

to be patient and deal with them gently. (One of these was Treasury office, and everyone knows how carefully they must be handled.)

But at last temporary quarters were found for them and demolition could start. For two and a half years thereafter, those of us who were interested, and especially those going home, would drop down to the site to see how things were getting along at the new Chancery. We saw the cement pillars gradually mounting and workmen drinking wine; and steel rods being inserted, and wine being drunk; the roof going on and wine going down, but month by month we could see the transformation and obtain a rough idea of what our new home would be like. (1)

During the six months telephone technicians toiled to wire us for sound we had the difficult job of trying to persuade the local authorities to give us service for a system not yet installed. Beware of this if you ever have a construction programme on your hands and ask permission first before ordering your new equipment.

In July we received a date for opening in October; in September it became November; in October it became December; in November it became January. This was all right as far as the Chancery on Avenue Foch was concerned. We had been tenants without a lease for over three years and so what did a few more months matter? But other members of the Chancery, such as Trade and Commerce and Treasury, had definite leases which expired on December 31. We, therefore, had to concentrate the carpenters, painters, floor-layers and electricians on the part of the building to be occupied by others. The result was two-fold. These O.G.D.s had the honour of occupying our building first and our entry was delayed until the new year.

And so we return to the events which open this story. We like to think of it as being planned confusion, no matter if it looked to the casual onlooker as simply confusion. Order is slowly being restored and all we need now are pictures, rugs, desks, chairs, telephone stands, tables, waste paper baskets, costumers, stationery cupboards, desk trays and a few other assorted articles to be all set.

Can I borrow a couple of aspirins please? (2)

I.B. Fournier (the mover)

(1) And wine at?

(2) If you order them in quininetriplicate.

## PRACTICAL POINTERS FOR THOSE ABROAD - No. 1

As a service to the many members of the Department who find it increasingly difficult to master the manifold complexities of life in the foreign service, we beg those who by guile, subterfuge, and bitter experience have devised practical solutions to the many irritations that belabour us to pass on their knowledge.

Systems and methods of this nature are so fundamental to efficient operation that a prize will be offered for the best contribution.

### HOW TO PRESENT A GRIEVANCE BY NUMBERED LETTER

By careful use of this method you are guaranteed a .03% chance of success, which is three times better than normal. Use pattern below, striking out all bracketed terms that are not strictly applicable to your own case.

#### 1. STATE GRIEVANCE IN A SIMPLE BUT HEARTRENDING MANNER, e.g.:

(distressed

I am (grieved to have to inform you that because of  
(desolated

(inclement climate  
the (exorbitant cost of living existing at this otherwise  
(multifarious temptations

(health  
delightful post I am unable to retain my (balance and am  
(mistress

(recluse  
condemned to lead the life of a (celibate.  
(hermit