

# The Collectors' Digest.

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AUGUST 1951

Editor, Miscellaneous Section  
Herbert Leckenby, Telephone Exchange,  
C/o Central Registry, Northern Command, York.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

The Annual: Order and Questionnaire forms are coming along steadily. There's just one request about the letter. Please give Christian names, or at least the first one. Initials look rather incomplete in a Who's Who.

Here's something to whet your appetites. Thanks to a few of our patient researchers we are in touch with several personalities connected with our papers in days gone by. Already we have a lot of very interesting information - the kind of thing you love to hear. We hope to garner this to form just about the best article we have ever had in the Annual. Some of it may even be written by the "men who know" themselves. We shall probably call it "Inside Fleetway House". More later.

Last year we proposed to have a feature "They Possess No. Ones". It was held over partly because not a great many complied. So if you are among the lucky ones please send along details if you did not do so last year. Perhaps those who did would like to bring theirs up to date.

Questionnaires quickly, please - and your adverts.

We shall be in the soup without them.

.. .. .

Oh, Kenneth Horne! Those of you who were listening to "Twenty Questions" on July 16th (or repeats) would, I guess, prick up your ears, as I did, when one of the objects was announced as - Billy Bunter. You could sense the interest among the studio audience. Kenneth Horne first made a slip when he said Bunter had been written about for years until recently. Audrey Russell - I think it was - got it on the 15th question. Then, the question-master, would you believe it? remarked - "he was written about by Charles Hamilton. I don't know if he is still alive. I hope he is." We thank him for his hope, but, oh send him a Bunter Book, somebody.

.. .. .

The Mystery of Tom Martin. Tom Martin was an old friend and a subscriber to the C.D. from the beginning. He was also "Nemo" the artist who drew the first two Annual covers. He was always a prompt correspondent, invariably answering my letters by return post. Then about two years ago I was grieved to hear he had to undergo a serious operation - for cancer. However, soon came a cheery letter saying the operation had been quite successful and he was recuperating. Later news that he had had a full length thriller accepted by a publisher, and had been asked to write more. Then - complete silence. For months the C.D. and letters went to his home at 37 Twinnell Street, Bristol, but brought no response. At first I thought it was because he was busy at his typewriter. Then as time went on came a dread suspicion that the operation had not been successful after all, for the Tom I knew would never have ignored letters if all had been well with him. One or two others I know are as much in the dark, and as anxious, as I am, but I wonder if there is anyone who can give any information as to what has happened to a sterling friend of our hobby circle.

.. .. .

Still Another Exhibition. As will be seen from the "Letter Box" Bradford Central Library has asked for an exhibition. Needless to say, I hastened to agree, and it has been fixed for September, maybe the whole month. Real valuable publicity this. I am sure all who can possibly do so will give it their support.

.. .. .

Broadcast from Birmingham. On Friday evening, July 6th, Jack Corbett was interviewed in the Out and About feature on Midland Home Service. In the four minutes at his disposal Jack got in some effective publicity for the Clubs and the hobby in general. He was followed by a lady member of the Midland Section O.B.B.C. who said though she was not a collector herself she was interested because she had found those who were just about the nicest people she had ever come across. A nice tribute, confirming what has been said before. Altogether a fine effort by our youngest Club. It was rather a pity, though, that the announcer then blithely invited listeners to turn out their attics, for should they come across any Magnets they might be worth £5. He didn't mean to be taken seriously, perhaps, but that phantom fever has caused misunderstanding before.

Still, the broadcast was good publicity, and maybe Bill Martin and others had already snapped up any Magnets in the Midland district.

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Economy Note. The cost of the envelope in which the C.D. is sent keeps on increasing. How about returning it sometime when you happen to be writing. It would save a little time, too, for

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT LECKENBY.

FOR SALE: 12 Boys' Annuals, as follows:- 8 "Young England" 1914-1922, excluding 1918, good condition. 2 "Chums" 1903, 1905. Fair. "The Boys' Own" 1931. Perfect. "The Union Jack" 1881, Fair, some pages loose. Offers invited.  
R. A. McGarva, 220 Sissons Road, Middleton, Leeds, 10.

FOR SALE: Large collection "Nelson Lees", and "Monster Libraries" in excellent condition. Would exchange for "Magnets" previous 1931. Offers:- Lowes, 15 Edith Street, Tynemouth, Northumberland.

CAN ANYONE HELP me complete my collection of Hamiltons. I still require many numbers of the Magnet from 700 to 960 and the Gem from 830 to 933. Cost of airmail on price-lists forwarded will gladly be refunded. Ches. van Renen. Box 50. Uitenhage, South Africa.

THEY HAD A GO!

By Tom Hopperton

An occupational disease that seems to have vanished as completely as the match-girls' "phossy jaw" was once rife among publishers and took the form of an ungovernable itch to put out a boys' paper. Casualties fell as thick as the autumnal leaves Milton erroneously supposed to strew the brooks in the Vallombrosa Frank Richards is so fond of quoting, but the hydra-head of hardy optimism constantly replenished the ranks.

An early sufferer was Henry Vickers, a publisher of penny-part stories, and presumably the son of the G. Vickers who issued James Lindridge's "Socialist Girl" and "Merry Wives of London". If the old bloods seem innocuous enough to this Sarto-sodden generation, they raised fierce demunciation in their day. Yet, even if Percy B. St. John was one of the leading writers for "The Boys' Journal", I don't think the paper could ever have been classed with the "dreadfuls". His stories for Vickers make more concessions to the unities, to probability and to morality than "The Blue Dwarf", and "The Snow Ship; or, the Adventures of an American Family in the Canadian Wilds" and "The Young Buccaneer" still - with a little judicious skipping - read well. Mayne Reid held the other top-of-the-bill position, but what struck me most was a curious imitation of Jules Verne, "The Cloud King; or, The Adventures of Charley Skyflier". The hero's monster balloon has a platform 25 feet square on which is built a house, and he dispenses hair-raising adventure and scientific information in company with a coloured comic from Ceylon who speaks a sort of Ching-Ching dialect and a Franchman whose French Jules Verne would have found more exciting than Dr. Ox's Oxygen. The Editor had a heavy postbag and possibly sheer pressure on space made his replies so laconic, but for examples of editorial exasperation the three following will be hard to beat: (1) "To remove the brownness from the skin caused by neglect, wash with common yellow soap and warm water several times a day". (2) "To make a fat face thin, work harder and eat less". (3) "To make a broad pug nose straight and thin, put it into a blacksmith's vice, and squeeze it as thin as you please". One can only hope that the sufferer from nasal embarrassment was not some simple-

souled youth who took the Editor at his word. Perhaps this candour helped to kill the eight year old paper in 1871.

George Routledge and Sons were publishers of a different calibre to Vickers, and their more ambitious "Every Boy's Magazine" had a respectable run of 26 years (1862-88).

R. M. Ballantyne and W.H.G.Kingston set a high standard in the opening years with their sea and travel stories, but there were aberrations. An Anne Bowman lured in unwary customers with the deceptively titled "Pirate Island".

Bertie, one hero of this, watched an entire ship-load of pirates being blown to shreds and sentimentally observed, "I look on this catastrophe as God's judgement on them for their sins," while Sam, the other, sits down to read St. John and pray for forgiveness when he has differed with Bertie.

By 1867, emphasis had moved to the school story. Even Kingston left his beloved sea to write "Reginald Warrender; or, Early Days at Eton" while - my oath, Miss Weston! - up comes Mrs. Henry Wood, of "East Lynne" fame, with "The Orville College Boys". A few more years brought a larger

page and a return to adventure stories, with Jules Verne and C. R. Low in the lead. By contrast, Lady Barker and Barbara Semple sneaked in some embarrassingly slushy

"Little Willie Angelically Dying" stuff. This slop vanished in the closing years, when a strong military atmosphere pervaded the paper. In 1887 and 1888, fighting for elbow room with General Drayton, Commander Cameron and other service

gents, Ascott R. Hope squeezed in with a series of "Youngsters' Yarns" which would have profoundly dissatisfied his later readers, and a much better, Redskin-studded "Emigrant Boy's Story". A final curiosity in the last number was "The Boy Spy", a short by Alphonse Daudet.

Captain Machesth was nearly hanged because he could not decide between Polly Peachum and Lucy, and the "E.B.M." suffered because it could never quite make up its mind what it wanted to be. Conjuring articles by Professor Hoffman were featured in the last years, but even that famous magician could not teach Routledge's the vital trick of keeping their readers in the same frame of mind as Oliver Twist. Another pelefefe bit the dust!

WANTED all issues Boys' Friend Libraries, the threepenny issues only. Send along with your price required.  
Bill Martin, 93 Hillside, London, N.W.10.

OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB

London Section. July 15th.

Meeting Blake Chambers, 12 Ashburnham Place,  
Greenwich. Attendance, 22 members.

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Another varied attendance at Charlie Wright's enjoyed a very good time due to the combined efforts of Len, Charlie and Jim Parrett. The latter's fine Blake authors and "Thriller" Quiz was indeed one of the finest efforts as yet and Bob Blythe's victory was well deserved and proves that he knows more about the hobby than just Nelson Lee lore. Bob gave a very good talk on the Grays Inn Sleuth and at the end of it held a quiz on what he had spoken about. Youth will be served and it was Ian Whitmore who won with the popular. Packmans deadheading for second place. The six a side team quiz was a great success, two matches being played with each side winning one. The chairman told of his meeting with Les Branton of Hull and of his best wishes to the club. A very fine letter from Tom Stripe was read and the wishes of the club for better health to both him and his mother were to be conveyed to him. Peard Sutherland of Vancouver was another to be wished better health in the future. The other large postal members' correspondence was greatly enjoyed and the chairman stressed how nice it was to learn how they were progressing in the hobby and know they were in full touch with the club. The latest Bunter and Tom Merry books have been dispatched to all who had ordered them. The next meeting has been provisionally fixed for Sunday August 5th at the Modern School, Surbiton, Surrey, host Eric Fayne. Members can make this a real day out as it is near Hempton Court.

BENJAMIN G. WHITTE.

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OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB

Northern Section

Meeting July 14th, 1951. 239 Hyde Park Road, Leeds.

To the keen disappointment of all, our chairman was still unable to be present, so Bill Williamson again acted in his stead. In opening he was able to welcome still more new members, then read a letter written from Chairman Reg's

hospital bed. It was a letter written with deep feeling saying how much he had appreciated the letter signed by every member present at the last meeting, and how much it had cheered him. Come back soon, Reg.

In reporting financial progress, treasurer and librarian Gerry Allison announced that subs for month had brought in £3.12.0. and library receipts £3.19.6.

The high spot of the evening was a debate - School versus Detective stories. Norman Smith supported the former, Gerry Allison the 'tec yarns. He opened gallantly building up a good case, though he had to rely mainly on the popularity of the adult stories, the whodunits of Agatha Christie, John Dickson Carr & Co. for support.

Norman followed and slyly pointed out to Gerry that about 80 per cent of the revenue from his beloved library came from school stories, the detect&ves being very much "also rans". Gerry blushed.

In the hot debate which followed, Breeze Bentley caused amusement by reading from the C.D. Gerry's own caustic comments on the latest Sexton Blake Libraries. On a vote being put, School stories won easily - 13 votes to 6.

All the same, credit was due to Gerry for he had taken on a job no one else was keen to tackle.

Refreshments followed, then the library got busy again. 'Pon my soul, when one looks at those laden tables, it makes one fancy he was back again in one of those second-hand bookshops we all used to delight in.

There was an attendance of 21, and we were particularly pleased to see Len Allen of Sheffield again.

Important Notice: As the room will not be available for the usual second Saturday, the next meeting will be on August 18th.

H. LECKENBY.  
Northern Section Correspondent.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 25th  
OF MIDLAND SECTION, O.B.B.C.

"I say you fellows", "Buzz off", Listen chaps" -  
"Beasts, rotten, you might hear what a fellow has to say,  
I've a jolly good mind not to tell you what I was going to  
tell you, - ow whoops, wherrer you kicking me for you".



"I'm famous now, I've been talked about." "You! you! jealous beast, Wharton! I'm talkin' about the latest meeting of the O.B.B.C. in Birmingham and they're the leading Club in Britain and";

"Oh I say, do I hear W. G. Bunter's dulcet tone of voice? Yes I do, and for once he is not telling whoppers; no, he's stating facts.

Britain's Premier branch of the O.B.B.C. has just had another happy meeting and the highlight of the evening was at approximately eight-thirty when the Minutes and Correspondence had been read, one of our founder members, Mr. Darcy, perched himself on the corner of the table, and in this undignified but comfortable position he gave us a most interesting twenty-minute talk on "Bunter". "Bunter - The Witness" was his theme and very good it was too, giving some very lucid explanations of the Fat-Owl's antics when he was a witness of incidents in the Wild West series that featured a "Trail-Thief" known as the Flower-Bag-Guy". Mr. Darcy also mentioned the "Bertie Vernon (Smithy's double) series. A quiz prepared by young Wilfred Darcy found eager competitors. The prize was a set of three "Gems". Halfway through the quiz, just as a question about "Hurree Singh" was asked, the door of the room opened and in came a West Indian Student bearing a tray of our refreshments. A perhaps significant coincidence, what?

The last item was our ever popular bring and buy, sales and exchange table. Meeting closed at nine thirty.

There was a good attendance of just over 20.

P. MELLOR,  
Secretary.

RALLY ROUND! RALLY ROUND!

Wanted, any Union Jacks for  
the year 1922. Your price.  
Any help gratefully appreciated.  
Leonard & Josephine Packman,  
27, Archdale Road, East Dulwich,  
London, S.E.22.

HAMILTONIA

Conducted by Herbert Leckenby

In the long, long ago I was a compositor on a morning newspaper. I'll call it the "News" as its real name was something else. My job was to help "make up" the pages and then run them into the "stereo" room. One morning, the last page completed, I was looking over one of the galley proofs. One of the items was some verses under the heading "The Toilers of the Night", intended for the correspondence column. They appeared to be a friendly tribute to those who worked whilst others slept. Thought I, "Very nice, but it's not very good poetry." It didn't run very smoothly, somehow. I read it again, then I stared as the initial letters caught my eye. They stood out as plain as a pike staff - THE NEWS IS A RAG THE EDITOR AN ASS. Gosh! I stole into a corner and laughed long and loud for it was a fact the editor of that time was, to say the least, unpopular with the staff and the local public generally. In fact, I had often called him far far worse names than ass. Thought I to myself, "Shall I say nothing and let it go?" Any moment the big machine would be starting off with the first edition. I hesitated, then loyalty to the paper won. I dashed upstairs, placed the proof under the chief sub-editor's nose, pointed at the saucy verses, saying, "What do you think to that?" He stared, then said "Well, what's wrong?" Just then the big rotary began to roar. I ran my finger down the initial letters. Then he saw it. He jumped to his feet and yelled, "Stop the — machine." A minute later a death-like silence reigned; whilst a chisel blurred those initial letters on the page. Then the machine started again whilst a new plate was cast with the verses omitted altogether. As the joker would probably get a copy of the main edition he would probably never know his little scheme had nearly succeeded, so all was well. I might add, bashfully, that the following night that editor gave me a grunt of approval, about the only time he had ever been known to do such a thing. He didn't know how much I was tempted.

Well, what's all this to do with Hamiltonia, you may be saying, though a few may have an inkling. This I had forgotten all about that exciting experience of my youth until some time ago when I picked up an old time Gem. Therein

Levison was up to his usual tricks, with Tom Merry as his special target. "Tom Merry's Weekly" played a prominent part in the story, and one night Levison broke into the shop of the printer (Mr. Tiper, wasn't it?) who had the job in hand. Levison got to work setting type, when finished he "lifted" some lines from the "forme" on the "stone" and substituted those he had set up himself. In passing I must say there was a good deal of author's licence about that, for the compositor's job is not so easily performed by a novice working at dead of night in a strange office. However, Levison, his mission finished, stole away. A day or so later the copies of "Tom Merry's Weekly" arrived at St. Jim's and were eagerly snapped up. Then roars of rage went up from "The Terrible Three", and chuckles from other of the juniors. For there in the "Weekly" were some verses the initial letters of which read downward - TOM MERRY IS AN ASS. When I read that there instantly flashed through my mind the scene in that newspaper office way back down the corridors of time. When I attempted to check up it seemed to me that it would occur not long after that particular number of the "Gem" was published. Naturally I then wondered if the individual who had played the audacious trick on the newspaper had got his idea from that Gem story. I expect to go on wondering unless by some million to one chance he reads these lines. If he does and will blushinglly confess, we'll forgive him for being a disciple of Levison instead of Tom Merry.

THE PICK OF THE SERIES. No. 8.

THE CRUM SERIES. (3 stories. Magnets Nos. 1056 - 1052.  
Published April 1928.)

Mr. Hamilton is a past-master in the type of story which plays on the heart-strings. Such was the Crum Series. The character writing was superb. The hypnotist from a travelling show, - a lad without polish or breeding, - who called himself a pal of Lord Mauleverer, one of Nature's gentlemen. We were given many fine side-glances of the letter's character in the Magnet, but he never showed to greater advantage than in the Crum series.

I remember, in 1928, wondering whether the picture of the Schoolboy hypnotist was a little larger than life. Since then I have come into contact with people with such strange gifts, and I know now that Crum was in no way exaggerated.

These three grand tales are well worthy of a prominent place in the Pick of the Series.

### THE SCHOOLBOY PUG

The Crum Series was rather reminiscent of the Schoolboy Pug series in the Gem about 1923. This series, too, was equally fine, and nothing better ever appeared in the Gem. Here, the lonely little prizefighter attached himself to Gussy, and we saw the latter at his best. The bitter-sweet climax of the story left one sighing,- but with an increased admiration for the master hand which had penned it.

### THE GAME KID SERIES

This was almost the same plot as the Gem series mentioned above. It lacked, however, the genius of characterisation, and did not ring the bell as its Gem counterpart had done. Nevertheless, though not a masterpiece, it was pleasant reading, covering six issues of the Magnet in 1927. Even Frank Richards could not make every series a masterpiece, though when one looks over the Pick of the Series it seems that he almost accomplished that wonderful feat.

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### HENRY SAMUEL QUELCH

By Bernard Prime

Stalking along majestically, a giant among the pigmies, a Gulliver among the Lilliputions, goes the master of the Remove Form at Greyfriars, Mr. Henry Samuel Quelch. We will honour him by his full name to commence with, particularly as he is a highly dignified, austere, and sedate gentleman who would scorn anything in the nature of an abbreviation, either in a person's name or indeed in anything else. He calls the Rag the junior Day Room, which is the correct name by which it should be called.

Physically he is tall and lean with a rather long face. His expression is grave and rather grim but not melancholy; neither it is brutal, thank God!

In the earlier Magnets we often used to swsee him without his mortar-board but still very grave, reminding us somehow of a sort of scholastic waiter. The Remove master seemed to age a little with the years, which perhaps is not surprising considering the kind of Form with which he had to deal, and he wore his mortar-board more frequently, partly

no doubt because of incipient baldness, and partly to keep out the draught from Mr. Prout's incessant booming.

The Magnet Library would have been bare and incomplete without this rather stern dry man. It would have been rather like a cake without the currants or the bacon without the mustard, a stew without the pepper.

In any dispute between justice and injustice he can generally be relied upon to take the just side, and if he makes an occasional mistake, as all men must at times, and punishes an innocent man, when the true facts come to light he can also be relied upon to set the matter right in no uncertain fashion.

Quelch calls for our respect and gets it. He is the only individual in the wide world really fitted to take the Remove Form at Greyfriars. Even the Bounder treads warily and has some respect for the gimlet eye. He would perhaps have made a rather brilliant career at the Bar, but he chose to be a Form-master instead, for which we are duly grateful.

As regards his favourite hobby, namely, compiling a history of the school to which he belongs, it is easy for us to hear in imagination the click of his typewriter coming from behind the closed door of his study on half-holidays, though strangely, despite the assistance from that machine, the "History" is never finished.

The late Mr. Bernard Shaw once wrote a play called "Men and Supermen", and if Quelch is not exactly a supermen he is at least a super-master, a kind of superb and authoritarian policeman. He taught us first-rate English, that grand heritage of our nation. His grammar was faultless, and he never used a preposition to end a sentence with. What Mr. Quelch would have thought of Bernard Shaw's Reformed Spelling is perhaps better imagined than expressed. We will discreetly draw a veil over it.

But notwithstanding his sterling qualities the writer of this article does not find Mr. Quelch a lovable character in any way. He is too forbidding for that, and he never forgets that he is a Form-master even in off-duty hours. This was particularly the case when he was captured by crooks on one occasion and held a prisoner. Bunter having stumbled on the secret, the crooks naturally deem it advisable to imprison the fat junior as well, and during the course of this captivity Mr. Quelch sets him a Latin exercise to pass away the time. This was altogether too bad, and most of us, I dare to hope, have never forgiven him for it, but fortunately

the exercise never was done or even attempted.

His favourite game appears to have been Chess, and never has a game been so highly suitable to his admirably precise and scholastic mind. Junior chess at Greyfriars seems to have been played chiefly by the onlookers, but that was not the way it was played at the Vicarage.

Some of us may have wondered what Quelch lived on. If one may venture a guess I should answer unhesitatingly, dry biscuits.

And as we wish this super-master farewell, and stand rigid to attention, cap in hand, we do so with the utmost awe and respect. The giant responds, looking perhaps less cold than usual, and passes on.

We shall not see his like again.

MAGNET TITLES (continued)

("S" denotes Substitute.)

- No. 701 (S) Billy Bunter's Luck. 702 (S) The Skipper's Bat.  
703 (S) The Society for Reforming Billy Bunter. 704, The Greyfriars Caravanners. 705, The Secret of the Caravan. 706, Mauly and the Caravanners. 707, The Caravan Detective. 708, Caravanners Afloat. 709, Greyfriars Caravanners Abroad. 710 (S) Champion of the Remove. 711 (S) Bunter the Bard. 712 (S) The Island Raiders. 713 (S) The Remove Exam. Mystery. 714 (S) Skinner's Revenge. 715, Bunter's Very Latest. 716 (S) The Plot Against the School. 717 (S) The Stolen Guy. 718 (S) The Slecker's Spasm. 719 (S) Mark Linley's Trial. 720 (D) Penfold Cuts Loose. 721 (D) Penfold the Blade. 722 (S) Back to the Fold. 723, The Mystery of the Christmas Candles. 724 (S) Faithful to his Friend. 725 (S) Against the Law. 726 (S) The Team that Couldn't Be Beaten. 727 (S) The Footballer's Feud. 728 (S) Wibley the Wonder. 729, Billy Bunter's Big Bargain. 730 (S) The Remove Rugger Team. 731, (S) Mr. Bunter - Form-master. 732 (S) The Bunter Conspiracy. 733 (S) The Mystery of the Warning. 734 (S) A Form-master's Fate. 735 (S) Wally Wins Through. 736 (S) Billy Bunter Film-star. 737, Bunter's Bolt. 738, Hunting Bunter. 739, Bagging Bunter. 740 (S) The Greyfriars Exile. 741 (S) His Excellency Count Bunter. 742 (S) Tickets for the Final. 743, When the Head Resigned. 744, The Sixth Form Rebellion. 745, The Greyfriars Barring-out.

THE NELSON LEE COLUMN

(All Communications to Robert Blythe  
46 Carleton Road, Holloway, London, N.7.)

One of the least known of Amalgamated Press papers must surely be the "Nugget 3d. Library". Information concerning it is very scanty and copies of the paper almost non-existent. Therefore I was particularly interested to hear that Jack Murtagh of New Zealand has a complete collection (which must be unique) and has supplied us with some details on the subject.

So let's bring our knowledge of this paper up to date.

The Nugget 3d. Library

Written from information supplied by Jack Murtagh.

The Nugget Library is, of course, of particular interest to the Lee fraternity for the St. Franks and Nelson Lee stories that frequently appeared.

(It was first issued, working on the assumption that there were two issues a month, as were the later numbers, no dates were ever given, in May 1919 and ran until March 1922, R.B.) No's 69 and 70 being the last two, after which it was amalgamated with the Boys' Friend Library.

Originally it was a Henderson & Sons publication, but after 20 issues it was taken over by the A.P.

The change over from Henderson to A.P. did not make much difference in the type of stories that were offered, except that there were more school stories, but at least the authors were better known. During the Henderson period the bulk of the yarns were written by S.H. Agnew and Lucas Reed, both of whom are little known today, but afterwards such stalwarts as Arthur S. Hardy, Henry T. Johnson, Reginald Wrey and John G. Rowe made frequent appearances. Incidentally, "Magnet" and "Gem" fans will be interested to know that Charles Hamilton contributed two stories, No. 32 "The Secret of the School" and No. 64 "Rivals of the Fifth", both written under his own name. St. Cynthia's and Fernley College, respectively, were the schools concerned.

The first of the St. Franks stories appeared in No. 35 and was called "The Honour of St. Franks" (which, if I'm not mistaken, was a reprint of a serial that appeared in the

"Nugget Weekly", but more of that later).

The next appeared in No.42 and from then on a St.Franks story appeared nearly every month, there being 13 in all.

"The White Men's Secret" in No.45 was the first of the detective stories, featuring Lee and Nipper, to appear and of these, too, there were 13.

As you will see from the titles, the St.Franks and Nelson Lee detective stories formed the majority of the later issues and usually appeared together each month.

Regarding the authorship of the St.Franks stories, it is interesting to note that while most of the other stories bear the author's name in this publication, those of St.Franks do not. Some of them have, under the title, "Told by Nipper and edited by the author of the Nipper of St.Franks series now running in the Nelson Lee Library," and others have, "By the author of - " giving titles of other St.Franks stories in the Nugget.

Now the 3d. Nugget is not to be confused with the

"1st. Nugget Weekly"

which ran for 34 issues, from 1st July 1920 to March 5th 1921. This particular paper, for the first 14 issues were not much larger than the Old Series of the "Nelson Lee, but with No.15 it was enlarged to the size of the "Magnet".

The "Nugget Weekly" combined the "Prairie", "Robin Hood" and "Detective" Libraries.

Its particular interest to us is the fact that all of the issues contained first a St.Franks serial and then a Green Triangle serial.

The St.Franks serial ran to eight numbers called "The Honour of St.Franks" and featured Edgar Fenton, the Captain of the school. You will notice that this serial has the same title as No.35 of the "3d.Nugget" and it seems obvious (although I've never seen them) that both stories are the same, especially as they both appeared in the same year, in July and October respectively.

The serial "Nelson Lee v. The Green Triangle" that followed gives as its credit title "By the original creator of Prof. Zingreve and the Circle of Terror", which is conclusive evidence that this detective story was by Brooks.

Another interesting thing about the "Nugget Weekly" is that a Portrait Gallery appeared during the run of the



St. Franks serial. Readers of Sexton Blake will be interested to learn that stories of that detective appeared during the same period.

Well, that's a general picture of both the Nuggets from the notes supplied. As Jack didn't go into the question of authorship and reprints, perhaps it would not be amiss if I added a few words of my own.

In the first place, I think I'm fairly safe in saying that most, if not all, the 3d Nuggets were reprints of serials that appeared in the "Boys' Realm". Unfortunately I only possess two copies of this paper (advt.!) Nos. 62 and 63. Now No. 63 "The Mystery of St. Franks" is definitely a reprint of six stories that appeared in the "Boys' Realm" from Nos. 91-96. This being so, I don't think that it's unreasonable to suppose that the rest were reprints too. Certainly the titles bear a marked similarity. If you've got copies of C.D.'s Nos. 42-46 handy you will find a list of "Boys' Realm" titles given by Len Packman. If you compare these titles with those of the 3d. Nugget given in this article, I don't think that you can fail to be struck by the coincidence of so many of the titles. Remember that Nugget No. 63 is reprinted from No's 91-96 of the "Boys' Realm" and you will find other numbers fit into their proper sequence. For example, see how Nugget No. 57 fits in with the titles around No's 75-80 in the "Boys' Realm". Again Nugget No. 59. Compare that with "Boys' Realm" No. 85 and so on right back to Nugget No. 35 and Boys' Realm No's 8-11.

I think I have said enough to at least make out a good case, even if I haven't given definite proof in stating that all the 3d Nuggets were reprints.

Now as to authorship. Those of you who have ever read any of the Boys' Realm stories will agree with me that, after the first forty or so, the stories were definitely not by Brooks. Still, I cannot be too dogmatic over the question, for I've only read about twenty of the later stories, but by cross checking with the adverts, in the N.L. at that time and noting the wording, whether it says that that particular story was "by the author of the N.L. tales" or not, one can get a pretty fair picture.

However, if I'm proved wrong, I shall be properly up the spout and I don't doubt someone will write and tell me so! And here, for the first time, is the complete list of

the 3d. Nugget (Note: Until No.33 I have no proof as to dates.)

Nos. 1 - 20. Published by Henderson & Sons.

Nos. 20- 70. " " A.P.

No.1, Earthquake Island, by Capt. G.D. Interl 2, The Seven-  
 Handed Death (Peter Flint 'Tec.); 3, Stand and Deliver,  
 A. Huntington; 4, The Serpent Dog. (P.F.) S. H. Agnew;  
 5, Sons of the Sea, Frank Earl; 6, The Black Museum (P.F.)  
 and The Knave of Diamonds (P.F.); 7, The Masked Boxer,  
 Lucas Reed; 8, The Skeleton Gang and The Human Idol (P.F.)  
 9, The Isle of Gold, Capt. Holmcliff; 10, The Schoolmaster  
 Crook and The Red Glove Mystery (P.F.); 11, The Roped Square,  
 Lucas Reed; 12, The Masked Tawareks and The Plague of Spiders  
 (P.F.); 13, The Mysterious Forward, Lucas Reed; 14, The Great  
 Seaside Panic, S.H. Agnew; 15, Dick Dare, Gentleman Outlaw,  
 Frederick Ratcliffe; 16, The Football Cap Mystery, S.H. Agnew;  
 17, The Silent Forward, Lucas Reed; 18, The Golden Gang,  
 S. H. Agnew; 19, Marooned, Derwent Miell; 20, The Boxing  
 Detective, S. H. Agnew; 21, For the Old Club, Lucas Reed;  
 22, The Man of Dread; Rex Arnold; 23, Rob Jeffries Fights,  
 Lucas Reed; 24, The Panic Plunders; 25 The Great Gold Hunt,  
 Derwent Miell; 26, Black Magic; 27, The Boy Pugilist,  
 John G. Rowe; 28, The Arch Rogue; 29, The Land of Fortune,  
 Alfred Judd; 30, Kit Kemble, Call Boy, Henry T. Johnson;  
 31, The Red Raider, A. S. Hardy; 32, The Secret of the School,  
 Charles Hamilton; 33, Branded a Coward, Gordon Wallace;  
 34, Frank Falcon's Double, Reginald Wray; 35, The Honour of  
 St. Franks, E. S. Brooks; 36, Useful Jack, F. Delmere;  
 37, Circus Jack, Edmund Harfield; 38, Square Deal Sanderson,  
 Richard Randolph; 39, The Black Rover; 40, Cock of the  
 School, Reginald Wray; 41, The Lone Trail; 42, The New Boy's  
 Secret (St. Franks); 43, The Master of the Remove (St. Franks);  
 44, The Right Sort; 45, The White Men's Secret (Nelson Lee);  
 46, The Man in the Copper Casket (N.L.); 47, The Bridge  
 Builders (N.L.); 48, The Sign of the Red Claw (N.L.);  
 49, The Amazing Schoolboy (St. Franks); 50, The Case of the  
 Two Imposters (N.L.); 51, The Outsiders (St. Franks); 52,  
 Rogues of the River (N.L.); 53, Expelled from St. Franks;  
 54, The Sign of the Shepherd's Crook (N.L.); 55, The Pet of  
 St. Franks; 56, Meshes of Mystery (N.L.); 57, Rebels of  
 St. Franks; 58, The Case of the Heavyweight Champion (N.L.)  
 59, The Scapegrace of St. Franks; 60, The Diamond Mountain,  
 W. Murray Graydon; 61, The Outcast of St. Franks;

62, Lost. A Football Team, Andrew Murray (N.L.); 63, The Mystery of St. Franks; 64, Rivals of the Fifth, Charles Hamilton; 65, The Boy without a Friend, Ralph Simmonds; 66, The Case of the Arab Footballers (N.L.); 67, The St. Franks Professional; 68, Nelson Lee in India; 69, Nipper's Circus Chum (St. Franks); 70, The Treasury Notes Mystery (N.L.)  
Amalgamated with the "Boys' Friend Library" Nos. 33-70 published two a month between Sept. 1920 - March 1922.

JAMES BOSWELL. O.B.B.C.

Sunday, July 10th, 1763.

..... Went to the old printing office in Bow Churchyard kept by Dicey, whose family have kept it fourscore years.

There, are ushered into the world of literature Jack and the Giants, The Seven Wise Men of Gotham, and other story books which in my dawning years amused me as much as Rasseles does now.

I saw the whole scheme with a kind of pleasing romantic feeling, to find myself really where all my old darlings were printed.

I bought two dozen of the story-books, and had them bound up with this title "CURIOUS PRODUCTIONS".

from, BOSWELL'S LONDON JOURNAL. Yale University Press. 21/-.

(The actual book (CURIOUS PRODUCTIONS) is now in the Child Memorial Collection. Haward College Library.)

POSTSCRIPT:

In submitting Annual Questionnaires please, if you have no objection, add your occupation. This, if we got a good response, would add to the interest of the "Who's Who".

Perhaps those who have already sent in forms would comply, too?

LETTER BOX

York - London - Leeds - Newcastle - Gateshead,  
now Bradford.

City of Bradford Public Libraries.  
2nd July 1951.

Dear Mr. Leckenby,

When I was Deputy City Librarian at Newcastle-upon-Tyne you very kindly loaned your interesting collection of Boys' Magazines for display there. I was wondering whether you would be willing to loan them to Bradford as I should like to have a similar display in the Central Library.

Every care will be taken of the collection, and I will see that you receive any press notices.

Yours sincerely,  
H. BILTON,  
City Librarian.

Colleagues of Magnet Days!

Rose Lawn, Kingston-on-Sea,  
Broadstairs, Kent.  
July 11th, 1951.

Dear Herbert Leckenby,

Thanks for the C.D. received today; good as ever. I was specially interested in the report of the OBBC, and the visit of C.H.Chapman, whose work I used to like so much in the old Magnet. Some years ago I heard from some source that he was no longer on the active list, so it is a real pleasure to learn that he is still going strong, and evidently much more active than the author whose stories he used to illustrate.

I was interested too in the article you quote from the Yorkshire Post. The writer seems to me too pessimistic. The present weeklies for young people are, undoubtedly, grim stuff; but the fault lies not with the readers but with the publishers, who give the younger generation a raw deal. Young readers like quality when they can get it. Now they just cannot get it, that is all, and have to put up with what they can get. The young people are all right; but some of their elders have a lot to learn.

I hope to be able to send you some news soon of W.G.B. on T.V. There are so many people to be considered and consulted that progress is slow. But even the wariest river winds somewhere safe to sea!

With kind regards,  
Always yours sincerely,  
FRANK RICHARDS.

Great Doings "Down Under"

Sydney,  
2/7/51.

Dear Editor and Fellow Collectors,

I have lots of news. Last Wednesday I arrived in Sydney after a flight of 1300 miles from New Zealand. On Friday I contacted Ernie Carter by 'phone. He invited me to his home on the Sunday when it so happened he was having a gathering of collectors. Needless to say I was there bright and early to find an old friend Sydney Smythe, S.F. Jones, a stranger then but one no longer, and also Miss Sheila Stevens, on holiday from Melbourne. Well, you can guess how our tongues wagged. Miss Stevens has an amazing knowledge of St.Jims and Greysfriars stories. Ernie and I had our heads together quite a lot as we are both Nelson Lee and St.Franks fans first and foremost. I was surprised when I found Ernie and Syd had met Stanton Hope several times, and I was delighted when I was invited to meet him the following evening.

Well, what a joy it was to talk to Stanton Hope. He has a very friendly and charming manner. He answered all our questions, and we asked him plenty! He knew all the old editors and many of the A.P. authors and artists. What tales he did tell us about them. some not for publication. There he was sitting on the floor surrounded by Magnets, Holiday Annuals, Sexton Blakes etc. He enjoyed every minute as much as we did. He was most interested too in all we told him about all the activities in England.

He is running a Correspondence School here and gives talks on the radio on his travels. He was one of the last to leave Gallipoli in the First World War.

He also told us he wrote as Donald Dean, William Stanton, and as Rhoda Dean for the girls' papers. No doubt you will be hearing more from Ernie and Syd.

Yes, it was a great evening.

Yours sincerely,  
JACK MURTAGH.

(The above is just part of a long letter (with details of stories) Jack wrote before he went to bed that night.- H.L.)

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Extract from an interesting letter from  
Dr. Robert Wilson, Glasgow

"A well-known Scots authoress was decrying Billy Bunter and his friends at a meeting recently, and her remarks excited a howl of protest from her listeners and a very pointed rebuke from the Chairman."

FROM W.H. SMITHS CIRCULAR - 7.7.51

**\*My Own Old Paper,  
The Magnet\***

I HAVE read Mr. Macqueen-Pope's article, "A Backward Glance at Bookstalls," with very great interest - all the more because the writer seems to have been my own contemporary, and remembers all the delightful things that I remember.

I see that Mr. Macqueen-Pope includes my own old paper, the *Magnet*, among the "school stories of amazing educational establishments."

Some of them, undoubtedly, were very amazing. But Greyfriars School really was not "amazing" at all. My schoolboy heroes, Billy Bunter in the *Magnet* and Tom Merry in the *Gem*, have stood the test of time: for although *Gem* and *Magnet* disappeared in the war, the two series go on, as lively as ever, in the Bunter books and Tom Merry books, and look like going on as long as their author.

Perhaps Mr. Macqueen-Pope, like many of us old boys with fond but vague recollections, is disposed to lump together things that in fact had little in common. Billy Bunter and Tom Merry really hadn't the most distant relationship with Nick Carter, or fiery

Cross Rogues! But I won't find faults in an article which I have had so much pleasure in reading.

Frank Richards  
*Broadstairs, Kent.*

**Do The Women Forget  
Bessie Bunter?**

I WAS interested in Mr. W. Macqueen-Pope's article recalling old-time "bloods" and "penny dreadfuls."

It prompts me to raise a question which has always puzzled me: How is it that we never read an article by a woman on the delightful magazines of girlhood? Have women no sentiment in these matters?

Wherever half a dozen men are gathered it is easy to stimulate memories of Sexton Blake or Billy Bunter.

There are several amateur magazines dealing with old boys' papers, edited by men for men, there are dealers who traffic in old boys' papers: there is even an Old Boys' Book Club.

But women seem uninterested in the books and stories they read in their formative years. After all, there was a Bessie Bunter too (her exploits were chronicled by the same hand).

E. S. Turner, *Opinion, Kent.*

AUGUST

1951.

.....  
 Editor:- H.M.Bond - 10, Erw Wen, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, S.Wales.  
 .....

THE ROUND TABLE.

Wilfred Darwin says: Regarding BLAKIANA and present contents I have been amazed at the very high standard of some of the more recent articles. Walter Webb, for instance, not only knows how to put a good article together but he also has the necessary data to make it interesting. He is certainly THE authority on early Blake authors. The ref to Blake's wife is rather intriguing although he appears to have been married for one week only and at the passing whim of one particular author who, in my opinion, ought to have known better. For that reason Mrs. Blake should be ruled out. It is just one of those things, like Edward Carter. It stands to reason those romantic interludes with Yvonne, Roxane, Olga, and I don't know how many others would never have occurred with a Mrs. Blake round the corner.

Mr. McFarlane of Glasgow writes: Re your query about Lady Molly. There is a book of detective short stories entitled "Lady Molly Of Scotland Yard" written by the late Baroness Orczy of "Scarlet Pimpernel" fame. Of course the Orczy book does not mention Sexton Blake, but perhaps it is the same Lady Molly as the one in the Blake story. Anyway I pass on this information for what it is worth.

Ed: Thanks Mr. McFarlane, very interesting. Can anyone give further information re the Orczy book? When it was first published etc etc? Any information will be welcome.

Gorry Allison once again gives us his opinions of the latest S.B.L. volumes - those for July.

No. 243 "The Crime at Fenbu Towers" by Walter Tyrer. A country house week end party with all the usual ingredients of the modern classic murder mystery. Blake is not quite at the top of his form, but the story is very readable.

No. 244 "The Man From Persia" by Lewis Jackson. I wonder if readers fully recognize the one insuperable obstacle which faces the writer of these tales? It is that **SEXTON BLAKE MUST ESCAPE**. In this yarn Blake falls into the simplest of traps. (His strategy from page 38 onwards made me squirm).

THE ROUND TABLE (continued).

But when Mr. Tefah has Blake bound hand and foot, and wholly at his mercy (page 46), what can the poor bloke do? Merely threaten him with instant death, confess all the crimes which he'd baffled everybody, including me, and then run like blazes when Tinker comes and bangs on the door! Tinker, by the way, had also been just as completely in Tefah's power on page 43. The best moment in the book was when the author referred to his old character ---"the inimitable Leon Kestrel" on page 25. Bring him back Mr. Jackson!

In conclusion I would like to remind you all that there is now only just over 4 months between this number and Christmas. I am very keen to offer all readers a bigger and better Blake section in the 1951 Annual and would like any of you who can possibly submit articles and features to let me know as soon as they can as to the length and subject of their contributions. Please do not fail me. The whole project depends on YOU.

So the dear old library has another rise. We now have to pay the same money for half the quantity of reading. In far off happy days it was 1/4d for four volumes, now it is 1/4d for two volumes. But although we all shall grumble at this new increase (which was only to be expected) we shall at the same time feel thankful that Blake is still with us. After all the Greyfriars and St. Jii's fans are not so lucky as we!

Cheerio for now.

H. MAURICE BOND.

\*\*\*\*\*  
PINK UNION JACKS!

I have a quantity of pink covered U.J's for disposal at 1/- 1/6 and 2/- per copy. All those with wants lists should send along same as soon as they can. Copies available will be retained for those who apply first.

H.M. Bond.

\*\*\*\*\*  
IF ANY READERS ARE IN OR NEAR CARDIFF ON SUNDAY THE 12TH AUGUST THEY ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO NO. 10 BRW MEN TO MEET THE EDITOR OF BLKIANA AND HIS VERY GOOD FRIEND BILL COLGIBB WHO WILL BE WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
WANTED: 1st and 2nd series stories by Todd. Send details of those you have for sale to 10, Brw Men, Cardiff.  
\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*  
 A FESTIVAL DREAM.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

If you happen to walk down Baker Street during the Festival of Britain, step warily or you might run into the ghost of Sherlock Holmes. His house is there anyway, reconstructed as part of the celebrations.

In my opinion Sherlock Holmes died with Conan Doyle. He made his exit with horses and hansom cabs. On the other hand Sexton Blake has managed to survive the changes and upheavals of this modern age and today stands on the threshold of what might be a new Blake era. All the same, the possibility of Blake being remembered during the Festival of Britain seems very remote.

There is no doubt though, that what has been done for Conan Doyle's detective character could be done for Blake.

Let us suppose for a moment it was Sexton Blake who had got the limelight, and not Holmes, and it was Blake's famous residence that had appeared in actuality. Such an idea seems bordering on the miraculous, but all the same just imagine Blake's consulting room, complete with all the intimate details so familiar to the reader of the Blake story.

Blake's chair, for instance, his well worn slippers at the side, the Blake bust on a side table, the volumes of the Baker Street Index neatly arranged in the bookcase. Other items here and there such as Blake's pipe and tobacco pouch, Browning pistol, magnifying lens etc. Going a step further we might find that the detective's case books had been given a place in this Blake museum, and miracle of miracles, the manuscript notes of his famous monographs.

Reminds one of Alice In Wonderland doesn't it? Or a particularly vivid dream following the reading of a Sexton Blake yarn.

Still, there may be other Festivals of Britain, and other opportunities for Blake, and, who knows, we may yet see that dream fulfilled.

WILFRED DARWIN.

WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE URGENTLY NEEDING ARTICLES AND FEATURES FOR PUBLICATION IN BLAZIANA.

(SEXTON BLAKE IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA.)

by Walter Webb.

Chapter Two.

When Nelson Lee ceased to be a serious contestant to Blake's place in the "Union Jack" the latter found himself in the company of new detective rivals such as Vipart Reeves Maxwell Grey, the sea detective, Frank Ferret, etc etc. Created by authors Arthur S. Hardy, Alec G. Pearson and Cecil Maytor respectively, all of them eventually became Blake writers. Arthur S. Hardy introduced Vipart Reeves in his very first story for the U.J. which appeared under the title of "Leagued Against Britain", published 26th March 1898 (Issue No. 205.)

For a time, at the beginning of the Edwardian era Blake's appearances in the U.J. grew less and less frequent until by 1903 he was hardly featured at all. Probably his popularity was on the decline due to somewhat indifferent stories, for it must be confessed that apart from Shaw Rae and the other few contributors were hardly portraying the character in anything like the satisfactory manner in which the majority of Blake's later chroniclers came to do. Scrappy material and, in some instances, very poor handling of his virile character, were much in evidence once in Blake's earliest adventures. After all, authors like Paul Herring, Melton Whyte and Christopher Stevens could hardly be described as detective story writers in the true sense of the word; they were quite competent when dealing with a straightforward adventure yarn, but the mystery and detective stuff found them floundering somewhat.

Harry Blyth, the only other writer who could hold a candle to W. Shaw Rae in this respect, was gone, and Blake was evidently in need of new blood in the literary ranks.

By this time ~~Blake's~~ Ernest Goddard's place in the editorial chair had been taken by his brother, Norman. Two reasons have been given for the latter's substitution, one being that he died suddenly and long before his time.

As well as the U.J. other boys periodicals published occasional adventures of Sexton Blake. For instance, in 1902 Hamilton Edwards published a story featuring him in "The Boy's Friend" entitled "Sunken Millions". Author was

Patrick Morris (Viscount Mount Morris). Blake also appeared in the comic papers, and the "Jester" featured him in an adventure simply entitled "Sexton Blake, Detective", the narrator being Maxwell Scott.

The year 1903 was a lean one for Blake as far as the U.J. was concerned, and I have no record of any of his appearances during those twelve months. When, towards the end of the year, the price of the U.J. was increased to a penny it began to look as though Blake was finished, for no attempt was made to publish further stories of his adventures. Instead, sport, school and adventure in foreign lands seemed to be the order of the day, and when an odd detective yarn did creep in it was only to feature some little known and quite insignificant sleuth like Frank Forret or Maxwell Grey.

Fresh authors began to take the stage, and we saw the new literary styles of such men as T.C. Bridges, T.G. Dowling Laitland, Fenton Ash and one or two others. It is believed that Fenton Ash was the pen name of a Mr. A.J. Atkins, whose daughter, also a writer, contributed to the "Strand Magazine", and also to "Pluck" and the "U.J." Regarding her identity and details of some of the stories she wrote I will deal with a little later.

It was in 1904 when William Back took over the editorship of the U.J. that Sexton Blake came into his own again due to demands for his return which could no longer be denied. A series of revival-of-Blake yarns was planned by the new editor, and it was the veteran author Alec G. Pearson who was commissioned to write the first. This was entitled "Sexton Blake's Triumph" (Issue No. 51) published under the entirely fictitious name of Arnold Davis. Alec G. Pearson, next to S. Clark Hook, the most prolific writer on the staff, had a host of pen names. He had knocked about the world quite extensively in his younger days, and was an ex-Naval man. He lived in Southsea during the latter part of his life and died there in retirement just before the outbreak of the first World War.

The second Blake story in the "revival" series was entrusted to Herbert Maxwell, and he it was who introduced Tinker for the first time. Whether the author actually created the character is open to doubt, for it is equally likely that Tinker was the conception of William Back who got Maxwell to feature him. The latter was an ex-

schoolmaster whose real name was Herbert Lomax. At about the time Alec G. Pearson was lost of Blake stories so was Herbert Maxwell. He went to Mexico and was never heard of again. Whether he had any of the blood of that country in his veins, or not, I cannot say; certainly the name Lomax seems to suggest that he had.

Chapter three will appear next month.

THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY (SECOND SERIES) 1925-1941 (2)

- |     |  |              |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 17. | On The Night Express.                  | G. Chester.  |
| 18. | The Adventure of the Albanian Avenger. | P. Quiroulo. |
| 19. | The Great Canal Plot.                  | G.H. Teed.   |
| 20. | The Case of the Two Scapegraces.       | H. Graydon.  |
| 21. | Under the Eagle's Wing.                | G.H. Teed.   |
| 22. | The Affair of the Diamond Star.        | G. Chester.  |
| 23. | Black Cargo.                           | H. Graydon.  |
| 24. | The Case of the Press Photographer.    | A. Blair.    |
| 25. | The Case of the Chinese Pearls.        | G. H. Teed.  |
| 26. | The Barton Manor Mystery.              | G. Evans.    |
| 27. | The Prieset(s) Secret.                 | H. Graydon.  |
| 28. | The Legacy Of Doom.                    | E.J. Murray. |
| 29. | The Affair of the Cross Roads.         | G. Chester.  |
| 30. | The Case of the Long Torn Frauds.      | H. Osborne.  |
| 31. | The Crooks Double.                     |              |
| 32. | The Treasure of the Manchus.           | C. Brisbane. |

Next month we shall publish a further selection of S.B.L. 1st and 2nd series titles and will shortly re-commence the much asked for U.J. titles series.

COMPETITIONS. We shall be pleased to receive any suggestions for further competitions in these pages. Please submit all ideas and suggestions as soon as possible to the usual address.

H.M.B.