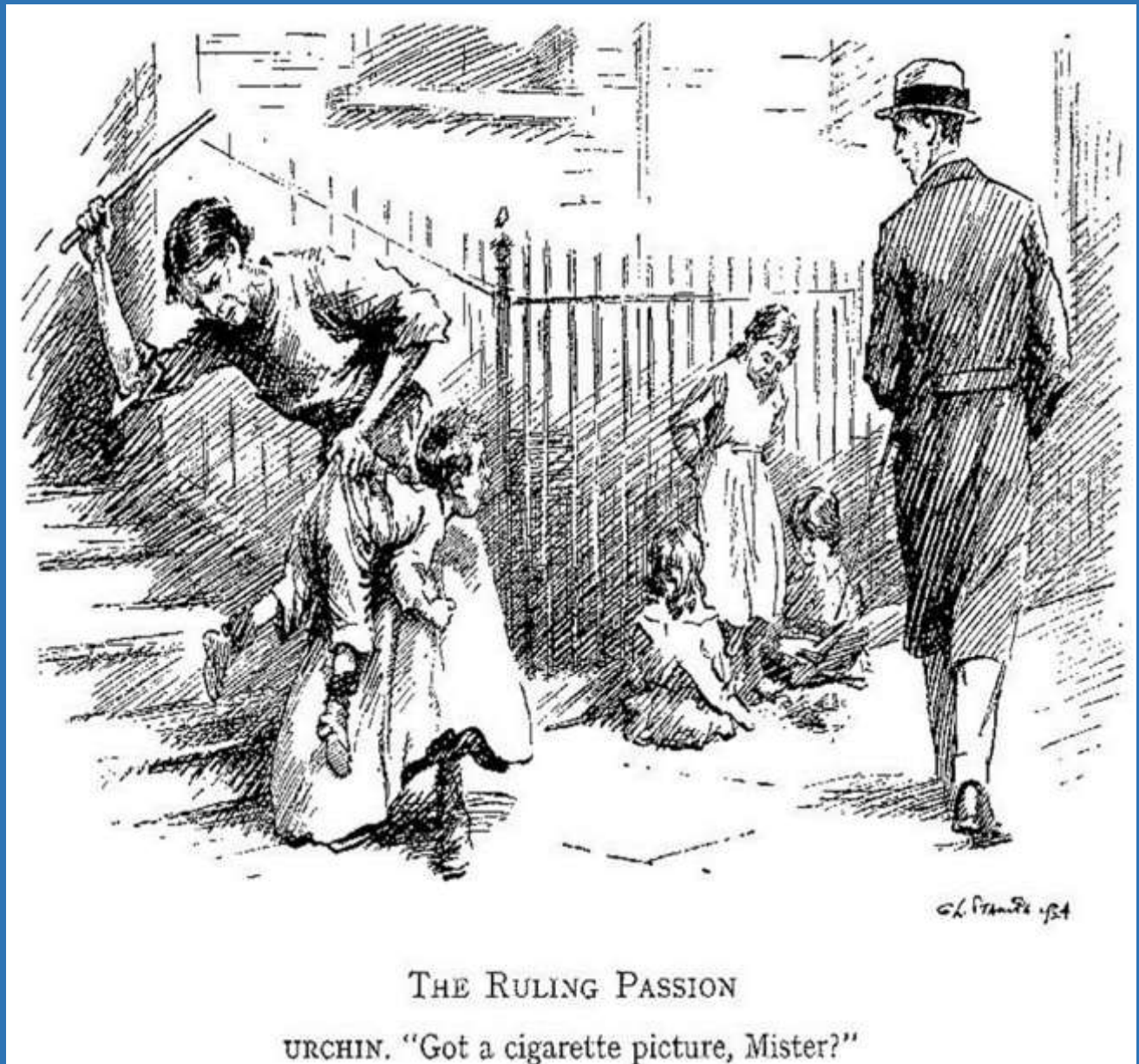


# SOME HARD HITTING CARTOONS



*The New Punch Library*

Cartoon on the cover from *The New Punch Library*, Volume 5, Pg 161

# SOME HARD HITTING CARTOONS

*Compiled from  
The New Punch Library*



Shekhar Singh Collections



Ghodi Publications  
New Delhi  
2022





## THE NEW "PUNCH" LIBRARY

### TWENTY VOLUMES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Mr. Punch's Cavalcade :<br>A Revue of Thirty Years | 11. Mr. Punch Goes Motoring            |
| 2. Mr. Punch in Mayfair                               | 12. Mr. Punch's Country Manners        |
| 3. Mr. Punch in the Family Circle                     | 13. Mr. Punch in Holiday Mood          |
| 4. Mr. Punch After Dinner                             | 14. Mr. Punch on the Links             |
| 5. Mr. Punch's Children's Hour                        | 15. Mr. Punch in London Town           |
| 6. Mr. Punch and the Arts                             | 16. Mr. Punch on His Travels           |
| 7. Mr. Punch and the Services                         | 17. Mr. Punch and Toby's Friends       |
| 8. Mr. Punch with Horse and<br>Hound                  | 18. Mr. Punch's Sports and<br>Pastimes |
| 9. Mr. Punch's Theatricals                            | 19. Round the Year with<br>Mr. Punch   |
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BY R. & R. CLARK LIMITED EDINBURGH

Not dated, but reportedly published in the mid - 1930s

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## Pre-farce

These seventy odd cartoons have been selected and compiled from the twenty volume set of cartoons and funny stories and remarks, titled *The New "Punch" Library*.

The first thing that strikes the adult reader when she or he starts browsing through these volumes is that they have no date of publication, and apart from the occasional date either below a few of the cartoonist signature, or a date or two given after a quoted news-item or some such, the collection is mainly timeless, perhaps seeking to prove by example that humour, especially good humour, is timeless.

A careful scrutiny of all the dates that appear in different volumes reveals that perhaps the last year mentioned is 1935, thereby leading to the reasonable assumption that these volumes were published sometimes between 1935 and 1939. Why not after that? Because in 1939 the Second World War started and it was unlikely that this magnificent set would have been produced during the war, and especially without cracking even a single joke about the Second World War.

It also appears to be the first compilation of so many cartoons, on such varying topics (see the list of titles on page ii), or at least the first one to have survived till today. If you search the web you can still find occasional volumes for sale, over 90 years or so after it was published.

Of course, I myself did not come across these volumes as an adult reader. I was first introduced to them when I was about seven years old and started to live with my maternal grandmother (*nani*). Though my *nani* never had any formal education and could neither read nor write English, she had carefully and proudly and prominently displayed the whole Punch set in her room because it belonged to my grand father, who had died many years back. My *nani* used to tell me how he used to sit thumbing through these volumes, chuckling and laughing to himself for hours.

I had also not yet learnt to read or write in either English or Hindi (though I talked endlessly in both), mainly because my father, who was a civil servant, was posted in small, remote, towns where there were no suitable schools to send me - my mother flatly refused to send my sister and I to the same school where all the servant's children studied, and there were no other schools. My sister, who was elder, was consequently sent to a fancy boarding school at Shimla, the erstwhile summer capital of British India, but they could not afford to send both of us, so I was to be tutored at home.

However, that did not work out too well as I became adept at giving my tutor the slip on most days.

Consequently, I landed up living with my nani and attending my first real school at the age of seven.

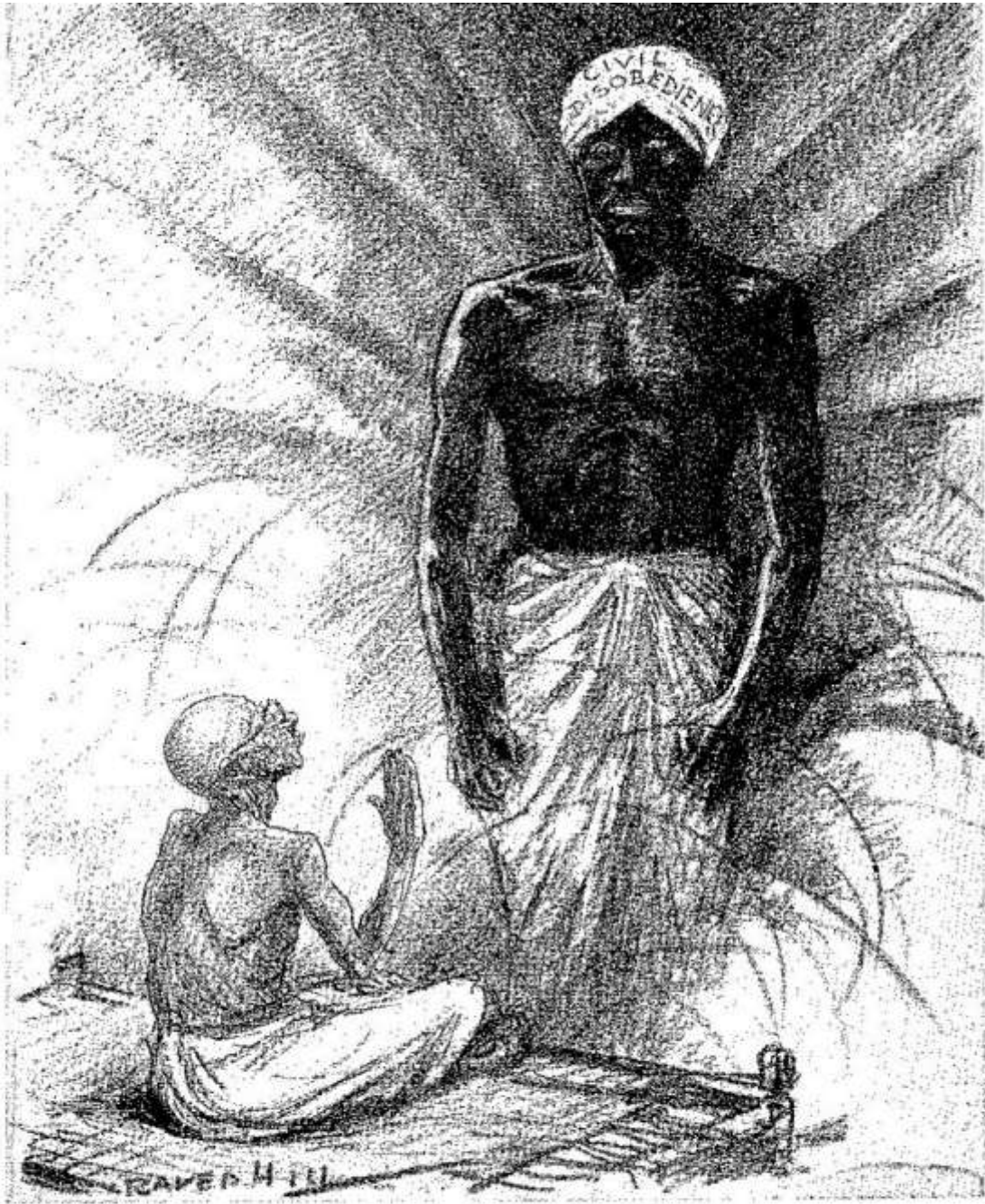
But nevertheless I was fascinated by the Punch volumes, even though I could neither read nor understand the captions. I remember looking at the sketches and imagining all sorts of plots and dialogues - something I could do for hours and get lost in my own make-believe world.

It was only much later that I realised how much these twenty volumes, and the hours I spent daydreaming about them, shaped my personality and gave me an eternally warped sense of humour. When I started studying philosophy for my masters, I discovered to my amazement how much philosophical wisdom was inherent in humour, especially in the non-slapstick variety. I am now convinced that the best way to communicate and appreciate profound philosophical ideas is to seriously joke about them. Many of the cartoons compiled here have this inherent message!

Shekhar Singh  
2022



## Clever Responses and Repartee



A FRANKENSTEIN OF THE EAST  
GANDHI. "Remember—no violence; just disobedience."  
GENIE. "And what if I disobey you?"

(March 12, 1930)

Source: The New Punch Library, V 1, Pg 215

## Clever Responses and Repartee



MENTAL SPECIALIST. "And that habit of talking to yourself—there's nothing to worry about that."  
PATIENT. "Perhaps not; but I'm such a dam bore."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 2, Pg 163

## Clever Responses and Repartee



WIFE. "Ever since I was a child I have suffered from an inferiority complex."  
HUSBAND. "Nonsense, Mabel; they haven't been invented so long as that."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg 145



## Clever Responses and Repartee



GUSHING LADY. "Yes, she's married to a lawyer, and a good honest fellow too."

CYNIC. "Bigamist!"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 4, Pg 65

## Clever Responses and Repartee



SURGEON. "Feet sore, eh? Where do they hurt you most?"

PRIVATE. "Well, Sir, it ain't so much when we're on the march; but when we're halted it's somethin' dreadful, Sir!"

SURGEON. "Oh, indeed! Well, the next time you halt, you just mark time!"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 7, Pg 108

## Clever Responses and Repartee



GENERAL (*at manoeuvres*). "Why the Dickens didn't you send your platoon to the left of the wood?"

SUB. "I gave the order, Sir, but apparently I've been misunderstood."

GENERAL. "Sir, a man who can't make his subordinates understand him is an infernal fool. Do you understand me?"

SUB. "No, Sir."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 7, Pg 109



## Clever Responses and Repartee



"Tell me—what does your work mean?"  
"That, Sir, is a secret between Art and Myself."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 6, Pg 198

## Clever Responses and Repartee



GOUTY GRANDPARENT. "What was all yon noise about?"  
GIRL. "Oh, I was only singing to kill time."  
GOUTY GRANDPARENT. "Weel, ye hae a varra guid weapon for the purpose."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 10, Pg 33

## Clever Responses and Repartee

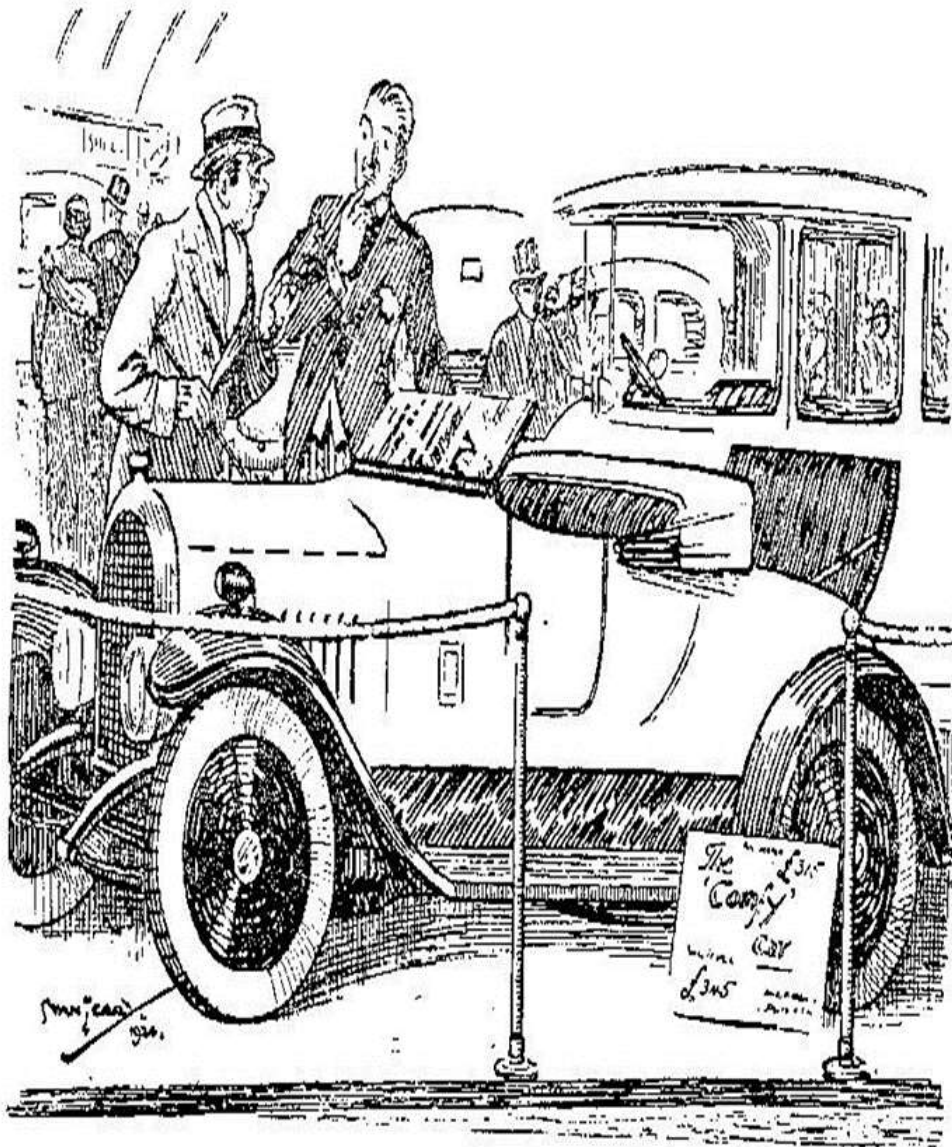


HOST. "Hoots, man! Yer shairly no gangen the noo! The nicht's jest begun."

GUEST. "Na, I'm no gangen; but I thocht I wad jest say guid-nicht while I recognise ye!"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 10, Pg 87

## Clever Responses and Repartee



### AT THE MOTOR-SHOW

SALESMAN. "This is the type of car that pays for itself, Sir."

PROSPECTIVE CUSTOMER. "Right! As soon as it's done that, you can send it along."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 11, Pg 136



## Clever Responses and Repartee



GROCER. "Now, my man, the butter you brought us last week—every packet of it weighed only fifteen ounces."

FARMER'S MAN. "Well, to be sure, Sir, we'd lost our one-pound weight; but we took one of your pound packets of tea to weigh it with."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 37



## Clever Responses and Repartee



POLICEMAN. "We want you to take part in an identity parade. You won't be kept five minutes."

LOAFER. "They told me that yarn before, an' I was kept six months."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 11

## Clever Responses and Repartee



"D'you serve lobsters?"  
"Yessir, we serve anybody."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 98

## Clever Responses and Repartee



AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE. "Say, Keeper, I'd like to have your Zoological Gardens for my lil boy."  
KEEPER. "Thank you, Sir. And we'd like to have your little boy for our Zoological Gardens."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 128

## Clever Responses and Repartee



"I'm taking my boy to the Zoo."  
"Indeed! I'm sending mine to Eton."

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol 2, p 168



## Clever Responses and Repartee



FIRST RED. "Lovely morning, Comrade."  
SECOND RED. "Yes; but the bloomin' rich can enjoy it as well."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 152

## Clever Responses and Repartee



BROWN (slapping total stranger on back). "Hullo, old man, haven't seen you for an age. Don't you remember me?"  
STRANGER. "I don't remember your face, but your manner's very familiar."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 161

## Clever Responses and Repartee



THE ANGLER. "My boy, you never saw such a fish in your life. But, curse him! he got away from me."  
THE OTHER (*hopefully*). "Did he? How?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 19. Pg 139

## Clever Responses and Repartee



"Don't you think I should look rather a fool in uniform?"  
"Well, of course, my dear fellow, it isn't much of a disguise."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 20, Pg 42



## Clever Responses and Repartee



CABBY. "I 'ad a beard like yours once, but when I found what it made me look like, I got it cut off."

BUSSY. "An' I 'ad a face like yours once, an' when I found I *couldn't* get it cut off, I grew a beard."

(December 27, 1905)

Source: The New Punch Library, v1, p 36

## Clever Responses and Repartee



WAITER (to returned reveller). "But you've already dined, Sir."  
REVELLER. "Phew! It's those dam revolvin' doors!"

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 4, p 32

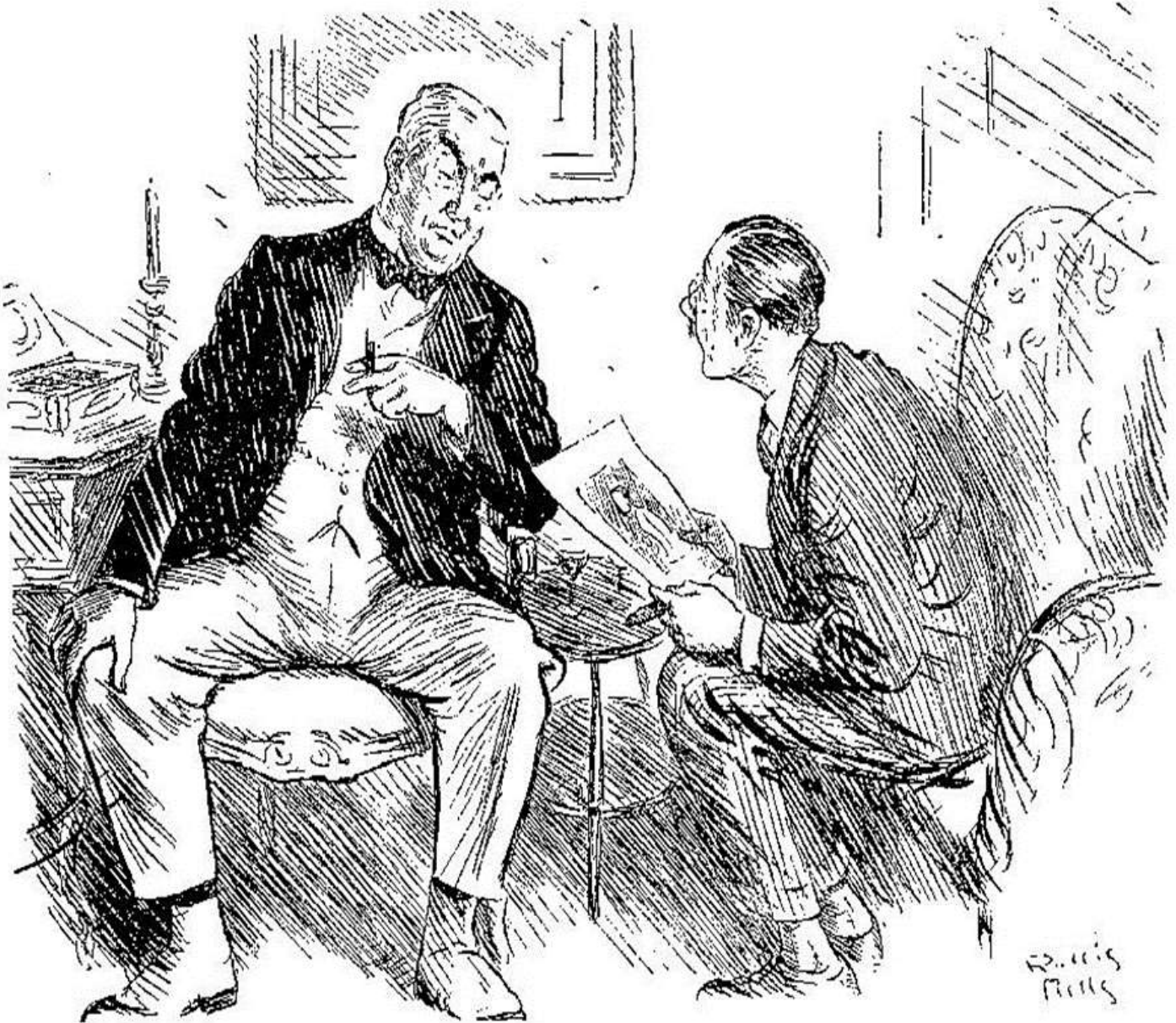
## Clever Responses and Repartee



INQUISITIVE GENTLEMAN. "Pray can you tell me, Sir, as a matter of scientific interest, what it is exactly that makes you so fond of animals?"  
OWNER OF DOG. "They don't ask questions."

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 17, p 121

## Daughters!!

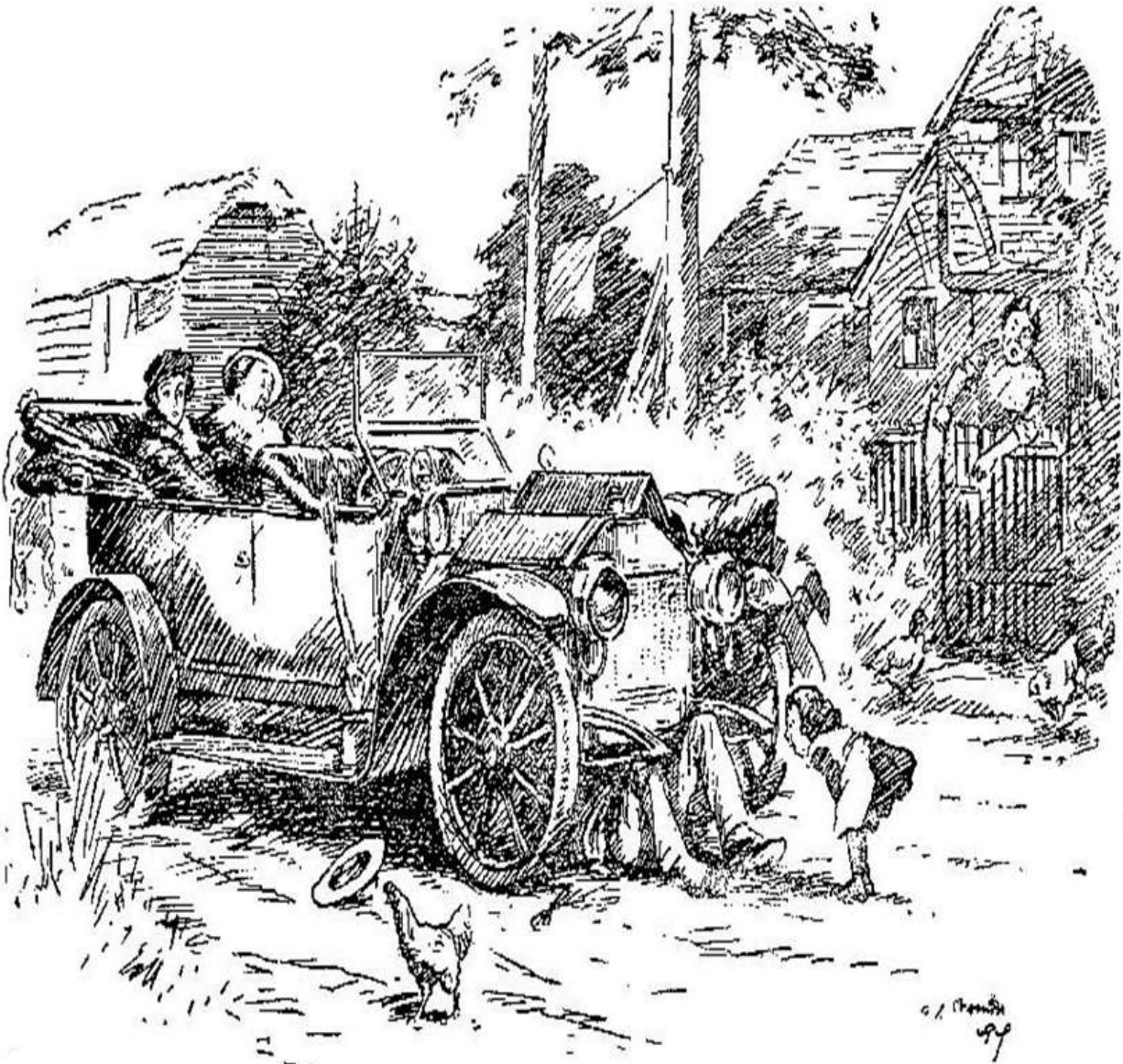


"But didn't you find it very expensive having your daughter at college?"  
"Yes—but nothing like having her in London supporting herself."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg 80



## Daughters!!



COTTAGER. "I've told you twice to come in, Lizzie. If you get run over it won't be my fault."

OWNER OF CAR (*from underneath*). "Or mine."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 11, Pg 137

## Daughters!!



### OUR EXPENSIVE DAUGHTERS

"I've completely fallen for your father. Such a nice figure, and I adore his grey hair."

"So glad, darling. The hair is my doing."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 13, Pg 154

## Daughters!!



“Oh, do look, Mummie! Jack’s yawning with his legs.”

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol 17, p 198

# Daughters!!



## THE AGE OF MECHANISM

"Daddy, is that elephant weal?"

"Of course not, dear. It's just a toy."

"Gwacious! I know that, Daddy. I mean is it a weal toy or just a toy toy?"



## Daughters!!



"Why is there a hole at the bottom of each flower-pot?"  
"That's in case the bulb is put in the wrong way up."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 5, Pg 142

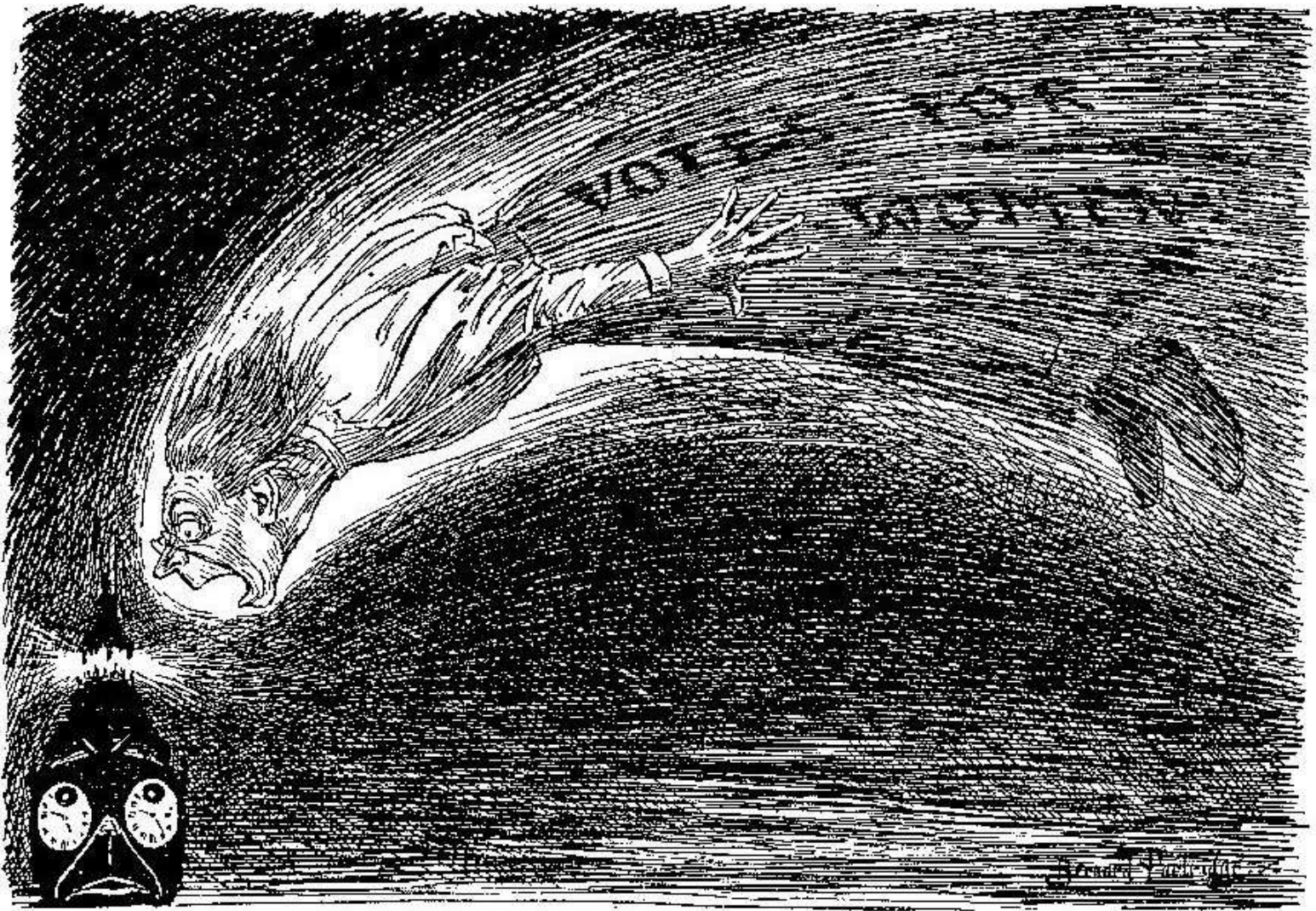
## Daughters!!



POLICEMAN (*making survey to investigate burglary*). "It's easy to see there's been old hands at work here, lady."

HOUSEHOLDER. "Oh, they didn't come in here. This is my daughter's room; she's been dressing for a dance."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg 201



THE COMING PERILETTE: A SKY-SIGN OF THE TIMES

[A scientist announces the threatened impact of a comet which is to reduce the earth to ashes. Other scientists assert that the earth will easily survive its advent. For the moment the topic has been "talked out."]

(March 13, 1907)

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 1, Pg. 54



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



THE SUFFRAGETTE THAT KNEW JIU-JITSU  
The Arrest.

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 1, Pg. 55

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



MILITANT SUFFRAGIST (*after long and futile efforts to light a fire for her tea-kettle*).  
“And to think that only yesterday I burnt two pavilions and a church!”

Many buildings were fired by Suffragettes. (June 4, 1913)

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 1, p 56a

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



MILITANT. "Now, isn't that provoking? Here's a lovely big house to let and I've forgotten my matches!!"

(July 2, 1913)

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 1, p 56b

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



### IN OXFORD STREET

OVER-ZEALOUS P.C. (*suspicious of concealed hammer*). "Now then, none of that. Move on, there!" PERFECTLY INNOCENT YOUNG LADY. "Then perhaps you will kindly blow my nose for me."

In 1913 there was an outbreak of shop-window smashing by Suffragettes.

Source: The New Punch Library, v1, p 57



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

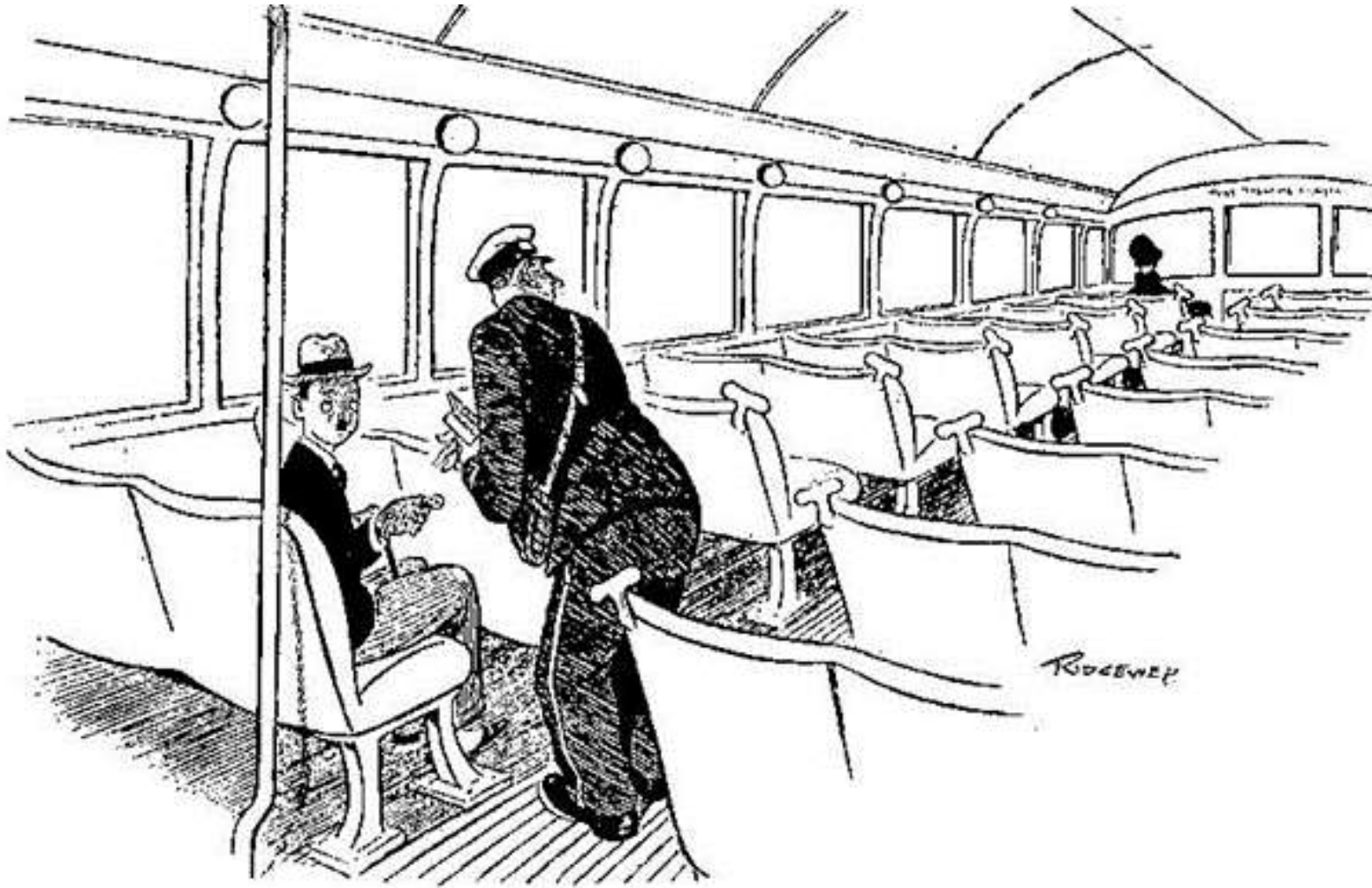


YOUNG BRIDE. "Isn't it wicked of us? We've bought a car."  
HOSTESS. "How I envy you!"  
YOUNG BRIDE. "But you have heaps of cars."  
HOSTESS. "I mean the thrill of not being able to afford it."

Source: The New Punch Library, V2, Pg 11



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



PASSENGER. "Two to Castle Square, please."

CONDUCTOR. "Two?"

PASSENGER (*feeling explanation is due*). "Yes, the lady in front—my wife. Unfortunately we've just had a slight difference of opinion."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg. 20

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



OLD GENTLEMAN. "I see that in London a man is run over every half-hour."  
OLD LADY. "Poor fellow!"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg. 69

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



PROFITEER'S WIFE. "Have *all* flowers got Latin names?"  
FLORIST. "Yes, Madam."  
PROFITEER'S WIFE. "Even the common ones?"  
FLORIST. "Yes, Madam."  
PROFITEER'S WIFE. "Isn't nature wonderful?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 4, Pg. 64

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

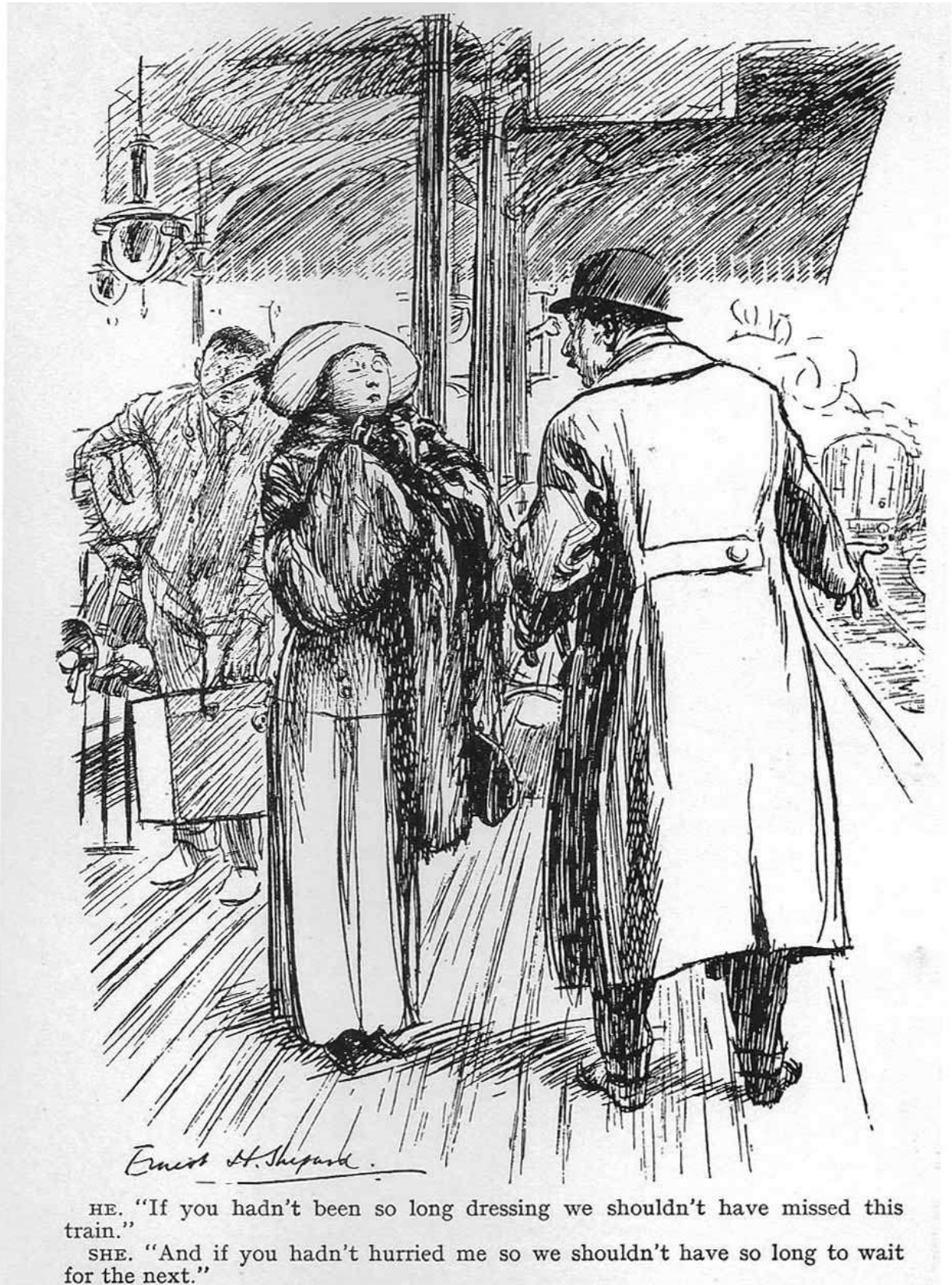


"Oh, George, a horrible thing has happened! You know that mousetrap you brought home? Well, there's a mouse in it."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 4, Pg. 196



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg. 69



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



"I want a garden-roller; the size I leave to your discretion. This is the gentleman who will use it."

Source: The New Punch Library, vol 3, p 18

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



DISTRICT VISITOR. "I thought the doctor put you on a light diet, Lizzie?"  
LIZZIE. "I've 'ad me diet, Miss Smith, and now I'm 'aving me dinner."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 86

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

### The over conscientious maid



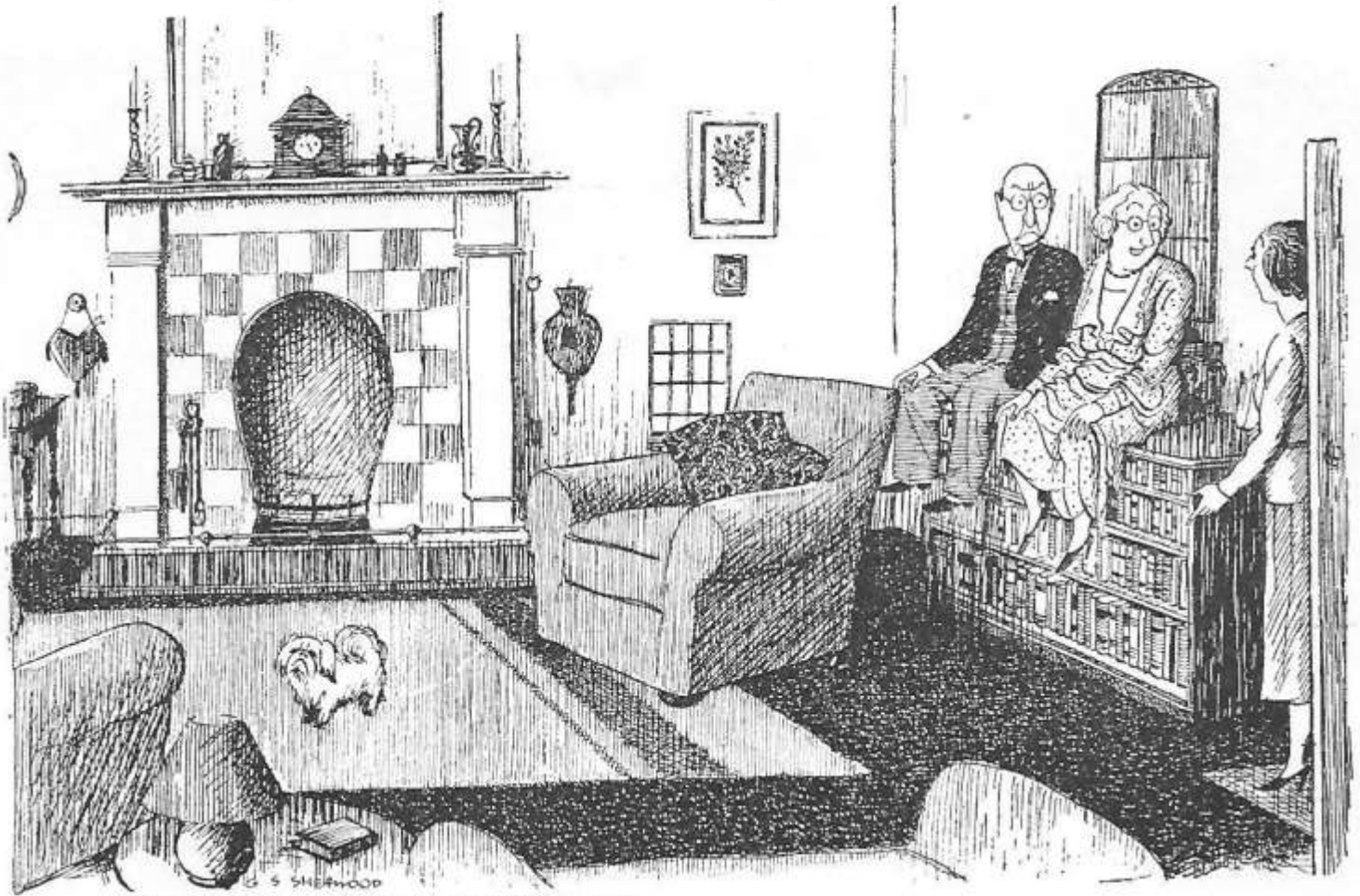
#### CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

*Mary Anne, after spending a morning on the shore, is told by her mistress to take the children home.*

MARY ANNE. "Yes, 'm; but, please, 'm, must I tidy up the beach first?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 13, Pg 155

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



"May I have a chair in here now, Mother?"  
"Just a little more patience, darling. Boo-Boo hasn't *quite* decided where he would like to sit."

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol 17, p 27



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



FOREIGNER (to lady who has asked about his nationality). "I am an Alsatian."  
LADY. "Really! I quite thought all Alsations were dogs."

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol 17, p 63



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



### THE SLIMMING CRAZE

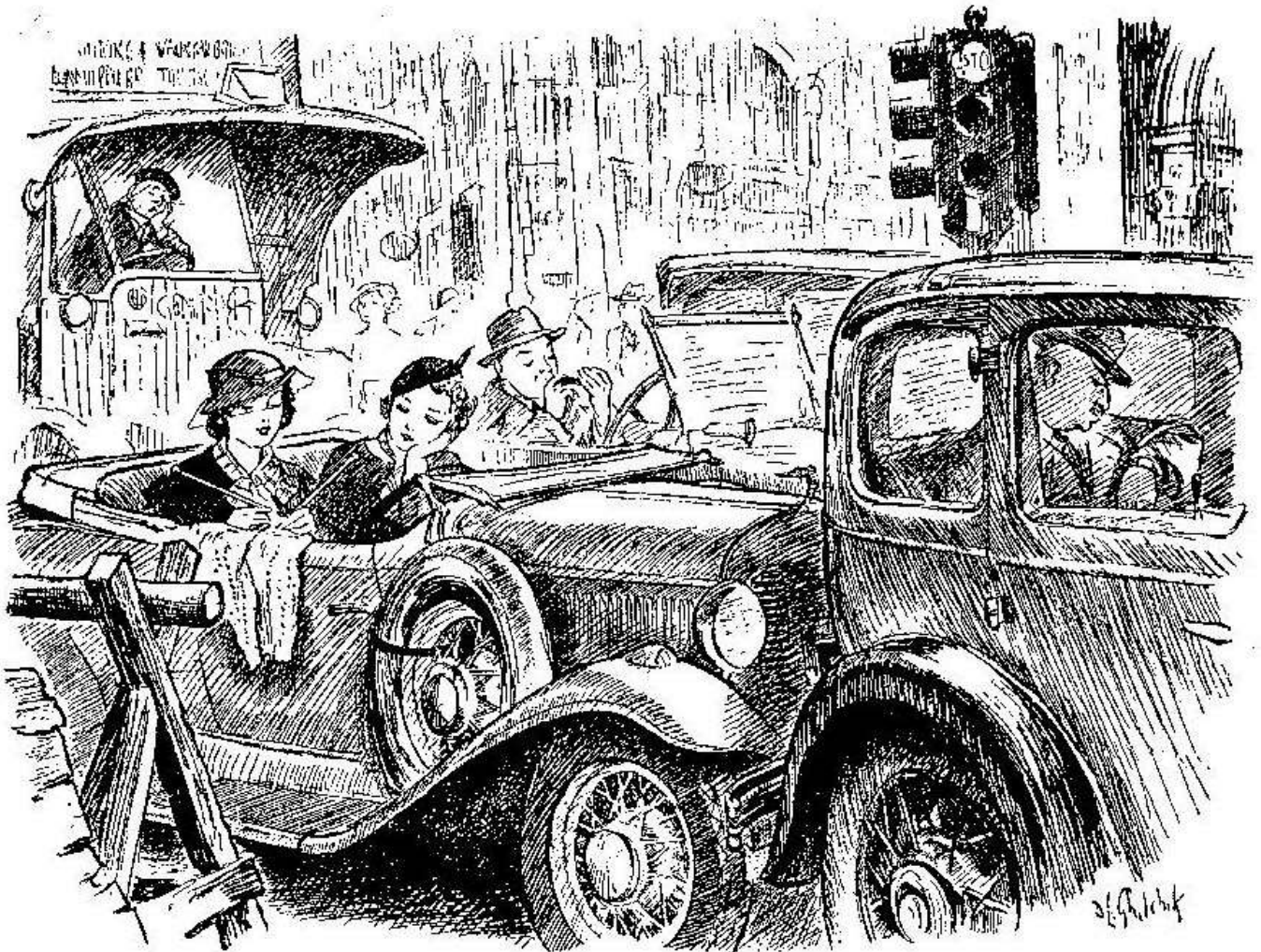
DOCTOR. "And do you drink at meals?"

PATIENT. "Don't be silly, Doctor. Why, I don't even *eat* at meals."

Source: The New Punch Library, Source: V 3, p 26

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

Trust a woman to find the good in everything



"One more traffic block, darling, and I'll have finished my jumper."

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol. 15, p10

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

### Perfect Manners



OLD LADY (at Waxworks). "Can you kindly direct me to—(realising her mistake)—Oh! I beg your pardon."

Source: The New Punch Library V 15 Pg 124

# Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

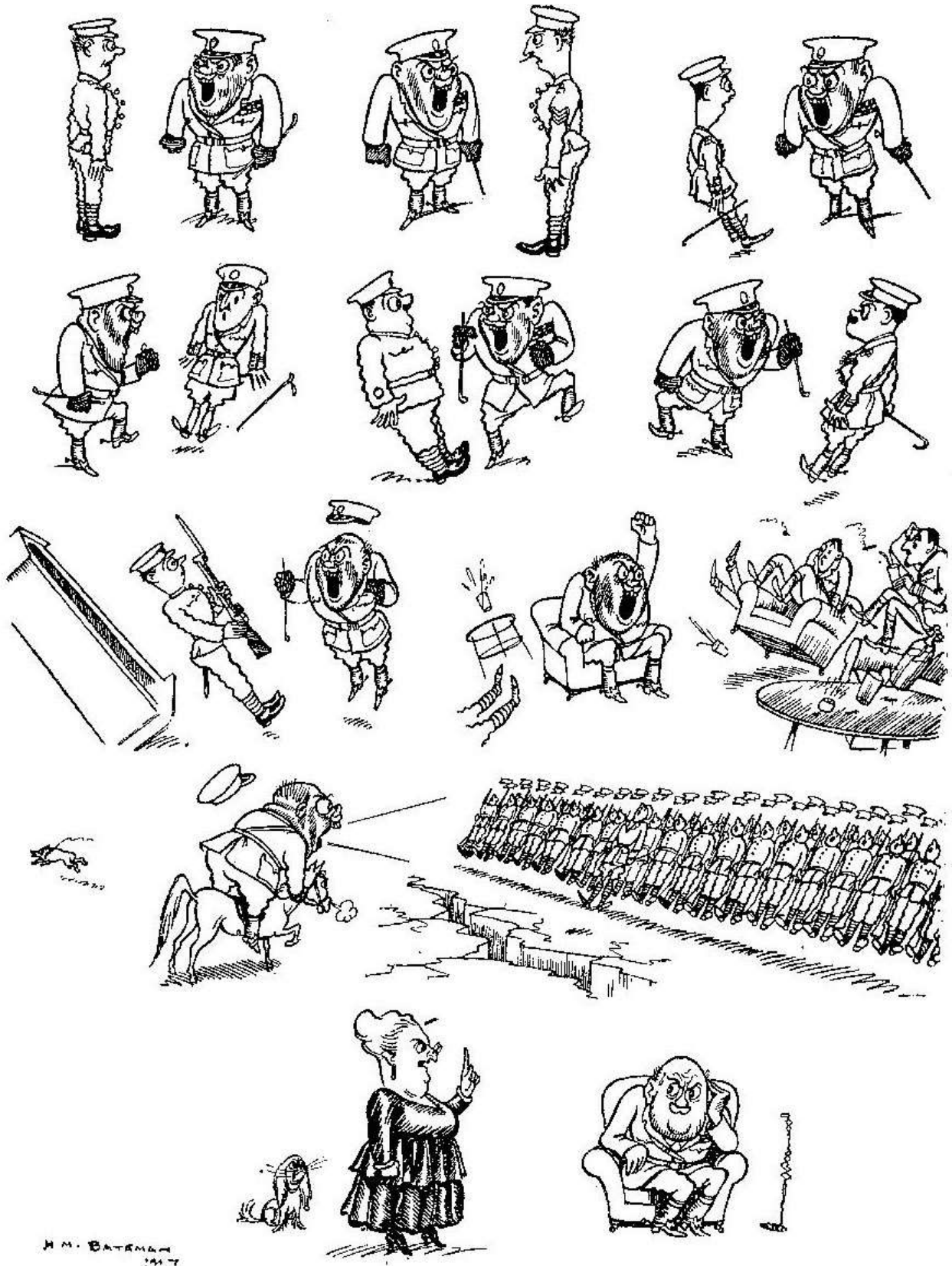
## Home-made Munitions



Source: The New Punch Library, Vol.20, p 130



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit

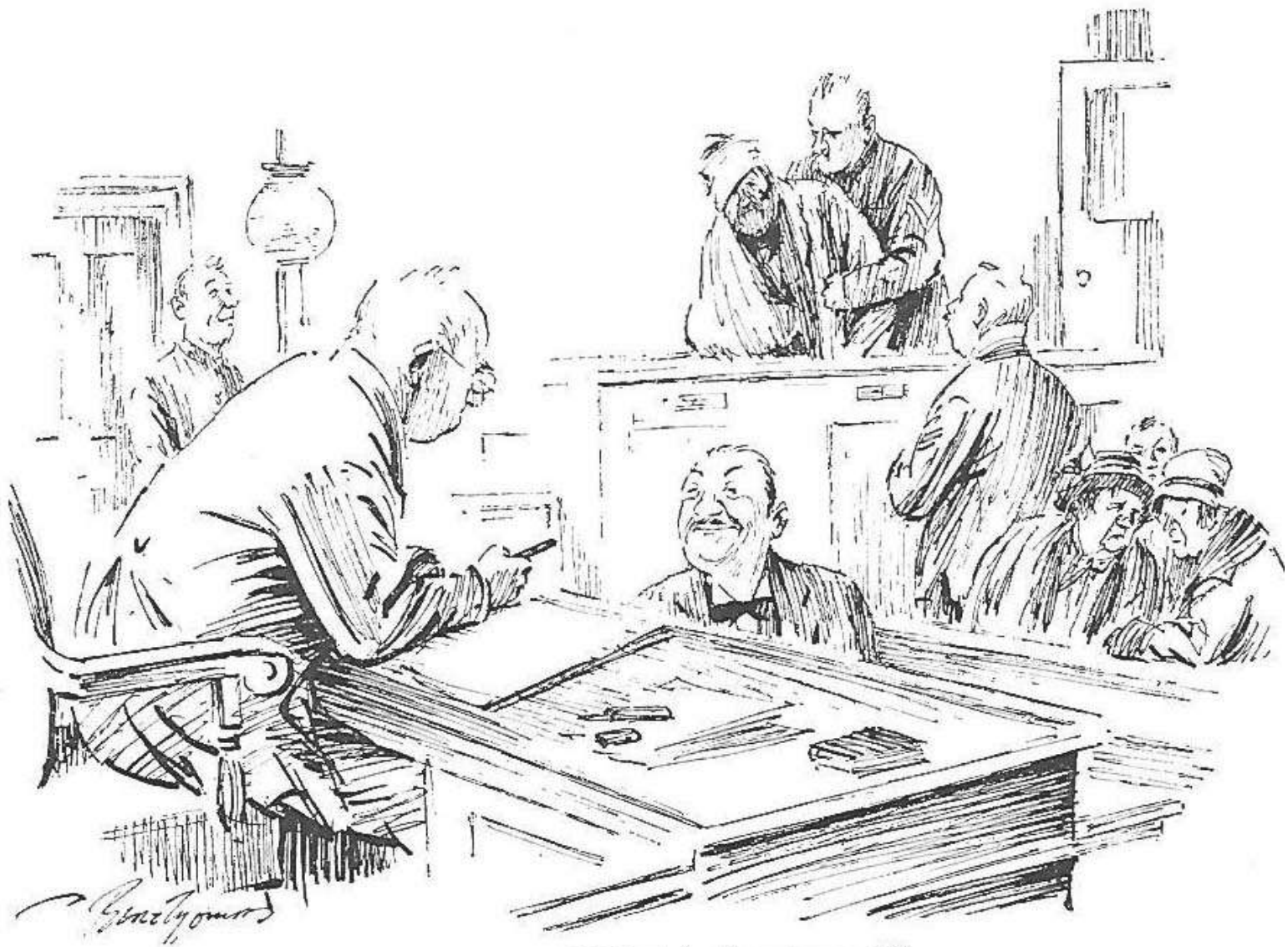


THE C.O.: A MAN'S MAN

Source: The New Punch Library, Vol. 20, p 218



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



MAGISTRATE. "What's the charge?"  
CLERK. "Attempted wife-beating."

Source: The New Punch Library, v 3, p78

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



HUSBAND. "I do wish, Althea, that ye'd stop living beyond our means to impress the Smythes, simply because *they're* living beyond *their* means to impress *us*."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg 81

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



MISTRESS (*improving the shining hour*). "Remember that difficulties and troubles help to strengthen the character."

MAID-OF-ALL-WORK. "I 'ope you'll remember it when you 'as to write mine."



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



THE WIFE. "I've just shown him the bill for this hat and——"  
HER MOTHER. "Oh, Laura, your extravagance will——"  
THE WIFE. "And he said, 'Why didn't you get a better one?'"



## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



POLICEMAN. "Is this one of the burglars, Ma'am?"  
LADY. "No, that's my husband. You told me on the phone to leave everything as I found it."

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



JANE. "I've something on me mind, 'Arry, that I hardly knows how to tell yer."

'ARRY. "Aht wiv it."

JANE. "I'm afraid yer won't marry me if I tells yer."

'ARRY. "Aht wiv it."

JANE. "I'm a sonambulist, 'Arry."

'ARRY (after prolonged pause). "Never mind, Jane, it'll be all right. If there ain't no chapel for it, we'll be married at a registry."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 155

## Feminine Power, Logic, and Wit



CLERGYMAN. "Wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife?"  
BRIDE (*grimly*). "He will."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 3, Pg 108



## Indomitable Spirit



G. L. Francis 1934

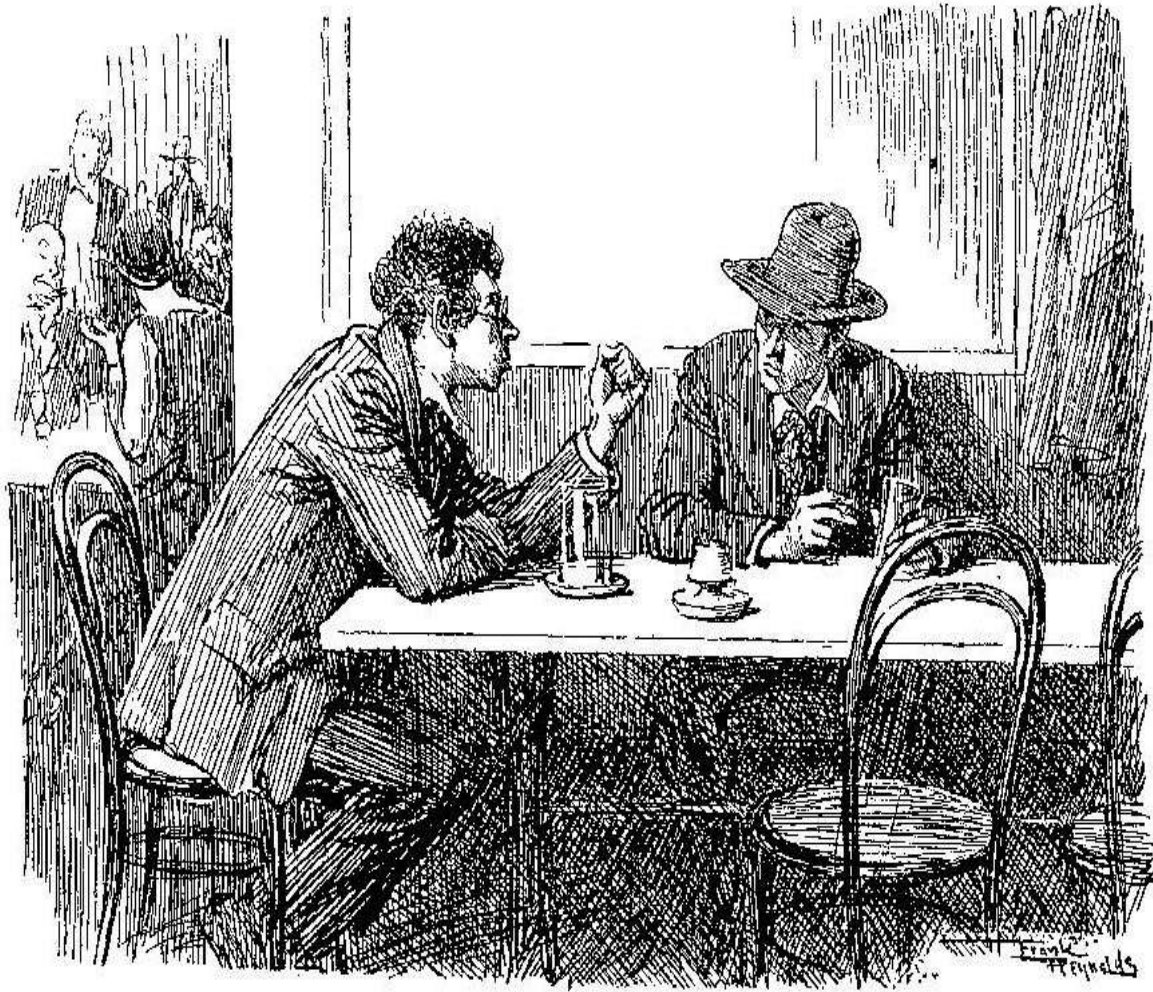
### THE RULING PASSION

URCHIN. "Got a cigarette picture, Mister?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 5, Pg 161



## Indomitable Spirit



MODERNIST (*discussing the Academy*). "Well, they've chucked all my things—but they shan't cow me into doing the understandable stuff."

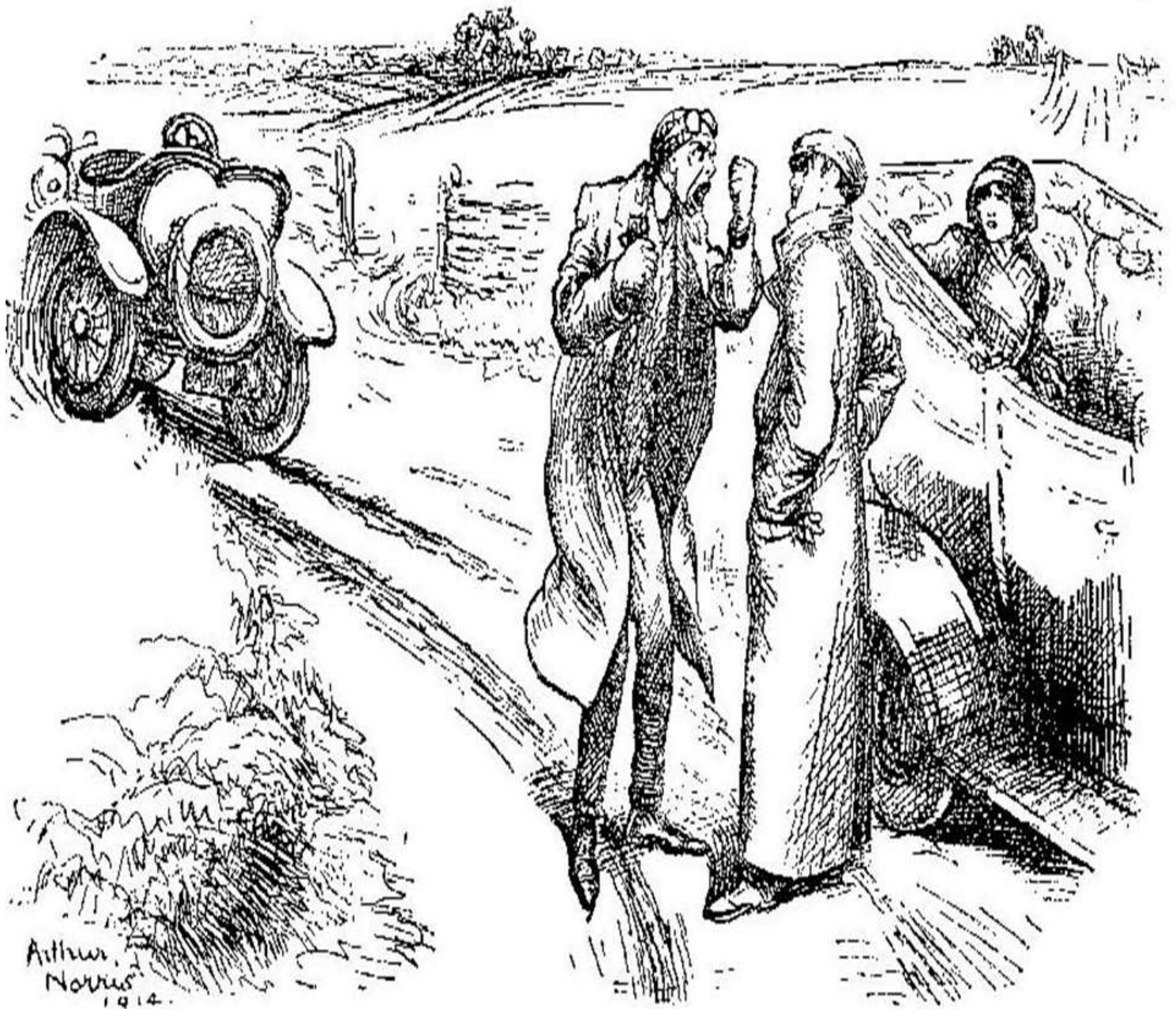
Source: The New Punch Library, V 6, Pg 199

## Indomitable Spirit



"I 'ear you're actin' on the stage, Billy?"  
"Yus. I'm first banana in the fruit scene!"

## Indomitable Spirit

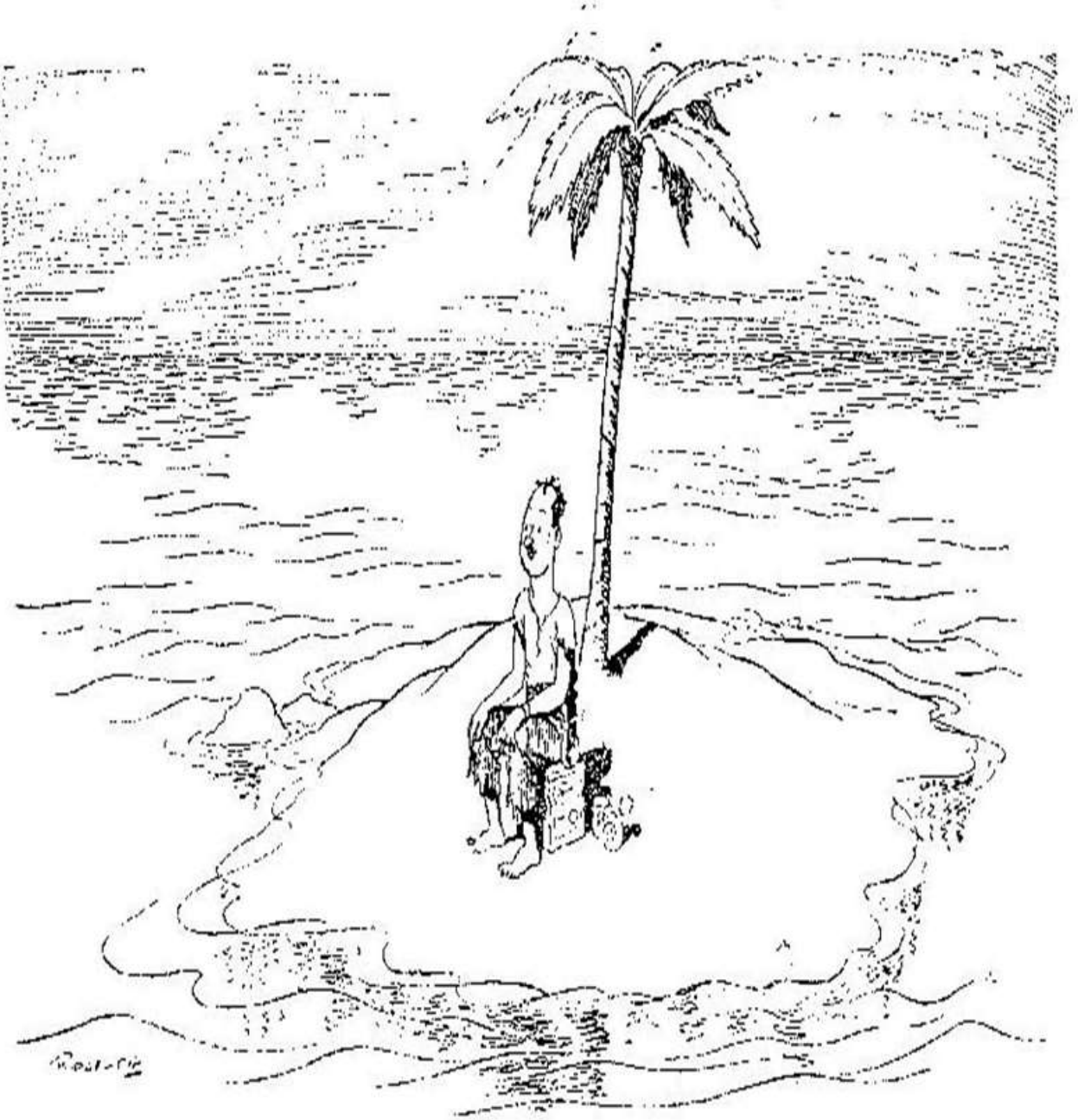


FIRST MOTORIST (*after very narrow shave*). "But *why* all this fuss? We haven't damaged you. You can't bring an action against us."

SECOND MOTORIST. "I *know* I can't, Sir, I *know* I can't; that's just my point."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 11, Pg 105

## Indomitable Spirit



THE SOLE SURVIVOR. "Ah, well, anyway this settles the question of Aunt Caroline's New Year's Gift."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 19, Pg 19



## Indomitable Spirit



"Now, Sonny, I wouldn't cry that way."  
"Cry as you blooming well please—this is my way!"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 5, Pg 167

## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



Source: The New Punch Library, V 5, Pg 76

## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



SHOOTING TENANT. "Man, Sandy, you're not looking a day older since I saw you last season. What would be your age now?"

SANDY. "Weel, I count ma sheep and I count ma siller, but I never count ma years—ye canna lose onny o' them."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 10, Pg 128



## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



REPORTER. "To what do you attribute your great age?"  
OLDEST INHABITANT. "I bain't sure yet, Sir. There be several o' them patent med'cine companies as is bargainin' with me."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 148



## Profoundly Funny Logic!!

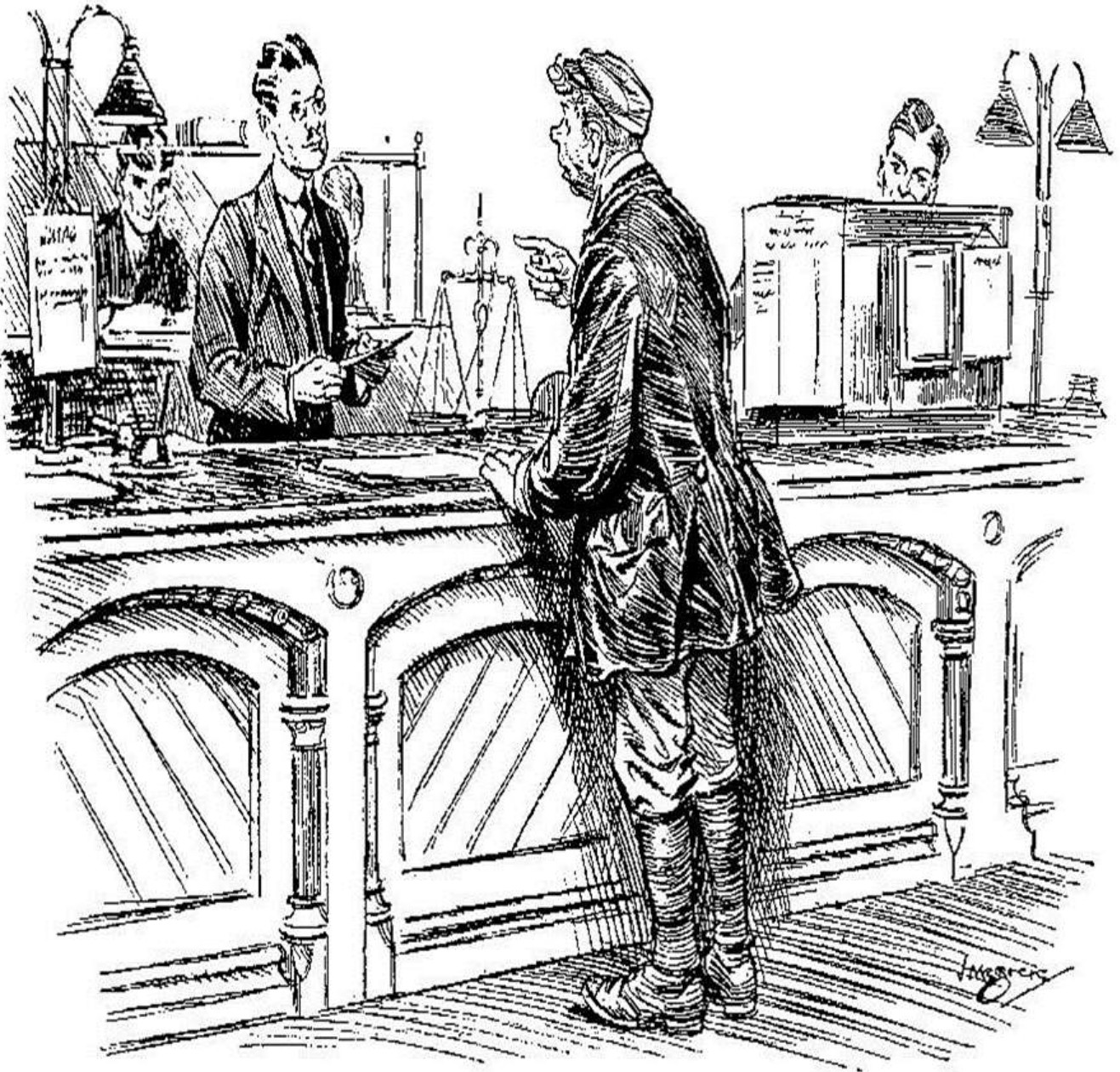


OLD LADY FROM THE COUNTRY. "I've asked four porters, and they all tell me different."

PORTER. "What can yer expect, Missus, if yer asks four different porters?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 36

## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



BANK CLERK. "Do I understand that you wish to withdraw the whole amount?"

CUSTOMER. "No, it ain't that. I just wanted to count it to see as how it's all right."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 12, Pg 22

## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



CUSTOMER. "Have you forgotten my poached egg—or didn't I order it—or have I eaten it?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 206



## Profoundly Funny Logic!!

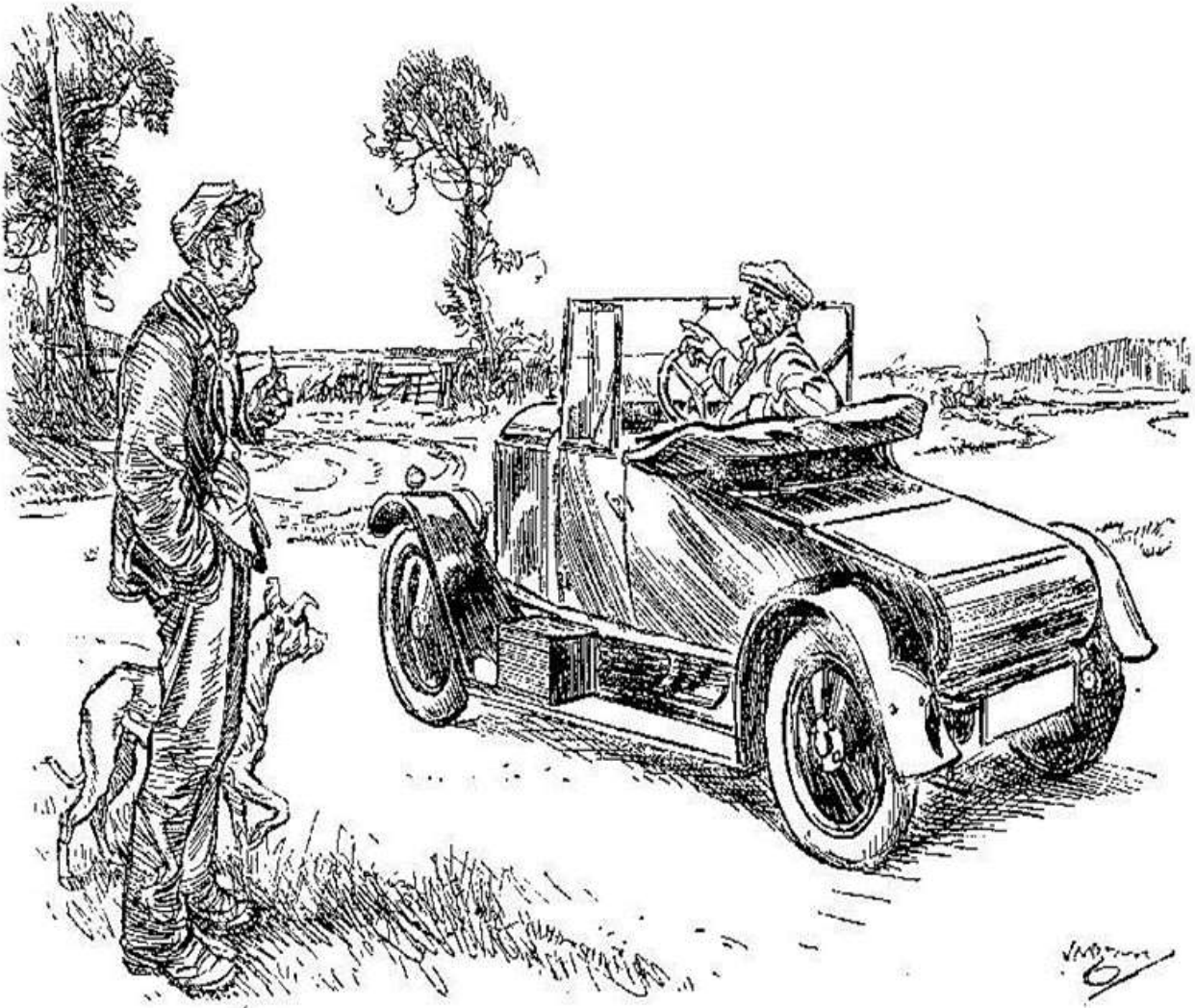


SMALL BOY (*much interested in Shopman's reason for high price of eggs*). "But mummy, how do the hens *know* we're at war with Germany"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 20, Pg 74



## Profoundly Funny Logic!!



MOTORIST (*who is lost*). "Is this the road to St. Ives?"

YOKEL. "Dunno."

MOTORIST. "Is that the road to Willingham?"

YOKEL. "Dunno."

MOTORIST. "Well, can you tell me which is the road to Cottenham?"

YOKEL. "Dunno."

MOTORIST (*exasperated*). "Well, you don't seem to know much."

YOKEL. "Maybe not; but I ain't lost."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 11, Pg 104

# This and That

## Foreign Ignorance



“Look, Bert! Comes from India, don’t he? Isn’t he interested in he sea? I daresay it’s the first he’s ever seen it.”

Source: The New Punch Library, V 13, Pg 153

# This and That

## Need Deeper Pockets!

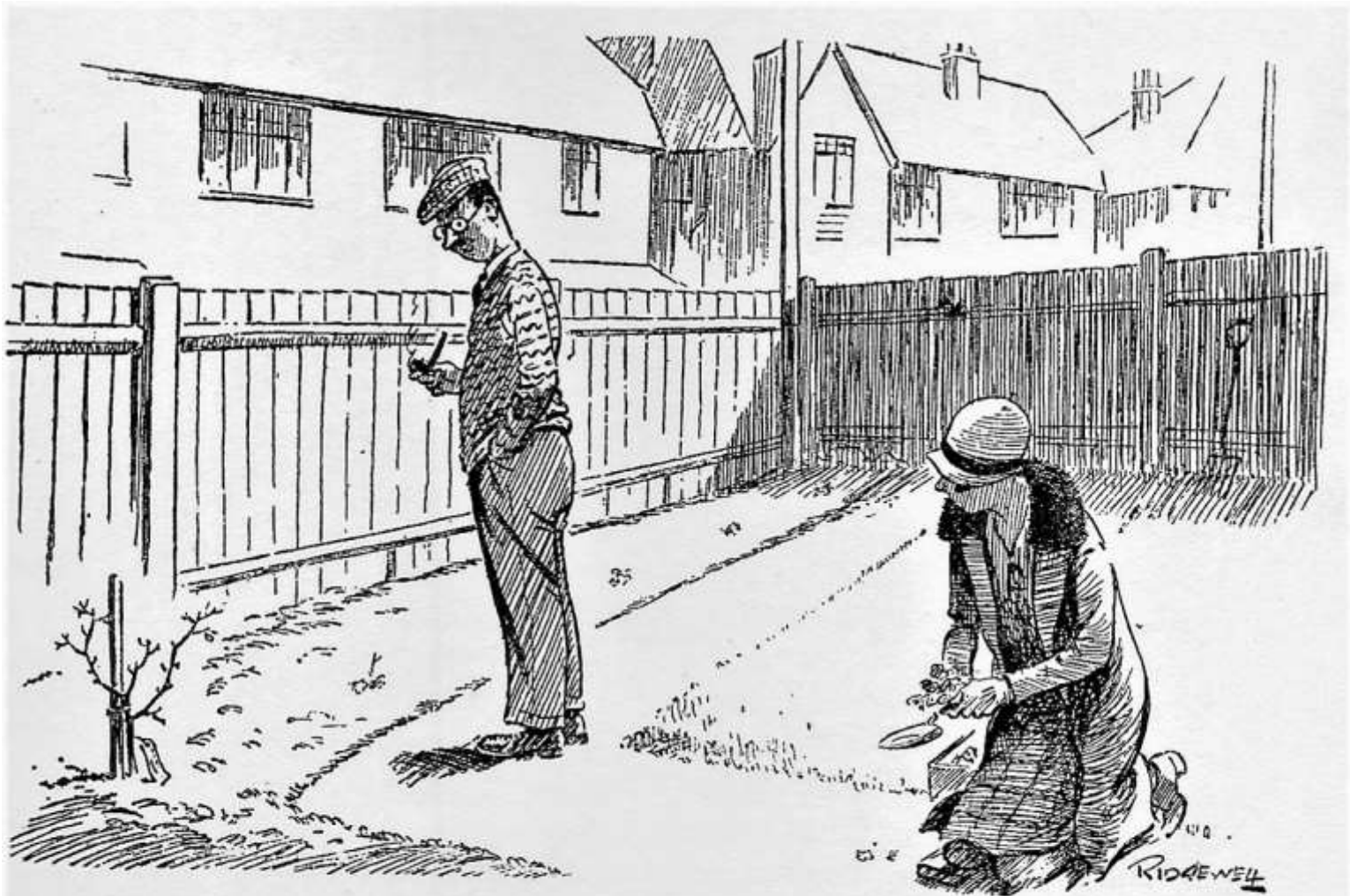


"Can you lend me a couple o' bob, George? I've just had my pocket picked."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 15, Pg 159

# This and That

## Overactive Imagination



“By Jove, Gladys, every time I look at that pear-tree it makes my mouth water.”

Source: The New Punch Library, V3, Pg 21



# This and That

## Reminds You of Someone?



CLUB BORE (*relating long stories about himself*). "Secing you yawn reminds me of a crocodile I once shot. I'll tell you about it."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 2, Pg 81

# This and That

## Right to Information



### SHOULD A PATIENT ASK?

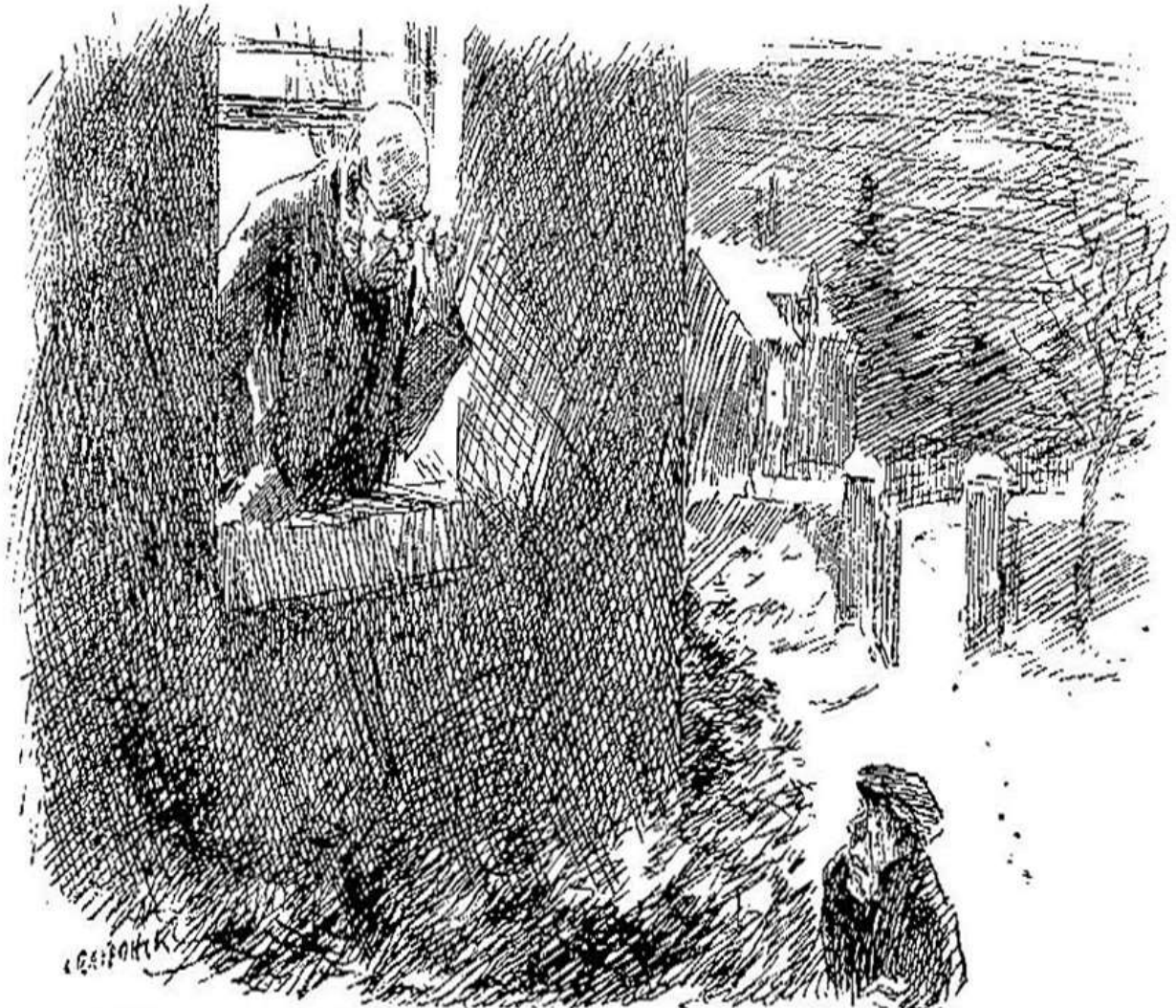
DR. SIMON. "Now don't be alarmed; this instrument is quite harmless. I merely want to sound you."

INDIAN PATIENT. "Well, why can't *I* have one of those ear-pieces and listen-in too?"

Source: The New Punch Library, V 1, Pg 214

# This and That

## Super Miser



HOUSEHOLDER. "An' whit are ye wantin' at this time o' nicht?"

MENDICANT. "Will ye no give me fourpence for a bed?"

HOUSEHOLDER. "Bide a wee and I'll come doon an' tak' a look at it."

Source: The New Punch Library, V 10, Pg 129

