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World and All

By CHARLES DRISCOLL

MEANDERING

THE best portrait of Will Rogers is a photograph taken by a camera man of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram staff. I have a print of it framed in my home . . .



William Somerset Maugham, dramatist and novelist, was educated in medicine, but never practiced. He stutters . . . The rulers of Egypt in the time of Egypt's greatest glory always married their sisters, and were themselves the children of sister-and-brother marriages . . . Marriage of relatives does not cause tuberculosis in offspring, as so many suppose. What it does is to intensify in the offspring any outstanding traits in the parents. If there is a little bit of tuberculosis or genius in the parents, it comes out more strongly in the children of such marriages . . . It is now possible to fly around the world as a passenger on commercial lines . . . It is also possible to fly from New York to Punta Arenas, most southerly city, at the tip of Patagonia . . . Eleanor Roosevelt has quit driving her own car, supposedly on account of the scandals arising out of automobile driving in the family . . . Harvard University is twice as old as the United States of America . . . Compton Mackenzie, novelist, could read nursery rhymes at sight before he was 2 years old, and when he was 6 he had read through his father's large library, including all the works of Dickens and Scott.

This is written on a typewriter in my study, with my right hand in a bloody bandage, only the index finger protruding. A few hours ago I had the hand cut open two ways by a surgeon, after five days of extreme pain, during which I was unable to write at all. That put me five days behind in my schedule, but will not prevent the regular appearance of this column.

In the nearly ten years of its existence this column has never missed publication, six days a week.

Those who write for newspaper syndication (except the few whose matter requires wire transmission) keep from two weeks to a month in advance of publication. This column is usually written about two weeks before it is printed in your newspaper.

Thus, there is a slight headway allowed for such emergencies as I have been experiencing in dealing with a mysteriously infected hand. But one cannot take much advantage of that situation, since most of the two weeks is absolutely required to get the column set up, proved, corrected, and mailed to distant newspapers. I have arrived at the last day of grace. Doctor says I must stay in bed, and under no circumstances use the hand. But Doctor doesn't know the writing game.

Last night, just before going out for the operation on the infected hand, I dictated one column to my niece, who is a very present help in time of trouble. Today I have been ordered to bed. So, while nobody is looking, I steal down to the study and proceed to catch up.

I never cared for the poster by Howard Chandler Christy that was made for the Will Rogers Memorial Fund campaign. I think Christy is a great painter of beautiful women.

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