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ISR 6/1 *The Diverse Sea* Title 300

I chose the subject of the 'Sea', for a special issue of the Journal, published in March 1981, and gave my Editorial the title *The Sea: — Servant and Master* to point out its important relationship to mankind. As a servant, the sea has supplied us with food and now oil, and as a master it has demanded strictest attention to safety. I pointed out that if man treated his servant, disasters like the sinking of the *Titanic,* the flooding of Venice, and oil pollution would inevitably follow.

Prince Rainier of Monaco pleaded in the first Comment of this issue for international prevention of accidents, like oil spills and oil blowouts. These must have priority, especially in like the Mediterranean, which is closely surrounded by land. His comment was based on his opening speech to the Monte Carlo Conference in May 1980, devoted to 'Petroleum and the Marine Environment'.

The physiology of deep-sea animals was the subject of the next article by Professor E.J. Denton FRS, the Director of the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association of the UK. Their luminescence and vision, and in particular the vertical distribution of these animals was studied by means of recent developments in physical techniques. Just as research on specialised tissues of shallow water animals had proved useful, Denton hoped that similar deep-sea research would be of equal importance.

Other contributions were concerned with the origins of the oceans in relation to the Gaia (Mother Earth) hypothesis and *Safety at Sea* by I.C. Clingan, the Engineer-in-Chief of Trinity House. He found the increase of fires at sea to be considerable during the preceding 25 years, and this led him to recommend that the overall competence of those manning ships was the most important aspect to improve safety. The spiritual and aesthetic interactions between man and the sea was discussed by Sargun A. Tont of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in his contribution *The Sea: Its Science and Poetry*, quoting a number of beautiful poems. He concluded that man's love of the sea was not explicable by a simple materialistic determinism.

The Flood Problems of Venice was the title of John Earle's contribution, describing in detail the civil engineering solution which existed to prevent future flooding, but which had been rejected by the Italian Government. Professor D.N. Walder of Newcastle University reviewed the progress in breathing mixtures supplied to deep-sea divers in his *Diving Physiology* and outlined future difficulties if ever greater depths are to be reached.

Finally Mr D.K. Brown a member of the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors and of the Ministry of Defence, Bath UK, concluded this very interdisciplinary issue with his historical review of *British Battleship Design 1840-1904*.

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