

the Phoenix Nest

GABRIELA MISTRAL
Chilean Nobel Prize Poet

WE LISTEN to words,
foreign and rhythmic, soft
rolling words
like the movement of blended waters;
we do not understand
but something of fire has left us,
something of hardness
has crumbled,
something of dark has vanished,
something of weakness
has strengthened.
We see the fine head
high,
the depth and the softness of eyes
that weep with the tears of children;
that laugh with the joy,
the seaside mirth,
of children;
we listen to words,
foreign and rhythmic, soft
rolling words
like the movement of blended waters;
and we sit
beside the scholar speaking
and the child inquiring
in the cove
of peace.

—JOSEPH JOEL KEITH.

* * *

MISCELLANEA

Exactly twenty years ago, come the fourth of July, Vachel Lindsay published in the *American Mercury* his rousing and galloping poem "The Virginians Are Coming Again," and it reappeared in 1930 in that one of Thomas Moulton's anthologies dedicated to the memory of Charlotte Mew and Elinor Wylie. That anthology also contained Elinor Wylie's "Portrait" of herself from *The New Yorker* for January 1929, but the anthology's reprinting omitted the word "most" in the first line and hence the line does not scan. . . .

A copy from the large paper issue

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S
DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 796)

V. W. BROOKS:
NOTES FROM A JOURNAL
(From "A Chilmark Miscellany,"
1948)

There is also "time-provincialism" Those who have jumped out of Mencken's "boobery" have jumped into this frying-pan, as if to be "up to the minute," the "last minute," were more important than any of the great realities of life and death.

of the first edition of Glenway Wescott's "The Grandmothers" is advertised by Nossdall as inscribed by the author: "This is the book which I inherited from my grandmother, Kate Rose Wescott; which I promised her I would write; which brought no good luck" (signed: Glenway Wescott, June 1947). You will recall that the book won the Harper Prize Novel Contest for 1927-28. Certainly that period was full of astonishing things. . . .

My mother's mother was named Mary Lee Rose, and I have just come across a sweet letter she wrote me when I had managed to graduate from the Albany Academy. Evidently she had also sent me a small check. A letter from my father of the same year informs me that my uncle, William John Rose, whose namesake I am, had procured me a Pennsylvania Railroad pass whereby I could go to New York on the way to New Haven. My father's letter impresses upon me not to lose the pass and remarks skeptically that at any rate I have never lost my trousers. This may be taken to imply that he thinks I used to lose a good many things. Very sad. . . .

Eight years ago Malcolm Cowley wrote a piece for Klaus Mann's *Decision*, called "The Michael Golden Legend." It is the best thing on that ardent Communist that I have ever seen. Cowley is not unaware that Gold had a gift "for withering phrase." Gold had averred that the editors of the *New Republic* were "men with perpetual slight colds." Maybe they have changed now. Cowley charged Gold with mental inertia "so typical of the Communist movement today." He thought they had "lost the capacity for fresh observation or independent thinking." How could it be otherwise, if you continually have to measure everything by one unchanging set of explanations and a set prescription for the future originally prepared 100 years ago? If a new fact doesn't jibe with the coda, the fact must go by the board. I like Cowley's last paragraph, which I take the liberty to quote here:

A few nights ago, I began thinking of a book I had read twice in my boyhood: "The Lost World," by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. As I remember it now, it was a story about a group of scientists who discovered a line of almost unscalable cliffs in the Amazonian jungle. Reaching the top by what means I forget, they found a humid region in which the great saurians had survived from the Mesozoic

Era. And it occurred to me on reading "The Hollow Men" [Michael Gold's current book—title from Eliot] that the United States today was a lost world, like the one imagined by Conan Doyle. Here, in an especially favored location, protected by two oceans that take the place of the Amazonian jungle, an older civilization has survived that almost everywhere else is in full collapse. Here very ancient animals continue to flourish—not the brontosaurus and stegosaurs or tyrannosaurus rex, but rather Henry Ford and Norman Thomas, Oswald Garrison Villard, Senator Taft, General Wood, and Comrade Michael Gold. These prehistoric monsters are not friendly to one another: they meet and growl and fight and sometimes are killed, while their enemies feast on their bodies; but all of them were produced by the same conditions and depend for their survival on the same biological environment—yes, all of them, flesh-eating capitalists and liberals like peaceful herbivores and Communists sailing through the air on leathery wings like pterodactyls; all of them resemble the saurians at the beginning of a colder and drier age in having lost their power of adaptation. Yet all of them, however much they differ on other subjects, are determined to believe that their lost world will continue to exist. That is the basis, that is the meaning of the Michael Golden legend.

That seems to me very well said, and, though we have lost General Wood and Mr. Villard is not now the strength that he was in old days, and Norman Thomas has been making a good deal of sense lately, we have only to think of the Big Four Conference in the pink palace at Paris and see the wisdom in Walter Lippmann's recent column "Berlin Fantasia," in which he pointed out that if the Soviet Union's proposal was sheer nonsense still the American proposal was not much more sensible, and that the insistence on quadripartite supervision by both sides was about as unrealistic as one could well imagine. The peace of the world will depend, it seems to me, on actually realistic thinking, not on jockeying for position or power. May God help the United States to such thinking and may their boasted rationality bring the Politburo out of their shortsighted strategy into the kind of common sense that even the ordinary man in the street can see the situation needs.

* * *

LAWN ORDER

The way my lawn
comes up, I know
Great weeds from little
grass seeds grow.

—HORTENSE ROBERTA ROBERTS.

* * *

—WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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(Continued on page 42)

PERSONALS

(Continued from page 41)

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The Saturday Review

25 West 45th St. New York 19, N. Y.

The Saturday Review

Printed by STEINBERG PRESS, INC., BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DOUBLE-CROSTIC No. 797

Reg. U. S. Patent Office

By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

DEFINITIONS

- A. The common light bedstead or cot of India (Anglo-ind.).
- B. Region of central Caucasus, Soviet Russia, Europe.
- C. Worthless matter.
- D. Its nickname is the Garden State.
- E. American artist (1849-96; portraits of President Garfield, John Burroughs, etc.).
- F. French marshal of the Empire whose laundress wife was the heroine of "Madame Sans Gene."
- G. Seaport town in Essex Co., Mass., named after one in England, Suffolk East.
- H. Changed in character from a stop into a fricative (phonet.).
- I. French composer of polytonal school, in U. S. since 1940 (1892-).
- J. Last name of heroine of "Wuthering Heights."
- K. Half-brother of Hercules and father of Iolaus, Hercules's devoted friend.
- L. To evade (2 wds.; colloq.).
- M. Title of famous book by Carlyle involving a philosophy of clothes.

WORDS

95 153 11 25 104 137 159

144 73 179 58 27 13 154

55 139 4 71 52 168

133 163 146 1 39 34 107 22 20

174 126 12 117 14

149 156 172 152 111 140 41 134

46 48 103 151 188 116 177

59 3 23 50 42 182 157 170 110 165

113 178 98 129 186 93 62

141 105 175 9 36 101 184 125

102 57 28 162 30 167 112 127

109 18 67 161 136 122 32 90

115 130 6 100 147 19 185 143 10 40

82 63 97 37

DEFINITIONS

- N. French painter, engraver, enameler (1836-1902).
- O. Newspaper publisher in U. S. associated with "yellow journalism" (1863-).
- P. English astronomer and popular writer (1882-1944).
- Q. American painter (1836-1923; murals in Library of Congress; illustrations of Omar Khayyam).
- R. Under one's protection (2 wds.).
- S. Manifestation or appearance.
- T. Places or vests, as in a source, means, or agent.
- U. Title given by Kipling to Frank N. Doubleday, his publisher.
- V. A small, choice piece of lean meat.
- W. The Pole star when the Great Pyramid of Egypt was built, now in Draco.
- X. Pertaining to a style of architecture developed in Spain and N. Africa in the Middle Ages.
- Y. Capacity for sensation and feeling.
- Z. Protuberances, as in the joints affected by rheumatism (med.).

WORDS

176 65 119 17 96 74

38 181 51 121 138 128

56 85 150 86 77 33 135 92 118

155 29 69 99 78 145

16 87 80 189 64

31 106 60 2 164 187

183 132 124 44 35 166

5 160 169 123 190 79 89

158 8 114 54 72 131 173 84

94 45 148 21 171 43

15 24 142 61 47 70 81 91

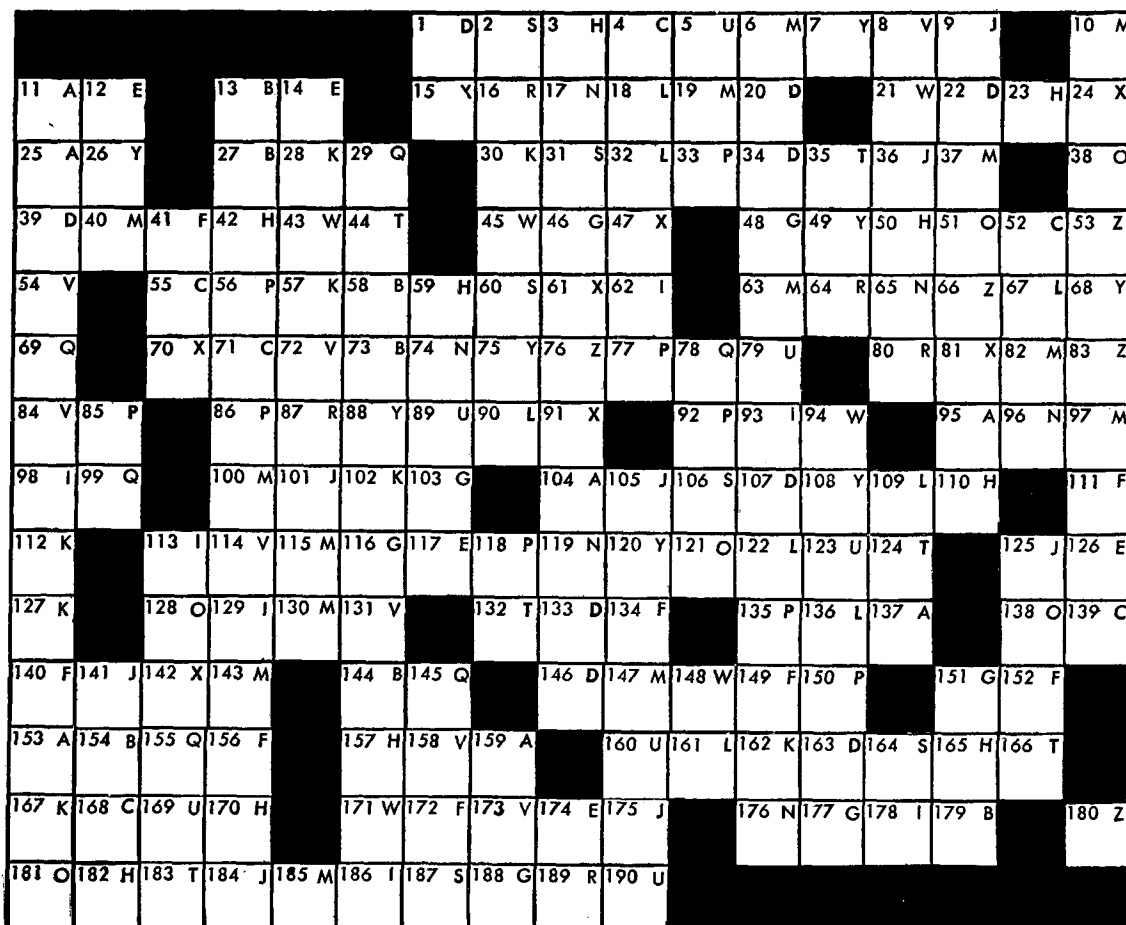
26 88 120 49 68 7 75 108

83 76 180 53 66

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-odd words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square of the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Read up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (second edition).



JULY 2, 1949

Solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 40 of this issue.

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