

[P-1]

People are always talking about 'the problem of youth'. If there is one - which I take leave to doubt - then it is the older people who create it, not the young themselves. Let us get down to the fundamentals and agree that the young are after all human beings - people just like their elder. There is only one difference between an old man and a young one; the young man has a glorious future before him and the old one has a splendid past behind him ; and may be that is where the rub is. When I was a teenager, I felt that I was just young and uncertain - that I was a new boy in a huge school. I would have been very much pleased to be regarded as something so interesting as a problem. For one thing , being a problem gives you a certain identity and that is one of the things the are busily engaged in seeking . I find young people exciting . They have an air of freedom , and they have not a dreary responsibility to discreditable ambition or love of comfort. They are not anxious social climbers, and they have no devotion to material things. All this seems to me link them with life, and origins of things. It's as if they were in some sense cosmic beings in violent and lovely contrast with us, s narrow-minded creatures. All this is in my mind when I meet a young person. He may be conceited, ill- mannered, presumptuous, but I do not turn for protection the dull dictates about respect for elders- as if mere age were a reason for respect . I accept that we are equals and I will argue with him as an equal if I think he is wrong.

[dreary = dull. commitment = responsibility . mean = discreditable, unworthy. cosmic beings = beings of space . suburban = narrow- minded. conceited = proud, vain . dictates = orders.]

Questions

- 1) What according to the writer, is the one difference between an old man and a young one ?
- 2) Why would the writer have been pleased to be regarded as a problem when he was young ?
- 3) Name the three qualities in young people which the writer particularly admires.
- 4) How does the writer want to treat the young man even if he be wrong in an argument ?
- 5) Explain in simple English :
to take leave ; that is where the rub is ; social climbers ; presumptuous.

[P-2]

Sindbad said, "The sun was then near setting : the air grew suddenly dark, as if obscured by a thick cloud. I was surprised at this change, but more so when I perceived it to be caused by a bird of a most extraordinary size, which was flying towards me. I recollected having heard sailors speak of a called a roc, and I thought that the great white ball which had drawn my attention must be the egg of this bird , I was not mistaken, for, shortly after. It alighted on it , and placed itself as if to sit upon it . When I saw it coming I drew near to the egg, so that I had one of the claws of the birds before me ; this claw was as big as the trunk of a large tree.

I tried myself to it with the linen of my turban, In the hope that the roc, when it took its flight the next morning, would carry me out of that desert island. My project succeeded , for, at the break of the day, the roc flew away, and carried me to such a height that I could not distinguish the earth ; then it descended with such rapidity that I almost lost my senses. When the roc had alighted, I quickly united the knot that confined me to its foot, and had scarcely loosed myself, When it darted on a serpent of an immeasurable length , and, seizing it in its beak flew away."

[perceived = become aware of , alighted = got down, descended. project = plan. darted= moved suddenly and quickly.]

Questions

- 1) Give a suitable title to the passage.
- 2) About what was Sindbad not mistaken ?
- 3) What project of Sindbad was successful ?
- 4) What happened when the roc alighted ?
- 5) Explain in simple English :

Obsure ; desert island ; descend ; immeasurable .
.....

[P-3]

A miser, to make sure of his property , sold all that he had and converted it into a great lump of gold . He hid this lump in a hole in the ground, and went continually to visit and inspect it. This roused the curiosity of one of his workmen, who suspected that there was a treasure, and when his master's back was turned, went to the spot and stole it. when the miser returned and found the place empty, he wept and tore his hair. But a neighbour who saw him in his extravagant grief, and learned the cause of

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it, said, "Why should you worry ? Take a stone and put it in the same place and think it is your lump of gold ; for you never meant to use it. the one will do you as much good as the other."

[extravagant grief = uncontrollable sorrow.]

Questions

- 1) Why did the miser convert his property into a lump of gold ?
- 2) Why was he suspected ?
- 3) In what way did the miser show his grief ?
- 4) Explain : "When his master's back was turned."
- 5) What did his neighbour advise him ? why?

[P-4]

An old blind woman lived on a handful of rice. She had no wish for fine clothes. But her son , whose face she could never see, was everything in the world to her. All the money she earned by pulling the punkah the blind woman spent on her boy.

A day came when the boy, after four years in the University, hastened to his village with the tremendous news that he had been offered a government appointment. She said to him, "If you accept it, you will break my heart ." He was astonished.

She told him that she had dedicated him to God. She wanted him to teach the outcast people of India the love of the Father of us all.

The boy is now a man well-known in many lands. He is Swami Doss. He began as a mission teacher; he has given inspiration to many a Chirstian youth in southern India. He has created a new leadership of men who fight the battle of the villagers against debt slavery, disease and drunkenness. He is helping to bring light to the land of his blind mother.

[punkah = cloth fan. outcast = homeless and friendless , down trodden.]

Questions

- 1) Suggest a suitable heading for the passage.
- 2) Mention two things the old blind woman did not care for.
- 3) What did the old woman tell her son ?
- 4) Why was the boy astonished ?
- 5) What battle had the new leaders to fight ?

[P-5]

Man first appeared on earth half a million years ago. Then he was little more than an animal ; but early man had several big advantages over the animals. He had a large brain, he had an upright body, he had clever hands; and he had in his brain a special group of nerve cells, not present in animals, that enabled him to invent a language and use it to communicate with his fellowmen. This ability to speak was of very great value because it allowed men to share ideas, and to plan together, so that tasks impossible for a single person could be successfully undertaken by intelligent teamwork. Speech also enabled ideas to be passed on from generation to generation so that the stock of human knowledge slowly increased.

It was these special advantages that put men far ahead of all other creatures in the struggle for existence. They can use their intelligence against their difficulties and master them.

Since those far - off times, when he first appeared, man has achieved a great deal. He has used animals, steam , electricity and oil to move himself more and more quickly from place to place. He has overcome rivers and seas with rafts, canoes, boats and ships of endless variety. He mastered darkness, too, first with dim lights and later with brighter and brighter lamps. Untill he can now make for himself so dazzling a light with an arc-lamp that like the sun, it is too strong for his naked eyes.

Questions

- 1) What advantages did man have over other animals ?
- 2) Why was the ability to speak of very great value to man ?
- 3) How did the stock of human knowledge increase ?
- 4) What helps man to move across land and water ?
- 5) How has been mastered darkness ?
- 6) How long, in the author's opinion , has man lived on earth ?

Here is a scientific experiment on the homing of birds, the facts of which are quite certain. A few years ago seven swallows were caught near their nests at Bremen in Germany. They were marked with a red dye on some of their white feathers, so that they could easily be seen. Then they were taken by aeroplane to Croydon, near London. This is a distance of 400 miles.

The seven swallows were set free at Croydon. Five of them flew back to their nests at Bremen. How did the birds find their way on that long journey, which they had never made before ?

That is the great puzzle. It is no good saying that the swallows (or dogs) have a 'sense of direction' , or an 'instinct to go home' . These are just words, and explain nothing. We want to know exactly what senses the animals use to find their way, how they know in which direction to go until they can see familiar landmarks. Unfortunately practically no scientific experiments have yet been made on this question.

Perhaps migrating birds are the greatest mystery of all. Swallows leave England in August and September, and they fly to Africa. Where they stay during our winter. The swallows return to England in the spring to nest. There are other birds, too, that leave England in the late summer for the south. A lot has been found out about the journeys of migrating birds by marking the birds with aluminium rings put on one leg. An address and a number is put on the ring.

[homing = having the instinct to fly back home. landmarks = marks or objects to serve as guides to those who travel.]

Questions

- 1) What was the aim of the scientists in conducting an experiment on birds ?
- 2) In what manner was the experiment conducted ?
- 3) What puzzles scientists most about homing birds ?
- 4) What steps have been taken to find out about the journeys of migrating birds ?
- 5) What was the result of the experiment conducted on the seven swallows ?
- 6) On which question have no scientific experiment been made ?

[P-7]

What will it be like to walk about on the moon's surface ? A 160-pound man will weigh just over 26 pounds on the moon. With the effort it would require to jump three feet into the air on earth. he could jump to a height of eighteen feet above the lunar surface. If he wanted to run back to the ship in an emergency, he might find himself taking great leaping strides of twenty, or perhaps even forty feet.

Since the moon has no atmosphere, the sky will be black , just as in space. Many more stars will be visible than from the earth. The lunar sky will be dominated, of course, by the earth, a huge white globe with patches of light blue, green and yellow, and possibly a trace of red - orange above the poles. Since the earth's diameter is almost four times as great as the moon's, the earth will be an object in the lunar sky with

almost four times as great an apparent diameter as the moon has from the earth.

The view on the moon will depend on where the ship lands. The moon has mountains and great flat plains, presumably covered with dust. But whatever he stands, the explorer will have a sense that the horizon is very near, because the lunar surface is curved almost four times as much as that of the earth. In an area without mountains or valleys, a man walking away would disappear below the lunar horizon in about 8500 feet less than two miles.

[stride = step , lunar= of the moon. presumably = possibly.]

Questions

- 1) If a man can jump three feet in the air on earth, how high could he jump on the moon ?
- 2) What will be the appearance of the sky from the surface of the moon ?
- 3) How will the earth appear to a man on the moon ?
- 4) Why will an explorer on the moon feel that the horizon is very near ?
- 5) What will be the distance between the strides of a man running on the surface of the moon ?
- 6) Will the number of stars seen from the moon's surface be the same as those from the earth's surface ?

The act of ploughing is mankind's most emphatic gesture of hope and of defiance. It is a confiding of present to the future, and a healthy writing off of the past, or at least the husks of the past. Every autumn this opening ceremony of labour comes just at the moment when nature's melancholy is beginning to chill our bones and pile its falling leaves over our confidence. The spiritual effect of the task is instant. At once we are alert again, looking ahead, our hand to the plough : a literal and symbolical activity.

It used to be a quite job, and more picturesque than it is now. The sight of a pair of farm horses pulling the plough, followed by the man with his hands directing the coulter and the share in a dead straight line is one which artists, especially etchers, have always succumbed to. I hear again the dull plod, plod of the eight hooves, the slight hiss of the polished blade cutting into and turning the furrow, the twitch of the reins and the occasional grunted word of command given by the ploughman. It is an immortal grouping of sounds, like the articulation of an ancient church clock on a week-day, clumsily plucking away the moments from

the fabric of time, and adding them to the treasury of human history ; solemn, slow, irresistible.

When first tractors began to supersede the horse, the old, patient ploughman was replaced by the greasy mechanic sitting in the iron saddle, utterly indifferent to the soil flowing freely as oil behind him. I felt that the inner meaning had gone out of husbandry. But long use alters things, and gives significance to the most brash innovations. The voice of the tractor, now heard in the land, has become part of the choir the nature.

[emphatic = forceful. gesture = movement showing intention. defiance = challenge, disobedience. confiding = entrusting. husks = useless outer covering. melancholy = gloom, sadness. chill our bones = discourage us.

pile its falling leaves on our confidence = the great number of falling leaves make us lose our confidence. picturesque = vivid, graphic.

coulter = iron blade fixed in a plough share. share = blade of a plough.

etcher = person making pictures on metal, using a needle and acid.

Succumbed to = yield to the charms of, fallen for. Plod = the sound of heavy steps. Twitch = sharp, jerky movement. Articulation = sound.

Husbandry = farming, agriculture. Brash = hasty, rash. Choir = group singing.]

Questions

1) Why does ploughing impress the writer deeply ?

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- 2) Which sounds does the author refer to as being associated with ploughing?
- 3) What is the modern substitute for the old patient plough man?
- 4) Which sight has particularly attracted artists and etchers?
- 5) Explain in simple English :
 - (a) articulation of an ancient church clock;
 - (b) supersede.

[P-9]

The 'Industrial Revolution' is the term applied to the aggregate of change which during the last hundred and fifty years have made industry instead of agriculture the principal occupation of the leading nations. The primary cause of this transformation was the notable nations expansion of overseas commerce in the 17th and 18th centuries, which was the outcome of the geographical discoveries beginning with those of Columbus and Vasco-da-Gama. The enlargement of the market for European commodities, more especially the extension of the demand for simple, easily standardized goods suitable for manufacture by machinery, reacted on industry and produced what is the most striking

external feature of the Revolution, the rapid expansion of machine methods of production. Hitherto the use of machinery in industry, though not unknown, was exceptional and occasional. It now became the normal mode of industrial production. Hand in hand, with this industrial development went a phenomenal increase in the number and size of towns, the traditional seats of industry. The countryside was swept bare to provide recruits for the huge labour armies of industrialism. In the 18th century, 9 Englishmen out of every 10 lived in the country. In the 20th century, 4 out of every 5 were inhabitants of towns. There have been few more momentous social changes than this transformation of the average Englishman from a countryman to a town-dweller.

[aggregate = sum total. transformation = change. standardized goods = goods of uniform size, quality and appearance. phenomenal = remarkable, noteworthy, spectacular. swept bare = became uninhabited (without people living there.)]

Questions

- 1) What was the main cause of the Industrial Revolution ?

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- 2) What would be a simple explanation of the phrase - the Industrial Revolution ?
- 3) How did the Industrial Revolution affect methods of production ?
- 4) What was the effect of the Revolution on population in towns and the countryside ?
- 5) Explain in simple English :
 - (a) 'hand in hand with ':
 - (b) momentous.

[P-10]

A reasonable consideration for the rights or feelings of others is the foundation of social conduct. It is commonly alleged against women that in this respect they are less civilized than men and I am bound to confess that in my experience it is the woman, the well-dressed woman, who thrusts herself in front of you at the ticket office. The man would not attempt it, partly because he knows the thing would not be tolerated from him; but also because he has been better drilled in the small give-and-take of social relationships. He has lived more in the broad current of the world, where you have to learn to accommodate yourself to the general standard of conduct ; and his school life, his club-life and his games have in this respect given him a training that women are only beginning to enjoy, I believe that the rights of small people and quite people are as important to preserve as the rights of the small nationalities. When I hear the aggressive, bulling horn which some motorists deliberately use I

confess that I feel something boiling up in me which is very like what I felt when Germany came tramping like a bully over Belgium.

[better-drilled = better trained. give-and-take of social relationships = in social relationships we have to let go certain things and we get some favours or concessions, This is the usual process by which we adjust ourselves in society. tramplng - crushing under its feet.]

Questions

- 1) What fault does the author find with the women ?
- 2) What has helped a man to be more advanced than a woman ?
- 3) Why does the author compare the bullying horn to Germany ?
- 4) Explain :
 - (a) the small give-and-take of social relationships :
 - (b) I feel something boiling up in me.

5) Suggest a suitable title for the passage.

[P-11]

The countryard was utterly empty; but from the ladies' chamber came the shrieks and shouts, not only of women but of men; and knocking at the chamber door, adding her screams to those inside, was a little white figure. They had barred themselves inside, leaving the child out; and now they dared not open the door, as the bear swung and rolled towards it, looking savagely right and left for a fresh victim. Hereward leaped from his horse and drawing his sword rushed forward with a shout which made the bear turn around. He looked once back at the child, then round again at Hereward, and making up his mind to take the largest morsel first, made straight at him with a growl. He was within two paces, then he rose on his hind legs, head and shoulders taller than Hereward and lifted the iron paws high in the air. Hereward knew that there was but one spot at which to strike and he struck true and strong, before the iron paw could fall, right on the muzzle of the beast.

[swung = turned quickly. muzzle = nose and mouth of an animal.]

Questions

- 1) Why was the child left out ?
- 2) How was the bear's attention diverted from the child ?
- 3) Which actions of Hereward indicate that he had faced bears before ?
- 4) Explain :
 - (a) adding her screams to those inside ;
 - (b) making up his mind to take the largest morsel first.
- 5) Suggest a suitable title to the passage.

[P-12]

A holy man, wishing to convince a king of the power of God, bade him, before his countries, dip his head in a tub of water. On doing so, the king found himself in a strange land by the sea. He asked his way of some foresters, who guided him to a town. He had many adventures there and finally married a wealthy woman, by whom he had seven sons and seven daughters. Later on, he was reduced to poverty and had to contemplate working as a porter for a living. One day he plunged into the sea for his ablutions before prayer, and on raising his head, found himself standing with his courtiers by the tub of water. He began to blame the holy man for what he had suffered, but the holy man told him it was all a delusion, and

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that it was in the power of God to make a thousand years as one moment, and a single moment seem a thousand years.

[contemplate = think of, ablution = ceremonial bath. delusion = false beliefs, illusion.]

Question

- 1) Why did the king blame the holy man ?
- 2) What did the holy man ask the king to do ?
- 3) What did the king do on the strange land ?
- 4) What did the king do before his prayers ?
- 5) Where did the king find himself ?
- 6) How did he earn his living ?
- 7) What happened when he raised his head ?
- 8) What did the holy man tell the king about the power of God ?

[P-13]

Most of us have little trouble 'losing ourselves in action.' But the hours after work, they are dangerous ones. Just when we were free to enjoy our own leisure, and ought to be happiest - that's when the blue devils of worry attack us. That's when we begin to wonder whether we 're getting on in our life; whether we are in a rut, whether the boss ' meant anything' by that remark he/she made today; or whether we are getting blasé. When we are not busy, our minds tend to become a mere vacuum. Nature rushes to fill the vacant mind with emotions of worry, fear, hate, jealousy. Such emotions are so violent that they drive out of our minds all peaceful, happy thoughts and emotions.

[blue devils = fits of depression or melancholy, sudden attack of gloom or sorrow. in a rut = static, in the same place or position without any progress. abhors = hates , dislikes.]

Questions

- 1) What is the rule of nature ?
- 2) Why are we unable to enjoy our leisure ?
- 3) What do we wonder about in our leisure time ?
- 4) Which emotions are violent ?
- 5) What happens when we are not busy ?

[P-14]

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Change is the law of life . Spring changes into summer and summer into winter and we come back to spring again. Thus the cycle of seasons moves on. Childhood changes into youth and youth into old age which finally declines into death. It is the law of Nature that the old order should change and give place to new, “ No change ” is the sign of death and extinction.

But in spite of this clear lesson from the pages of Nature, there are people who always insist on conserving the old. Whatever is old is right for them. They would cling to customs, fashions and beliefs as if those were very holy. The reason for this was that they held that if they did not do so, they would be punished by God. It is these people who have stoned the prophets and thus resisted the will of God. One fails to understand how these people did not understand that one good custom, in the long run, is bound to make the world miserable. Where there is a great scope for change, prosperity and happiness are bound to exist there.

Questions

- 1) What lessons do we get from the pages of Nature ?
- 2) How does the author show that change is the law of life ?
- 3) Why do some people stick to old customs and beliefs ?
- 4) What would make the world's miserable ?
- 5) Where do prosperity and happiness exist ?
- 6) Suggest a suitable title to the passage ?

[P-15]

A great German, named Bismarck, once said that if he had to live a second life in this world, and was told that he could not return as a man, then he would choose to be sent back to the earth as an ant. This seems a queer choice. There are so many finer and more beautiful creatures in the world than ants -dogs, horses, elephants, lions, tigers. You would think it would be better to be one of these animals than to be an ant. Yet Bismarck knew what he was talking about. He was a man who loved order. His idea of a perfect State was one in which every person worked

for the good of the whole community, and this ordered form of life is found amongst ants more than among any other kind of living creature not excepting man. A city of ants is a teeming hive where work is unending. The homes of these tiny creatures are underneath small mounds raised a little above the surrounding fields, and inside the mounds there are chambers and galleries filled with thousands of hurrying little creatures. The centre of an ant community is the queen.

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She alone lays the eggs which will become the whole of the next generation in the ant city, and as the queen lays her eggs the busy worker ants carry them away to the nursery. There they are carefully watched over by the nurse ants who, as soon as the grubs are hatched out of the eggs, feed them with a special food, keep them clean, and do everything they can to make them grow.

[queer = strange. teeming hive = busy place. mounds = mass of piled earth, small hill. nursery = place where young ones are looked after. grubs = caterpillar or larra.]

Questions

- 1) What would Bismarck choose to be if he had to live a second life in this world ?
- 2) Why was his choice a queer one ?
- 3) What was his idea about a perfect State ?
- 4) Where do we find homes of ants ?
- 5) Who looks after the grubs ?
- 6) Give a suitable heading for the passage.

[P-16]

The most usual way among young men who have no resolution of their own is first ask one's friend's advice and follow it for some time, then to ask advice of another and turn to that; so of a third, still unsteady, always changing. However, be assured that every change of this nature is for the worse. People may tell you of your being unfit for some peculiar occupations in life. but heed them not. whatever employment you follow with perseverance and assiduity will be found fit for you. It will be your support in youth and comfort in age. In learning the useful part of every profession, very moderate abilities will suffice; even if the mind be blurred with a little stupidity, it may in this case be useful. Great abilities have always been less serviceable to the possessors than the moderate ones. Life has been compared to a race ; but the allusion still improves by observing that most swift are ever the least manageable. To know one profession only is enough for one man and this is soon learnt. Be contented, therefore, with one good employment. For if you understand two at a time , people will give you business in neither.

[assiduity = diligence, constant and careful attention. blurred = confused , become unclear. allusion = reference]

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Questions

- 1) How do young men without resolution show their weakness ?
- 2) What qualities will bring you success in your employment ?
- 3) Why does the author prefer moderate abilities to great abilities ?
- 4) Why is one good employment better than two ?

[P-17]

One night in January, he made a marvellous discovery about the planet Jupiter. He found that whereas the earth has one moon, Jupiter has several. Yet, strange to say, there were still people who would not believe him even when they saw the moons through the telescope. Of course, Galileo only laughed at them. He had many friends and he thought that there was no need to bother himself with people who did not wish to believe their own eyes. And, so, for many years he continued to make new discoveries and to teach people about Copernicus. 'The earth', said he, 'moves round the sun' and explained all the good reasons he had for believing this.

Unfortunately, Galileo was living at a time when it was not always wise or safe to teach what other men did not believe. And now when so many people were listening to Galileo, his enemies were alarmed and angry. 'He teaches things which are not in the Bible,' said some. 'He is against the Church of Rome,' said others, 'He believes in things which the Church does not teach. All these ideas are wicked,' said many.

Questions

- 1) What did Galileo discover about the planet Jupiter ?
- 2) What was his discovery about the earth ?
- 3) About what kind of people Galileo thought he need not bother ?
- 4) Why did the teachings of Galileo anger and alarm his enemies ?
- 5) Give a suitable title to the passage.

[P-18]

One of the strange things about a city is the fact that the people who live in it cannot produce their own food. They have no time and they have no space, whatever they eat must be brought from somewhere else and paid for with the money they make. So in the early days of the 19th century farmer's wagons came rolling down the roads, filled with food. And boatmen crossed the rivers bringing more from Brooklyn, Staten island and New Jersey. Other boats tied along the water-front brought fish. All

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these things were spread out in the market. People from every house in the city, rich or poor, came to buy. And usually it was the women who came to the market to buy.

Questions

- 1) What is strange about city life ?
- 2) How did city dwellers feed themselves ?
- 3) From where did the boatmen come and what did they bring ?
- 4) What was spread out in the market ?
- 5) Who came to buy in the market ?

[P-19]

The newspaper of the early eighteenth century was still in a pioneer stage. Reporting was very haphazard, with little distinction between facts and rumours, and the writing was generally poor, although such great writers as Defore, Steele, Addison and Swift did leave their mark on journalism. Occasional illustrations in newspaper of this time took the form of maps or plans to show battles or sieges. The problem of adequate newspaper illustrations was not really solved till the early twentieth century. Papers at this time were often corrupt, and editors and writers could be “bought” and their criticisms thus silenced by politicians who were prepared to pay them enough.

But the government could not leave the papers alone for long. Newspaper had been selling at a penny or a half-penny, but in 1712, alarmed at the growing influence of newspapers on public opinion, the government began to tax them. There was also a tax on advertisements, and on the paper used for printing. These taxes continued in various forms for nearly 150 years, the stamp duty alone rising at one time to four pence a copy, and the last of them was not off till 1861. However, the public wanted news and though some papers were killed by the tax, and many people began to read their papers at coffee houses, or hired copies for a small fee, enough people continued to buy newspapers for them to survive and even for new newspapers to appear.

Questions

- 1) Which famous men were among writers and journalists ?
- 2) What form did the illustrations in newspaper take ?
- 3) What were the characteristics of the writers and publishers of this time ?
- 4) Why did the government start taxing the newspaper in 1712 ?
- 5) What effect did the taxes have on some of the newspapers ?

[P-20]

In the Tertiary Era there appeared in the forest trees the little creature known as a lemur. A harmless little creature it seemed, with nothing very remarkable about it ; but it was a climbing creature climbing up a distinguished family tree, for it was first of the monkey tribe, and it heralded the coming of man. Of man's first appearance as man, we know little or nothing; but almost certainly he was once a forest dweller and lived in trees. Forests were then man's original dwelling places; ancient forests in the form of coal are chief source of his power ; still today , the forests of the world are in many ways of the utmost importance to him. Though now he does not usually live in forests, there are tribes in Africa, South America, and new Guinea who still have forest homes. A great part of the crust of the Earth is still covered with forests. In Europe 30 per cent of the soil is so covered, and in Finland more than half the land is forest land. Moreover, if we do not count deserts, probably more than a quarter of the Earth's surface is clad in trees, and it is very interesting to think that trees are probably the oldest living things in the world of to-day. Forests have been useful to mankind in many ways. Coal, as we have noted, provides us with motive power on a gigantic scale. Timber trees have been given building material for ships as well as houses, and in modern days most of the world's supply of paper comes from wood pulp.

[heralded = proclaimed the coming of.]

Questions

- 1) Which little creature appeared in the forest in the Tertiary Era ?
- 2) To what tribe did the lemur belong ?
- 3) Which was man's original dwelling place ?
- 4) What is man's chief source of power ?
- 5) What in all probability are the oldest living things on the earth ?
