

Awake!

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AUGUST 8, 1973

THE REASON FOR THIS MAGAZINE

News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ties; it is unhampered by traditional creeds. This magazine keeps itself free, that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

The viewpoint of "Awake!" is not narrow, but is international. "Awake!" has its own correspondents in scores of nations. Its articles are read in many lands, in many languages, by millions of persons.

In every issue "Awake!" presents vital topics on which you should be informed. It features penetrating articles on social conditions and offers sound counsel for meeting the problems of everyday life. Current news from every continent passes in quick review. Attention is focused on activities in the fields of government and commerce about which you should know. Straightforward discussions of religious issues alert you to matters of vital concern. Customs and people in many lands, the marvels of creation, practical sciences and points of human interest are all embraced in its coverage. "Awake!" provides wholesome, instructive reading for every member of the family.

"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of God's righteous new order in this generation.

Get acquainted with "Awake!" Keep awake by reading "Awake!"

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Awake!

"It is already the hour for you to awake."

—Romans 13:11

Volume LIV

August 8, 1973

Number 15

Curiosity

—good or bad?

"WHERE did I come from?" "Why is the sky blue?" "How can God see me if I'm hiding?" "Where?" "Why?" "How?" Such is the refrain loving mothers continually hear from their young children.

Yes, children have a strong instinctive curiosity. They want to know the whys and wherefores of things. But do you know that this curiosity is one of man's gifts from his Creator? It has proved to be of great help to mankind, but, like all other instincts and qualities, its use can be wise or otherwise, foolish or even harmful.

Curiosity has been defined as "an eager desire to know." Also, as "the desire to see or learn something that is new or unknown." Curiosity has been an important factor in extending man's range of knowledge, and is to the mind what the appetite is to the body.

But, as has well been noted, there are different kinds of curiosity, bad as well

as good. That is why it has also been defined in a bad sense as "inquisitiveness," which is "the condition of being *too eager to know*," and as a "prying into other people's affairs." Yes, curiosity can be misdirected. As an American essayist once expressed it: "Curiosity is lying in wait for every secret." It is obvious that curiosity, if not properly controlled, might become a weakness rather than an asset. That is why it was necessary for certain Christians in apostolic times to be counseled not to be "meddling with what does not concern them," but to "mind their own business."—2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Thess. 4:11.

There is yet another kind of curiosity that needs to be guarded against, and that is the curiosity directed toward what is evil, cruel, wicked. Many people are curious regarding the details of shocking murders or sordid divorce cases, or other forms of scandal. But one cannot feed the mind on such things, even out of curiosity, without being harmed by it, no more than one can take poison into one's body, merely out of curiosity, without being harmed by it. Youths have become drug addicts simply because of curiosity as to what it is like to take a drug. The same warning also applies to curiosity as to sexual immorality, even as it does to a misdirected curiosity regarding occultism, black magic, spiritism and "things like these." One cannot dabble in such things without risk-

ing great harm to oneself.—Deut. 18:10-12; Gal. 5:19-21.

But, wisely directed, curiosity can prove to be a real asset. Thus it has well been noted that "curiosity is an intellectual trait that distinguishes man from all sub-human forms as clearly and completely as does thinking." This is seen in as simple a thing as travel. Apes limit their wanderings to at most fifteen square miles, while man has searched out the four corners of the earth. Truly, curiosity is one of the great gifts with which the Creator has endowed our minds. It was curiosity that caused Isaac Newton to discover the law of gravity.

Because of the possibilities that curiosity thus presents, a Yale professor of history once told a new group of college students that, while curiosity may be frowned upon by many people, his institution placed a high value on men with great curiosity. He also explained that, while a research scientist, if asked about his efforts, might reply that he is hoping to discover or produce something of practical value, actually he is out to gain knowledge per se, of itself, regardless of whether it will result in anything practical or beneficial to mankind or not. While all such curiosity per se may have possibilities, of greater value to humankind is that kind of curiosity or inventiveness that is directed at specific goals. Thus there is a Danish inventor who discovered how to raise sunken ships. Because of the practical turn of this curiosity, many are the businessmen that beat a path to his door for him to help.

However, the most rewarding, the wisest curiosity is that directed toward religious questions, that is, those involving man's relationship to his Creator and to his fellowman. The truly wise man wants to know, Where did I come from? How do we know there is a God? Why does God

permit wickedness? What is man's duty? What is my destiny?

And where are answers to such questions to be found? In the two great Books, the Book of Creation and the Bible, the inspired Word of the Creator, Jehovah God. The vast, orderly universe and all that is in it eloquently testify to the existence of God. And from his Word, the Bible, we learn that God created the earth and the first man and woman. (Gen. 1:1-31) That book reveals that God holds out the prospect of everlasting life in a paradisaic earth for humankind. (Isa. 11:1-9; Rev. 21:4) It also shows that God has permitted wickedness for the purpose of giving his archopposer, Satan the Devil, the opportunity to try to prove his boast that he could turn all men away from God, and to let men demonstrate to themselves their utter inability to govern themselves wisely apart from their Creator and his principles.—Job 1:7 to 2:10.

As for what is the duty of man, this can be and is summed up in various ways in God's Word. Thus Solomon said: "Fear the true God and keep his commandments. For this is the whole obligation of man." (Eccl. 12:13) And in particular did the Son of God enlighten us on this matter for to the question, "Which command is first of all?" he said in answer: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah, and you must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.' The second is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."—Mark 12:28-31.

No question about it, curiosity can be wisely directed, and the wisest of all curiosity is that which leads you to a knowledge of your Creator and his purpose for you. Jehovah's witnesses stand ready to help you gain this knowledge.



5

There are also other matters to consider. If these words at Mark 16:17, 18 about handling snakes and not being harmed authorize Christians to do so, what about the other things mentioned in those verses? Should not Christ's followers also be able to drink poison and not die? And what about their being able to cure people merely by laying their hands on them? These are pertinent questions, are they not?

Written by the Disciple Mark?

To what conclusion do all these questions lead? That there must be a mistake somewhere. In fact, that is what nearly all modern Bible scholars have concluded, namely, that these words—and not only these words but all of what appears as Mark 16:9-20—were *not* written by Mark but were added by a later hand. On what grounds do scholars so conclude? On both external and internal evidence.

First of all, there is the telling fact that two of the oldest and most highly regarded Bible manuscripts, the Vatican 1209 and the Sinaitic, do not contain this section; they conclude Mark's Gospel with verse eight. There are also a number of ancient manuscripts that contain a short ending of just about one verse beyond eight; and other manuscripts contain both conclusions. So, some manuscripts end with verse eight, others have a short ending, others have a long ending, and some even give both endings. In addition to this testimony of the Greek *manuscripts*, all of which combines to cast doubt on Mark's having written anything beyond verse eight, there are a number of the oldest *versions* (or translations) that do not contain the verses in question. Among such are ancient Syriac, Armenian and Ethiopic versions. No wonder that the not-

ed manuscript authority Dr. Westcott states that "the verses which follow [9-20] are no part of the original narrative but an appendage." Among other noted scholars of the same opinion are Tregelles, Tischendorf, Griesbach and Goodspeed.*

Supporting this testimony of the Greek manuscripts and versions are the church historian Eusebius and the Bible translator Jerome. Eusebius wrote that the longer ending was not in the "accurate copies," for "at this point [verse 8] the end of the Gospel according to Mark is determined in nearly all the copies of the Gospel according to Mark." And Jerome, writing in the year 406 or 407 C.E., said that "nearly all Greek MSS. have not got this passage."

Quite pertinent here is what the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (1966), Volume 9, page 240, has to say about these verses: "The manuscript tradition indicates that the Gospel originally ended at 16.8, but that the longer ending that is incorporated in the Vulgate was later added, becoming widely accepted in the course of the 5th century. . . . Its vocabulary and style differ so radically from the rest of the Gospel that it hardly seems possible Mark himself composed it. . . . Mark 16.1-8 is a satisfactory ending to the Gospel insofar as it declares Jesus' Resurrection-prophecy to be fulfilled."

Mark's Style?

Note that the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* argues that the vocabulary and style of Mark 16:9-20 differ so radically from the Gospel of Mark that it hardly seems possible that Mark himself wrote those verses. Yes, Mark's style is plain, direct his paragraphs are short and the transi-

* Regarding this passage, a footnote in *The Jerusalem Bible* says: "That Mark was its author cannot be proved."

tions are simple. But in this ending, as the *Encyclopedia* observes, "we have a carefully arranged series of statements, each with its proper introductory expression." Well has it been likened to a piece of torn satin attached to a roll of homespun.

There is also the matter of vocabulary. There are words used in verses 9 through 20 that do not appear elsewhere in Mark's Gospel, some words that do not occur in any of the other Gospels, some that do not occur elsewhere in the Christian Greek Scriptures. These verses consist of 163 Greek words, and, of these, 19 words and 2 phrases do not occur elsewhere in Mark's Gospel. Or, put otherwise, in these verses there are 109 *different* words, and, of these, 11 words and 2 phrases are unique to these verses.

But most conclusive of all that Mark could not have written these verses and that they are no part of the inspired Word of God is their content. As has already been noted, there is no evidence that Christ's followers were to be able to drink deadly poison without being hurt, as stated in verse 18. Even in the matter of handling snakes it is very apparent that those handling them do all they can to keep the snakes from biting, and they handle them only for five minutes at a time.

Further, these questionable verses state that the eleven apostles refused to believe his testimony of two disciples whom Jesus had met on the way and to whom he revealed himself. But, according to the account in Luke, when the two disciples found the eleven and those with them,

these said: "For a fact the Lord was raised up and he appeared to Simon!"—Luke 24: 13-35.

So in view of all the foregoing what do we conclude? That Mark 16:9-20 is not part of God's inspired Word, and that for the following reasons: (1) These verses are not found in two of the oldest and most

highly regarded Greek manuscripts as well as others.

(2) They are also not found in many of the oldest and best Bible translations or versions.

(3) Such ancient scholars as Eusebius and Jerome pronounced them

spurious. (4) The style of these verses is entirely different from that of Mark.

(5) The vocabulary used in these verses is different from that of Mark. (6) And, most important of all, the very content of these verses contradicts the facts and the rest of the Scriptures.

Regarding these questionable verses, it might be noted that not only did the ones adding them do a very poor job but it may well be that they proceeded on a wrong premise. How so? In that Mark actually may have ended his Gospel with what is now verse eight. Noting that this could well be, especially in view of Mark's abrupt style, are Eusebius, Jerome and the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* as well as *Aid to Bible Understanding*.

There certainly are grave consequences, even death to some, when additions to God's Word are made in disregard of repeated warnings. (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18) On the other hand, "the saying of Jehovah endures forever." —1 Pet. 1:25.

● **What Can You Do About the High Price of Eating?**

● **You Can Clean Up Your Life —with God's Help.**

● **Is Home Sewing for You?**

—In next issue.

Would A MINI-BUSINESS Serve Your Needs?



BY "AWAKE!" CORRESPONDENT IN COLOMBIA

IN Cali, Colombia, a young mother was suddenly widowed and left without support for herself and two young sons. Her only asset was her home. After careful planning, she divided off four of her rooms into two independent apartments and thus supported her small family from a mini-business.

As prices increase on all commodities, many persons find their earnings inadequate for even basic needs. If father takes two jobs, however, the family loses his guidance and he invites illness due to overwork. If mother is employed outside the home, the children suffer the loss of her supervision and loving companionship. But where a family needs additional funds, the means to provide such income could be a self-operated mini-business.

By "mini-business" is meant any small enterprise, whether in service, manufacturing or sales, frequently using the home, garage or patio as the base of operations. The objective may be to employ profitably the spare time of older children, provide income for mother on a part-time basis, or

to develop a business that would eventually support the family entirely.

Why Many Prefer Self-Employment

While a job in industry may offer greater financial security and attractive fringe benefits, it can also be routine, monotonous and lacking in opportunities to use initiative. In many countries, however, even such industrial jobs are scarce, and the inexperienced or untrained cannot readily find employment.

Among the advantages gained by the self-employed are a flexible work schedule, a more active interest in the business and so greater productivity, plus the satisfaction of worthwhile accomplishment. They can also choose their work companions, perhaps giving on-the-job training to sons and daughters, equipping them with a useful trade.

What Type of Mini-Business?

Service opportunities offer a return for one's time and energies and usually require only a modest outlay for tools and equipment. Every community needs the services of a carpenter or plumber, a tailor or seamstress, a beautician, barber, mechanic, electrician or appliance repairman. The necessary skills can often be acquired in a trade school, or by apprenticeship to someone already in the business.

Maintenance of property or equipment on a contract basis could be a source of income for you. If you have mechanical training, why not approach the management of office or factory buildings with a contract to service air-conditioning units, electrical generators, boilers or elevators?

For those without technical skills, landscaping or maintaining the grounds of private estates, clubs, or business properties, providing janitor service to industrial or office buildings, are a few of the areas for employment on a contract basis.

Agricultural work is also done by contract, such as the harvesting of grains or food crops. In the Buenaventura area of Colombia a father contracts with owners of large plantations to harvest their banana crops. This frees the owner from hiring each individual worker, and the father negotiates for a better wage for his family.

But you may feel that the manufacture of a useful or decorative item would be more appealing as a mini-business.

Sales

Since your product must be sold, a realistic appraisal of the market potential should be made before investing in machinery or raw materials. Is your product such that the public will come to you to buy? If not, would you sell to retail stores? Would it be advantageous to advertise? Is there a year-round market for your product, or would it sell only seasonally? How would your sales be affected by inclement weather, public transportation strikes or breakdowns, or illness of yourself or other family members?

Valuable information on sales could be gathered from small manufacturers experienced in your field or in a related one. Talk to them, ask for their suggestions, make notes for later reference as to how they promote sales and where they market their products.

Public-relations-oriented manufacturers have long capitalized on a natural curiosity about how their product is made, and plant tours are arranged with customer appeal in mind. Scaling this idea down to mini-size, a rug manufacturer employing

six workers opens his plant to full view of all passing by, and frequently a crowd gathers to watch his operations, observing with interest the emergence of lovely patterns as bright yarns are woven into the backing.

What Enterprising Colombians

Have Done

Before making a decision on what specific business to enter, you may find the experiences of many Colombian families in operating a mini-business of interest.

A widow in Bogotá earns her livelihood as caretaker of homes whose owners are out of town. Reliable and trustworthy, she obtains work through referrals. Before engaging in this type of work, you may wish to insure yourself against the risk involved in guarding another's property.

Few Colombian mothers work outside the home, but many add to the family income by preparing hot meals. Boarders may eat at the family table, or the hot lunch may be sent to the work site. Others prepare food for sale to small grocery stores, such as a cornmeal bun called *arepas*, served in most Colombian homes for breakfast or snacks. The sale of cake, candy, roasted peanuts, baked ham or fried plantains outside of stadiums or at playgrounds on holidays or Sundays brings in enough to support many families.

Persons in your community might enjoy sausages, pizza or other specialty dishes prepared with good-quality meat, free from harmful preservatives. *Tamales*, *pasteles* or *empanadas*, prepared with meat and vegetables, wrapped in dough of cornmeal or flour, either fried or boiled, are fast-selling delicacies in Colombia.

Supermarkets with a complete line of food items under one roof are almost unknown outside Colombia's largest cities. Thus an opportunity exists for mini-

merchants operating a booth in the central market or renting space in a small food store. A successful vendor in Barranquilla specializes in yucca, a starchy root much in demand for the preparation of soups. His stall is sought out by customers who know that he maintains the largest and best stock of yucca in the market.

Could you roast and grind coffee? A family in the city of Armenia has a small electric unit set up in the garage, and the aroma of roasting coffee brings customers from blocks around. One can buy a pound of coffee already ground and packaged, or watch while the newly roasted beans are ground to order.

A family in Medellín earns all its income from the home manufacture of *gelatinas*, a dessert similar to marshmallows. Sales are made retail from the home as well as wholesale to small food stores.

In communities where very few persons own automobiles, vendors render a real service by delivering fruits and vegetables to the customer. An elderly man, with a view to earning a little pocket change, started out to offer lemons from door to door. To his surprise, several persons asked him to come again the following week, and thus a route of steady buyers was established. Later, at the request of his customers, he expanded the business by adding papayas, bananas, pineapples and other types of fruit to his deliveries.

A mother needed extra cash for a trip the family wanted to take. She turned the front room of her home into a salesroom and started selling eggs to her residential neighborhood. From the profits of her modest efforts, a vacation was enjoyed by all the family.

In a tropical climate, a refrigerator is a real necessity, but in Colombia it is very expensive. How to enjoy owning one and still keep up the monthly payments? Pos-

sibly by sharing the products of your refrigerator with your neighbors—for a price! Stir up a mixture for popsicles, varying it with flavored syrups, crushed pineapple, mango, banana or shredded coconut, pour it into the ice trays or paper cups and drop in a short wooden stick. Now pop it into the freezer. Before long you will have a line of customers, especially children coming home from school, who have seen your handwritten sign in the window: *helados*. Since most families do not own a refrigerator, you can increase profits from your mini-business by the sale of bottled refreshments, home-prepared punch or fruit juice, or from the sale of ice cubes.

A young lad can find ways to employ his spare time profitably, contributing substantially to the family's support. One young boy, after a nominal investment in supplies, called from door to door offering to shine shoes, then returned the following week where his services were accepted. With initiative and diligence, he built up a route of regular, appreciative customers. Shoe repair added to this service would increase one's income.

A mother and daughter in Bucaramanga started making baby clothes in the home for sale in the immediate community. Through sales to local clothing merchants, this business was later expanded to become the family's sole means of support.

A man sat on the sidewalk at a busy intersection of a large coastal city, with a supply of palm leaves around him. Quickly he cut the fronds into strips one inch wide, then fashioned a circle from a length of wire. Deftly, he covered the wire with many strips of palm leaf, weaving a flat brim inward about three inches, then shaped a crown, completing an attractive hat in less than ten minutes. As he started on the second hat, fascinated observer

were already waving the money and shouting: "The next one is mine!"

A drugstore was opened in the living room of a home in a residential area. A supply of pharmaceutical products, shampoos, lotions and ointments was neatly arranged on display shelves out of reach but within view of an open window. Since all sales were made through the window, mother was freed from constant attendance and could continue her housework between customers.

From a small sidewalk booth called "Noah's Ark" all manner of used tools, plumbing equipment and other hardware are sold. A small business could be formed to sell or rent used books, magazines, furniture, clothing, appliances, sports equipment, musical instruments, or a combination of these items.

Metalwork in the form of doors, doorframes, window frames, metal shelving, or furniture provides employment for many businessmen in Colombia. Iron grillwork is becoming ever more popular for protecting windows and entrances, for enclosing porches, for fences or handrailings. Decorative and practical, the iron can be worked into floral designs, leaping antelopes, a dazzling sunrise, or even bars with musical notes.

The manufacture of flowerpots and planters provides an income for a resourceful family. While the teen-age sons and daughters mix sand and cement, mold and paint the product in the patio, father sells to small merchants in the local market, or from a handcart in residential areas. Another family expands this idea by marketing potted palms, orchids, philodendron or coleus plants, using the second-story balcony to display them.

Shoe manufacture is still largely a handcraft in Colombia, and three or four men often work together under contract to

retailers or by selling from a display case in their shop. The customer can select footwear already made, or may order shoes to his exact size and style preference. A family in Bogotá makes a soft hand-stitched house slipper, similar to an Indian moccasin; and this business is their sole source of support.

Leather and imitation-leather book covers, wallets, coin purses, belts, handbags, briefcases or school-book bags are items constantly in demand. Sport jackets, made of suede or other leather, as well as imitation-leather raincoats, are clothing articles that never go out of style. Upholstering auto seats or living-room furniture in leatherlike plastics provides an income for many.

In the higher altitudes, a woolen *ruana* or poncho is a year-round necessity. Worn as a cape, a *ruana* serves for cold or rain, and is preferred by Colombians to a coat or jacket. A family in Bogotá weaves the fabric on a home loom, varying the colorful patterns for different effects. But *ruanas* can be made from any type of woolen fabrics, solid-color flannels or wool knits trimmed with white fringe, or lovely plaids with matching fringe.

Many other opportunities await the businessman or woman in furniture refinishing, rebinding worn books, crocheting or knitting shawls or sweaters, embroidering sheets or table linens, the manufacture of wigs or hairpieces, costume jewelry, macrame handbags, rope or wool scatter rugs, table lamps, mattresses, pillows, wicker furniture or stuffed toys.

Whatever field you choose as a means of earning a living, you will experience satisfaction in providing for your daily needs by applying your talents to productive work. So, if you need employment or additional income, why not give consideration to operating your own mini-business!



MANY people find history on the printed page boring; but I'm not a history book. I present history in the round. I am Taiwan's National Palace Museum.

It took 3,000 wooden cases to bring my treasures to their present location in the suburb of Shih Lin at the edge of Taipei. Because of the periodic changes of my displays I cannot lead you on a room-by-room tour. Those changes take place every three months; yet it is said that if you visited during each display period it would take you ten years to see all my trove.

Let us go back in time to the very fringes of human memory in the Far East. Do you see those old, dried-out buff-colored bones? They are oracle bones, used for divination. They are cracked because this was the means of gaining the sought-for answer. They would drill tiny holes in the bone, apply heat and wait for the cracks to develop. Then they would write on each bone the events concerning which questions had been asked. That was during the Shang dynasty.

My Record in Bronze

The Shang dynasty lasted perhaps 650 years, down till the time of Saul the king of Israel. Its record has been made in a

most durable form: bronze. The samples I show are for ritual use and not everyday household items. The Chinese are practical. A vessel can be made to stand on three legs; therefore our earliest containers are poised on three legs, not four. Yet these vessels are made beautifully, with rich decoration.

Like all the human family, the Chinese like music. Our earliest musical instruments are represented here in bronze bells. You may be surprised at how large they are. You would be more surprised if you tipped them up and could see that there are no clappers. They are true musical instruments because each gives a variety of tones when struck from the outside by a mallet. The tones vary from bottom to top on the bell.

Our record in bronze continues into one of the longest dynasties in history, the Chou. In it the Chinese dragon appears, and the bronzes of this era carry readable inscriptions, some running to more than four hundred characters. My history is in the form of real objects handed down through time, many carrying history written, not by historians, but by people writing in their own time about themselves.

The Ch'in dynasty was very short; jus

fifteen years in the third century B.C.E. But what it left behind was very long—the Great Wall of China; fifteen hundred miles in length. No part of that wall is here, but the Chinese talent with walls is evidenced in my own facade and the grounds surrounding me. I sit upon the *topmost* of two man-made plateaus, backed into deeply forested mountains. Tunnels run into deep recesses in these mountains to shelter the priceless items awaiting display.

At the time that Jesus Christ walked this earth, the Han dynasty was almost 200 years old, with yet another 200 years to go. This period is represented in bronzes too. I would like to call your attention to a bronze jar or jardiniere. It appears to be caught in a net of rope. Close inspection will show you that the "rope" is part of the bronze work itself!

"More musical instruments!" you say as you see the cases having round flat pieces of bronze with knobs in the middle. No, they are not cymbals. Try again. "Potlids?" No. Those "potlids" if turned over would offer a shining surface that long ago was used as a mirror.

Ceramic and Porcelain Treasures

A time of turmoil followed the Han dynasty as three kingdoms and six dynasties tumbled over one another in the next two hundred years. I will hurry you past these and those that followed the Northern and Southern dynasties and the Sui to bring you to the T'ang dynasty, of the eleventh century. I am anxious for you to see our "ang horse. It is ceramic. When it was made it was surfaced with colors. Now only a hint of its brilliance remains in the red of its mane. The beauty of its form, the whole sense of artistic and physical balance overcomes the loss of color. The animal is poised with one hoof held high in a proud stance. It is a large piece: two

and a half feet from hoof to mane, and a touch more than two feet from nose to tail.

Six dynasties occupied the next 218 years, but now, let me lead you past these to the magnificence of the Sung dynasty. Europe lay in the grasp of the Dark Ages when Sung artistry glowed serenely across four centuries of China's culture. Literature, the arts, architecture and furniture reached a pinnacle of expression perhaps not matched since. I have much to show you of the versatility of the epoch. Now let me explain this period in terms of porcelain. Our Sung porcelain items are muted, monochromatic—one color emphasizing the purity of the glazes used. I have a Western friend who often comes to visit me and who views my Ju ware (pronounced Roo) as my greatest treasure. You wonder why?

Let me tell you. First, that particular color cannot be had on demand. It was a gift of the Ju kiln, a transmutation, a color change taking place in the kiln. Secondly, in the Sung period the purpose of working in porcelain ware was to try to imitate the peculiar soft, translucent glow and color of jade, as well as its cool, smooth "feel." The Chinese treasured jade in *all* its colors. But they wished to copy the white jade and that hue of the lighter off-green. In Ju ware it was achieved. If you could reach inside the case you would feel the third reason. Its "feel" is so smooth that it is the equal of jade. In all the world there are just some thirty known Ju-ware items, and twenty-three of them are here.

Down from Mongolia thundered the hordes of Genghis Khan in the thirteenth century. By sword and Tartar pony, they sought to smash the Sung tranquillity. The heritage Sung had left to China's vast population could not be erased by this barbaric foreigner! The dynastic lines were erased, but China absorbed its conquerors.

In time, Genghis' grandson Kublai Khan ruled in all the silk and ivory splendor of Cathay over what was, by now, called the Yüan dynasty.

The Yüan dynasty gave way to the Ming dynasty, during which time Columbus sailed to the Americas. Let us enter the display area for Ming porcelains. Did I hear you gasp? It was a combination of surprise and pleasure, wasn't it? The brilliant colors of the Ming wares are breathtaking! In this dynasty's display you will notice a high-stemmed bowl. It has green dragons on a brilliant yellow base color. The technique was to engrave the design on the unglazed base, then later fill it with color. Ultimately Ming artisans learned to control color so it neither "bled" nor ran out of control in firing.

The Ch'ing dynasty followed the Ming, and with it the door closed in 1911 on the Chinese dynasties. China at last discarded its royal lines. However, the Ch'ing legacy to China was not only the prolific work of their own artisans, but also the palace accumulation of items of preceding dynasties. These form the nucleus of my collection.

Ivory, Lacquer Ware and Jade

Let us leave porcelain, which continued to be beautifully produced in this time, to talk of ivory as a representative work for this era. One skill that never fails to enchant visitors is that of carving ivory balls. The carving is so delicate that it looks like fine lace. Yet it is not just the lacework that enchants. They are spheres within spheres carved from one piece of ivory. One of these has thirteen movable layers, one inside the other. Each ball can be rotated within the others.

Still another is what is perhaps the world's most elegant lunch box. It is a layered group of oval boxes carved of ivory so fine that each is less than the

thickness of a flat toothpick. It is made as an airy screenwork to keep the food cool and yet free from insects. There are those visitors who must be convinced that it is not made of stiffly starched lace!

Miniaturization is another Chinese talent. The ivory collection includes a small excursion boat just two inches long. Every detail is sharp and clear. Passengers are visible inside the boat, and the cabin windows slide back and forth.

Here we have arrived at the present, and yet I have not even mentioned my carved lacquer ware. As many as thirty-six coats of lacquer would be carefully applied to a surface, each time drying and being sanded, and then followed by another. Then the carver would take over. His task was to carve the lacquer, not the wood beneath it. In some instances different colors of lacquer were applied, and the carver would carve to the desired color layer, and not go through it. Some of my pieces are deeply carved and have three colors in their designs.

One of my richest collections is jade. I have saved it because it belongs to no one dynasty. Chinese respect for jade is the warp yarn of the long tapestry of our cultural history. I possess both the oldest and the largest jades in the world. I can show you among later jades a stalk of white-stemmed Chinese cabbage topped with green leaves and two green grasshoppers. This was all accomplished without paint or dye, but by using the skilled eye of its carver to recognize the possibilities of the run of color in the raw material.

My Scroll Paintings

And what of painting? In Chinese scroll my history becomes most explicit. If you ever come to visit me, I hope that at least one of two famous scrolls will be on display. "The City of Cathay" is a remark-

able record of life in dynasties past. It is a horizontal or hand scroll, 37.82 feet long! The viewer starts at the mouth of a river; and the eye travels its banks passing through countryside, outlying areas and finally to the city. Thousands of figures, tiny and intricate, people the scene. From these one has a picture of life, of dress, of commerce—a pictorial view of the past that speaks beyond words.

The other great hand scroll is the one called "The One Hundred Horses." It is a 25.46-foot-long landscape, filled with horses of every kind in every stage of use and life. One or two dead ones are there. Let me first ask you, though, do you notice that Chinese painting is a "style" you can recognize? Can you pinpoint what makes it "feel" Chinese to you? Two important things are involved. Perspective, which is always as though you are hanging by a hook out in the air, hovering over the scene as viewed. The other is the absence of shadows. Distance is created by painting things darker if they are close to you, and lighter if distant.

In "The One Hundred Horses," however, you may note that there *are* shadows. Furthermore, the eyes of the horses possess highlights, a device not used by Chinese painters. Yet you still *feel* this painting is Chinese. You are right. All the techniques of Chinese style were used by the artist, but those two Western techniques were added. The artist is known in China as Lang Shih-ning. He was a painter at the Ch'ing dynasty court at the beginning of the 1700's. However, he was born Guiseppe Castiglione, and came to China as a Jesuit priest. He is the only foreigner reckoned by Chinese as a Chinese painter.

Items Used in Buddhist Rites

One other foreign influence infiltrated China, yet failed to be absorbed and was

lost in the massive embrace of China's populace. That was Buddhism, which retains its Indian forms and terms and exerts its mighty influence on Chinese thought and life. Why do I, a museum, mention this? It is because it is part of my memory bank. Out of Tibet came esoteric (possessed of mysteries known only to the initiated) Buddhism to be accepted and performed in the Imperial Palace in Peiping and the Summer Palace in Jehol. My collection contains items used in these rites. It appears as a courtship with death. I can show you an iron-skull rosary, or a carved ivory "apron" to be worn by the priest, replete with death's-heads. Cups made of human skulls such as I display were used to contain offerings to the gods. Usually only the skulls of nobles and high priests were used. Still another item made of a skull is the skull drum used in temple orchestras. It is made from the top of two skulls of children, joined crown to crown, and the open surfaces covered with lamb or monkey skin. Another musical instrument is a human leg-bone trumpet fitted with a metal mouth-piece. These are not artistically crude, rather, they are elegantly painted and adorned.

One is caught by an underlying tone of religious similarities, not only in the use of rosaries but also in the dress of priests that I have on display. Miters in my collection match their equivalents in Western religions. Many visitors comment on this. Would you like to see more? Come, pay me a visit.

We have only scratched the surface of what I have to show between my history-book covers, as well as what I have to tell you about the history of my country and my people—the most numerous upon the face of the earth. I have a very long memory.—*Contributed.*



SO THIS IS THE PHILIPPINES!

By "Awake!" correspondent in the Philippines

THE airliner dips low over green hills and flat rice paddies. Suddenly it swoops over a wide bay, close to the roofs of a modern-looking city, and onto the runway. The door swings open, and you are in the Orient, on an island in the Philippines, only 500 miles from the coast of China.

By any standards the more than 7,000 tropical islands that make up the Philippines are beautiful. And there is such variety! To the north are pine-clad mountains and cool, clear air, and in the south there are steaming jungles. In central Luzon, on the group's largest island, wide rivers meander through beautiful flat plains. This is one of the great rice bowls of Asia, one of the most fertile areas on earth. But what many visitors especially enjoy are the palm-studded beaches—long stretches of sunlit sands washed by the waters of a warm tropical sea.

There are other attractions too. Towering active volcanoes that smoke perpetually, springs hot enough to boil an egg, and places where the ground is so warm you can hardly walk on it. Natural steam is used in some places here as a source of power. And there are waterfalls, gorgeous tropical sunsets and exotic orchids, orchids and more orchids—nearly a thousand kinds flourish on the islands!

Near Manila, the largest city, one can get a breathtaking view of the Taal volcano from the Tagaytay Ridge. An exciting ride down the rapids from Pagsanjan Falls affords another view of the scenery. Right

in Manila is the 'Nayong Pilipino'—the 'Philippine Village'—where the different cultures of the Philippines are represented in natural settings. For those with limited time to travel, this "village" gives a bird's-eye view of the country.

The Filipinos

When the Spaniard Ferdinand Magellan visited the Philippines away back in 1521, he found a race of slender, handsome people. Their skin was a glowing-brown color, and their hair shining black. Although most of the Spanish have left, descendants of the island's earlier inhabitants are still here. They are the ones who will check a visitor's passport, ask if he has anything to declare, then drive him to his hotel by taxi, bus or jeepney.

The Filipinos are made up of a number of ethnic groups. Living in the mountains to the north of the island of Luzon are the Igorots, or "natives." Many of them still worship their own pagan gods, and some do not wear the Western style of clothing.

Many visitors to the Philippines travel hundreds of miles over difficult mountain roads to see a great work of these Igorot people. Up there in a place called Banaue the Ifugao, one of their tribes, have, over a period of 1,500 years, fashioned whole mountainsides into a gigantic series of rice terraces that are still being used today. These terraces are said to stretch a distance equal to half the circumference of the earth. They have been carved by th

Ifugao patiently, using just the simplest of tools. Truly a stupendous feat of engineering, comparable to any of the great works of other ancient nations!

There are also many other Philippine peoples with which to get acquainted. There are the warm, hospitable Bicolanos from the beautiful regions of southern Luzon, and the charming and outgoing Cebuanos from still farther south. Also, the alert and progressive Tagalogs, and the patient and persevering Ilocanos. You may have already met some of the Ilocanos from northern Luzon, as they are a group that does a lot of traveling.

As evidence of the great diversity of ethnic groups, over eighty languages and dialects are spoken around the islands. Should you visit the Philippines, why not talk to the different persons you meet? Find out where they come from and what sort of customs and habits they have.

Communication Possible

But you might say: "What? With all those languages? How do you expect me to talk to them at all?"

In spite of all the languages and dialects in use, English is commonly spoken. This is due to the period of American domination. So communication is not much of a problem, once you get used to the accent.

Actually, the existence of the scores of different languages has made for a nation of very competent linguists. Any Filipino who travels has to be prepared to learn the language of the area, and people commonly speak three or four languages fluently.

A missionary of Jehovah's witnesses tells of attending a Bible meeting away down south in the beautiful city of Zamboanga. The literature they were studying was in English, and the chairman of the study was speaking most of the time in English. Then one person raised her hand to comment, and the remark came out in the Hiligaynon tongue. Another man volunteered a comment in Cebuano. Another spoke in Tagalog, and still another made his point in Chabacano. Everyone seemed to understand, and no one seemed to notice that different languages were being used.

What to Expect

If you are coming to the Philippines for the first time, perhaps there are some things that should be mentioned. For example, if you are a white person speaking English, you are an "Americano." You may perhaps be English, Dutch or German, but temporarily, while here, you will be thought of as an "Americano."

Another thing we should mention is the exceptional hospitality of the Filipino. And here hospitality is closely connected with eating. You may be served tasty local



The rice terraces of the Ifugaos

dishes like kari-kari, or lapu-lapu, a local fish. Or, for a snack, there is the ever-popular pancit, or some bibingka. A deliciously cool drink is halo-halo. Chinese food, too, is popular here, and it is said to be some of the best in the world. Or, if you prefer, food is frequently prepared American or Spanish style.

In some parts of Manila foreigners are

Noteworthy Monuments

✓ A visitor to the Philippines usually sees the José Rizal monument in the Luneta, Manila's most famous park. However, many visitors pass by without knowing the background of the death of Rizal, the Philippines' national hero. He was put to death by firing squad in 1896 on the spot where his monument now stands. The execution was in the presence of and at the instigation of the powerful Dominican friars. The friars were angry over Rizal's writings that exposed the abuses of the Spanish priests in the Philippines. One was the novel "Noli Me Tangere" (English translations, "Eagle's Flight" and "Social Cancer"), and a second novel "El Filibusterismo" (English version, "Reign of Greed"). Over the strong objections of the clergy, the Philippine Congress has made his two novels, depicting life under Spanish rule and the excesses of the clergy, required reading in all colleges and universities.

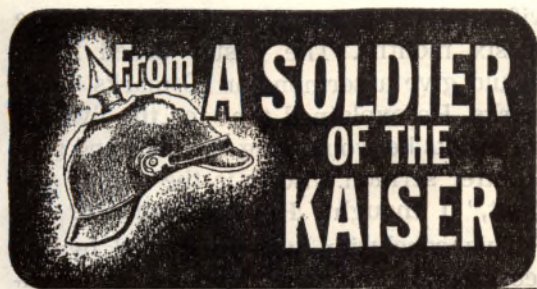
Visitors to Manila also often see in a plaza the monument of Andres Bonifacio, one of the heroes of the Philippine revolution that ended more than 300 years of Spanish rule in that country. Around the base of the monument one can see depicted in bronze the suffering of the Filipino people under the clergy-state rule of the Spanish governors-general. The friars, especially the Dominicans, did not escape when the revolution erupted, and many paid with their lives for their greed and blood-stained deeds.

a common sight, and pass unnoticed. But in more out-of-the-way places, such as the markets around Cubao and in the old city of Pasig, you will be as much an object of interest to the locals as they are to you. The truth is that Westerners do tend to stand out a little in the Orient, what with their unusual height and pale-colored skin. So do not be surprised if, when you are inspecting the goods in some small store, you turn around to find a Filipino standing alongside comparing his own height to yours—much to the delight of his companions.

Or perhaps a group of youngsters might gather around and just stare at you in wide-eyed amazement. Some bolder youths might call out to you, "Hi, Joe," or "Victory Joe," reflecting the time two and a half decades ago when all American soldiers were "Joe." The troops were then very popular in the streets of Manila, because of having recently gained victory over the Japanese occupation forces.

The thing to remember is that everybody is just being friendly. There is very little of the antiforeign feeling that one may sense in some other countries. Children might even start stroking your arm, because they like the feel of the soft hairs on your skin. Persons cannot get much friendlier than that, can they? If you get into the spirit of it, you will enjoy the informality, the lack of tension, and the friendliness that are characteristic here.

If you should visit the Philippines, why not forsake the 'tourist belt'? Travel by the characteristic jeepney, or the distinctive bus system. See how the Filipino lives—not with a view to criticizing—but, rather, just accepting that this is the way things are here. They are different, of course, but if you are willing to accept them as they are, you can be sure of a warm welcome in the sunny Philippines



AT ABOUT the turn of the century, in a certain German settlement in southwest Russia, people stood patiently in two rows outside a modest church on Sunday mornings.

Only after a bearded elderly gentleman and his wife walked between the rows of people into the church would the others enter.

The elderly couple were my grandparents. They received the weekly respect of the congregation because their religious devotion was so great that it had moved them to build the church out of their own finances. My father was their eldest son, and he, in turn, did what he could to impart the same devotion to his seven children.

My Early Religious Training

Each morning before the farm work began, father called the entire family and all the farm help around our big table for Bible reading. God's blessing was humbly asked, and appreciation was expressed for the new day and the Creator's loving care.

Such was the atmosphere of my childhood—perhaps not what you might expect for one who was to spend most of his life as a soldier.

When the time came for the children to begin school, father immigrated to Germany so that we could be educated there.

Learning was a pleasure for me, except when it came to religious instruction. I suppose one could say that I could not 'get to first base,' religiously speaking.

Not that I was without faith; it was the manner in which we were taught about God and his purposes that turned me away

from religion. Even education for confirmation into the Lutheran Church was boring to me. The pastor appeared only to be doing his duty. Whether we children understood or not

seemed to be of no interest to him. Although I was confirmed as a member of the church, I never attended the services. However, what my father taught me I kept in my heart.

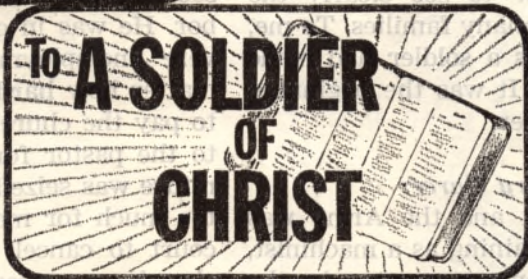
World War I

During those worry-free years, there came a change that sent me into my career as a soldier. When I was eleven years old, Germany went to war. How it thrilled us boys to see the first soldiers marching with their flower-decorated guns!

Soon father became a soldier, leaving mother to care for seven small children. Her health was not strong, so much of the hard work fell on my shoulders as the eldest son.

One year after another passed, and still father did not return from the Army. I would often miss school to help the family. Constantly I was asking myself: What can I do to relieve our hardship?

I went to the military district adviser and requested to serve as a soldier in place of my father. The adviser turned me down because I was only fifteen years old. Yet I wanted so badly to relieve my father



that I wrote a letter to the German kaiser, Wilhelm II, making my request known. How happy I was when permission was granted! And so, in the spring of 1918, I became the youngest soldier in the German army.

When the war ended in November of that year, I was still too young to estimate its damage or to see clearly the wounds it left in so many families. To me, those few months as a soldier had made a child into a man. It was the beginning of my military career.

Pursuit of a Military Career

The war was lost and the Army was dissolved. I began training as a machinist, determined to become a master in the trade. However, the hard conditions of the postwar years made this a difficult goal to attain. Then came news that a 100,000-man army would be allowed for Germany. Here was an opportunity to master my trade; I could continue my training and at the same time be a soldier.

Once again I joined the infantry. While the order and discipline appealed to me, the compulsory Sunday church attendance did not. How ridiculous, it seemed, that as soldiers we were united until Sunday, when we were separated, Catholics sent here and Protestants there!

Did we not have one God? Did we not read the same Bible? Why should we separate for one special hour in the name of service to God? Even the ceremonies seemed childish to me, with nothing of value in the sermons.

Military Career Interrupted

An injury to my knee forced an interruption in my military career. Instead of returning to the church, however, I had two experiences during this period that *turned me* even farther away.

Through very sad circumstances, my

wife and I lost our first child at the age of six months. The pastor asked if he should give a sermon for 20 marks or 25 marks. He explained that for the five extra marks he would ring the bells and give a better sermon. "So it is the money you want," I thought. How sad, indeed!

This conclusion was confirmed by the second experience that involved my neighbor. He was in great need because of severe unemployment in the country. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to pay the church taxes. In spite of pleas to the pastor for understanding, his furniture was seized to pay the taxes. It was too much for me. Immediately I went to court to cancel legally all ties with the church, a necessary step in Germany where Church and State are closely linked. This was in 1931.

A Soldier Again

In 1934 I was again accepted into the Army to continue my military career. A short time later I became an officer. It was not until 1936, when I was transferred to Spain on the outbreak of civil war there, that once again I came in contact with Christendom's religion—the monasteries in Spain had become forts and warehouses of weapons!

When the second world war began in 1939, I was given the responsibility to inspect airplanes made ready for the German air force. One day, early in the war, a large decorated platform was installed at one of the military airports. Flags were flying, airplanes and weapons were on display, and the entire battalion was on parade. A limousine arrived with the guests of honor—a Catholic priest and a Protestant clergyman!

How impressive were their speeches! We were assured that we were fighting for a righteous cause. At the end of the ceremony, they blessed all the weapons.

World War II Ends

Six long years passed before the war ended. The god to whom those clergymen prayed apparently had not been listening, for we lost again. Along with my companions, I was a prisoner of war.

Following my release, I looked to my homeland, which had received the best years of my life. Although I had reached the rank of major as a soldier, when I asked for work I was pushed aside as being too old. My possessions were gone and I had lost my marriage partner in death. Without a place to live, I decided to go to France to look for work.

While in France, I worked at a city that had a library for German prisoners and anyone else who wished to use it. One day my eyes glanced from shelf to shelf until they rested in one corner where a few Bibles stood. I tucked one under my work jacket and went home, not wanting anyone to see it and laugh at me.

For several days, I read in it again and again without understanding. During working hours I found myself praying one moment and swearing the next. Never had I lost faith in God, but now I was looking for knowledge that I could not find.

Learning Bible Truth

After three lonely years, I remarried and moved back to Germany. One beautiful Sunday morning my wife and I noticed a small group of men and women who had come from a neighboring town on their bicycles. Soon there was a knock on our door, and we invited a young man to come in.

He had a Bible and he talked about things we had never heard before, not even my wife who had been a faithful churchgoer. We had many questions, and the young man answered them all from the Bible. He offered us a book that he said would help us to understand God's

Word. We declined his offer, but we were so impressed with what we had learned that we never forgot his visit.

A winter passed. One day I had some business in the same town from which the young man had come to visit us the previous summer. It was already noon when I started for home on my bicycle. As I rode along, I noticed a man standing in a public place, holding two magazines in full view. I turned around as if someone were steering me.

The magazines were *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* I had never seen them before. Their cost was 25 pennies, the exact amount of money I had with me. I obtained both magazines from the man, who was so surprised at my determination that he offered to come and visit me. Two hours later he arrived at our home.

Before he came, my wife and I had time only to eat a small meal and arrange our little room. My wife had not read any more than the title of one magazine—"The Watchtower" Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom"—when the man knocked at our door.

She almost fell over him with the questions, "Who is Jehovah? Isn't he the God of the Jews?"

Instead of presenting a long explanation, our visitor produced a book from his bag. Why, it was the same book we had declined to take the previous summer—"Let God Be True," published by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society!

We sat around the table and read together the chapter entitled "Who Is Jehovah?" We learned that He is the God who made heaven and earth.

Week after week the man returned to study the Bible with us, using the book "Let God Be True" as our guide. As our study progressed, we came to feel that we were similar to the apostle Paul when the scales of blindness fell from his eyes.

(Acts 9:17-19) The scales of spiritual blindness were also falling from our eyes.

Becoming a Different Kind of Soldier

Our teacher became a dear friend. He was materially poor, perhaps even more so than we were, but he was spiritually rich with good things from God's Word, which he shared with generosity. He had been a full-time proclaimer of the good news of God's kingdom since the end of the first world war, supporting himself by part-time work. Yet when we had progressed to the point of dedicating our lives to Jehovah God, he kindly gave us 10 marks so that we could travel to a convention of Jehovah's witnesses, where we symbolized our dedication by baptism.

So once again I became a soldier, but this time a soldier for Christ, as described at 2 Timothy 2:3. Since then, I have given

with all my heart to wage a 'fine warfare' against spiritual darkness and to help all those who seek Jehovah and want to serve him. After my retirement, we moved to Canada, and here my wife and daughter continue to 'pioneer,' spending their full time preaching and teaching others about Jehovah's marvelous purposes for a paradise earth in the near future.

Although my health is not as good as it once was, I continue to do what I can in Jehovah's service. When I was a soldier for the kaiser and his successors I served wholeheartedly and sacrificed much. Should it be any different now?

As a military soldier, I thought that I learned much and became a man. But I did not find true wisdom until I studied God's Word, the Bible. Now I serve with a real reward in view: everlasting life in God's righteous new order.—Contributed.

A REQUEST FOR FORGIVENESS

A VISITING MINISTER speaking at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Kalamazoo, Michigan, was quite surprised at a comment made during his Bible lecture. As was his custom, he posed certain questions for the audience to answer.

One man raised his hand, and the speaker called on him, not knowing that this was the first time that the man had attended a meeting at the Kingdom Hall. Instead of directly answering the question propounded, the man stood and said that he wanted to apologize for having mistreated the Witnesses over the years. He hoped that God would forgive him. What led up to this comment?

The man making the comment had been born and raised in Germany and had joined the Nazi party in the late 1920's. Later he moved to Canada but was imprisoned there during World War II because of his outspokenness on political and racial matters, such as his conviction that Germans were a superior race. After the war, he was released and finally settled in the United States of America. Though he did not abandon his Nazi ideas on politics and race, he outwardly became an extremely patriotic American.

When Jehovah's witnesses from time to time stopped at his home, he was very abusive, chasing them off his property and expressing disdain for anyone who would not perform certain patriotic acts toward the flag. This went on for some fifteen years.

In the spring of 1970 two young Witnesses called at his door but, as he later acknowledged, he did not have the heart to treat two young ladies harshly. Their conversation touched on the matter of the human soul. With his Baptist background he firmly believed that man has an immortal soul. However, they showed him from the Bible that man is a soul.

He carefully went through the Bible study aid they left with him and, before long, asked Jehovah's witnesses to conduct a regular Bible study with him. The next month he appeared at the Kingdom Hall.

The minister giving the discourse assured him that Jehovah can and will forgive persons who have acted in opposition to true worship. Now this man is a minister of Jehovah's witnesses and is sharing with others the truth about the forgiving God, Jehovah.

Oh! MY ACHING BACK!

DO YOU suffer from back pain? If so, you have a lot of company. In the United States, it is estimated that there are more than seven million persons at any one time who are going to doctors because of back pain. Each year sees up to two million new sufferers. Annually more than a half million back injuries cost employers one billion (a thousand million) dollars. In fact, it is reported that back pain is the second most frequent reason why Americans go to a doctor.

Causes of Back Pain

What is the cause of it? Why is it increasing? What can you do if you suffer from back pains?

According to a leading orthopedic surgeon (Dr. R. Addison): "Some people's backs look beautiful on the tests, but they hurt like [everything]. Others are walking around with gross deformities that don't seem to bother them a bit. There is a lot about back pain we don't know, to say the least."

A recent survey of 20,000 backaches at the prestigious Mayo Clinic revealed twenty-eight different reasons for backaches. But they are generally considered to have one of three primary causes: First, it could be something physical, such as an accident that upset the spinal structure, either recently or some time ago. A sudden or quick movement could cause physical harm. Likewise, trying to lift something heavy or stretching to reach something often causes a nurse or housewife to have a backache. Such things may irritate the sensitive tissues surrounding the spine.

Secondly, "referred pain" may be the

cause of the backache. That is, while the pain may be felt in the back, it could be one of the internal organs that is to blame. Syphilis, cancer or other disease conditions also can cause referred back pain.

And thirdly, a spinal deformity or some other primary disease, either inherited or acquired through the years, can cause back pain.

A Symptom of a General Condition?

However, there are others in the field of orthopedic surgery who, while granting that perhaps as many as 20 percent of back pains might be due to the above causes, view backaches as the symptom of a general condition. According to these, the industrial or auto accident, the lifting, the stretching, the quick or sudden movement on the part of the housewife or nurse that brought on the pain are most likely only the precipitating factors. Back pain would not have resulted, they say, if the general health of the victim had been satisfactory.

A recent textbook, *Clinical Treatment of Back and Neck Pain* by Hans Kraus, professor at the New York University School of Medicine, puts the blame for back pain primarily on the way people live in modern "civilized" countries. In an interview he stated: "Our sedentary, overstimulated society deprives us of physical activity while submitting us to constant



stress." In a study of over 5,000 patients with back pain it was found that in over 80 percent of the cases muscular deficiency and overtension "were at the root of their problems."

The fact that people generally engage in ever less physical activity (using the family auto to go to the grocery store just a few blocks away, for example), while subjecting themselves to ever-increasing stimulation and tension, largely by pleasure-seeking and materialism, would therefore be a factor in the increase of back pain. And if these things are indeed at the root of the problem, it can readily be understood why some good-looking spines cause much pain and why some poor-looking spines do not. The general health of the individual rather than the way the spine looks would determine whether there is back pain or not.

What You Can Do About It

Seldom is the situation so serious that an operation is required. In fact, according to Dr. Henry L. Feffer, professor of orthopedic surgery, fewer and fewer of such operations are being performed.

If the back pain is severe and brought on by some mishap, bed rest, partial or complete, may be advisable. However, some orthopedists recommend use of medication such as aspirin or a surface anesthetic such as ethyl chloride spray, to be followed immediately by limbering-up exercises. Or rubbing the painful area with ice may prove helpful. Therapeutic massage, or manipulation by an osteopath or chiropractor may bring relief, even as may the application of heat, either in the form of hot packs or hot baths.

In considering what you can do about your backache you may find that you also need to consider psychosomatic factors. Do you suffer from too much tension because of irritations caused by those under

whom or with whom you must work? Then you must learn to become more tolerant, charitable, regarding the failings of others. The same, of course, is true if you experience stressful conditions at home.

Or, are you so ambitious to get ahead that you do not get sufficient rest and fail to take vacations? Then you must learn to slow down, to be content with less. Or do you have deadlines to meet? Try to view them objectively, calmly, intellectually rather than emotionally. Frustrations can bring about back pain.

Then again, your backache may be due to "soft living, soft chairs, soft beds," as one physician put it. Generally, a chair with a firm cushion and straight back is best for a person with a sedentary occupation. Try using a posture chair and sit clear back on it.

The same principle applies when driving an auto. Should you be driving on a long trip, stop every two or three hours, get out and stretch and walk about a bit. You will be doing your back a favor.

As for your sleeping habits: Do you sleep on an old mattress that sags in the middle? If so, you can blame your backache on it. Or do you enjoy sleeping on a soft mattress? That also can contribute to back pain. Not a few persons have found that hard chairs and hard, springless mattresses, with a board underneath, do much to keep their backs happy.

Important also is the matter of posture—not only your stance when walking but also your posture at your job. Unless you walk erect, shoulders back, chin up—but not like a ramrod—you are courting back trouble. Do you needlessly assume an awkward or bent-over position at your work? Avoid that if you can. If your job requires you to stand in a certain position for long periods of time, then look for opportunities to stretch and move around some.

In particular, certain orthopedists stress

the need of exercise, especially for all those engaged in sedentary occupations. Often one-time athletes who now engage in such an occupation suffer from crippling backaches. Why? Because their robust frames burden their spines due to weakened muscles. Regarding exercises, orthopedic surgeon Dr. H. P. Bauer states: "A lot of back problems can easily be cleared up with a good exercise program. Exercise can often cure the severe backaches that sometimes force people to wear braces and send them to chiropractors and surgeons."

If you engage in exercises that will strengthen the muscles of your abdomen, you may find that, not only your back, but your general health will improve. Among the exercises that Dr. Feffer recommends are:

"Lie on back, knees bent, feet flat on floor, arms crossed on chest. Raise head and shoulders from floor. Curl up to sitting position. Keep back round and pull with stomach muscles. Lower self slowly.

"Sit on floor, legs straight in front. Pull stomach in. Reach forward with hands and try to touch toes with fingers. Use rocking motion while stretching for toes.

"Sit in chair, hands at sides. Bend head to knees, pulling stomach in as you curl for-

ward. Keep weight well back on hips. Release stomach muscles slowly as you come up."

Of course, the important thing is to exercise *regularly*. Spend a few minutes at it each day if you really want to benefit.

There is also the matter of diet. It stands to reason that if you subsist largely on an inadequate or unbalanced diet you will not build and keep in repair a sound body structure. Reducing is needed if you are overweight. But reduce for the sake of health, not merely for the sake of an appealing figure. You can give yourself a backache if you fail to get enough nourishment.

The time-worn adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," can with good reason be applied to back pain. If applied early enough, the suggestions given above for help when your back is aching will prevent you from having back pain in the first place. As orthopedic surgeon Dr. D. K. McElroy expressed it: "A few people are born with lousy backs, and some things naturally go wrong with age, but the majority of cases can be averted by sensible living."

The Wisdom of Moderation

When a person is always moderate in eating and drinking, he can often prevent certain ailments. But once those ailments develop due to excesses, what then? Consider cirrhosis of the liver. Too much drinking of alcoholic beverages can lead to this liver ailment. But when an alcoholic with cirrhosis of the liver quits drinking, his condition often improves.

Now it appears that the same is true of those who drink too much of alcoholic beverages and develop what is known as esophageal varices. These are varicose veins in the wall of the esophagus. They can rupture, resulting in severe hemorrhaging. In experiments it was found that in those who stopped drinking, the varicose veins decreased in size significantly. None ruptured. But in those who continued to drink, the enlarged veins remained or increased in size, and nearly half of those persons suffered ruptures and hemorrhaging, and died. How wise it is to be moderate in habits at all times! If you have not done it before, start now.



Pilgrimages—an Expression of True Faith?

ON May 9, 1973, Pope Paul VI proclaimed 1975 a Holy Year. In view of this, it is believed that some twenty-five million pilgrims and other visitors will pour into the city of Rome during the year.

Pilgrims to sites such as Rome are by no means something new. In fact, it was during the Middle Ages that religious pilgrimages enjoyed their greatest popularity. Large numbers of men and women trekked to shrines where they believed that God had manifested his power in some way. Poor roads and the possibility of bandit attacks and hostility from foreigners did not stop them from starting a pilgrimage.

But were all the pilgrims sincere? Were they motivated by faith?

The Catholic Encyclopedia for School and Home observes: "It was not uncommon during the Middle Ages for pious writers to complain that too many people took to the pilgrim routes to seek pleasure, shirk responsibility, or escape from the drabness of

ordinary existence. . . . Some critics suggested that pilgrimages had become pleasure jaunts . . . Others criticized the increasing fanaticism and superstition apparent in pilgrim life. They felt that pilgrims sought more for miraculous cures and special material benefits than for spiritual growth, and that they attracted unfavorable attention by such practices as whipping themselves all along their routes. By the time of the Reformation many sincere Christians viewed pilgrimages as an abuse with little real spiritual value."

Can pilgrimages today be cleared of the criticisms made against them during the Middle Ages? Are today's pilgrimages an expression of true faith?

Some Pilgrimage Sites

Many of the sites to which pilgrimages are made have traditional or legendary associations. Consider a few examples:

Loreto, Italy, has become a notable pilgrimage site because of its association with air travel. Legend has it that in the year 1295 the house once inhabited by Mary the mother of Jesus flew from Nazareth and then landed in Loreto. This legend provided a basis for the papal proclamation that made the Madonna of Loreto the protectress of aviators. In 1970, on the fiftieth anniversary of that papal proclamation, about 50,000 pilgrims poured into the town (of about 9,500 population) to celebrate that event.

Untergrombach, Germany, gained prominence when a chapel was built on Michael's Mountain upon the ruins of a temple dedicated to the false god Mars. There in a cave, according to legend, lived a fire-breathing dragon. This dragon supposedly did great damage to the surrounding fields and devoured someone every week. To protect themselves from the dragon, the people vowed to build a chapel in honor of the archangel Michael. Soon thereafter this chapel on Michael's Mountain became a site to which pilgrims came.

The city of Trier in Germany is known to devout Catholics the world over for its relics. The most famous of these is unquestionably the "holy tunic." According

to Church tradition, this tunic, supposedly worn by Christ, was found by Emperor Constantine's mother Helena during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Helena later presented it to the church in Trier. During 1959, according to the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1,700,000 pilgrims came to view the "holy tunic." Pope John XXIII manifested great interest in these pilgrimages, mentioning them in connection with his announcement of the Ecumenical Council. He viewed the seamless tunic as representing the unity of the Church.

Regarding this garment, the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* acknowledges: "Trier's claim to have the seamless robe of Christ (Jn 19.23), supposedly woven by the Blessed Virgin and discovered by St. Helena, is favored over about 20 other such claims because of the city's late Roman and early Christian importance. . . . Even though recent excavations (1943-54) point to the existence of an early Christian relic of the Savior in Trier, the authenticity of the Holy Garment cannot be scientifically proved. . . . The propriety of the veneration, however, is independent of the question of authenticity. The cult is justifiable because veneration is shown to Christ through the symbol."

How do you view a pilgrimage to see a relic that simply cannot be proved as authentic? Even if it were the authentic garment, would it really be right to venerate it? Would God and his Son approve of such veneration? Are pilgrimages to sites linked with legend and unprovable tradition really an expression of faith, of faith that is approved by God?

Acceptable Worship

Regarding acceptable worship, Jesus Christ told a Samaritan woman: "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this

mountain [Gerizim] nor in Jerusalem. . . . But the hour will come—in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth."—John 4:21-24, the Catholic *Jerusalem Bible*.

Note that the manner of worship is not a matter of personal choice or preference. Persons who want their worship to be acceptable "must worship in spirit and truth." Hence, it might be asked, Does the person who bases his worship on the presence or use of visible things and geographical locations really worship God "in spirit"? Can a person say that he is worshipping God in "truth" when going to a site that is associated with legendary happenings? So, then, do the devotions associated with religious pilgrimages fit the manner in which God wants to be worshiped? Or, are they not, rather, associated with practices that are contrary to worshipping God "in spirit and truth"?

What About Self-Chastisement?

One of the reasons pilgrimages were criticized in the Middle Ages was the manner in which pilgrims submitted themselves to self-chastisement. Is this still a feature of religious pilgrimages today? Yes, this practice may still be observed in various parts of the earth.

In Altoetting, Germany, for example, pilgrims are sometimes seen placing dried peas in their stockings and then crawling around on their knees. In the process they bloody their knees, causing great pain to themselves.

How do you think God views such self-chastisement? Does he approve of it as an expression of faith?

In his letter to the Colossians, the inspired Paul commented on a number of

practices that were contrary to faith. As rendered in the *Jerusalem Bible*, he said: "If you have really died with Christ to the principles of this world, why do you still let rules dictate to you, as though you were still living in the world? 'It is forbidden to pick up this, it is forbidden to taste that, it is forbidden to touch something else'; all these prohibitions are only concerned with things that perish by their very use—an example of *human doctrines and regulations*! It may be argued that true wisdom is to be found in these, with their self-imposed devotions, their self-abasement, and their severe treatment of the body; but once the flesh starts to protest, they are no use at all."—Col. 2:20-23.

In connection with the last verse of this passage, a footnote of the *Jerusalem Bible* reads: "Lit[erally] these things 'are not in any honour for satisfaction of the flesh': this may mean either that they are of no real value in subduing 'the flesh', or else 'they are of no value and only help to satisfy the flesh'."

Note that "self-imposed devotions," "self-abasement" and "severe treatment of the body" are really of no value. True, some may be sincere in what they do. Yet are not many thereby trying to call attention to their piety? And are not all of them making a public display of a religious act, one that often causes observers to be repelled?

This does not comport with Jesus' admonition: "Be on guard against performing religious acts for people to see. Otherwise expect no recompense [from] your heavenly Father." (Matt. 6:1, *New American Bible*) Then, too, a public display of religious acts can be an evidence of pride. This is the thought conveyed by the way the Catholic *New American Bible* renders Colossians 2:23: "While these make a certain show of wisdom in their affected pi-

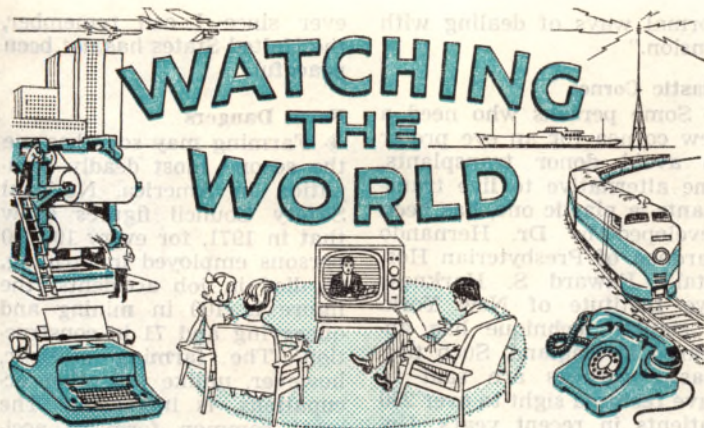
ety, humility, and bodily austerity, their chief effect is that they indulge men's pride."

Is Idolatry Involved?

It is also noteworthy that certain images are the chief attraction of numerous pilgrimage sites. In Altoetting, a small statue of Mary (about two feet, three inches high), holding the babe Jesus, is given the veneration. A multitude of miraculous healings are attributed to Mary at this pilgrimage site. But it may be asked, If Mary herself performed these healings, why have not such healings been performed in connection with every other image of Mary? Does this not indicate that special powers are attributed to the image itself? Can this be harmonized with the apostle John's admonition, "My little children, be on your guard against idols"? —1 John 5:21, *New American Bible*.

Today, just as in the Middle Ages, pilgrims still frequent various sites in the hope of getting healed. One of such sites is Lourdes, France. Regarding many of the alleged miracles, *Medical World News* reports that they are "premeditated fakes. Sometimes they are motivated by vanity, by the hope of gaining fame or money, or by the desire to show that the medical committee is unable to detect a fraud."

Can it therefore not be said that the criticisms made respecting religious pilgrimages are just as valid today as respects these planned for 1975 to Rome as they were in the Middle Ages? But, more importantly, are the veneration associated with pilgrimages not contrary to what is said of true Christians at 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We walk by faith, not by sight"? (*New American Bible*) Accordingly, as in the past, also today pilgrimages are not an expression of true faith.



Witnesses Assemble

Internationally

◆ Between June 20 and July 1, the "Divine Victory" International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses convened in eight cities in the United States. In these locations the assembly drew a total attendance of 216,117 persons for the important talk "Divine Victory—Its Meaning for Distressed Humanity." The assembly is scheduled to continue through August in the continental U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia. Thereafter, it will convene in various islands of the Pacific, in Africa, and in Middle and South America. At each assembly the keynote speaker has forcefully reminded his audience: "Genuine disciples of Jesus Christ have to face and endure the world's hatred just the same as he did. So, for a disciple to remain such in a real sense, it means that he has to gain victory over the world."

Modern Missionaries

◆ Christendom's missionaries once went to foreign lands to convert natives. Today the reverse occurs! Says C. W. Forman of Yale Divinity School: "I had a student who went to Thailand to work as a teacher with the Peace Corps. While he was there he decided to become a Buddhist monk." The *Cleveland Press* reports: "One

Christian theological school in India has introduced worship according to Hindu patterns. Some independent Christian churches in Africa are incorporating African ideas about sorcery and exorcism as well as polygamy and more emotionally expressive forms of worship."

Lesbians "Married"

◆ Mario Shoenmaker, minister at Victoria Park Congregational Church in Perth, Western Australia, recently "married" two lesbians. The couple exchanged rings and vows. Schoenmaker says he received many approving calls after his action. Several other ministers interviewed by Western Australia's *Daily News* were openly sympathetic to homosexuals. However, the newspaper notes: "A Jehovah's Witnesses church member, Mr. Vin Davies, said his church would be against such a marriage, and denounced all unnatural practices." Shoenmaker has also "married" male homosexuals.

Religious "Swingers"

◆ Marriage-mate swapping is often termed "swinging." Is it only people who do not profess any religious belief that practice this? No. One survey shows that 85 percent of 280 "swingers" interviewed in the Chicago area were providing

some kind of religious training for their children. One younger member of a New York 'swinger club' says: "The few couples I've [talked to] about it are socially very religious—I don't know how much they believe but they're paying their dues, having their kids confirmed or barmitzva'd or whatever."

Self-canceling "Advances"

◆ Often one of man's seeming "advances" brings as many problems as it solves. Consider what has happened with schistosomiasis or snail fever, a serious disease found where there are slow-moving waters. It is said to infect 200 million persons and to be on the rise. Why? "Development programs," needed to increase the water supply to feed more people, also spread the disease. *The Wall Street Journal* claims: "Ironically, one of the greatest boons to Egypt over the last decade, the . . . Aswan Dam, has added to the schistosomiasis problem by increasing the acreage under irrigation."

U.S. Sales

◆ The U.S. dollar was devalued twice in recent months. Americans have hoped thereby to sell more goods abroad. In this way they try to offset a \$6.5 billion 1972 trade deficit. While sales are up, they do not always come easily. Why? Among other reasons, an Associated Press study says: "Many U.S. manufacturers would have to retool their products for Europe where screw threads, for example, are different. Most electrical equipment has to be for 220 volts rather than 110. Adaptation costs money. . . . U.S. goods, like clothing and furniture, are simply not being made in sizes that suit the Japanese."

Earth Satellites

◆ The U.S. Skylab space station is the 584th man-made satellite of the earth still in

orbit. The U.S. has put up 341 and the Soviet Union 204 of these. Several other nations have orbited less than ten each. Heaviest earth-orbit traffic is less than 600 miles above earth—weather, scientific and military satellites. Communications satellites work 22,300 miles out. About 70,000 miles away are those that monitor nuclear test-ban violations. Of course, hundreds of other satellites have long since crashed to earth or burned up, and other hundreds of various parts of satellites still orbit the earth.

Methaqualone Use Soars

◆ Some law officials now rank methaqualone as third drug of choice among American youth, behind marijuana and alcohol. It is officially a sleeping pill, and is sold over the counter by various trade names. It gives one a false sense of well-being. One college student says: "When you're drinking you know you have no control over the [automobile] wheel, but when you're on [methaqualone], you think you're O.K. That is, until you plow into a pole." U.S. government and other researchers warn that methaqualone "produces a severe physical dependence."

Breaking the Tobacco Habit

◆ Dr. A. S. Norris of Southern Illinois University Medical School formerly was a tobacco smoker. After finding how difficult it was to give up the habit he made a study of the problems other persons had in quitting. The doctor says: "Most people do not realize the seriousness of the problem caused in trying to quit smoking. Cigarettes in their own way can be as addictive for many people as heroin. For heavy smokers cigarettes have become the way to solve problems. . . . A non-smoker would go for a walk, play badminton, plant flowers or bite his fingernails." Smokers have, the doctor observes, "forgotten all the

normal ways of dealing with tension."

Plastic Cornea

◆ Some persons who need a new cornea for an eye prefer to avoid donor transplants. One alternative to live transplants, a plastic one, has been developed by Dr. Hernando Cardona of Presbyterian Hospital's Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute of New York. A similar technique has appeared in England. Such tiny plastic corneas are said to have restored sight to over 250 patients in recent years. Unlike natural transplants, the body does not seem to reject the artificial cornea. They are described as giving good depth of focus, though limited angle of vision. Glasses must be worn.

Current Space Phenomena

◆ A total solar eclipse occurred on June 30. It was visible primarily across a 4,600-mile swath of Central Africa for seven minutes and four seconds. An eclipse of longer duration (seven minutes and 15 seconds) is not scheduled to occur until the year 2150.

A newly discovered comet called Kohoutek is expected to swing within 13 million miles of the sun in late December. About mid-January, 1974, Kohoutek should be its closest to earth, some 75 million miles. Depending on several factors, the comet may become 20 percent as bright as a full moon viewed from earth.

Youth and Peace

◆ World statesmen talk of peace in the world. But American youths are not convinced of its nearness. Santa Fe's *New Mexican* discussed the subject with twelve high-school and college students. Eight would classify peace as "an impossible dream." Their definitions of what constitutes peace vary. A New Orleans youth observed: "As an American, I wouldn't really know what peace means, because

ever since I can remember, the United States has not been peaceful."

Farm Dangers

◆ Farming may soon become the second most deadly occupation in America. National Safety Council figures show that in 1971, for every 100,000 persons employed in farming, 66 died in job accidents; the figure is 100 in mining and quarrying and 71 in construction. The farming statistic, however, unlike the other occupations, is increasing. The most common form of accident on farms, the Council also says, is falls. What is the best protection? Alertness!

"White-Collar" Discontent

◆ In recent years there has been discussion of so-called "blue-collar worker" discontent. Now, *The Changing Success Ethic* by the American Management Association indicates that job dissatisfaction "has not merely spread to, but may even thrive in, the managerial suites of American business." Executives interviewed stressed the 'quality of life' rather than merely position or paycheck. E. E. Lawler III, a student of the subject, says: "Dissatisfying and meaningless jobs are without question a form of psychological and mental pollution." He asserts: "They cause mental illness, alcoholism, shorter life expectancy."

Legal Holidays

◆ The number of a country's official holidays is somewhat of an indicator of its attitude toward leisure. This varies greatly from nation to nation. Uruguay leads the list with 21, none of which is religious. On the other hand, all but one of Israel's 19 holidays are religious. Argentinians are about split; nine of 17 holidays come from Catholic feast days. The number of legal holidays observed in other countries are: Italy and Lebanon, 17; Thai-

land, 14; Canada and Japan, 12; Kenya and West Germany, 10; India and the United States, 9; Australia, Brazil and China, 8; Mexico and Russia, 6; Britain, 5.

Australian Pollution

◆ *Australian News Summary* reports that about twelve million tons of pollutants enter that continent's atmosphere each year. This figure, based on a recent Melbourne University survey, equals almost a ton for every person in Australia.

Reducing Surgery

◆ The United Store Workers Union in New York city reports that the amount of surgery done on its members has dropped 19 percent in one year. Why? All decisions to operate are now reviewed by a second doctor. Thus, 289 members were told by a doctor that they needed surgery; however, 51 were later advised

by a second doctor that the operation was unnecessary.

London Police

◆ London, England, is faced with the dilemma of a rising crime rate and a shrinking police force. Crime went up 4 percent in that city last year. The police force at year-end was 4,589 below its authorized 26,049 men and women. This shortage exists despite an extensive public relations campaign to rouse new recruits to offset the number leaving the force.

Pools, Dangers Increase

◆ The National Swimming Pool Institute of Washington, D.C. represents the U.S. pool trade. It expects that the nation's millionth in-ground home pool will be installed this summer. While these bring pleasures, they also present a hazard. Some 300 persons were drowned in home pools during each of the last two years.

Home and School

◆ A recently released 19-nation survey by the International Association for the Evaluation of International Achievement emphasizes that the home is more important than the school in a child's education. This is particularly true in "reading comprehension." The study, based on the work of over a quarter of a million students and 50,000 teachers, also indicates that "mass education" does not necessarily provide lower academic standards for bright students.

Drive Safely

◆ Last year 60,275 persons were killed in transportation accidents in the U.S. This was a 2.4-percent increase from 1971 and the second-highest figure in the nation's history. Highway crashes accounted for over 55,000 of the deaths.

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