



**WILD STRAWBERRIES,  
Hamish Hamilton, 1934**

(Hilary Temple)

Page No.		Original Quotation or Comment	Source	Also found in
7	Lady Emily Leslie	Modelled on Lady Mary Elcho, with whom AT often stayed at Stanway.		
	The War	WWI of course - the war to end war		
9	chapel	ie non-conformist		
9	Thy will not Mine	Capitalisation presumably reflects godlike nature of Nannies! "Not my will, but thine, be done"	Luke 22:42	
	the ones that wish to escape	ie leave church before communion - not done nowadays		
11	number of the Beast	No - the Golden Number, a system to label years ("the Sunday letter") in order to calculate when Easter Sunday falls	Book of Common Prayer	
14	praenomen	Latin for forename, appropriate to dignity of bulls		
18	conk	Vulgar expression for nose		

19	empyrean heights unknown	Empyrean heights is a cliché., although this sounds like a quotation	The nearest I can find is a poem "The Epic of Ishtar and Izdubar" which contains the phrase "to empyrean heights" and is by Unknown!	
20	the fabled claw in its tail	Some lions have a hard spur in their tails previously believed to be the remnants of a claw which locked onto its prey, which had disappeared with evolution.		
22	more than one kind of personal pronoun	Presumably pronouns such as 'tu' and 'vous' that differentiate the relationship between the speaker and the listener		
24	like something out of the Wallace Collection	Delightful London museum containing furniture, porcelain etc as well as paintings		
	Buhl	elaborate inlay of tortoiseshell, ivory and metal, usually to decorate furniture		
25	Weevle, Creevey, Greville, Jobling	An odd grouping, apart from the euphony! Tony Weevle and Jobling are the same person (in Dickens's Bleak House he helps solve the mystery of Krook's death). Thomas Creevey is famous for the Creevey Papers in which he recorded the Duke of Wellington's comment on the battle of Waterloo: "It was a near run thing", Charles Greville was also famed for memoirs, and it was said of him bitterly by his cousin "If you want a secret known, write it in confidence to your intimate friend".		also p39
32	the lark so high about me in the sky	"And hear the larks so high/About us in the sky"	A.E.Housman, A Shropshire Lad	
	Seccotine	a very glutinous glue, dark yellow and with a strong smell		also p 77
33	beak	ie magistrate		
34	The Esk was swollen	Egerton village, near Whitby in North Yorkshire, was famous for a lover who could not cross the "deep swollen Esk, that rolled rapidly past" and fulfilled his vow to build the existing narrow Beggar's Bridge		
	ave	Latin for Hallo		

35	Father Tiber	"The Syrian Orontes has now for long been pouring into the Tiber with its own language and ways of behaving"	Juvenal, satirist (c.AD60 - c. AD 130)	Also PE 230, HRet 204, ESR 6, DA 182
38	no ninefold Styx could bind them	"Water binds them and ninefold Styx confines them"	Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> book 6 trsl A. S. Kline	
41	the belted motor of his lordship	Until 17th century the sword used by the sovereign to invest a new earl was then girded round his waist, so a belted earl was one whose title was superior to those of later date.		
42	his chariot of fire	"Bring me my chariot of fire"	Blake, <i>Jerusalem</i>	
45	Queensberry rules	for boxing, invented by Lord Queensberry 1867		
46	Hobo-Gobo and the Fairy Joybell	Recur as symbols of mawkish children's tales, possibly a reference to Enid Blyton's characters such as Little Noddy (though he didn't appear until 1949). Both AT and EB lived in Beaconsfield during WWII. It is not recorded whether they acknowledged each other's existence!		
52	Steel true, blade straight	"Steel true, blade straight, the Great Artificer made my mate"	Poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>My Wife</i>	Also LAA 81
	something accomplished, something done	"something accomplished, something done,/Has earned a night's repose	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, <i>The Village Blacksmith</i>	
56	emphasis on the word 'her'	surely 'you'?		
57	Polyphone	See a picture of one on <a href="http://www.jukeboxgallery.com">www.jukeboxgallery.com</a>		
58	old <i>Graphics</i>	The Graphic was a high-class weekly illustrated magazine 1869-1932		
67	Owbridge's lung tonic	a genuine medicine in its original Victorian packaging. Somehow the name made it seem more dependable		
	PG	ie paying guest		
72	Bist du bei mir	"Be thou with me and I'll gladly go/To death and to my repose"	short song by G. H. Staelzel, adopted by J. S. Bach (BWV508)	
	linked sweetness	linked sweetness long drawn out.../Untwisting all the chains that tie/The hidden soul of harmony"	Milton, <i>L'Allegro</i>	

73 et seq	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>	Not AT's favourite poet!		Also PT 55, BL 24, 205, OBH 301, ESR 89, 228, NTL 127
79	eyes gleaming with lack of intelligence	Sound like Mr Carton's students in <i>The Headmistress</i>		
82	Heir of Redclyffe	Best-known novel of Charlotte M. Yonge (1823-1901), the doomed hero of which adored his mother		Also GU 59, Hret 221, DA 210, 256, LAAA 70
	bone selfish	interesting variant of the more usual 'bone idle' Note that Martin's father was possibly even more unselfish than John Leslie		
93	splinter of ice in one's heart	in Hans Andersen's fairy story <i>The Snow Queen</i> it is this that prevents Kay from recognising his sister		Also AF 162, LAR 220
94	writhing and fainting	Reeling, writhing and fainting in coils [reading, writing and painting in oils]	Subjects taught at the Mock Turtle's school in <i>Alice</i>	
100	Brightness falls	"Brightness falls from the air;/Queens have died young and fair;/Dust hath closed Helen's eye./I am sick, I must die./Lord, have mercy upon us."	Thomas Nashe (1567-1601) <i>Summer's last will and testament</i>	
	Clive Newcombe	Hero of Thackeray's <i>The Newcomes</i>		
	David Copperfield	Hero of Dickens's <i>David Copperfield</i>		
101	Wumpton Pifford (for Westhampton Pollingford)	good parody of the strange pronunciation given to some English proper nouns: eg Featherstonehaugh really is pronounced Fanshaw: AT uses each of these, for the captain of rowing at Southbridge School (Summer Half) and Charles Fanshawe		
106	I am the mashed fireman	Is this a parody of "I am ashes where once I was fire"?	Byron's poem <i>To the Countess of Blessington</i>	
112	clarionet	Variant of clarinet, though the Devil's Dictionary defines clarionet as "an instrument of torture operated by a person with cotton in his ears".		

	Paderooski		Mr Leslie pronounces Paderewski, the celebrated pianist and president of Poland, as he is written	
117	Children's Hour	A BBC radio magazine programme broadcast after school. AT was not to know that it later became a lifeline to children during WW II		
118	petits soupers	"Little suppers", intimate cultural evenings begun in the reign of Louis XV		
122	tu m'expliqueras tout cela plus tard, mon petit...	You can explain all that to me later, can't you, dear		
124	when you are married and have a home of your own you can do what you like...	Reminiscent of Louisa M. Alcott's comment on French young women in Good Wives		
	Sir Leslie	Mme Boule is confused by Emily Leslie being Lady (by virtue of her father's rank). Even if Martin were to have a title, which he won't, he would have to be Sir Martin Leslie or Lord Leslie. The BBC got this wrong in their adaptation of Wild Strawberries, referring in the cast list to "Leslie" instead of Mr Leslie.		
125	Bearing the particule	The particule 'de' before the surname that indicates noble antecedents in France		Also p 135
128	merci	On its own in answer to a question means no thank you in French (otherwise you have to say "Oui, merci")		Also p 131
133	like Niobe	Agnes, like Niobe in Greek mythology was very proud of her numerous children. But Niobe's were murdered in revenge for her attempting to have herself worshipped as a goddess		
134	O toi qui	Oh thou who...		
135	a pneumonia, a bronchitis	in French these are specific conditions, like "a cold", so Mme Boule uses the same construction		
136	toilette de bal	ball-gown		
137	Belle éploréé	Beautiful tearful one		

	Pierre, tu ne tousses pas?...transpires?	You're not coughing, are you? You haven't got a temperature, have you? You're not feeling chilly? - No, mother I'm in bed. If you're in bed, are you sweating?		
147	the Temple	Any real-life source for this?		
148	ding dong bell./Fraulein goes to hell	for Ding dong bell, Pussy's in the well	<i>Mother Goose's melody, c. 1765</i>	
149	et pourtant...étrangement	And yet the look she gives me I find strangely disturbing		
	alors, fais ton devoir	All right, do your duty		
150	A bas la République	Down with the Republic!		
	camelots du roi	youth wing of the French royalist movement, l'action française, (see below) popular between the two world wars.		
	<i>L'action française</i>	Magazine from the French royalist movement of the same name, founded 1905, banned 1944		
151	Vive le roi	Long live the king		
154	<i>Le chêne et le roseau</i>	La Fontaine fable "the oak and the reed": children were expected to learn the more accessible ones by heart		
156	by the pricking of my thumbs	Continues "Something wicked this way comes"	2nd Witch in <i>Macbeth</i> 4:1	
159	la langue des oiseaux, des chevaux	bird-speech, horse-speech		
	je te conseille d'éviter ce dernier	I don't advise you to use the latter pronunciation		
	Swift and the Houyhnhnms		This onomatopoeic race of beings occurs in Jonathan Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	
162	Dieu pluvial!	God of the rain!		
	ce doux agneau	this sweet lamb		
165	Moi, j'aime la lointaine/Princesse	As for me, I love the distant princess	From the play <i>La Princesse Lointaine</i> by Edmond Rostand	
184	Mais, écoute que je te dise	Echo of Lucy Marling's 'I'll tell you what...'		
173	time devours everything	Tempus edax rerum, literally "Time, the eater of things"	<i>Ovid, Metamorphoses</i>	

176	Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical	"Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical!/Dove-feather'd raven! Wolfish-ravening lamb!"	Juliet in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> on learning of the killing of her cousin Tybalt	
177	Herbals and Perennials	Clearly Mary is not interested in gardening, as a herbal is a book, not a plant		
198	the minster clock...moon	"The minster clock has just struck two,/And yonder is the moon"	Wordsworth, <i>Lucy Gray</i>	Also HaR 94, JC 207
200	mégère	From Megaira, the Fury representing Hate, thus a malevolent woman		
	Ventre saint gris!	Favourite oath of Henri IV, where 'gris' is corruption of 'Christ', so 'Christ's body!'[stomach]		
201	Je ne peux pas...de ça	I can't! This blasted flag. Get it off me, Martin		
202	merde...saletés	Shit! 'Good heavens, Jean-Claude, your language is appalling. Where did you learn bad words like that?'		
213	Enoch Arden	The hero is forced to go to sea and returns many years later from shipwreck to find his wife has (reluctantly) married their friend Philip. The couple are happy, so Enoch remains anonymous and dies of a broken heart.	Tennyson's poem of the same name.	OBH 27
	David Garrick	Brilliant naturalistic actor and director whose death in 1779 "eclipsed the gaiety of nations" (though he went in for exaggerated gestures). Typical David Leslie conceitedness!		