correct English habit—tweed jacket, white corduroy breeches, and tan leather boots—with his hair and