

Ye Olde Plum News

No 11, February 2021

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL CULTURE

"Agravaire was a good deal better equipped than his contemporaries with grey matter, but his height in the socks was but five feet four; and his muscles, though he had taken three correspondence courses in physical culture, remained distressingly flaccid." (Sir Agravaire, 1912)

~~~~\*~~~~

### DANCING

"He was one of those earnest, persevering dancers - the kind that have taken twelve correspondence lessons." (At Geisenheimer's, 1915)

~~~~\*~~~~

EFFICIENCY

"You are a human correspondence course in efficiency - one of the ones you see advertised in the back pages of the magazines, beginning, 'Young man, are you earning enough?'" (Something Fresh, 1915)

~~~~\*~~~~

### ART

"(His look) rested on a picture of a cow in a field. 'Late American school,' he said. 'Attributed to the landlady's niece, a graduate of the Wissahickon, Pa. Correspondence School of Pictorial Art. Said to be genuine.'" (Piccadilly Jim, 1916)

~~~~\*~~~~

CREEPING

"He came out of his hiding place and followed stealthily, or as stealthily as the fact that he had not even taken a correspondence course in creeping allowed." (Uneasy Money, 1917)

~~~~\*~~~~

### DECEPTION

"There's no way getting away from the fact that, if ever a man required watching, it's Steggles. Machiavelli could have taken his correspondence course." (The Metropolitan Touch, 1922)

~~~~\*~~~~

DIGESTION

"When I knew Hank out in Canada, he had the constitution of an ox. Ostriches took his correspondence course in digestion." (Ukridge Sees Her Through, 1923)

~~~~\*~~~~

### MEMORY TRAINING

"I lay no claim to the possession of one of those hair-trigger memories which come from subscribing to the correspondence courses advertised in the magazines." (The Début of Battling Billson, 1923)

~~~~\*~~~~

GOLF

"The Scooper, who had always scooped since the day when, at the age of sixtyfour, he subscribed to the Correspondence Course which was to teach him golf in twelve lessons by mail," (The Heart of a Goof, 1923)

~~~~\*~~~~

### ELOQUENCE

"The Right Hon. the Marquess of Cricklewood had - or seemed to have - a potato in the maximum size and hotness in his mouth, and he had learned his elocution in one of those correspondence schools which teach it by mail." (The Long Arm of Looney Coote, 1923)

~~~~\*~~~~

LION TAMING

"I sidled into a corner and stood there feeling a little like an inexperienced young animal trainer who has managed to get himself locked into the lions' den and is trying to remember what lesson Three of his correspondence course said he ought to do in such circumstances." (Buttercup Day 1925)

~~~~\*~~~~

### OBSTINATION

"Obstinate was a mild word for the squire of Rudge. Pigs bowed as he passed, and mules could have taken his correspondence course." (Money for Nothing, 1928)

~~~~\*~~~~

CAMPAIGNE PLANNING

"You've got to admit that the man (Jeeves) can plan a campaign. Napoleon could have taken his correspondence course. (Episode of the Dog McIntosh, 1929)

~~~~\*~~~~

### BUSINESS TRAINING

"... in the manner of the president of the firm in a magazine advertisement congratulating a promising junior on having had the resourcefulness to take a Correspondence course of Business Training." (Hot Water, 1932)

~~~~\*~~~~

SELF CONFIDENCE

"I saw immediately what Madeline Bassett had meant when she said that he (Gussie) had lost his diffidence. Even across the room one could see that, when it came to self-confidence, Mussolini could have taken his correspondence course. (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

~~~~\*~~~~

### CHIVALRY

"From start to finish he was as pure as the driven snow. Sir Galahad could have taken his correspondence course." (Bramley is so Bracing, 1939)

~~~~\*~~~~

QUICK ESCAPE

"I do not think I have ever seen anything move quicker than the manner in which he dived head-foremost into the thick clump of bushes which borders the eighteenth tee. One moment, he was there; the next, he had vanished. Eels could have taken his correspondence course." (Tangled Hearts, 1948)

~~~~\*~~~~

### TENNIS

"That was no reason why ... he should have started barging into my half of the court, taking my shots for me as if I were some elderly aunt with arthritis in both legs who had learned tennis in the previous week at a correspondence course." (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

~~~~\*~~~~

FLIRTING

"It was plain to her now that William, Earl of Rowcester, was a debauchee whose correspondence course might have been taken with advantage by Casanova, Don Juan and the rowdier Roman Emperors." (Ring for Jeeves, 1953)

~~~~\*~~~~

### COURAGE

"Under normal conditions lions could have taken his (Harold Pinker's) correspondence course. (Stiff upper lip, Jeeves, 1963)

~~~~\*~~~~

STUFFING ANIMALS

"He sat looking at it ... looking like something stuffed by a taxidermist who had learned his job from a correspondence course and had only got as far as lesson three." (Plum Pie, 1966)

~~~~\*~~~~

### WOOD SCULPTURING

"His aspect was grave. He looked, as always, as if he had been carved from some durable form of wood by someone who was taking a correspondence course in sculpture and had just reached his third lesson." (The Girl in Blue, 1970)

~~~~\*~~~~

AND THERE ARE MORE!