

Cunard White Star



R.M.S. Oceanic

Nov. 21. 37

My dear Jean.

Am such a busy man that
hardly ever do I find time to write my
favorite Niece. But here I am with
a real vacant half hour to tell you
about myself & ask questions about you.
I have been in America for a month.
I left home on Oct 8¹⁵ since then
I have been in New York, Washington
(where I dined with the President) Cincinnati
Philadelphia, Detroit, Dearborn (where
I spent a day with Henry Ford who

H.G. went on a lecture tour of America & wrote me

makes 14 Ford Cars) Kansas City, Chicago.

Boston also back to New York & home.

He met all sort of interesting people, he
flown most of the journey between one place &
another & he has Indian Summer, the best
weather in the world, most of the time. He
lectured to 25,000 people. Formerly I can't
lecture at all, but nowadays you can talk
into a microphone & your voice is amplified
& my poor little squeaky gas voice becomes
a living roar that reaches everyone in the
largest audience possible. He has been lecturing
about Education & about an Encyclopaedia.

Cunard White Star



R.M.S. "Queen Mary"

Jean, do you know what an Encyclopaedia
is? You will have to — become before
you are middle aged it is going to be something
very important indeed. How are you getting
on? Are you reading a lot? What
are you reading? Are you learning French?
Do you go to the Exposition? Do you still
dance? Have you learnt to ride?

Have you begun to paint as well as draw?

Will you come up to London this Christmas
to bring that mother & father of yours to
see me? I shall stay in London
this Christmas & then perhaps I shall go

ahims again. Tell Daddy I may go out to
the Cape. The older I get the more I want
sunshine -

Give my warmest love to Freddie
(what you call Daddy) & Eddie, & with
all my warmest greetings to you, believe me

Yours affectionately Uncle

H. J.

Doctor Dolittle in the Moon

1. Jean



and mess...

Uncle T.

I liked the drawing but not the spots!

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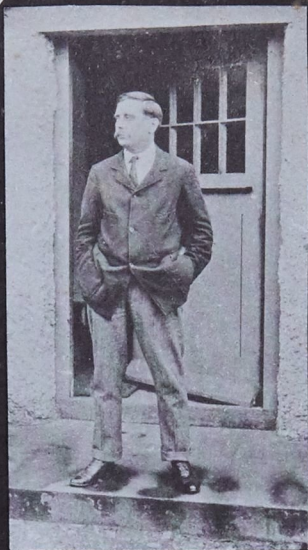
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Yes, I did have the afternoon off.

H.G. WELLS

1866

1966



SPADE HOUSE FOLKESTONE

H. G. WELLS

1866-1966

SPADE HOUSE · FOLKESTONE

Although Spade House has no claim to antiquity, it has a short but important history of its own as the one-time home of H. G. Wells, the world-famous author whose books predicted so many world changes and whose advanced ideas were later put to practical use by scientists.

Price 3/- net

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mrs. E. M. May, the present owner of Spade House, expresses her grateful thanks to all who have helped in the preparation of the H. G. WELLS 1866-1966 CENTENARY BOOK. Especially to those here mentioned.

FRANK WELLS, ESQ., for the interest he has expressed when told of the book.

THE EXECUTORS OF H. G. WELLS ESTATE and VICTOR GOLLANCZ LTD. for permission to use the full page portrait of H. G. Wells as a frontispiece.

MESSRS. LAMBERT & WESTON LTD., Photographers, 106 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, for permission to use the photographs of Mrs. E. M. May and H. G. Wells on page 8, and of Spade House before the addition at the West End on page 16.

INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, 11 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh, for their kind permission to quote from their most interesting book entitled "H. G. Wells and His Family" by Fraulein Mayer.

C. VOYSEY, ESQ., for so kindly lending the only photograph he has of C. F. A. Voysey, the eminent Architect of Spade House. Page 12.

THE REV. ALAN GIBSON, Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Sandgate, for permission to include a photograph of his grandfather who was the builder of Spade House. Page 13.

MR. DAVID JACOBS for kind permission to use the photograph of the beautiful name plate on the wall at the entrance gate to Spade House. Page 12.

MISS C. N. ADAM of Edinburgh for her kind assistance.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE WELLS CENTENARY and THE H. G. WELLS SOCIETY for permission to use information prepared by them on the life of H. G. Wells.

MR. RONALD SPEARMAN for his very kind assistance in preparing this booklet.

Also to MISS NORAH BOWELLS for so kindly interesting Mr. Frank Wells in our effort to honour Mr. H. G. Wells.

VISITS

Visits to Spade House can be arranged on application to Mrs. E. M. May. (Telephone: Folkestone 38311).

THE H. G. WELLS SOCIETY

Those who are admirers of H. G. Wells and who might wish to become members of the H. G. Wells Society should contact Mr. Brian Ash, 21 Fawe Park Road, Putney, London, S.W.15.

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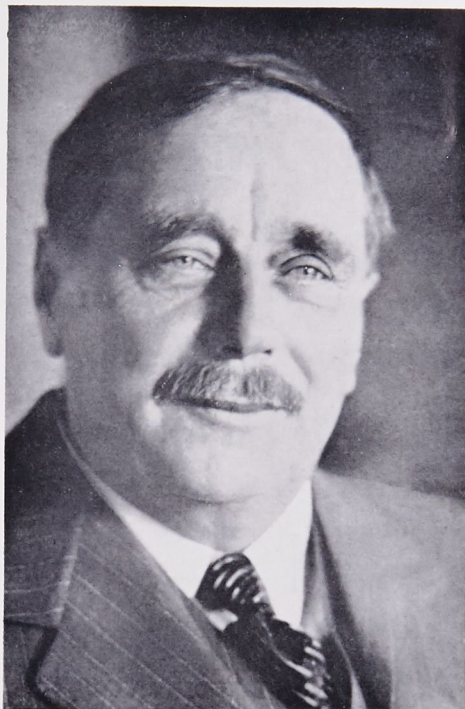
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H. G. WELLS



SPADE HOUSE is the most beautiful and unique literary memorial in Folkestone

SPADE HOUSE

In 1899, H. G. Wells purchased the imposing site upon which Spade House stands. He also engaged C. F. A. Voysey, a then famous architect, to prepare the plans. After due consideration and some alterations, the work of building was put in hand and at the end of 1900, Wells and his wife moved in.

In his book "Experiment in Autobiography" Wells writes of this time, "Voysey wanted to put a large heart-shaped letter plate on my front door, but I protested at wearing my heart so conspicuously outside and we compromised on a spade. We called the house Spade House."

Fraulein Meyer, the Swiss governess to Wells's two sons at Spade House, in her book "H. G. Wells and His Family", gives her first impression of the house in these words: "A cab, hired at the station, took me and the luggage to Spade House. Seen from the drive, it seemed to me a quaint-looking place, with its rough-cast walls, its lattice windows, and deep-sloping roofs. . . . The cab stopped before an unpretentious front door, and as I waited to be admitted, I saw a spade-shaped letter-plate on the door."

In the same book, Fraulein Meyer describes Wells's study: "On the round oak table stood a cut-glass vase filled with autumn flowers. Below the round window was a tidy writing-table, with one or two press-cuttings on it, which gave me a clue to the person who worked there. . . . It was in this pretty sunny study that the famous author finished 'Kipps' and produced many other great works."

"And how proud I am to think that I had the good fortune to see that study just as the famous man had left it the previous day."

"Through the lattice window that faced south I could see a well-kept lawn, and tubs of geraniums standing at regular intervals before the house. To the right I had a glimpse of broad stone steps leading down to a sunken lawn."

There is no doubt that at Spade House, Wells first conceived the idea of predicting the future of mankind leading eventually to the writing of perhaps his most famous book, "The Shape of Things to Come".

Of this period, Vincent Brome in his biography "H. G. Wells", writes: "Spade House became enormously fecund. It remained his home for the next ten years, and book after book was conceived and sent whirling to London to bewilder the publishers with their rapidity and skill. Unceasingly a tide of words flowed into the capital, to be multiplied in their millions and released on the world again."

Probably the most widely-read book written by Wells at Spade House was "Kipps". This was, more or less, an autobiography of his younger days. It has in recent years been produced as a musical show under the title of "Half a Sixpence". When Kipps left New Romney to be apprenticed to Mr. Shalford of the Folkestone Drapery Bazaar, he and his childhood sweetheart, Ann Pornick, broke a sixpence in half and each kept half as a lover's token. "Half a Sixpence" had a successful run in London and has since been a great success in New York.

During his apprenticeship with the Folkestone Drapery Bazaar, Kipps was often sent out on errands by Mr. Shalford. One such errand was described in the book in these words: "He (Kipps) made remarkable discoveries in topography, as, for example, that the most convenient way from the establishment of Mr. Adolphus Davis to the establishment of Messrs. Plummer, Roddis, and Tyrrell, two of his principal places of call, is not, as is generally supposed, down the Sandgate Road, but up the Sandgate Road, round by the West Terrace and along the Leas to the lift, watch the lift up and down twice, but not longer, because that wouldn't do, back along the Leas, watch the Harbour for a short time, and then round by the churchyard, and so (hurrying) into Church Street and Rendezvous Street. But on some exceptionally fine days the route lay through Radnor Park to the pond where little boys sail ships and there are interesting swans."

Spade House as it stands to-day appears somewhat changed from the original structure. A photograph of the house taken sometime before 1911 shows that an addition has since been made to the west end. This comprises, on the first floor, a very large room with a wide balcony,

furnished as a bed-sitting room with private bathroom and toilet attached, and one smaller bedroom. Below this, on the ground floor are two large and a small bedroom, a bathroom and toilet. On the second floor are a large and three smaller bedrooms.

Before 1911, Wells had already altered his small dark study by taking in a part of the present large lounge thus gaining the advantage of a southern aspect, bright sunshine and a view of the garden and sea. The remaining part of the lounge was made into the schoolroom where Fraulein Meyer taught the two boys. It was in this room that the famous "Floor Games" were played, not only by the boys but frequently by their father and his friends.

As in the early days, the garden is divided. The upper garden, from which a beautiful expanse of sea can be seen, is well-laid out with flowering trees and shrubs and attractive flower beds. The lower garden is laid out for bowls, croquet and badminton.

To-day, Spade House is owned by Mrs. E. M. May and is well-known as a very good Vegetarian Hotel. Visitors, who come from all over the British Isles, from the Continent, Canada and the United States of America are charmed by the atmosphere of peace and happiness in the house and fascinated by its associations with the famous H. G. Wells.

As in days past, when Wells entertained famous friends at Spade House, so to-day it is not unusual to enter the attractive lounge or secluded gardens and see famous personalities of our times relaxing in this house so full, to many, of memories of that great writer and thinker, H. G. Wells.

Among the visitors to H. G. Wells at Spade House were Bernard Shaw, Sidney Webb, G. K. Chesterton, H. W. Nevinson and Anthony Hope. Presumably they were not just callers but stayed a night or two.

In "The Book of Catherine Wells" and "Joan and Peter" mention is made of the many happy hours spent at Spade House.

SPADE HOUSE is the most beautiful and unique literary memorial in Folkestone.



Mrs. May greets Mr. Wells as he looks into the future and sees the present owner of Spade House

It was at Spade House that H. G. Wells wrote:-

Mankind in the Making.	The Food of the Gods.
A Modern Utopia.	Kipps.
In the days of the Comet.	The History of Mr. Polly.
The New Machiavelli.	New Worlds for Old.
The War in the Air.	First and Last Things.
Tono-Bungay.	Ann Veronica.
Anticipations.	

THE GARDEN STUDY

A small stone building was erected at the west end of the garden to serve as a private study where Wells could work completely undisturbed. Here, during his later years at Spade House, he wrote large parts of the books which were to make him famous. Here also Wells and his friend Bernard Shaw retired many times to enjoy complete privacy whilst they talked for hours on end about the condition of the world and what might be done to improve it, as well as to discuss their literary work.

FEATURES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

H. G. Wells cycled about the south coast of Kent for two years, much of the time on a tandem bicycle with his wife, Catherine Wells, before he found what he considered the ideal spot for his first real home, which was Spade House. The house was built specially facing the sun, with Wells's bedroom, the living room, and the study all on one floor because his health at that time led him to believe that he would presently have to live in a bath-chair and be wheeled from room to room.

In his autobiography, published when he was 68, he recalled how: "According to the best advice available, a long period of invalidism was before me. I had to reconcile myself to complete exile from London, and continue to live in dry air with no damp in the subsoil and in as much sunshine as possible." Under these conditions, which prevailed at Spade House, his health was very rapidly restored.

The two carved stone fireplaces in the lounge and the hall on the main floor were imported from Italy. The firebacks for these fireplaces, and also for the fireplace in the dining room on the floor below and in the large bed-sitting room on the main floor at the western end of the house, are old English and depict the Crucifixion and other scriptural themes. The one in the fireplace in the lounge is dated 1574, and the others are of the same period, thus dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The small room now used as a television room was originally Wells's study where he worked during the winter months and, indeed, all the year round until the little stone house was built at the west end of the lower lawn and garden. Between the study and the lounge there was an open archway, and the reason for this is explained in "The Book of Catherine Wells." It says: "For some reason we took to shadow shows, and in those days they were of sufficient importance to make us stipulate, when building ourselves Spade House, for an archway in the middle of a room which would give sufficient depth behind the white sheet for expanding and diminishing shadows".

The wrought iron gates in the main entrance to the lounge are copies of similar gates in the Cathedral of Milan in Italy. At the top and bottom they show Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome, and the wolf which, according to tradition, took care of them in their infancy.

During the period when Lord Napier owned Spade House, some years after H. G. Wells had moved elsewhere, the living room was at one time used as a workshop, and in it Lord Napier designed his celebrated Super-Marine Napier No. 5 aero-engine which enabled a British plane to win the coveted Schneider Trophy.

H. G. Wells's bedroom was the one that is next to the living room or lounge, the bedroom which today is called "The Sea Lady".

Special hand-made tiles brought from Italy form one wall of the bathroom attached to the large bed-sitting room at the western end of the main floor, the room which is named for Wells's book "The Wheels of Chance".

In the dining room the paving stones which form the floor are of special interest, for they were brought to Spade House from Portland

Place in London. The stones were paving stones, but at the time that they were brought to Spade House the paving stones of Portland Place were being taken up and replaced with newer ones.

When one passes through the Sun Room just off the lounge and strolls about the upper half of the garden, it will be seen that the higher ground at the eastern side of the garden is supported by means of rough stonework. These stones were brought from the ancient nearby abbey and monastery of St. Eanswythe, who gave her name to the Folkestone parish church.

Beyond the upper lawn and garden there is a path that winds downhill to Sandgate Hill. A branch of this path leads to the west just beyond the edge of the garden, and at the end of this there is a wooden seat on which Mr. Wells often sat and wrote, stopping from time to time to rest and gaze out at the sea.

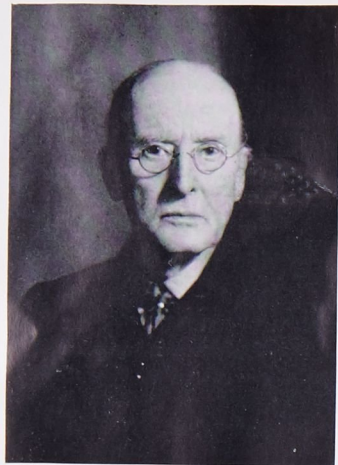
On the lawns Mr. Wells was very fond of walking about barefooted, and visitors often surprised him in this unexpected state. The Wells family would sleep out-of-doors on the lawn whenever it took their fancy to do so, and this took place on many a clear summer night.

Beside the entrance to the Spade House driveway can be seen two high stone emplacements, one on each side of the road. These supported a bridge over which ran a cable car used for carrying people from Sandgate to the height of Sandgate Point at the western end of Folkestone's beautiful Leas. On some days during Wells' occupancy of Spade House this car, or lift as it was known, transported as many as 3,000 people up and down.

THE WELLS CURTAINS

The curtains of the windows in the lounge are of exceptional interest. They were made by David Holt, the artist, and portray Wells, his wife, Catherine, various prominent literary figures who were friends of H. G. Wells and numerous characters from his books.

In the right-hand set of curtains H. G. Wells stands at the left looking towards the characters of his own creation—people who appear



C. F. A. VOYSEY
The architect of Spade House

SPADE HOUSE

RADNOR CLIFF CRESCENT
FOLKESTONE
KENT



SPADE HOUSE - built by H.C. Wells, 1899.



WILLIAM DUNK
The builder of Spade House



Lounge



Name Plate



Dining Room

in the novels he wrote while living in Spade House in the early years of the century. From left to right they are:

Kipps with his wife Ann Pornick, from the novel "Kipps." In it Ann Pornick is described as a "straight and healthy little woman—simple dress—hat Sundayfied with pink flowers. Next is Mr. Stanley, the father of Ann Veronica; Miriam, from "Mr. Polly", the lady who became Mr. Polly's wife; and Mrs. Ponderevo from "Tono-Bungay", described as having "round eyes, button nose—magnificent variety of headgear." Then there is shown Capes, who became Ann Veronica's husband and who in the book is very much a portrait of Wells himself as a young man, and next Ann Veronica herself, "slender and sometimes she seemed tall." She seems to be derived to a great extent from Wells's wife, Catherine Wells. The small boy is Wells's son, George P. (Gip) Wells.

The next curtain to the right shows Mr. Polly, "short, compact—localized embonpoint;" Mr. Wells's son Frank as a small boy; Mr. Bedford from "The First Men in the Moon"; Marion from "Tono-Bungay", "very plainly dressed, hair in a low knot on her head," Professor Redwood from "The Food of the Gods"; Uncle Pentstemon from "Mr. Polly"; Ponderevo, the inventor of the patent medicine called Tono-Bungay; and Bert Smallways, the aviator from "The War in the Air".

The right-hand small curtain shows the building of Spade House the actual material and the symbolic rose of creative imagination reaching up towards the sun.

The left-hand set of curtains show Catherine Wells (in the small curtain in the door leading to the Sun Room) looking towards various well-known people who were friends of H. G. Wells or whom she had entertained at Spade House. Henry James stands rather aloof at the far right of the right-hand curtain, looking towards an unidentified person, Beatrice Webb, Sydney Webb (later Lord Passmore), Mrs. Shaw and George Bernard Shaw.

The left-hand curtain shows from right to left: Arnold Bennett talking with Joseph Conrad; Mrs. E. M. May, the present owner of Spade House; "The Invisible Man"; and Professor G. P. Wells, the son of H. G. Wells. The toy soldiers represent the toy figures which

played such an important part in the Floor Games in which H. G. Wells and his sons, and distinguished visitors as well, took such great delight.

The small left-hand curtain shows the garden, which was cared for by Catherine Wells and which was much used for outdoor meals and games. The white rose symbolizes the gentle and affectionate character of Catherine Wells.

The white curtains for the long narrow window on the southern side of the lounge were designed by Mrs. E. M. May, and contain one of her favourite quotations: "The past we have lived, the present we now abide. In the future we are as one, for God is by our side." The curtains are dominated by the sun of spirituality, which sheds its light on St. Paul and Mary Magdalene on the left, and on Jesus and St. John on the right. The Damascus roses of spiritual wisdom and understanding are at the far right and left.

BRIEF LIFE OF H. G. WELLS

Born in Bromley, Kent, on 21st September, 1866, Herbert George Wells was the third son of a shopkeeper who had previously been a gardener and professional cricketer. After a brief private schooling and two unhappy periods as a draper's apprentice the young Wells took a post as pupil-teacher at Midhurst Grammar School in 1883. He subsequently won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science in South Kensington (now the Imperial College of Science) where he came under the potent influence of the eminent Darwinian and humanist, Thomas Henry Huxley.

On completing his studies Wells himself taught science for a number of years. His progress was hampered, however, by extreme bad health and, with the hope of escaping from a monotonous and to him relatively uninteresting occupation, he began to devote much of his time to writing. Success came with amazing rapidity. Leading editors eagerly accepted his work, and by the end of 1895 he had already published in book form a collection of short stories, two scientific romances—"The Time Machine" and "The Wonderful Visit"—and a selec-



Spade House 1901



Spade House 1966

tion of his journalistic essays. His growing reputation was accompanied by a steady improvement of his health, and mounting royalties earned him a welcome measure of independence from the onerous toil of everyday journalism.

Between 1896 and 1899 he wrote eight more books, among them "The Island of Dr. Moreau," "The Invisible Man," "When the Sleeper Wakes," and "The War of the Worlds". His "Anticipations", a collection of prophetic articles published in 1901, made a powerful impression on leading socialists of the day, and with the appearance of other sociological works, his circle of influence widened—to the extent that in 1906 he came close to gaining control of the Fabian Society. He later drew on his experience with the Fabians in writing his novel, "The New Machiavelli" (1911).

During the first decade of the twentieth century while living and working at Spade House Wells wrote his four most successful novels: "Love and Mr. Lewisham" (1900), "Kipps" (1905), "Tono-Bungay" (1909) and "The History of Mr. Polly" (1910). All are to a certain extent autobiographical. They represent his highest achievement in the field of the "true" novel and are remarkable for their Dickensian comic warmth and penetrating insight into the changing social conditions in Edwardian England. During the same period he also produced the wonderful science fantasies: "The First Men in the Moon" (1901), "The Food of the Gods" (1904) and "The War in the Air" (1908). A detailed account of his personal beliefs and philosophy of life under the title "First and Last Things" and a, at that time, highly controversial novel in support of the emancipation of women, "Ann Veronica", were published respectively in 1908 and 1909.

Because of the fact that the scene of some of these famous books is south-eastern Kent, the Kentish coast from Folkestone to Romney has sometimes been called "The H. G. Wells Coast".

At the beginning of World War I Wells coined the phrase "The War that will end War". He threw himself into the national effort, at the same time advocating, in such books as "The Elements of Reconstruction" (1916) and "In the Fourth Year" (1918), the establishment of an effective League of Nations to maintain future peace. In "Mr. Britling Sees It Through" (1916) he brilliantly portrayed the effects of



View of the Channel
from the sun-lounge, Spade House.

View of the English Channel from the sun-lounge, Spade House



A view of Sandgate Bay

the war on an average Englishman. His other books published during the war years included "The World Set Free" and "The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman" (both in 1914), "Boon," "Bealby" and "The Research Magnificent" (all in 1915), "War and the Future" (1917) and "Joan and Peter" (1918).

The conditions of the Treaty of Versailles and the founding of the League of Nations in a form very different from the one he had envisaged convinced Wells that the only hope for a lasting peace lay in the education of the common man to a clear and unbiased understanding of world history, economics and the physical science of life itself—an idea he had first touched on in a novel, "The Undying Fire" (1919). To this end, and at great personal endeavour, he produced three encyclopaedic volumes: "The Outline of History" (1920), "The Science of Life" (1930) and "The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind" (1932). Though open to detailed criticism by scholars, the "Outline" proved immensely successful and its wide sale in nearly every major language elevated Wells to an international status that few previous writers had ever enjoyed.

In addition to this attempt at universal education Wells worked incessantly from the mid-1920's onwards to propagate the idea of world government and the setting-up of international supervisory agencies to cover all the more important aspects of human affairs. These themes he developed at length in "The Open Conspiracy" (1928)—later revised as "What are We to do with Our Lives?" (1931)—and "World Brain" (1938). He even pursued the argument in a number of his late novels, "The World of William Clissold" (1926) being a prominent example.

In the same cause he sought out heads of state, F. D. Roosevelt and Stalin among others, in an effort to convert them to his way of thinking (as early as 1906 he had talked with Theodore Roosevelt, and a report of his long conversation with Lenin shortly after the Revolution was featured in "Russia in the Shadows" (1920). In 1940 Wells organized a committee for the drafting of a World Declaration of Human Rights. The resulting Sankey Declaration of the Rights of Man was largely his own work.

In spite of his many other activities Wells found time between the wars to maintain his output of novels, many of which were loaded with

barely-disguised messages and journalistic comments on his far-reaching ideas for the betterment of world conditions and the future of civilization. They included "Men Like Gods" (1923), "Christina Alberta's Father" (1925), "Mr. Blettsworthy on Rampole Island" (1928), "The Autocracy of Mr. Parham" (1930), "The Shape of Things to Come" and "The Bulpington of Blup" (both in 1933), "The Croquet Player" (1936), "Apropos of Dolores" (1938) and "Babes in the Darkling Wood" (1940). His "Experiment in Autobiography" was published in 1934.

Because of his prodigious output and the continuous expansion of his ideas and fields of interest, G. K. Chesterton once said: "You know, I can lie awake at night and actually hear Wells growing". At about the same time Anatole France described Wells as "the greatest intellectual force in the English-speaking world".

Wells was quick to see the danger of dictatorships developing in Europe between the wars, and he attacked fascism fiercely and fearlessly in the press and in such books as "Meanwhile" (1927), "Travels of a Republican Radical in Search of Hot Water" and "The Fate of Homo Sapiens" (both in 1939). He continued to write throughout the Second World War, though his health was rapidly failing. A collection of his highly critical articles on, among other things, the conduct of the war, "42-44: A Contemporary Memoir," appeared in 1944, and his last published work, "Mind at the End of its Tether" (1945)—written when he was very ill—gave vent to his despair at the course which human events were taking. He died on 13th August, 1946, a few weeks short of his 80th birthday.

His main preoccupation during the entire latter part of his life had been to improve the lot of mankind: to abolish poverty, preventable pain and toil, and the causes of war, and to educate the masses to ever higher levels of physical, mental and spiritual well-being. His ceaseless work helped immensely to change the social outlook of Britain. "His word," as J. B. Priestley said in a moving funeral address, "was light in a thousand dark places".

WELLS AND RELIGION

It has sometimes been thought that H. G. Wells was an agnostic

or at least was not a man who considered religion of great importance. To a great extent this is no doubt due to the fact that he took great care on most occasions to hide his innermost thoughts and beliefs. But the testimony of his closest friends and his own words as well show that he was in fact a most sincere believer in God and in religion. He wrote, for example:

"Religion is the first thing and the last thing, and until man has found God he begins at no beginning and he works to no end. He may have his friendships, his partial loyalties, his scraps of honour. But all these things fall into place, and life falls into place only with God."

And again he wrote: "Humanity is framed in matter, though the picture is spiritual."

J. B. Priestley said of Wells: "Of all the English writers I have known, he was the most honest, the frankest, the one least afraid of telling the truth." And he spoke out fearlessly concerning his belief in God, as he did in connection with so many other facets of man's life.

He was forever searching for the underlying truth of things, the reasons for man's existence, the causes of man's difficulties and sorrows, and the means by which they might be alleviated. He was the supreme prophet of optimism, of the march of the common people towards a better and more enlightened world order.

His sympathy for suffering mankind, much of which was expressed in the books he wrote at Spade House, was immense. In an appendix to his very last book, "Mind at the End of its Tether," he proposed in this connection "the total banishment of the jackboot and indeed of any sort of hard footwear from the world. You cannot trample on your fellow creatures in slippers. You cannot dream of kicking them if you have any respect for your toes".

His long continued preoccupation with the part that religion plays in the life of Christians resulted in his writing three well-known books dealing with religion. These were "The Soul of a Bishop," "God, the Invisible King" and "The Undying Fire".

Wells also favoured the Lecture Hall of the Folkestone Baptist Church as a place in which to expound his views, and it was here that he gave lectures expounding the subject matter which he later published in book form in "New Worlds for Old."

FLOOR GAMES

THE BATTLE

The boys set out a new battle-ground on the well-scrubbed linoleum. New enrolled soldiers with movable arms were to take part in the forthcoming battle, and new paper flags had to be made. The armistice was called off, and before long the two young generals were firing their toy cannons from opposite sides, and the peaceful life of the schoolroom was once more overshadowed.

The battle was raging fiercer than ever. Guns were now in action in three corners of the battleground, because a third war-lord—a mighty one—had suddenly appeared on the scene. Mr. Wells, relaxing from his work in the study, was lying fully outstretched on the linoleum and aiming a toy cannon with devastating accuracy at his sons' red and khaki clad soldiers.

Ah, yes, to be sure, it was a very serious affair, this floor game! After the battle the wounded were taken to hospital, for alas, even in toyland, there are always some casualties. Hopelessly damaged soldiers were melted down in an iron spoon on the schoolroom fire, and others had a new head fixed to the body by means of a match and liquid lead.

Alone in her bedroom that night Fraulein Meyer, recalling the happenings of her first full day at SPADE HOUSE, wondered how many little English boys or girls were as lucky as Gip and Frank. Fortunate indeed were the children who had an adoring and pretty mother, and a father young enough to join in their fun, patient enough to answer their numerous questions truthfully, ever anxious to see them happy, and send them laughing to bed with an amusing "Bedtime Picture".

THE MOCK TRIAL

Mr. H. G. Wells invented a new parlour game entitled "Mock Trials" which caused us all endless amusement.

If, for instance, anyone—even a visitor—in this well-regulated household was suspected of having left the bathroom tap running unnecessarily, or of having let the electric light burn in an unoccupied room, or worse still of having pilfered between meals fruit from the dessert plates on the sideboard in the dining-room, the offender had to appear before Mr. Justice H. G. Wells during one of those Mock Trials and to be cross-examined and found guilty unless a good alibi could be given. The high-spirited "Wells Boys" had of course to appear on various occasions for their misdemeanours before their famous judge.

However, on one occasion the judge himself stood in the dock, facing his two sons sitting solemnly side by side in the judgement seat.

Mr. H. G. Wells, the author, with his wife as chief witness, was accused of having left the key of the front door in the lock.

"A very grave offence indeed," declared the two young judges, looking stern. "What have you got to say in your defence?" the accused was asked.

"Guilty, my Lords," replied the accused, standing to attention.

A whisper went round the room while the two judges consulted one another.

"What would be the price of that engine at Gamages?" asked one judge in a whisper.

"Fifteen shillings at least," whispered back the other judge, and the accused was fined fifteen shillings. The fine was paid there and then, without a murmur, and the case was dismissed in an uproar of laughter.

A REMINISCENCE

Still living in Folkestone to-day is Mrs. Edith Clough, whose recollections of her first meeting with H. G. Wells over sixty years ago make delightful reading: "I first met Mr. H. G. Wells about 1903, after I started a Typewriting Office at my home in Dover Road, Folkestone. One day I was asked to go to Spade House with a typewriter to take some dictation. When I got there, I was somewhat overawed with the beautiful and commanding situation of the house, and with my reception by Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Wells. Mr. Wells gave me some pages to type which I think were from one of his novels. Mrs. Wells was a delightful and charming personality and extremely kind, but Mr. Wells was less cordial, more aloof and critical. I had lunch with them both and, because I was a vegetarian, he said to me, "I suppose on your diet you think you are superior to me." I refuted this, of course. Later on I visited Spade House several times and afterwards Mr. Wells sent other manuscripts to me for me to type. His handwriting was so microscopic that some mistakes were unavoidable because I had no one to consult. He was rather cross and surly about this, but I did my best. Up to then I think Mrs. Wells had done much of his secretarial work, but with motherhood in prospect, he had called me in for extra help. The last occasion on which I worked for him was in May, 1909, when I typed a portion of one of his novels."