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ten pennies to the smiling, as they do in East Africa? Do away with the halfpenny altogether, and then we shall have a system made up of tens and twenties. Simplicity itself.

P. May.  
Worth Matravers, Dorset.

### Abstract Art

SIR,—If Stephen Lobb has so low a potential for being moved by the formal qualities of a picture that his appreciation is distracted by the fact that he sees therein something associated with things he recognises, that fact must greatly minimise his enjoyment of great painting.

But it is never too late to learn, luckily. If he will take a good colour reproduction of, let us say, Titian's "Bacchus & Ariadne," and study it upside down, he can that way quite well analyse the very complex rhythms which go to make up the great harmony and design of the whole picture, without risk of distracting mental associations concerned with nymphs and satyrs.

Arthur Forbes-Dalrymple.  
London, S.W.3.

### 'Agony of the Congo'

SIR,—In Mr. Tom Stacey's recent review of my book "Agony of the Congo," he wrote: "The reader learns, for instance, of the U.N. doctor who had no other pills to treat his innumerable dysentery cases than those which he had brought for his own personal use. Why did he not have more pills? We are not told."

There is no such passage in my book or in anything I have written. I leave your readers to judge the substance of his other criticisms of a book which was attacked by him because it was "on the side of the U.N."

Ritchie Calder.

Belmont, Surrey.

the proportion of the national resources that is spent on health, education or retirement—but only to reduce the portion of this

until the morons concerned were thrown out on their necks.

Harold Lander.  
London, S.W.18.

## Rubbish by the Sea

From PROFESSOR  
HEADLAM-MORLEY

SIR,—A little more than a year ago a friend of mine, a doctor who lives near Seaford, wrote to the Rural District Council about the rubbish dump at Seaford Head. The Sussex Downsmen and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England also complained. In each case the representative of the council answered that it was a temporary, emergency measure and would come to an end before last Easter.

Far from coming to an end the tipping of rubbish was increased. By last August they were throwing in armchairs, broken dustbins, tins, rags, paper and bottles. Masses of flies swarmed overhead.

It is difficult to see how visitors can be expected to keep the law about litter when a public authority can use one of the most beautiful parts of the English coast for the disposal of refuse.

This part of the downs used to flower each summer with ladies bedstraws, bluegloss, scabious, thyme, century and orchis. Now the fine turf is all churned up by the lorries. Probably nothing will grow on it but couch grass.

It is important that when this operation does come to an end



the site should be thoroughly tidied up. The paper and rags have been blown all over the downs.

Perhaps some of the societies interested in the preservation of the countryside will see to it that the Seaford Rural District Council carries out its duties in this respect.

Agnes Headlam-Morley.  
St. Hugh's College, Oxford.

### A Kent Dump

SIR,—The Hythe Borough Council in Kent has for some years past used many acres of land next to a fine parade and golf course by the sea for a dustbin and rubbish tip.

Sidney Loweth.  
Folkestone.

Lanchester, Durham.

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### 'Variety in Verbena'

SIR,—Mr. Clarence Elliott presents us with an article called "Variety in Verbena" but omits any mention of the four most beautiful ones, namely:

*Verbena Venosa*, in my opinion quite the finest half-hardy perennial that can be raised as an annual: its charming lilac-mauve flowers, equally good in rain or drought, flower from June to November;

*Verbena bonariensis*, the same colour and flowering period, but four feet high instead of one;

*Verbena Laurence Johnston*, an intensely glorious red very difficult to describe: it has a warm Mephistophelian sort of brilliance about it and also flowers all summer;

And *Verbena Loveliness*, a delightful cool Parma violet colour that makes an excellent contrast to the smouldering fires of *Laurence Johnston*.

These last two hybrids, both rather under one foot in height, cannot be raised from seed but must be propagated each autumn from cuttings. These are extremely easy to root and will winter happily in a cold frame, eventually providing more cuttings in the spring. Both are aristocrats of great beauty.

H. E. Bates.  
Little Chart, Kent.

## FAITH AND EFFORT

By the Rev. SIDNEY M. BERRY, D.D.

WHEN St. Paul wrote "Work out your own salvation . . . for it is God Who worketh in you" he was emphasising the twofold aspect of faith—God who is the source of all our powers, and man who has a responsible share in their exercise. Salva-

sufferer so that he was the first to touch the moving waters was rewarded by seeing his charge healed. The others were left behind in despair. Jesus came to one of the despairing and called upon him to take up his bed and walk. He didn't offer to carry him. He called for