

My Weekly Theme

THE English Department has long been skilled in the art of asking catch questions. One of their leaders of late has been, "How do you write your weekly theme?" Well, how do I write my weekly theme? It is, at least, no trade secret. It's a cinch. Ask any of the Profs if it isn't. "Pipe," says one. "Child's play," says the other. "Nothing to it," says the reader.

The first thing to be considered is upon what the theme must be written. "Invariably upon theme paper," says the English Department. "Fifteen cents per pad," says the Registrar's office—and there you have it, with no chance for original color effects.

But with what subject must it deal? "That all depends," says the English Department.

"On whom?"

"Well," says the E. D., "your theme this week must bear more or less remotely upon one of the following subjects, to-wit:

"The use of cork legs in aerial navigation."

"The effect of sun spots on the wheat market."

"The classification of American breakfast foods."

"How shall I treat it?" I ask. "As a joke?"

"Not on your life," says the E. D.

"Wouldn't you just as soon have some dope upon communal ragtime?" I ask.

"Don't get gay," says the E. D. "You will treat one of the above subjects in an expository manner in 450 words—no more, no less."

"But," I say, "the library is deficient upon those topics."

"Go down to the Public Library," says the E. D.

"I would, but the seventeenth place in Descript is due Friday, and I am liable to get canned out of the class if I default."

"We sympathize deeply with you," says the E. D., "but our work must be done. Try the last topic."

I sit down in the quietude of my chamber and begin to think. What is expository writing? Newspaper style, I suppose. I get an American, and try to imitate the style, but it is too much. "Any theme to be good, must have a proper headline," says the E. D. I'll try this: