Generally, the problems posed in other sections of our Journal are for the seasoned veteran of word wars. In this section, we are offering considerably easier puzzles and quizzes, as an encouragement to neophytes, those intrepid souls just beginning their study of the ways of the word.

Our Latin title, SIMPLICISSIMI, appropriately means "the simplest ones." Beyond that, it is a word intrinsically interesting, for it is a 13-letter word using only 1's for vowels, but using those 1's in abundance. The only English words known to match it, letter for letter and 1 for I, are PRIMITIVISTIC and DISINHIBITING. Can you find still others?

Inasmuch as our "teasers for tyros" are comparatively easy, their solutions are included in this issue of WORD WAYS, beginning on page 126.

Word Chess

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A word chess puzzle is one that is solved by moving from square to square of a letter diagram the way a king moves on a chessboard. You start on any letter square of your choice and move one and only one space up or down or left or right or diagonally, until you have completed a word of three or more letters. In the following partial sample diagram, for instance, you can spell the word NEAR by starting at the N and moving as indicated by the arrows:

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P E R
A
N
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Naturally, all sorts of other words can be traced in the sample above: PEA, PALE, RAN, LEAN, etc.

Literary Quiz

Have you ever noticed any distinctive middle names? For instance, the attemtion-getting middle name of ANO Roosevelt, or...

This penchant among British and American surnames, the middle...
You may never use the same letter square more than once for one word. Thus, in the sample, you cannot spell the word REAR, because there is only one letter R.

The word chess diagram given below is an 8 x 10 letter array with a motif: the zodiac. Hidden in this playing board are the names of all 12 signs of the zodiac. Can you trace all of them? How quickly? To help you get started, the 12 names are listed here:

1. LEO 7. PISCES
2. ARIES 8. TAURUS
3. LIBRA 9. SCORPIO
4. VIRGO 10. AQUARIUS
5. CANCER 11. CAPRICORN
6. GEMINI 12. SAGITTARIUS

Example above: PEA.

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LITERAL QUIZ

Have you ever noticed the tendency of famous persons to have unusual, distinctive middle names? Think of Thomas ALVA Edison, or of Franklin DELANO Roosevelt, or of John QUINCY Adams.

This penchant for the extraordinary middle name is particularly evident among British and American writers, poets, and dramatists. Listed below are the attention-getting middle names of 20 well-known such authors. How many of them can you identify from their middle names? Warning: in several instances, the middle names are actually much better known than the correspond-
ing first names. Score yourself as follows: 10 or more right, good; 15 or more right, excellent; all 20 right, sensational!

1. BALFOUR 8. CONAN 14. MAKEPEACE
2. BARRETT 9. CULLEN 15. MAPES
3. BEECHER 10. FENIMORE 16. PAYSON
4. BOOTH 11. KINNAN 17. RICE
5. BRET(T) 12. LANGHORNE 18. SOMERSET
6. BYSSHE 13. LORD 19. WADSWORTH
7. CHANDLER

Note the comma preceding LORD. It is not a typographical error.

One more thing: can you tell us which of the 20 authors had the shortest life span, and which one the longest life span?

... ... ... ... ... ...

Abstruse Acrostics

A series of verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters of the successive lines, read in order, form a word or phrase, is called an acrostic poem. The following poem, dedicated to the cybernetics of our times, is an example of an acrostic. The first letters of the successive lines, read in order, spell out the title of the poem.

Cybernetic keys, blue and magenta,
Orgiastically whir, crescendo,
Matrix in one brief diminuendo,
Pubescence incomprehensible:
"Ultra id muffles humble decibel;"
"Tumescent pride kowtows utopia;"
"Embraces futile cornucopia;"
"Violates truth, returns to placenta."

Esoteric, unprogrammed, sometimes terse,
Reason misreads the odd symbolic shapes.
Since all rhymes are cryptic, are the tapes
Enigmatic far better or far verse.

In addition to featuring its title as an initial acrostic, the foregoing poem displays word artistry in its tendency toward unusual rhyme words.

For your bafflement, we present a somewhat more complex acrostic poem by the same author. The title of the poem in the text of the poem represents the anagram of the title of the first poem.

A Lesson in An

The Biology Class kept the word consideration—FEE or the plural, whatever.

Score yourself all 25, superb.

1. EARTH
2. SWINE
3. ROOTS
4. TO HUM
5. CLASP
6. SHELF
7. VENAL
8. FRINGE
the same author. Once again, the initial letters of the successive lines spell the
title of the poem. In addition, however, a second acrostic is concealed further
in the text of the poem. It is placed diagonally rather than vertically, and really
represents the answer to your problem. Can you find the concealed acrostic?

Puzzling

by

Walter Shedlofsky
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Present somewhere in this slight confusion.
Uniquely oblique in its direction.
Zealously look and find the connection,
Zigzagging unto the ultimate line,
Lingerin~ but briefly on its design.
Inquisitive minds the truth soon complete.
Nonchalantly you, too, can make ends meet,
Glimpse opportunely and see the solution.

A Lesson in Anatomy

The Biology Class will please come to order! Presented below are the names of
25 parts of the human body. Each name has been scrambled to form some other
word or phrase spelled with exactly the same letters. Your problem, today, is
to identify the parts of the body by transposing each set of letters into its
original order. To illustrate, if the words LAMP, NEVER, and SLIP-UP were
on the list, you would rearrange these three words to spell PALM, NERVE,
and PUPILS.

Some of the terms you will be seeking are plurals. If the body has only one
of the parts in question—a NOSE or PANCREAS, for instance—we have always
kept the word singular. If the body has two or more of the parts under con-
sideration—FEET or MUSCLES, for example—we have used either the singular
or the plural, whichever best suited our convenience.

Score yourself as follows: 15 or more identified, good; 20 or more, excellent;
all 25, superb.

1. EARTH
2. SWINE
3. ROOTS
4. TO HUM
5. CLASP
6. SHELF
7. VENAL
8. FRINGE
9. BASTER
10. IMPART
11. HOT TAR
12. A PLEAT
13. RACE ON!
14. SUTURE
15. ELATION
16. SEEDLY
17. SATCHMO
18. A MURDER
19. BEANDON!
20. NASTIER
21. METALING
22. BE A LOSER!
23. STEALING
24. I SIMPERED!
25. REOFFERING
Look at the diagram below. The border consists of 4 seven-letter words that
meet or intersect at the corners. In the interior of the diagram, there are eight
additional letters in place to help you find the crosswords. Listed below the
diagram are the eight missing letters that are to be inserted into the diagram
to complete the puzzle. As you use each letter, cross it out to make sure that
you use all eight of them, each one once.

When you have finished, compare your solution with ours. If yours is identical
with ours, you have solved the puzzle correctly.

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<th>AFFABLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>U</td>
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Missing Letters: A B H O R R T U

In Search of Religion

Have you ever given thought to the tremendous number of sects, denominations,
and movements that comprise Christianity? There are Adventists, and Jesuits,
and Methodists, and hundreds of others. If we collected a sufficiently large
number of them and alphabetized our list, how close would we come to the goal
of having each of the 26 letters of the alphabet represented by at least one
type of Christian?

The only way to find out is by trying. We are now asking you to try and
produce a complete “Alphabet of Christianity,” or as close to a complete one
as you can. Do not, of course, include the three examples we cited above in
your alphabet—you can easily find alternatives of your own for A, J, and M.

When you feel that you have reached your limit, compare your list with ours.
Suggested scoring: 10 letters conquered, good; 15 letters, excellent; 20 letters,
superior; 25 or 26 letters, you’re a topnotch expert!

WORD WAYS