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Duys Powell) at the lack of mayhem in this film would seem to be a token of ignorance.
W. Stanley Moss.
London, S.W.1.

mystery

that is overcome here, the less needs to be overcome hereafter.

When Lazarus allowed himself to succumb, without much apparent protest, to sickness and death, it was as if he were burying his talent of immortality in the ground! Jesus, on the other hand, used this very occasion to multiply his talent, declaring promptly, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby" (John xi: 4). Significantly he then waited till, according to common belief, Lazarus's spirit had already left his body. Quite undeterred, he then raised him swiftly to resumption of his normal human living.

Both men were undoubtedly blessed by this remarkable raising of a man four days dead. Jesus was no doubt strengthened by it to face the crucifixion and his own burial in a sepulchre; and Lazarus would always be stronger for knowing that disease, death and decomposition yield to life.

So, the raising of one dead, when wrought by an understanding of the ever-presence of Life, is never useless or superfluous. As every man has to work out his own salvation, who can reasonably doubt that each victory of immortality over mortality, here or hereafter, benefits man by its encouraging proof that at no time is he actually separate from everpresent Life and all-supporting Love?

Geith A. Plimmer,
Christian Science Committee
on Publication.
London, W.C.2.

God and Children

SIR.—Mark Staffard advocates that parents should present to their children more than one religious creed so that they may then choose for themselves the one they wish to accept. This attitude seems unreasonable on two grounds.

First, it is obvious that a parent of strong religious conviction could not encourage his child to consider an alternative creed, which he himself did not believe. He naturally wishes to present only that which he firmly believes to be true.

Secondly, is a normal child intellectually capable of making any decision on religion before reaching adolescence? Hardly. Thus this implies a period of childhood doubt, and we feel that a young child needs something definite to follow.

It is only the exceptional child who has had alternatives put before him who will later come to any decision, the vast majority will fall by the wayside.

C. B. C. Boyce,
F. M. Gillespie.

Exeter.

decade—and the new missiles may well be sited elsewhere.

If they cease to be silent, then that will be the end, and despair will be timely. Meanwhile one must welcome these screeching planes as a counterbalance to Russian power. Peace and quiet will survive all this. At sundown a riverside parish very near here is one of the most idyllically peaceful places on earth, and is likely to remain so.

Cassandras from the Academy are respectfully requested to croak elsewhere.

Norman Scarfe.
Woodbridge.

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Gogol

SIR.—In Mr. H. E. Bates's review of D. Magarshack's book on Gogol there are a few inaccuracies which, I feel, ought to be corrected in fairness to all three persons concerned, Mr. Bates, Mr. Magarshack and Gogol himself.

It was not Gorki but Turgenev who remarked that "we are all descended from Gogol's 'The Overcoat'." Chekhov praised not the comedy "Marriage" but the short story "The Carriage." The students of Gogol's life have no doubts today that the "idealised love-affair with a girl who ... turned out to be a prostitute" was totally invented by Gogol himself who tried in this way to explain to his mother his mysterious journey to Lubeck.

G. Zekullin,
Russian Department,
University of Glasgow.

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In the Salerooms

SIR.—I found Miss Lindsay's article on "Mr. Bargain's Good Day" both entertaining and helpful as an introduction to the salerooms; but I feel it only fair to make it clear that the firm of G. F. Hawkins & Son, to which she referred, is one of the oldest and best-run of its kind.

Their temporary premises in Titchborne Street will be replaced next September by salerooms in Marylebone which will be among the most handsome and best-equipped in the country—and the only ones, incidentally, to have an underground car-park for the use of their clients.

Antolycus.
London, W.C.1.

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R.L.S. and Every Man

SIR.—I wonder if any of your readers can help me.

I am pretty certain that somewhere in his writings R. L. S. wrote that "Every man, finally, is his own Doctor of Divinity." The quotation is inaccurate as I have given it. The statement is not.

I should be most grateful for the necessary reference. I thought it was in "Travels with a Donkey," "Lay Morals" or "Virginibus Puerisque" but have vainly searched.

Frank Wallace.
Pelsall.

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