

at his usual bench and began to eat. As he was preparing to bite into the apple that had caused him so much anxiety, a boy and girl arrested his attention. Love occupied a very insignificant place in the heart of Mr. Ex, and he was not given to day-dreaming. Nevertheless, his interest was held by the couple. Perhaps some stifled chord of sensitivity in his soul responded to the combination of young love and the beauty of the afternoon. He was wondering about it when the drowsiness of the stillness and the sun overtook him.

The couple passed from sight, and Mr. Ex closed his eyes. New York and Central Park became forgotten things. A robin sang from the shaded branches of a maple. Down the path danced the children's laughter as they played tag among the tall trees. Far to the left the traffic of Manhattan groaned under the load of lunch

hour, its baritone rumble scarcely audible to one in Central Park. But these sounds escaped Augustus Ex. He was remembering a summer when as a child he was taken to the seashore. He was thinking of how he had gone off by himself to watch the restless water and of how the moonlight looked as it spun across the tiny waves on the night he had left. He remembered that he wept for days after he returned to the city. He had missed the ocean . . . . . Suddenly there seemed to be a link between the feeling for the ocean and the twinge of loneliness at seeing the couple. Somehow the beauty of the day was related too. He couldn't understand. "I wonder if . . . .," he thought, but before he could answer the unasked question something had destroyed his consciousness . . . . .

Mr. Ex was asleep.

## Definitions of Liberty and Freedom

VIRGINIA SKIDMORE

Almost any discussion of the present war will involve the use of the terms "liberty" and "freedom". They are used interchangeably so often that it is difficult to make a distinction between them. Both "liberty" and "freedom" in their primary significance refer to the state of being free or the absence of restraint, compulsion, or subjection of the individual and his actions. The idea of liberty often contains the added implication that such restraint or subjection had existed previously.

"Liberty" is commonly used in a political or legal sense. There are three common types of liberty included under the manifestations of this meaning — civil

liberty, political liberty, and individual or personal liberty. Civil liberty refers specifically to the rights and immunities of citizens in an organized society with a guarantee for the protection of such rights. The right to share in the forming and in the conduction of the government under which one lives is called political liberty. Individual or personal liberty, according to modern political usage, involves such privileges as freedom of movement from place to place and equality before the courts. Thus, "liberty", in this sense, refers to a body of rights which the individual in a modern constitutional government possesses.

While the term "freedom" may be and

often is used in this sense, in my opinion, freedom is less dependent on such external conditions of a particular type of society. Freedom might be called a quality of the mind or soul. Thus the freedom possessed by an individual is dependent on the extent his mind and soul are freed from the limitations of his own senses and desires as well as the limitations of ignorance, superstition, prejudices, and even conventionalities of society. Freedom in this sense means a capacity of control and overcome the limitations and restrictions of physical desires and prejudiced, intolerant attitudes. A person possessing such a quality of mind has a very great degree of intellectual and spiritual freedom.

One says "a degree of freedom" because both freedom and liberty, as used here, refer to relative rather than complete absence of restraint. One enjoys his political, civil, and individual liberties within certain defined limits or laws to prevent their abuse.

Complete freedom can perhaps never be attained by man. Even if society and one's personal limitations did not impose some restrictions on one's actions, nature itself would always impose some limitations. The type of freedom mentioned previously must contain an implication of self-discipline and self-control to prevent abuses and excesses resulting in license.

Thus, one sees that a difference between liberty and freedom lies in the fact that the former most often refers to a condition actually experienced by the members of a society, while the latter is a characteristic which each individual desires to possess.

The significance and effectiveness of our present day liberties depends to a great extent on the possession of such freedom by the majority of people. As long as the individuals are restricted by their own intolerance and prejudice, their society will have the same limitations.

## The Blue Pincushion

JEANNE GASS

With a flourish of the shiny old shears, Dora snipped the last coupon from the latest copy of the Ladies Home Journal. She pushed the magazine aside and made a neat little pile of the slips of paper. She breathed a sigh of pure, undiluted bliss.

Her soft white hands fluttered over the papers, almost tenderly. Her lips formed the numbers silently as she counted the coupons with all the eagerness of a miser.

"Twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine." She paused, and counted again. "Twenty-nine." Her trimly-shod foot

hooked around the table-leg, and she settled herself in the chair. Her chin was propped on one fist. She stared out the dining room window into the dreamy dimness of the fast-settling twilight. Her eyes were fixed on no particular point. She was seeing only things which were not there.

Perhaps it was a minute, perhaps an hour, later that she heard the front door-knob rattle faintly, and her mother's footsteps resound hollowly on the hardwood floor of the entry hall. A moment later,