

Balancing the Books

A Suspenseful Mystery

By Father John S. Kennedy

It was under Maria Theresa that the Austrian Imperial General Staff first came into existence. A mystery and scandal of its last days is the subject of a novel by M. Fagyas, "The Devil's Lieutenant" (Putnam, \$6.95).

The mystery and scandal would seem to be entirely of the authors devising. In 1909, a young captain, newly promoted to the Imperial General Staff, receives through the mail some capsules said to have aphrodisiac properties. He takes one, suffers paroxysms of agony, and dies. The capsules contained cyanide.

Capt. Emile Kunze, the judge advocate, enters what is plainly a murder case. He learns almost at once that nine other officers, also lately promoted to the Imperial General Staff, have been sent capsules of the same sort. The sender has done his evil work cleverly, and has ingeniously concealed his identity. Kunze has the tough task of finding him and bringing him to justice.

His military superiors take it for granted that the murderer is a civilian. The army and the monarchy are so closely identified that it would be impossible for anyone who is an officer in the former to commit a crime.

But Kunze's investigation leads him straight to the army, and particularly to the War College class of which the ten recipients of the capsules were members. He puts his finger on a Lt. Dorfrichter, stationed in Linz.

Dorfrichter has not been promoted, as he desired to be. He is a fierce critic of the old fashioned ways of the general staff. He sees Austria as not in the least ready for the methods of 20th century warfare. The military thinking is all wrong,

the training inadequate, the weapons and equipment obsolete.

There are solid grounds for suspecting Dorfrichter, but proof is something else again. Kunze goes doggedly about getting proof. In the process, many people are hurt, some utterly ruined. Meanwhile, Kunze becomes fascinated with the brilliant Dorfrichter, as the policeman often does with the putative criminal.

The denouement, or series of denouements, is craftily worked out. The novel is unusual in its setting, in its definition of a large cast of characters, in its suspenseful and surprising twists and turns. It is also far from delicate in its dialogue and some of its action.

Clean Movies Strike Out

Detroit—(RNS)—Two Catholic priests here have failed in an attempt to operate a theater showing "clean" movies at popular prices in downtown Detroit.

After eight weeks the Music Hall closed, with the priests reporting they could not meet operating expenses.

Father Richard J. Ward and Father John E. Nader started the program after their downtown parishioners complained there were no family movies downtown.

"Oliver," which played two weeks and drew 8,186 people, was the only movie to show a profit in the eight-week period.

A double bill of W. C. Fields comedies opened the program and drew 3,360 people in a week. "Romeo and Juliet" drew 2,634. "Thoroughly Modern Millie" drew 2,118 and "African Safari," 1182.

The theater charged \$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for children and retirees. The priests said they had to take in \$4,200 a week to keep the theater open.

Mini-Math

By Sam Stein

A	B		C	D
E			F	
G	H		I	
K			L	

Answer on Page 9B

INSTRUCTIONS: Mini-Math is worked like a crossword puzzle. Use numbers 1 through 5 only. For example: (A) Horizontal may call for +3 in two squares, which may be (+4 and -1), (+5 and -2), (+1 and +2), (-2 and +5), etc. The same with Verticals.

HORIZONTAL

- A -3
- C +3
- E -2
- F +3
- G -6
- I +6
- K -7
- L -6

VERTICAL

- A -7
- B +2
- C -3
- D +9
- G -8
- H -5
- I -1
- J +1



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